

## Primordial 411

### Chapter 411: Trial Tower

After Lin Chen passed the test, among the remaining martial artists, there was no more astonishing presence.

However, just when everyone thought no exceptional talents would appear, a young man about eighteen or nineteen years old, clad in red clothes and wearing a playful smile, slowly walked up to the stone stele.

The young man, smile stretched across his face, reached out and pressed a palm against the stele.

Hum—

The moment the man released a strand of Spiritual Power, the stele suddenly burst into an incredibly dazzling light that shot straight into the sky, creating an even greater disturbance and brighter light than what Xia Wanxin and Ouyang Xuan had caused before.

However, compared to Qin Kaifeng, it still fell short.

"Deng Ning, Cultivation at Half-Step Reverting Void Realm, Physique of Supreme Grade, Score one hundred points."

Seeing the information displayed above the head of the man in red, the crowd was shocked, as they never expected to encounter four individuals with full scores among the talents of this generation.

Yet, regarding Deng Ning, the crowd had no impression of him at all.

"Who is this guy? How come we've never heard of him before, and yet his score is also full?"

"No idea, never heard of this person, seems like he is not a scion of any famous clan."

"No matter how strong his talent is, without a powerful background, it will be very difficult for him to survive in the Formation Sect."

"Well, that may be true, but with his talent, becoming an Inner Sect Disciple or even a True Disciple should be quite easy, right? Organizing his own forces within the Formation Sect in the future would be like taking candy from a baby."

The surrounding crowd started discussing.

While envying Deng Ning's talent, they also felt that without any background, Deng Ning's prospects within the Formation Sect were not promising.

The old disciples of the Formation Sect, observing the new martial artists participating in the assessment, were discussing those who could rank at the top this time.

The opinions of the crowd varied, but what was discussed the most were the four individuals with full scores: Xia Wanxin, Ouyang Xuan, Qin Kaifeng, and Deng Ning.

Although Lin Chen also had a notorious reputation, it was only within the four residences when he had made a name for himself by looting treasures from challengers.

The second round of the Talent test finally came to an end, with just over thirty thousand passing this phase of the assessment, scoring above fifty points.

Joining the War Department of the Formation Sect were over ten thousand people, leaving more than fifty thousand to continue the subsequent trials.

To stand out among these fifty thousand and be among the top was impossible without real ability.

However, this generation of martial artists participating in the trials was brimming with talent. There were four individuals with full scores, and more than a hundred scored above ninety points—a never-before-seen grand sight in the recruitment trials of the Formation Sect.

At this moment, the Outer Sect and Inner Sect Elders of the Formation Sect, looking at the disciples participating in the recruitment trials, were overjoyed. These disciples joining the sect would undoubtedly make the Formation Sect even more powerful.

However, the elders were slightly worried when looking at these disciples. The sect had never had so many exceptional talents join at once.

While this was a matter for celebration in the Formation Sect, it was also a significant event in the Eastern Domain. The Mysterious Heaven Continent followed the Path of Reincarnation, and whenever so many exceptional talents emerged, it was inevitable that there would be turmoil on the continent.

At that moment, the elders frowned, realizing that the Eastern Domain was likely to face a tumultuous period ahead.

The most recent event was naturally the taking of Divine Sun City, and it was very likely that the root of the issue could start from there.

However, the future was not something the elders of the Formation Sect could control.

Now, all those who had passed the second round of assessment were about to enter the next phase of testing.

"Congratulations to you all for passing this second round of testing."

"The first two rounds were tests of your physique and talent. Those of you who remain have proven that you have the qualifications to become disciples of our Formation Sect."

"However, there are different levels to everything. Those entering the Formation Sect naturally also have rankings. Up next, you will enter our sect's Trial Tower. In the tower are Spiritual Puppets set up by our sect. Defeating these Spiritual Puppets will earn you points, the more you kill, the more points you get."

"The result of this third round will be determined by the points you have earned. After the grand assembly, those with higher scores who join our Formation Sect will naturally receive a substantial reward."

Tang Yuntian, standing with hands behind his back, informed everyone of the third round's rules.

Hearing this, the competitors became very eager, looking forward to the upcoming trial.

For no other reason than that in this third round of testing, it was said that for each Spiritual Puppet killed, a portion of Spiritual Energy would be returned into the slayer's body.

In past trials within the Trial Tower, there were martial artists who, after participating, had their Cultivation break through two entire realms.

Naturally, everyone was very much looking forward to the trial in the Trial Tower.

After Tang Yuntian finished introducing the rules of the third round, he and two other elders began forming seal decisions with their hands, and suddenly, a transparent tower manifested above the platform.

The tower rose a thousand feet into the sky, grand and imposing.

Many martial artists couldn't help but feel inwardly shaken.

Hum—

Then, as Tang Yuntian beckoned with a grand gesture, the tower's gate opened, allowing everyone to enter.

Upon seeing this, the martial artists entered without hesitation.

The originally transparent Trial Tower began to take on a blue hue as its tiles accumulated, turning into a stone tower. Moreover, the aura emanating from it was very ancient, clearly not constructed in recent times. Judging by the material of the ancient tower alone, one could tell it had stood for over ten thousand years.

Boom—

"Ah..."

Along with the sounds of screaming, numerous martial artists were seen flying out from the tower.

This was not because they flew out willingly but because they were repelled by some attack from within.

Moreover, there were many wounds on their bodies, indicating that they had encountered a very powerful attack inside the stone tower.

"No way, they didn't even pass the first layer, and they are at the Fifth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm!"

"What else do you expect? This is the Trial Tower passed down through generations in the Formation Sect. It is said that some of the Spiritual Puppets inside are comparable to the Heavenly Human Realm."

Chapter 412: The Change of the Stone Tower

"A Spiritual Puppet with the cultivation of the Reverting Void Realm is already something, but a Heavenly Human Realm Puppet, isn't that a bit too exaggerated?"

However, the person who spoke did not explain further, merely telling them that they would understand once they tried it themselves. He had heard this piece of gossip from some disciples of the Formation Sect, and the truth of the matter was still uncertain.

"A Heavenly Human Realm Spiritual Puppet?"

"I wonder if these Spiritual Puppets are like those in the Descension Ruins."

Lin Chen and the others had different thoughts; while everyone else was focused on destroying the Spiritual Puppets to acquire spiritual power, Lin Chen, on the other hand, wanted to directly control the Spiritual Puppets and use them for his own purposes.

The Trial Tower could accommodate over a hundred people at once, but as martial artists continuously entered, some were also continuously repelled by the Spiritual Puppets within the tower, emerging with their bodies covered in wounds.

Some of the martial artists had sustained extremely serious injuries, some even bordering on life-threatening.

Just then, disciples from the Formation Sect immediately flew out to provide treatment to the injured martial artists, allowing them to ease their injuries and save their lives.

"Look, someone has broken through to the fourth layer of the Trial Tower."

Beneath the high tower, the crowd looked upwards following the movements above, and indeed, according to the direction pointed out by the person who had shouted, there was a light orb that had entered the fourth layer of the Trial Tower.

From outside the Trial Tower, the lighting up of an orb on a certain layer signified that someone had entered that layer of the tower.

Buzzing—

However, the martial artist who had entered the Fourth Level did not stay on the fourth layer for too long before being blasted out by the Spiritual Puppets inside.

Reaching the fourth layer alone was already quite an impressive feat.

Every person who entered the Trial Tower was assigned to a different space, facing Spiritual Puppets of varying strength and numbers.

But those who could reach the fourth layer, even if they hadn't defeated a single Puppet within the fourth layer, had likely taken down about ten Spiritual Puppets already.

Inside the Trial Tower, the first three layers typically contained three to ten Spiritual Puppets each. Most martial artists would encounter around three to five, unless they were particularly unlucky and encountered ten, in which case it was almost impossible to defeat the Puppets inside.

Because inside the Trial Tower, the strength of the Spiritual Puppets appearing each time is randomly generated according to the entrant's strength.

"Brother Lin Chen, look how awesome I am, I rushed all the way to the fourth layer in one go. Even though I was blasted out, this is still much better than my results from previous years. This time I'm sure to become an Outer Sect Disciple of the Formation Sect, haha..."

"This is all thanks to the cooperation with Brother Lin Chen. The elixirs and Spirit Stones I obtained from you helped me enhance my cultivation and increase my strength. Otherwise, I wouldn't have been able to face the Spiritual Puppets inside and make it to the fourth layer."

The martial artist who had rushed to the fourth layer of the Trial Stone Tower was none other than Qi Xiuwu, who had made a deal with Lin Chen.

At that moment, Qi Xiuwu approached Lin Chen, expressing his gratitude with tears brimming in his eyes, his words failing to mask his excitement.

This was already his third time participating in the Formation Sect's recruitment assembly, and if he failed this time, the Formation Sect would blacklist him, forbidding him from participating in future assemblies on the grounds that he had insufficient aptitude to become a disciple of the Formation Sect.

Based on past experiences, those who successfully broke through to the fourth layer of the high tower were almost certainly guaranteed a spot as an Outer Sect Disciple of the Formation Sect, which explained Qi Xiuwu's excitement.

Regarding Qi Xiuwu's success, Lin Chen responded with a faint smile and congratulated him.

The transaction between Qi Xiuwu and Lin Chen was fair, so Qi Xiuwu's acquisition of those elixirs and Spirit Stone Resources was also due to his own fortune.

"Lin Chen, shall we act alone and see who scores higher?"

Qin Kaifeng stood beside Lin Chen, glancing towards him with a smile gradually forming at the corner of his mouth before he suddenly spoke.

According to the rules of the Trial Tower, martial artists entering for assessment could either form teams or go alone.

If they formed a team, up to five people could enter a tower gate at once, but that would mean facing a greater number of Spiritual Puppets. All they had to do was join forces to defeat them, and the Tower's Great Formation would naturally distribute Spiritual Power to each martial artist based on their scoring hits.

Qin Kaifeng's background was incredibly strong; not even the three big names of the Inner Sect had come forward to recruit him.

According to rumors, for Qin Kaifeng to enter the Formation Sect and become a Core Disciple was just a matter of a word from his ancestors.

However, this fellow insisted on passing the assessment on his own to enter the Formation Sect.

At this moment, members of the Zhao Family in the distance, upon seeing how close Lin Chen and Qin Kaifeng were, had very unsightly expressions on their faces.

The news they had received earlier claimed that Lin Chen had a big fight with Qin Kaifeng.



Given Qin Kaifeng's temperament, Lin Chen was supposed to have a grudge with Qin Kaifeng. The Zhao Family members had been happy earlier, thinking that since Lin Chen had offended someone with a background like Qin Kaifeng, even if he managed to join the Formation Sect, he would face obstacles at every turn, and it would be very easy for them to deal with Lin Chen later.

However, the current behavior of Lin Chen and Qin Kaifeng was like that of old friends, showing no signs of enmity at all.

If Lin Chen really became close to Qin Kaifeng and formed a friendship, it would become difficult for them to take action against Lin Chen.

The strong background of Qin Kaifeng was not something the Zhao Family could afford to provoke.

"Exactly my thoughts, Brother Qin, please."

Lin Chen nodded; he too harbored the idea of competing with Qin Kaifeng.

Hum Hum—

However, just as Lin Chen and Qin Kaifeng prepared to set off, the Trial Tower suddenly acted up, emitting a series of loud noises, and even the platform in the sky shook.

Immediately afterwards, hundreds of martial artists flew out from the high tower.

The crowd stopped in their tracks, startled by the sudden development at the Trial Tower.

They had never encountered such a situation before.

"The Trial Tower has gone berserk."

"To all contestants, Spiritual Puppets beyond the tower's level have appeared inside the tower. From this moment on, you must enter the high tower in groups of five to take the test."

Tang Yuntian frowned slightly; he knew that this year's competition would not be too peaceful and now, indeed, some trouble had arisen.

In past years, the Formation Sect's Trial Tower had also experienced the situation now before them, where Spiritual Puppets beyond the level of the current layer had appeared inside the Trial Tower.

Chapter 413: Teammate is Useless, Kill Them?

"Ladies and gentlemen, I must warn you in advance that under these circumstances, the danger inside the tower will increase several folds, and there may even be a risk to your life. Whether you continue to participate in the trial and enter the high tower is entirely up to you."

Tang Yuntian, out of responsibility, reminded everyone.

"Brother Lin, things are getting interesting."

Qin Kaifeng turned his head to look at Lin Chen. In Qin Kaifeng's view, this kind of anomaly was very much to his liking.

Hearing Qin Kaifeng's words, Lin Chen was speechless, thinking that this guy really was a battle maniac.

At this moment, after hearing Tang Yuntian's warning, nearly twenty percent of the martial artists directly gave up on entering the high tower.

In their eyes, although entering the Formation Sect was of utmost importance, opportunities were only worth something if one was alive to enjoy them.

With the situation having developed to this point, they naturally didn't dare to enter it.

However, for Heavenly Prides like Qin Kaifeng and Xia Wanxin, they naturally wouldn't be affected by the anomalies inside the high tower.

Although Lin Chen's cultivation was only at the Ninth Layer of the Melding Earth Realm, he still insisted on participating in the competition.

As a joke, Lin Chen still needed to use the Formation Sect as a stepping stone to enter a broader world and then lead the Jade Cauldron Sect to grow stronger—how could he possibly back out at this time?

Moreover, with the appearance of the Spiritual Puppets that exceeded the Trial Tower's current level, this was exactly what Lin Chen wanted because by destroying the Spiritual Puppets, he could absorb even more energy.

However, team allocation was not up to the individuals themselves, but instead, Tang Yuntian and others had modified the formation of the Trial Tower's gate. As soon as everyone entered the Trial Tower, they would be randomly assigned to a team, a small group of five people.

Qin Kaifeng, Xia Wanxin, Ouyang Xuan, Du Feiyu, and Hong Lan, one by one, entered the Trial Tower.

Lin Chen did not observe any further and leapt into the Trial Tower as well.

As the Spiritual Light flickered before his eyes, Lin Chen appeared on the First Layer of the Trial Tower.

"Damn it, why were we assigned such a waste?"

Lin Chen looked towards the source of the sound and saw four people standing in the distance; they were his teammates for this entry into the Trial Tower.

Among the four individuals, three had reached the Ninth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm, while another was at the Fourth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm.

This Fourth Layer Heaven-reaching Realm martial artist was a girl with deep blue hair. Lin Chen was not familiar with these four people.

At this moment, the gazes of the other three were all on the deep blue-haired girl, full of disdain.

They were clearly very dissatisfied with this teammate randomly assigned by the Trial Tower, feeling that the girl would only hold them back.

"Little beauty, although your strength isn't great, you do look quite attractive. Why don't you come over and get cozy with your big brother? In a while, just follow behind me, and I'll take good care of you. You just worry about collecting energy from the Spiritual Puppets," said one of the blonde-haired men, his eyes leering at the girl, with a sinister smile on his face.

Lin Chen frowned slightly at the man's words. He detested such scumbags. However, this matter did not involve Lin Chen, so he decided not to interfere.

"Hey, kid, what are you looking at? Compared to her, your cultivation is even more garbage. You dare to come in with that kind of cultivation? You're simply seeking death."

"Big brother, whatever happens in this Trial Tower can only be sensed by the elders who activated the formation, and even they can only perceive our life signs, without a clear picture of what's happening inside. We can keep this little chick for our enjoyment, but this brat is just dead weight. Better to kill him and be done with it," suggested one of the men with a scar on his face, his eyes fixed on Lin Chen, the corners of his mouth curling slightly as if Lin Chen were a lamb to be killed at his leisure.

Hearing this, Lin Chen's eyebrows knitted together momentarily, and a Spiritual Light suddenly appeared on the palm of his hand behind his back.

If these three really wanted to court death, Lin Chen wouldn't mind sending them to hell.

Although it would be somewhat difficult to deal with three Ninth Layer Heaven-reaching Realm martial artists, Lin Chen could swiftly kill one of them first if he played his trump card.

However, if the other two reacted, it would probably lead to a tough battle.

But since he was currently inside the Trial Tower, Lin Chen didn't know what dangers he would face next, so he wasn't in a hurry to deal with the men in front of him.

"Forget it, although he's a waste, there might be situations later where we could use him."

The lead of the three men looked at Lin Chen and coldly smirked.

Upon hearing their big brother's words, the blonde and the scar-faced man immediately understood what he meant.

Lin Chen naturally understood their intentions too, but he did not bother with them.

Little did the three know that their plan to use Lin Chen actually saved their lives.

The deep blue-haired girl, although unfamiliar with Lin Chen, could tell that the three men in front of her were at least not good people.

She immediately moved and ran to Lin Chen's side.

"Hello, let's form a partnership. Only by cooperating can we survive."

#### Chapter 414: Instant Kill upon Attack

Lin Chen looked at the woman with deep blue hair and gave a faint nod.

As for the woman's invitation, Lin Chen was actually completely indifferent inside. Whether he formed a team or not, Lin Chen had to face the Spiritual Puppets within the Trial Tower either way. Teaming up was merely a way to resist the bullying by these three men.

They were outnumbered and their cultivation was several levels lower.

So this kind of banding together for warmth had no meaning.

But who was Lin Chen?

Even if he didn't team up with the woman with the dark hair, Lin Chen didn't take these three men seriously.

They wanted to bully Lin Chen? They didn't have the ability.

"Heh, naive fool, do you think huddling together for warmth will allow you to contend with us? I'm going to let you know now the gap between you and us," said the man with yellow hair, his pupils widening in shock as he saw the Spiritual Puppets that had appeared.

Seeing the woman with deep blue hair run to Lin Chen's side, the man with yellow hair instantly felt annoyed. The girl he had his eye on—Lin Chen dared to form a team with her and wasn't being tactful at all.

Roar—

However, just as the man was about to make a move to teach Lin Chen a lesson, a violent noise suddenly erupted from within the Trial Tower, followed by a powerful surge of Spiritual Energy attacking Lin Chen and the other four from all sides.

In an instant, the five of them tensed up, mobilizing their Spiritual Power to guard against their surroundings.

Whoosh whoosh—

Whoosh whoosh—

Rows of five-meter-tall white Spiritual Puppets started moving toward the center from all around.

They came out directly from the walls of the Trial Tower around them, without any warning whatsoever.

"It's actually Spiritual Puppets with the cultivation of the Ninth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm!"

This wasn't their first time participating in the Formation Sect's recruitment assembly; they had also entered the Trial Tower before but had only made it through three floors before being eliminated.

However, they were well aware that in previous years, the strength of the Spiritual Puppets on the first layer of the Trial Tower would never exceed the Peak of the Melding Earth Realm.

Yet now, the first layer unexpectedly featured Spiritual Puppets with the cultivation of the Ninth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm, which was a whole major realm stronger than before.

"No wonder Elder Tang Yuntian warned everyone earlier that the danger inside the Trial Tower has increased several-fold. If this were like before, how could we possibly defeat three Spiritual Puppets of the Ninth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm on our own? If there were more of them, we'd only have the option to exit. There's no way we'd get through the first layer."

"It seems this year is going to be even more dangerous than before," said the leader of the group, his face serious as he observed the Spiritual Puppets around them.

From the walls around them, a total of five Spiritual Puppets emerged—three of the Ninth Layer, one of the Eighth Layer, and one of the Seventh Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm.

It seemed these five Spiritual Puppets were generated according to their five people's cultivation levels, following the rules of the Trial Tower.

The man with yellow hair and the man with the scar, along with their third companion, could still defend themselves and fight against the three Ninth Layer Spiritual Puppets.

However, in their eyes, Lin Chen and the woman with deep blue hair, who were seen as worthless, were likely incapable of defeating the two Spiritual Puppets.

What worried them was that if Lin Chen and the woman with deep blue hair were defeated by those two Spiritual Puppets, then those two would turn to attack them, potentially affecting their battle with the three Spiritual Puppets of the Ninth Layer Heaven-reaching Realm. In that case, the situation would become very tricky.

Whoosh—

Suddenly, as Lin Chen and the others were examining the Spiritual Puppets, the five Spiritual Puppets all moved at once, swiftly attacking Lin Chen and his companions.

"You two pieces of trash, hold them off for a bit longer, or we'll all die here,"

the man with the scarred face said, his expression drastically changing as he prepared to face the Spiritual Puppet charging at him. He then shouted at Lin Chen and the woman with deep blue hair.

Subsequently, the three men immediately engaged in combat with the three Spiritual Puppets, and after a brief exchange, neither side gained any advantage.

However, the woman with deep blue hair, who was only at the Fourth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm, faced off against a Spiritual Puppet of the Eighth Layer. Ultimately, she was unable to hold her ground, being suppressed by the Spiritual Puppet the moment they crossed blows.

Hisss—

However, the Spiritual Puppet that Lin Chen faced was different. The moment the Spiritual Puppet rushed towards him, Lin Chen suddenly wielded a Flowing Light Sword in his hand.

"Such a pity, unlike the Stone Sculpture Puppets, these Spiritual Puppets can't change their inner structures and be of use to me,"



Lin Chen sighed lightly and immediately swung the sharp sword in his hand.

Sword Light slashed through, and the Spiritual Puppet was instantly split in two by Lin Chen's sword, shattering right in front of him.

Whoosh whoosh—

After the Spiritual Puppet shattered, it instantly turned into a sky of white Spiritual Light, surging into Lin Chen's body.

"Although they can't be of use to me, this pure energy is quite good, almost equivalent to nearly ten thousand top-quality Spirit Stones,"

Lin Chen said with a faint smile on his lips, as he circulated the Primordial Transformation Decree, swiftly absorbing the Spiritual Power from the shattered Spiritual Puppet.

Whoosh whoosh—

At this moment, the blond man and the man with the scarred face, along with the third man, were still struggling against the Spiritual Puppets when they suddenly felt a powerful Sword Qi.

The three of them immediately turned their heads towards Lin Chen's direction and were utterly shocked.

"How is this possible? That piece of trash actually killed the Spiritual Puppet in an instant."

"Not only that, but he also absorbed the shattered Spiritual Power immediately. What kind of powerful Cultivation Technique must he be practicing to have such an absorption rate?"

The three men, although barely managing to combat the Spiritual Puppets, found it difficult to suppress them.

However, Lin Chen's actions completely overturned their understanding.

With such martial prowess, was Lin Chen truly that strong, or was the Spiritual Puppet at the Seventh Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm just not up to the challenge?

"Senior brother, please save me,"

suddenly, as the three were observing Lin Chen's swift defeat of the Spiritual Puppet, the woman with deep blue hair found herself being pushed back step by step by the puppet, her situation extremely dire.

After noticing Lin Chen's formidable strength, she immediately called out to him for help.

Hearing this, Lin Chen didn't hesitate and immediately wielded his sword with a flick of his hand.

Dealing with a martial artist of the Ninth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm might pose some difficulty for Lin Chen, but facing a Spiritual Puppet at the Ninth Layer, he had the ability to instantly kill it.

Because Lin Chen discovered that his Primordial Transformation Art naturally suppressed these Spiritual Puppets.

Chapter 415 All My Belongings, Please Accept Them Senior Brother

Swoosh—

A Sword Light slashed from the sword in Lin Chen's hand, immediately killing the Spiritual Puppet battling the dark blue-haired woman.

This scene was witnessed by the scar-faced man and his two companions.

"How come his moves look so familiar?"

The scar-faced man watched Lin Chen, and suddenly a name flashed through his mind.

It was one of the infamous and untouchable figures among the four courts of the Formation Sect.

"Thank you, senior apprentice brother, for saving my life. Qiu Ya will remember this kindness in her heart and repay it in the future."

The dark blue-haired woman, having been saved by Lin Chen, let out a silent sigh of relief, finally out of danger. She then bowed to Lin Chen, patting her ample chest, affirming her memory of Lin Chen's grace to repay later.

"It was just a small effort,"

Lin Chen responded indifferently.

Since Lin Chen was the one who killed the Spiritual Puppet, he absorbed the Spiritual Energy released upon its shattering in an instant.

The energy was stronger than that of a Seventh Level Cultivation martial artist from the Heaven-reaching Realm, which Lin Chen found to have strengthened his Soul Sea by a fraction.

If he could absorb a thousand more Spiritual Puppets like that, his Soul Sea might double in size, bringing him even closer to the Heaven-reaching Realm.

Consequently, Lin Chen turned his gaze toward the three Spiritual Puppets the scar-faced man was fighting.

With a light leap, Lin Chen left a residual shadow behind, vanishing on the spot.

Swish—

Swish—

The onlookers could not catch a glimpse of Lin Chen's figure; they only noticed streaks of Sword Light flashing by. The next moment, Lin Chen appeared in the distance, holding the Flowing Light Sword, his back to them, head raised upward.

In the sky above, three Spiritual Puppets visibly shattered into pieces in the fading light of the sword, then transformed into three streams of pure energy, entering Lin Chen's body.

"Such excellent energy,"

Lin Chen said lightly.

"You little bastard, how dare you steal our Spiritual Puppets!"

The blond man, not the sharpest tool in the shed, actually dared to point at Lin Chen and loudly accuse him of stealing their Spiritual Puppets under these circumstances.

After the Spiritual Puppets shattered, a great amount of Spiritual Energy was released; having it stolen indeed upset people.

However, the man seemed to have overlooked a key fact.

The very Spiritual Puppets they had struggled to defeat, Lin Chen had killed with a single strike.

It was clear just how formidable Lin Chen's strength was.

Yet, at this time, they still dared to yell at Lin Chen.

"What did you say!?"

Lin Chen turned around, his eyes instantly growing cold.

"Third brother, shut your mouth. Do you think you have too long a life?"

The scar-faced man was almost scared witless when he saw the blond man shouting at Lin Chen.

When Lin Chen effortlessly killed three Spiritual Puppets in an instant, he decided it was imperative not to provoke Lin Chen.

He was ready to apologize for the previous incident and ask for Lin Chen's forgiveness. Who would have thought the idiot "Third brother" would dare to make noise, akin to seeking death?

"Brother, my brother here is not right in the head; he spoke nonsense. We have offended you, no, offended our Lord. We beg for your forgiveness and ask that you not hold it against the three of us,"

The scar-faced man came forward, bowing and scraping before Lin Chen, rapidly pleading for mercy.

The blond man, seeing how the scar-faced man was groveling and flattering Lin Chen, was utterly bewildered.

"Big brother, what's going on? Why are you being polite to them? It's clearly that piece of trash who stole from me—"

Swish—

Before the blond man finished speaking, the scar-faced man had already beheaded him.

The death of one blond man— if it could preserve their lives— was worth it.

After all, he was too foolish. With such a junior under his command, they were likely to die not at the hands of enemies but on account of this idiot.

The lecherousness and stupidity of the blond man had been tolerated by the green-clothed man for a long time.

"These guys—"

Qiu Ya watched the three men suddenly infight, killing their own brother, splattering blood on the spot.

Qiu Ya wasn't dumb; she naturally saw the reason behind it.

Indeed, under these circumstances, pleasing Lin Chen was the most important thing. However, to preserve their own lives, they even killed their own brother; such a deed was too villainous.

"Is it Lin Chen, senior apprentice brother?"

"We have previously offended you; here is all of our belongings. Please accept them, senior apprentice brother Lin Chen."

The green-clothed man had long heard of a notorious figure called Lin Chen in the four courts, someone at the Heaven-reaching Realm but could instantly defeat a Heaven-reaching Realm martial artist. Therefore, he immediately offered everything in his storage bag, hoping to buy his life.

"Lin Chen?!"

Qiu Ya's heart trembled upon hearing the green-clothed man's address. When she had settled in the four courts of the Formation Sect, she had been tempted to challenge Lin Chen. Now, she shuddered at the thought; with his combat power, Lin Chen was far beyond her capability to defeat.

When the scar-faced man heard his brother addressing Lin Chen, he instantly paled, pulling out all his possessions and placing them in front of himself, too.

Chapter 416: The Poisonous Woman

"This is all of my belongings, please accept them, Senior Brother Lin Chen."

The scar-faced man also took out all his belongings with a bleeding heart, knowing that it was still better than losing his life.

"Old Third, oh Old Third, just rest in peace. With that mouth of yours, if you don't die, we'd all have to follow you in death."

The scar-faced man and the man in green silently mourned in their hearts.

"At least you know your place."

Lin Chen looked at the treasures spread out before him and a faint smile appeared at the corner of his mouth.

There's a saying, 'You don't hit a smiling face.' Since these two fellows had offered up all their possessions and even killed the companion who insulted me, it would be somewhat unreasonable for Lin Chen to attack them now.

With this thought, Lin Chen waved his hand magnanimously, collecting the spirit stones, elixirs, and treasures into his spatial ring.

As he was putting the treasures away, Lin Chen scanned each one with his Divine Sense and didn't notice anything amiss.

Considering the strength Lin Chen had just displayed, these two men had no ill intentions and wouldn't dare to confront him.

Seeing Lin Chen accept the treasures, the two men not only didn't feel heartache, but they also secretly breathed a sigh of relief.

Whoosh whoosh—

Suddenly, the Trial Tower emitted a bright light, shining upon the four of them.

Lin Chen looked up slightly, feeling that above him, the formations within the Trial Tower were activating, signaling that they were about to advance to the second layer of the Trial Tower.

"Senior Brother Lin Chen, we have experience with this, we are about to enter the next layer of the Trial Tower."

Seeing Lin Chen look up at the Trial Tower, the scar-faced man thought that perhaps Lin Chen was inexperienced with the Tower, so he immediately came forward to show loyalty and emphasized that they weren't new to the Trial Tower. By doing so, he hoped to demonstrate their potential usefulness, greatly increasing the chance that Lin Chen would not strike against them.

Upon hearing this, Lin Chen said nothing and turned his gaze to Qiu Ya at his side.

"The next challenge might be even more dangerous, stay close to me."

Upon hearing his words, both the scar-faced man and the man in green exchanged knowing smiles.

As men, they naturally understood.

Lin Chen wanted to ensure the safety of Qiu Ya because he discovered in Qiu Ya a potential physique that had yet to awaken. Once awakened, her strength would skyrocket. If Lin Chen showed favor toward her and made an alliance, bringing her under his command in the future would be a significant addition to the Jade Cauldron Sect.

"Mm-hmm."

Qiu Ya blushed slightly after hearing Lin Chen's words, nodding like a pecking chicken, and moved closer to him right away.



In her heart, she harbored the same thoughts as the two men.

After all, she had some confidence in her own beauty, and over time, not a few men had shown her affection, but she hadn't been interested in romantic relationships.

Qiu Ya had a mission of her own, with her clan waiting for her to save them. She had ventured into the Eastern Domain and joined the Formation Sect, vowing to make a name for herself—where would she find the time for admirers?

But now the circumstances had changed; she seemed to have been won over by Lin Chen's power.

As a flash of Spiritual Light flickered, the four of them appeared in the second layer of the Trial Tower.

This second layer looked exactly like the previous First Layer in both appearance and size; the only difference was that the Spiritual Energy in the space was more than double in density compared to the First Layer.

If one were to cultivate here, the effects would likely be twice as beneficial.

"We can't cultivate here since the Spiritual Puppets will appear shortly, and after we defeat them, we'll be transmitted to the third layer of the Trial Tower."

Seeing what Lin Chen had in mind, the man in green explained immediately.

Hearing this, Lin Chen nodded, understanding that his plan to cultivate here was not going to work out.

Whoosh whoosh—

At this moment, the Trial Tower once again experienced fluctuations in Spiritual Power, and a soft glow appeared on the wall ahead. Everyone became more solemn, ready to confront the Spiritual Puppets.

The strongest Spiritual Puppets within the First Layer of the Trial Tower were of the Ninth Level of the Heaven-reaching Realm, which meant that the Spiritual Puppets in this second layer would surely be even more formidable.

However, when the soft light faded, what appeared in front of them were not Spiritual Puppets but four silhouettes.

Three men and one woman, and all four had the same level of cultivation - at the Ninth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm. The woman stood in the center of the three men, who seemed to take her lead.

The woman, with her raven black hair and scant clothing, was followed by the three men who blatantly leered at her, eyeing her body and sneaking glances at her buttocks from behind.

The woman seemed to be aware of the men's actions as well, but far from being angry, she instead swayed her hips, allowing the three men behind her to enjoy the view.

"We've come across Martial Artists, this wasn't the case before. Forming a team and entering the Trial Tower, we shouldn't encounter other teams."

"Could it be because of the Tower's change this time?"

"These four are the Black Widow and her suitors!"

Seeing the arrival of the four, the scar-faced man's expression stiffened as he wondered why they encountered other Martial Artists, immediately revealing their identities.

"Be careful, Senior Brother Lin Chen, these four are even more cunning than we three brothers, especially that Black Widow. Despite her seductive appearance, she's incredibly vicious at heart. To date, no fewer than nine hundred of her admirers have died by her hands, all of whom were talented Heavenly Prides."

"Yet despite this, there are still Martial Artists who relentlessly pursue her, serving her and even risking their lives for her."

The scar-faced man's words painted a clear picture of the situation and also served as a reminder for Lin Chen not to be distracted by lust.

After all, if Lin Chen were also to fall for the Black Widow, they could hardly avoid being involved, because those who encounter the Black Widow either fall at her feet or end up dead.

Hearing the words of the scar-faced man, Lin Chen felt rather speechless. Did he really seem like the sort of man who'd be rooted to the spot at the sight of a woman?

"Oh my, we've come across other Martial Artists and three men, no less. How nice, how nice."

"Back on the First Layer, we lost a useless piece of trash, and now there's an excellent replacement."

As the Black Widow swayed her hips, her gaze fell on Lin Chen and the scar-faced and green-clothed men. She covered her mouth with her small hand clad in black silk gloves and laughed, her voice sultry enough to make her three followers' hearts bloom with adoration and a deliriously smitten expression.

#### Chapter 417 Divine Soul Duel

"Brother Lin Chen, be careful— this witch is unleashing a divine soul attack."

"If one is hit by her divine soul attack, their divine soul will be occupied, injected with consciousness, and they'll likely become a walking corpse, a slave to her whims. Those three behind her seem to be under her control."

The moment Qiu Ya heard Black Widow's laughter, her brow furrowed with recognition of the trickery at play, and she immediately stepped in front of Lin Chen to intercept, unleashing her own divine soul and launching it towards Black Widow.

In Qiu Ya's view, although Lin Chen's combat abilities were strong, his cultivation was only at the Melding Earth Realm, so his divine soul couldn't be that powerful. Therefore, she had to intervene; she

couldn't let Lin Chen fall under the opponent's control, for if that happened, Black Widow would gain control of a powerful combatant.

If that were the case, commanding Lin Chen to slay them would be all too easy for her.

"Hmph, with just you, you dare to contend against my soul power? You're simply courting death."

Black Widow coldly snorted, immediately intensifying the release of her soul power.

Qiu Ya unleashed her soul power to counter Black Widow, and after a short exchange, her complexion turned exceedingly pale.

"So it's the Wandering Soul Physique, isn't it?"

At that moment, Lin Chen wasn't concerned with Black Widow's divine soul attack; instead, he focused on Qiu Ya, who was using her soul power to fight Black Widow.

The very first time Lin Chen saw Qiu Ya, he sensed that her physique was special, which was why he had offered to protect her.

And now, as soon as Qiu Ya made her move, Lin Chen immediately confirmed the nature of Qiu Ya's physique.

With the Wandering Soul Physique, cultivating spiritual power might not differ much from ordinary martial artists, but if one cultivated soul power, it could be three to four times faster than average.

Moreover, if she had an advanced soul cultivation technique, it wouldn't take long for Qiu Ya to cultivate her divine soul to an incredibly strong level, perhaps even reaching Lin Chen's realm.

"Pfft—"

After the exchange, Qiu Ya ultimately couldn't withstand Black Widow, and fresh blood suddenly sprayed from her mouth.

"With just you, you deludedly think you can fight me."

"You two, go and kill her."

Black Widow ordered the two martial artists behind her.

No sooner had she spoken than two men leapt up, their hands glowing with spiritual light, hurling it towards Qiu Ya.

Whoosh whoosh—

Just as the two controlled martial artists were about to strike Qiu Ya, two men, one in a green robe and the other with a scar across his face, leaped from behind Lin Chen to confront the attackers.

Now, these two made their move, engaging in battle with the two controlled martial artists, and it wasn't long before they seemed to have the upper hand.

It appeared the two controlled martial artists, although at the Ninth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm, were unable to fully exert their strength, managing to release only about eighty percent of their power.

Perhaps this was due to Black Widow controlling both at the same time.

"You, get in there too."

Black Widow's red lips parted slightly, and another martial artist behind her also lunged at Qiu Ya.

Black Widow's soul attack had a cooldown period; she had to wait a while before she could launch it a second time.

She hadn't expected her soul attack to be resisted by Qiu Ya, a martial artist at the Fourth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm.

Whatever methods the Black Widow used, her goal was to first kill Qiu Ya. That way, when she released her second soul attack, she would be able to control Lin Chen and the two others.

"Brother Lin Chen, be careful."

At this moment, Qiu Ya's body swayed unsteadily. The soul attack from the Black Widow had injured her divine soul, and she was already unable to continue fighting.

Lin Chen watched the martial artist coming at him and sighed softly. He had wanted to conserve strength for the upcoming tower trials, but given the current situation, he had no choice but to take action.

However, Lin Chen was quite interested in the Black Widow's technique of controlling others.

Boom—

Lin Chen leaped into action, facing the incoming martial artist. He threw a punch directly, sending the opponent flying and crashing to the ground.

"What... what happened to me? Was I being controlled just now...?"

The man who had attacked Lin Chen was jolted awake by Lin Chen's punch. He now looked at the Black Widow with a wary expression and even took a few steps back, somewhat fearful.

He vaguely remembered having lustful thoughts towards the Black Widow, and it seemed she reciprocated, getting closer and embracing him. She blew into his ear, and afterward, he could not remember anything until waking up to the current scenario.

The man had heard of the Black Widow's reputation and had some recollection of being controlled.

"This woman is truly terrifying,"

the awakened man muttered to himself. He then promptly leaped up and dove out of one of the tower's windows. Tang Yuntian had previously mentioned that if one wished to withdraw from the contest, one could exit through a window of the tower and be transported directly outside.

"Damned weakling, you dare to mess up my plans,"

the Black Widow spat out furiously upon seeing the martial artist she had controlled brought to his senses by Lin Chen's punch.

However, she did not approach to battle Lin Chen, instead waiting for her soul attack to recover.

"Boy, I will control you, and then I will torture you grievously until you die in agony,"

she declared.

Before long, the Black Widow's soul attack finally recovered.

Whirr—

Suddenly, the Black Widow launched another soul attack, striking at Lin Chen.

"Courting death!"

Lin Chen spoke indifferently, stepping forward as he unleashed his powerful Soul Power, attacking the Black Widow in retaliation.

At the instant of the soul clash, the Black Widow's face showed shock. She clutched her head and screamed in pain, then collapsed to the ground, rolling around in torment.

Her appearance indicated that her divine soul had sustained tremendous damage.

"So, it's the Innate Enchanting Body, no wonder she can control others,"

Lin Chen remarked as he watched the Black Widow writhing on the ground, sighing softly.

The Innate Enchanting Body and the Ghostly Soul Physique were both excellent physiques for soul cultivation—one had a speed advantage in cultivating the divine soul, while the other specialised in controlling martial artists with weaker souls.

Unfortunately for the Black Widow, Lin Chen had no sympathy for a woman who toyed with the lives of others and had no intention of taking her under his command. That's why he destroyed her Soul Sea earlier, leaving her to her fate.

Chapter 418: Your magic treasure?

Boom—

Boom—

Following two loud blasts, the man in green and the scar-faced man were sent flying by punches from the martial artists they were fighting. The martial artists themselves also took several steps back.

"The control over these two has been lifted."



The man in green and the scar-faced man were shocked. The martial artists they were fighting had suddenly gained strength, and their eyes became bright and spirited, no longer sluggish—a sure sign of clarity.

"Ah... save me, I beg you to spare me."

Black Widow clutched her head as Qi Qiao began to bleed. Lin Chen had only thrown her Soul Sea into chaos, with no intention to kill her.

However, Black Widow had committed too many evil deeds, and too many martial artists had been manipulated and died by her hand. The resentment lingering in her Soul Sea now backfired on her. Perhaps this was a flaw of the Innate Enchanting Body; it couldn't completely resolve the consciousness of those controlled, and once it backfired, the consequences were unimaginable.

At this moment, Black Widow, holding her head, rolled on the ground as Qi Qiao bled out. Her life force gradually dissipated, and she died a gruesome death—a fitting retribution for her evil deeds.

Lin Chen slowly approached and arrived by Black Widow's side, reaching out to pick up the storage bag from her body.

Whoosh, whoosh—

However, as Lin Chen bent down to pick it up, a cold gust of wind struck. The martial artists who had just regained their senses simultaneously attacked Lin Chen.

Lin Chen extended his hand, grabbed Black Widow's storage bag, then leaped backward, dodging the two attackers.

"What is the meaning of this?"

Lin Chen looked at the two men and asked indifferently.

Logically, by causing Black Widow's demise and their subsequent clarity, the two should have been thankful to Lin Chen. Yet not only did they show no gratitude, but they also joined forces to attack him.

"What do we mean? Black Widow controlled us brothers and took the treasures from us. We're just taking back what's ours," one man said.

"Kid, hand over the storage bag quickly, and we won't trouble you. Otherwise, don't blame us for being impolite."

The two newly awakened men eyed the storage bag held by Lin Chen with ill intentions.

Upon hearing this, Lin Chen let out a cold laugh and raised the storage bag high, his gaze settling on the two men in the distance.

The three had been controlled by Black Widow, and now that they had just regained their freedom, their physical abilities hadn't fully recovered. Moreover, the fight they had earlier with the scar-faced men had already drained much of their Spiritual Power.

These two were no match even for the scar-faced men; Lin Chen did not take them seriously at all.

And it was only because Lin Chen was not a bloodthirsty person; otherwise, the three men before him would have met with a grim fate.

"Gentlemen, how can you prove that your magic treasures are inside this storage bag?"

Lin Chen asked the two men.

"Inside this storage bag, is there a pair of Gemini Spikes, yes or no?"

A man asked Lin Chen.

"No!"

Lin Chen responded indifferently.

"Inside this storage bag, is there a Flame Gun, yes or no?"

Another man spoke up and asked.

"No."

Lin Chen still denied.

"Boy, I think you simply don't want to hand over the storage bag. Since that's the case, don't blame my brother and me for being rude."

The two men looked at Lin Chen with a ferocious expression and said.

Having said that, the two took out their weapons and were about to take Lin Chen's life.

Seeing this, the man in the green robe and the man with the scar hesitated for a moment but ultimately decided they could not stand idly by. The scene of Lin Chen slaughtering the Spiritual Puppet was still fresh in their minds. If they didn't prove themselves useful now, they had no idea if Lin Chen would turn against them once the issue was resolved.

"I'd like to see how you plan to be rude to me."

Lin Chen smiled faintly and took a step forward. Suddenly, a powerful Soul Power was released towards the two men.

The Spiritual Power within the two men was not at its peak, and while Lin Chen could have defeated them in a battle of Martial Force, he had a better method of pressuring them.

That was the power of the Divine Soul. Controlled by the Black Widow, their Divine Souls must have suffered some damage. Lin Chen's Divine Soul, on the other hand, was comparable to a Peak Martial Artist of the Reverting Void Realm Sixth Layer, which was far beyond what these two could withstand.

Even if their Divine Souls were at their peak, they couldn't resist Lin Chen's Soul Power, let alone in their current state of damage.

Boom—

The powerful Soul Power slammed into the two men, and they felt their Soul Sea almost capsizing, their heads becoming unbearably heavy. A wave of dizziness struck, and their legs gave way, causing them to kneel on the ground. Their bodies became unresponsive to their control, and their Divine Souls felt as if they were being pulled by someone. With just a thought from Lin Chen, their Divine Souls could be dissipated.

"Such strong Soul Power, this... this is many times stronger than the Black Widow's. Could it be that the Black Widow died by your hand?"

The two men looked at Lin Chen and immediately became terrified.

They were completely panicked now. If Lin Chen harbored any killing intent, they feared they might not even have a chance to resist.

Watching Lin Chen merely using his Soul Power to control the three men in front of him, the man in the green robe and the man with the scar were inwardly shocked. They were glad they had chosen to continue to stand up for Lin Chen and had chosen the right side. Otherwise, they feared they would have ended up like the three men before them.

"Does the storage bag contain any of your items?"

Lin Chen looked at the two men, his eyes half-closed as he slowly lifted his right hand, playing with two fingers.

The two men looked at Lin Chen's two fingers as if their Soul Seas were connected to them, and with a snap of Lin Chen's fingers, their Soul Seas could be destroyed.

"No... no."

"That storage bag belongs to our senior brother; how could it contain our items? We must have been confused before, senior brother, please forgive us."

The three men immediately cowered and spoke up.

Hearing this, Lin Chen nodded in satisfaction, lowered his hand, and also dissipated the Soul Power he had been exerting on the three men.

In reality, wielding Soul Power to oppress the three men also greatly depleted Lin Chen's Divine Soul.

But it still wasn't enough to affect Lin Chen significantly.

Whoosh whoosh—

And just as Lin Chen had dissipated the Soul Power, the wall in front of them shone again, and a powerful aura emanated from it.

Chapter 419: Are We Not Helping Our Senior Brother?

"The Spiritual Puppets have appeared!"

Everyone looked up and gazed toward the wall ahead that was emitting Spiritual Power.

They saw that this time, the Spiritual Puppets that appeared were shockingly twenty in number, each with the Cultivation level of the Ninth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm.

Compared to the First Layer, the Cultivation level of the Spiritual Puppets hadn't increased, but the quantity had doubled. It seemed that this was because the two teams had converged together.

"You two protect Qiu Ya."

Lin Chen tossed a Third-Grade Elixir to Qiu Yan's hand, an elixir that could restore Soul Power.

Upon hearing this, the man in gray and the man with a scar immediately shielded Qiu Ya behind them, naturally complying with Lin Chen's instructions.

In their eyes, Qiu Ya was a woman Lin Chen had taken an interest in, so they naturally had to protect her well.

As for the ten Spiritual Puppets before them, the two men weren't panicked at all, as Lin Chen's combat strength was known to be capable of instantly killing Spiritual Puppets.

The two even believed that Lin Chen used his Soul Power to pressure the three men before them, rather than using Martial Force, because he was worried he might accidentally strike too hard and kill them.

But what they didn't know was that Lin Chen's Spiritual Power had a strong suppressive effect on Spiritual Puppets, hence its immense power. However, when facing Martial Artists at the Ninth Layer of the Melding Earth Realm, while Lin Chen also had an unbeatable combat strength, it would be difficult to suppress them like he did the Spiritual Puppets.

"Shouldn't we help our elder brother, fellow disciples?"

Seeing the man in gray and the man with a scar merely standing still protecting Qiu Ya, the three men asked in confusion.

Although the three men had been manipulated by Black Widow and had just recovered, their strength had somewhat declined. Still, they had some confidence in dealing with a single Spiritual Puppet.

But that was also very dangerous, as there were ten Spiritual Puppets that had appeared. Once they were targeted by the Spiritual Puppets, their lives could be in danger.

So, in reality, they were reluctant to confront the Spiritual Puppets. However, they were inside the Trial Tower, and it wasn't as if they could just choose not to confront them.

Their purpose in entering the Trial Tower was twofold: first was to try their best to reach the Fourth Layer of the Spiritual Qi Tower, providing them the chance to join the Formation Sect.

The second was to kill the Spiritual Puppets and absorb the energy released upon their destruction.

Now, seeing the current situation, killing Spiritual Puppets seemed difficult. If they didn't take action, they wondered if Lin Chen would blame them. With just a thought, they might face dire consequences.

"Do we help? Heh, didn't you hear the elder brother order us to protect elder sister?"

The man with a scar glanced back at the three men, offering a faint smile, his eyes filled with contempt.

Upon hearing this, the three men were full of question marks. From the gazes of the man with a scar and the man in gray, they could sense a hint of disdain, as if the two were commenting on their lack of worldliness.

After taking the elixir Lin Chen had given her, Qiu Ya's injured Divine Soul had recovered significantly. Hearing the two men call her elder sister made her somewhat embarrassed.

"Brother Lin Chen, please be careful," Qiu Ya said, although she had witnessed Lin Chen's ability to instantly kill Spiritual Puppets on the First Layer and had confidence in him, she was still somewhat concerned since he was about to face ten Spiritual Puppets alone.

Whoosh whoosh—

However, as Qiu Ya's words had just finished, Lin Chen had already deployed his Purple Cloud Wings, transforming into countless beams of light, leaving several afterimages in the space with each movement. Then came a dazzling array of Sword Light, fluttering chaotically in front of the six onlookers.

Such profound and unpredictable swordsmanship had the six onlookers utterly dumbfounded.

None of the sword techniques they had seen to date could compare to Lin Chen's.

Boom—

Following ten shattering sounds, the ten Spiritual Puppets had barely appeared before they were swiftly cut down by Lin Chen's sword without even reaching the group.

"What intricate swordsmanship, what powerful attacks, is this the strength of Brother Lin Chen?"

"Wait, Brother Lin Chen... he is Brother Lin Chen!"

The three men, hearing Qiu Ya call out Lin Chen's name, began to tremble.

They had already heard of Lin Chen's infamy within the Formation Sect, and now they were secretly afraid, realizing they had provoked such a person.

They had even thought of demanding Lin Chen to hand over the Black Widow's storage bag, which was nothing short of a fantasy.

Fortunately, although Lin Chen had a bad reputation, he was not bloodthirsty, which allowed them to keep their lives.

Otherwise, had they died there, it would have been in vain, as the Formation Sect would not have held him accountable. After all, it was not a case of someone scheming to kill a prodigy within the sect, and moreover, people outside the Trial Tower would be completely unaware of their deaths.



Whoosh whoosh—

Lin Chen, composed and focused, silently absorbed the Spiritual Energy that was released after the Spiritual Puppets shattered.

With the existence of the Primordial Transformation Art, Lin Chen was able to completely absorb it within a few breaths. After the absorption, his Spiritual Spring had grown significantly stronger.

"Judging by this situation, if I continue to climb up the tower, it might not be long before I break through my cultivation level and reach the Heaven-reaching Realm."

Lin Chen was somewhat excited inside.

Meanwhile, the six people in the distance were too shocked to speak, for the speed at which Lin Chen absorbed the broken Spiritual Power of the Spiritual Puppets was astonishingly fast.

An ordinary martial artist would take a very long time to refine a single Spiritual Puppet, yet Lin Chen not only absorbed it in a few breaths but also refined it directly. It was truly contrary to the heavens.

However, when they thought about how Lin Chen, with only the Ninth Layer of the Melding Earth Realm cultivation level, had the power to instantly kill ten Spiritual Puppets, this defiance of the heavens seemed reasonable.

Whoosh whoosh—

Not long after Lin Chen had killed the Spiritual Puppets, the second layer of the Trial Tower began to change once again.

Soon after, beams of light shone upon the seven people, teleporting them to the third layer.

This time, the three of them encountered martial artists from two other teams.

They had also understood the rules of the Trial Tower this time, it seemed that with each advance up a layer, they would meet other martial artists in the same situation on the next layer.

This time, due to the increased number of people, there was no infighting among the martial artists because everyone knew how powerful the Spiritual Puppets they were about to face were.

Furthermore, Lin Chen and his companions encountered only four people at the third layer, which meant that six people from those two teams had died, leaving only these four alive.

And the appearance of the Spiritual Puppets on this third layer was terrifying enough to make these four want to flee the Trial Tower.

#### Chapter 420: Facing the Battle Alone

"Could there really be so many Spiritual Puppets? The number must be over a hundred by now, right?"

As they watched the continuous emergence of Spiritual Puppets within the Trial Tower, the four people from a different team than Lin Chen's trembled all over.

Even the man in gray and the scar-faced man were slightly shocked at this moment.

"With Brother Lin Chen's terrifying combat power, he should be able to deal with nearly a hundred Spiritual Puppets, right?"

"He should be able to, Brother has the power to slaughter Spiritual Puppets instantly."

"But that's under the circumstance of a small number. With so many Spiritual Puppets, if they swarm us, even Brother might not be able to cope, let alone us. And these Spiritual Puppets aren't stupid, how could they just attack Brother Lin Chen alone? We will probably not escape being attacked either."

The scar-faced man, Qiu Ya, and the other four became aware of the Spiritual Puppets surrounding them, and they were actually somewhat fearful inside.

However, what good would their fear do? They could only toughen up and observe the situation, ready to escape through the window the moment their lives were threatened.

"Energy has come knocking at my door again, this is quite good."

Lin Chen, looking at the nearly a hundred Spiritual Puppets in front of him, couldn't help but curl his lips slightly, his heart filled with expectation.

If he could kill all these Spiritual Puppets and absorb their energy alone, his Spiritual Spring would likely expand by about twenty percent, bringing him one step closer to breaking through to the Heaven-reaching Realm.

Swish swish—

Suddenly, dozens of Vitality Puppets took the lead in launching an attack and rushed toward the scar-faced man and the four members of the other team.

"Not good, the Spiritual Puppets have started to attack, we absolutely can't handle such a number, run!"

The people from the other team, seeing the Spiritual Puppets attacking them, immediately changed color.

On the first and second layers, they had already learned their lesson the hard way. Just ten Spiritual Puppets had taken the lives of their teammates, and they had nearly perished in the lower levels themselves.

But what they faced now were nearly a hundred Spiritual Puppets, and they dared not linger here.

If they had known that there were so many Spiritual Puppets on this layer, they would definitely not have come to this third level.

At this moment, all they wanted was to escape this place as quickly as possible and leave the Trial Tower.

"These foolish guys are still standing there like idiots, do they really think these Spiritual Puppets are easy to deal with? Are they waiting for death?"

The four looked at the scar-faced man's group of six, still standing motionless in place without any intention of running away, instead protecting Qiu Ya in the middle.

This action left the four dumbfounded.

With disaster looming, they still thought about showing off their strength in front of a beauty.

"Wait, what's that guy trying to do? Is he courting death?"

The four suddenly noticed that Lin Chen not only stayed away from his own team but also went alone to meet the Spiritual Puppets head-on. This behavior, in everyone's eyes, was no different from courting death.

The key point was that Lin Chen's cultivation was only at the Ninth Layer of the Melding Earth Realm and not even at the Heaven-reaching Realm yet.

With such cultivation, did he really fancy his chances against the Spiritual Puppets?

Swish—

A faint glow flickered, and the Flowing Light Sword appeared in Lin Chen's hand.

The four saw the Flowing Light Sword in Lin Chen's hand and were somewhat impressed.

"Unexpectedly, this worthless fellow actually has such a treasure in his possession. This treasured sword is actually an Earth-Level Mid-Grade magic treasure."

The four of them were envious of the weapon in Lin Chen's hands, but they could only sigh that such a treasure would be left behind in this place.

In their eyes, Lin Chen was as good as a dead man.

Lin Chen, with his mere Ninth Layer of the Melding Earth Realm Cultivation, how could he possibly survive the slaughter of so many Spiritual Puppets?

Whoosh whoosh—

The four stopped in their tracks, and they had actually reached Lin Chen's position.

It wasn't that these four wanted to step forward and help Lin Chen, but rather that they were surrounded by Spiritual Puppets attacking from all sides. They dodged the Spiritual Puppets while trying to get closer to the transmission window of this layer of the Trial Tower but were chased to Lin Chen's location in the process.

With so many Spiritual Puppets, reaching the transmission window was a very difficult task.

"Kid, draw off those Spiritual Puppets, obey the command, or else, I'll kill you right now," they commanded Lin Chen.

As the Spiritual Puppets drew closer, a sense of unease grew within the four, and they spoke to Lin Chen with such a command.

As long as Lin Chen attracted the attention of the Spiritual Puppets, they might have a chance to escape to the transmission window of the high tower and get out from there.

However, just as the words of the four fell, Lin Chen ignored them. His eyes held only the Spiritual Puppets before him—those were nearly a hundred units of energy.

Lin Chen paid no attention to the four, instead stepping forward with the Flowing Light Sword in hand.

Buzz—

Lin Chen, who was apparently only at the Melding Earth Realm Cultivation level, burst out with a powerful aura, pressing directly towards the Spiritual Puppets in front of him.

Instantly, the Spiritual Puppets were knocked back nearly ten meters.

And that was just the impact of the aura that Lin Chen had released.

The Spiritual Puppets, apparently lacking intelligence, returned to charge at Lin Chen after being knocked back by his bursting aura. Although they were unintelligent, they seemed to be implanted with a certain Formation, prioritizing attack on those who struck them.

In an instant, Lin Chen became the target of all the Spiritual Puppets' attacks.

However, at that moment when Lin Chen's aura burst forth, the other group of four were stunned speechless.

"How can this guy burst out with such a strong aura? Isn't he just at the Ninth Layer of the Melding Earth Realm? But that aura, it made me feel palpitations; his strength is definitely above mine."

"This trash stands alone against these Spiritual Puppets, could it be that he truly has the confidence to fight them?"

Their gaze fell on Lin Chen, and they couldn't believe their thoughts.

After a brief moment of contemplation, they felt as if they had gone mad, to think that Lin Chen alone could defeat nearly a hundred Spiritual Puppets.

But in the next second, Lin Chen's actions confirmed the thoughts they harbored in their hearts.

Swish swish swish—

Countless afterimages teleported within that space, followed by a sky-covering flurry of Sword Light which dazzled before everyone's eyes.

Afterward, as the Sword Light hit the Spiritual Puppets, a single Sword Light could exterminate several Spiritual Puppets.

In a short while, nearly a hundred Spiritual Puppets were shattered before Lin Chen, turning into the purest form of energy and entering his body.

Lin Chen, holding the Flowing Light Sword, absorbed those energies with great pleasure, and his internal Spiritual Spring kept expanding.

This comfortable process continued for dozens of breaths. Afterwards, Lin Chen put away the Flowing Light Sword, and his aura had increased by about ten percent compared to before the fight.