

Primordial 421

Chapter 421: Taking You to the Fourth Level

"So... powerful!"

The four of them watched as Lin Chen, in just the short span of a single cup of tea, eradicated nearly a hundred Spiritual Puppets on his own, their hearts already shaken to the utmost.

Lin Chen's combat power could only be described as 'abnormal.'

Moreover, the speed at which Lin Chen absorbed and refined the energy of the broken Spiritual Puppets was too heaven-defying.

At this moment, they felt an immense fear inside; they had actually dared to insult Lin Chen by calling him trash and even asked him to attract the attention of the Spiritual Puppets to allow themselves to escape.

"Please forgive our ignorance, Senior Brother. We were rash before and offended Senior Brother; we truly were blind."

After witnessing Lin Chen's terrifying combat power, the four immediately knelt on the ground and began to beg for mercy, clutching their heads.

"To know one's mistakes and correct them is, indeed, a great good; ignorance is not a sin."

"Rise to your feet. Hand over all the treasures on your persons and follow me, and I can lead you up toward the higher floors of the tower."

Lin Chen's gaze shifted slightly to the other group of four, and the commanding presence in his eyes made their hearts tremble.

Without hesitation, they quickly took out all the treasures and various materials from their storage bags.

As long as they could appease Lin Chen's anger and save their lives, the treasures and resources they possessed were but mere external possessions.

Although the surrender of their valuables pained them deeply, they prized their own lives even more.

Seeing the four before him handing over their treasures, Lin Chen didn't hold their previous actions against them and with a grand gesture, gathered all the treasures and resources into the space of the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron.

Having been tested in his view of the world, Lin Chen had also discovered the rules of the Trial Tower; the number of Spiritual Puppets appearing on each level would increase exponentially.

On top of that, the additional number would be determined by how many people reached the next floor.

Thus, the more people there were moving up a level, the more Spiritual Puppets would appear.

Upon hearing Lin Chen's words, the four slowly stood up, finally understanding why the men in grey and the man with the scar, along with several other martial artists, were following Lin Chen and protecting that beautiful woman.

Afterward, the four joined Lin Chen's team, following behind the previously joined martial artists.

Hum—

Before long, the same scenario as the previous three floors occurred within the Trial Tower: beams of Spiritual Light shone down upon them, and a Teleportation Array began to form overhead.

The array was meant to transport them to the fourth floor of the Trial Tower.

With the tower now manifesting anomalies, and considering their combat capabilities, they didn't dare to venture any higher.

Without Lin Chen, they might not even have been able to pass the third floor.

However, with the promise of Lin Chen's heaven-defying combat power, they felt that passing the fourth floor seemed not impossible.

At this moment, they felt fortunate inside for having encountered Lin Chen.

If they could pass the fourth floor under Lin Chen's leadership, they would have the chance to enter the Formation Sect and become Outer Sect Disciples.

Humming—

With a flicker of light, they reappeared within the fourth floor of the tower.

They then encountered four other teams which, at this moment, had joined together as one.

They had a reason for being able to pass the third challenge, as among them were people like Du Feiyu and Hong Lan.

With a heavenly pride like Du Feiyu present, defeating the Spiritual Puppets on the third floor seemed within reason.

However, these four teams didn't have as many members as Lin Chen's team; Lin Chen's group totaled eleven, whereas Du Feiyu's team only had nine people.

The state of the teams' members was also different; nearly everyone in Lin Chen's team was in a state of peak Spiritual Energy, while in Du Feiyu's team, aside from Du Feiyu, Hong Lan, and their fellow senior and junior disciples who were fairly well off, the other five were all diminished in energy and bore various injuries.

"It's you!"

Upon seeing Lin Chen appear before them, Hong Lan's expression instantly soured.

Hong Lan had been brooding ever since Lin Chen had plundered her treasures.

Lin Chen was actually surprised as well; he knew Hong Lan's strength, and her barely managing to handle three Spiritual Puppets was already a struggle.

And Du Feiyu's strength should have allowed him to only fight at most ten Spiritual Puppets.

As for the strength of Du Feiyu's senior brother and their frail junior disciple, Lin Chen was not aware, but judging by their Cultivation, their combat power was likely no different from Du Feiyu's; adding the other martial artists, they shouldn't have been able to break through the nearly hundred Spiritual Puppets to reach the fourth floor.

"Brother Du, how many Spiritual Puppets did you encounter on the previous floor?"

Lin Chen's gaze fell on Du Feiyu, and he curiously inquired.

"Fifty!"

Du Feiyu, well aware of Lin Chen's fearsomeness, had managed to fight Lin Chen for hundreds of rounds more than ten days ago. But Lin Chen's terrifying recovery ability meant that the ultimate outcome of the battle could only be Du Feiyu's defeat.

Hence, now faced with a question from Lin Chen, he answered without hesitation.

Regarding Hong Lan's issue, Du Feiyu had already come to understand it, having been guided by his senior brother; Lin Chen must not be offended.

Moreover, the fact that Lin Chen and his group had survived with more members than their own from the third floor, all with steady breaths signified that their battle had not been as difficult.

Could it be that they didn't encounter as many Spiritual Puppets as they did?

"Indeed, it seems that the number of Spiritual Puppets each of us encounters is not the same."

Chapter 422: How Many Bodies Have You Encountered?

"It really is different, isn't it."

Upon hearing Lin Chen's words, a sense of relief washed over Du Feiyu. He had suspected that the number of Spiritual Puppets each team encountered on the same level might vary.

Therefore, he guessed that the reason Lin Chen's team was in such good condition must be that they had encountered fewer Spiritual Puppets than them. Now that he had heard Lin Chen's words, he was finally certain of it.

But he was wrong; Lin Chen's team had faced nearly a hundred Spiritual Puppets, twice their number, yet he thought it was fewer than the fifty they had encountered.

"Brother Lin Chen, your team is in such good condition, surely you must have some method of dealing with the Spiritual Puppets, right? The battles to come are bound to be even tougher, we might as well discuss it and face the upcoming fights together."

Feiyu's senior brother, the middle-aged man, approached Lin Chen with a smile, obsequiously saying.

The middle-aged man knew that Lin Chen's talent and combat power were not inferior to his junior brother's, so he was well aware that Lin Chen should not be offended, and it would be even better if they could befriend him.

However, when Hong Lan heard her senior brother's words, she crossed her arms over her chest, turned her head away, and snorted softly.

Clearly, she was still harboring resentment over the fact that Lin Chen had demanded all her Treasures.

But considering her senior brother and junior brother were both trying to curry favor with Lin Chen, it would not be good for her to persist in her entanglement with him.

But to also show goodwill towards Lin Chen was absolutely impossible for her.

Lin Chen took an extra glance at the barely concealed heaviness in Hong Lan's demeanor but chose not to bother with this woman.

The Treasures that this woman possessed were simply beneath Lin Chen's interest; the magic treasures and elixirs could be refined by him in a matter of minutes if materials were available.

"There's no special methods, we just force our way through with strength."

"We're all temporarily teamed up, so what matters is adaptability. Even if there are some methods or Formations, they can't be integrated in a short time."

"Faced with these Spiritual Puppets, since we've chosen to stay in the Trial Tower, we have no choice but to fight to the death. If anyone is afraid, then there's no reason for them to stay."

Lin Chen spoke calmly in response.

He certainly did not fear the Spiritual Puppets here, and as for the so-called methods and countermeasures, Lin Chen did have them.

In his spare time, Lin Chen had refined a set of formation flags for the Divine Fire Troop Killing Array. If he distributed them to the group and instructed them on how to set up the Killing Formation, they could enhance their combat abilities in a short time.

But why would Lin Chen do such a thing? To empower the others to kill the Spiritual Puppets, letting them absorb the energy from the broken Spiritual Puppets?

Doing so would be like lifting a rock to drop on his own foot.

Moreover, Lin Chen's Primordial Transformation Art had a restraining effect on those Spiritual Puppets.

It wouldn't matter if it was a hundred or even a thousand Spiritual Puppets; Lin Chen had a way to deal with them.

Thus, Lin Chen was not worried about his ability to handle the Spiritual Puppets.

Hearing Lin Chen's words, the middle-aged man sighed to himself; there really was no way to deal with these Spiritual Puppets, was there? Only a head-on confrontation was left.

By the third layer, aside from Du Feiyu, they were already struggling to cope with the Spiritual Puppets.

The other Martial Artists were either dead or injured; with the number of Spiritual Puppets likely to be greater on the fourth layer, it would be very difficult to pass without a strategy.

Hu hu—

Just as the middle-aged man was pondering, the walls of the tower around them emitted faint Spiritual Light once more.

Following that, Spiritual Puppets brandishing various weapons formed from white Spiritual Light appeared before everyone.

"Everyone be careful, the Spiritual Puppets have appeared."

The middle-aged man hurriedly warned everyone.

If they worked together to get through this challenge, they would have a chance to enter the Outer Sect of the Formation Sect.

So, even though the crowd feared the Spiritual Puppets and knew they were difficult to deal with, they chose to stay and continue with the trial.

"What's going on? Why are there so many Spiritual Puppets?"

As the Spiritual Puppets appeared around them, the faces of the middle-aged man and his injured team of five, including Du Feiyu, showed great alarm.

Because the number of Spiritual Puppets that appeared on this fourth level reached nearly three hundred, which was six times more than what they had encountered on the third level, far exceeding their expectations.

According to the rule of each level having twice or three times the number of challenges as the one before, the number should have been correct.

But how could they possibly deal with a sudden surge to six times the number of Spiritual Puppets from the previous level?

In an instant, the idea of retreating surfaced in the minds of the middle-aged man and the others.

However, only the members of Lin Chen's team knew that the number of Spiritual Puppets was correct.

Because they had encountered close to one hundred Spiritual Puppets on the third level, not the fifty that Du Feiyu and the others had faced.

"Brother Lin Chen, how many... how many Spiritual Puppets did you encounter on the third level?"

The middle-aged man suddenly thought of something and turned his head to ask Lin Chen.

He now realized an issue, which was that if there were no problems with the rules of the Trial Tower, then the number of Spiritual Puppets Lin Chen and his team faced on the previous level was likely more than what they had encountered.

"One hundred!"

Lin Chen replied indifferently, then moved, charging towards the Spiritual Puppets ahead.

"It's actually one hundred!"

"Be careful, Brother Lin Chen, those Spiritual Puppets are not so easily shattered."

After hearing the number one hundred from Lin Chen, the middle-aged man was incredibly shocked.

So were Du Feiyu and Hong Lan.

They themselves had struggled greatly against fifty Puppets, even coming close to losing their lives.

Yet these people had fought through a battle with one hundred Spiritual Puppets and made it here, still looking as though they had plenty of Spiritual Energy.

What shocked Du Feiyu and the others the most was that Lin Chen was now heading alone towards the Spiritual Puppets to fight.

Had Lin Chen lost his mind? To think he was trying to face the Spiritual Puppets by himself.

Yet Qiu Ya and the others, watching Lin Chen charge solo at the Spiritual Puppets, showed no signs of worry, seemingly having immense confidence in Lin Chen's combat abilities.

Chapter 423: The Self-Important Deng Yu

Hiss——

Hiss——

Sword Light danced, with Lin Chen's figure continuously weaving through the space.

The dazzling Sword Light and Lin Chen's afterimages completely stunned everyone.

Every time Lin Chen swung his sword, several Spiritual Puppets would be taken down.

Under Lin Chen's sword, these Spiritual Puppets were as if they were merely slicing vegetables.

"This must be some kind of joke, this guy's combat power... is freakishly abnormal!"

"Am I hallucinating, or is he actually chasing down those Spiritual Puppets with his sword?"

"Ten, twenty, fifty..."

Watching Lin Chen wield the Flowing Light Sword, Du Feiyu and the others saw him shatter dozens of Puppets in no time, and he looked set to break through to a hundred.

Witnessing all this, everyone's minds were in complete disarray, even harboring the illusion that there might be something wrong with these Spiritual Puppets, thinking they could take them on themselves.

But as much as they thought this, they were very clear on the strength of these Spiritual Puppets; they didn't dare to rashly charge out and try to kill them.

Although shattering a Spiritual Puppet yielded a very tempting amount of energy, they needed to be alive to enjoy it.

"Senior brother, we should make our move too."

Seeing Lin Chen destroy nearly a hundred Spiritual Puppets in a short time with simple swings of his sword, Du Feiyu grew restless.

He couldn't stand idly by any longer; if they didn't take action, Lin Chen might take out all the Spiritual Puppets by himself.

At this moment, they finally understood why the other members of Lin Chen's team had such ample Spiritual Power and were unharmed.

It seemed that the other members didn't even need to lift a finger in the previous three levels, as the Spiritual Puppets were mere fodder for Lin Chen.

"Junior sister, take good care of your senior sister."

The middle-aged man said, immediately drew his weapon, and together with Du Feiyu, leapt up and charged at the Spiritual Puppets.

Because Lin Chen's Sword Qi was so fierce, no Puppet could withstand a single strike from his sword, making Lin Chen instantly attract all the enmity of the Puppets.

After Du Feiyu and the middle-aged man joined in, it was indeed easier to kill the Spiritual Puppets than it had been on the third level.

However, even so, it took a great deal of effort for the two of them to kill one Spiritual Puppet.

While they took down one, Lin Chen could crush twenty or thirty.

This gap made them almost go crazy.

Du Feiyu was extremely shocked; in just ten days, Lin Chen's strength had increased again, and it was this kind of heaven-defying combat power.

If they were to fight again, Du Feiyu would surely be no match for Lin Chen and would quickly be defeated.

However, Du Feiyu had no idea that Lin Chen's abnormal combat strength was due to the Primordial Transformation Art having a strong suppressive effect on these Spiritual Puppets.

But if Lin Chen were to fight Du Feiyu again, he would indeed be able to defeat him quickly.

For Lin Chen had truly improved a lot compared to his strength ten days ago.

"This guy is too terrifying."

The distant onlookers watched as Puppet after Puppet quickly shattered under Lin Chen's sword, their hearts filled with utmost shock.

Half an hour later, Lin Chen sheathed his Flowing Light Sword as the Spiritual Spring within him expanded another two layers.

At this rate, just two more floors up the tower, and he would be able to expand his internal Spiritual Power to the Reverting Void Realm level. Moreover, after several rounds of battle, Lin Chen's Divine Body had stabilized, fulfilling the requirements to step into the Reverting Void Realm.

"Congratulations, Brother Lin Chen, on your advanced cultivation."

The middle-aged man and Du Feiyu, seeing that Lin Chen had absorbed over two hundred Spiritual Puppets in one go, were incredibly shocked. They immediately approached Lin Chen to offer their congratulations.

"You two didn't do so bad yourselves."

Lin Chen dismissed their flattery with a wave of his hand and a faint smile.

Upon hearing this, Du Feiyu and the middle-aged man felt a burning shame on their faces. Their gains compared to Lin Chen's were nothing.

However, if it hadn't been for Lin Chen's heaven-defying combat power drawing all the enmity of the Spiritual Puppets, they indeed wouldn't have been able to kill so many of them.

So, even though they envied Lin Chen, they had to acknowledge that he truly did help them.

Soon, the Trial Tower made another sound, and everyone was teleported to the fifth floor.

Lin Chen and the others encountered more than ten Martial Artists, and this time, they met Deng Yu.

This man had exceptional talent and had received full marks in evaluation; his Cultivation had reached the Half-Step Return to Void Realm, with strength far surpassing Du Feiyu.

Therefore, upon reaching the fifth floor, he looked down on Lin Chen and the others with nothing but contempt.

The Martial Artists following him seemed to be old acquaintances, so their combined strength when working together was not insignificant.

Upon seeing Du Feiyu and Lin Chen together and noting that the five people on Du Feiyu's team were weak from exhausted Spiritual Power and even injured, he assumed Lin Chen and his group had fought desperately to barely make it to this floor.

"Don't get in the way later. If you're scared of dying, just stay far back so you don't obstruct me from exerting my full strength to annihilate the Spiritual Puppets," Deng Yu said to Lin Chen and the others, his voice cold and mocking.

Lin Chen, hearing this, did not respond. After all, everything had to be spoken for by strength. He knew Deng Yu was strong, but to snatch Spiritual Puppets from him would at most mean getting a few scraps of meat, not even enough to count as drinking soup.

"You..."

Qiu Ya, hearing someone looking down on herself and others was one thing, but to see them looking down on Lin Chen got her instantly irritated.

Somehow, Lin Chen's invisible protection of Qiu Ya had planted an emotional seed in her heart, making her dissatisfied with anyone who showed Lin Chen ill will.

This action by Qiu Ya caught Lin Chen's attention, and he thought to himself that this girl actually knew how to stand up for him.

Humming—

At that moment, a buzzing sound echoed all around. With the flashing of Spiritual Light, numerous Spiritual Puppets materialized, with a full five hundred walking out from the walls of the surrounding area.

And among these five hundred Spiritual Puppets, there were even ten whose Cultivation was at the Half-Step Return to Void Realm level.

"With so many, and some at the Half-Step Return to Void Realm level, after this test, you take Qiu Ya away through the teleportation window," Lin Chen told the man with the scar and the others.

"Reaching the fifth floor is a score good enough to give you a chance to enter the Formation Sect Outer Sect. If we reach the sixth floor, I'm afraid it'll be hard to ensure your safety."

Lin Chen said to the man with the scar and the others, looking at them.

Although he had no particular friendship with these people, they had followed Lin Chen's lead obediently through these floors, so naturally, he didn't want to let them down. He didn't want them to risk their lives if they made it to the sixth floor.

"Yes, Senior Brother."

"Being able to reach the fifth floor, we're already very satisfied."

Chapter 424: The Bet

"Heh, how laughable. Do you think this Trial Tower is your home, that you can just ascend as many levels as you wish? The fight hasn't even started yet, and you already think you can pass this level's trial?"

"But then again, maybe you're counting on Brother Deng Yu being here, right?"

"Shameless creature, why should our Brother Deng Yu share the spoils with you after he bravely fights off the enemies?"

"Leave now through the teleportation window; don't even think about sharing in the achievements of this level."

A muscular giant standing beside Deng Yu, looking at Lin Chen, angrily spoke up.

"How arrogant. What are you, after all? You're just at the Ninth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm, just like us."

"Since you're so confident, how about we make a bet to see which team can kill more Spiritual Puppets?"

Hong Lan raised her heavy weapon with a biting edge, a cold smile playing on her lips as she spoke to the muscular man.

Having witnessed Lin Chen's abnormal combat strength on the fourth floor, Hong Lan had completely let go of her hang-ups.

Her prior discontent with Lin Chen robbing her of her treasures was due to Lin Chen's lower Cultivation and not knowing what methods he used to defeat her in the Baiming Pavilion, which caused her continual dissatisfaction with him.

However, during the previous encounter on the fourth floor, Lin Chen's abnormal battle strength thoroughly conquered her heart.

Lin Chen, as a powerful figure, was enough to make her set aside so-called face and make an alliance.

Hong Lan was not one to hold petty grudges, quite the contrary, she was a person who dared to love and hate openly.

Lin Chen's otherworldly performance on the fourth floor had thoroughly turned her into a little fan of Lin Chen.

Lin Chen's care for Qiu Ya made Hong Lan understand his intentions.

Hong Lan clearly remembered that when Lin Chen came to the Formation Sect, he was alone, with no beautiful women by his side.

So she believed that Qiu Ya was definitely someone Lin Chen met within the Trial Tower.

Regarding men, it was normal for them to be somewhat lecherous in Hong Lan's view, as long as a man had sufficient strength, having multiple wives and concubines was normal.

What she was most confident about was that her looks and figure were in no way inferior to Qiu Ya's.

At this moment, after Hong Lan proposed the bet to the muscular man, she came to Lin Chen's side and, changing her previous attitude toward him, gave Lin Chen a sultry look.

"Lin Chen, Brother, this bet relies entirely on you."

Hong Lan, twisting her waist, said to Lin Chen.

Lin Chen was quite puzzled by Hong Lan's sudden about-face.

Whether this woman's attitude toward him became better or worse, Lin Chen did not care.

As for the bet, Lin Chen was actually somewhat concerned.

This woman, Hong Lan, actually wanted to hijack his breadwinning, using him to bet against others, which was quite a cunning plan.

However, Lin Chen had no intention of handing over the treasures he had won to Hong Lan.

If he won the bet by killing the Spiritual Puppets, naturally the treasures should belong to Lin Chen himself.

And as for Hong Lan, what treasures did she even have left on her?

"Arrogant woman, you do intrigue me; I want to see what you'll use to kill the same number of Spiritual Puppets as us."

The muscular man looked at the surrounding Spiritual Puppets, somewhat puzzled, because at that moment, the Spiritual Puppets hadn't attacked them yet.

Could it be because of the rules of the Trial Stone Tower, giving them ample preparation time?

"Who said we are betting on shattering the same number of Spiritual Puppets?"

"Let's make our bet bigger; if you can kill half the number of Spiritual Puppets our team does, you win," she proposed.

"If you lose, it's not just you but he as well must hand over all the treasures and resources on you."

Hong Lan's gaze fell on the distant Deng Yu, her lips curling into a triumphant smile.

She had absolute confidence in Lin Chen.

Even though Deng Yu's power appeared to be the strongest among all present, he could not possibly surpass Lin Chen.

"Heh, amusing, we accept this bet."

"Your confidence, does it come from this useless thing? Being of the Ninth Layer of the Melding Earth Realm, I'd like to see on what basis he dares to claim he can shatter twice our number," Deng Yu retorted, now taking this bet not just as a wager but as an insult to his own strength.

Who was he? The favorite son of Heaven, whereas this contemptible Lin Chen couldn't even be compared with him.

Woosh—

No sooner had their bet been made than the distant Spiritual Puppets sprang into motion.

"Lin Chen, Brother, I'm counting on you," Hong Lan said, slightly turning towards Lin Chen, her impressive bust making a slight jump, seemingly encouraging Lin Chen.

Hearing this, Lin Chen did not respond, because in his view, the bet Hong Lan mentioned was nothing more than helping him arrange his own battle.

He certainly had no intention of giving even a fraction of the post-victory resources to Hong Lan.

Swoosh—

The moment the Spiritual Puppets moved, Lin Chen and Deng Yu also instantly sprang into action.

Their figures nearly simultaneously charged towards the Spiritual Puppets; facing nearly five hundred of them, neither showed the slightest fear.

And as they started, Du Feiyu also could not afford to show weakness and charged toward the Spiritual Puppets.

To the others watching, they thought these three were ruthless characters.

That was nearly five hundred Spiritual Puppets; venturing deep among them could easily lead to death at their hands if one wasn't careful — not to mention there were also ten Half-Step Return to Void Realm Spiritual Puppets amongst them.

Chapter 425: I'm Getting Serious Now

Hiss—

Boom—

Deng Yu's weapon was a long spear, which was extremely advantageous for dealing with large numbers of enemies in battle.

Deng Yu's combat strength was formidable; it took him less than ten breaths to dispose of a Spiritual Puppet with Nine Levels of Cultivation in the Heaven-reaching Realm, which was incomparably higher than Du Feiyu's combat strength.

"Boy, I am blessed with Innate Divine Strength and armed with the Flame Dragon Spear; I can fight for an entire day without needing a single breath of rest. What do you have to compare with me?"

With the Flame Dragon Spear in hand, Deng Yu whirled his long spear around, the blazing firelight emerging on its surface. Each twirl of the spear unleashed unparalleled power.

Such an explosive force would be unbearable for ordinary martial artists, who would likely run out of strength and spiritual power quickly.

However, Deng Yu did not even seem to be out of breath.

"Ha ha, you worthless boy, now you see the might of our boss. It takes less than ten breaths to exterminate a Spiritual Puppet, you can't possibly match such deadly prowess."

The muscular brute, upon witnessing Deng Yu's heroic act of slaying the Spiritual Puppets, immediately began to taunt Lin Chen.

Following him, the other martial artists also burst into mocking laughter, believing that the bet between Hong Lan and the muscular brute was undoubtedly lost by Hong Lan.

It was sheer folly for Hong Lan to willingly opt out of such a bet, like walking into a lion's den.

The muscular brute couldn't help but fantasize about Hong Lan waiting on him later.

However, even though Deng Yu unleashed such tremendous combat strength and could kill a Spiritual Puppet in ten breaths, not a hint of worry appeared on their faces; it was as if even if Deng Yu could maintain that level of strength, he would still not be able to best Lin Chen.

"These fools must have been shocked silly, still putting on airs at a time like this."

The muscular brute said, looking down at Hong Lan, Qiu Ya, and the others with disdain.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh—

However, just as his voice faded, a powerful Sword Qi suddenly erupted from where Lin Chen was standing.

Then, a series of dizzyingly fast Sword Lights flew through the air, each flawlessly slicing across the bodies of the Spiritual Puppets.

In the next instant, nearly a hundred Spiritual Puppets crumbled under the swift and confusing Sword Qi of Lin Chen.

"How... how is this possible?!"

"How could that trash unleash such a formidable force?"

The muscular brute's heart was deeply shocked as he watched Lin Chen shatter nearly a hundred Spiritual Puppets in an instant; he could hardly believe his eyes or the reality before him.

"Hehe, the strength of Brother Lin Chen is not something you can comprehend."

Hong Lan felt an overwhelming shock in her heart as well. She had seen Lin Chen's strength before, but she had not seen him use the move he displayed at this moment.

To be able to deal with nearly a hundred Spiritual Puppets in an instant, was it really just Melding Earth Realm Cultivation? It should be the terrifying power that only a warrior in the Heavenly Human Realm would possess.

"This guy..."

At this moment, Deng Yu clenched his teeth, utterly devastated by Lin Chen's show of strength.

Although he was loath to admit it, the fact was right before his eyes: in an instant, Lin Chen had killed more than ten times the number of Spiritual Puppets he had.

At this point, Deng Yu felt his cheeks burning with pain and his breathing became labored.

He regarded himself as a peerless genius, but the strength Lin Chen demonstrated at this moment was simply overwhelming, leaving him battered and bruised.

"Sword rise!"

"Mountains high, waters long, falling flowers and flowing water!"

Suddenly, Lin Chen, holding the Flowing Light Sword, transformed his aura into an incredibly powerful Sword Qi.

With one slash from Lin Chen, the Sword Qi surged like a stream of water, directly piercing into the Spiritual Puppet, followed by countless dazzling Sword Lights penetrating through all of the Spiritual Puppets.

This move consumed a huge amount of Spiritual Power, even Lin Chen's Spiritual Spring was nearly depleted by one-tenth.

However, the outcome brought by this sword was also extremely satisfactory.

Under this single strike, almost a hundred Spiritual Puppets shattered.

Nearly two hundred spiritual energy orbs immediately surged into Lin Chen's body.

The one-tenth of Spiritual Power Lin Chen had spent was instantly replenished.

"We can't let this guy take all the Spiritual Puppets."

In just the short time it took for half a cup of tea to brew, Lin Chen had annihilated nearly two hundred Spiritual Puppets, and Deng Yu had clearly lost the bet.

But Deng Yu still intended to fight for the energy orbs released after the Spiritual Puppets were shattered.

Deng Yu gathered all his strength, no longer conserving Spiritual Power, channeling all his Spiritual Power into the spear in his hands. With a thrust, he instantly transformed it into a hundred-zhang-long Fire Dragon.

Once the Fire Dragon plunged into the midst of the Spiritual Puppets, it exploded with a deafening blast, its immense Fire Attribute Power obliterating dozens of Spiritual Puppets.

"Are these two guys even human?"

Du Feiyu watched Lin Chen and Deng Yu's powerful killing moves, and although Deng Yu's technique could not compare to Lin Chen's swordsmanship, it still resulted in the shattering of nearly thirty more Spiritual Puppets under that one thrust.

Du Feiyu finally realized his own weakness. Compared to a true Heavenly Pride like Lin Chen, he still had some way to go.

However, he couldn't reach for what was beyond his grasp; he could only continue to battle the Spiritual Puppets with his double daggers, move by move.

"So you also have such a powerful killing move."

"Having had over thirty Spiritual Puppets' shattered energies snatched away, that indeed is a great loss."

"Since that's the case, I, too, should take this seriously. Otherwise, the losses will continue to mount."

Lin Chen took a deep look at Deng Yu and directly took out a wooden Magic Wand that contained formidable Fire Attribute Power. If detonated, it seemed as if it could burst forth with the power of a Reverting Void Realm expert at any moment.

"What an impressive Magic Wand, its level is probably not inferior to that Treasured Sword."

The spectators were astounded as they watched Lin Chen take out the Blazing Flame Staff.

After taking out the Flame Staff, Lin Chen slapped three Explosive Flame Talismans onto it, enhancing its Fire Attribute's explosive power.

Lin Chen then channeled his Spiritual Power, furiously infusing the Blazing Flame Staff with it.

"Is this guy trying to blow up the Trial Tower, with such immense power? I hope we won't be affected by this," the crowd muttered while watching the Flame Staff in Lin Chen's hands that was brimming with extraordinarily potent Fire Attribute Power.

They were certain that if Lin Chen were to unleash a Fireball at them, they would probably be completely obliterated.

Chapter 426: You Bet, You Lose, Trying to Renege on a Debt?

Boom—

Rumbling—

Dazzling light shone in front of everyone, with flames filling the entire fifth level of the Trial Tower.

At this moment, the combat in the fifth level of the Trial Tower was intense. Apart from the ten Spiritual Puppets that had reached the Half-Step Reverting Void Realm, all the other Spiritual Puppets perished under the Fireballs released by Lin Chen.

The range of the Fireball explosion was under Lin Chen's control, and it did not sweep across the Martial Artists present.

However, Lin Chen's powerful method immediately shocked everyone, including Deng Yu.

At this moment, they looked at Lin Chen as if he were a monster, their breathing extremely heavy.

Especially the muscular man, who had also realized just how powerful and terrifying Lin Chen was.

At this time, the ten Spiritual Puppets of the Half-Step Reverting Void Realm level seemed to possess some Spiritual Wisdom. They even glanced at each other and then, in unison, launched an attack towards Lin Chen.

"Next, it's time to deal with you few."

Inside Lin Chen, the Primordial Transformation Art automatically operated, continuously absorbing the energy from the shattered Spiritual Puppets around him.

At that moment, Lin Chen felt an unprecedented power coursing through his body, filled with abundant Spiritual Power.

Lin Chen moved swiftly towards the ten Spiritual Puppets and charged into battle.

"Finders, keepers. You can't have all these Spiritual Puppets to yourself."

Although Deng Yu was astonished by Lin Chen's terrifying strength and knew he was not on the same level, it didn't mean he was giving up on killing those Spiritual Puppets.

Right then, he exerted his movement technique to the utmost and rushed towards the ten Spiritual Puppets of the Half-Step Reverting Void Realm level.

Seeing this, Du Feiyu could not show weakness either.

Although his Cultivation was only at the Ninth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm, if he used all his techniques, he might be able to compete with those Spiritual Puppets.

After another bout of fierce combat, Lin Chen directly annihilated eight of the Half-Step Reverting Void Realm's Spiritual Puppets, while Du Feiyu and Deng Yu each killed one.

Afterward, the three began to absorb the energy from the shattered Half-Step Reverting Void Realm Spiritual Puppets.

After Lin Chen finished absorbing, Deng Yu slowly completed his absorption, and Du Feiyu followed only after Deng Yu had finished.

"How about it? A bet is a bet; hand over all your treasures."

After the three finished absorbing the energy from the shattered Spiritual Puppets, Hong Lan slowly approached the muscular man and spoke to him.

At this moment, the muscular man showed a face full of reluctance. They had indeed lost the bet.

But the muscular man did not want to hand over all his treasures according to the bet because his agreement to Hong Lan's bet had only been based on Deng Yu's strength, believing there was no way they could lose.

Now, however, the result was a complete victory for Lin Chen's team.

The number of Spiritual Puppets Lin Chen killed was more than nine times that of Deng Yu.

"What now, are you intending to go back on your word?"

Seeing the muscular man hesitant and unwilling to hand over his treasures, Lin Chen took a step forward and spoke indifferently.

As the words fell, a powerful burst of Soul Power exuded from Lin Chen, pressing towards the muscular man and his companions oppressively.

Humm humm—

As the formidable Soul Power bore down on them, the muscular man's face changed drastically; they had never anticipated that Lin Chen's Divine Soul would be so strong.

Even Deng Yu found Lin Chen's Soul Power somewhat overwhelming, and most importantly, he had already witnessed Lin Chen's combat abilities and knew that Lin Chen was not an easy target to provoke.

Offending him would bring harm without a single benefit.

If they were to offend him over some external possessions, it would truly be an unwise decision.

"Brother Lin Chen, please quell your anger. We will not default on our agreement, and will hand over the Treasures to you immediately,"

the muscular man hurriedly pleaded.

As he spoke, he reached for his storage bag, swept through it with his Divine Sense, and took out all the Treasures inside.

Seeing this, Lin Chen finally dissipated his Soul Power.

Hong Lan, who was delighted at the sight of the Treasures, was about to store them in her own storage bag when she saw Lin Chen gesture grandly with his hand, directly collecting all the Treasures into the space of the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron.

"Brother Lin Chen, what is this..."

Hong Lan had never expected that Lin Chen was actually taking charge on her behalf in order to secure the Treasures for himself.

Hearing Hong Lan's coquettish voice, Lin Chen paid no attention and instead turned his gaze to Deng Yu.

Deng Yu did not say much either. Previously, he had acknowledged the bet between the muscular man and Hong Lan, and Lin Chen's strength had made him utterly convinced of his defeat, also making him understand the truth that there are always stronger people in the world.

Receiving the storage bag, Lin Chen only briefly scanned it with his Divine Sense before placing it into the space within the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron.

Once inside the space of the Primordial Myriad Transformation Cauldron, regardless of whether the Treasures in the storage bag had been tampered with, all connection with the outside world would be severed. Furthermore, the Cauldron would immediately sense any issues, so Lin Chen didn't need to meticulously inspect each Treasure.

After taking Deng Yu's storage bag, Lin Chen was overjoyed, very satisfied with the Treasures within it. Their value surpassed all the Treasures he had plundered in the Baiming Pavilion combined.

"All of you should leave the Trial Tower quickly. The passageway to the sixth floor will open soon, and I won't have time to look after you then,"

Lin Chen said, turning to Qiu Ya and the other Martial Artists.

Hearing this, Qiu Ya and the others nodded their heads. Being under Lin Chen's protection and reaching this point was already quite fulfilling, so they didn't yearn to advance further up the high tower.

Soon after, Qiu Ya and the others made their way to the teleportation window, vanished in a flash, and left the Trial Tower.

Under Du Feiyu's persuasion, Hong Lan and the rest also departed, leaving only Du Feiyu himself behind.

All of Lin Chen's team had left.

On Deng Yu's side, the muscular giant and another bulky Martial Artist at the Ninth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm, hadn't left the Trial Tower, and the rest, also fearing the danger ahead, followed in the footsteps of Qiu Ya and the others, leaving the Trial Tower one by one.

Whoosh whoosh—

After everyone had left, five beams of light landed upon the bodies of Lin Chen and his remaining compatriots, signaling that it was time to enter the sixth floor of the Trial Tower.

Lin Chen was quite curious, wondering what kind of Spiritual Puppets awaited him on the sixth floor of the Trial Tower?

Chapter 427: They're Looking for a Chance to Escape

The Trial Tower consists of seven layers.

It is said that no one has reached the seventh layer of the Formation Sect's Trial Tower in the past hundred years.

Rumor has it that the Spiritual Puppets on that layer even possess the strength of the Peak of the Heavenly Human Realm.

However, these are only rumors, and as for the truth, no one knows.

After reaching the sixth layer of the Trial Tower, Lin Chen saw Qin Kaifeng, Ouyang Xuan, and the Little Princess of Yanwu Country, Xia Wanxin. Apart from these three, there was also a woman with purple hair, constantly following Xia Wanxin, who was, in fact, Xia Wanxin's personal maid.

Besides these four, there was also a bald man whose brow featured a third eye, though it was closed.

"Brother Lin, you haven't let me down, making it to this sixth layer of the Trial Tower."

"I wonder how many Spiritual Puppets have been extinguished by Brother Lin's hand along the way."

"The number of puppets that perished by my hand is neither too many nor too few, exactly two hundred and fifty, including four at the Half-Step Return to Void Realm."

Upon Lin Chen's arrival, Qin Kaifeng immediately spoke of his combat achievements, very interested in the number of Spiritual Puppets Lin Chen had killed.

When Qin Kaifeng said this, Xia Wanxin, Ouyang Xuan, the purple-robed maid, and the bald man all looked at Qin Kaifeng as if he were a monster.

This was solely because Qin Kaifeng was just too abnormal. During the previous battles with the Spiritual Puppets, he had suppressed them completely, mercilessly annihilating them.

"I have about the same number as Brother Qin."

Lin Chen was also somewhat surprised after hearing Qin Kaifeng announce his achievements.

His ability to kill the Spiritual Puppets against the natural order was entirely due to his cultivation of the Primordial Transformation Art, which had a suppressive effect on the Puppets.

"About the same number as what?"

Qin Kaifeng, with his strong competitive spirit, wanted to know the exact number of Spiritual Puppets Lin Chen had killed.

However, Lin Chen did not want to be too showy in front of so many proud talents, to avoid arousing jealousy, so he just laughed it off.

Qin Kaifeng assumed Lin Chen was just saving face because there was a large difference between their kill counts, so he did not insist on an answer.

Then, the layer brightened again, with Spiritual Energy surging.

This time, facing ten people, there appeared an astonishing total of a thousand Spiritual Puppets.

Among them, there were even a hundred at the Half-Step Return to Void Realm and another ten at the Third Layer of the Reverting Void Realm.

"This... is this the strength of the Spiritual Puppets in the sixth layer of the Trial Tower after the anomaly?"

Seeing the number and cultivation of the Spiritual Puppets before him, Du Feiyu was internally shaken and began to feel uneasy.

He was already having a bit of trouble dealing with the Half-Step Return to Void Realm Puppets, so facing those of the Third Layer of the Reverting Void Realm, he certainly would be unable to defeat them.

"Everyone, this will be a fierce battle."

Ouyang Xuan's gaze fell on the Spiritual Puppets; his expression was solemn.

Xia Wanxin and the purple-robed maiden were also earnest, while only Lin Chen and Qin Kaifeng remained unconcerned.

"Brother Lin, do your best. Our bet still stands. After we get out, I really want to see how my points compare with yours..."

In Qin Kaifeng's eyes, Lin Chen's combat power was the strongest among the nine others here, apart from himself. Having fought with Lin Chen, he was well aware of Lin Chen's might.

Qin Kaifeng had a strong competitive spirit, so he was very eager to have a match with Lin Chen.

Afterward, everyone began to make their move, fighting fiercely against the Spiritual Puppets.

...

At the Formation Sect, outside the Trial Tower, on the Spiritual Power Illusion Platform.

At this moment, the three Outer Sect Elders presiding over the event, Tang Yuntian, Tang Yunshan, and Tang Yunfei, furrowed their brows. After Lin Chen and the others entered the sixth level of the Trial Tower, the connection they had with the tower weakened.

Therefore, they were unaware of the situation inside the tower.

After all, the Trial Tower was not their creation or construction; they simply possessed the magic technique to activate it.

Meanwhile, Inner Sect Elders like Mu Qianqiu and many disciples of the Formation Sect, as well as those who had participated in the competition and already come out of the Trial Tower, were all looking up at the ten spots of light on the sixth level of the tower.

At this moment, everyone knew that the ten people still inside the tower were the ones with the best talents in this competition. It seemed inevitable that they would become Inner Sect Disciples, and perhaps some might even be taken on as Core Disciples.

"Brother Lin, please be careful and don't push yourself too hard."

Qiu Ya was clenching her fists tight at this moment, her face full of worry.

"Don't worry, little beauty. With his combat strength, the sixth level of the Trial Tower can't trouble him."

Hong Lan looked at Qiu Ya's worried face and went over to her, speaking out.

Hearing this, Qiu Ya gave a faint nod, but the concern on her face did not diminish one bit.

Meanwhile, the others outside the tower were also pointing at the spots of light on the Trial Tower, chatting and discussing among themselves.

Whoosh—

Just as the crowd's discussion continued, a figure suddenly fell from above. It was a member of Deng Yu's team, and as soon as the person landed, a stone tablet below the Trial Tower displayed the score of his Trial Tower entry.

"Meng Yuan, passed the fifth level of the Trial Tower, killed twelve Spiritual Puppets, scored one hundred and twenty points."

The crowd looked at the information displayed on the stone tablet below the Trial Tower and couldn't help feeling envious.

Because martial artists who scored over a hundred points were few and far in previous years, these scores could have placed one in the top three.

However, in this year's event, this score didn't seem to be the best since there were still nine people inside the tower.

Whoosh, whoosh—

Soon after Meng Yuan fell from the high tower, two more figures followed suit, coming down from above; they were the muscular giant and Du Feiyu.

Their scores were one hundred fifty and one hundred thirty points, respectively.

All three had significant injuries, looking rather bedraggled. With a hint of fear still in their eyes as they looked up at the Trial Tower, it was clear the challenge was indeed not something they could handle with their current abilities.

If they hadn't found the opportunity to escape through the transport window amidst the attack of such a large number of Spiritual Puppets, they might have perished inside.

"How did it go inside, what was the battle situation like?"

Seeing Du Feiyu also fly out from the Trial Tower, Hong Lan quickly approached to ask. She was actually quite worried about Lin Chen's safety, understanding that despite not knowing the number of Spiritual Puppets on the sixth level of the Trial Tower, Du Feiyu's ragged state suggested it was immensely dangerous.

"Not good, apart from those three freaks, everyone else wasn't really trying to kill the Spiritual Puppets but looking for an opportunity to run for their lives."

Chapter 428: Clash of the Heavenly Prides

"What!? Look for a chance to escape with our lives?"

"It seems the situation inside is quite grim, huh? Could it be that the rest couldn't escape?"

"That would be great, because aside from those seven, our rankings could squeeze forward a bit."

Upon hearing Du Feiyu's words, the surrounding martial artists immediately began to buzz with discussion, many of them even hoping that the ones above would die in the Trial Tower.

Qiu Ya's face turned pale when she heard these remarks, extremely worried about what might happen to Lin Chen.

"Didn't you hear what he said? There are three people up there constantly fighting Spiritual Puppets."

An elderly martial artist looked up at the Trial Tower above his head and said indifferently.

Not far off were Zhao Zhongchuan and Zhao Zhongtian.

As it happened, these two were also very unlucky. The father and son duo encountered each other in the Second Layer of the Trial Tower. They then teamed up to fight their way upward, but from the Third Layer on, because Zhao Zhongtian was of the Reverting Void Realm, so too were the Spiritual Puppets generated within the Trial Tower.

Zhao Zhongtian, Zhao Zhongchuan, and the others exhausted all their efforts to slay them and reached the Fourth Layer.

But on the Fourth Layer, the Spiritual Puppets that appeared were of the Second Layer of the Reverting Void Realm, and there were even three of them.

Although Zhao Zhongtian played all his trump cards and killed them, they were wounded all over after passing the Fourth Layer and had no strength left to continue fighting, so they reluctantly withdrew from the Trial Tower.

Seeing that Lin Chen had not yet come out of the Trial Tower, both men looked very displeased.

Because Lin Chen, even if he didn't pass the Sixth Layer's trial, his ranking after coming out would surely be above theirs.

"Who are those three, anyway? Come on, spit it out."

Everyone around was extremely curious about the situation inside the Trial Tower and wanted to press Du Feiyu for details, but Du Feiyu, the musclebound man, and Meng Yuan immediately entered a healing meditation with the protection of their comrades, having no time to chat with them.

Whoosh whoosh—

However, just at that moment, four figures flew down from above the Trial Tower, none other than Ouyang Xuan, the purple-robed maiden, Deng Yu, and that bald man.

After the four of them landed, the stone stele of the Trial Tower displayed their respective scores.

"Ouyang Xuan, passed the Fifth Layer of the Trial Tower, killed forty-five Spiritual Puppets, scored five hundred points."

"Xiner, passed the Fifth Layer of the Trial Tower, killed twenty-seven Spiritual Puppets, scored three hundred points."

"Heartless Monk, passed the Fifth Layer of the Trial Tower, killed eighty Spiritual Puppets, scored a thousand points."

"Deng Yu, passed the Fifth Layer of the Trial Tower, killed one hundred fifty Spiritual Puppets, scored nineteen hundred points."

As the stele of the Trial Tower displayed the scores of the four, the crowd around widened their eyes and all gazes simultaneously directed toward Deng Yu.

"No wonder he scored full marks on the second challenge, a heavenly pride with supreme talent, he actually killed over a hundred Spiritual Puppets, nearly scoring two thousand points, he's truly one of the most outstanding disciples of the Formation Sect in recent years."

"Indeed, this child fully possesses the strength and talent to become a core disciple."

"Sigh, it's just a shame that even if we wanted to take him as a disciple, he simply wouldn't give us the time of day..."

The Inner Sect Elders had their eyes on Deng Yu, all of them full of praise.

Deng Yu had good hearing and enjoyed hearing the praise from the Inner Sect Elders and the envy and admiration from those around him.

However, he knew in his heart that although his talent was extraordinary, there was someone whose achievements far surpassed his own.

Lin Chen, on the fifth floor, had already annihilated nearly four hundred Spiritual Puppets, which was already two or three times his figure.

Not to mention the previous four floors where Lin Chen had destroyed countless Spiritual Puppets.

At this moment, Lin Chen was on the sixth floor, wreaking havoc.

Thinking of Lin Chen's heaven-defying talent, Deng Yu couldn't help but wish that Lin Chen would die in the Trial Tower and never come back down.

Otherwise, his title as the first place would change hands.

Just like now, although some people praised the Heartless Monk, everyone's attention was ultimately focused on Deng Yu.

If Lin Chen came down and took away the title of first place, then he, Deng Yu, would be forgotten by everyone.

At this moment, inside the sixth floor of the Trial Tower.

Sizzle—

Sizzle—

Amidst the glitter of blades and the flash of swords, Lin Chen, Qin Kaifeng, and Xia Wanxin kept swinging their weapons, killing the Spiritual Puppets within this space.

Xia Wanxin wielded a Fire Rope in her hand, moving it around with ease, and with each swing, she took away one or two Spiritual Puppets.

Qin Kaifeng, on the other hand, had a pair of massive gauntlets, seemingly forged from the skull of some Magical Beast, indestructibly hard. With every punch he threw, a tremendous force was unleashed, each possessing the power of the Reverting Void Realm.

Although the two of them were fighting valiantly among the Spiritual Puppets, the sheer number of them meant that both had sustained non-fatal injuries.

However, Lin Chen in the distance fought with an incredibly carefree posture, brandishing the Flowing Light Sword in his hand, and with every streak of Sword Light, he took down a large swath of Spiritual Puppets.

Compared to Qin Kaifeng and Xia Wanxin, Lin Chen was simply overwhelming the Spiritual Puppets with an invincible momentum.

This sight left Qin Kaifeng and Xia Wanxin dumbfounded; they had never imagined that Lin Chen's combat capability could be so monstrous.

With each sword strike, at least fifty Spiritual Puppets perished under his blade.

And what was even more exaggerated was that with his swordsmanship, Lin Chen could exterminate the Spiritual Puppets of the Third Layer of the Reverting Void Realm in just a few breaths.

It should be noted that when Qin Kaifeng and Xia Wanxin fought with the Spiritual Puppets of the Third Layer of the Reverting Void Realm, they could not defeat them as effortlessly as Lin Chen.

"Brother Lin, you... During the fifth floor, just how many did you say were 'somewhat similar' to my count?" Qin Kaifeng asked as he looked at the nearly five hundred luminous spheres above Lin Chen's head, which included more than fifty Half-Step Return to Void Realm Spiritual Puppets' spiritual power spheres and four Third Layer of the Reverting Void Realm Spiritual Puppets' spiritual power spheres.

Lin Chen did not answer Qin Kaifeng's words, instead continuing to wield his sharp sword and relentlessly slaying the Spiritual Puppets.

After the battle, all the Spiritual Puppets on this floor were finally cleared.

Qin Kaifeng and Xia Wanxin were panting heavily, each with several wounds oozing fresh blood.

Although they were both seriously injured this time, the rewards were tremendously rich, and both were now absorbing the spiritual power spheres of more than a hundred Spiritual Puppets.

However, compared to Lin Chen's seven hundred plus spiritual power spheres, theirs really didn't amount to much.

Chapter 429: The Top-Level Bloody Monster

Before long, Lin Chen, Qin Kaifeng, and Xia Wanxin, the three of them, had completely absorbed the spiritual power sphere left after the Spiritual Puppet was shattered. Among the three, only Lin Chen's Spiritual Spring had a notably prominent increase in Spiritual Power.

Firstly, Lin Chen absorbed the highest number of spiritual power spheres from the shattered Spiritual Puppet, and secondly, he refined the energy as he absorbed it.

Whereas Qin Kaifeng and Xia Wanxin did not completely refine the energy of the spiritual power spheres.

"Lin Chen, you really are an abnormal fellow. I admit my inferiority humbly," Qin Kaifeng said, taking a deep glance at Lin Chen and sighing.

Although he was reluctant to admit that Lin Chen was stronger than him, the truth was clear. Even without checking their scores outside, the bet was inevitably lost to Lin Chen.

Lin Chen heard Qin Kaifeng's words of concession and smiled indifferently.

If it hadn't been for his Primordial Transformation Art having a natural repressive power against these Spiritual Puppets, Lin Chen would certainly not have been able to defeat Qin Kaifeng.

Lin Chen turned his head, casting his gaze upon the Little Princess from Yanwu Country.

Not only was Xia Wanxin beautiful, but her strength was also exceptionally remarkable. One must know that she was two years younger than Lin Chen yet possessed such prowess.

Indeed, being born into the Royal Family was not something common people like them could compare with.

A Zhao Zhongchuan, a Xia Wanxin; the contrast between the Royal Family and ordinary Martial Artists couldn't be more stark.

After the three of them had slain all the Spiritual Puppets on the sixth floor, the transmission light pillar to the seventh floor was slow to arrive.

"Brother Lin Chen, are you waiting for the transmission light pillar to the seventh floor?"

"Don't overthink it. The entrance to the seventh floor requires us to open it ourselves. Just inject Spiritual Power into this stone column, and the seventh floor will exert a pulling force, drawing the Martial Artists from this floor to the next,"

"However, I advise you against doing so. Do you know why, over the years, no one has passed through the seventh floor of the Trial Tower? It's not because nobody has reached the seventh floor from the sixth, but because the Martial Artists who went to the seventh floor all failed the challenge. They couldn't even escape to the transmission window and all perished on that level," Qin Kaifeng said, addressing Lin Chen with interest in the Trial Tower's seventh floor.

"Yes, Brother Lin Chen, don't get any ideas. The Spiritual Puppets of the Heavenly Human Realm are not something we can challenge," Xia Wanxin chimed in, advising Lin Chen against doing anything foolish.

Both believed themselves to possess extraordinary talents, but when it came to the Trial Tower's seventh floor, even with great interest, they wouldn't propose to charge into it.

This was because their elders had repeatedly warned them before the recruitment contest of the Formation Sect not to go to the seventh floor of the Trial Tower.

If either of them went, death was certain.

"Alright, Brother Lin, let's go out and heal instead. This sixth floor of the Trial Tower, perhaps due to its proximity to the seventh floor, has had all its Spiritual Energy drained away. It's actually worse than the lower floors," Qin Kaifeng told Lin Chen before swiftly leaping through the transmission window to leave the Trial Tower.

"Brother Lin Chen, let us leave as well. If you get the chance in the future, you are welcome to visit Yanwu Country," Xia Wanxin looked at Lin Chen, batting her large eyes as she spoke with an invite.

A strong figure like Lin Chen should not be recruited too eagerly, as it might cause dislike.

However, as the Little Princess of Yanwu Country, naturally, she had to consider what's best for her nation. She had to express her willingness. Other decisions were entirely up to Lin Chen himself.

"If the opportunity arises, I naturally will," Lin Chen responded to Xia Wanxin's invitation with great admiration, looking at her clear and large eyes, and immediately nodded and smiled.

Subsequently, Xia Wanxin also leapt gracefully, passing through the transmission window to leave the Trial Tower.

In the entirety of the sixth layer, only Lin Chen was left in the end.

Lin Chen glanced at the stone columns, although he was very curious about what existed on the mysterious seventh layer, he ultimately decided not to open it.

Otherwise, once he entered the seventh layer, he would inevitably become the target of many, which was too high-profile.

After all, he was within the Formation Sect, so Lin Chen couldn't afford to be overly conspicuous; otherwise, if some old monster set their eyes on him, it wouldn't be good.

Yet Lin Chen didn't want to just leave the Trial Tower like this.

Looking up at the ceiling above, a decision suddenly emerged in Lin Chen's mind.

"Let's see what kind of existence lies within the seventh layer of this Trial Tower," he thought.

As soon as Lin Chen spoke, he swung his hand, and twelve formation flags flew out, landing on top of the stone tower above this layer, and then he began manipulating the Seal Decision with his hands.

One by one, the formations appeared, and Lin Chen's Soul Power was fully exerted.

The formation flags emitted Spiritual Light, forming a circle that shimmered, like a mirror.

Lin Chen stared unwaveringly into the mirror-like formation flags.

"Open!"

With a light shout from Lin Chen, a gap suddenly opened up in the center of the mirror-like circle formed by the twelve formation flags.

The moment the gap opened, Lin Chen sensed a powerful surge of Spiritual Energy leaking from it, those wisps of energy were enough to rival the spiritual power sphere of a Spiritual Puppet that had shattered.

Roar—

A monster with two heads, three pairs of arms, a body red as blood, and towering dozens of feet tall, its six huge eyes caught sight of Lin Chen the moment the gap opened, and a powerful force of Soul Power blasted towards Lin Chen.

Humming—

However, Lin Chen's Soul Power was not to be taken lightly and immediately resisted.

Boom—

Lin Chen stepped back several paces, feeling a heaviness in his chest, and the formation made by the formation flags above was instantly destroyed.

The twelve formation flags returned to Lin Chen's hands, he was unharmed, but his heart was deeply shaken.

Indeed, within the seventh layer of the Trial Tower, there actually were Spiritual Puppets of the Heavenly Human Realm level.

Moreover, a glance from the corner of his eye suggested that there was more than one.

These Spiritual Puppets differed completely from the white Spiritual Bodies seen before; they had a blood-red complexion like monsters, and the expressions in those six eyes definitely did not belong to creatures without Spiritual Wisdom.

"It seems that within the Formation Sect, there are indeed some secrets," Lin Chen mused as he put away the formation flags and immediately leaped out through the transfer window of the Trial Tower.

With Lin Chen's current strength, he was not yet capable of contending with those creatures of the seventh layer, and he couldn't afford to enter it in a high-profile manner either, as that would surely cause unnecessary trouble.

"They're down, they've come down."

Outside the Trial Tower, as they saw Qin Kaifeng and Xia Wanxin fly down from above the Trial Tower, the martial artists below became restless.

They all wanted to know if they had passed the test of the sixth layer and how many points they had scored.

Chapter 430: Strength Doesn't Allow for Keeping a Low Profile

"Xia Wanxin, through the sixth layer of the Trial Tower, has killed three hundred Spiritual Puppets, scoring three thousand one hundred points."

Hiss...

Looking at the flashing numbers on the stone tablet below the Trial Tower, everyone suddenly drew in a sharp breath.

Xia Wanxin had actually killed three hundred Spiritual Puppets, a situation unprecedented in the last few decades.

Everyone's gaze fell on Xia Wanxin with immense admiration, and in a flash, all eyes shifted from Deng Yu to Xia Wanxin.

Afterward, they looked at Qin Kaifeng.

This guy had a powerful background in the Formation Sect, needing only a word from his ancestors to directly enter the sect as a True Disciple.

Everyone was curious whether Qin Kaifeng's performance inside the Trial Tower was as impressive as his background.

"Qin Kaifeng, through the sixth layer of the Trial Tower, has killed five hundred Spiritual Puppets, scoring six thousand points."

The information displayed on the stone tablet below the Trial Tower instantly left everyone dumbfounded.

They could hardly believe that someone could score over six thousand points, perhaps a first in a hundred, or even a thousand, years.

"With such a powerful background, could it be that he cheated to get his score? Killing five hundred Spiritual Puppets alone just doesn't sound true."

"Yeah, the traces of cheating are too obvious. He's just a Half-Step Reverting Void Realm, how could anyone possess such tremendous strength?"

The crowd looked at Qin Kaifeng, whispering among themselves.

Qin Kaifeng's background and identity made many suspicious of his score.

However, no one dared to speak out and question it, because who would dare to offend Qin Kaifeng unless they no longer wanted to remain in the Formation Sect.

Swish—

Just then, another figure flew down from above the Trial Tower, and it was Lin Chen.

At this moment, Lin Chen wore a black robe, spotless, a stark contrast to the disheveled appearances of Qin Kaifeng and Xia Wanxin, with their tattered clothes, wounds, and fresh blood.

The crowd couldn't believe their eyes, and some even doubted whether Lin Chen had truly descended from the sixth layer of the Trial Tower.

Then, their gazes turned to the stone tablet below the Trial Tower.

Hum—

The faint light flickered, and Lin Chen's score appeared on the stone tablet.

"Lin Chen, through the sixth layer of the Trial Tower, has killed one thousand two hundred Spiritual Puppets, scoring fifteen thousand points."

Whizz Whizz Whizz—

Upon seeing Lin Chen's score on the stone tablet below the Trial Tower, everyone at the scene was unsettled, whether it was the Outer Sect Elders, Inner Sect Elders, or even great figures like Mu Qianqiu. Their gaze fell upon Lin Chen.

"This guy, killing one thousand two hundred Spiritual Puppets, scoring fifteen thousand points, is it real or fake?"

"The number of one thousand two hundred, with a score of fifteen thousand, must mean killing higher-cultivation Spiritual Puppets. However, this guy's Cultivation is only at the Ninth Layer of the Melding Earth Realm, how could he possibly achieve this?"

"Cheating, this guy is the real cheater, look at how clean he is, how could that be after a battle."

"Right, he must have cheated, this guy cheated, he took shortcuts, we protest."

The people around Lin Chen directly stood up and shouted loudly, raising their suspicions.

Their identities prevented them from offending Qin Kaifeng, but Lin Chen was different, merely a Ninth Layer Martial Artist of the Melding Earth Realm. His cultivation was not even higher than that of the martial artists present, so no one was afraid to offend him.

"Right, this guy is very close to Qin Kaifeng, he must have learned the cheating methods from him."

"To cheat in the Trial Tower, how shameless."

The surrounding murmurs grew louder and more intense, and the scene quickly became agitated.

Upon hearing this, Lin Chen, looking at the faces of the people around him, didn't know how to explain.

He glanced at his own score and Lin Chen was rendered speechless as well. He had always intended to keep a low profile, but had forgotten that the number of Spiritual Puppets killed inside the Trial Tower was related to the score one received upon exiting.

Now, even wanting to stay unnoticed was not an option.

"Presumptuous, the rules of the Formation Sect are not for you to question."

A rebuke sounded, and Tang Yuntian's aura surged forth. With a single step, the disciples who had been discussing all fell silent, looking at Tang Yuntian with fear.

After Tang Yuntian's aura had quelled the crowd's discussions, many other martial artists went on to take the assessment in the Trial Tower, but no one after them could match such achievements. Those who made it through the fourth layer were exceedingly rare, and most were forced to flee from the third layer.

After all, this batch of Trial Tower challenges was many times more dangerous than previous ones.

After this competition, Tang Yuntian and others began to take on disciples according to their rankings, but Tang Yuntian and the others, as Outer Sect Elders of the Formation Sect, only had the authority to take in Outer Sect Disciples.

To take in Inner Sect Disciples, that had to be decided by the Inner Sect Elders.

Several Inner Sect Elders were present at the event, so they were able to make decisions on the spot.

However, heavenly prides like Deng Yu still did not wish to become disciples under those of the Inner Sect, instead aspiring to become disciples of the old ancestors of the Formation Sect.

In the time that followed, Tang Yuntian arranged accommodations for everyone and asked them to take a rest to recuperate.

During this period, Lin Chen secluded himself for cultivation, stabilizing his own level of cultivation.

At this moment, within Divine Sun City.

Above the sky, two figures were locked in combat.

One wielded a sharp sword and remained still, but with a slight motion of the sword in hand, formidable sword light followed.

The other, a middle-aged man wielding a scimitar, had an aura several times stronger than the man in black.

Soon after, the two brandished their weapons, sparring under a dance of blade and sword light.

Though it was just a spar, both were displaying their strength to the extreme, leaving countless wounds on each other.

These two were Lin Chen's Second Soul Division and Xu Ma'an.

While Lin Chen's original body was in seclusion, his Second Soul Division was not idle, engaging in constant sparring and seclusion each day.

Now, Lin Chen's Second Soul Division's cultivation had even broken through to the Third Layer of the Reverting Void Realm.

It must be said that the Second Soul Division's speed of cultivation was quite fast, even surpassing that of Lin Chen's original body.

However, while the speed of breakthrough in cultivation was not fast for Lin Chen's original body, the enhancement of his combat power far surpassed that of the Second Soul Division, for Lin Chen's original body practiced the Primordial Transformation Art, and its strength could not be measured solely by cultivation level.

During this time of sparring with Lin Chen, Xu Ma'an's cultivation also soared, reaching the Seventh Level of the Reverting Void Realm.

Xu Ma'an had now thoroughly mastered the Blazing Fire Divine Decree and could see the same hope of reaching the Heavenly Human Realm.