

Primordial 451

Chapter 451: Ancestral Master of Formation Sect

Hum—

Humming—

Thunder and lightning radiance intertwined ceaselessly within Lin Chen's body, which resembled a source of light, occasionally bursting with the sound of thunder.

Seeing Lin Chen display such audacity, daring to refine the bead that contained the power of thunder and lightning in his hand with only Melding Earth Realm Cultivation, Xia Wanxin felt that Lin Chen must be insane.

However, Lin Chen's physique was indeed incomparably strong, and Xia Wanxin knew that all this was due to a Body Refinement Technique that Lin Chen had cultivated, and that Seven-Colored Ganoderma she had given Lin Chen was the catalyst.

Xia Wanxin remembered that in the treasury of her Yanwu Country, there were many Five Elements Medicinal Materials. If she had known earlier, she would have brought more, so that she could trade more with Lin Chen.

However, as long as she told Lin Chen that there were those Five Elements Herbal Materials in Yanwu Country, he would likely give Xia Wanxin some consideration.

At this moment, after swallowing the Heavenly Thunder Pearl, Lin Chen crazily operated the Primordial Transformation Art to refine it.

At this moment, the Heavenly Thunder Pearl inside Lin Chen's body was releasing the Power of Thunder and Lightning crazily, continuously damaging Lin Chen's body. Nonetheless, Lin Chen's current physique possessed astonishing recovery ability. As soon as the Heavenly Thunder Pearl damaged Lin Chen's body, under the operation of the Primordial Transformation Art, the body automatically healed itself.

The Heavenly Thunder Pearl's resistance caused countless wounds to appear within Lin Chen's body, with fresh blood immediately overflowing inside, causing Lin Chen to sustain severe internal injuries.

However, just after Lin Chen got injured, the fresh blood within his body suddenly burst out with an incredibly ancient aura, making the Heavenly Thunder Pearl suddenly unable to resist that bloodline power and became quiet.

"Could it be because of my bloodline power?"

Lin Chen, noticing the calm within his body where the Heavenly Thunder Pearl resided, was immediately shocked.

Lin Chen was very clear about his own physique.

But at this moment, the changes occurring in his body were all due to his own blood. It seemed that the Ancient Divine Body had awakened some ability, one that even Lin Chen himself hadn't realized.

Now, refining the Heavenly Thunder Pearl was simply too easy, just like refining a Spirit Stone usually.

Before long, the Heavenly Thunder Pearl, under Lin Chen's refining, completely filled his Spiritual Power and settled in his Spiritual Spring.

With just a thought, Lin Chen could directly harness the power of the Heavenly Thunder Pearl.

Hum—

And just after Lin Chen had completely refined the Heavenly Thunder Pearl, his aura suddenly burst forth, breaking through to the Heaven-reaching Realm.

After breaking through to the Heaven-reaching Realm, both Lin Chen's Soul Sea and Spiritual Spring kept expanding, filled with countless powers.

Humming—

Outside the mountain where Lin Chen was located, the sky above suddenly surged with winds and clouds, giving rise to a phenomenon.

At that moment, numerous cracks slowly appeared above Lin Chen's head, as if the entire space would shatter at any moment, and a powerful vortex of Spiritual Energy soared into the sky.

The other martial artists in this space also sensed the abnormal movements and immediately attracted everyone's attention.

Qin Kaifeng, Deng Yu, Ouyang Xuan, Heartless Monk, and others all looked in the direction of Lin Chen.

"Could it be that someone is breaking through their Cultivation in the mystic realm?"

"Given the circumstances, this person is at least breaking through to the Reverting Void Realm. It couldn't possibly be that Lin Chen fellow breaking through to the Heaven-reaching Realm, could it?"

Qin Kaifeng said jokingly while observing the phenomenon from afar.

With Lin Chen's talent, it indeed was possible for him to break through to the Heaven-reaching Realm at this time.

However, the large commotion that came with a breakthrough from the Melding Earth Realm to the Reverting Void Realm was impossible.

Even if a Warrior of the Heaven-reaching Realm was breaking through to the Reverting Void Realm, there shouldn't be such a powerful disturbance.

Meanwhile, outside the mystic realm, the elders of the Formation Sect were all looking up at the portal of the mystic realm.

Because just then, an incredibly powerful ancient aura had spread from within the mystic realm, shocking everyone and making them extremely curious about what was happening inside.

More importantly, why would this ancient aura come from within the mystic realm?

They had been elders of the Formation Sect for hundreds of years, yet they had never heard of any ancient artifact within the mystic realm.

And the aura they had just felt was definitely older than the years of the Formation Sect's existence. Could it be that some warrior had brought in some treasure?

Swoosh— Swoosh—

While the elders were puzzled, a purple figure suddenly flew rapidly from the deepest part of the Formation Sect.

In a few breaths, the purple figure landed at the location of the mystic realm.

The purple-clad figure was a middle-aged man with jet-black hair and a penetrating gaze that imparted a somewhat unyielding aura.

At that moment, the middle-aged man's gaze also fell upon the portal of the mystic realm, full of puzzlement.

He too was interested in that ancient aura.

However, even if he was very curious about the condition within the mystic realm, he couldn't enter the ruins.

Because his Cultivation was just too high, and the current mystic realm had restrictions set by generations of Ancestral Masters of Formation Sect, making it impossible for Reverting Void Realm warriors to enter.

"Qianqiu pays his respects to the Ancestral Master!"

Chapter 452: Advancement to the Heaven-reaching Realm

"It's been a hundred years, and your swordsmanship has become even more proficient, reaching the realm of Sword Transformation. Not bad at all,"

The middle-aged man in purple robes cast his gaze on Mu Qianqiu, nodded, and expressed his admiration.

"It is all thanks to the guidance of the ancestor that Qianqiu could achieve such success today."

Mu Qianqiu was among the top in martial prowess among the many Peak Masters of the Formation Sect, and he had a particularly proud character. However, today, he was exceptionally well-behaved and steady in front of this middle-aged man.

The surrounding elders were shocked beyond measure at the sight of this purple-robed middle-aged man, and they all knelt on the ground.

"We pay respects to the ancestor."

The crowd said in unison.

The purple-robed middle-aged man, upon hearing the worship of the crowd, simply raised his hand slowly, signaling them to stand up, while his attention was entirely focused on the ancient aura emitting from the secret realm's transmission portal.

That aura contained a taste of the primordial.

But the secret realm was bound by many restrictions, and even if he was curious, he couldn't enter. Otherwise, with his cultivation level, those restrictions would surely activate, causing the realm's space to instantly collapse, triggering a spatial turmoil.

Spatial turmoil was no joke. Once it occurred, not only would the disciples inside the secret realm be in danger, but even Lie Qianxing's cultivation level would be unable to contend with the spatial turmoil.

Lie Qianxing instructed everyone to thoroughly investigate the source of that ancient aura within the secret realm, and then, in the next moment, his figure flashed and disappeared from the spot.

The crowd nodded in response, and it wasn't until Lie Qianxing had left that the immense pressure on their hearts dissipated.

As for how many ancestors were still alive in the Formation Sect and what their levels were, the crowd had no real idea.

Because these ancestors were always in seclusion, they were not privileged to interact with them.

However, judging from the aura of Lie Qianxing just now, his cultivation was absolutely above the Nirvana Realm.

The territory of the Formation Sect spanned thousands of miles, and the locations of the ancestral elders from generation to generation were all on Formation Array Mountain, with one at the deepest part and one at the outermost edge, crossing the entire Formation Sect, spanning thousands of miles.

Yet, Lie Qianxing had appeared before everyone without any warning earlier. Such a movement technique was truly profound.

Shortly after Lie Qianxing left, a series of figures slowly flew in the sky above.

It was many Inner Sect Elders of the Formation Sect, as well as the Peak Masters of various peaks, among them was Shi Wanshan, the current Sect Leader and the Peak Master of the main peak.

After everyone arrived, they immediately inquired.

After Mu Qianqiu informed them, they all felt extremely regretful that they had all come just one step too late to meet the ancestor.

Shi Wanshan was a disciple of Lie Qianxing, and even he had not seen Lie Qianxing for decades.

Lie Qianxing had always been in seclusion, and unless it was a matter that threatened the survival of the Formation Sect, Shi Wanshan would never dare to disturb him.

Soon after, countless figures rushed over, they were the Heavenly Pride Core Disciples of the Formation Sect.

And when they heard that an ancestor had come out of seclusion, they felt immeasurably regretful and were quite annoyed, thinking why they hadn't come here earlier.

After all, if one's talent caught the eye of the ancestor and was accepted as a disciple, they would be able to soar to great heights.

Just like Mu Qianqiu, who a hundred years ago, was just a Core Disciple of the Formation Sect. But when Lie Qianxing emerged from seclusion and saw that Qianqiu had exceptional talent, he gave him some guidance in swordsmanship. Qianqiu then achieved his current success, with his martial strength approaching that of Shi Wanshan.

So, these Core Disciples dearly wished that Lie Qianxing would also value them.

Although there was more than one ancestor in the Formation Sect, the most active ancestor in the past hundred years was Lie Qianxing, so naturally, everyone hoped to encounter him during his active moments.

These Core Disciples, although they were qualified to enter each main peak, could only become disciples under those peaks. They didn't have the honor of being directly taken in by an ancestor.

Once seen by an ancestor, it would be an instant transition from being a disciple's nephew to a direct disciple.

...

At this moment, within the secret realm trial.

Lin Chen slowly opened his eyes. With a day passing by, he had finally completely refined the Heavenly Thunder Pearl. The process of refining the Heavenly Thunder Pearl also led Lin Chen to discover the mysteries of his Ancient Divine Body. His Essence Blood actually contained the Ancient Aura, a trace of the primordial era, which filled his heart with joy.

His Essence Blood surely held infinite mysteries, although for now, he could not confirm which abilities it possessed.

Moreover, Lin Chen had to carefully guard this secret; otherwise, if known by others, it would probably bring him no small trouble.

At this instant, Lin Chen's skin had become incredibly tender and delicate as if it could be broken with a gentle blow.

However, this was merely an outer phenomenon. Lin Chen's skin now, even for a Reverting Void Realm expert, would be hard to wound easily.

When he was refining the Thunder Pearl earlier, Lin Chen's clothing had been completely destroyed. He took out a set of black robes from his Spatial Ring, put them on, and then stood up and slowly walked towards Xia Wanxin and the Purple-robed Maiden.

Approaching the two women, Lin Chen extended his hand and shot out two strands of Spiritual Energy, instantly releasing the restrictions on their bodies.

Xia Wanxin stared at Lin Chen unblinkingly, utterly shocked.

Lin Chen's Talent seemed unparalleled in her entire life.

"I know I'm very handsome, but you don't have to stare at me like that."

Even though Lin Chen had a thick skin, being looked at with such eyes by Xia Wanxin still made him somewhat uncomfortable.

"Pfft, who's looking at you? Conceited guy,"

Xia Wanxin said pursing her lips, slowly standing up, and then pretended to pass by Lin Chen casually.

However, just as she passed by Lin Chen, she suddenly raised her hand swiftly towards him, trying to place a restriction on Lin Chen.

Yet, her sneak attack proved to be completely ineffective.

Chapter 453 I'll Do Whatever You Say

"How is this possible!?"

Lin Chen's body had become so tough that it could ignore any attack by spiritual power.

Even restrictions were no good against him.

"Miss Xia, what is the meaning of this?"

Lin Chen looked at Xia Wanxin, his gaze suddenly turned icy cold.

"Since Miss Xia is not being honest, she cannot blame Mr. Lin for not being polite."

Speaking indifferently, Lin Chen stretched out his hands towards Xia Wanxin and picked her up as if she was no heavier than a small chicken.

"Let me go, what are you trying to do!?"

Xia Wanxin, seeing that Lin Chen dared to treat her this way, became frightened at once.

"What, Miss Xia can strike at me, but I can't strike at Miss Xia?"

"I listened to what Liang Shuo said earlier and found it somewhat sensible. A beauty like you, I imagine, would taste very good."

Lin Chen said with a cold smile while looking at Xia Wanxin.

Upon hearing Lin Chen's words, Xia Wanxin felt a chill down her spine; she didn't take his words as a joke meant to scare her.

"What do you want, let go of our miss this instant."

The purple-robed maid, after hearing Lin Chen's words, also panicked, her face changed color, and she immediately pulled out a dagger and attacked Lin Chen.

However, Lin Chen simply ignored her attack.

Clink—

As expected, the dagger of the purple-robed maid broke as soon as it stabbed Lin Chen.

"What?!"

The purple-robed maid hadn't expected Lin Chen's defensive power to be so astounding. The dagger she had used was a profound high-grade magical treasure, yet it was broken by Lin Chen's body.

Could it be that Lin Chen's body had surpassed a profound grade treasure?

"Bastard, let me go right now, or I will never let you off the hook."

Xia Wanxin cursed at Lin Chen like a shrew.

But no matter how much she cursed, Lin Chen ignored her and continued holding her in his hand.

In this way, Lin Chen left the cave holding Xia Wanxin in one hand and the purple-robed maid in the other, and headed to the pond of the Outer Sect.

After cultivating, Lin Chen's body had expelled a lot of black impurities, and he needed to clean himself.

Then, holding the two women in his hands, Lin Chen jumped into the pond.

"You bastard! You..."

Xia Wanxin never expected Lin Chen to do something like this and jump directly into the pond.

As she fell through the air, Xia Wanxin continued to curse at Lin Chen.

However, the next second, the bone-chilling water of the pond immediately silenced her mouth.

In the water, Lin Chen felt incredibly refreshed, as it contained a force of the cold ice attribute.

Meanwhile, Xia Wanxin and the purple-robed maid were soaked through, their alluring forms faintly visible as Lin Chen watched.

"Bastard."

Xia Wanxin scolded Lin Chen.

"If you stop this nonsense, I will let you go."

Seeing the drenched figures of Xia Wanxin and the purple-robed maid, Lin Chen softened and his gaze involuntarily wandered over Xia Wanxin's body.

"How am I the one creating nonsense? It was clearly you who put restrictions on us."

"What if you have ill intentions towards us, like right now, where are you looking, you bastard?"

Xia Wanxin was very unhappy with Lin Chen's accusation of nonsense and argued back immediately.

"I sealed your spiritual power simply because I didn't want you to cause trouble, as I have to go into seclusion to cultivate."

"Moreover, you should be clear about one thing, I have no interest in you whatsoever. If I wanted to do something to you, would you have the ability to resist?"

"If you continue with this nonsense as you are now, we can part ways right here. I have no need to serve your princess temper."

Lin Chen spoke calmly, shifting his gaze away from Xia Wanxin, and then released both Xia Wanxin and the purple-robed maid.

Hearing Lin Chen's words, Xia Wanxin stopped talking immediately.

"I will listen to whatever you say."

Xia Wanxin said in a pitiful tone.

Seeing this, Lin Chen extended a big hand, leading the two women ashore, and once on land, he used his spiritual power to dry their clothes.

In the following two days, Xia Wanxin and the purple-robed maid continued to recover from their injuries.

As for Lin Chen, he stabilized his cultivation at the Heaven-reaching Realm.

Having refined the Heavenly Thunder Pearl, Lin Chen's strength with the thunder system techniques greatly increased. With the Golden Bow and Arrow combined with the Flash Arrow Feathers, he was confident that even a martial artist in the Reverting Void Realm could be killed.

And with the experience of his Second Soul Division merging different attributes of power into the Flash Arrow Feathers, he began attempting to merge the different attributes of power within himself.

For Lin Chen, who had cultivated the Primordial Transformation Art, he could freely combine various attributes without backlash, a natural advantage that made him stronger than any other martial artist.

Chapter 454: Huddling Together for Warmth

Boom— —

Boom— —

Purple thunder and lightning continuously interweaved over the pond, and with massive explosive sounds, columns of water shot up from the lake surface into the sky.

For three days, Lin Chen had completely mastered the power of the Heavenly Thunder Pearl, using it with ease.

Xia Wanxin and the Purple-robed Maiden, witnessing Lin Chen's formidable combat strength, were thoroughly shaken.

Lin Chen's power grew stronger by the day, yet during these three days, they had only managed to heal their wounds.

Now that Lin Chen's cultivation had broken through to the Heaven-reaching Realm, and Xia Wanxin and the Purple-robed Maiden had also recovered their strength, naturally, the three of them could no longer continue to hide in this place.

Therefore, they left the pond.

With just one month left until the end of the trial, countless martial artists had been fighting over command tokens during this time, and nearly half of them had been eliminated.

Of course, many martial artists were killed by others, unable to muster their spiritual power to crush the Teleportation Jade Slip in time.

After the trial began, many martial artists, like Lin Chen before, sought out secluded spots to hide, hoping to last until the end of the trial.

Because regardless of their scores in the previous four stages, in this fifth stage, the final 1,000 individuals to leave the secret realm were all eligible to become Outer Sect Disciples of the Formation Sect.

Therefore, many harbored the thought of hiding until the end, squeezing into the last 1,000 to secure their qualification.

Consequently, the number of those hiding was not small. However, not everyone had the same idea. Unlike those martial artists who sought to conceal themselves, many desired intense battle, such as martial artist Qin Kaifeng.

Among these, Zhao San and Li Diaode were such martial artists. The two did not know each other initially, but during a battle where they teamed up to pursue other martial artists, they discovered their attributes of spiritual power were exceedingly compatible. Together, they could unleash a combat strength that far exceeded the sum of one plus one.

Therefore, the two temporarily formed an alliance, continually searching the secret realm for martial artists to plunder, dividing the acquired command tokens equally.

In truth, both were well aware that with their strength, they were only mid to low-tier participants in this secret realm trial.

If they did not join forces, odds were they would be eliminated before long.

But after uniting, their strength greatly increased. Many martial artists they encountered were defeated by them, earning them a considerable number of command tokens.

However, precisely because they had amassed such a significant number of command tokens, they inevitably drew the attention of many martial artists.

One month of carnage left only slightly over 6,000 martial artists in the secret realm.

These martial artists were not fools; many banded together to form alliances.

At this moment, Zhao San and Li Diaode were being pursued by a team of nine martial artists. Both had sustained injuries and their speed had slowed, looking as if they would soon be overtaken by the nine behind them.

Seeing this, Zhao San and Li Diaode were prepared to abandon the command tokens they had obtained, hoping that the nine would let them go in exchange for a chance to survive among the last 1,000.

If that failed, the pair would crush the Teleportation Jade Slip to teleport out of the secret realm.

Having snatched command tokens from nearly two hundred martial artists, Zhao San and Li Diaode were acutely aware that the reason those who perished at their hands were left with no escape was that despite knowing they couldn't win, they clenched their command tokens tightly, forcing them to fight to the death and leaving the losers with no chance to crush the jade slips.

However, just as they were about to stop and negotiate with the nine following them, they discovered another group of martial artists at the road ahead.

These martial artists, more numerous than those pursuing them from behind, were close to twenty in total.

Zhao San and Li Diaode's expressions immediately soured, as their situation became dire.

"Brother Zhao, what do we do?"

Li Diaode looked at Zhao San, his heart filled with panic, even reaching inside his robe to touch his jade slip, ready to infuse it with spiritual power and shatter it to escape the secret realm.

Even if he couldn't become a disciple of the Formation Sect, he didn't want to recklessly lose his life here.

"Scatter the command tokens and throw them away. While they're distracted with the scramble, we'll split up and escape."

Zhao San cast a glance at Li Diaode and softly made his suggestion.

Li Diaode thought it could indeed be a strategy—as a last ditch, the two might still find a chance to flee, surviving until the end. Even if, in the end, they had no tokens and no outstanding results, missing out on the Formation Sect's rewards, he would still be content.

"Throw them!"

As the two enemy teams converged on Zhao San and Li Diaode, Zhao San immediately yelled out.

Subsequently, Li Diaode tossed his hundred-plus command tokens haphazardly in all directions.

But Zhao San had not thrown out a single one.

Nonetheless, just like Li Diaode, he took advantage of the moment when everyone else was fighting over the tokens to escape.

"Damn you, Zhao San, how dare you deceive me."

Li Diaode saw that Zhao San had not parted with any command tokens and cursed out loud.

Chapter 455: The Battle in the Secret Realm

Whoosh, whoosh—

Just as Zhao San was fleeing, a group of martial artists pursued and soon surrounded him.

Looking at the five people in front of him, Zhao San clenched the command token tightly in his hand. He still wanted to fight it out, to give up just like that was something he simply couldn't do.

However, it was precisely his greed that ultimately led to his death at the hands of those five martial artists.

"'A man will die for money as a bird will die for food.' You such a wretch care so much about your wealth; it's a miracle you've lived until now,"

the five said indifferently before returning to their previous team.

It turned out that the two teams that had chased Zhao San and Li Diaode were actually from the same group.

Martial artists participating in the secret realm trial were now banding together for warmth, to prevent their command tokens from being snatched away by teams stronger than theirs while also aiming to take tokens from weaker teams.

The battle had transformed from an initial survival skirmish into a team cooperative survival war.

On the other hand, Li Diaode, having encountered another team and finding himself with no other choices, could only shatter his teleportation jade slip.

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At this moment, within a bamboo forest, Zhao Zhongchuan and Zhao Zhongtian, father and son, were gasping for breath, surrounded by a group of martial artists.

"You've got some nerve, daring to pursue us—do you know that the two of us are from the Formation Sect Outer Sect's Zhao Family?"

Zhao Zhongtian was almost choking with fury.

"Zhao Family? What does it matter if you're from the Zhao Family? Here in the secret realm, even if we kill you, the outside world won't find out. Besides, in the Outer Sect, the Zhao Family isn't the only power out there."

"However, since the two of you are from the Zhao Family, if you hand over your command tokens, we might just let you off,"

said the martial artists surrounding Zhao Zhongtian and Zhao Zhongchuan, looking at them with unkind intentions and speaking coolly.

Meanwhile, in a valley, Qi Tianheng and Liang Shuo had healed their injuries and gathered quite a number of followers around them.

After forming a team, instead of immediately seeking revenge on Lin Chen and Xia Wanxin, they continually targeted teams with lower cultivation to loot their command tokens.

Within the secret realm, Qin Kaifeng, Ouyang Xuan, and others were no longer acting alone.

After suffering a defeat at the hands of an alliance of ordinary martial artists and being pursued, these heavenly prides also started to band together, setting aside their pride.

Some teamed up with other heavenly prides, and some with ordinary martial artists.

Among these warming-gathering teams, one particularly stood out with martial artists who were all first-class madmen. They had one thing in common: all of them had been duped by Lin Chen and had their treasures cleaned out by him.

So, they teamed up with the common goal of finding Lin Chen and seizing the treasures on him.

And with the addition of the heavenly prides, some teams' combat power surged instantly.

It went from them being pursued to them chasing after others.

After several more days of fighting, the number of martial artists in the secret realm decreased again, leaving only five thousand.

Lin Chen and Xia Wanxin, who had been in seclusion, healing and having breakthroughs in their cultivation for these ten days, were unaware of what was happening in the secret realm.

However, when a group of martial artists came up to them and unceremoniously demanded the command tokens from Lin Chen and Xia Wanxin, Lin Chen still felt completely baffled.

Then, Xia Wanxin, Lin Chen, and a young lady in purple clothes all struck at the same time. In less than the time it took for half an incense stick to burn, they had knocked down all the martial artists from that team and looted their command tokens.

And besides that, Lin Chen also took all of their storage bags.

Watching all of their possessions being taken away, the people wanted to cry but had no tears. They finally realized they had inadvertently robbed a calamity star, truly courting death.

"Will you shatter the jade slip and leave on your own, or shall I help you?"

Chapter 456: What do you want to do to me?

Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh—

Upon hearing Lin Chen's words, everyone without a second word immediately crushed their Jade Slips and teleported out of the secret realm.

With the arrival of the first team, Lin Chen and Xia Wanxin then continued to be ambushed by other teams, one after another.

Time flew by, and five days had passed, during which Lin Chen and Xia Wanxin encountered many martial artists who had come to subdue them, especially those targeting Lin Chen.

Upon meeting them, those martial artists would recite the same lines that Lin Chen had heard countless times along the way, telling Lin Chen to hand over the treasures he possessed to spare his life.

And the result was predictable.

Through these battles over time, Lin Chen and Xia Wanxin gradually developed a tacit understanding. All the command tokens they obtained were split equally. The purple-robed maiden's purpose for coming was to take care of Xia Wanxin, so she didn't want any command tokens for herself.

During this time, both of them had improved their cultivation. Xia Wanxin showed signs of a breakthrough to the First Level of the Reverting Void Realm, but there seemed to be some restrictions in this space, so she was unable to make the breakthrough.

Lin Chen's cultivation, however, had broken through to the Second Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm.

Xia Wanxin was immensely shocked by Lin Chen's rapid cultivation speed.

But little did she know that if Lin Chen hadn't been aiming to lay down an invincible foundation, he could have easily broken through to the Heaven-reaching Realm Fifth Layer.

Gradually, both Lin Chen and Xia Wanxin each had nearly a thousand command tokens on them.

The two of them were well aware that there were only about twelve thousand martial artists participating in the secret realm conference, so with the number of command tokens they had now, they should be able to obtain a fairly good score.

However, they didn't think about stopping. They wanted to see just how many more martial artists would come looking for trouble.

"Lin Chen, have you noticed that those who come to rob us... oh no, those who come to rob you, all these guys are just average in cultivation and none of them are among the Heavenly Prides who broke into the higher levels of the Trial Tower."

Xia Wanxin noticed a pattern and couldn't help but speak to Lin Chen.

Upon hearing this, a faint smile appeared on Lin Chen's lips, and he nodded.

Lin Chen had indeed noticed this a long time ago, and he understood that it wasn't that the Heavenly Prides hadn't found him, but that they were waiting, waiting for these martial artists to wear down Lin Chen's strength, waiting for the moment when Lin Chen was at his weakest to deliver a fatal blow.

"Lin Chen, where shall we go next to continue seizing treasures?"

Xia Wanxin came to Lin Chen's side, her eyes filled with excitement.

As a princess of a nation, she had never thought she would face others with such a mindset.

She had always been high above, never wanting for anything. She was used to being the one who bestowed treasures upon others, or having others voluntarily present them to her. The idea of others coming to plunder their treasures and then them counter-plundering was something that had never occurred to Xia Wanxin before.

So, the gradual action of seizing treasures seemed to awaken some instinct in Xia Wanxin, making her fall in love with the thrill of it.

And what made it most important was that she was doing it together with Lin Chen.

In fact, for most of the treasures, Xia Wanxin didn't care, as she didn't need them.

So with the exception of the command tokens, which Lin Chen would ask to split with her, she didn't ask for any of the treasures, nor did Lin Chen offer them to her.

But Xia Wanxin didn't mind, she only cared about the ten days she spent with Lin Chen, which seemed like the happiest time of her life that she had never experienced before.

Because she was so carefree and joyful, it seemed that during these ten days, Xia Wanxin truly let go of her facade and lived for herself.

"We'll rest today."

Lin Chen sat down by a pool, lit a fire, and began to roast a piece of Demon Beast Meat he had killed in the secret realm.

Xia Wanxin, puzzled, sensed with her Divine Soul that there was a group of teams ten miles away.

However, since Lin Chen didn't wish to go, she refrained from mentioning it.

Soon night fell, and Lin Chen went to sleep with resounding snores.

The actions of Lin Chen today left Xia Wanxin very perplexed.

In the end, unable to figure it out, Xia Wanxin approached Lin Chen, wanting to ask him what was going on with him today.

However, just as she got close to Lin Chen and stretched out her hand to touch him, Lin Chen suddenly woke up with a jolt and pinned her to the ground.

"Lin Chen, what are you doing, what do you think you're doing to me!?"

Chapter 457: Lin Chen's Current Strength

"How is it you!"

Lin Chen looked at Xia Wanxin with slight embarrassment and said indifferently,

"What madness has seized you all of a sudden?"

Xia Wanxin rubbed her neck and looked at Lin Chen with dissatisfaction.

"Who knew you would suddenly come so close? I thought there was some kind of attacker."

Lin Chen spoke indifferently, his Divine Sense sweeping around, noticing that the martial artists ten miles away had already set up camp and started to rest.

Upon seeing this, Lin Chen felt somewhat helpless, and then he took out drinks and started to roast Demon Beast Meat from his Spatial Ring, enjoying it together with Xia Wanxin and the purple-robed maiden.

...

Jade Cauldron Kingdom, Divine Sun City.

Boom——

Thunder and Lightning intertwined above in the sky, Xu Ma'an held a sharp sword, his hands trembling continuously.

During a spar with Lin Chen's Second Soul Division, Xu Ma'an realized that the exchanges had made him no longer a match for Lin Chen's Second Soul Division.

The reason was simple; as Lin Chen's main body had refined the Heavenly Thunder Pearl, the understanding and mastery of the Lightning Attribute by his Second Soul Division also deepened daily.

Now, the Second Soul Division began to try incorporating the Power of Thunder into his swordsmanship. The High Mountain Flowing Water Sword Technique inherently contained the Water Attribute power. With the addition of the lightning attribute, its power greatly increased, rendering Xu Ma'an completely outmatched.

"Ah, I am old after all, unable to keep up with you young folks."

Xu Ma'an descended from the sky and began to recover by taking an elixir.

He thought that having cultivated the Blazing Fire Divine Decree, his cultivation had greatly improved, and his combat power would have increased as well.

However, who could have imagined that in the end, his strength was still incomparable to Lin Chen's? The speed of Lin Chen's growth was entirely beyond his reach.

Facing Lin Chen, the slight increase in Xu Ma'an's strength was simply no match for Lin Chen.

Just a while ago, Xu Ma'an could still compete with Lin Chen, but now, he was no match for Lin Chen anymore.

It could be said that now Lin Chen's Second Soul Division was the strongest individual within the Jade Cauldron Sect.

And Lin Chen, in pursuit of the ultimate combat power, had even begun fighting together with Xu Ma'an and Li Hanyi. Both felt that Lin Chen was overly arrogant, wanting to teach Lin Chen a lesson.

However, even when they joined forces, they still could not gain any advantage over Lin Chen.

Lin Chen had already been able to merge the power of Divine Fire, the True Meaning of the Wind, and the True Intent of Thunder into his abilities, greatly increasing his strength and keeping him from falling behind even when fighting against the two of them.

Xu Lianyu, Yang Yuemin, and others watching Lin Chen's rapid advancement in strength felt happy for him, but at the same time, they felt a trace of sadness because no matter how hard they tried, they could never keep up with Lin Chen's pace, and the gap between them and Lin Chen was growing larger and larger.

"Junior brother, you truly are a freak. In just two short years, you've actually surpassed our Sect Leader," Liang Rou said to Lin Chen, speaking words that completely contradicted her image.

Upon hearing this, Lin Chen simply smiled.

At this moment, many disciples and elders from the Jade Cauldron Sect were gathered around.

Now, every battle between Lin Chen and Xu Ma'an, as well as the various Peak Masters, was something everyone wanted to observe.

Because from Lin Chen's battles with everyone, they could also gain substantial benefits.

Hum, hum——

Among the watching disciples, suddenly two powerful auras erupted.

It turned out to be martial artists breaking through in their cultivation. Upon witnessing this scene, people were no longer surprised; during this period, whenever watching Lin Chen's battles with Xu Ma'an, there would always be beneficial lessons, often leading to breakthroughs for the martial artists.

The battles involving Lin Chen had become a must-watch affair, offering more advantages than solo cultivation.

Now, the strength of the Jade Cauldron Sect was also gradually increasing, all moving in a splendid direction.

Xu Ma'an and Yang Yuemin, looking at Lin Chen, sighed in their hearts.

They never imagined that the Jade Cauldron Sect could grow to its current state one day, and all of this was due to Lin Chen's contributions.

Without Lin Chen's presence, it would have been impossible for the Jade Cauldron Sect to develop to its current level of strength.

However, compared with the growth of the Jade Cauldron Sect, some forces in Divine Sun City that belonged to the Great Flame Dynasty were caught in a dilemma. On the surface, these martial artists pretended to submit to the Jade Cauldron Sect, but in their hearts, they were still loyal to the Great Flame Dynasty, hoping for the Zhao Family's return.

They only hoped that Zhao Zhongtian and others, relying on the Formation Sect, would be able to deal with Lin Chen's main body completely.

As long as Lin Chen's main body perished, the Soul Split within the Jade Cauldron Sect would presumably also die, and then they would have the courage to engage in a bloody battle with the Jade Cauldron Sect.

However, what they didn't know was that with the existence of Lin Chen's Second Soul Division, even if his main body died, he could still revive through the Second Soul Division.

So, these fellows' plans seemed bound to fail.

What's more, the Zhao father and son from the Formation Sect, aiming to deal with Lin Chen, might not have the ability to do so!

Chapter 458:

"Hahaha... The old woman has finally made her breakthrough."

"Where's Lin Chen? Where's Lin Chen? He promised me the Pill Spirit Array and all those Heavenly and Earthly Treasures for pill refining. Hand them over, now!"

Just as Xu Ma'an recovered, a hearty and slightly excited laughter suddenly filled Divine Sun City. Shortly after, a woman with disheveled hair and unkempt clothing flew toward the crowd.

But when Xu Ma'an opened his eyes and took a close look at the newcomer, he was immediately shocked.

The most shocked was Yang Yuemin. Her eyes widened in disbelief as she stared at her good sister.

"Junior Sister, how did you manage to get yourself into such a state? There are so many disciples here. If you don't care about the face of your position as Peak Master, we old fellows still care about ours."

Xu Ma'an was quite speechless because the person who had arrived was none other than their Junior Sister, Zhao Rushi.

In her current state, Zhao Rushi looked nothing like a Peak Master – she was more like a beggar woman.

"Master..."

Wang Yilin felt a twinge of pain in her heart as she looked at her Master, reduced to such a disheveled state.

In the past, her Master was graceful as a fairy, her demeanor in no way inferior to that of Yang Yuemin.

But now, reeking from head to toe, she looked no different from a beggar woman; the fairy-like aura was nowhere to be found.

"My good disciple, have you seen that bastard Lin Chen?"

Zhao Rushi, with her hair in disarray, approached Wang Yilin and asked eagerly.

Wang Yilin's eyes moistened slightly, feeling incredibly sorry for her Master.

She had heard about Zhao Rushi's situation.

She never expected that Zhao Rushi, once she began cultivating diligently, would become so desperate in her efforts.

"I will naturally honor my promise."

Lin Chen himself hadn't expected that in just a short month, Zhao Rushi would have made a cultivation breakthrough.

Whoosh—

Lin Chen gestured grandly with his hand and returned the Pill Spirit Array and the previously confiscated Heavenly and Earthly Treasures to Zhao Rushi.

After catching the treasures thrown by Lin Chen, Zhao Rushi immediately stored them inside her Spatial Ring. Her eyes sparkled as she then flew back to her alchemy room for seclusion, eager to indulge in the alchemy she had missed out on during her recent devotion to cultivation.

"Has Junior Sister Zhao been possessed by a demon? She never used to be this crazy about pill refining."

Xu Ma'an watched Zhao Rushi's departing figure and said with confusion.

The others exchanged looks, equally puzzled.

However, what they didn't know was that Zhao Rushi's change was entirely due to the Pill Refining Secrets that Lin Chen had given her.

The profound philosophies contained in the secrets played an immeasurable role in enhancing her pill refining realm, which explained Zhao Rushi's obsession with alchemy.

She longed to refine Fifth Grade Elixirs, but with her talent, it would take time to reach the level of a Fifth Grade Alchemist.

However, with Lin Chen's given Pill Refining Secrets, she could bypass many detours.

Thus, Zhao Rushi's obsession with alchemy was no surprise.

"Ah, have we been too harsh on our Senior Sister?"

Yang Yuemin looked at Zhao Rushi's retreating figure and couldn't help but miss her cheerful Senior Sister.

The current state of Zhao Rushi might be entirely due to the pressure they had put on her.

"No matter, Junior Sister Zhao's aptitude was never lacking. It's just that she loves alchemy and has been too relaxed about her cultivation."

"Now that she has the motivation, it's good for her to put in some hard work. At least her cultivation is advancing rapidly. At our age, it's very rare to have such an opportunity for a breakthrough. Let her be."

As Xu Ma'an thought about how hard they cultivated and still couldn't keep pace with Lin Chen, he felt that it was fine for Zhao Rushi to have turned out this way.

As long as one's cultivation could progress and improve, what did a little hardship matter?

After Lin Chen's second soul division finished fighting with Xu Ma'an and the others, he left them with some Bone-Transforming Pills for healing, then returned to his own secret chamber.

For the current Lin Chen, refining Bone-Transforming Pills was quite easy. These Fourth-Grade Elixirs could quickly heal a martial artist's injuries as long as they were not killed and still had a breath of life in them.

Upon returning to the secret chamber, Lin Chen began to organize various martial skill techniques.

These skills were not his own realizations, but rather found among the treasures he'd plundered from the secret realm of the Formation Sect.

Some techniques he could cultivate himself, while he would put others into the Jade Cauldron Sect's Spiritual Treasure Pavilion, available for disciples who made great contributions to the sect to exchange using Contribution Value.

These martial skill techniques, while mundane to Lin Chen, were extraordinarily precious to the other disciples of the Jade Cauldron Sect.

By doing this, the skills and techniques would not go to waste and could be maximized to their fullest potential.

You must know that the cultivation techniques and martial skills received by Lin Chen were at least Earth Level Low Grade, and there were quite a few of Earth Level Mid-Grade and Upper Earth Grade too.

The cultivation techniques and martial skills would even cause Xu Ma'an and the others' hearts to flutter.

However, there were no Earth Grade Top Tier cultivation techniques or martial skills at all.

After all, the martial artists that Lin Chen had plundered at the Formation Sect's recruitment were only of medium level amongst all who participated, not the heavenly prides.

Chapter 459: Watching Tigers Fight from the Mountain

Following Lin Chen's addition of new Cultivation Techniques and Martial Skills to the Spiritual Treasure Pavilion of Jade Cauldron Sect, even the elders of the Spiritual Treasure Pavilion were shocked in their hearts.

The Martial Skill Techniques that Lin Chen brought this time were all of Earth Grade quality.

In the past, the highest-grade Martial Skill Techniques owned by the Jade Cauldron Sect were only at this level, and there were only a few of them.

Because of this, the disciples of the Jade Cauldron Sect who got the news practically regarded Lin Chen as a godlike figure, flocking to exchange for these techniques.

...

Within the secret trial of Formation Sect.

A night had quietly passed, and Lin Chen and Xia Wanxin awoke.

Lin Chen released his Divine Sense to probe the group of martial artists ten miles away and discovered that two groups were engaged in battle there.

"Taking advantage while others fight has been off my agenda for quite some time."

A slight smile appeared on the corners of Lin Chen's mouth.

Then Lin Chen led Xia Wanxin and the Purple-robed Maiden toward the area ten miles away with a deliberate slowdown to give the battling martial artists ample time to wear each other out.

Xia Wanxin, who did not quite understand Lin Chen's actions, nevertheless didn't say much. During the time they had spent together, she had become accustomed to having Lin Chen take the lead in making decisions.

"Gentlemen, hand over the treasures you possess."

"We are not here to give you a hard time. Simply hand over the command tokens and treasures you possess, and we shall grant you the chance to crush your Jade Slips. Otherwise, resign yourselves to death," said one of the martial artists, and it was none other than Ouyang Xuan's group.

Seeing that the opposing group of martial artists outnumbered his own by twice as many, Ouyang Xuan let out a cold laugh.

His group consisted of Heavenly Prides with extraordinary powers. Although the martial artists coming to plunder them were twice their number, Ouyang Xuan did not believe they would be defeated.

"Gentlemen, since you are unwilling to part with your treasures, then do not blame us for being impolite," said the leading black-haired man from the larger group, with a smiling expression.

Suddenly, they drew their weapons, and powerful auras erupted from their bodies.

Chang Bai's power had only reached the Ninth Layer of the Heaven-reaching Realm, but within this month in the secret realm, he had led his group to plunder numerous treasures and distributed them among his allies, greatly enhancing their strength.

As for his own Cultivation, it had broken through to the Half-Step Reverting Void Realm just a few days earlier.

While Chang Bai was certainly aware of Heavenly Pride Ouyang, regardless of this, he was confident about taking him down.

His group consisted of martial artists who were merciless and ruthless.

"Attack!"

Upon seeing that Ouyang Xuan's group had no intention of surrendering their treasures, Chang Bai immediately ordered his followers to move against Ouyang Xuan's group.

Spiritual Light flickered, and the light from blades and swords burst forth in the valley.

Soon enough, Ouyang Xuan's group was defeated.

Witnessing the combat strength of Chang Bai and his group, Ouyang Xuan couldn't help but feel aghast, realizing where they had fallen short.

Ouyang's team, although composed of talented geniuses, was a temporary alliance lacking true fighting spirit and willingness to seize command tokens from others. Thus, when Lin Chen sensed their presence the night before and they had likewise detected Lin Chen, they chose not to pursue.

The team led by Chang Bai, however, was different; these individuals thirsted for blood and were committed to fighting to the death.

They struck with lethal moves, fighting as if they had nothing to lose. As a result, Ouyang Xuan's team was simply no match for them.

"Stop, we are willing to surrender the command tokens, just spare us," said Ouyang Xuan, resigning to defeat.

If the battle continued, they would surely die. It made more sense to hand over their treasures.

After all, for this trial, there was no need to gamble with their lives.

Furthermore, with the points Ouyang had obtained earlier, even if they were to be transported out of the secret trial now, it was not a given that they would be eliminated.

"Brother Xuan, do we truly have to concede? These fellows clearly aren't as strong as us. They're just more ruthless and only outnumber us a bit. With their way of fighting, as long as we hold out, we might still overcome them," said a martial artist standing beside Ouyang Xuan unwillingly.

Hearing this, Ouyang Xuan shook his head. Even though he did not have strong feelings for the others after their time together, he couldn't bear to watch them die before him.

What the man said was true, but that only applied to the man himself and Ouyang Xuan. The other martial artists on their team simply wouldn't be able to hold out.

Chapter 460: Take Action

Upon hearing Ouyang Xuan's sigh, a sense of despondency also began to weigh on the man's heart.

They had indeed lost, but he couldn't shake a feeling of unease.

Even if they admitted defeat, would these people truly let them go?

"We admit defeat, please let us go," he said.

Despite his unwillingness to do so, the martial artist agreed with Ouyang Xuan's decision.

Because it was indeed impossible for them to defeat Chang Bai's team.

Boom—

Rumble—

However, just as the martial artist next to Ouyang Xuan gave up resistance and was about to hand over his command token and treasures, a martial artist from Chang Bai's team with swift movement technique suddenly dashed past him and with one sweep of his blade, decapitated the man.

"You bastards... You're dishonorable, I'll fight you all to the death."

Ouyang Xuan, splattered with fresh blood, roared in fury and released his spiritual power manically; his sword immediately glowed with a searing light, and his eyes, bloodshot, he slashed toward Chang Bai and the others.

However, with Chang Bai having also broken through to the Half-Step Return to Void Realm, along with a few other martial artists, they still oppressively restrained Ouyang Xuan.

"You lot, go kill those behind us," Chang Bai ordered his fellow martial artists.

"And be quick about it, don't let them escape."

"Yes!"

Upon receiving Chang Bai's instructions, the martial artists immediately leaped into action, aggressively engaging the martial artists behind Ouyang Xuan in combat.

Shortly after, apart from Ouyang Xuan, there were only three people left in his team.

All three were women, their hands now sealed by restrictions, unable to channel spiritual power into the Teleportation Jade Slip and thus unable to escape the secret realm.

"Boss, these three beauties don't look bad. After the brothers have had their fun, it won't be too late to kill them," said a martial artist with an evil grin, eyeing the three beautiful women.

Chang Bai heard this and nodded.

After all, this wasn't the first time they were doing this, and the so-called enjoyment would naturally start with him, the big brother.

Humming—

"You pack of beasts, I'll drag you all down with me," Ouyang Xuan's eyes were blood red with fury.

Ouyang Xuan had used some secret technique, turning not just his eyes, but even his skin blood red.

The aura on his body surged, and wielding his long sword, he unleashed wave after wave of Sword Qi at the other martial artists.

"A secret technique burning essence blood, huh? You think too highly of yourself if you believe we'll join you in death," sneered Chang Bai.

"Did you really think that just because you did well in the Trial Tower, your strength surpasses ours?"

Chang Bai let out a cold laugh, his palm coated in a thin layer of ice.

Whoosh whoosh—

As Chang Bai waved his large hand, the temperature around them plummeted and the next instant, ice ridges rose from the ground, blocking all of Chang Bai's attacks.

Seeing this, Ouyang Xuan's eyes momentarily lost focus, unable to believe how easily his attacks were being countered.

"Kid, you must be puzzled inside, wondering how I, who was virtually unknown in the Trial Tower, now possess such formidable strength," said Chang Bai.

"Let me tell you, so you don't die with regrets. It's because we found quite a few opportunities in this secret realm."

"This power didn't belong to me before, but as for what sort of opportunity it is, you'll experience it thoroughly very soon."

Chang Bai's smile grew menacing as he continued to fling his ice hands, and one after another, ice cones materialized in the air, stabbing toward Ouyang Xuan.

There was no denying that the man's methods were both cruel and powerful.

In just a short while, Ouyang Xuan was covered with wounds, his clothes soaked in blood.

"What a boring fellow, I thought you were some kind of strong warrior, yet you're so easily defeated."

"If this is all the strength you possess, then you might as well die."

"I'm actually quite curious if any of those who ranked at the top in the Trial Tower can withstand my Ice Fist."

Chang Bai looked at Ouyang Xuan with a cold expression, his palm covered in a layer of frost, ready to finish Ouyang Xuan off.

However, just as Chang Bai was about to act, his expression suddenly changed; he sensed a formidable force coming from behind him.

Without time for further thought, he quickly summoned his Cold Ice Power, forming three layers of ice walls behind him.

Rumble—

Yet even with three layers of ice walls in place, they were still shattered by the sudden Sword Qi attack, and the Sword Qi struck Chang Bai, blasting him hundreds of meters away to slam into a mountain wall, causing a tremendous noise and carving out a large crater upon impact.

Then, the figures of Lin Chen, Xia Wanxin, and the Purple-robed Maiden slowly appeared from a distance.

"With just this level of strength, you dare challenge me?" Lin Chen said as he looked at Chang Bai, who had been sent flying by his sword from afar.

He could sense that Chang Bai was still alive; without those three ice walls as defense earlier, the man would have been either dead or severely wounded.

Whoosh whoosh—

Seeing the arrival of Lin Chen, Xia Wanxin, and the Purple-robed Maiden, Chang Bai's team of martial artists immediately surrounded the trio.

"Good, very good. I was wondering where to find you, and here you are, delivering yourself to my doorstep."

"I've heard you've got quite a few treasures on you, hand them over nicely, and I might spare your life!"