

Resonance 781

Chapter 0781 – Grand Circle of Completion, Five Thousand Strands

In the coming days, Li Luo led the fifth division on another Fiendish Devil Cave expedition and successfully cleared layer thirty-two.

This time, Zhong Ling did not dare to act rashly after the total defeat suffered on the last expedition. Despite the lead on Li Luo's side, he merely bit his teeth and endured it. He wanted to conserve his strength for the third day's battle among the banners and win it all back.

Unfortunately, his division encountered the second division from the Dragon's Scale Lineage's Holy Scale Banner. The Holy Scale Banner was ranked second among the banners, and meeting them totally overturned his plan for a comeback.

The first division was annihilated during the clash.

On the other hand, Li Luo's side got lucky with the draw. Their opponent was from the Dragon's Bone Lineage. They easily defeated their opponent, and after a tough fight, they successfully cleared layer thirty-three too.

With that, the second Fiendish Devil Cave expedition concluded. Once again, the fifth division under Li Luo's leadership rose in fame with the best performance out of the five divisions of the Green Nether Banner.

At the same time, Li Luo obtained another five hundred strands of abstruse fiend light as the reward.

Coupled with another ten days of dedicated cultivation, his waterlight resonant palace reached over four thousand strands of abstruse fiend light, nearly hitting his target of five thousand.

And so, he continued to work harder.

Finally, the number of abstruse fiend lights in his waterlight resonant palace reached the limit, just within a month after his arrival to the Dragon's Fang Lineage.

.....

In the cultivation chamber.

When Li Luo focused on himself, he could sense the five thousand strands of abstruse fiend light flying around like little birds inside his waterlight resonant palace. He was overjoyed. After so many days of hard work, he had finally cultivated five thousand abstruse fiend lights for his waterlight resonant palace.

With this, he could finally begin the next stage of tempering and strengthening his resonant palace using the energy of the abstruse fiend lights. He was finally ready to tackle the Greater Fiend Palace Tier.

Ordinarily speaking, one would usually have to wait patiently for the tempering and strengthening process to be completed at this stage before the resonant palace could contain any more strands of abstruse fiend light.

However, Li Luo did not have to wait, as he had only filled up his first resonant palace. Behind it, there was still the woodearth resonant palace and thunder dragon resonant palace that were empty and vacant.

If he could obtain more abstruse fiend lights, the process could be enhanced and accelerated.

As such, Li Luo continued to cultivate more strands of abstruse fiend light while his waterlight resonant palace was undergoing tempering. Not only were the excess abstruse fiend lights diverted and stored in the two other resonant palaces, they even helped to speed up the waterlight resonant palace's strengthening process.

This was truly an advantage for a multiple resonance user.

Li Luo focused his mind upon the strengthening section of the Nine Revolutions Draconic Breath Fiend Art. In the next moment, the five thousand strands of abstruse fiend light in the waterlight resonant palace fused together speedily, as if transformed into a dragon shadow.

The dragon shadow opened its mouth and spewed out majestic amounts of dragonbreath onto the different parts of the resonant palace.

With each dragonbreath, the waterlight resonant palace glittered a little more, and he could feel it getting sturdier and wider.

Waves of ripples started to appear in the center of the resonant palace, where the waterlight resonant power had gathered and manifested as a crystal-clear lake.

Such an upgrade for the resonant palace was akin to a baptism ceremony for one's resonant power, making it purer and stronger in the process.

And with three resonant palaces, Li Luo could do this three times in total!

As the resonant power surged in his body, he finally opened his eyes. He would just need a few more days to complete the upgrade process at this pace.

With that, he would finally attain a Greater Fiend Palace for the waterlight resonant palace.

"This continent is indeed amazing. My cultivation progress is much faster than back in the Xia Kingdom," Li Luo said with a sigh. With the same talent and gifts, the pace of his cultivation at the two places was vastly different.

Such was the importance of cultivation resources.

With just natural talent and no resources, one would have to slowly climb up and progress. This would require a really long time, and without a doubt, one would miss the best period for cultivation, especially before the Duke Stage. By then, one would no longer be young and full of energy. He would have to work a lot harder and get lucky with opportunities to catch back up in the future.

At this juncture, Li Luo picked himself up and left the cultivation chamber for the lake at the inner courtyard.

As he clenched his fist, a big, white jade bow appeared in his hand. This was the Lambent Hawkeye that he had long forgotten.

It was an upper gilded white-eye treasure that Li Luo really liked. However, it had fallen short quickly following his rapid gains in strength.

As he had no better artifact to use currently, he would have to make do with it for now.

When he drew the bow, the thunder dragon resonance power flowed out from his body, converging at the bowstring. Subtle rings of draconic roars could be heard as the resonant power condensed within it, and a gray-white arrow slowly materialized.

The arrow looked extremely simple, gray and mottled. Yet the gray light flowing around it gave people an indescribable sense of sharpness for some reason.

It was akin to the sharp fangs of a giant dragon.

This was the high-grade dragon-general resonance art that Li Luo had gotten from Li Jingzhe earlier, the Flowing Thunder Dragon Fang.

Over the past month, he had been focusing all his attention on mastering this dragon-general resonance art apart from cultivating abstruse fiend lights.

It was a really difficult dragon-general resonance art to learn as it required both dragon and thunder resonance power. It may have been particularly tough for an average individual to learn it, but it was perfect for Li Luo.

Moreover, Li Luo had always been exceptionally gifted in resonance arts. After numerous attempts and failures over the past month, he had begun to grasp the usage of the Flowing Thunder Dragon Fang.

When the gray and white dragon fang arrow took form on the bowstring, Li Luo calmly directed his thunder resonance power. Exquisite and mysterious thunder patterns slowly emerged on the tail of the dragon fang arrow.

With the emergence of the thunder patterns, lightning sparkles began to leak out of the arrow. It was as if the arrow itself had become a torrent of lightning energy.

Violent thunder boomed.

The surroundings started to tremble aggressively as Li Luo held his position.

Li Luo could tell that this was the limit of this art. As he squinted his eyes to take aim, he lightly released his fingers and let the arrow loose.

Bang!

The deafening roar of thunder boomed.

A thunderbolt flashed across the void and split the lake in front of it into two. The flash penetrated thousands of feet with an indescribable momentum before it finally struck a reef in the middle of the lake. The reef was smashed into pieces, and huge waves of water rose towards the shore.

Li Luo smiled with satisfaction.

After one whole month of hard work, this was his first success with the Flowing Thunder Dragon Fang.

Li Luo evaluated his first shot. "It did not cost me too much resonant power. Compared to the Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner, the drain is much more acceptable. And compared to the Thousand Watery Knives Wheel, this is much stronger."

Clap! Clap!

Sounds of clapping came from the back.

When he turned back to take a look, Zhao Yanzhi was quietly standing alone under the big tree, with a surprised smile on her charming cheeks.

"Congratulations, Sub Leader. You have mastered another impressive resonance art. It won't be long before you dominate the Dragon's Fang Lineage," Zhao Yanzhi flattered with sparkling eyes. Her curves exuded a charming air, and she was truly a spectacular sight to behold.

Nonetheless, Li Luo remained indifferent towards this lovely beauty. He simply put his bow away and walked over.

"What's up?" he asked.

"Today is the day we receive our monthly stipends. I heard that the Second Hall Master and Third Hall Master have personally come for it," Zhao Yanzhi replied softly.

Every month, there would be a huge pool of resources given to the Green Nether Banner, which was ultimately related to the monthly stipend each division received.

In the past, it was shared equally between each division in the Green Nether Banner.

However, Zhong Ling had allocated ten percent more to the first division after he became their Sub Leader. On the one hand, he wanted to win the hearts of the first division's banner members. On the other hand, he wanted to display his own capability.

As a result, the first division got thirty percent of the total resources.

The second, third, and fourth divisions got twenty percent each.

Lastly, the fifth division, which did not even have a Sub Leader before, got only ten percent.

In other words, Zhong Ling had robbed the ten percent off the fifth division for his own.

Many of the fifth division's banner members were disgruntled over it, but they could hardly do anything about it, given Zhong Ling's status and the first division's position as the vanguard team.

However, things were different now. Li Luo had no intention to take this lying down after hearing about it.

This was a crucial period in his cultivation where he needed resources, so how could he accept Zhong Ling's blatant robbery?

After all, how could Zhong Ling's status compare with his?

Chapter 0782 – Resource Allocation

At the Green Nether drill grounds, in the main building.

When Li Luo arrived at the meeting room, he saw Zhong Yushi, the Green Nether Hall's Second Hall Master, and Li Rouyun, the Third Hall Master, already seated.

Zhong Yushi remained calm upon seeing Li Luo and nodded to greet him.

Under normal circumstances, a Sub Leader would not have received such special treatment from a Green Nether Hall Master. However, Li Luo was special. He was the grandson of the Lineage Chief and the son of Hall Master Li Taixuan.

It was the best background one could have in the Dragon's Fang Lineage, and it would easily result in the best treatment in any other place.

If not for his illustrious background, Zhong Yushi would not have wanted to have any dealings with Li Luo.

On the side, Li Rouyun smiled warmly and greeted Li Luo. She had heard of his spectacular performance in the Green Nether Banner over the past month and was well aware that he had established himself within the banner.

"Greetings, Second Hall Master, Aunt Yun." Li Luo went over to give her a hug.

Standing behind him, Zhao Yanzhi, Li Shi, and Mu Bi remained polite and serious. After all, these were the Hall Masters, high executives in the Green Nether Hall. If they unknowingly offended them, their future would be dashed.

At this moment, Li Luo glanced across the meeting room. Zhong Ling was already seated with a cold face, along with the three other Sub Leaders.

Without further ado, he also grabbed a seat for himself.

"Ahem." Zhong Yushi began with a light cough as soon as everyone was seated.

"As everyone already knows, we have come here to check on the progress of the Green Nether Banner as well as distribute the resources for this month. Later on, we will hand over the resources to all of you. Sub Leaders, please prepare accordingly," he explained.

At this moment, he turned over to look at Li Luo and continued with a gentle smile, "Sub Leader Li Luo and his fifth division have shown a stellar performance recently. Keep up the good work."

Hearing this, Li Luo grinned and replied, "Thank you, Second Hall Master. This is all thanks to the hard work of the fifth division members. I couldn't have done it without them. As such, may I represent the 1,500 members of the fifth division to raise a small request, please?"

This caught Zhong Yushi by surprise. However, he maintained his composure and politely asked, "Sure. Please speak your mind."

Li Luo glanced over at the gloomy Zhong Ling before he requested, "I hope that starting from this month, the resource allocation for the fifth division can return to the expected twenty percent, just like in the past."

Standing behind him, Zhao Yanzhi watched from the back with admiration. He was truly the Sub Leader, holding an air of command even when making a request amongst superiors.

In the past, they had tried to do the same as well. However, it was ultimately rejected by the cold gaze of Zhong Yushi.

This time, Zhong Yushi maintained his composure as he replied, "With such remarkable performance from the fifth division, that is indeed the fairest way of allocating resources. However, this matter involves the first division, so we should listen to what they have to say first." When he finished his sentence, he looked over at Zhong Ling.

At this point, Zhong Ling raised his eyebrows and replied, "Indeed, the fifth division's performance has been remarkable over the past month. However, based on banner rules, the resource allocation is set semi-annually. If Sub Leader Li Luo wants to change it, kindly raise the request again in four month's time."

"Cultivation materials are pivotal for our training. No matter how you think about it, a four month delay is way too absurd," Li Luo responded with a smile.

"The Banner's progress largely depended on the first division just one month ago. Are you saying the fifth division's one month worth of work is enough to overshadow the first division's contribution all this time?" Zhong Ling retorted.

"It's just a matter of fact. The additional ten percent that the first division is taking originally belonged to the fifth division. Now we're just returning it to its rightful owner," Li Luo noted.

The tension between the duo was escalating as they continued to debate while the second, third, fourth divisions' Sub Leaders watched from the side indifferently.

After all, they did not want to risk offending any side. Zhong Ling had the longest history within the Green Nether Banner, and the backing of Second Hall Master Zhong Yushi. They had always listened to him all this time. Meanwhile, Li Luo had earned their respect with spectacular achievements in just a month, and his distinguished background was definitely not below that of Zhong Ling.

As such, it was best for them to fade into the background and take no sides.

Third Hall Master Li Rouyun came in to mediate. "We always look at the results. The first division is the vanguard team, and they helped the Green Nether Banner advance in the Fiendish Devil Cave, hence they were allocated thirty percent. Now that the fifth division has caught up with them, it's only fair to allocate the resources equally now."

Hearing this, Zhong Yushi rubbed his beard and laughed out loud. "That is indeed a reasonable way to put it. Those with the capability deserve a larger share of the resources. How about this? Since the fifth division has shown their capability, we will deduct a bit from the second, third, and fourth divisions and give those resources to the fifth division."

At this instant, the indifferent faces of the second, third, and fourth divisions' Sub Leaders changed immediately. It was well known among themselves that the first division were the ones that had unfairly stolen the fifth division's share, and they had not gotten any benefits from this arrangement. Why should they be the one paying for this now?

If their banner members heard about this, they would surely seethe with fury at this unfair arrangement.

However, they dared not speak up about this injustice in front of Zhong Yushi. They merely stared at each other silently.

Li Rouyun raised her eyebrows at this suggestion and gave Li Luo a quick look. This was a trap set by Zhong Yushi.

While his suggestion appeared to be fighting for the fifth division, it was actually a ploy to sow discord between the fifth division and the other three divisions.

Luckily, Li Luo did not fall for it. He shook his head with a smile and replied, "The other three divisions need to develop themselves too. They are getting their rightful share now. We merely wanted to get back our rightful share too. We don't want to be greedy over it."

When he finished his sentence, the three Sub Leaders felt a sense of immense gratitude towards Li Luo.

In the meantime, Zhong Yushi was not affected by this at all. He merely replied with a grin, "In that case, I am afraid you have to wait a while more, Sub Leader Li Luo. The rules of allocation were set by the Lineage Chief originally, and we will only change the allocation once every six months. If you would like to change the rule, how about you speak to the Lineage Chief? I am sure he won't mind helping his favorite out over such a small matter." Zhong Yushi was truly a cunning guy. While he did not outright reject Li Luo's suggestion, he had thrown the problem over to Li Jingzhe.

Of course, Li Luo would not go to Li Jingzhe over such a trivial matter. If this were made known, it would reflect so badly on him, making him seem like someone who could not get things done and needed to rely on connections.

Luckily, Li Luo kept his composure. He suddenly recalled, "If I remember correctly, the allocation can be changed when the new Banner Leader is selected, right?"

"Yes, indeed. But it's still two months before the selection of the Banner Leader, right? Sub Leader Li Luo, you can wait for that if you want," Zhong Yushi replied.

"There is no need to wait two months. If all five Sub Leaders agree right now, we can bring forward the selection of the Banner Leader," Li Luo calmly said.

"Bring it forward?" Zhong Yushi was stunned to hear this. Li Luo was being too arrogant. Currently, he was only at the Fiend Palace Tier. He had managed to shine in the Fiendish Devil Cave due to the Nine Revolutions Draconic Breath Fiend Arts and the Nine Revolutions Fiend Art he had obtained. However, he would have to rely on his own strength in the Banner Leader selection against Zhong Ling, who was a Gold Fiend.

There was a huge gap in strength between the two tiers, and instead of biding his time to catch up, he was actually trying to bring it forward?

Wasn't he asking for it?

Had he gotten too cocky due to his recent achievements?

"When would you like to bring it forward to?" Zhong Yushi asked.

"Let's bring it forward by a month," Li Luo replied. He had no interest in dragging this out with Zhong Ling. It would be best for him to finish this quickly and obtain the Banner Leader position before Zhong Ling sowed further distrust between the first division's members and him.

"What do you think, Zhong Ling?" asked Zhong Yushi.

Zhong Ling had just recovered from this surprising development. He could barely hide the joy beneath his eyes as he replied, "Sure, if Sub Leader Li Luo wishes to do so, I'll oblige." He had already been feeling threatened by Li Luo's recent achievements. If things continued like this for the next two months, he would be in great danger of losing the position of Banner Leader just by popular appeal.

Now that Li Luo had suggested bringing the selection forward by a month, he was more than happy to entertain him. Once he secured the Banner Leader position, he would finally be able to feel at ease. Following this, Zhong Yushi politely sought the opinions of the other three divisions' Sub Leaders. As expected, they had no objections over it as they all knew the selection battle was beyond their reach.

As such, Zhong Yushi placed his hand on the table and concluded the discussion.

"The Green Nether Banner Leader selection will be held in one month's time," he declared.

After he said this, Li Luo noticed a slight smirk on his face. It seemed like he could no longer contain his joy.

Chapter 0783 – Ox Biaobiao's Selection

The time for the Banner Leader's selection had been finalized. As everyone started leaving, Li Luo followed Li Rouyun out.

The two had finally some time to themselves as they strolled along the drill grounds lined with trees.

"Isn't it too hasty of you to bring the Banner Leader's selection forward?" Li Rouyun asked worriedly.

Although Zhong Ling was not the strongest fighter in the Dragon's Fang Lineage, he was still a Gold Fiend that was much stronger than Li Luo. Even with his triple resonances, it would not be easy for Li Luo to catch up to him.

The reason he was able to close the gap in strength back in the Fiendish Devil Cave was due to Harmony, where the division's power was consolidated as a whole.

However, the selection of the Banner Leader would be an individual battle. Neither Harmony nor his Nine Revolutions Fiend Art would be able to help him bridge the gap this time. "Don't worry, Aunt Yun. Since I raised this up, I definitely have some degree of confidence in winning," Li Luo replied with a smile.

Currently, his waterlight resonant palace was already being tempered and would soon reach the Greater Fiend Palace Tier. Once it was completed, he would also get a boost to his resonant power.

With another month to go, he would at least be able to upgrade his woodearth resonant palace to the Greater Fiend Palace Tier too. Again, this would boost his resonant power once more. Ideally, he would have two Greater Fiend Palaces by the selection battle.

By then, the amount of resonant power in his three resonant palaces would not necessarily be any less than that of a Gold Fiend.

Hearing his words, Li Rouyun simply nodded in response. She understood that Li Luo was not an impulsive guy. If he had decided on it, then there was no need for her to worry any further.

"Zhong Yushi sure is cunning. Although the resource allocation is decided semi-annually, it is not as if there had never been any changes in the middle among the banners. Yet he used it as an excuse to bring down your suggestion," Li Rouyun said with a frown.

"It is because my performance has started to make him uncomfortable," Li Luo explained.

Indeed, he had flourished remarkably in the past month. Not only had he established himself in the Green Nether Banner, he had also made a name for himself amongst the younger generation of the Five Lineages. Without a doubt, Zhong Yushi was afraid that Li Luo's sudden uprising would give Li Jingzhe an excuse to sabotage his grand plan to become the Hall Master.

"Zhong Yushi and Zhao Xuanming, the Hall Master of Gold Light Banner, have been walking very closely together. And Zhao Xuanming is backed by the ruling leader of the Dragon's Blood Lineage. They have been gaining influence in recent years," Li Rouyun said with a sigh at this point.

Hearing this, Li Luo simply grinned in return. Everything was definitely in Li Jingzhe's control. Perhaps he had intentionally allowed for it. After all, they would surely become complacent and lose their competitiveness if the Li family was the only one remaining dominant in such a big organization.

Conversely, the timely appearance of an external party would keep the Li clan members of the Dragon's Fang Lineage alert at all times.

"Oh, there is one more matter I forgot to bring up," Li Rouyun suddenly added.

"What's it?" Li Luo asked.

"There may be an available Hall Master position in the Green Nether Hall in the coming days, and I am thinking of nominating Ox Biaobiao for it," Li Rouyun continued with a smile.

"Uncle Biao? Wow, it would be great if he became one of the Hall Masters as well." Li Luo was pleasantly surprised by the news. He had always been grateful towards Ox Biaobiao for protecting his parents back when they left the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent for the remote Xia Kingdom, and even suffered a serious injury in the process. And he had yet to fully recover from it.

He had been staying in the Dragon's Fang Lineage to recuperate all this while. If he managed to become a Hall Master in the Green Nether Hall, he would be able to enjoy the welfare of a Hall Master as well as boost his standing in the Dragon's Fang Lineage. After all, Hall Master was a very coveted position to those in the Duke Stage.

Most importantly, this would give him another layer of protection.

"However, there will be a lot of competition over it. I know that Zhong Yushi has already prepared someone close to him for it, hopefully to increase his influence in the Green Nether Hall further. I really hope he won't succeed, as he is already deeply entrenched in the Green Nether Hall and is eyeing for the position of the Main Hall Master." Li Rouyun shared her thoughts honestly.

Li Luo nodded in agreement. His father was still the current Main Hall Master of the Green Nether Hall, and he would never allow Zhong Yushi to take it from him.

"Moreover, Ox Biaobiao is still heavily injured and his Duke Bergfrieds have not been restored. He has managed to remain as a fourth-grade Duke due to external aid, but the other contestants are fifth-grade Dukes and above. In addition, Ox Biaobiao is still considered an outsider and not part of the Dragon's Fang Lineage, so it may not really be in line with the rules. All these factors will be disadvantageous to him," Li Rouyun continued.

Li Luo heaved out a sigh after hearing this. If Uncle Biao's Duke Bergfrieds had not been damaged, he would at least be a seventh-grade Duke now. If so, the Green Nether Hall Master selection would be a piece of cake for him.

It was a pity that his injuries were holding him back.

As he thought about it, Li Luo felt a little guilty. His family really owed Uncle Biao a lot.

"I have told my grandfather about Uncle Biao's matter. He said that he will help Uncle Biao restore his Duke Bergfrieds, so hopefully they will make it in time," Li Luo said.

"As for whether he is eligible for the selection of the Green Nether Hall Master, I will ask Grandfather about it too," he continued. This should not be an issue, as Li Jingzhe knew how much their family was indebted to Uncle Biao too.

Li Rouyun nodded upon hearing this. The Respected Elder of the Dragon's Fang Lineage seldom appeared in public, and it would have been tough for her to seek an audience with him at the bamboo forest in the Dragon's Fang Lineage's back mountain range. Only someone with a background like Li Luo's could casually go over and talk to him so easily.

Such was the difference due to their backgrounds.

Although they were both part of the Li clan in the Dragon's Fang Lineage, an extended bloodline member like Li Rouyun could never compare with someone from the direct bloodline like Li Luo.

The two chatted all the way as Li Luo escorted Li Rouyun out of the Green Nether drill grounds. Looking up in the sky, he smiled lightly.

The main reason Li Rouyun wanted to nominate Ox Biaobiao was to diminish the influence Zhong Yushi had in the Green Nether Hall. However, she had many other options apart from Ox Biaobiao. They would have been in much better shape to compete for sure, yet she had chosen Ox Biaobiao.

This was because she wanted Li Luo to garner support from Li Jingzhe as well.

And she knew that Li Luo would only do so if Ox Biaobiao was the nominee.

The Dragon's Fang Lineage was too huge, and interpersonal relationships were very complex. Everything was interconnected and every action would set off a ripple of effects, just like the actions taken by the royal court back in the Xia Kingdom.

Li Luo paused his thoughts at this point as he gazed up at the vast mountain range. The peak stood there grandly like the tooth of a dragon, wedged between the sky and the earth. Truly a magnificent sight to behold.

He had been here for a month already.

And it had been almost three months since he'd last seen Jiang Qing'e.

He wondered how she was doing in the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College.

Had the sacrificial ignition of her Heart of Light been resolved?

The unparalleled beauty of her charming face emerged in his mind as he longed for her.

.....

At the same time, in the faraway Central Core Divine Continent.

Deep in the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College.

It was a bright and majestic grand hall. Every brick was engraved with ancient light runes that sparkled with pure light energy.

In the center of it was a pool that spanned over a thousand feet. It was filled with water that exuded an aura of holiness that would completely purify even Duke Stage Others.

And at this moment, a slender shadow lay quietly in the water.

The area around her chest was boiling like an oven.

The holy water of the pool flowed into it wave after wave until the heat around her heart subsided.

Wisps of flame were calmed by the pool water and then retreated back into the heart.

When the last wisp dissipated, the beautiful figure opened her eyes.

Her golden eyes were as clear as the holy water of the Radiance Pool and shrouded in depth and mystery like the brightest gemstones in the world. This was sure to capture anyone's heart.

She blinked for a while when she woke up. She was not bothered by her surroundings. Instead, the first thing she thought about was a young and handsome figure.

She softly whispered, "Li Luo, how have you been? I hope your bloodline members are treating you well."

Chapter 0784 – Third School Master

When Jiang Qing'e opened her eyes and rose from the center of the pool, some shadows on the higher levels of the hall sensed it and looked over immediately.

"The sacrificial ignition of her Heart of Light has finally been put out by the holy water," a beautiful woman dressed in pure white commented. She turned her head towards Ling Zhaoying and smiled gently with the good news.

Hearing this, Ling Zhaoying patted her own chest in relief. It had been a month since she brought Jiang Qing'e to the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College in the Central Core Divine Continent. Jiang Qing'e had been using the holy water in the Radiance Pool to treat her Heart of Light ever since they arrived, and she was relieved that it was finally healed.

With her Heart of Light cured, Jiang Qing'e was finally out of danger and could return to normal cultivation and training.

"I am sorry for the trouble, Elder Xue," Ling Zhaoying said gratefully.

The pretty lady dressed in white was a well respected elder in the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College, named Xue Zhi. She was like a mentor to Ling Zhaoying, and it was all thanks to her that the college had allowed Jiang Qing'e to seek treatment in the Radiance Pool.

Xue Zhi waved her hand and responded, "I actually have to thank you for bringing such a nice seedling to me. Who could have imagined that a barren place like an outer divine continent would have hidden such a gem?"

When she finished her sentence, she looked at the slender and stunning figure in the pool. Her eyes were filled with unconcealable love. A ninth-grade light resonance was considered a top talent even in the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College.

"However, the sacrificial ignition of her Heart of Light has definitely hurt her body and will affect her path towards the Duke Stage in the future. She will still need a precious treasure to fix her foundation," Xue Zhi explained.

In this instant, Li Luo's face flashed into Ling Zhaoying's mind. They had expected this, and Li Luo had gone to the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li precisely to seek such a treasure.

At the same time, there were many other elders around that had turned over to look at the girl in the Radiance Pool.

Their eyes were sparkling.

However, they were interrupted before they could say anything. After she cleared her throat, Elder Xue Zhi proclaimed, "Don't get any funny ideas now. Jiang Qing'e's problem was resolved thanks to me convincing the Third School Master to open up the Radiance Pool. Now that she's fine, don't go thinking you can snatch her away from me. I won't be kind to anyone who does so."

After hearing this, the elders were a little embarrassed and waved their sleeves resentfully.

They had all been trying to come up with reasons to get the ninth-grade light resonance over to their side.

However, since Xue Zhi had been so direct about it, it would be unreasonable to entertain such thoughts any further. After all, it was all thanks to Xue Zhi that Jiang Qing'e could use the Radiance Pool and cure her Heart of Light problem.

Then an impatient voice came over from a young girl at the back. "Are you all done? Hurry up and leave if you are all done. Stop buzzing around my holy hall like house flies."

Ling Zhaoying, Xue Zhi, and the others turned their heads back and saw a little girl sitting on the white jade steps without any regard for her image. She almost seemed like the little sister of your neighbor, but her snow-white hair gave her a unique look. Holding a piece of sugarcane in one hand, she was chewing it with her small mouth as she looked at the people in front of her with impatient and restless eyes.

Immediately, Xue Zhi, and the elders showed respect towards the petite and exquisite snow-white girl.

"Greetings, Third School Master." Xue Zhi, Ling Zhaoying, and the others greeted her respectfully.

The white-haired girl in front of them was none other than the noble Third School Master of the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College.

She stood up with the sugar cane still in her mouth and walked over with bare feet as if she would not be stained by any dust. After taking a glance at the beautiful figure in the Radiance Pool, she nodded and commented, "This little girl is really gifted. Not only does she have a ninth-grade light resonance, she also seems to have a very high degree of synergy with the light energy."

Hearing this, Xue Zhi immediately became a little nervous. She had such a hard time finding such a talented seedling to groom—surely the Third School Master was not thinking of taking it away now, right?

Her anxious look was picked up by the white-haired girl immediately, and she sneered. "Look at you, almost quivering in fear. I have met countless ninth-grade light resonance users over the years in the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College. There is no one in this world that I have never seen before and will fight with you over for," she continued.

"Third School Master, you are a King Stage talent. Your horizons are naturally wider than mine," Xue Zhi replied with an apologetic smile. With that, the white-haired woman pursed her lips and turned around, looking like she was about to leave. However, she paused in her tracks, and her expression suddenly changed. At this moment, she sensed some abnormal movements coming from the Radiance Pool below.

Violent waves appeared on the surface of the originally peaceful water. Countless wisps of light energy were rushing madly towards the center of the pool.

Everyone was drawn towards this aggressive development.

When they looked over at the deep parts of the Radiance Pool, they noticed that the wisps of light energy were being drawn into Jiang Qing'e's body.

All of a sudden, the light resonant energy in Jiang Qing'e started increasing at an amazing rate.

The radiant light energy condensed into shiny Heavenly Pearls around her one after another.

Finally, it ended when nine Heavenly Pearls formed. The elders were all shocked at this sudden development.

"Nine Heavenly Pearls—what a strong foundation!" one of the elders exclaimed. This was not something that could be easily achieved in the Heavenly Pearl Stage without a solid foundation and talent.

Back at House Luolan, Jiang Qing'e had actually achieved five Heavenly Pearls when she released the seal. However, three of them were damaged during the great war. Who would have thought that igniting her Heart of Light would bring about such an interesting development? Not only had she replenished the three Heavenly Pearls that she had lost, she had gained even more power in the process.

She had gained Nine Heavenly Pearls instantly.

"Although the sacrificial ignition of her Heart of Light nearly cost her her life, it ended up being a blessing in disguise. She was purified by the enormous energy from the Heart of Light and then aided by the Radiance Pool, causing a sudden spike in her strength," the Third School Master explained as she took another bite of her sugar cane with her white teeth. This time, there was a slight hint of surprise hidden in her voice.

"Looking at it, the Nine Heavenly Pearl Stage is not her limit yet. She is planning to reach the Lesser Heavenly Resonance Stage in one go," Xue Zhi stated as she grinned happily. If Jiang Qing'e succeeded in reaching the Lesser Heavenly Resonance Stage, it would be an outstanding achievement even in the famous Heavenly Star Hall of the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College.

As the elders of the school continued to watch from the top, the Nine Heavenly Pearls around Jiang Qing'e started to glow brighter and brighter. Finally, the pearls reached their limit and exploded at the same time.

A bright and glaring flash enveloped the whole Radiance Pool, and a pillar of light emerged from it.

At the same moment, the light resonant energy radiating from Jiang Qing'e started increasing in quantity. Her power was spiking at an amazing pace. Such intensity clearly indicated that she was about to step into the Lesser Heavenly Resonance Stage!

It seemed like the Heart of Light crisis had brought an unexpected opportunity to Jiang Qing'e.

"Not bad." The Third School Master nodded slightly.

She was full of smiles towards this unexpected development, but she continued to ask curiously, "The breakthrough has completed, so why is she still there?"

She had noticed that Jiang Qing'e was still standing in the Radiance Pool with her eyes shut tight. Wisps of light energy continued to flow around her like waves.

It was as if something within Jiang Qing'e's body was still attracting the holy light energy.

At this point, the Third School Master stopped chewing on her sugarcane and her eyes lit up in a dazzling, mysterious glow. It was as if her glowing eyes could see right through everything in the world, and she was staring deeply into Jiang Qing'e.

It was a shocking change in her body. Seeing this, the Third School Master tightened her fist for a moment, and the sugarcane was crushed into bits, juice splashing out in every direction.

She had no time to bother with the mess though. She slowly explained to the others, "I see a new resonance being born in her. It seems like the Radiance Pool has allowed her to give birth to a second resonance during her breakthrough."

When she finished her sentence, Xue Zhi, Ling Zhaoying, and the other elders all watched on in shock.

"A breakthrough from the Heavenly Pearl Stage to the Heavenly Resonance Stage can give birth to another resonance?!"

"What resonance is it?"

"What grade is it?"

They all asked frantically.

Slowly, the Third School Master took out another piece of sugarcane to chew as she explained, "Another light resonance... and it's ninth-grade." Everyone was stunned by this.

The elders all looked at Xue Zhi with eyes full of envy.

Double ninth-grade light resonance?! Jiang Qing'e had to be the living manifestation of light itself! Xue Zhi had obtained an excellent catch!

As seniors in the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College, they had seen all kinds of gifted and talented individuals. Even though each of them was eager to get a ninth-grade light resonance under their wing, they had not lost their composure over it. However, a dual ninth-grade light resonance was a truly rare sight even to them.

Very, very few dual light resonances had been recorded in the history of the college.

Even Xue Zhi was pleasantly surprised at this development. However, her heart froze immediately when she sensed the Third School Master quietly watching her from the side.

"Third School Master, let me bring Qing'e back for now. We won't hold you up any further," she muttered out with a forced smile on her face.

The Third School Master simply pressed on Xue Zhi's shoulder with the sugarcane in her hand and a sweet smile appeared on her delicate face.

"Little Zhi, you do remember that I was the one that brought you into the academy all those years ago... right?"



Chapter 0785 – Li Luo's Plan

Soon enough, the news that the selection of the Banner Leader had been brought forward by a month was known to everyone in the Green Nether Banner, as well as the other three banners. Everyone was talking about the upcoming fight between Li Luo and Zhong Ling.

It was a shocking development for them. Despite Li Luo's remarkable performance at the Fiendish Devil Cave, it was the power of the fifth division as a whole that had made it possible.

In the past, the Green Nether Banner's fifth division had always been hammered down like a nail by others. However, this was also a sign that they were a capable and potential threat. Coupled with the Nine Revolutions Draconic Breath Fiend Art that Li Luo possessed, the fifth division had transformed into a formidable force overnight.

Yet this was only possible because of everyone's combined efforts.

Without the support from the members of the fifth division, Li Luo would be a mere Fiend Palace cultivator, while Zhong Ling was a Gold Fiend.

The difference between the two of them was insurmountable.

And unfortunately, the selection of Banner Leader would be an individual battle, so Li Luo would not be able to rely on the fifth division for support. As such, most would have expected him to delay the selection of Banner Leader. However, he had chosen to bring it forward.

Had Li Luo become overly confident after his success at the Fiendish Devil Cave?

Did he think that the state of Harmony he had wielded during the Fiendish Devil Cave expeditions belonged to him alone?

Many people among the four banners had started talking about these things once they heard about the news. Clearly, they were not placing any high hopes on Li Luo winning the selection battle.

On the other hand, Li Luo paid no attention to this gossip at all. He continued to focus on his cultivation as usual.

He used the Nine Revolutions Draconic Breath Art to refine as many strands of abstruse fiend light as possible every day without fail. In addition to that, he utilized all of his high-grade Fiend Origin Pills. On the days that he had a bit of time to spare, he practiced his resonance arts, especially his trump card, the Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner Duke Art.

Although he could already use the Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner, there were still different levels to a Duke Art. His was currently at the level of Lesser Completion. There was still a long way to go in order to attain the Greater Completion or Grand Perfection levels.

Of course, he did not slack off on his Flowing Thunder Dragon Fang training either. He was working hard to familiarize himself with the new dragon-general resonance art before the upcoming battle.

And in spite of all this, he had also continued to cultivate his synergy with the fifth division on a daily basis.

He also embarked on Fiendish Devil Cave expeditions every seven days. Time went by very quickly like this, and before he even noticed, half a month had passed.

During this period of time, Li Luo had finished upgrading his waterlight resonant palace completely to the Greater Fiend Palace Tier, increasing his abstruse fiend light limit from five thousand strands to ten thousand strands now.

It was a shocking increase of one hundred percent!

However, this was not meaningful for Li Luo currently. He still had to fill up his other two resonant palaces, so he had no plans to cultivate the first resonant palace for now.

After all, filling up the other two resonant palaces would allow him to boost his resonant power again. This was his priority for the upcoming fight.

He believed that he currently had enough resonant power to beat anyone beneath the Fiend Body Tier. Alas, his opponent was, unfortunately, at the Gold Fiend Tier.

It was not easy to close such a massive gap. If it were, the four banners of the Dragon's Fang Lineage would not be chattering so incessantly about how arrogant he had become.

And so, after half a month of hard work, Li Luo achieved fourteen hundred strands of abstruse fiend light for his woodearth resonant palace.

This was already an amazing pace, but it was still short of his target if he wished to fill up the woodearth resonant palace within the next two weeks. What's more, he had the Thunder Dragon resonant palace that required attention as well. Although the two weaker resonant palaces required fewer abstruse fiend lights than the waterlight resonant palace due to being lower in grade, they still needed four thousand strands of abstruse fiend lights each.

Luckily, Li Luo did not have to fully fill up both of them.

Following the completion of his waterlight resonant palace, he could now transfer the five thousand abstruse fiend lights from it to his other resonant palaces.

As such, he could begin to upgrade his second resonant palace with all due haste.

Such was the advantage of a cultivator with multiple resonant palaces.

According to Li Luo's plan, his next step would be to take the opportunity to fill up his three Greater Fiend Palaces to the limit. During which, he would prepare enough resources to push for the next stage, the Fiend Body Tier. However, he would not break through immediately.

He wanted to set up an infallible foundation first.

His ultimate goal was to only attempt this task after all three resonant palaces were fully maxed out with a total of thirty thousand strands of abstruse fiend light. Once he succeeded, his foundation would be solid and unshakeable. After stepping into the Fiend Body Tier, he could probably reach the Silver Fiend Body Tier instantly!

Most importantly, this would allow him to tackle the Glass Fiend Tier in the future to enable the best foundation and potential for future growth.

The Glass Fiend Tier was only achievable by the most talented and gifted cultivators with absolute foundations. If he could succeed, it would prepare him for an easier route towards the Duke Stage.

This was why many gifted cultivators opted to spend extra time at the Fiend Body Tier, all for the ultimate prize, the Glass Fiend.

Everyone was planning for the future after all.

For now, Li Luo continued to follow his plan and progressed along steadily.

The Fiendish Devil Cave remained a crucial part of his plan, as the abstruse fiend lights from it were comparable to what he obtained from both his Nine Revolutions Draconic Breath Fiend Art and Fiend Origin Pills.

During this period, he had led the fifth division to reach layer thirty-four.

As a result, the Green Nether Banner had risen in the ranks as well.

However, Li Luo could begin to feel the challenge and strain as he delved into the deeper layers. On his first expedition, he could easily clear a few layers with the fifth division. But at the current layer, he was only able to clear one layer per expedition period.

Of course, the overall rewards did not diminish much as the higher the layer, the greater the rewards for clearing it.

Everything proceeded smoothly as Li Luo had intended.

However, the smooth sailing didn't last forever. On day twenty, when Li Luo led the fifth division on their fifth expedition, he was stunned when he saw their opponent for the third day's battle among the banners.

Of course, it was not just him who was taken aback. Zhao Yanzhi, Li Shi, and Mu Bi looked at the list in shock as well.

"What the heck?!" Mu Bi could not help but exclaim. "I knew that this would happen at some point, but it has come sooner than I thought," Zhao Yanzhi said as she shook her head.

Li Shi sighed.

Li Luo just smiled helplessly, unable to come up with any consoling words at the moment.

As they stared at the screen, their opponent was shown beside the Green Nether Banner's fifth division. It was the Holy Scale Banner's first division from the Dragon's Scale Lineage. They were the second ranked banner that wouldn't lose out even to the Gold Blood Banner of the Dragon's Blood Lineage.

Most importantly, the sub leader of the Holy Scale Banner's first division was one of the two famous goddesses in the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages, Lu Qingmei of the Dragon's Scale.

Chapter 0786 – Lu Qingmei

Layer thirty-five of the Fiendish Devil Cave.

Over a thousand silhouettes with strong resonant power stood quietly atop a mountain, breathing in and out in sync, as if they were a single entity.

A tall and beautiful figure stood aloofly in front of them, gazing upon the misty clouds and mountains.

This was none other than Lu Qingmei, Banner Leader of the Holy Scale Banner.

She had an oval face shaped like a goose egg and smooth skin like jade porcelain, glittering under the bright sunlight. She was wearing a close-fitting, black robe with long sleeves and had short and tidy hair that only covered her ears. She was truly a beauty, just like Li Hongli of the Dragon's Blood Lineage. However, their temperaments were clearly different. Li Hongli acted high and mighty with an air of superiority, while Lu Qingmei was aloof and indifferent to the world around her.

There were no emotions on her cute, oval face; it was calm like the deep sea.

As the wind blew, her tight-fitting, black robes further displayed the exquisite curves on her tall and thin body.

The most amazing part was her long, straight, and slender legs with astonishing proportions relative to her height. She was holding a long, glass rod that glowed with a mysterious luster. Densely covered with what seemed like cracks, the glazed stick appeared fragile, like it could shatter with the lightest touch.

This was the Shattering Glazed Rod. Despite its appearance, only those who had fought with Lu Qingmei knew its fearsome force.

"Sister Lu, this match up seems kind of... uneventful," a young and tall guy behind her said as he gazed upon her with admiration. He was none other than the Sub Leader of the Holy Scale Banner's second division. Having followed her for such a long time, he knew her character very well. Despite being a lady, she was actually a martial arts fanatic.

She was only interested in fighting and would only feel excited when her opponent posed a threat to her.

If one were to talk to her about romance, she would only respond coldly to it.

Hearing his words, Lu Qingmei did not reply. However, there was a trace of boredom within her eyes.

So, their opponent would be Li Luo from the Green Nether Banner? She had heard of his name and knew he was the son of Li Taixuan. She was also aware that he had just returned from an outer divine continent last month.

He was known to be gifted with rare triple resonances. Moreover, he had obtained the Nine Revolutions Draconic Breath Fiend Art as soon as he arrived.

He should have been a worthy opponent at first glance.

Unfortunately, he had wasted most of his time in a resource-deprived outer divine continent and was still at the Fiend Palace Tier, not even at the Fiend Body Tier.

On the other hand, Lu Qingmei was already at the Fiend Finisher Tier with over eight hundred feet of Fiend Dipper energy accumulated. She was second only to Li Qingfeng of the Gold Blood Banner in the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages.

Whether it was the banner or the leader, the gap in their strength was immeasurable.

"Let's kill the Fiendish Devil Leader first. Then we will wait for them to arrive," Lu Qingmei ordered.

No one had any objections to it. The Fiendish Devil Leader of layer thirty-five was a piece of cake that posed no threat to them.

As such, the first division of the Holy Scale Banner charged forward and rushed all the way to the deepest depths of layer thirty-five.

Without much effort, they beheaded the Fiendish Devil Leader that stood guard over the exit.

And they had done all this without a single member lost.

They were truly the vanguard team for the rank two banner. It was a terrifying and domineering display of strength!

Li Luo and his fifth division only arrived at the scene four hours later, but all that awaited them was the Holy Scale Banner's first division.

Looking at the imposing presence of his opponent, his heart inadvertently trembled slightly. They possessed an overwhelming aura of dominance, a presence that was far fiercer than even the Gold Light Banner from the Dragon's Fang Lineage.

His eyes and attention soon turned towards the person sitting cross-legged on the boulder in front.

At the same time, Lu Qingmei opened her eyes, which were clear like gemstones. A handsome figure with grayish-white hair was standing right in front of her.

Unfortunately, Li Luo's handsome face could not help in any way as she was completely uninterested in shallow demeanors.

"You guys are a little slow," she said while maintaining her usual composure.

"Well, it was only because we were afraid of being ambushed by you guys," Li Luo replied cheekily when he saw the nervous looks on his division's faces.

Hearing this, the opponents broke out in uncontrollable laughter.

It seemed like Li Luo did not know his own standing at all. In the Dragon's Fang Lineage, not even Deng Fengxian would be qualified to be ambushed by the Holy Scale Banner.

Nonetheless, Lu Qingmei remained indifferent towards his comment. She looked straight at Li Luo and asked seriously, "Do you want to fight?"

"Of course. We can't just admit defeat, that would be too humiliating," Li Luo responded with a smile.

Lu Qingmei nodded slightly when she witnessed Li Luo's courageous display. With a flick of her finger, a stick of short incense was embedded into a nearby rock. Immediately, the incense lit up and white smoke arose.

"If any of you remain by the time this incense finishes burning, it will be considered your win. All the earth fiend energy here and the God Origin Pill will be yours," she told Li Luo.

"You're giving us a chance?" Li Luo replied in shock.

However, Lu Qingmei merely glanced at Li Luo and replied coldly, "I will never give my opponents any mercy when it comes to fighting. However, I do not want to bully others either. That is pointless. Of course, I hope that this motivates you to struggle harder at death's door. That way, you might even bring me a pleasant surprise. Otherwise, this would simply be too boring."

Li Luo was left speechless. He could clearly sense that she was passionately looking forward to the fight despite her cold and beautiful appearance.

He smiled helplessly and replied, "I'll do my best." Despite how hurtful it was to his pride, he did not reject her suggestion, as he knew that the difference in their strength was simply too great.

At this moment, he said no further words and simply waved his hand at the fifth division banner members. They entered the state of Harmony without hesitation, and waves of majestic energy swept up across the forest.

On the other side, Lu Qingmei also stepped forward in front of the Holy Scale Banner's first division. In an instant, torrents of energy rose up from behind her, radiating a crushing aura.

Holding the Shattering Glazed Rod firmly in her hand, she stared coolly at Li Luo.

Li Luo instantly reacted by forming hand seals with lightning speed, creating a series of afterimages with his hands.

He was well aware of how formidable his opponent was, and he had no intention to probe her. He had to go all out from the get-go.

There was a deafening roar of majestic energy, and a terrifying dragon silhouette could be seen lurking in the sky above the Green Nether Banner's fifth division. With its imposing presence, the dragon slowly opened its mouth and revealed its sharp fangs filled with lightning.

"Nine Revolutions Art, Heavenly Dragon Lightning Breath!" Li Luo summoned his Nine Revolutions Art without any hesitation.

The lightning dragonbreath flowed out like a silver river pouring through the void, causing the space around it to twist and turn. The rumbling sound of thunder followed as it traveled through the forest.

As the lightning dragonbreath was reflected in Lu Qingmei's eyes, she raised her eyebrows a little. "Heavenly Dragon Lightning Breath? It seems like Li Luo is quite talented after all."

In response, she tightened her grip on her Shattering Glazed Rod, and gold light erupted from it.

The silhouette of a deer appeared in the golden light behind her.

Looking closer, one could see a nine-colored halo floating at the back of the deer's head.

When Li Luo saw the golden deer silhouette, he recalled the information he had heard about Lu Qingmei.

Fiend Finisher Tier Lu Qingmei, quasi ninth-grade Nine-Colored Golden Deer resonance.

Chapter 0787 – Nine Revolutions Art, Enigmatic Ocean Parting Ray

When the Nine-Colored Golden Deer manifested behind Lu Qingmei in a flash of brilliance, the glass rod summoned a rod shadow, and she flung it into the sky. It was as though it had transformed into a pillar that held up the skies, rousing all of the energy produced by the state of Harmony gathered by the Holy Scale Banner's first division.

At the same time, a terrifying pressure descended like a tsunami, wreaking devastation on everyone beneath.

It was as Lu Qingmei had said. She had given them an opportunity to win, but she would be merciless the moment she took action.

Thus, when Li Luo activated his Heavenly Dragon Lightning Breath, she similarly activated her own Nine Revolutions Art.

The energy that had condensed in the sky was like a stormy ocean filled with raging waves, smashing against the void incessantly.

At that moment, Lu Qingmei swung the glazed rod downwards.

It was as though the ocean was torn apart, and a massive beam of light shot out from the depths. The beam emanated a sense of tyranny, and all of the worldly natural energy was torn to pieces as it passed by.

A massive scar opened up in the mountainous forest beneath her when the ray of light arced past, the affected ground turning as smooth as a mirror.

Nine Revolutions Art, Enigmatic Ocean Parting Ray.

Li Luo could feel his hairs standing on end as he stared at the massive ray of light. Lu Qingmei was truly vicious, striking without mercy.

Even a late stage Greater Heavenly Resonance cultivator would have trouble blocking this attack!

The ray of light pierced the sky, and a few breaths later, it clashed with the surging dragonbreath.

BOOM!

A tempest kicked up in the collision, expelling force in every direction.

The forest was almost completely devastated, with countless ancient trees snapping like twigs.

Both banners remained motionless as they observed the clash of resonance arts. However, their expressions were a little different. Those of the Green Nether Banner were a little anxious, whereas those from the Holy Scale Banner seemed a little relaxed.

The clash of energies continued unabated for several moments.

At that point, Li Luo's gaze trembled. He could see the thunder dragonbreath being gradually split apart by the light's inevitable descent. Wherever the ray of light passed, the dragonbreath would dissipate and turn into shattered motes of light.

There was an absolute gap in strength between these two Nine Revolutions Arts, and Lu Qingmei unsurprisingly held the upper hand.

Although the enigmatic ray of light was gradually weakening, its momentum remained unhindered and it directly swept towards the area where the Green Nether Banner's fifth division was located.

Li Luo's expression turned solemn as he quickly channeled the energy obtained from Harmony to form a gigantic palm, slamming down towards the Enigmatic Ocean Parting Ray.

The light sliced through the massive palm manifestation like a hot knife through butter. Although it was weakened, it still struck the energy barrier protecting the fifth division.

Bang!

The ground beneath them shuddered and cracked.

Chaos erupted within the fifth division as a hundred individuals were grievously wounded and sent packing.

Li Luo had paid a significant price in the first frontal clash.

He understood that Lu Qingmei's Fiend Finisher strength surpassed him significantly. As a whole, her banner was on a different level as well. They were the vanguard team of the Holy Scale Banner, and their results outclassed whatever the Green Nether Banner's fifth division had achieved.

The key reason they had managed to hold on to Lu Qingmei's first move and not suffer a complete disaster was because of Li Luo's Nine Revolutions Art.

Any other Sub Leader in his position, including Zhong Ling, would have been left in a much worse position.

Lu Qingmei continued to look at them with a hint of serenity in her gaze. She did not bother with any superfluous words, as this was her personality.

She raised her jade-like hand, and a gargantuan amount of energy condensed like a hurricane.

Once again, a murderous but dazzling ray of light began to take form.

Clearly, she was intending to activate the Enigmatic Ocean Parting Ray once again.

This would bring an end to the battle quickly.

Li Luo sucked in a deep breath and similarly began to condense a torrent of energy akin to an ocean. There was no fear in his eyes as he clasped his hands together and formed a hand seal.

With the rising tide of energy, a small, black dragon banner began to form within Li Luo's palms.

"Oh? A Duke Art?"

Feeling the undulations from the black dragon banner coming from Li Luo's hands caused a change in Lu Qingmei's expression. There was a look of surprise in her gaze as Li Luo could utilize a Duke Art even though he was clearly only at the Fiend Palace Tier. This sort of talent was commendable. If Li Luo and her were at the same cultivation level, this would have been a fight to behold. Despite there being a hint

of regret in her heart, she did not hesitate, only slamming her palm forward. The gigantic ocean of energy condensed above her once again parted, and a ray of light flashed forth.

This Enigmatic Ocean Parting Ray was even more ferocious than the previous one.

Li Luo's expression remained unfazed as the glow of two resonances surfaced and he fused the resonant power together.

Stirring up his dual resonant power, he activated the mighty black dragon banner.

When he focused upon the banner in his hand, he could also sense Lu Qingmei's frightening assault, which caused a pervasive sense of danger to wrap around his entire body.

However, his focus was solely placed upon executing the Duke Art with everything he had.

He could almost hear the beating of his heart while all of the dual resonance power within him circulated through his body like a furious dragon. Each cycle brought yet another surging bout of resonant power.

For a brief moment, Li Luo was so focused that he fell into a sort of trance. In this state, he seemed to feel that the dual resonance power he was channeling with all his might seemed to be beating with life.

It was as though the originally separate resonant power had truly fused into a single whole.

This fusion resulted in the creation of something magical.

Li Luo felt like the dual resonance power had transformed qualitatively and turned into something with life.

At the same time, he seemed to have reached a state of inner peace. Nothing could faze him, and he came to a realization.

This was the third realm of dual resonance power.

Sentience.

Li Luo had already reached the second realm of dual resonances, Becoming One. The current encounter had pushed him to the next realm, and he finally touched upon Sentience.

It had been a long time coming...

Li Luo's gaze was now filled with the incoming ray of light that pierced through the void. At the same time, the black dragon banner in his hand flashed and directly shattered the void.

Rumble! Roar!

As the void collapsed, the Underworld River's Black Dragon reared its head, and cold, black water gushed out with it.

However, Li Luo could clearly feel that the Underworld River's Black Dragon had gained a sense of spirituality and self-awareness.

It was like a living, breathing dragon descending upon the world.

It roared with absolute ferocity, echoing throughout the forest.

The black dragon wreathed in black water then crashed into the ray of light.

At the moment of collision, Lu Qingmei's previously unshaken expression finally gave way to a look of surprise.

Chapter 0788 – The Third Realm

Bang!

The ominous Underworld River's Black Dragon's draconic roar reverberated throughout the area. It was not the same as the previous times Li Luo had heard it, as there seemed to be a hint of spirituality to it now.

This was a black dragon that had come to life.

The black dragon swiped with its claw, producing a claw light that tore apart the void in its wake. Viscous, black water flowed forth from the crack and shrouded the claw like an armament. At the same time, the black water turned into a series of whirlpools that entangled and restricted anything they came into contact with. Additionally, the water possessed an overbearing corrosive nature that would erode everything it passed through.

The massive Enigmatic Ocean Parting Ray then collided with the claw manifestation and the black water around it.

At that very moment, the void in the area was completely distorted by the terrifying amounts of energy that exploded in every direction.

However, the almighty Enigmatic Ocean Parting Ray did not manage to pierce past the unstoppable momentum this time—it was forced to a halt by the black dragon's claw.

The black dragon water continued to surge forth without end and corroded the ray of light completely.

When both sides saw this development, there was an indescribable change in their emotions.

On the Green Nether Banner's side, the members were completely stunned. This sight was unbelievable to their eyes. There was a gigantic gap between the two sides' strengths, and deep down, they had only expected themselves to roll over in defeat before these domineering opponents. Who would have expected the indomitable attack launched by Lu Qingmei to be blocked?

By the looks of things, their side even held the advantage!

Zhao Yanzhi, Li Shi, and Mu Bi glanced at each other, feeling like this was incomprehensible. It was not as though this was the first time they had seen Li Luo demonstrate his Duke Art. However, the black dragon before them today clearly seemed qualitatively different.

Could it be that Li Luo had cultivated his Duke Art to the next level in this short span of time?

"Did he reach the stage of Greater Completion?"

At the same time, Lu Qingmei's brows gradually turned into a frown. With the opponent's strength, the Duke Art that was used should not have been able to suppress her Enigmatic Ocean Parting Ray. The only explanation was that Li Luo had reached the realm of Greater Completion.

If that were the case, it would mean that Li Luo's comprehension abilities with resonance arts was simply a little too monstrous. Learning a Duke Art was naturally within the reach of a genius. However, whether it was her or Li Qingfeng from the Gold Blood Banner, they had only reached the stage of Lesser Completion. A look of interest flashed through Lu Qingmei's eyes.

If Li Luo were to one day step into the Fiend Body Tier, he would truly become a worthy opponent that would attract her interest. As these thoughts ran through her mind, the clash in the sky concluded. Her Enigmatic Ocean Parting Ray had been corroded and dissipated, whereas the mighty, black dragon roared triumphantly. It then rushed towards the first division of the Holy Scale Banner in a flash of black light.

It was time for Li Luo's counter attack.

As the black dragon pierced through the skies, surrounded by the inky and frigid water, it directly barrelled towards Lu Qingmei.

Lu Qingmei observed the mighty dragon, but her expression was composed. She then quickly formed a series of hand seals.

Pssht!

As the black dragon opened its maw, one could see it spew pitch-black water that then formed a chilly, black river that directly swamped towards Lu Qingmei like a deluge.

The black water surged onwards without respite, seemingly containing a vortex that continued to peel and melt away every bit of resonant power in its vicinity.

Li Luo's gaze was focused upon that very location, a frown forming on his face.

He could feel that in the midst of the black river was an undulation of energy that was akin to a boulder, unshakeable and indestructible.

Even the corrosive water could not weaken it in the slightest.

The black water eventually dissipated after a period of time.

Li Luo could see a motionless shadow within.

Lu Qingmei was still grasping the mottled and cracked glass rod, but there was a difference this time. She was now fully clad in a suit of armor.

The armor looked like it was forged from the scales of a dragon. It was not oversized but snugly wrapped around her delicate body, revealing her slender and graceful curves.

Atop the scales seemed to be mysterious runes of light that absorbed the worldly natural energy around them.

With the glass rod in her hand and adorned with a suit of dragonscale armor, Lu Qingmei looked like a goddess of war.

One that instilled fear in their enemies.

Li Luo then recognized what it was.

This was no treasured artifact, but the Dragon's Scale Lineage's Duke Art.

It was known as the Heavenly Dragon Scale Armor Art.

Although Li Luo had managed to achieve an advancement in his understanding of dual resonances, his opponent still outclassed him in terms of strength. She could not be underestimated.

Lu Qingmei was not like Li Tong. She was a peak genius of this generation's youths in the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages and she possessed the Nine Revolutions Draconic Breath Fiend Art just like Li Luo. Even though Li Luo had three resonances, she had a quasi ninth-grade one. Just as Li Luo had a Duke Art, so too did she.

Thus, for Li Luo to eke out a true victory in this situation was just idle imagination.

So he shook his head and smiled. "Banner Leader Lu Qingmei, you are simply too mighty. I admit defeat."

He still possessed the strength to battle, but there was no need to eke out every last ounce of his strength. It would not change the result, and this was not some sort of life and death battle. It was just a periodic battle between banners.

On the other hand, the Green Nether Banner's fifth division did not feel depressed upon hearing Li Luo's words. Being able to obtain such a result when faced with a clearly superior opponent was already a reason for celebration.

The fact that the Holy Scale Banner members had complicated expressions on their faces was proof that they had already outperformed expectations. After all, Li Luo had forced Lu Qingmei to utilize her Heavenly Dragon Scale Armor Art, which was completely unbelievable.

When Lu Qingmei heard Li Luo's words, she maintained her usual calm, only cocking her eyes towards the still burning stick of incense. "Don't you want to persist for a while longer?"

Li Luo grinned. "If the opportunity arises in the future, I will seek you out for a lesson, Banner Leader Lu. You have already been quite merciful towards us. Alas, we are just not strong enough and we have no confidence that we can resist for much longer."

After which, he waved his hand, and the space around him rippled. Countless beams of light descended and shrouded each and every one of the members of the fifth division, directly teleporting them out of the space.

Lu Qingmei glanced at the retreating fifth division and fell silent for quite some time. Just before Li Luo's figure was about to be teleported away, she lifted her hand, and a tiny ray of light flew towards Li Luo.

Li Luo reflexively caught the object that was thrown over and realized that it was a pill. In fact, this was something he was familiar with. A God Origin Pill.

He looked towards the other party with surprise.

The stick of incense had not finished burning and thus there was no reason for her to give him the God Origin Pill.

However, he was sent out of the Fiendish Devil Cave before he could react.

When the Green Nether Banner's fifth division was sent out, the handsome young man from before walked forward and asked curiously, "Why did you give him a God Origin Pill even though the incense continues to burn?"

Lu Qingmei lowered her head, and her jade-like hand pointed at some of the scales on her dragonscale armor. What the youth saw gave him a shock. Despite the fact that the dragonscale armor possessed frightening defensive prowess, certain scales had turned dull and cracks could be seen upon them.

"If he was in the Fiend Finisher Tier like I am, my Heavenly Dragon Scale Armor Art would not have been unable to resist his Duke Art. Thus, his strength deserves recognition, and so I gifted him the God Origin Pill."

The glazed glass rod in Lu Qingmei's hand then vanished, and her gaze continued to linger at the location where Li Luo had disappeared.

"Li Luo possesses the style of his father. I don't think Li Qingfeng will be able to retain the position of the Dragon's Head in the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages' younger generation for much longer."

Chapter 0789 – Draw

When Li Luo exited the Fiendish Devil Cave with the fifth division, the other divisions of Green Nether Banner rushed up to them.

"Sub Leader Li Luo, what happened?" the Sub Leaders of the second, third, and fourth division asked expectantly. A match against the first division of the Holy Scale Banner led by Lu Qingmei was truly unlucky, and the ending was likely set in stone. They did not expect a positive result and were simply asking out of concern.

"What else could have happened? Did you expect us to defeat Lu Qingmei?" Li Luo replied jokingly.

The crowd laughed in response to his relaxed comment. His opponent was Lu Qingmei after all—not even Deng Fengxian would have gotten away unscathed with such a matchup.

As such, there were no expectations going into battle against such an overwhelming opponent, and thus they naturally did not feel much pressure from it.

In the eyes of the crowd, it was expected that Li Luo would have lost, and this was due to an unlucky matchup rather than his incapability.

Even Zhong Ling, who had stayed away from the group, simply stared at him with cold eyes.

At this moment, Li Jingtao and Li Fengyi walked over. With a light pat on Li Luo's shoulder, they told him, "It's alright, such unlucky things happen from time to time. Even Li Qingfeng would have gotten a headache against a martial arts fanatic like Lu Qingmei."

"Did she give you a good beating?" Li Fengyi joked.

However, Li Luo simply remained silent. He did not share about how Lu Qingmei had given him the God Origin Pill after being impressed by his performance. After all, that was nothing worth bragging about. Conversely, this incident had inspired him, and he hoped that he would be able to fight Lu Qingmei again and emerge victorious one day.

And this feeling was not out of petty revenge. Rather, it was to return her gift with the worthy battle that she had been looking forward to.

As they continued chatting at the side, the screen started to display the results of the battle among the banners.

Suddenly, Li Luo could hear some surprised comments coming from the Green Nether Banner.

Li Fengyi turned over to take a look at the screen before glancing back over to the fifth division. She then asked in shock, "Little Brother, you managed to obtain a draw?"

Hearing this, Li Luo first thought that there must have been a mistake. He quickly glanced over, and sure enough, beside their battle with the Holy Scale Banner's first division, the final result was actually a... draw?

But they had clearly left the Fiendish Devil Cave first...

"Sub Leader, this must have been done by Lu Qingmei. The Fiendish Devil Cave has some spirituality to it. If she is the last one to leave the cave, she has the right to choose the final result of the battle," Zhao Yanzhi explained.

Li Luo was stunned. What was Lu Qingmei thinking?

Although he still had some tricks hidden up his sleeve, like the two Nine Revolutions Arts that he had not used, he was very sure it would not have made a difference in the end. After all, the difference in their strength was too great.

However, if he just wanted to drag the battle until the incense finished burning, it could have been possible.

Could it be that Lu Qingmei knew about this? That he had held back slightly?

What was she thinking?

Li Luo could not figure it out at all.

"Why would Lu Qingmei deem it a draw?" Li Fengyi asked curiously.

"Perhaps because of my good looks?" Li Luo replied with a deep voice.

The others froze at his response and could not help but roll their eyes.

"Even though your looks aren't bad, and perhaps they might even help you a little against other girls, I'll have to burst your bubble. You're up against Lu Qingmei. To her, you probably look the same as this guy over here," Li Fengyi responded as she pointed at Mu Bi, who was right next to her.

Mu Bi suddenly felt offended. Was he that bad looking?

Hearing this, Li Luo laughed out loud. He stretched out his hand to reveal the God Origin Pill in his palm, then he told them, "We definitely lost in the previous battle. However, Lu Qingmei set some additional rules to make the fight easier for us. She probably didn't want to bully us, and she even handed me this God Origin Pill before we departed."

His words had sparked the interest of Li Jingtao and Li Fengyi.

"You managed to win a God Origin Pill from Lu Qingmei? Not bad," Li Fengyi praised Li Luo curiously.

Li Jingtao analyzed the situation. "Based on her personality, Lu Qingmei only cares about strong people like herself or those with remarkable potential. Looks like she was impressed by you.

"I feel like she is trying to promote you. Most people would have expected you to suffer a total defeat against her, but now that the result is a draw, many will inevitably be curious about what happened during your fight with her."

Nevertheless, Li Luo was not interested in Lu Qingmei's motives for doing so. A loss was a loss, and he was not proud about winning the God Origin Pill either. Even if he had lasted until the incense finished burning, he would not have considered it a win for himself.

Afterwards, Li Jingtao and Li Fengyi asked him out for an afterparty celebration, but he turned them down. He had something more important on hand—he wanted to head back and properly understand the flash of inspiration he had obtained from the battle.

He wanted to improve upon the so-called third realm of the dual resonances, Sentience.

This was his greatest takeaway from this expedition.

He was not particularly interested in the result of the battle. However, the other banners had started discussing it, just like Li Jingtao had predicted.

Deng Fengxian of the Gold Light Banner looked over when he saw Li Luo leaving. He was intrigued by the draw as well. Li Luo and the Green Nether Banner's fifth division had clearly exited earlier, so it should have been an overwhelming victory by Lu Qingmei under normal circumstances.

"Seems like Li Luo is more talented than expected. Otherwise, Lu Qingmei wouldn't treat him so specially. We will have to find out more details about the battle and see what exactly Li Luo did. What could have impressed Lu Qingmei so much that she was willing to admit a draw?"

.....

At the Dragon's Blood Lineage, Fiendish Devil Peak.

"Hey, what is that muscle-for-brains girl, Lu Qingmei, thinking now? She only obtained a draw with the Green Nether Banner's fifth division? Isn't she afraid of being shamed?" Li Hongli sneered coldly as she looked at the conclusion of the battle.

She was clearly a little unhappy about it as she had more losses than wins in her clashes with Lu Qingmei. Seeing Lu Qingmei give Li Luo a draw, frankly, she felt insulted.

"I heard that Li Luo is quite handsome. Has that barbarian girl fallen for him?" She scoffed.

Looking at the results, Li Qingfeng smiled lightly as he responded, "Don't you know Lu Qingmei's personality by now? She is not interested in such things at all. Based on my understanding of her, she must have been impressed by Li Luo during their clash, either from his strength or his potential... However, she and her division are much stronger than Li Luo and the Green Nether Banner's fifth division. She must have felt that it was not a fair fight despite her victory, so she deemed it a draw instead. In other words, she feels that Li Luo and the Green Nether Banner's fifth division would've stood a chance of winning if they were on the same level as her. She surely thinks highly of Li Luo.

"Go find out the details of the battle. If even Lu Qingmei thinks highly of him, he must have outstanding points. We should not be too arrogant and underestimate him, or it may spell disaster for us in the future." With that, Li Qingfeng concluded his explanation.

Li Hongli was a bit reluctant about this, but she proceeded as instructed since Li Qingfeng had given the order.

"I heard that the selection battle for the Green Nether Banner Leader has been brought forward. In less than half a month, Li Luo will be competing with Zhong Ling, the Sub Leader of the Green Nether Banner's first division, for it. I wonder what Li Luo will show us. Without Harmony, he is merely at the Fiend Palace Tier," Li Qingfeng said.

"Maybe he will be totally beaten black and blue," Li Hongli replied with a laugh. Li Qingfeng smiled at her response.

"Let's wait and see. He has spent quite some time in the Dragon's Fang Lineage now, so he will reveal his true colors very soon."

Chapter 0790 – Vestiges of Spirituality

As time ticked by, it was soon three days before the selection battle for the Green Nether Banner Leader.

During this time, the battle was a hot topic within the Dragon's Fang Lineage. Apart from the members of the four banners, the Hall Masters and various elders were also talking about it.

Ordinarily speaking, the selection battle for the Banner Leader was only a matter among the younger generation and the elders were not interested in it. However, Li Luo had a special background.

His father, Li Taixuan, was a legend known throughout the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. Although he had left the Dragon's Fang Lineage over 20 years ago, the elders remained deeply impressed by his strength and talent. In fact, some even said that he would probably be rank two in the Heavenly Origin Records of the Duke's Index if he was still around.

As for why he wouldn't be rank one, it was because Tan Tailan would still be around if Li Taixuan had not left the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent...

Li Luo was the son of the two of them.

Coupled with the fact that he was the grandson of Li Jingzhe, it was hard for anyone to ignore his illustrious background.

This was not just in the Dragon's Fang Lineage, but across the other four lineages as well. Many elders could still clearly recall how they were eclipsed by the outstanding Li Taixuan twenty years ago. Although he had not returned, his son had come back, and they were all eagerly waiting to see what the son of Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan would show.

Like father, like son? Or were his victories just a fluke so far? Needless to say, there were also those who had grudges with Li Taixuan and were just waiting for Li Luo to suffer a setback.

Regardless of their reasons, this was probably the most talked about selection battle for a Banner Leader to date.

.....

While everyone was chattering about the upcoming fight, Li Luo, the heart of the conversation, was not bothered by it at all. He had been fully focused on cultivation.

"Third resonance, Thunder Dragon resonant palace, upgrade complete."

In the cultivation chamber, Li Luo opened his eyes, which were currently glowing. The pulses of resonant power emanating from his body had clearly grown stronger again.

This was because his third resonant palace, the Thunder Dragon resonant palace, had finished upgrading and entered the Greater Fiend Palace Tier.

As a result, his Thunder Dragon resonant power had strengthened as well.

All three of his resonant palaces had entered the Greater Fiend Palace Tier, and after three rounds of strengthening, he could say that his resonant power was at the top amongst those at his tier now.

There was likely no Greater Fiend Palace cultivator with more resonant power than him in the world right now.

Even if it was a true ninth-grade resonant user, Li Luo was unafraid at all!

"Under normal circumstances, my resonant power should be comparable to that of an ordinary Silver Fiend," Li Luo said with satisfaction in his eyes. Of course, the Fiend Body Tier had an edge over the Fiend Palace Tier in terms of physical body too. However, Li Luo possessed the Thunderpeal Avatar, so he would not necessarily be weaker than them in this aspect.

In other words, if he had to compete with Mu Bi again, he would not even have to use his Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner to secure victory under the same conditions now.

It was evidently a huge improvement after his two months of hard work in the Dragon's Fang Lineage.

And that was not all.

When Li Luo opened his palm, two streams of resonant power flowed out from his body and integrated together perfectly, fusing into a sphere of dual resonance power.

The dual resonance power hovered in his palm in a lively manner.

When Li Luo focused on this dual resonance power, he could sense hidden traces of mysterious light strands that were hardly detectable.

These light traces swam around in the dual resonance sphere like little fish.

They were known as the Vestiges of Spirituality.

It was something that originated from reaching the realm of Sentience with his dual resonance power.

Simply put, this was the result of two resonant powers synergizing completely.

Not only would the Vestiges of Spirituality enhance one's dual resonant power, they would also swallow up and wear down the opponent's resonant power in a fight.

Moreover, they could replenish their energy with energy from their surroundings to extend their lifespan.

One would have to expend a considerably larger amount of resonant power to deplete and counter an attack containing Vestiges of Spirituality.

In fact, one could even say that achieving Sentience with dual resonances was the first step in understanding what a Duke's full power would be like.

Despite spending a long time cultivating his dual resonances, it was only by chance that he had breached the next realm during his battle with Lu Qingmei a few days ago. Followed by his dedicated studying of this flash of enlightenment, he had finally managed to cultivate the Vestiges of Spirituality for the first time and truly entered the third realm of dual resonance power.

Additionally, he had three resonant palaces in his body that had entered the Greater Fiend Palace Tier and contained nearly eight thousand strands of abstruse fiend light.

He was not any weaker than an ordinary Silver Fiend.

Coupled with his mastery of the third realm of dual resonances, he was confident that there was nothing to be afraid of even when faced against a Gold Fiend like Zhong Ling. "It's a pity that my waterlight resonance tempering still requires a few more days to reach the lower eighth-grade. I will not make it in time for the selection battle for Banner Leader," Li Luo whispered to himself with a tinge of regret. Since his arrival at the Dragon's Fang Lineage two months ago, he had tempered and refined his seventh-grade waterlight resonance repeatedly using the spirit liquids and purifying lights available here. It had already shown signs of advancing and would need just a little bit more time. If he could upgrade his waterlight resonance before the selection battle, his victory would be assured.

It did not matter. He would not need to show all his cards against an opponent like Zhong Ling.

Li Luo knew that everyone was paying attention to the upcoming battle because it would be his first solo fight since he arrived at the Dragon's Fang Lineage. Everyone would like to see the true strength of the son of Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan for themselves.

And among them, there would be people with bad intentions. Considering how large the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li was and how Li Taixuan had overshadowed many during his heyday, there was bound to be people that were disgruntled over it.

At this point, Li Luo dispersed the dual resonances on his palm and shut his eyes to condense the Vestiges of Spirituality.

No matter how people thought of it, this was his first fight upon arriving in the Dragon's Fang Lineage. Therefore, he would have to win it beautifully.

For his own future here, as well as his father's reputation.

.....

Green Nether Peak, in a courtyard.

Zhong Yushi was fishing in a pavilion in the middle of the lake. As he watched the fishes snatching for food, he glanced over to Zhong Ling on his side and said calmly, "The selection battle for the Banner Leader has attracted a lot of attention, so you need to perform well."

Zhong Ling nodded and replied, "Don't worry, Second Uncle. I will do my best to win the position of Banner Leader."

Zhong Yushi continued, "Don't underestimate the enemy. Although Li Luo has wasted his time in the outer divine continent, his talent is truly extraordinary. You can tell from his progress during the Fiendish Devil Cave expedition. Although our Lineage Chief favors him a lot, he is still someone who respects the rules. If Li Luo does not win them over with his skills during the fight, he will not go against the wishes of the crowd and blindly support Li Luo. However, Li Luo definitely has the potential. If he becomes the Banner Leader, coupled with the assistance from the Lineage Chief, I am afraid he will be able to take advantage of the momentum to rise up. Perhaps that is what he has been planning for."

Looking seriously at Zhong Ling, he continued slowly, "As such, the selection battle is of critical importance to Li Luo. If he succeeds, he will be able to rise up as a formidable force. If he loses, he will have no choice but to continue to lie down quietly. He has already wasted a lot of time in the outer divine continent, and if he stays dormant any longer, it will only cause him to drift farther and farther away from the top compared to his peers. So, you must not let him rise up! If you can keep him down, I will have no problem securing the position of Green Nether Hall Master on my side."

When Zhong Ling heard him finish his sentence, a stern look appeared in his eyes and he nodded slowly.

"Understood, Second Uncle. Li Luo is indeed gifted, but his parents gave birth to him in the outer divine continent. I may not be able to match up to him in the future, but for now, I will show him who the boss is!" Zhong Ling replied with utter conviction.