

Resonance 791

Chapter 0791 – Selection Battle for the Banner Leader

The crowd was bustling in the Green Nether drill grounds today.

On top of the four Hall Masters of the Green Nether Hall, Li Qingpeng, Li Jinpan, and Zhao Xuanming from the other three halls were present as well. The Green Nether drill grounds had suddenly become the focal point of the Dragon's Fang Mountain Range.

This was only the surface of things. Beneath it, there were many that were also discreetly keeping track of the happenings here today. This included some of the elders from the other four lineages that were monitoring things through special means.

Under ordinary circumstances, a selection battle for the Banner Leader would not have attracted the interest of so many elders from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. However, this time was different. This was the first time Li Luo would be displaying his true strength in battle since his return.

Although he had shown his capabilities during the Fiendish Devil Cave expedition, that was not his individual strength. And everyone was bound to leave the Twenty Banners one day.

As such, his display of individual might was what was truly important.

Everyone was watching in anticipation of Li Luo's performance. Could he live up to his father's reputation in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li?

At the west side of the Green Nether drill grounds, on a huge training ground.

There was a lively crowd gathered here. Apart from the eight thousand members of the Green Nether Banner, the Sub Leaders of the other three banners had also arrived, led by Li Jingtao, Li Fengyi, and Deng Fengxian.

On the left side of the training ground was a tall platform where the Hall Masters sat. Zhong Yushi, Li Rouyun, and the other Green Nether Hall Masters were sitting in the center, as this was a Green Nether Hall event after all, while Zhao Xuanming, Li Qingpeng, Li Jinpan, and the other halls' Hall Masters sat by the side.

However, there was no sign of Li Jingzhe. After all, it was not befitting of his status to come to spectate a mere battle for the Banner Leader. In fact, his appearance would show his favoritism for Li Luo, and this might not be something that Li Luo wanted.

Nonetheless, the Hall Masters all knew that he was watching without being noticed by others. That would be an easy feat for him.

A moment later, Zhong Yushi stood up amidst the endless chattering of the crowd. He lifted his hand up, and the crowd quietened down immediately.

With a warm smile, he began, "Who would have thought that an ordinary selection battle for the Banner Leader would attract so much interest? It's been a long time since the Green Nether Hall has been so lively. Hahaha. Alright, no more nonsense. The Green Nether Banner's Banner Leader position has been vacant for a long time. It is not a good thing for us to have no leader, and today, it's finally time to select

the representative who will lead us into the future. According to the rules, any Sub Leaders from the five divisions are eligible to compete for it. Those who are interested, please step forward." He ended with a gaze that swept over the front of the Green Nether Banner. At this moment, the others' attention had turned towards the front as well. It was where the five Sub Leaders were standing.

But the Sub Leaders of the second, third, and fourth divisions stayed silent without much emotion. They all knew that the position of Banner Leader was not meant for them. Before the arrival of Li Luo, they knew that Zhong Ling would be the one to become the Banner Leader, and he had been merely waiting for the time to come before he took up the position officially.

However, no one expected a dark horse like Li Luo to suddenly appear right before he could become the Banner Leader.

Although they were surprised with Li Luo being merely at the Fiend Palace Tier, his special background did make him a close competitor for the spot.

He had also shown them his capabilities over the past two months with the spectacular results achieved by the fifth division under his leadership. Clearly, he was not just relying on his illustrious background.

As such, Zhong Ling and Li Luo were the highlights for the selection fight. If they tried to intervene, they would only be asking for trouble.

Without any actions from their side, Zhong Ling of the first division took a step forward and flew up onto the stone platform. He stood upright like a spear with a sharp look in his eyes.

"Zhong Ling from the Green Nether Banner's first division, competing for the Banner Leader position!" he shouted in a deep voice.

At this instant, the first division banner members burst out in cheers for their leader.

Over at the fifth division side, Li Luo stretched his body a little.

"Come on, Sub Leader!" Zhao Yanzhi cheered with a charming smile. Today, she was donned in a purple satin dress that displayed her sexy and hot curves to the fullest. Like a gorgeous, blooming flower in the field, she attracted a lot of gazes from the crowd.

However, she paid no attention to them. Instead, she leaned close to Li Luo and whispered in his ear, "Sub Leader, if you win this, maybe I'll give you a surprise tonight."

When the crowd witnessed this, some were left pondering. Previously, this beauty among the four banners of the Dragon's Fang Lineage had always maintained a distance from others. But she was so close to Li Luo now. Could the two of them be together?

Usually, such words from an enchanting beauty would have given any man butterflies in their stomach. However, Li Luo was unfazed by this and simply responded, "You're lucky my fiancee is not around to hear that, or you would be deader than a doornail."

"I have serious doubts about whether this goddess of a fiancee you mentioned really exists, Sub Leader," Zhao Yanzhi replied as she curled her lips.

Li Luo took another look at her and replied with a smile, "I don't mind you using me to block the shots from the men that lust for you. As I have said, as long as you do things for me faithfully, we will be on the same team. But since you dislike contact with the opposite sex so much, there's no need for you to do it so deliberately and in the open. I won't want to have you secretly complaining when you head back."

Hearing this, Zhao Yanzhi's charming face turned slightly stiff, and she replied with dodgy eyes and a sarcastic tone, "Sub Leader, you are really a sensitive man, aren't you?"

Li Luo had no intention to blame her. After all, Zhao Yanzhi had grown up in an unpalatable environment and carried a lot of unpleasant memories. She was lacking a sense of security and was just trying to use him as a form of deterrence towards others lest anyone covet after her beauty.

"Actually, I don't feel so disgusted towards you as compared to other men," she explained.

"Thanks for the compliment," Li Luo responded with a grin. After this, he stopped chatting with her, and thunder suddenly flashed beneath his feet, propelling him forward. In the blink of an eye, he was already standing opposite Zhong Ling on the platform.

"I am Li Luo from the fifth division, and I would like to compete for the Banner Leader position as well," he said slowly.

Zhong Ling stared at him coldly as he retorted, "Sub Leader Li Luo, you are indeed talented, but you are too impatient. If you trained hard and waited for another six months, I would have had to give up the Banner Leader position to you."

"My time is too precious to wait another six months," Li Luo replied with a laugh.

If he wanted to rise up within the Dragon's Fang Lineage, he would need to secure the Green Nether Banner and get more opportunities for himself.

While half a year might be an insignificant time to others, it was much too long for him.

Seeing how his persuasion had failed, Zhong Ling responded with a hint of hostility in his eyes, "Well, let me see how you are going to fight against me with your Fiend Palace strength, then."

At this moment, Zhong Yushi stood on the high platform as he watched the two of them. With a wave of his hands, his powerful voice resonated through the audience.

"Zhong Ling from the first division and Li Luo from the fifth division will participate in the selection battle for the Green Nether Banner's Banner Leader position.

"I hope that the two of you will do your best and showcase the might of the Green Nether Banner to the crowd.

"Let's begin."

When he ended his sentence, the selection battle for the Banner Leader position officially kicked off.

The atmosphere in the crowd was boiling with excitement.

Chapter 0792 – Li Luo's Resonance Arts

When Zhong Yushi declared the start of the selection battle, the crowd grew lively. Zhong Ling took a step forward, and his resonant power rose intensely.

Like a blazing flame, his resonant power was fiery red. It exuded such a high temperature that the surrounding air was getting distorted.

An eighth-grade fire resonance.

His resonant power was overwhelming compared to that of Zhao Yanzhi, Mu Bi, and Li Shi. After all, he was the strongest fellow in the Green Nether Banner right now.

As they witnessed his dominant display of resonant power, the cheers from the fifth division banner members died down a little. There was a hint of worry behind the beautiful eyes of Zhao Yanzhi.

It was for the same reason as before. Previously, Li Luo had obtained spectacular results in the Fiendish Devil Cave due to his Nine Revolutions Art and Harmony with the fifth division. Those two factors helped narrow the gap in strength between Zhong Ling and him.

However, those tools were unable to help him now. He would have to rely on his own power to secure the position of Banner Leader.

Alone, Li Luo was merely at the Greater Fiend Palace Tier, while Zhong Ling was already a Gold Fiend.

How was Li Luo going to close such a huge gap?

As everyone was worrying about it, Zhong Ling didn't hesitate in the slightest. He clenched his fists tightly and launched his attack, his burning, red resonant power gushing out like a stream of magma.

Bang!

Following Zhong Ling's punch, the fiery-red resonant power condensed into a fist manifestation that was around a hundred meters wide. Coated in blazing, red scales, it was a terrifying sight to behold.

Those familiar with his battles recognized it immediately. This was none other than his signature move, the dragon-general resonance art Blazing Scale Fist.

Evidently, he had not held back just because Li Luo was at the Fiend Palace Tier.

Even the Silver Fiends Zhao Yanzhi, Mu Bi, and Li Shi would struggle to deal with this punch.

The burning air swept across the space enveloped in strong murderous intent. It flew directly towards Li Luo under the gazes of the crowd.

The Blazing Scale Fist rapidly grew larger and larger in Li Luo's eyes. At this moment, he could feel the imposing resonant power heading towards him, and his face turned solemn. A Gold Fiend like Zhong Ling was clearly a notch above Mu Bi.

Bang!

A flash of lightning appeared below Li Luo's feet as he blinked backwards like a ghost, trying to dodge it.

Low-grade dragon-general resonance art: Thunderbolt Art.

This was a body resonance art that Li Luo had picked up back in the Xia Kingdom, demonstrating one of the ways he could boost his agility.

Unfortunately, the Blazing Scale Fist under Zhong Ling's control chased after him persistently. They were fighting on a battle platform with limited space, so Li Luo could not escape it directly.

As such, he only avoided a head-on clash with the mighty force. With a clap of his hands, he summoned the Golden-Jade Onyx-Elephant Blade.

His face remained composed as the resonant power in his body swiftly circulated and he slashed down with a single blow.

Weng!

A bright knife wheel shot out from the tip of the blade and sliced the void apart directly, clashing with the Blazing Scale Fist.

Bang!

The air shuddered violently from the pulses of energy waves, and the Blazing Scale Fist evaporated the knife wheel with its tyrannical, scorching-hot temperature.

The Thousand Watery Knives Wheel used by Li Luo was useless against it.

An improved tiger-general resonance art would hardly help to even the odds with such a huge gap in their raw power.

There were some low cheers from the crowd when they saw Zhong Ling emerging victorious in the clash.

Nevertheless, the faces of the Hall Masters on the high platform remained unchanged as they watched on quietly.

Seeing how his previous attack was useless, Li Luo summoned a flash of lightning beneath his feet and retreated a hundred meters back yet again. Following this, a large, silver bow materialized in his hand.

He pulled the bow all the way, and thunder roared. It was as though a sea of lightning had condensed into an arrow at this very moment.

The very presence of the compressed lightning caused the surrounding space to vibrate slightly.

At the same time, a double halo took shape around it. Li Luo was activating his dual resonance power, but the Vestiges of Spirituality did not appear this time.

Resonant power gushed out of Li Luo's body, and a strong energy wave erupted.

Witnessing the eruption of energy, the faces of other banner members at the Greater Fiend Palace Tier changed slightly. They realized immediately that although Li Luo was at the same tier as them, his resonant power was several grades above theirs.

BOOM!

"High-grade dragon-general resonance art, Flowing Thunder Dragon Fang!"

Following the whispers in his heart, the lightning arrow that looked like a mottled dragon fang flew out and tore the sky apart. Lightning flashed as if a thunderbolt had split the sky in two.

Bang!

Like heavenly judgment smiting a sinner, the dragon fang collided head-on with the imposing Blazing Scale Fist.

At this moment, strands of waterlight emerged in mid-air, forming multiple unusually clear mirrors. The mirrors shone brightly onto the Flowing Thunder Dragon Fang, and dozens of lightning bolts manifested around it. The crowd watched this scene in awe.

It was a spectacular sight to behold. Dozens of Flowing Thunder Dragon Fangs had emerged out of thin air.

Many shocking screams could be heard around the battleground.

"Is that the Water Mirror Art? He used that to create multiple illusions?"

"He must know that the difference in their strength is too huge. Even with such an impressive high-grade dragon-general resonance art, he stands no chance against Sub Leader Zhong Ling's Blazing Scale Fist. He has resorted to using these illusions to distract his opponent."

"It's a nice try, but it's useless in the face of such absolute power."

The crowd started whispering about it as they watched the midair clash without batting an eyelid.

Zhong Ling looked at the scene without a change in his expression. He clenched his five fingers tightly together, and the Blazing Scale Fist slammed down angrily like a falling meteorite, directly charging into the group of flowing thunder streams.

However, just as the Blazing Scale Fist was about to land on them, the flowing thunder streams separated like an agile python slithering through the air.

Bang! Bang!

The Blazing Scale Fist smashed into the air and hit two of the thunder streams. However, the streams vanished into thin air when they made contact.

Without a doubt, those were the illusions created by the Water Mirror Art.

Zhong Ling's face darkened and a look of surprise arose in his eyes. "Why are these illusions created by the Water Mirror Art so dexterous?"

Boom!

The Blazing Scale Fist continued to clash against the dancing thunder streams. However, the illusions continued to strike against his resonance art repeatedly. The fire resonance energy of the Blazing Scale Fist gradually depleted as this went on.

Seeing this, Li Luo's eyes shone and he concentrated his mind. The remaining thunder streams sped up and quickly flew towards the Blazing Scale Fist.

The two arts finally clashed violently in the air.

Only the eyes of the Hall Masters on the high platform changed as they focused upon one of the streams of thunder. They could sense that this stream had skillfully avoided the most powerful point of the Blazing Scale Fist, instead striking a dimly lit flame scale on it instead.

Bang!

It was as if a grand firework had bloomed in the air.

Everyone watched in shock. The Blazing Scale Fist manifestation from the Gold Fiend Zhong Ling had evaporated along with the flashy thunder streams.

Li Luo had deflected Zhong Ling's sure-to-win attack unscathed.

The crowd was amazed by this.

After all, the difference in power between the two attacks was quite obvious.

Zhong Ling should have gotten an overwhelming victory in a direct battle.

Why had it ended up like this?

There was some silence in the crowd as they pondered over it. Only the Hall Masters sitting atop the high platform had seen through the little tricks played by Li Luo.

Using a somewhat special Water Mirror Art, Li Luo had created mirages of his high-grade dragon-general resonance art to slowly deplete the energy of the Blazing Scale Fist. At the same time, he had used this opportunity to identify the weakest area of the fist manifestation.

Afterwards, the illusions swarmed at it and divided its attention while the real thunder stream defeated it by striking the weakest point.

Although it sounded simple, this actually required a great deal of delicate control over the art.

One had to adeptly control both the phantasmic thunder streams and the real one in hiding.

Li Qingpeng, Li Jinpan, Li Rouyun, and the other Hall Masters were impressed by this.

This surprising victory from Li Luo had clearly displayed his rich combat experience as well as his talent with resonance arts.

With such delicate mastery, he had won the praises of even Duke Stage users like them.

Initially, they were worried about the huge gap in strength between Li Luo and his opponent. However, seeing such a spectacular display, there was no need for concern. It would definitely be a close and exciting fight for the Banner Leader position today.

As for what other surprises Li Luo had prepared in store for them, they were watching in anticipation.

Chapter 0793 – Fiend Dipper Energy

The fervor that surrounded the crowd in the drill grounds diminished after Li Luo dismantled Zhong Ling's Blazing Scale Fist.

Everyone was full of surprise.

On the Gold Light Banner's side, there were numerous confused individuals who looked towards Deng Fengxian for an answer. "Li Luo must have entered the Greater Fiend Palace Tier. And if all three of his resonances have been similarly tempered to the same tier, the resonant power he possesses will far surpass anyone of his tier. Thus, you cannot treat him as an ordinary Greater Fiend Palace Tier cultivator. Just looking at how dense and ferocious his resonant power fluctuations are, he doesn't seem to be weaker than any Silver Fiend. However, the key reason why he was able to take apart Zhong Ling's move so spectacularly is his uncanny skill. He is able to utilize resonant arts with finesse, and it looks like he has been involved in numerous battles."

"Then do you think that Zhong Ling will be able to obtain the position of Banner Leader?" some of the Gold Light Banner members asked. Although this was a situation for the Green Nether Banner's members, Zhong Ling had always treated Deng Fengxian very respectfully and therefore numerous members had a good impression of him.

Deng Fengxian sighed as he continued to observe the two figures on the platform. "Li Luo's methods are not weak and they far surpass those at his tier. Even a Silver Fiend might not possess the strength he has. However, Zhong Ling is a Gold Fiend and has chosen to give up advancing into the Glass Fiend Tier. He is attempting to condense fiend dipper energy to enter the Fiend Finisher Tier directly... However, I'm still not sure if he has managed to do so. If he has reached that stage, then the ending is more or less set in stone. Li Luo will very likely lose."

As the crowd continued to chatter, Zhong Ling's expression had turned gloomy. He had never expected that his direct attack would succeed in defeating Li Luo instantly, but he had predicted that it would at least force Li Luo to activate his Duke Art. However, all Li Luo had done was utilize his own dragon-general resonance art.

Although a dragon-general resonance art's might was impressive, the two had a gap when it came to raw resonant power. Thus, by failing to injure Li Luo, he was already placed at a disadvantage as his Blazing Scale Fist had been taken apart completely.

Zhong Ling's gaze swept across a spot in the air where he discovered a slight trace of resonant power. He immediately sucked in a deep breath and belched out a mouth of crimson resonant power that was akin to a flaming breath, scorching a trail across the sky.

As a result, all of the resonant power traces Li Luo had stealthily set throughout the battlefield were completely destroyed.

"You're quite the sly one," Zhong Ling coldly stated.

He had used these traces of resonant power to form Water Mirror Arts and create the illusions that had managed to dissipate his Blazing Scale Fist.

"However, if you really think that these little tricks will allow you to gain victory, then you're truly naive," Zhong Ling said mockingly.

When he finished his sentence, Zhong Ling clenched his fists and crimson gloves covered his hands. Golden runes could be seen on them, forming a pattern made of flames.

At the same time, Zhong Ling's body began to radiate a gold light, and golden lines seemed to writhe beneath his skin. Frightening pressure emanated from him at that very moment.

Gold Fiend Body!

This was a Gold Fiend's strength. Their fleshly body would undergo the tempering of abstruse fiend lights and their physical strength, speed, and defensive prowess would far surpass that of someone at the Fiend Palace Tier.

"Did you think that I wouldn't make preparations for today?" After activating his Gold Fiend Body, Zhong Ling's gaze deepened with derision.

The corners of the platform began to creak and shudder after he posed that question.

Li Fengyi and Li Jingtao's expressions changed. It seemed as though they had discovered something.

On the Gold Light Banner's side, Deng Fengxian laughed lightly. "Zhong Ling is quite capable after all."

Under the looks of the crowd, Zhong Ling took a step forward, and at that very instant, everyone could see resonant power explosively surge out of him. Spots of light with deep colors similarly appeared around him.

The spots of light were like drops of molten metal, dotting his visible resonant power fluctuations.

When the spots of lights condensed, his resonant power suddenly seemed much more substantial.

It was like seeing a smaller version of the constellations in the sky, and as the stars absorbed energy from the world around them, the world seemed to be torn apart.

A indescriably sense of pervasive danger emanated from the stars.

And when the crowd saw this, a large commotion was stirred.

"That is... fiend dipper energy! Zhong Ling has finally managed to condense fiend dipper energy!"

"Doesn't this mean that he has finally reached the gates of the Fiend Finisher Tier?"

"Although the fiend dipper energy seems to be a little shallow, it is what it is. The might of fiend dipper energy is terrifying to face, and it symbolizes the peak of the Earth Fiend General Stage. Zhong Ling being able to condense this energy means that there shouldn't be much surprise as to who will end up as the Banner Leader today!"

"It's a pity for Li Luo. I thought that he would bring about another miracle for us to watch."

"If Zhong Ling was only a Gold Fiend, then Li Luo might have had a chance. Now that he has reached the next threshold, Li Luo doesn't have any hope left."

As the crowd chattered, most seemed to have concluded that the Green Nether Banner Leader selection would quickly come to a close.

On the fifth division's side, Zhao Yanzhi, Mu Bi, and Li Shi glanced at each other before turning gloomy. The anticipation brought about by Li Luo's successful defense was nowhere to be seen.

Atop the high platform, Li Qingpeng, Li Jinpan, and Li Rouyun's gazes shrank. On the other hand, the silent Zhong Yushi continued to lean back on his seat, evidently more relaxed at this point.

"You've actually managed to cultivate fiend dipper energy." Li Luo was similarly focused upon the stars behind Zhong Ling that were constantly absorbing energy. In contrast, he did not seem to be very surprised, only giving a sigh. He had expected this to happen.

Additionally, he couldn't assume that his opponent was useless, as he would improve over time too.

"Li Luo, why don't you just surrender gracefully? With your talent and strength, you should be able to snatch this position from me in half a year," Zhong Ling indifferently said.

Li Luo burst out in laughter. "Do you really think that you've won already?"

"What else do you have? Are you going to rely on more fancy resonance art tricks?" Zhong Ling retorted.

"It is true that my previous move was quite theatrical. The key reason I did that was to demonstrate my skill at resonance arts. I don't plan to be overshadowed today," Li Luo honestly replied.

Zhong Ling smiled coldly. "Your performance was wonderful. You may exit the stage now."

Li Luo shook his head. "Now, now, I can't do that. The main act hasn't started!"

Zhong Ling crossed his arms as he glared at Li Luo.

Li Luo then stowed away his Lambert Hawkeye, and the Golden-Jade Onyx-Elephant Blade once again appeared in his grasp. He then lightly caressed the mottled blade as the handsome smile on his face gradually receded.

"For my next act, I wish to put on a show for the audience."

His voice was somewhat loud, and he quickened his steps.

At the same time, all three resonant palaces in his body snapped into action as his triple resonant power surged out and circulated within his body.

"Thunderpeal Avatar, Two Sonic Pulses!" Li Luo softly said in his heart.

BOOM!

The Lightning Forge within him blazed with activity, and thunderous booms crackled. Two mysterious booms scattered throughout his body, instantly amplifying his physical capabilities.

It looked like lightning was jumping around within his eyes.

"Divine Elephant Power, Level Three!"

The blade in his hand shuddered, and intimidating amounts of energy rushed out like a stampeding, ancient elephant. This display of strength was fear-inducing, even more so than before. This was the first time he had called upon the third level of this power.

Even with the Two Sonic Pulses amplifying his body, his skin still began to rip and tear under the immense strain. Fresh blood oozed out of his limbs, a terrifying sight to behold.

However, Li Luo suppressed the wracking pains that coursed through him, and his face remained emotionless. With the aid of these two powers, his strength continued to rise and attain new heights.

This was still not the end.

Boom!

The two resonant powers in his body began to fuse and a mysterious trace of light began to surface. The fused resonant power began to flicker with spirituality, and it seemed to have come to life.

"Dual resonance power, Vestiges of Spirituality!"

Majestic amounts of resonant power exploded from Li Luo's body like an unstoppable tempest. A mysterious trace of light danced within it, and a domineering pressure diffused in every direction. The pressure coming from Zhong Ling's resonant power fluctuations diminished as a result.

This caused everyone's expressions to change.

They could not believe that this youth wearing rags could burst forth with so much strength, enough to not lose out to a Gold Fiend!

How could this be?!

"His resonant power..." Li Fengyi, Li Jingtao, and Deng Fengxian were all experts, so they could sense that Li Luo's resonant power had become much more lively and majestic.

It was completely different from what they had seen previously.

On the other hand, the Hall Masters who had now discovered the traces of spirituality within his resonant power had shocked gazes and their eyes shrank. This was something they were extremely familiar with.

This was the Vestiges of Spirituality!

Only those who cultivated dual resonance power to a certain realm could achieve this.

Although this was commonly seen amongst Dukes, it had now appeared in the hands of a Fiend Palace Tier youth! This was incomparably rare.

At the same time, Zhong Ling's expression also changed as he could sense a dangerous aura coming from Li Luo.

"The name of this show is called..." On the other hand, Li Luo continued to speak in a low voice.

He took slow steps forward, dragging his blade, which was lightly touching the floor and leaving a trail of sparks.

As lightning continued to flicker within his gaze, a terrifying look was shot towards Zhong Ling, and he then raised the ancient blade atop his head.

"A single strike fells the fiend!"

With that line, he chopped downwards.

As the blade arced downwards, the void was torn and the sound of gushing water could be heard. The next moment, black water surged out of the crack.

Within the black water was a coiled-up black dragon that gave off a primal, ferocious aura as it dashed outwards.

Raising its claws, it blotted out the sky, and absolute terror was instilled in everyone around.

Chapter 0794: A Single Strike Fells the Fiend

When the enormous black dragon emerged from the torrential, dark waters, the countless spectators in the crowd watched in awe. Some of the Sub Leaders from the other three banners who were on the same level as Zhong Ling could not help but change their expressions at this awe-inducing sight.

Even they could clearly sense the huge threat coming from Li Luo's slash.

They could not believe that a Greater Fiend Palace could have pulled off such a terrifying attack.

This was enough to intimidate even a Fiend Finisher!

The eyes of Zhong Ling, who was the first to face this blow, shook like an earthquake as he stared at the incoming Underworld River's Black Dragon.

Li Luo's Duke Art was old news, but surely a Duke Art couldn't be this powerful, right?!

Was Li Luo really only at the Greater Fiend Palace Tier?!

At this moment, Zhong Ling would completely believe it if someone told him that Li Luo was a Gold Fiend.

However, reality was completely different.

Still, Zhong Ling's face turned from one filled with anxiety and uncertainty to a resolute one as he sensed the opportunity that lay before him. Although Li Luo's blow was terrifying, he only had this last strike!

This was an all-in bet!

Li Luo had placed all his skills and energy into this slash. As long as Zhong Ling could survive this attack, Li Luo would be left helpless and defenseless afterwards.

Without further ado, Zhong Ling gritted his teeth and clenched his fists tightly. His resonant power rose from the crimson gloves like a raging flame. The surrounding air was scorched and twisted by the rising temperature around him.

In this moment, the resonant power from his body erupted without any reservation like a blazing pillar of flame that shot a thousand feet high up into the sky.

Forming hand seals with both hands, he took a deep breath and his mouth swelled up instantly.

Whoosh!

He spat out a ball of viscous, black flames from his mouth that emanated a strong and domineering aura.

The black flames then landed on his flaming gloves, and he clapped them together ferociously.

"High-grade dragon-general resonance art, Great Ifrit Fist!"

When his hands clapped, a handprint of black flames over a thousand feet tall materialized out of thin air with the face of a bloodthirsty devil in the center of it.

The air was so hot that every drop of moisture seemed to have evaporated, leaving it hard for anyone around to breathe normally.

That was not all—golden fiend dipper energy rapidly shrouded the black, fiery handprint, and its power instantly skyrocketed.

With the boost from the fiend dipper energy, the Great Ifrit Fist could easily pulverize and incinerate even a mountain.

Without a doubt, Zhong Ling had given it his all in this attack too. He dared not underestimate the power of Li Luo's all-in slash.

After all, he just needed to survive Li Luo's final hit and the Banner Leader position would be all his!

The Great Ifrit Fist roared fiercely, and the ground directly beneath it was left blackened and acrid. As the crowd watched on without batting an eyelid, it clashed head-on with the Underworld River's Black Dragon.

Bang!

An earth-shattering shockwave of energy exploded like a hurricane.

The audience had summoned up their resonant power to resist being swept away as they stared intensely at the ongoing battle.

As the black dragon roared in resistance, the dark river of freezing water under its claws collided with the fire resonance power from Zhong Ling. It hissed and combusted violently upon contact.

As the battle raged on, the aggressive waves of energy continued spreading in every direction, and some of the weaker spectators were beginning to feel a little suffocated just being in its presence.

However, Zhong Ling's face remained relentless. He channeled every ounce of resonant power in his body into his attack. Based on the quality of resonant power alone, he still had the upper hand regardless of how Li Luo struggled.

But he had noticed that Li Luo's resonant power seemed to have an element of slipperiness during their clash.

Both of their resonant powers continued to nullify each other repeatedly.

However, Li Luo's resonant power carried a mysterious sentience that allowed it to keep eroding his resonant power despite his being the stronger of the two.

"Is this the power of dual resonances?"

Zhong Ling was puzzled by it. Although only Dukes could attain two resonances, it did not mean that having dual resonances would make one's power as strong as that of a Duke.

He had faced off against other dual resonance users in the past, but he had never met anyone who had such a domineering and strange dual resonance power. Roar!

As Zhong Ling was buffeted by frustration, the black dragon suddenly let out a stunning roar. It opened its maw, and a dark dragonbreath gushed out. With a mysterious glitter hidden within the dragonbreath, it looked just like a naturally born ancient treasure from the stars.

As the dragonbreath smashed into the Great Ifrit Fist directly, the fiend dipper energy appeared to show signs of dissipating.

After a few more breaths, the burning, black flames on the Great Ifrit Fist started to dim at an alarming pace.

There were exclamations coming one after another from the audience.

In the next moment, the black dragon rose up into the air and let out yet another deafening roar. The Great Ifrit Fist that Zhong Ling had channeled all his energy into had shattered into pieces.

Witnessing this, Zhong Ling was left dumbfounded.

However, the black dragon that had been badly scarred by the Great Ifrit Fist did not slow down. It flew straight towards him with murderous intent and clashed head-on into his golden body.

Zhong Ling took the hit directly and spat out blood as he flew across the stage, landing pathetically hundreds of feet away.

At this instant, the gold light on his Gold Fiend body started to gradually fade.

The black dragon had also run out of energy, so it shrank into a small glow of light before it finally disappeared.

The breathtaking confrontation on the stage had finally come to an end.

But everyone in the crowd remained silent.

In the silence, they looked at the exhausted Li Luo, who was leaning on his sword for support with his bloody hands. He then slowly dragged himself across the stage. The tip of the blade scratched the ground, creating ominous sparks as he made his way across.

He made his way over to Zhong Ling's side with slow but steady steps.

Before the stunned gazes of the crowd, he placed his sword over his opponent's head.

Zhong Ling was still panting as he stared back at the pale and bloody Li Luo. His hands were also shivering despite being the one holding the threatening blade. Without a doubt, Li Luo had expended every last ounce of his strength as well.

At present, Li Luo had no fighting power left at all.

However, Zhong Ling could barely even move.

"You're still not announcing the results? Surely I don't need to behead him to end this... right?" Li Luo said with an almost eerie smile as he turned towards the elevated platform.

At this moment, the elders on the elevated platform gradually started coming back to their senses.

They could see the different emotions running through the crowd despite the dead silence.

Finally, Li Rouyun stepped forward and made the announcement with her soft voice after taking a glance at the quiet Zhong Yushi.

"The winner of the Green Nether Banner's Banner Leader selection battle is Li Luo. From now onwards, Li Luo will be the Banner Leader of the Green Nether Banner!" she declared. When she finished her announcement, the silent crowd burst into lively chatter again.

They all understood that the selection battle for the Green Nether Banner's Banner Leader position would cause a huge commotion in the Dragon's Fang Lineage.

On the elevated platform, Li Qingpeng and Li Jinpan looked at Li Luo holding his blade, and they were reminded of another figure who had also created many miracles in the Dragon's Fang Lineage years ago.

He was the most brilliant individual that had happened to grace the Dragon's Fang Lineage over the past hundred years.

"Truly the son of our Third Brother... he is just as gifted as him." The two of them glanced at each other and shared looks of relief.

.....

In Dragon's Fang Mountain, deep within the bamboo forest.

The old man who was digging at a bamboo shoot also raised his head at this time and looked over in the direction of Green Nether Peak. A faint smile blossomed on his usually serious and wrinkled face.

"Taixuan, this son of yours... might just outshine you in the future."

Chapter 0795 – Remnant Energy

After Li Rouyun announced the result of the selection battle, the crowd on the vast training ground started to shout raucously.

Their eyes were all filled with surprise.

This was a conclusion that set their hearts pounding.

None of them had expected Li Luo to emerge victorious after they saw Zhong Ling condensing fiend dipper energy.

After all, Li Luo was only at the Greater Fiend Palace Tier!

There were simply so many tiers between him and Zhong Ling.

Was this simply because he was a triple resonance user?!

With such fearsome might, he had to be the strongest Greater Fiend Palace Tier cultivator that they had ever seen.

Over at the Green Nether Banner's fifth division, the members were stunned for a moment too. However, they soon burst into happy cheers knowing that their Sub Leader Li Luo had become the Banner Leader. Although Li Luo would have to step down as the fifth division's Sub Leader after this, there would finally be better days ahead for the fifth division with him as the Banner Leader.

A seductive, rosy glow surfaced on Zhao Yanzhi's charming face due to her excitement. Indeed, Li Luo had shown an amazing display of his fighting power.

With his illustrious background, Li Luo could have easily become the leader among the younger generation in the Dragon's Fang Lineage if he had been raised here. However, he had wasted too much time in the outer divine continent, causing him to get a late start. Thankfully, he had managed to catch up quickly with his impressive natural talent.

With that in mind, Zhao Yanzhi was determined to establish a close relationship with Li Luo.

Such opportunities should not be squandered after all.

She smiled slightly at this moment. Coming from a humble background, she had always treaded carefully. She understood that her dazzling beauty would be an advantage. However, it had its own set of problems too. Owing to her unique past, she knew the hearts of men too well.

But Li Luo was different from them. He was not particularly interested in her appearance and he gave her a good impression. Although, what hadn't changed were the doubts she had about his so-called fiance that was apparently as pretty as a goddess. Did someone like that truly exist?

As such, she was fine with getting close to Li Luo. The more powerful and influential Li Luo became, the better it would be for her.

"Tsk tsk, he's indeed the son of Third Uncle, defeating a Fiend Finisher while he's only at the Greater Fiend Palace Tier. Although his opponent was just a beginner Fiend Finisher who has just started condensing his fiend dipper energy, such a feat is rarely seen," Li Jingtao commented in admiration as he gazed at the tall silhouette on the platform.

Then his face immediately turned bitter again. "It will be tough on me in the future. The next time my father scolds me, he will definitely say things like 'just take a look at your little brother,'" he lamented.

Li Jingtao was a kind soul who did not like to compete with others. Everyone in the younger generation of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li knew that the eldest grandson of the Lineage Chief was no different from a benevolent, old man. Due to this, he had been reprimanded by his father for lacking in drive multiple times.

"Hmph, you deserve it with your lackadaisical personality. If you had put in some effort, the Gold Light Banner would never have managed to rise to the top amongst the four banners of the Dragon's Fang Lineage," Li Fengyi said.

Once upon a time, Li Jingtao actually had the highest chance to lead the four banners. After all, he had the right background. However, he had lost it to the Gold Light Banner due to his docile personality.

That gave Deng Fengxian an opportunity to rise up and become the leading figure amongst the younger generation of the Dragon's Fang Lineage today.

"I was leaving the opportunity for you," Li Jingtao replied with a laugh.

"How dare you ask a girl like me to take the frontline and lead!" Li Fengyi curled her lips.

"Don't worry, we have Little Brother now. He's not bad, so I have my hopes placed on him! In the future, he will definitely become the figurehead of the Dragon's Fang Lineage just like Third Uncle," Li Jingtao replied with an apologetic smile.

Hearing this, Li Fengyi shook her head helplessly without any more words.

Over at the Gold Light Banner area.

A few Sub Leaders of the Gold Light Banner asked in disbelief, "Zhong Ling actually lost. Isn't Li Luo just insane? What kind of Greater Fiend Palace cultivator possesses such power?"

Deng Fengxian stared at Li Luo's silhouette on the platform as he slowly explained, "It was a really surprising end to this battle, but that last blow by Li Luo was an all-in bet. He summoned up all his strength in that attack and could barely stand straight after it. Of course, it's unbelievable for someone at the Greater Fiend Palace Tier to muster up so much power. This must have been an edge provided to him by his three resonances. They must have enabled him to cultivate an amount of resonant power comparable to a Silver Fiend after tempering all three of his resonant palaces. Besides that, his body was screaming in pain when he slashed down with his blade earlier. He used some kind of secret art to strengthen his body in order to withstand it."

"Most importantly, the power of his dual resonances is different from the other dual resonances that I have seen so far. His dual resonance power was much more concentrated and powerful. It seemed like there were even some mysterious traces of light in it. If I am not wrong, Li Luo may have attained the third realm when it comes to wielding dual resonances."

When he finished his analysis, the members of the Gold Light Banner asked in surprise, "The third realm?!" They had heard of it as a power that truly only belonged to those at the Duke Stage. This was an unique edge that dual resonance users had. However, it was said that it was really challenging to increase one's realms when it came to dual resonance power. It turned out that Li Luo had already managed to achieve it at the Greater Fiend Palace Tier.

Was his natural talent really that amazing?

If he was already so overpowered when he was merely at the Greater Fiend Palace Tier, then wouldn't he be a threat even to Deng Fengxian when he finally entered the Fiend Body Tier in the future?

Seeing the change in their expressions, Deng Fengxian calmly smiled and elaborated, "It's true that we cannot underestimate Li Luo, but there is no need to be so scared. That feeble condensation of fiend dipper energy by Zhong Ling does not truly reflect the might of those at the Fiend Finisher Tier.

Moreover, Li Luo took a huge gamble in this battle. Zhong Ling's foundation is not strong, which is why he can't even reach the Glass Fiend Tier. If Li Luo had faced a Glass Fiend opponent, he would definitely not have been the last man standing."

Hearing his words, the banner members heaved a sigh of relief. It would be too scary if Li Luo could stand up to a true Fiend Finisher while he was only at the Greater Fiend Palace Tier. However, they now understood even with all his might, Li Luo had only won against a Gold Fiend rather than a Fiend Finisher.

As for Deng Fengxian, he was a bona fide Fiend Finisher who had even made a stop at the Glass Fiend Tier.

His foundation was solid and far exceeded that of an ordinary Fiend Finisher.

From his explanation earlier, they understood that he was still miles ahead of Li Luo. Notwithstanding the exceptional talent of Li Luo, the Gold Light Banner would still remain as the top amongst the four banners of the Dragon's Fang Lineage.

And Deng Fengxian would still be the leader of the younger generation in the Dragon's Fang Lineage.

"Let's go. There's nothing else to see today," Deng Fengxian said. With a wave of his hand, he turned around and left.

The members of the Gold Light Banner followed closely behind. After his spectacular win in this fight, they all knew that Li Luo, the son of Li Taixuan that had returned from the outer divine continent, would surely rise in fame among the younger generation in Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li.

The stunning conclusion of this battle would create waves of ripples through the otherwise peaceful days for the Twenty Banners.

Chapter 0796: Advice From Li Jingzhe

At the bamboo forest in the back of Dragon's Fang Mountain.

Li Luo had come over to share the good news after his victory at the Green Nether Banner's Banner Leader selection battle. Upon arrival, he saw that Li Jingzhe had been waiting for him with a meal of light bamboo shoots prepared.

Evidently, he already knew the result of the selection battle.

Seeing this, Li Luo accepted his hospitality and enjoyed a nice meal with the old man. After all, there were probably not many people in the Dragon's Fang Lineage who would get a chance to try the bamboo shoots personally prepared by him.

After drinking two cups of bamboo wine, Li Luo smiled and asked, "Grandpa, my performance so far is pretty good, right? It only took me two months to become the Banner Leader."

Hearing this, Li Jingzhe took another bite of bamboo shoot, slowly chewing on it as he replied, "Not too bad, you did not disgrace your father."

A faint grin appeared on his wrinkled, serious, old face and a look of satisfaction arose in his eyes.

"What about the things you promised me before, Grandpa?" Li Luo asked eagerly.

"About the Nine Marks Sacred Heart Lotus?" Li Jingzhe clarified.

Li Luo nodded earnestly as he awaited his answer.

At this moment, Li Jingzhe placed his chopsticks down before answering, "I sent a letter over to the Dragon's Blood Lineage a few days ago. I wanted to withdraw the item from the treasury vault, but unfortunately, there have been some hiccups."

"Someone else has taken it?!" Li Luo inquired nervously as soon as he heard about the update.

"That is not the case, don't worry. Like what I told you previously, it is a precious treasure that our Ancestor brought back from the World Border. All of the lineages have been eyeing it, especially the Hall Masters of the Dragon's Blood Lineage. As soon as they heard about my request, there was a lot of opposition from the Dragon's Blood Lineage, and they used that as an excuse to turn me down this time," Li Jingzhe explained.

Pondering over it for a moment, he continued, "Don't worry about it, I have reminded their Hall Masters as well. If they dare to snatch it from me with some crappy reason, I will definitely not let it go. Let's just wait until the Lineage Chief's birthday party next month when I personally pay him a visit at the Dragon's Blood Lineage. They are probably just using it as an excuse to get something good out of it. In that case, we can just give them something in exchange for it. It's not a big deal, don't worry. Since I have promised to get it for you, I'll definitely do so."

Li Luo was a little touched by his words. Looking at the old man's calm and peaceful face, he knew very well in his heart that in the vast and complex dealings among the different lineages, the "something good" that they would gain would be far beyond his imagination.

Although they were all members of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li, there was intense competition with smoking gunpowder ready to blow at any time.

However, Li Luo could only keep this good faith etched in his heart for now. After all, he really needed the Nine Marks Sacred Heart Lotus to help Jiang Qing'e recover her foundation. This would be critical for her future in reaching the Duke Stage. He had to obtain the treasure and deliver it to Jiang Qing'e within a year's time.

"Thank you, Grandpa," Li Luo said softly as he poured a cup of wine for Li Jingzhe.

Li Jingzhe accepted it with a smile and then downed it. He knew his grandson really wanted this item, although he did not know exactly why he was so concerned. As a Fiend Palace Tier cultivator, that treasure was too much for him to handle. Even if it were given to him to use, his physical body might not be able to handle it at all.

However, he did not probe any further. If his grandson had traveled all the way from the outer divine continent for it, he would get it for him as his grandfather.

"I can't get you the Nine Marks Sacred Heart Lotus right now, but do you have any other wishes?" Li Jingzhe asked with a laugh.

Li Luo shook his head with a grin at first. However, he suddenly recalled the request from Li Rouyun earlier and asked, "Grandpa, I heard that the Green Nether Hall is choosing a new Hall Master. Can I nominate Uncle Biao for it?"

"Ox Biaobiao?" Li Jingzhe asked.

Li Luo nodded and told him frankly, "When I enter the Green Nether Hall in the future, there may be some tension between Zhong Yushi and I. If I arrange for friendly aid to enter in advance, this will help to make things easier for me in the future." He was really honest with his intentions and had not thought of hiding it.

Hearing his direct and blunt words, Li Jingzhe did not know if he should laugh or cry. Was it really appropriate to talk about a power struggle in front of him, the Lineage Chief of the Dragon's Fang Lineage?

"It's good that you are planning ahead," he responded in the end. Even after all these years, he had not removed Li Taixuan as the Hall Master of Green Nether Hall because he still believed that the Green Nether Hall belonged to him. Although Li Taixuan had not returned, his son, Li Luo, had come back. In the future, the Green Nether Hall would definitely be handed over to Li Luo.

As such, he did not object to Li Luo's suggestion about placing his own man into the Green Nether Hall.

"Ox Biaobiao does not have a title in the Dragon's Fang Lineage, so this may not really be in line with the rules. However, there have been similar precedents like this, so I can still let him participate in the selection for the Hall Master position. Nevertheless, his Duke Bergfries have been destroyed and he has yet to fully recover his strength. He requires external aid just to maintain his power as a fourth-grade Duke, but the participants in the Hall Master selection battle will all be fifth-grade Dukes minimally. He can join, but he may not be able to defeat his opponents," Li Jingzhe explained.

"So, my suggestion is for him to wait patiently for now. I will try and push back the selection battle to buy us some time while we find a way to restore his Duke Bergfries. Once he has restored his strength, things will be easier," Li Jingzhe continued.

Hearing this, Li Luo nodded in agreement.

"Let's do as you say, Grandpa," Li Luo replied. Li Jingzhe nodded in response too.

At this moment, Li Jingzhe also reminded Li Luo, "Now that you are the Banner Leader of the Green Nether Banner, you need to familiarize yourself with achieving Harmony with the entire banner. This is the most important thing right now. There will be tasks assigned to your banner in the future, and some are bound to be extremely dangerous. You will surely need everyone's combined effort to clear them."

Li Luo nodded seriously. As the Banner Leader, he would be able to use Harmony with all eight thousand banner members in the Green Nether Banner. This power would be far stronger than what he had experienced with just the fifth division alone. Perhaps... this force could even rival someone at the Duke Stage!

However, such a mighty force would definitely be challenging to control properly.

He would need to spend a lot of time and practice before he could pull it off.

"Grandpa, I would like to increase the efficiency in which I refine abstruse fiend lights. Do you know any other ways?" Li Luo asked.

"With the Nine Revolutions Draconic Breath Fiend Arts, two monthly stipends, and the rewards from the Fiendish Devil Cave, you are still lacking?" Li Jingzhe replied jokingly.

Li Luo shook his head in response. With the things he mentioned, Li Luo could basically condense about three thousand strands of abstruse fiend light every month. This was already a very fast pace of progress. However, Li Luo's goal was to fully fill all three of his palaces.

Based on his current estimation, his three palaces could contain not less than thirty thousand strands of abstruse fiend lights at the moment.

This was an incredulous amount.

If it were anyone else, even someone with a ninth-grade resonance, their resonant palace would require only twenty thousand strands of abstruse fiend lights or so to fill.

However, he had three resonant palaces, so his needs far exceeded what an ordinary ninth-grade resonant cultivator would require.

With thirty thousand strands of abstruse fiend lights as his foundation, he could very likely skip the Silver Fiend Tier and head straight into the Gold Fiend Tier when he finally strived for the Fiend Body Tier! However, wouldn't it take close to a year to fill it up based on his current rate of progress?

Honestly speaking, taking a year to move from the Greater Fiend Palace Tier to the Fiend Body Tier was not considered fast at all.

Furthermore, time was the most precious factor for Li Luo. He could not afford to waste any more.

With these thoughts in mind, he had come to seek advice from Li Jingzhe.

"That is a pleasant trouble to have," Li Jingzhe commented. He was wise enough to know at a glance that Li Luo was planning to fill up all three resonant palaces before heading into the Fiend Body Tier.

He proceeded to give his advice.

"Ordinarily speaking, you have already reached the fastest pace in refining your strands of abstruse fiend light. Adding more high-grade Fiend Origin Pills would not make much of a difference. If you really want to boost the rate at which you acquire abstruse fiend lights, you will require the assistance of rare opportunities or encounters."

Hearing this, Li Luo was slightly disappointed. These so-called opportunities were magical items or places in the world that further bolster his growth. However, if they were so easy to find, they wouldn't be rare!

With a leisurely tone, Li Jingzhe continued, "There are indeed some special locations in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent, such as the Ten Thousand Starlight in the Starfall Palace. It was formed by the combining resonant power from the stars and worldly natural energy. It is said that a strand of Ten Thousand Starlight can be refined into three thousand strands of abstruse fiend light.

"In addition, there is also the Nine Mountains Spiritual Earth from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing. It gathers the worldly natural energy from the nine surrounding mountains and condenses it into

Spiritual Earth Energy that can also greatly boost one's refinement of abstruse fiend lights," he further elaborated.

"However, these special opportunities are all governed by the respective major forces, and outsiders are unlikely to get access to them."

Hearing this, Li Luo shook his head in disappointment. However, he had a quick thought and asked, "What about us in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li? Do we have such special opportunities too?"

"Oh? You caught what I was hinting at?" Li Jingzhe laughed in response.

He continued, "For us, the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li, we have a pool named... the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool. There is a special dragonbreath known as the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath in a lake that can be used to condense the strands of abstruse fiend light which you so desire. Through this method, one portion of dragonbreath can condense..."

At this moment, he stretched out his palm and waved five fingers in front of Li Luo.

"Five thousand strands of abstruse fiend lights."

Clank! Clank!

Li Luo dropped his chopsticks onto the floor upon hearing this.

Chapter 0797: Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool

"Five thousand strands of abstruse fiend light?!" Li Luo was completely taken aback by Li Jingzhe's words. What sort of magical object was this, being able to produce five thousand strands of abstruse fiend light upon refinement?!

It was enough for an average person at the Lesser Fiend Palace Tier to vault to the Greater Fiend Palace Tier in a single go.

After the surprise wore off, excitement surged through Li Luo's heart. He knew that someone at Li Jingzhe's position would not be joking. Therefore, wasn't the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath his best shot?

If he was able to obtain a few portions of it, then the target of thirty thousand strands of abstruse fiend light could be attained extremely quickly.

"Grandpa! Why did you not tell me such an important thing until now?" Li Luo's endless joy was then followed by a grumbling complaint.

"Well, that's because the Dragonbreath Pool is only opened once every ten years. It's not time, so there wasn't much point in telling you before." Li Jingzhe smiled.

Li Luo's grin was crushed flat. Opened once every ten years?

"Wait, how far off are we from the next opening?" Li Luo cautiously asked.

"Hmm... around three years," Li Jingzhe nonchalantly replied as he picked up a bamboo shoot with his chopsticks, continuing to eat.

Li Luo felt like a bucket of cold water had been doused over him. Three more years? Well, if he didn't reach the next tier in three years' time, he might not have a need for anything else...

With a long expression, he shook his head and bitterly said, "It looks like fate simply does not want me to use the Dragonbreath Pool."

He had originally thought that a solution had been found, but alas, his dreams had been extinguished by reality.

As he fell into a bout of depression, he noticed that Li Jingzhe was still grinning mischievously in the corner of his eye. With renewed interest, he asked hopefully, "Could there possibly be a way to bring the timing forward?"

Li Jingzhe swallowed the bamboo shoot he had been chewing before he slowly explained, "The Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool does only open once every decade. However, if the five Lineage Chiefs agree, we can move the opening ahead by three years."

Li Luo was exuberant once again. Wasn't this too coincidental? Was there a chance?

"However, this decision was deliberated two years ago, and after discussion, four of the Lineage Chiefs had chosen to open it after seven years, whereas there was one who opted for ten years. As the vote was not unanimous, the previous rule remained and the opening was not brought forward." Li Jingzhe's next sentence once again caused Li Luo's heart to lurch. This was truly an unrestrained up and down.

Fury suddenly arose in Li Luo's heart, and he smacked the table. "Was it that damn Dragon's Blood Lineage Chief again? Have we not given them enough face already?"

Li Jingzhe then glanced at Li Luo. "The one that rejected the decision is sitting right in front of you."

Li Luo felt a little taken aback before he smiled and hurriedly poured his grandfather yet another cup of wine as he asked in bewilderment, "Grandpa, why did you reject bringing the opening forward?"

"Why would I want to do so?" Li Jingzhe rebutted.

"Do you think that whenever the Dragonbreath Pool opens up, just anyone from the younger generation is able to receive its benefits? Although the competition for the slots has to do with the competition amongst the banners, there are only six Coiling Dragon Pillars. Thus, only six Banner Leaders can enjoy the benefits of the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath. The Dragon's Fang Lineage's younger generation has not been exceptional in the last few years, so if we opened the Dragonbreath Pool, the Dragon's Blood Lineage would be the one reaping the most benefits. Since they're in the lead, they would naturally be excited to move the opening of the pool forward. At the end of the day, they would be the ones getting fat, so why would I not want to delay things? What if some amazing junior appeared in the Dragon's Fang Lineage during those three years? Then I might have just managed to save him a slot."

Li Luo understood why Li Jingzhe had made that decision. The Dragon's Fang Lineage simply could not obtain any benefits from doing so.

It was a reasonable choice. Ever since his father had left, the Dragon's Fang Lineage had not produced any exceptional juniors. At the very least, they were weaker in every way when compared to the geniuses of the Dragon's Blood Lineage. Even their most outstanding junior, Deng Fengxian, had been

suppressed by the Dragon's Blood Lineage. With that in mind, there was naturally no need to accelerate the opening process.

Li Luo sighed helplessly. Now he would also miss the opportunity.

Forget it, he would have to find some other solution.

"Do you want this opportunity?" Li Jingzhe asked.

"Of course! This is a rare opportunity that only comes every ten years in a Heavenly Emperor bloodline! This bumpkin from the outer divine continent has not yet managed to taste such a delicacy!" Li Luo naturally agreed.

When he heard Li Luo mention the outer divine continent, Li Jingzhe fell into a moment of silence. He had felt a sense of guilt ever since Li Taixuan left the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. His grandson had then been born there and never received any of the protection or benefits of the Dragon's Fang Lineage.

He then looked at Li Luo's face, which greatly resembled that of his father. His usually stern expression had unknowingly turned gentle.

"If you really want it, it's not like there's no chance." Li Jingzhe sighed.

"Basically, I was the only one who rejected the idea. If you want to give it a try, I will send a message to the old man in the Dragon's Blood Lineage, and we will directly open up the pool during next month's meeting. This can be counted as a stroke of luck for him, and he will definitely be very pleased."

"Isn't that great?" Li Luo paused for a moment. Li Jingzhe was ultimately the Dragon's Fang Lineage's Lineage Chief, and if he had to renege on a decision he previously made, would that not affect his prestige?

"It's a minor matter. However, those old foxes aren't dumb. If I tell them that I want to bring the opening of the pool forward, they will know why I'm doing it." Li Jingzhe placed down his chopsticks as he smiled at Li Luo.

"They will definitely know that I am doing it for you. Thus, my reputation will be on the line depending on your results. If you perform splendidly at the Dragonbreath Pool and snatch a Coiling Dragon Pillar for yourself, obtaining a portion of the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath, others will say that I have exceptional courage for taking such a bold risk. On the other hand, if you return empty-handed, people will laugh at me and say that my eyesight has gone bad. Thus, are you willing to bravely snatch away a portion of Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath for your old grandpa?" Li Jingzhe asked.

Li Luo was a little taken aback and fell into deep thought before attentively replying, "It will definitely be difficult, but I am willing to give it a shot."

Now that Li Jingzhe had said so much, retreating at this juncture would show a lack of bravery. The fact that the Lineage Chief was willing to stake his reputation on him was something he felt extremely moved by.

Although the difficulty of the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool would surpass the battle against Zhong Ling, the aid of his banner members would give him a chance.

Furthermore, there were six pillars.

"How many portions of Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath can one usually obtain?" Li Luo asked.

"Usually, just one portion. Those who are fortunate might chance upon two," Li Jingzhe answered.

"That's a bit too little," Li Luo complained with dissatisfaction. One portion was just five thousand strands of abstruse fiend light. It was significant, but he needed thirty thousand! That wasn't enough.

"You really are greedy. Do you think it's easy to refine a portion of Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath?" Li Jingzhe harrumphed.

If it were that simple, they would not open the pool so rarely.

Li Luo smiled and replied, "Grandpa, if you're willing to give me the chance, I will struggle with all my might."

This was met with a slight nod. "Alright. You can go back now and await my news. When the time comes, I'll let you know."

Li Luo then swept all of the vegetables on his plate into his mouth with a cheery grin before patting his stomach in satisfaction as he got up and left.

The moment he left the courtyard, he paused and turned around to look at the old man who was now tidying the table. Then he said words that came from deep within his heart.

"Grandpa, thank you. Truly."

Although Li Jingzhe had said that the burden of upholding his reputation was placed upon him, Li Luo knew that if it was not for him, he would never have chosen to go back on his decision.

With that, he no longer hesitated and left.

After his silhouette vanished in the distance, Li Jingzhe raised his head and glanced in that direction.

A trace of a smile surfaced on his wizened visage.

Chapter 0798 – New Leader Takes Office

On the second day, Li Luo arrived at the Green Nether drill grounds as usual. However, the atmosphere in the air was clearly different.

Apart from the usual trio of Zhao Yanzhi, Mu Bi, and Li Shi, the Sub Leaders of the second, third, and fourth divisions had come forward to welcome him with their respective banner members as well.

"Congratulations, Banner Leader!" The loud exclamation of the crowd echoed across the drill grounds.

Li Luo was shocked by the sudden greeting. With a smile, he replied, "Thank you for the well wishes, guys. It's my pleasure to serve you all as the Banner Leader of the Green Nether Banner."

As he looked at their gazes filled with curiosity and admiration, he cleared his throat and continued, "As you all know, my father, Li Taixuan, brought the Green Nether Banner to its greatest heights in the past, and we were recognised by all as the leader among the Twenty Banners of the Heavenly Dragon's Five

Lineages. Those were the glory days of the Green Nether Banner. However, due to various reasons, we have fallen behind and lost much of our radiance in the past few years. Some of the other banners even laughed at us."

Hearing this, the crowd started whispering among themselves. They were frustrated at these words but were nonetheless helplessly resigned to this truth.

"Nevertheless, I know that the Green Nether Banner is not any weaker than the other nineteen banners. Our decline in the past was due to a lack of a capable leader. Although this sounds like bragging, I have to say it, the capable leader that you all have been waiting for is finally here." Li Luo ended with a great smile.

Laughter followed after his remarks. Although it was a blunt way to boast about himself, it had made the banner members feel closer to him.

As Li Luo glanced at the crowd before him, he continued with a wide smile, "I was indeed ambitious when I came to Green Nether Banner. My father once brought the Green Nether Banner to exceptional heights, and I would like to give it a try as well. After all, if my father can do it, surely his son can do it too. If you all still have the passion within your hearts, will you all like to join me and ascend to the top?"

There was a silence in the crowd for a short moment. Finally, someone shouted out, "As you wish, Banner Leader! Please bring us to new heights!"

All of a sudden, the crowd broke out in lively cheers and chatter. Although it was mainly out of respect for their new Banner Leader, it was evident that the fire in the eyes of numerous banner members had been lit too.

They knew that Li Luo was not simply boasting. They had seen his spectacular performance in the past two months as well as how he, a Greater Fiend Palace cultivator, had defeated Zhong Ling, who was approaching the Fiend Finisher Tier. His battle yesterday was like a miracle to them.

Perhaps they really could rise back up under his leadership.

Looking at the hyped-up crowd, Zhao Yanzhi watched him with her beautiful eyes filled with admiration. Li Luo was a truly charismatic leader compared to Zhong Ling. Zhong Ling had never managed to unite the crowd like this.

Of course, she understood that part of the reason Li Luo could pull it off was due to his illustrious background and his magnificent victory yesterday.

At this moment, Li Luo changed to a serious tone and said, "Alright, guys, now that I am the Banner Leader of the Green Nether Banner, our topmost priority is to reestablish the vanguard team of our banner. This will allow us to push forward in the Fiendish Devil Cave and catch up with the other banners. As such, I propose that we use the fifth division as the base and select the elite members from the other divisions to make up our vanguard team. I hope that you all can give me your support in this. Of course, the vanguard team will be rewarded accordingly."

As he ended his sentence, the banner members started to whisper among themselves again. Based on strength alone, the first division was still the strongest in the Green Nether Banner. However, Li Luo had chosen to use the fifth division as the base team. This must have been because of Zhong Ling.

"Don't worry, Banner Leader. The vanguard team affects the Green Nether Banner's progress as a whole, so we will definitely support you." The Sub Leaders of the second, third, and fourth divisions responded to match his efforts.

Hearing this, Li Luo placed his hands together and thanked the three of them earnestly. He had a short discussion with them afterwards before he dismissed them all.

"Congratulations, Sub Leader." Zhao Yanzhi and the gang congratulated Li Luo again after the others had left.

They were beaming with happiness that could hardly be contained. Even Mu Bi, who was usually calm, was grinning from ear to ear. Although Li Luo had been in the Dragon's Fang Lineage for two months already, they were ultimately the first ones to follow him.

Now that Li Luo has been promoted, there should be better days ahead for them in the Green Nether Banner.

"Now that I am the Banner Leader, the Sub Leader position for the fifth division will become vacant. Who do you think is the most suitable for it?" Li Luo asked the trio with a smile.

The three of them looked at each other before Zhao Yanzhi bit her lips coquettishly and replied, "Let Li Shi be the new Sub Leader. He just broke through yesterday and reached the Gold Fiend Body Tier, so we are no match for him anymore."

"Oh?" Li Luo looked at Li Shi in surprise. This genius of the Li clan was truly gifted. He had stepped into the Gold Fiend Body Tier rather quickly.

"This is all thanks to your great leadership during the Fiendish Devil Cave expedition, Sub Leader. If not for those rewards, I would have taken a considerably longer time to achieve this breakthrough," Li Shi replied with gratitude.

"Nice one. In that case, you will be the Sub Leader for the fifth division and lead them from now on," Li Luo replied with a smile.

"Thank you, Boss!" Li Shi replied.

At this moment, Li Luo turned to Zhao Yanzhi and continued, "Yanzhi, now that I am the Banner Leader, there will be a lot of work that I will have to manage. I hope that you can be my assistant. At the same time, can you help me with the formation of the vanguard team too?"

Indeed, the formation of the vanguard team was a complex matter. It involved the selection and changing of positions amongst the fifth division's members, as well as the members of the other four divisions. Given that Li Luo had been here for only two months, he could hardly recognize everyone yet, so it was best to leave this matter to someone he trusted.

As someone who was thoughtful and well connected in the Green Nether Banner, Zhao Yanzhi would be of great help in this matter. With her assistance, Li Luo would be able to spend more of his time and effort in cultivating Harmony.

On the other hand, Zhao Yanzhi was ecstatic at his request. This meant that her status had increased. In a certain sense, she had even higher status than the other Sub Leaders as the personal assistant of the Banner Leader.

At the very least, she would be closer to Li Luo now.

Li Luo turned over and said to Mu Bi, "Mu Bi, please help out with the vanguard team matters as well."

"Sure. No worries, Big Boss." Mu Bi nodded.

As she took a glance around the surrounding area, Zhao Yanzhi whispered back, "Zhong Ling did not come today. He said that he is still recuperating from the fight yesterday, and there has not been much movement from the first division as well. I feel like they may be uncooperative in this."

Li Luo was indifferent towards this remark. He replied, "As the leader of the first division for so long, Zhong Ling has a lot of influence on them."

"If he refuses to cooperate, it will hinder our formation of a vanguard team. After all, there are quite a few elites in the first division with remarkable strength," Zhao Yanzhi commented after some hesitation.

At this moment, Li Shi cut into the conversation and said, "I heard that Zhong Ling planned to use his recuperation as an excuse to stay shut in. And as long as he's inside, the first division will all be staying in and taking a rest too. If you want him to come out... you'll have to personally go and get him, Big Boss."

With an ice-cold gaze, Zhao Yanzhi chimed in, "This must be Zhong Ling's ploy. He wants to use the first division as his bargaining chip and threaten you to submit to him. If you don't do it, there will be an internal struggle within the Green Nether Banner. As the newly appointed Banner Leader, this will surely hurt your reputation if word gets out."

"But if the Big Boss gives in now, I am afraid they will ask for even more in the future!" Mu Bi continued with a muffled voice.

Hearing this, Zhao Yanzhi looked at Li Luo for further instructions, frowning at this troublesome matter. Knowing that he had lost the position of Banner Leader, Zhong Ling was going to play little tricks to save his face.

Ultimately, it was up to Li Luo to decide whether he would remain tough on his approach or give in to Zhong Ling's request.

Li Luo's expression had remained calm all this time. Without a doubt, he had expected that Zhong Ling would try something like this. Keeping his composure, he replied to them, "I do not believe that the thousands of members in the first division are truly of one heart with Zhong Ling. He wants to threaten me with the first division banner members, right?"

"Okay, pass my order down. From now on, the first division will not be allowed to participate in the Fiendish Devil Cave expedition as long as Zhong Ling does not show up. Furthermore, the members of the first division will receive one less stipend for each day that Zhong Ling does not appear. Remember, this is just for the ordinary members. Zhong Ling's share will stay the same. After three days, if Zhong Ling still refuses to show up, remove him as the Sub Leader of the first division. We will select a new Sub Leader from the first division," Li Luo ordered.

The trio were stunned when they heard his words. His response to Zhong Ling's coercion was firmer and stronger than they had imagined.

Li Luo looked at the three of them and smiled lightly. However, the smile elicited a sense of tension within the trio.

"If he wants to use the hearts of the first division's members against me, then let me see if he's really such a charismatic and irreplaceable leader to them."

Chapter 0799 – Li Luo's Retaliation

When the first order from their Li Luo reached their ears, the members of the first division were infuriated as expected.

Although they had not joined the rest of the banner in welcoming their new Banner Leader, was it necessary to give them such a stern warning in response?

"This is too much!"

"Didn't he just injure our boss yesterday? What's wrong with us not going to welcome him today?"

"With our boss out due to injury, there is no leader in the first division. Naturally, we don't know what to do!"

"Exactly! He still dares to stop us from participating in the Fiendish Devil Cave?"

"Does he really think he can just do whatever he wants in the Green Nether Banner?!"

"Don't worry, he is just trying to scare us."

"Let's go! We shall report this to Boss Zhong Ling!"

Multiple enraged complaints could be heard from the first division members at the Green Nether drill grounds. Moreover, the confidants of Zhong Ling were stirring up their emotions. Soon enough, they gathered a group of banner members and headed over to Zhong Ling's place to report this matter.

However, an even bigger group of first division members stayed behind. Shortly after the previous group had left the drill grounds, their complaints started to die down and looks of worry surfaced on their faces.

Evidently, the new Banner Leader was coming after Zhong Ling. The battle between these two had really started to heat up.

If it were anyone else that had come after Zhong Ling, the first division would be confident in their own Sub Leader. After all, Zhong Ling was not weak by any means, and he had a strong backing with Zhong Yushi, the Green Nether Hall's Second Hall Master, being his uncle.

With such a background, no one in the Green Nether Banner had dared to trifle with him thus far.

But... Li Luo had an even more fearsome background.

Originally, Zhong Ling had an edge over Li Luo as he was more powerful, being a Gold Fiend. However, this was no longer the case after yesterday's battle. Li Luo had won despite being in a lower tier, and he was evidently an up and coming unstoppable force.

In addition, Li Taixuan, Li Luo's father, was still the Hall Master of the Green Nether Hall despite being away for decades.

The respectable Lineage Chief... was clearly supportive of Li Luo no matter how one looked at it too.

Therefore, in the eyes of the ordinary banner members, Li Luo had a formidable backing in terms of his background and his strength. If Zhong Ling were to go up against him, there was no way to guarantee he would be able to get anything good out of it.

Furthermore, it was clear from Li Luo's tough attitude in this particular situation that he was not afraid of Zhong Ling's little tricks.

If what Li Luo had said was just an empty threat, everything would be fine. But if it was real...

Ordinary folk like them would have to suffer as a result of the conflict between two great forces.

As the ordinary members of the first division worried over it, Zhong Ling's confidants arrived at his residence.

Zhong Ling welcomed them to his living room.

Although his face was still pale, his injuries from yesterday's battle had recovered. As he listened to the grievances from the crowd, his face was largely unchanged, but his eyes were filled with fury.

"Hmph!"

He slammed the teacup in his hand onto the table as he coldly said, "What an arrogant Banner Leader!"

Him being absent due to his injuries was half truth and half lies. He had wanted to use his reputation in the first division to make things difficult for Li Luo, thinking that Li Luo would give in to him and he would be able to save face. Who would have thought that Li Luo would instantly flaunt such a tough response?

Clearly, Li Luo wanted to confront him directly and refused to give in.

"The first division is the strongest division in the Green Nether Banner. Without us, the Green Nether Banner will turn into the weakest banner. I don't believe he is willing to forsake our division. Pass my words down: Li Luo is just trying to scare us. As long as we stay united in the first division, Li Luo will give in after a few days and invite me back out respectfully!" Zhong Ling told them.

When the crowd heard his words, their spirits were lifted and they stuck together in one mind.

The atmosphere surrounding the Green Nether drill grounds remained tense the next day. None of the first division members had turned up for Harmony training, and their reason was the lack of a leader as Zhong Ling had yet to recover from the fight.

However, this situation did not persist for long before another piece of news reached the first division.

The internal vault of the Green Nether Banner had started to decrease the cultivation resources allocated to the first division.

The ordinary members of the first division started to panic when they heard about this. Li Luo was faster and more ruthless than they had expected. As the Banner Leader, he did have the authority to control the resource allocation in the banner.

Could he really be thinking of abandoning the first division?

Before they had gotten over their fright, the second day brought even more news. Apparently, their Banner Leader had asked the Third Hall Master, Li Rouyun, to help him inspect the talents in the Dragon's Fang Lineage and prepare a new batch of young elites as backup.

But what were these backups for?

The news sent a chill up their spines. Could the Banner Leader be thinking of replacing the whole first division? That was too ruthless and decisive!

With the bad news piling up, most of the ordinary members of the first division were panic-stricken. They had come to the Green Nether Banner to cultivate so that they could get a better life in the future. It would be utterly disastrous if they were to be kicked out of the banner by Li Luo now.

At this moment, some of them started to regret joining Zhong Ling in his conflict with Li Luo.

After all, Zhong Ling was not in the same predicament. He had a strong backing from Zhong Yushi, so he would not be hung up over cultivation resources like them. Moreover, he had not gotten any less resources at all, unlike the regular grunts at the first division.

This did not sit well with some of the first division's personnel. They had paid a heavy price and risked their futures in order to support Zhong Ling in his protest, while Zhong Ling himself had not sacrificed anything in this at all.

After two days, there was dissatisfaction and complaints forming in private among the ordinary folks of the first division. Gradually, there were fewer and fewer people following Zhong Ling's allies.

On the third day, Li Luo gave a new order. The selection for the new Sub Leader of the first division would begin.

This caused a huge commotion within the first division. They were terrified by this news. Day after day, Li Luo had been getting more aggressive as if he did not care about the loss of their division at all. It was like he wanted to restructure the whole division.

At this rate, was Zhong Ling going to be fired as well?

Everyone knew that he was... used to be the strongest fellow in the whole Green Nether Banner!

It would be a huge loss for the Green Nether Banner to lose him, right? Did the Banner Leader not care about the future at all?

However, these reckless moves by Li Luo had indeed sparked some new ideas amongst the elite members of the first division.

If Zhong Ling was indeed fired, then they... would stand a chance, right?

Although Zhong Ling had a reputation in the first division, it was insufficient to make everyone give up everything for him. What's more, Li Luo had slowly diminished his reputation with his aggressive moves over the last three days.

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At the center training field in the Green Nether drill grounds.

The four divisions of the Green Nether Banner had gathered. Thousands of people filled the field, and it was a majestic sight to behold.

Li Luo stood on the highest point without much expression. After two days of hard work, he had finally mastered the Draconic Atavism Scripture of the Banner Leader. It was about time to try attaining Harmony with the whole Green Nether Banner now.

This would be a power that could rival someone at the Duke Stage.

Of course, the absence of the first division would greatly affect the power of Harmony. However, it was still worth a try to see how things went.

Most importantly, he had planned to resolve all the internal issues of the Green Nether Banner today.

Zhong Ling was a hidden threat that he had to get rid of no matter what. If he didn't, he might be endangered during the state of Harmony if Zhong Ling pulled any tricks during the competition in the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool.

As he pondered over this, his gaze grew colder and more frigid.

He raised his palm and gently waved down, signaling to the banner members to begin the practice.

However, there was a sudden commotion coming from afar that distracted the soldiers at the training field. Everyone turned and looked, and they saw a huge wave of people coming towards them.

It was the members from the first division.

Although it was not everyone, the majority had come.

Thousands of them had gathered in front of Li Luo, who was standing on a tall platform, and dropped down to one knee despite the gazes from the other divisions.

"Banner Leader, twelve hundred members of the first division are reporting in!" a guy acting as their leader shouted loudly.

Hearing this, the members from the other four divisions could not help but raise their eyebrows.

When they looked up and saw the slender, tall guy on the elevated platform, they knew very well deep in their hearts that Zhong Ling had lost.

The future of the Green Nether Banner would ultimately be decided by the one in front of them.

Chapter 0800 – Reappearance of Zhong Ling

On the high platform on the drill grounds, Li Luo's gaze swept over the slightly hurried-looking first division. Complicated expressions could be seen on all their faces, as well as apprehension. After all, they were clearly angry at the Banner Leader just a few days ago and had opted to skip practice, which could also be seen as a show of disrespect. Now that they had been forced to bend under Li Luo's methods, their hearts were filled with fear and they no longer wished to be tied to Zhong Ling's boat.

However, they were not sure if Li Luo would still punish them for their previous actions.

Although he had stated that he would not blame the ordinary members, his tough approach in the last two days had instilled anxiety within them.

Thus, these thousand-odd banner members did not dare to speak any further.

Li Luo immediately focused upon the one who had just spoken. "What is your name?"

"Banner Leader, this humble one is Zhou Shanhe," the young man carefully replied.

Li Luo nodded slightly. He could be considered an elite in the first division. He was no weaker than Li Shi and was once a close follower of Zhong Ling. His presence here signified that he was planning to change allegiances.

It was human nature to hit someone when they were down, and Zhong Ling's decline was clearly set in stone. These individuals felt that there was no reason to follow him to the end and squander their futures.

Li Luo was also exceptionally talented, and even though he was a dark horse, he would very likely have a significant role to play in the future of the Dragon's Fang Lineage.

Thus, the choice was not hard.

Li Luo nodded and calmly replied, "Now that you're here, you can begin your training in earnest. Don't be concerned with other things, and when the Green Nether Banner ascends, you will share in the glory and benefits too."

Zhou Shanhe gratefully nodded as he wiped off the cold sweat off his forehead.

Just as Li Luo waved to signal him to join the group, his attention was drawn to a group of individuals that were rushing over in the distance. Ten breaths later, the group arrived.

The one leading them was none other than the missing Zhong Ling!

His appearance caused a flurry of activity to erupt within the drill grounds. Zhou Shanhe and the rest of the first division members who had turned up earlier started to feel a little flustered.

Zhong Ling shot a vicious gaze towards Zhou Shanhe, accompanied by a furious roar. "How audacious of you, Zhou Shanhe!"

Zhong Ling could see that Zhou Shanhe had encouraged the rest of the first division to join the training session! He clearly did not respect his authority.

Zhou Shanhe felt a chill run down his spine, but he hardened himself. "Sub Leader, we have no choice. We have to cultivate as well."

An angry smile was plastered on Zhong Ling's face as he stomped over step by step.

However, Li Luo's cold and in a different voice echoed out at that very moment. "Zhong Ling, are you in a position to speak?"

Zhong Ling's eyes twitched as he gave a smile that was not a smile. "This is an internal issue of the first division."

"Have you forgotten my position?" Li Luo raised a single eyebrow as he waved his hand and gave his order. "If Zhong Ling makes any more movements. Take. Him. Down."

With that declaration, Li Shi took a step forward, giving Zhong Ling a sharp look. At the same time, the second, third, and fourth division Sub Leaders also stood up.

Li Luo was now the Banner Leader and their direct superior. They could not disobey him.

Zhong Ling's expression turned unimaginably ugly. His face seemed to be trembling, clearly holding back the immense rage within his heart. He was once the most imposing and authoritative individual in the banner despite just being the Sub Leader of the first division. The other three Sub Leaders had never even let out as much as a fart in protest, but now things had changed. They were all ready to bare their fangs and suppress him.

All this was due to Li Luo's appearance.

In the end, Zhong Ling managed to restrain himself, and he calmly replied, "Banner Leader Li Luo, you are truly mighty. I was merely resting for the last two days, and if I had turned up just a day late, the entire first division would have been dismantled by you. I want to know, is our division such an eyesore in the great Banner Leader's eyes?"

Zhao Yanzhi snorted coldly. "Were you really resting or looking for an excuse not to come? Only you know yourself best."

Zhong Ling emotionlessly retorted, "I was injured during the Banner Leader battle. That was clear for all to see. I heard that the Banner Leader even wants to replace me and find a new Sub Leader. I wonder why? Is it because I was injured and had to rest for two days? I was personally dispatched as the Sub Leader by the Second Hall Master, and if the Banner Leader wants my position, he will have to follow the rules set by the Second Hall Master."

Li Luo glanced at him but no longer bothered to bicker with him. "Since you're here, then prepare to practice. Don't waste any more time."

When Zhong Ling heard this, his eyes shrank slightly. He seemed a little taken aback. Obviously, Li Luo would not let him off the hook so easily. Did he not intend to hold him accountable and would instead leave him to continue being the first division's Sub Leader?

Zhong Ling's gaze trembled and he laughed coldly deep down. Li Luo actually had some brains, it seemed. He knew that the Green Nether Banner would suffer too much of a loss without him! After all, he was still the sole individual at the Fiend Finisher Tier in the banner.

Thus, Zhong Ling waved his sleeves and brought his division to their usual position.

When Zhou Shanhe saw Zhong Ling walk over, his expression stiffened. He had never expected Li Luo to only feign bravery and wrap up the situation like this! Had he just forgiven Zhong Ling just like that? What would happen to the people who had opted to abandon him? With Zhong Ling's personality, they would definitely not be let off easily. The rest of the first division members were bitterly crying out in their hearts, immediately lowering their heads. They were unwilling to look Zhong Ling's allies in the eye.

However, Zhong Ling did not do much either, only gloomily finding his position and sitting down cross-legged. He did not plan to go so far that Li Luo would be forced to kick him out. Only by remaining within the Green Nether Banner could he cause Li Luo endless trouble.

For example, when the Green Nether Banner tried to achieve Harmony as a whole.

Now that Li Luo had stolen his position, then so be it. Since he could no longer advance, Li Luo should give up any dreams of using the Green Nether Banner to ascend higher!

Additionally, he could secretly sabotage and disrupt Li Luo's plans during moments of crisis during the Fiendish Devil Cave expeditions in future.

As his mind pondered over numerous vicious ways to retaliate, Zhong Ling and his group were finally seated.

Li Luo remained indifferent, seemingly unconcerned with Zhong Ling's side of things. He stretched his hand out, and a gold seal appeared in his grasp. The seal was engraved with an intricate design of a dragon, passively radiating a mystical sort of pressure.

As Zhong Ling stared at that particular seal, a deep desire for it blossomed within his eyes. This was the object that signified that one was the Banner Leader of the Green Nether Banner, the Gold Dragon Seal.

Only the one who possessed it could rouse the strength of all eight thousand banner members.

The strength that one would achieve in the state of Harmony with the whole banner was no weaker than that of a Duke!

Although this strength did not truly belong to the wielder, it was enough for anyone to crave for its might.

"Li Luo, don't think you will ever be able to achieve Harmony so easily with me in the Green Nether Banner! Once you fail to do so a few times, your prestige will be ruined. Let's see if you'll still dare to show your face as the supposed Banner Leader then!"

As Zhong Ling had these thoughts in mind, Li Luo began to clutch the gold seal and activate the Draconic Atavism Scripture.

The next moment, the eight thousand banner members felt a sort of calling as strand after strand of majestic energy began to arise from their bodies and ascend into the skies. The energy converged in the air, forming an extremely huge torrent of energy.

The torrent of energy was like a furious dragon coiled up atop the skies of the Green Nether Banner's drill grounds. The energy itself emitted a pressure that caused a storm to kick up within the very grounds.

When the energy abrasively rubbed against the air, it created thunderous booms.

Everyone in the field was taken aback by this sight. Although attaining Harmony was not something unfamiliar to them, this was the first time this generation of the Green Nether Banner had seen the complete Harmony as a whole.

It was much more powerful than they had expected.

Zhao Yanzhi worriedly looked at Li Luo. Controlling such a huge amount of energy was no easy feat, and she did not know if Li Luo would succeed.

Similarly, Li Luo was currently observing the gigantic, coiled-up dragon condensed from energy. It was incredibly mighty and gave off an intimidating pressure. However, there was no fear in his eyes, only a feeling of longing and anticipation.

The energy and power were intoxicating and coveted by all. If anyone could control it, they could compete against a full-fledged Duke even if they were in the Fiend Palace Tier.

This was the might of the Twenty Banners of the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages. It was a power on par with that of Dukes.

Li Luo tightly clutched the gold seal and slowly closed his eyes, allowing the resonant power within his body to circulate and lift upwards. It then entered the middle of the condensed energy.

Next up, he would finally get to try it. Just how hard would it be to achieve the state of Harmony with eight thousand Green Nether Banner members?