

Resonance 811

Chapter 0811 – Python Puppet

No light could enter Dragon's Fang Cave, so it was mostly dark.

Li Luo walked along a winding path, and a short moment later, the view in front of him expanded when he came across a huge, hollow space. As he made his way through, he noticed numerous stone tablets that were hundreds of feet tall lined up around the place.

The stone tablets had a special design to them. Their tops were sharp and they protruded from the ground below, surrounded by countless glittering lights. It was a truly mysterious sight.

As Li Luo observed the stone tablets, he thought that they were like the sharp fangs of a huge dragon that had pierced through the ground below. There was an unusually ominous aura surrounding them.

Li Luo carefully made his way towards one. When he was close enough to get a good look at it, the countless glittering lights moved about in a mystical motion and glowing words gradually appeared.

Divine Sky Splitting Finger, Communion-grade Duke Art. One who masters the Divine Sky Splitting Finger will be invincible, able to break apart mountains and rivers with a finger, and capable of tearing open the void.

Li Luo paused for a moment as he scrutinized the art. It didn't catch his interest, so he turned around and headed towards the next stone tablet.

Mystical Icy Dragon Fang Arrow, Communion-grade Duke Art. With the combined power of ice and dragon resonances, coupled with a bow-type treasured artifact, one such arrow can freeze everything for thousands of miles.

"This must be a so-called Dragon Fang-type Duke Art." Li Luo pondered over it as he rubbed his chin. From the information he had gathered, Dragon Fang-type Duke Arts tended to be best suited for offense and were extremely fearsome attacks in general. This could be considered the unique trait of the Dragon's Fang Lineage.

After all, the fangs would be a huge dragon's main weapon, and it was definitely an apt trait for the lineage.

However, Li Luo was not interested in this Mystical Icy Dragon Fang Arrow either. Despite his talent in archery, he had no ice resonance attributes. Even if he could obtain some mysterious treasured artifact, it would take him too much time to master this art as he did not possess much affinity.

In the end, Li Luo walked away and began to inspect the other stone tablets.

Godly Fire Punch, Communion-grade Duke Art. One can cultivate Godly fire in his palm and ignite a hundred thousand meters of land with a single punch.

Heaven Ascension Steps, Communion-grade Duke Art. A speedy type of Duke Art that enables one to travel hundreds of thousands of meters with a single step. Best for ensuring one's safety at all times.

Multiple Duke Arts with different magical effects appeared in front of Li Luo as he walked around the stone tablets. His heart was throbbing with excitement and his eyes lit up. There were so many different types for him to choose from. These were truly the foundations of a Heavenly Emperor's power.

Back in the Xia Kingdom, there were only a few Duke Arts for him to choose from in the academy.

The gap between the two was evident.

As Li Luo headed deeper into the mountain, the stone tablets started to grow larger in size too. This was because the Duke Arts here were now Soul Ascension-grade.

There were not a lot of them, just nineteen Soul Ascension-grade stone tablets. And Li Luo was aiming for one of them today.

Of course, if there was no suitable one amongst them, he would have to go back and choose one of the Communion-grade Duke Arts. In fact, he had already gotten some backup ideas whilst he was making his way over here.

Astral Fangs of Light, Soul Ascension-grade Duke Art. By tempering astral light and condensing it repeatedly into small rays of starlight, one can hide these rays within his eyes and shoot them out when faced against an enemy. These rays can eradicate everything in the world.

Ten Thousand Metal Essence Tyrannic Body, Soul Ascension-grade Duke Art. One could take in the energy from ten thousand metals to reinforce their body. Once it has been mastered, the body will contain the spiritual essence of ten thousand metals and a single drop of blood can be transformed into unparalleled, sharp weapons.

After Li Luo studied each and every Soul Ascension-grade Duke Art and compared them with the Communion-grade Duke Arts he had seen earlier, he realized how large the discrepancy between them was. Whether it was in terms of raw power or versatility of the ability, there was a clear gap between the two.

If these nineteen Soul Ascension-grade Duke Arts were introduced to the Xia Kingdom, the powerful Dukes there would go out of their minds fighting over them.

However, Li Luo was kind of disappointed after reading the last Soul Ascension-grade Duke Art. Unlike back when he obtained the Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner, he realized that none of the Duke Arts here were really compatible with him.

"Do I have to go for a Communion-grade Duke Art in the end?" Li Luo felt a little hesitant. It was not that he looked down upon Communion-grade Duke Arts or was not ready to accept one. After all, many of the Dukes in the Xia Kingdom had never even come across a Soul Ascension-grade Duke Art in their entire lives.

However, he felt that it would be a pity to settle for the second best like this, after he had finally made it so far into this treasure vault.

As he was pondering over it, a huge shadow suddenly appeared from above, which was accompanied by a hiss.

Shocked by this sudden development, he hurriedly looked up to see what was happening. There was a huge, black python coiled around the stalactites above him, staring at him with faint, glowing pupils.

However, he did not panic when he saw it. He was merely stunned because there was no hint of life coming from it.

"It's the puppet guardian of Dragon's Fang Cave," Li Luo commented.

During the celebration party with Li Fengyi yesterday, he had heard about many things regarding Dragon's Fang Cave from her. One of them was the puppet guardian.

When one comes across the puppet guardian, they'll be fine as long as they minimize any interaction with it. After all, it will not launch any attacks under normal circumstances.

As such, Li Luo shook his head and decided to ignore the puppet guardian.

However, the python puppet slithered down at this moment onto one of the stone tablets in front of Li Luo and started hissing in an attempt to communicate with him.

Li Luo was confused by this, and he mumbled to himself, "Is something wrong with the puppet guardian?"

"Proof," the snake responded.

Li Luo was at a loss for words. It was actually speaking human language, except it sounded particularly hollow, like it was a preset voice line.

"Proof?" Li Luo was puzzled by this. "What's going on here? Li Fengyi never said that the puppet guardian would try to start a conversation."

"Proof." The python puppet continued to repeat this word. Soon, the hollow cave was filled with echoes.

Li Luo scratched his head in confusion. After some thought, he took out the gold seal of the Banner Leader and handed it over to the python puppet. "Is this it?" he asked.

The enormous body of the python puppet slithered forward as its vertical pupils scrutinized the gold seal. After a few breaths, it retreated and continued to stare at Li Luo, once again repeating, "Proof."

Li Luo was now feeling a little impatient with it. "What in the world is the proof this thing is looking for? Why didn't anyone tell me that the puppet guardian of the Dragon's Fang Cave would disturb me like this?"

In the end, he took two steps back and decided to ignore the python puppet.

However, it quickly slithered behind him, catching up with Li Luo. Its huge body cast a shadow that totally overwhelmed him.

"Proof." The repetitive, hollow voice had returned.

Li Luo was greatly troubled by the python puppet's persistence. He was about to get out of the cave and ask the gray-robed elder how he could handle this irritating situation.

Just as he was about to leave, an idea flashed across his mind.

He thought about something for a moment before he pulled out a black plaque from his pocket sphere. It was the Heavenly Emperor's Writ.

"Is this it?" he asked as he handed the Heavenly Emperor's Writ to the python puppet.

The puppet continued to speak in snake language as it swallowed up the Heavenly Emperor's Writ. Li Luo could see a glow flowing through its body for a moment, then the repeated echoes in the cave finally came to a halt.

"That worked?" Li Luo was extremely surprised at this result. No one had ever told him about such a situation.

"Could it be that only those who possess the Heavenly Emperor's Writ can trigger such an unusual reaction from the puppet guardian? But what's it for?"

While Li Luo pondered an entire list of questions in his head, the python puppet opened its mouth once again and spat out two things in front of him.

The first thing was the Heavenly Emperor's Writ that it had swallowed earlier. Li Luo retrieved it and then glanced over at the second item.

It was a mottled dragon fang that was about an inch long, surrounded by countless glittering lights. Light continued to flow mysteriously before glowing words started to appear.

He stretched out his hand to grab the mottled dragon fang, but as soon as he came into contact with it, he felt a huge influx of information rush into his brain.

Eye-catching words appeared within his mind.

"Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation."

Chapter 0812: Cheating

"Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation..."

As Li Luo digested the new info that had flowed into his mind, he was a little stunned. "Is this strange thing a Duke Art?

"But what grade is it?

"Seeing how the python puppet acted so mysteriously and even sought proof, surely this isn't just an ordinary item, right? After all, it even required the Heavenly Emperor's Writ to obtain it..."

He was full of questions, but he concentrated and reviewed the information that had just surfaced in his mind seriously. After a short moment, he couldn't help but let out a cry of surprise.

He finally realized how special this Duke Art, the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation, was. It was a kind of sword formation that required one to possess Dragon Fang Swords, which were no ordinary blades. A Dragon Fang Sword could only be forged by refining it from one's resonance affinities.

And the true strength of the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation would only be shown when there were at least two Dragon Fang Swords present.

As the number of Dragon Fang Swords grew, the art's power would grow as well.

At this moment, Li Luo was filled with excitement. This was the perfect Duke Art for him. If it was about the grade of the resonances, the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent was full of talents. Even with his triple resonances, he would not dare to proclaim himself as the best. However, if it was about the number of resonances, Li Luo would not lose out to anyone.

He might appear to just possess three resonances on first look, but there were primary and secondary affinities to each one. As such, he had a total of six types of resonant powers!

Crafting a Dragon Fang Sword required one to refine dragon resonant power together with another resonance type. In other words, he could potentially forge up to five Dragon Fang Swords.

Water Dragon Fang Sword, Wood Dragon Fang Sword, Light Dragon Fang Sword, Earth Dragon Fang Sword, Lightning Dragon Fang Sword....

No wonder this Duke Art had been named "Myriad Resonances"—it was due to such a cultivation method.

In that case, how strong would the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation be if he could manage to forge five Dragon Fang Swords?

And what grade would this Duke Art be?

Li Luo stood there in a daze before he gradually came back to his senses. As he stared at the mottled dragon fang in his hand, he felt that this was too much of a coincidence.

Clearly, he had triggered a few criteria in order to get ahold of this Duke art. For example, he had multiple resonances in him that had attracted the python puppet. In addition, he possessed the Heavenly Emperor's Writ needed for the certification to trigger the python puppet to spit out the Duke Art....

All of this was too much of a coincidence. Nonetheless, he put away the mottled dragon fang, and his eyes flickered a little. Whether it was a coincidence or not, this thing had fallen into his possession. It was destined for him, and he would not be giving it up now.

Afterwards, he swiftly turned around and headed for the exit of Dragon's Fang Cave.

With the Duke Art secured, there was no need to stay around any longer.

Li Luo walked along the winding path and finally arrived back at the entrance of the cave. At this time, the gray-robed elder opened his eyes and slowly asked, "Which Duke Art have you chosen?"

As the gatekeeper of this place, he needed to record all of the movements of the Duke Arts of the lineage. Once the person who borrowed it had mastered the art, he would need to return the Duke Art.

Hearing this, Li Luo hesitated for a moment as he considered whether he should tell the truth. This lasted for a few moments before he finally took out the mottled dragon fang and honestly explained his strange situation to the elder.

Obviously, the elder stationed here was not an ordinary clan member, so it would not be easy to hide something from him.

When Li Luo took out the mottled dragon fang, the sleepy eyes of the gray-robed elder widened. He took a good, long look at it.

"Elder, do you know of this Duke Art?" Li Luo asked. It was evident from the elder's reaction that he understood something about it.

The corners of the gray-robed elder's mouth twitched a little as he remarked, "Li Jingzhe, when did you start to break the rules?"

Li Luo was taken aback by his comment. However, a voice suddenly came from behind him before he could explain anything more. "It's not a violation of the rules, is it?"

At this point, Li Luo quickly turned back. Li Jingzhe had appeared behind him.

"Grandpa? Why are you here?" Li Luo asked in surprise.

Li Jingzhe smiled back at Li Luo before he turned towards the gray-robed elder and continued, "Second Uncle, this Duke Art is very compatible with Li Luo. In that case, why not give it to him?"

Indeed, the gray-robed elder commanded a very high level of respect in the Dragon's Fang Lineage. Even Li Jingzhe, the Lineage Chief, had to refer to him as "Second Uncle."

Second Uncle replied angrily, "This Duke Art was created by our Ancestor for someone with the right affinity. Aren't you cheating if you change the conditions like this? This little guy could not have drawn out the python puppet. I know very well that the python puppet only appears before those who have reached a certain age and possess three types of Duke Arts. Surely, Li Luo here has not met these requirements, right?" the elder continued.

Li Luo was startled when he heard this. Just as he had imagined, this was too much of a coincidence. It was Li Jingzhe pulling the strings from behind the stage all along.

This left him feeling both touched and awkward. He had never expected that Li Jingzhe would secretly help him find a Duke Art in Dragon's Fang Cave.

"The requirements our Ancestor created for this Duke Art are very demanding, yet it is still very compatible with Li Luo. Naturally, I'm confident that he will be the chosen one with the affinity to cultivate it. Second Uncle, you are a little too stubborn at times," Li Jingzhe replied.

Hearing this, the gray-robed elder laughed angrily. "Oh? Am I really being called stubborn by Li Jingzhe? If you weren't the most stubborn guy in the Dragon's Fang Lineage, Li Taixuan wouldn't have chosen to escape to the outer divine continents."

Li Jingzhe's face turned dark, and he kept silent after hearing the sharp remark.

Seeing his reaction, the gray-robed elder knew he had inadvertently hurt Li Jingzhe with those piercing words. He took another glance at the mottled dragon fang and sighed in response. "The Ancestor specifically told me to take good care of this Duke Art. Why did you come here and interfere with the process as if you had nothing better to do?"

"I just feel that it's a waste for this Duke Art to be left rotting in the cave for so long. Perhaps Li Luo will be able to bring out its potential," Li Jingzhe explained.

"Oh? Based on what? Based on his triple resonances?" the gray-robed elder replied with a curl to his lips.

At this moment, Li Jingzhe gave Li Luo a glance, and the latter understood immediately. He summoned the resonant power within his body, and the six different types of resonant power appeared before them.

The gray-robed elder stroked his beard with his fingers as he stared at Li Luo in surprise.

"This is... six resonances?! Impossible! Wait, that is not right... three of them are weaker. Are those secondary resonance affinities? Triple resonances with primary and secondary attributes?"

The gray-robed elder exclaimed in surprise multiple times before he finally grasped Li Luo's special traits.

"See, this Duke Art created by our Ancestor is a perfect fit for Li Luo," Li Jingzhe said with a laugh.

The gray-robed elder frowned a little before he nodded reluctantly. Although Li Jingzhe had been respectful to him all this while due to his seniority, Li Jingzhe was still the Lineage Chief of the Dragon's Fang Lineage. If he continued to insist on his way, things might turn ugly in the end.

"Forget it, you are the Lineage Chief of our lineage. You have the final say." The gray-robed elder snorted and then sat back down.

"Thank you, Second Uncle," Li Jingzhe answered politely.

At this point, Li Luo also thanked the gray-robed elder respectfully.

"Li Luo, since you possess the appropriate affinity to this art, you should make good use of it. The ancestor created the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation because he wanted to create a Transcendent Duke Art for the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. In other words, this art has the potential to become transcendent. I hope that you will not let it go to waste," the gray-robed elder commented before he shut his eyes.

Li Luo's body trembled and his heart thumped rapidly upon hearing this.

"Transcendent potential?! The Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation is really formidable!"

Chapter 0813: Dragon Fang Essence

Li Luo and Li Jingzhe walked down the mountain, following the small path shrouded in clouds and mist.

"Grandpa, thank you for your help with this," Li Luo said to Li Jingzhe. Originally, his plan was to obtain a Soul Ascension-grade Duke Art. It was a pleasant surprise for him to get the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation with transcendent potential in the end.

It was all thanks to Li Jingzhe. Otherwise, he would have definitely failed to meet those stringent criteria in his current state.

"The Ancestor left this art in the Dragon's Fang Lineage because it was appropriate for us when we were at lower cultivation levels. However, no one has been able to unleash its potential after all these years. This is because no one has been sufficiently compatible and able to bring out its true splendor. But you, on the other hand, possess six resonances. In a certain sense, you are the most compatible with it. I am just acting based on what our Ancestor entrusted to us back then," Li Jingzhe responded with a laugh.

Li Luo nodded excitedly as he replied, "I'll definitely give it my all to master this art! However, just what grade is this Duke Art?"

At this point, Li Jingzhe pondered for a moment before he responded, "It's quite hard to say... The Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation was created by the Ancestor with the aim of developing a second Transcendent Duke Art in mind. Sadly, he was not able to finish it before he was required to stand guard at the World Border, becoming too occupied to devote any more time to it. As such, the art was left with us at the Dragon's Fang Lineage."

"Its upper limit depends on the number of Dragon Fang Swords. With one Dragon Fang Sword, it will just be as strong as a normal Communion-grade Duke Art. With two, it'll be comparable to a Soul Ascension-grade Duke Art. Based on my estimates, if you can cultivate four Dragon Fang Swords, it should be similar to the power of a Destiny-grade Duke Art. However, if you would like to go even higher, it may become quite a challenge. As I've said earlier, this art was not completed, and the sword formation is still lacking in some areas."

Hearing this, Li Luo gasped in surprise. Four Dragon Fang Swords would be equivalent to a Destiny-grade Duke Art. This far exceeded his expectations.

As for the so-called Transcendent-grade, he had never really considered it before. After all, it was totally out of his league currently.

"Nonetheless, there is still one issue with the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation. It is extremely challenging to cultivate and requires one to be exceptionally gifted in resonance arts," Li Jingzhe added.

"That should be fine with my aptitude in resonance arts," Li Luo replied confidently. When it came to natural talent with resonance arts, Li Luo had always been proud of his abilities to quickly comprehend and learn them. This was merely overshadowed by the dazzling point that he possessed triple resonances.

Li Luo was able to come up ahead when he first entered the Southwind Academy all thanks to his exceptional gift with resonance arts. Of course, the resonance arts he had learned back then and the Duke Art he had today were of totally different leagues. Nonetheless, he had still managed to master the Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner at a stage thought to be impossible for many. There was no doubt about his exceptional talent.

"Yes, it should be fine with your talent in resonance arts. However, there is still one problem. You will need a rare material known as Dragon Fang Essence to forge a Dragon Fang Sword," Li Jingzhe responded with a laugh.

"Dragon Fang Essence?" Li Luo was stunned when he heard this. As he had not finished studying the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation, this was something totally new to him.

"The so-called Dragon Fang Essence refers to a mystical treasure derived from the real fangs of a true dragon. This item is extremely rare and, as a result, extremely expensive too," Li Jingzhe explained to him.

"How expensive is it?" Li Luo asked carefully as his heart beat faster.

"In skygold terms, it'll be about thirty million per drop," Li Jingzhe answered after giving it some thought.

Li Luo nearly spat out a mouthful of blood when he heard this. He knew it. Such a good art could not possibly be so easy to cultivate, right?

At thirty million skygold per droplet, wouldn't he need over a hundred million skygold just for this material alone if he wanted to forge five Dragon Fang Swords?!

He wouldn't be able to afford it even if he sold off House Luolan in its entirety.

Furthermore, he was far away in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent now, so he would not be able to sell off House Luolan even if wanted to. At present, his total net worth was only a few million skygold at best.

Li Luo was deeply troubled by this. Although he enjoyed two monthly stipends in the Dragon's Fang Lineage currently, it was only worth a few million in total. The monthly stipend was more for the resources rather than skygold. Moreover, he would need those resources for his cultivation. There was no way he could sell them off in exchange for skygold now.

In other words, how in the world was he going to get the thirty million skygold for a drop of Dragon Fang Essence?

Li Luo could not help but sigh in his heart. Of course, he would not be so thick-skinned as to ask Li Jingzhe for such a large amount of skygold. Moreover, his grandpa had already broken some rules to help him obtain the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation. There was no way he could open his mouth and ask his grandpa again. After all, he still had a certain pride within him.

As Li Luo was deep in thought, Li Jingzhe chimed in from the side and said, "Currently, you hold the Main Hall Master plaque of the Green Nether Banner and possess some authority. When you bring the Green Nether Banner back up as the leader among the four banners in the Dragon's Fang Lineage, the authority you will have will naturally increase too. At that time, perhaps you can enjoy some benefits that come along as the Main Hall Master."

Li Luo was taken aback by this. Did this mean that he would have a chance to enjoy the perks of the Main Hall Master?

"How much of a stipend does the Main Hall Master get?" Li Luo asked curiously.

"Excluding the various resources, the stipend should be around eighty million skygold per year total," Li Jingzhe replied casually.

At this point, Li Luo froze in his tracks. "Eighty million a year... So the Main Hall Master could afford to buy over several House Luolans with just one year of stipends?"

Now that Li Luo thought about it, it did make sense. The Green Nether Hall governed over the two realms that were much bigger and occupied by a much larger population than the Xia Kingdom. The forces in play were more complex and numerous. As such, it was not surprising at all for the Main Hall Master, the leader with the highest authority around here, to enjoy such perks. At this point, Li Luo's heart started beating faster and faster. Did this mean that he would be able to enjoy such amazing perks once he secured more authority by getting some of the rights of the Main Hall Master of the Green Nether Banner? Even if it was just a portion, it should be enough for him to cultivate the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation, right?

"Grandpa, this is not against the rules, right?" Li Luo asked.

"Your father was originally the Main Hall Master of the Green Nether Banner. Although he has been away for so many years, he has not been removed from his position. As such, it will make perfect sense for you to inherit your father's position, as long as you have enough credibility to show," Li Jingzhe replied to his question seriously.

"If you become the head amongst the four banners of the Dragon's Fang Lineage, you can get a portion of the authority relating to the Main Hall Master. If you can become the Dragon's Head in the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages, you can become the legitimate Main Hall Master of the Green Nether Banner even if your strength is not there yet. You will be given full authority over the Green Nether Banner then. Although you would be the weakest Main Hall Master in history, it should not be an issue. After all, you'd just be covering for your father. If anyone would like to challenge you, they would have to wait for your father's return and challenge him instead," Li Jingzhe further elaborated, throwing the blame onto his wayward son.

At this point, Li Luo merely blinked in surprise. Was this even allowed?

"Then let me make the Green Nether Banner the head amongst the four banners of the Dragon's Fang Lineage first," Li Luo responded. He understood that this was an opportunity given to him by his grandfather. With Li Jingzhe's personality, this was the maximum he could do to help. If he were any more direct in his approach, it would definitely be too much. Furthermore, this was a show of how much confidence he had in Li Luo's ability.

Li Jingzhe nodded as he continued walking in front. "The birthday celebration for the Lineage Chief of the Dragon's Blood Lineage is five days away. Are you ready?" he asked.

Hearing this, Li Luo nodded with a smile.

"Qin Lian from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing will also be coming. The Dragon's Blood Lineage invited her, and I heard that she will be bringing her favorite disciple and daughter along," Li Jingzhe added.

Li Luo squeezed his eyes a little when he heard about this. With all the enmity between his father and her, he wondered if there would be any trouble.

"You do not need to worry about Qin Lian. She will not be so presumptuous and daring to stir trouble during the birthday celebration. However, you'll have to watch out for her daughter, Qin Yi. That daughter of hers is well known in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent, and many young folks have fallen head over heels for her," Li Jingzhe said.

"Many noble ladies fell for my handsome looks back in the Xia Kingdom. I will not lose to her in that regard," Li Luo replied shamelessly.

Li Jingzhe could not help but laugh at his response. "If you can really make Qin Yi fall for you, I think that Qin Lian will be infuriated. That would surely be a good revenge for your parents," he said.

"That's not very nice. After all, I already have a fiancee," Li Luo said embarrassedly.

"Fiancee? Is that another absurd thing your parents made you do? There are nothing but mediocre people in the outer divine continents. With your talent, you'll surely find someone better in the future. Sometimes, it's good to make a clean break with the past," Li Jingzhe said disapprovingly.

Li Luo smiled bitterly when he heard this. "Jiang Qing'e mediocre? Sorry, Grandpa, but I, your grandson, did not even dare to even squeak before her despite my triple resonances."

Of course, Li Luo did not debate on this any further. When Li Jingzhe met Jiang Qing'e, he would naturally forget all the words that he had said today.

In the end, Li Luo bade farewell to Li Jingzhe at the foot of the mountain. With a swift turn, the old man disappeared without a trace. All he had left behind were the words for Li Luo to do his best in the upcoming birthday celebration.

Chapter 0814: A Trace of Sword Intent

Within the cultivation chamber in Li Luo's residence.

Li Luo was seated cross-legged. Before him was the mottled dragon fang that radiated a weak but mystical light.

He was channeling his resonant power into the dragon fang, and the cry of a sword could be heard in his ears all the while. Li Luo had fallen into a trance, and when he concentrated upon this sound, he found himself immersed in a vast, starry world that was filled with boundless amounts of sword intent.

It was as though the primal chaos had just been split apart in the galaxy created by sword intent, leading to its genesis. The sight of it was vast and majestic, and as the galaxy revolved, even the stars that fell into the streams of sword intent were obliterated into nothingness.

Li Luo's presence was like a speck of dust within this grand world, and just a mere strand of sword intent brushing past him could wipe him out of existence.

Although Li Luo was taken aback by the sheer grandeur of this sight, his heart remained calm. He had already felt the oppressive might of this sword intent many times over the past few days.

Ever since he obtained the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation, he had delved deep into it with all his energy.

This Duke Art was of an extremely high grade, and the difficulty to learn it was several magnitudes greater than the Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner.

The way to cultivate the art was to allow one's mind to submerge itself within this galaxy of sword intent and comprehend its terror. Once one attained enlightenment, they would form a strand of sword intent that could be combined with their resonance affinities and successfully refine the Dragon Fang Swords.

This required a certain giftedness in resonance arts.

If one did not possess enough talent, it would simply be impossible to even comprehend a strand of the sword intent. If one forced things, they might receive backlash and be injured.

The good thing was that Li Luo had always been talented in this aspect.

His efforts over the previous days had resulted in him receiving some injury. However, he continued to attempt to gain enlightenment, and he had gradually built up a resistance to the absolute terror of the sword intent and no longer felt fear towards it.

The next step would be to gradually find a suitable opportunity to take things to the next level.

He was not in a rush, as he had not managed to obtain a Dragon Fang Essence. Thus, he would not be able to truly refine a Dragon Fang Sword even after obtaining a strand of sword intent.

Just as Li Luo had these thoughts in mind, his expression changed.

He could vaguely feel that the terrifying sword intent seemed to have emitted some sort of cry that caused the sword intent to flood into every crevice and location within the world.

His mental state was also subject to this, and he felt his mind crumble slightly in the face of sheer pain.

However, he held steadfast, choosing to not give up so easily.

After resisting for an unknown amount of time, his mind was eventually worn down and defeated. Li Luo opened his eyes with a pale complexion.

His breathing was ragged and it felt as though his entire body had been gashed to varying degrees. The cold sweat on his forehead beaded and dripped down slowly.

As he wiped his sweat off, his pupils held a trace of lingering fear.

The sword intent was simply too terrifying.

Despite the fact that he had been buffeted with endless amounts of sword intent in the past few days, this sudden outburst was still hard to endure.

"As expected of a Transcendent-grade Duke Art..."

Li Luo sighed. The galaxy of sword intent was significantly harder to cultivate than the Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner.

After which, he stood up.

"Hmm?" At this moment, he seemed to have noticed something as soon as he inspected his body with his mind. There seemed to be a trace of mysterious energy within it.

This energy even gave off a familiar vibe.

Was it a trace of the sword intent?

However, this was significantly weaker when compared to the sheer amount of sword intent he had faced previously.

Despite this, Li Luo was filled with unrestrained joy. This meant that he had finally managed to obtain his first strand of sword intent and he would be able to eventually refine his first Dragon Fang Sword. He was off to a great start.

Li Luo continued to suss out the strand of sword intent. Although it was meager, it radiated a cold air that caused him to feel a little bit of fear.

After observing it for a while longer, he stopped with a sense of satisfaction in his heart. It seemed his bitter cultivation had reaped rewards.

As he got up from the cultivating platform, he murmured to himself, "Tomorrow is the Dragon's Blood Lineage's Mountain Ruling Chief's celebration."

He was not particularly interested in it due to the situation with his father in the past. He held not much goodwill towards this Dragon's Blood Lineage. However, it would mark the opening of the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool, and that was something he held a deep longing towards.

This was a hard-to-obtain opportunity, and not every generation managed to enjoy its benefits.

Since his grandfather had fought for this opportunity for him, he had to take advantage of it.

Li Luo composed himself as he inspected the abstruse fiend lights in his resonant palace. He now had a total of ten thousand strands of abstruse fiend light after all his efforts.

Most individuals would be at the stage of using these strands of abstruse fiend light to break into the Fiend Body Tier. However, Li Luo had not done so, only determined to continue accumulating more.

His body possessed three resonant palaces and therefore could originally hold up to thirty thousand strands of abstruse fiend light. Now that his waterlight resonance had reached the eighth-grade, his capacity had increased once again to thirty-five thousand strands.

This was a frightening amount.

Li Luo could feel that out of all his peers in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent, there was basically no one who could establish a foundation as sturdy as his when entering the Fiend Body Tier, especially if he managed to reach his capacity.

Not even someone with a ninth-grade resonance could do so!

This gave Li Luo yet another problem, however. His path upwards would now take a longer amount of time.

Twenty-five thousand strands of abstruse fiend light would easily require a year's worth of cultivation time.

And time was scarce.

Thus, the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool was exceptionally important to him. Perhaps even a matter of life and death.

"I have to obtain a Coiling Dragon Pillar no matter what and fight for two strands of Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath." This was Li Luo's personal aim.

Two strands of Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath would equate to ten thousand strands of abstruse fiend light, cutting his massive requirements by almost half and saving him endless amounts of time.

With this in mind, Li Luo left the cultivation chamber and began to make preparations for the next day.

.....

The next day.

The entire Dragon's Fang Mountain seemed to have come alive. The Mountain Ruling Chief's birthday celebration was something the Dragon's Fang Lineage had to show adequate respect for. In the end, the individual was still the strongest expert in the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages.

Within Dragon's Fang Mountain.

Li Luo led the Green Nether Banner to arrive on time with the other three banners. Seeing so many banner members present was quite the spectacle.

The four banners would not have arrived with such fanfare if not for the allure of the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool. With such a tantalizing prize before them, they would naturally have to go all out.

This birthday celebration had also invited guests from countless powers from throughout the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. The performance of the banners at the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool would demonstrate the might of this generation of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li.

In front of the four banners was a massive stone formation. It was covered in runes that began to devour endless amounts of worldly natural energy.

This was the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages' transportation formation. It would not be activated in normal times, and only in situations of great importance or urgency would they utilize it.

Li Luo looked around him before posing a question towards Zhao Yanzhi. "Where are the Dragon's Fang Guardians?"

Li Luo had always held a trace of curiosity towards them. They were the true elites of the Dragon's Fang Lineage after all.

"They will not appear. They are almost never at the headquarters as they have special assignments," Zhao Yanzhi softly replied.

"What sorts of assignments?" Li Luo asked curiously.

"Suppressing and cleansing Others."

Li Luo was slightly taken aback by her answer.

"Others appear in the inner divine continent?"

He had thought that with the number of experts in the inner divine continent, the Others would have long been vanquished into extinction.

Zhao Yanzhi looked at him strangely. "The amount of Others in the inner divine continent is even greater than in the outer divine continents. In fact, they are also stronger. With how vast a territory like the Dragon's Fang Domain is, there are numerous cracks in the world that attract the attention of the Others. If they are not cleansed quickly, an Other Disaster will erupt, leading to countless losses. In the future, we might be assigned to such a task."

Li Luo nodded slightly. It looked like things were not as peaceful as he had expected.

As they spoke, Li Jingzhe suddenly appeared before all of them, and the massive group quietened down.

Behind Li Jingzhe followed Li Jinpan, Li Qingpeng, and the rest of the higher echelons of the Dragon's Fang Lineage.

Li Jingzhe swept his gaze throughout the crowd before pausing temporarily on Li Luo. He did not speak much, only waving his hand and giving out a single command.

"Head out." When his voice boomed, the formation trembled and exploded with a radiance that blanketed tens of thousands of meters.

The four banners began to move and entered the formation. With a final burst of radiance, all of the figures vanished.

As Li Luo felt space distort around him, he sucked in a deep breath, eyes full of anticipation.

"Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath... I'm coming for you!"

Chapter 0815: Gathering

When Li Luo felt the surrounding fluctuations dissipate, he opened his eyes only to be greeted by a flood of dazzling, gold light.

He squinted as he gradually adapted to the light. It was then that he noticed that the golden light was coming from the countless golden and majestic temples that stood before him.

Above these structures, light continued to sweep past in a never-ending flow.

Endless noise filled up the entire world.

"This is where the Dragon's Blood Lineage's headquarters is?" Li Luo curiously sized up the area. The architectural style was completely different from that of the Dragon's Fang Lineage. Golden colors dazzled the eye in every direction. It was said that dragon's blood was actually golden, and true to their namesake, the lineage decorated everything accordingly.

Even the clouds above seemed to exude a golden glow. This was not an illusion—a massive, golden dragon manifestation loomed overhead above the layer of clouds, clearly acting as some sort of guardian formation.

It was luxurious, grand, and mysterious.

This was the first impression Li Luo had of the Dragon's Blood Lineage.

Li Luo then looked around as a group of individuals approached them. They seemed to be the elders of the Dragon's Blood Lineage, as they treated Li Jingzhe with great respect.

After the two sides spoke for a bit, Li Jingzhe was invited away, seemingly to meet the Dragon's Blood Lineage's Mountain Ruling Chief.

The four banners were then arranged to be brought to their lodgings.

The actual celebration would take place the next day. They would be given a day to rest and recuperate.

When Li Luo was about to leave with the banner, Li Fengyi came looking for him. "There will be a gathering tonight. It is organized by the Dragon's Blood Lineage's Li Qingfeng. He has invited all of the esteemed individuals from the younger generation and some other guests from other powers who have come to pay their respects. Li Qingfeng hopes that the twenty Banner Leaders can participate. I'm not sure what he's planning to discuss."

"The Gold Blood Banner's Banner Leader Li Qingfeng, huh?" Li Luo's gaze flickered. This name was relatively well known throughout the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages. Everyone had touted him to be the Dragon's Head of the current generation.

"That brat. Does he really think that he is the leading figure in our generation? Acting like the Dragon's Head already... Psh. The battle for it has yet to start, and who knows who will be the eventual victor." Li Fengyi lightly pouted as she grumbled. Clearly, she didn't feel very positively about Li Qingfeng.

Regardless, she was well aware that Li Qingfeng was truly a peak genius. He possessed outstanding talent, and whether it was his personal strength or the banner that he led, both were the top of his generation.

It wouldn't be wrong to label him as the poster boy for the current generation of the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages.

Still, Li Fengyi felt dissatisfied. She might be a female, but her personality was headstrong and combative. She had always idolized her Third Uncle, Li Taixuan, and was in awe at how he had suppressed all of the individuals of his generation with sheer strength. Thus, she had spent as much effort as she could to become like him.

It was a pity that in terms of talent, despite being exceptional herself, an insurmountable gap still existed between her and Li Qingfeng.

Li Luo sighed deeply and then said with a smile, "Well, let's see what the supposed Dragon's Head wants with us." Either way, he was free right now, and it would be good to take a look at Li Qingfeng. It was likely that the two of them would meet each other at the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool either way.

Li Fengyi then led the way. Since Li Qingfeng had so graciously invited them, she would have to give him some face.

"Let's go, then." She glanced at the setting sun as she spoke.

Li Luo nodded, and the two left to find Li Jingtao. That fellow was actually trying to escape, but when he came into contact with Li Fengyi's fierce glare, he unwillingly had to follow.

The trio were then led by a serving lady from the Dragon's Blood Lineage, arriving at a well-lit, golden palace situated in the middle of a lake an hour later.

The sun had already set and the sky was dark. However, the golden palace shone resplendently, illuminating the surface of the lake.

The palace was bustling with activity, and countless guests were constantly being guided into the area by servants.

When the trio arrived, they attracted the gazes of several individuals. Most of them were young ladies who looked upon Li Luo with a hint of interest and curiosity.

They did not recognize him, but they felt that this youth with his slender build and head of grayish-white hair seemed to stand out with a certain unique air in the lantern light.

"Little Brother, you really are quite outstanding. If you wish, you can easily have a night full of amorous adventures," Li Fengyi joked.

Li Luo helplessly smiled before rejecting her. "That isn't possible. I am already engaged, and I have to preserve my chastity for the chosen one."

"You're actually engaged? Did Third Uncle arrange for this in the outer divine continent?" Li Jingtao asked in surprise before rubbing his chin and speaking in a wise tone. "That is not a good thing. Now that you're in the inner divine continent and she has been left behind, the gap between the two of you will only widen. It will inevitably lead to some form of estrangement between the two of you..."

Li Fengyi also had a dissatisfied expression on her face. "Yes, that is not proper. You should back out of that engagement quickly. Otherwise, letting things drag on will not be beneficial for either of you."

Li Luo sighed worriedly. He had suddenly remembered that when Jiang Qing'e left, they had truly annulled their engagement... In fact, this was of his own doing.

From that point of view, the two of them were no longer engaged.

Li Luo rubbed his face, feeling the urge to slap himself. Li Luo, oh, Li Luo! There was no need to continue acting. Now that he had finally gotten what he wanted and annulled the marriage, perhaps he might spend the rest of his life seeking her. However, he squashed all of these emotions. He understood Jiang Qing'e all too well. The feelings between them would not be affected by such minor matters.

As they continued to walk and chat, the trio arrived at the doors to the gilded palace.

At this point, some individuals approached with mocking laughter. "Li Fengyi, it has been quite some time. You are as energetic as always."

In the middle of the doorway was a young, purple-garbed female. Her face was delicate and beautiful, her skin as white as snow. Her eyes were spirited, and a lifelike red carp was embroidered upon her dress.

The presence of this lady immediately caused the gazes of numerous men around her to blaze with passion.

Li Fengyi merely glanced at her before retorting snidely, "Li Hongli, you're still up to no good, acting all pretentious and fake."

When Li Luo heard this, he gave that lady a second glance. "This is the Fiendish Devil Cave's third placed Banner Leader, the Violet Blood Banner's Li Hongli?

"However, it seems as though the relationship between her and Li Fengyi wasn't the best."

When faced with Li Fengyi's snide reply, Li Hongli gave a slight smile. "If the Crimson Cloud Banner was as good as your way with words, your rank wouldn't be so low."

"So what? Do you think the Violet Blood Banner's rank has anything to do with you? I heard it was because your father was so concerned about you that he personally sought out all sorts of experts to support you and your lacking abilities," Li Fengyi icily replied.

Li Hongli's gaze shrank and her voice turned cold. "Even without the Violet Blood Banner, I can easily deal with you."

"Why don't you try it?" Li Fengyi replied with piercing words.

Li Hongli coldly harrumphed as she felt the gazes around her focus upon her. This was not the place to scuffle with Li Fengyi, so her gaze turned towards the handsome youth with grayish-white hair beside her.

"Are you Li Luo?" she asked with a raised eyebrow.

Well, he didn't lack anything when it came to looks.

Li Luo smiled and did not reply. He could tell from her condescending eyes that she didn't hold much goodwill towards him either.

Seeing his lack of response, a trace of fury arose on Li Hongli's face as she coolly said, "The son does resemble the father. I just wonder how much of his capability was inherited."

Li Luo attentively replied, "Well, why don't you see for yourself? Well, regardless, I hope that you will not follow in the footsteps of your father and pass down your grievances to the next generation."

Li Luo had long found out from Li Fengyi that Li Hongli's father was one of his father's rivals in the past. They had competed in everything, but the result was clear: absolute defeat.

As a result, Li Hongli's father had always held a trace of resentment towards Li Taixuan, and her attitude must have been the result of her upbringing.

Li Hongli was the princess whom all desired in the Dragon's Blood Lineage's younger generation. Thus, Li Luo's preaching tone caused her to raise her eyebrow in anger.

Just as Li Hongli was about to explode in anger, a hoarse, female voice called out from behind her, "Li Hongli, we have invited countless guests today. Are you planning to throw a temper tantrum tonight?"

This was a familiar voice.

Li Luo's heart trembled slightly and he turned his head. Amidst the numerous figures in the crowd, a girl wearing dark clothes with a pair of fair, oval cheeks and a head of short hair that only reached her ears stood out with her own flair.

A pair of straight, slender, long legs captivated the audience around them.

It was Lu Qingmei, the Banner Leader of the Holy Scale Banner.

Chapter 0816: Gathering of the Twenty Banners

With Lu Qingmei's arrival, Li Hongli's face turned chilly. Out of all the women in the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages, the two that she disliked the most had appeared before her.

She despised Li Fengyi for her background. After all, Li Fengyi came from the direct bloodline in the Dragon's Fang Lineage. Her grandfather was the Lineage Chief and her father was the Hall Master of the Crimson Cloud Hall. Li Fengyi's background could even be said to be above hers.

As for Lu Qingmei, she detested her for her exceptional natural talent. Although she was not of a direct bloodline, she had slowly climbed up to the top in the Dragon's Scale Lineage with her incredible ability. Li Qingfeng was the only person in the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages who could hold her down.

As Li Hongli watched Lu Qingmei walk over, she said, "What does this have to do with you?"

In terms of looks, Lu Qingmei was in no way inferior to Li Hongli. However, her temperament was completely different. Her short hair was neatly tucked behind her ears and she donned a tidy, long robe, presenting herself as extraordinarily heroic.

"I just wanted to remind you not to make a fool of yourself here. Don't be a disgrace, and don't tarnish the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li's reputation," Lu Qingmei replied lightly.

Hearing this, Li Hongli was enraged by Lu Qingmei's tone. However, she kept her anger in check and snorted coldly before turning around and walking into the golden palace.

With her departure, the tense atmosphere in the air gradually eased. The numerous gazes from the surroundings started to turn their attention away. Nonetheless, there were still some eyes glancing over at Lu Qingmei from time to time.

At this point, Lu Qingmei looked over at Li Fengyi as she said, "It seems like she always flares up whenever she sees you."

Li Fengyi pursed her lips and responded, "It's the same with you. What a sensitive and narrow-minded woman."

Evidently, Li Fengyi and Lu Qingmei knew each other and got along fine. After all, Li Hongli and her tantrums had always forced them towards the same side.

After a casual chat, Lu Qingmei turned over to Li Luo. "We meet again, Banner Leader Li Luo."

Li Luo smiled and responded, "Speaking of which, I haven't thanked you, Banner Leader Lu Qingmei, for holding back last time. You had obviously won, but you still considered it a draw."

Lu Qingmei looked at Li Luo's handsome face and replied seriously, "You are really strong. Although you are only at the Greater Fiend Palace Tier, you have brought the Green Nether Banner to where it is today. If you were at the Fiend Body Tier, perhaps the Green Nether Banner would make it into the top five ranks. I look forward to a fight with you then, where we both won't have to hold back."

At this moment, her eyes became filled with a fevered passion for battle. Although she had emerged victorious back when the two banners clashed, she had clearly felt his potential and the looming threat he demonstrated.

This did not make her uncomfortable. Instead, she was looking forward to the challenge.

When he felt Lu Qingmei's burning desire for a battle, Li Luo let out a laugh. The lady in front of him was completely different from Li Hongli. The latter was a spoiled princess, whilst the former had a war-loving personality that would put even guys to shame.

"You think too highly of me, Banner Leader Lu Qingmei. I was just riding on the power of the Green Nether Banner's Harmony to pull us slightly closer. Without the Green Nether Banner, I am afraid I wouldn't even be able to take a few hits from you," Li Luo replied with a smile.

This was not a lie at all. At present, Li Luo was at the Greater Fiend Palace Tier, while Lu Qingmei was already at the Fiend Finisher Tier. There was a huge gap between them that was only narrowed due to grasping the power of Harmony. If they had faced off one-on-one, the gap would be unbearably wide.

Based on his own estimates, Li Luo would need to finish accumulating all his abstruse fiend lights and enter the Fiend Body Tier before he could hold his own against top talents like Deng Fengxian and Lu Qingmei.

He had no choice. The pits from having three resonant palaces were too deep...

As for what Li Luo had said, Lu Qingmei did not comment any further. Although what he had said was true, she could feel that he had hidden something in their previous fight.

Although the son of Li Taixuan had wasted many years in the outer divine continent, he still had aces hidden up his sleeve. As they were not very familiar with one another, she merely nodded politely before she led the Dragon's Scale Banner members into the inner area.

Li Luo, Li Fengyi, and Li Jingtao headed in too.

The lights in the gilded palace were dazzling. Crystal lamps hung in distinct layers, and the light illuminated the spacious hall without leaving a single blind spot.

Many had gathered in the grand hall. Bustling with noise, they formed small circles and chatted.

It was like a luxurious scene showcasing the upper class of society.

As soon as Li Luo and gang entered the grand hall, a waitress stepped forward and politely invited them to the back hall saying that Li Qingfeng was waiting for them.

The gang looked at each other for a moment before they followed along.

Following closely behind the waitress, the gang walked across the brightly lit hallway into an exquisitely designed inner hall. As soon as they entered, they could see two rows of people already seated along a long table.

With a quick glance down the table, Li Luo could recognize some familiar faces among them. They were the opponents he had encountered during the battle among the banners in the Fiendish Devil Cave.

At this moment, a clear laugh came from the other end. "Hehe, Fengyi, Jingtao, you have finally arrived. We've been waiting."

Li Luo looked across the wide, long table and saw a young man laughing in the seat of the host, looking over at them.

The young man was tall and upright with a handsome face. With a sword hanging on each side of his waist, he spoke in a gentle tone and was clearly composed and confident. When he smiled, he exuded a sense of nobility that could not be concealed.

Even though the Banner Leaders of the Twenty Banners were all present, the focus in the whole room was all on this outstanding young man.

Li Luo understood immediately. Who would have such an authoritative presence apart from Banner Leader Li Qingfeng from the Gold Blood Banner?

There was an incredible air around him. It was no wonder he was deemed the leader of this generation of the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages.

Hearing his words, Li Fengyi remained calm and merely nodded as she guided Li Luo and Li Jingtao to their seats.

At this moment, Li Qingfeng turned towards Li Luo and said with a smile, "You must be Banner Leader Li Luo from the Green Nether Banner, right? The Green Nether Banner has been on an ascent recently under your leadership."

Li Luo smiled and calmly responded, "Just some small fights here and there, nothing compared to the Gold Blood Banner under you, Banner Leader Li Qingfeng."

Li Hongli, who was sitting beside Li Qingfeng, raised her eyebrows and said sarcastically, "As expected from someone from the outer divine continent. At least you know where you stand."

The other Banner Leaders present caught onto her words immediately. Li Hongli was clearly targeting Li Luo with her sharp words. This was not surprising, considering the enmity from the previous generations.

Pa!

Before Li Luo could even react, Li Fengyi slammed her hand on the table as she glared angrily at Li Hongli. She could not hold back her anger any more after hearing those words. "You should be glad Li Luo only returned now. If he was back earlier, where would the Dragon's Blood Lineage even stand?"

Li Hongli merely laughed icily and responded, "What big words. If he had returned earlier, could he stand up to Brother Qingfeng?"

At this point, Li Luo held back Li Fengyi before she retorted any further. Li Hongli was really sly, always pitting him against the Dragon's Blood Lineage.

Seeing this, Li Qingfeng also stopped Li Hongli from any further taunts with a wave of his hand. He smiled and said, "You two, always quarreling whenever you meet. We have serious business to discuss today, so let's stop this for now."

Hearing his words, Li Hongli hummed softly and stopped any further provocations.

Li Qingfeng looked over at everyone present with a smile on his face.

"I have invited everyone here today to discuss something important. It's regarding the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool tomorrow."

Chapter 0817: Pre-arrangement

When Li Qingfeng ended his sentence, the well-lit inner hall came to a silence and every Banner Leader looked towards him.

"What'd you want to say?" Lu Qingmei from the Dragon's Scale Lineage said bluntly as she stared at Li Qingfeng calmly.

Li Qingfeng gave a slight smile as he replied, "This opening of the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool is a bit different. As it's taking place during the Respected Elder's birthday, many distinguished guests will be watching our battle closely. As such, I suggest that we fight by all means but do not overdo it. Simply said, we will still try our best but restrain ourselves a little to put up a nice performance for the birthday celebration."

Hearing this, the other Banner Leaders frowned a little. Did he mean to use the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool battle as an avenue of entertainment for the birthday celebration?

"To prevent the battle from becoming too bloody, I propose that we fix the results of the battle beforehand. In that case, we can trade blows without going overboard and still have a conclusion for the battle," Li Qingfeng continued.

As soon as he finished this, the eyes of the other Banner Leaders froze. So, this was his real motive.

To fix the results beforehand and give the audience a spectacular exhibition match.

However, Li Luo frowned when he heard the suggestion. This might not be a good thing for him. After all, the Green Nether Banner was not the top few amongst the Twenty Banners despite their stellar progress recently. In other words, he might not even get anything if the results were arranged beforehand.

Moreover, he had been working hard and preparing for so long in order to use the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool to fill up his three resonant palaces.

If the results were prearranged, what would be left for him?

"How will we arrange it?" Deng Fengxian of the Dragon's Fang Lineage cut in at this point.

Everyone listened attentively too. After all, this was the most important part.

Li Qingfeng pondered for two seconds before he revealed a warm smile and gently explained, "The Dragon's Blood Lineage will take two of the Coiling Dragon Pillars, and they'll be one gold and one silver. The remaining four Coiling Dragon Pillars will be shared equally among the other four lineages, one pillar each."

When he finished speaking, the atmosphere in the inner hall turned tense instantly. He had given the largest piece of cake to himself as soon as he opened his mouth. Furthermore, it was the best piece of the cake too.

Yet they were not totally surprised by it. Ultimately, the Dragon's Blood Lineage was the strongest among them.

It was just an extremely blunt and unpleasant way to propose this to them.

"Guys, don't think that I am being greedy or arrogant with my words. If we fight it out normally, I believe I will still stand the highest chance of obtaining the golden dragon pillar. I may have suggested fixing the results, but it's actually just pre-arranging the results of the normal fights in advance so that we won't go overboard during the clash and make a joke of ourselves in front of others," Li Qingfeng explained with a sincere face. However, the air of confidence and dominance around him still remained. This self-confidence was brought to him by his own power as well as the strong foundation of the Gold Blood Banner.

As the strongest Banner Leader among the Twenty Banners, the golden dragon pillar was indeed his in a certain sense.

Furthermore, the Violet Blood Banner led by Li Hongli was ranked third, just behind Lu Qingmei.

All in all, the Dragon's Blood Lineage was indeed a fearsome force that stood a high chance to secure two of the pillars even if they fought it out normally.

At this moment, the inner hall fell dead silent. Although they knew what Li Qingfeng had said was indeed true, this kind of prearrangement would make them appear kind of weak.

After all, competition was part of the journey of cultivation. If they lost the courage to compete and fight for what they wanted, they would eventually lose their edge and become unexceptional.

It was just that the almighty Li Qingfeng, aspiring leader of the Twenty Banners, had spoken now. Who would dare to oppose him?

They still had to give him this face in the end, right?

"What bullshit."

Li Luo sneered in his heart. The Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool was only going to open tomorrow because of Li Jingzhe, who had gone back on his word for Li Luo even though he was the Lineage Chief of the Dragon's Fang Lineage. If the Coiling Dragon Pillars fell into Li Qingfeng's hands now just because of a prearrangement, wouldn't it be a total waste of the Respected Elder's efforts?

As such, Li Luo was determined to get at least one of the Coiling Dragon Pillars. Not to mention Li Qingfeng, he would not back down even if the Lineage Chief of the Dragon's Blood Lineage had spoken!

With that in mind, Li Luo was about to step up.

However, someone else stepped up before he could. A figure with short and tidy hair, coupled with an oval face like a goose egg, was now emitting cold air.

It was none other than Lu Qingmei.

"Banner Leader Li Qingfeng, I disagree with your proposal. The Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool was created in order to train us. In the past, everyone relied on their own strength to get the pillars. Isn't fixing the result breaking the rules? You said that you're afraid juniors like us will make a joke of ourselves in front of others during tomorrow's birthday celebration. However, a fight with predetermined results will definitely be lacking in drive and killing intent. If this were seen by other capable individuals, they would surely say our generation is weak and incompetent." Lu Qingmei's cold voice echoed in the inner hall as the other Banner Leaders watched.

Li Qingfeng was slightly taken aback too. He had not expected Lu Qingmei to reject his suggestion so strongly.

Hearing her words, Li Luo could not help but heave a sigh of relief deep in his heart. At this point, he stood up from the crowd and replied with a smile, "I also feel that it is better to fight it out normally. Since Banner Leader Li Qingfeng is so confident that the results will be the same either way, there isn't really a need for us to make arrangements before the battle."

The others turned their gazes towards Li Luo in surprise. None of them had expected him to stand up and object too.

"Banner Leader Li Luo, what do the six Coiling Dragon Pillars have to do with you?" Li Hongli asked with a slight sneer on her red lips.

Li Luo gave her a stare before he calmly replied, "Sorry, but I have my eyes set on at least one of the six Coiling Dragon Pillars."

Li Hongli could not help but laugh out loud in response. "And you're going to take it with your Greater Fiend Palace strength?"

Li Luo raised his eyelids and said, "Originally, the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool would have only opened up in two or three years. It was the Dragon's Fang Lineage's Respected Elder who changed the opening date to tomorrow. I am sure you all have heard about this, yes? That is to say, the Respected Elder wants me to compete for it. Since he has commanded it, I, his grandson, will have to go all out. And I absolutely must get a Coiling Dragon Pillar."

Hearing his words, there were many strange reactions on the faces of the other Banner Leaders. At first, they were also surprised at the sudden opening of the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool. They had heard rumors that it was because of a change in decision from the Lineage Chief of the Dragon's Fang Lineage. As it turned out, the change in decision was all due to Li Luo.

In other words, this rare opportunity had been presented to them thanks to Li Luo?

Beneath the bright light, Li Hongli's delicate and beautiful face turned a little cloudy. The Lineage Chief of the Dragon's Fang Lineage was really kind to Li Luo. Despite his status, he would even change his decision just for Li Luo.

On the other hand, Li Qingfeng kept his composure. He had already known about this secret for a long time due to his background. Yet he had some strange emotions stirring deep in his heart. Although both Li Luo and him were from direct bloodlines, their statuses in the eyes of their respective Lineage Chiefs were evidently different.

The care and concern that the Dragon's Fang Lineage's Lineage Chief showed Li Luo far exceeded what the Dragon's Blood Lineage's Lineage Chief felt for Li Qingfeng.

"It's true that we have gotten this precious opportunity all thanks to you, Banner Leader Li Luo. In that case, I am fine with handing over one of the six Coiling Dragon Pillars to him," Li Qingfeng said gently.

Many of the Banner Leaders changed their faces as soon as they heard this.

Hearing this, Li Luo responded with a smile, "There is no need to give it to me specially. I am still lacking in strength and will just give it my all to fight for it. If I fail to obtain it, it will just show that I'm lacking in strength. No one's to blame for it."

Although it may seem like a good suggestion to hand him one of the Coiling Dragon Pillars directly, Li Qingfeng had no kind intentions at all. This would have brought more enemies to Li Luo instead.

"Then I wish you, Banner Leader Li Luo, all the best. May your wish come true." Li Qingfeng laughed coldly.

It seemed like there was no hope for furthering today's agenda anymore after the interruption from Lu Qingmei and Li Luo. However, Li Qingfeng had not shown any signs of frustration.

"Initially, I had kind intentions for everyone to take things easily. Since some of you have objected to my kind intentions, let's forget about it." Li Qingfeng laughed it off nonchalantly.

Many of the Banner Leaders stood up at this point and started chatting to ease the atmosphere.

As for Lu Qingmei, she turned around and left the hall immediately.

Li Luo was not interested in staying either. Although Li Qingfeng did not show it, he must have been enraged when his plan was foiled by Lu Qingmei and Li Luo. As such, Li Luo did not intend to waste any more energy here.

He greeted Li Fengyi and Li Jingtao before the trio headed out of the hall too.

Just as he left the big hall, Banner Leader Li Qingfeng, who had been gaily chatting with the other Banner Leaders, caught a glimpse of them out of the corner of his eye, and his smile vanished from his face.

Chapter 0818: The Protagonist of the Birthday Celebration

Although Li Qingfeng's proposal did not go through in the end, the birthday celebration continued on. After all, that was the main highlight of the night. Li Qingfeng's proposal was merely an interlude.

On the second story balcony of the gilded palace, Li Luo leaned against the railing and watched the grand, vast lake in front of him. Although night had fallen, the lake continued to sparkle under the dazzling, bright lights of the palace.

There were many people passing behind him, socializing in the grand hall of the gilded palace. Despite the lively activities, Li Luo had no intention to join in.

He planned to wait a little longer and then head back for a rest.

Amidst the noisy chatter coming from the gilded palace, Li Luo recalled Jiang Qing'e's beautiful face, and a pleasant smile appeared on his lips.

"How is she doing at the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College? Has the sacrificial ignition of her Heart of Light been resolved yet?"

He would deliver the Nine Marks Sacred Heart Lotus to her as soon as he obtained it. At that point, would he be able to catch a glimpse of her?

Li Luo could not help but miss her deeply. Although he was doing fine in the Dragon's Fang Lineage and the living conditions were much better than back in the Xia Kingdom, his favorite place deep in his heart was still the small, little House Luolan...

In fact, everything he cared about was there.

It was a pity that the Xia Kingdom had been infested by Others.

Thinking about the Other Disaster, he could not help but feel a little heavy in his heart. How were things going there now? Although Principal Pang had managed to seal the mysterious black river and kept the Others under control at the most critical moment, the Others would surely continue to grow stronger gradually. Once the seal broke, the whole Xia Kingdom would be wiped out by them.

This was exactly what had happened to the Blackwind Empire, the place he had visited during the Holy Grail Meet.

Even now, it was still creepy to think about what he had seen and heard back then. He really did not want the Xia Kingdom to end up like this, as that was where he truly spent his childhood growing up.

Be it the City of Southwind or Xia City.

Unfortunately, he was still too weak now. He was unable to change anything. Fortunately, he still had some time. He hoped to save the Xia Kingdom once he reached the Duke Stage in the future.

As Li Luo was deep in thought, footsteps could be heard coming from behind him. He immediately turned his focus and sensed a faint fragrance blowing past him, along with the night breeze.

When he turned his head, he was surprised to see a figure donned in dark clothes. It was none other than Lu Qingmei.

At this moment, the night breeze picked up and her trousers pressed against her legs, revealing their stunning proportions to the fullest. It was an astonishing sight to behold. The skin on her bare feet was exposed to be as white as snow, glowing under the dazzling light.

"Banner Leader Lu Qingmei, what brings you here? You were very popular when I saw you earlier," Li Luo said with a smile.

He had seen Lu Qingmei surrounded by many young people, a display of her extraordinary charm.

"You're very popular too. There are many pretty girls searching for you back there," Lu Qingmei replied.

Li Luo simply shook his head with a smile.

Without harping on such meaningless chatter, she continued, "I heard that your dual resonances have reached the third realm and you have achieved the Vestiges of Spirituality."

Indeed, Li Luo had shown this during his clash with Zhong Ling earlier. It was not something that he could hide any longer.

As such, he nodded in response.

"No wonder your Duke Art was so powerful when we fought against each other. That must be the reason," Lu Qingmei stated as she looked at Li Luo with eyes full of interest.

"I would really like to see your dual resonance power again. You must be much stronger now. How about it? Shall we have a match? I will keep my resonant power close to your level. I would like to experience the power of the dual resonances' third realm again," she said as she looked at Li Luo full of expectations.

Li Luo was dumbfounded by this. This girl was truly a martial arts fanatic. With such a good setting and atmosphere, she had not mentioned anything romantic. Instead, she had asked him to spar.

"Not interested. It will not be a fair fight at all. Although you will suppress your resonant power, you have already cleared the Fiend Body Tiers. No matter how you see it, you'll have an advantage over me." Li Luo rejected it with a pretty solid reason.

Hearing this, Lu Qingmei was kind of disappointed. "You are truly talented. If not for those years wasted in the outer divine continent, you would surely be in the Fiend Finisher Tier now," she said regretfully.

Li Luo smiled a little as he shook his head and replied, "The days spent in the outer divine continent were the most precious of times to me. There was nothing wasted."

Lu Qingmei took another glance at Li Luo. She could sense that he was sincere with his words and that he was not lying at all. Unlike ordinary folks, Li Luo did not resent that his parents had brought him to such a rundown environment despite his prestigious background and family. It was a truly admirable attitude.

Lu Qingmei changed the topic, asking, "You said earlier that you wanted one of the Coiling Dragon Pillars in the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool, right? Taking one won't be easy. Are you confident?"

She felt an intense curiosity towards him. Although Li Luo could narrow the gap between his strength and the other Banner Leaders with the help of the Green Nether Banner's Harmony, he was still only at the Greater Fiend Palace Tier by himself.

With only six Coiling Dragon Pillars in the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool, it would definitely be hotly contested. It would not be easy to obtain even one of them.

"You have to give it a try to know," Li Luo replied with a laugh.

With that, Lu Qingmei did not probe him any further. It was not in her personality to do so. However, she could sense the self-confidence oozing from Li Luo, which only further stoked her curiosity. Where was his confidence coming from?

As the two ran out of conversation topics, things got quiet.

A short moment later, Li Luo suddenly noticed glittering starlight emerging from the vast lake in front of him. In the center of the lake, there was a green lotus flower that was hundreds of feet wide slowly blooming, with its lotus leaves spreading out over the water. With countless dazzling dots of stars glittering on the surface of the lake, it was a truly gorgeous sight to behold.

Li Luo was captured by this strange sight instantly.

"That is the Jade Heart Lotus. It possesses a jade heart seed that blooms semi-annually. It does not help much in cultivation, but it is extremely good for nourishing the face. As such, it's a priceless treasure in the eyes of many ladies," Lu Qingmei explained to him.

"Are you interested in it, Banner Leader Lu Qingmei?" Li Luo asked back.

Lu Qingmei merely shook her head and replied, "It's not as interesting as your dual resonances in the third realm."

Li Luo was left speechless by her blunt reply.

"However, the protagonist of the birthday celebration must be coming out soon since the Jade Heart Lotus has bloomed," Lu Qingmei continued.

"The protagonist for today? Who is it?" Li Luo asked in surprise.

"Take a guess." Lu Qingmei turned her head and revealed a faint smile on her charming, oval-shaped face.

Li Luo was puzzled by this. Just as he was about to respond, he heard a noisy commotion coming from the palace. He immediately turned around to take a look. There were many gathering around the red carpet outside it. At the front of them all was a girl who seemed to be bathed with rays of moonlight as she walked in.

She donned a long, light-green dress. Her face was charming like the goddess of the moon. The moonlight fell on her cheeks and her beautiful, glass skin glowed under the white light. On her small and rosy earlobes hung two sapphire earrings that sparkled under the light as they were gently shaken.

She had a pair of light blue pupils that were as clear as a grand lake full of water.

Her waist was hugged by a ribbon that made her appear as slender as a willow.

As she walked past, there was a certain moisture lingering in the air.

Her very presence roused the water elements of the worldly natural energy around her.

Cold and crystal-clear, she was just like a water fairy.

The crowd in the palace could not help but look over as they stared in amazement.

Li Luo was also lost for a moment before he snapped back to reality. He knew who this lady in front of him was.

Who could it be beside the stunning beauty Qin Yi, the fairy of water on the Empyrean Chronicle?

Chapter 0819: Qin Yi

Qin Yi's looks took even Li Luo by surprise despite his plethora of "battle experience" in dealing with beauties. Amongst all those that he had encountered, the only one who could surpass this fairy was Jiang Qing'e.

But a pretty face wasn't everything.

He quickly retracted his gaze and regained his sense of calm.

"Your willpower is pretty impressive," remarked Lu Qingmei in surprise upon seeing how quickly he had recomposed himself.

The fact was that countless guys were still staring dumbfoundedly at the ethereal beauty bathed in moonlight who was akin to the goddess of the moon.

Li Luo, who was only momentarily taken aback, was a far cry from those lustful individuals who were completely lost in their own imaginations. He basically treated her as nonexistent after that quick glance.

As a result, Lu Qingmei was left in astonishment at Li Luo's state of mind. Qin Yi was a heaven-toppling beauty, and even she felt a sense of appreciation towards her beauty despite being of the same gender.

"I've seen many beauties, and so my resistances are great," Li Luo honestly replied.

Lu Qingmei was a little dumbfounded by his frankly outlandish reply. "You're really an expert in bragging. With how gorgeous Qin Yi is, there are few who can compare even in the inner divine continent. Just where did you see these other beauties?"

"One man's meat is another man's poison. I don't like her sort of pampered and tender beauty. In my eyes, she's not as good as you, Banner Leader Qingmei," Li Luo frankly replied.

After which he turned and glanced at the individual in question who was dressed in her combat clothes neatly. She was not dressed as luxuriously, but she was no less impressive in her own right.

Lu Qingmei glared dangerously at Li Luo. "Don't speak to me so frivolously."

"I'm simply praising you," Li Luo helplessly replied.

"If you want to praise me, why don't you try out my glazed glass rod instead? I think that would bring me a lot more pleasure."

Li Luo was a little speechless. Lu Qingmei was indeed a special girl. Compliments that pleased most girls were worthless on her. In addition, she was completely immune to his handsome charms, and the only reason she was even speaking to him was because of his third realm dual resonance power.

"Banner Leader Lu Qingmei, are you planning to obtain a Coiling Dragon Pillar during the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool?" Seeing that his compliments had fallen on deaf ears, Li Luo moved on and directly changed the topic.

Lu Qingmei was lost in thought for a few moments before replying, "The benefits from obtaining a Gold Coiling Dragon Pillar are substantial. I will definitely compete for it."

Li Luo smiled. "Well, Li Qingfeng has already assumed that it belongs to him."

"Then we will let him try. The stronger one will take it. I haven't exchanged blows with him properly in some time." Lu Qingmei held no fear towards him and was instead itching for a fight.

Li Luo sighed deeply and smiled. "I was wondering, are you interested in joining hands and eliminating him if the opportunity presents itself?"

These words caused her beautiful eyes to shrink a little, and she glared at Li Luo yet again. "You have a wild heart... Planning to set your sights upon Li Qingfeng?"

"What's there to be afraid of?" Li Luo grinned.

Lu Qingmei shook her head. "It will not be that easy. The Dragon's Blood Lineage's four banners all obey him, and they will spend all their effort to protect him. Meanwhile, the Dragon's Fang Lineage doesn't possess the same sense of solidarity, right?"

Li Luo shrugged his shoulders. Li Fengyi and Li Jingtao would definitely do their best to assist him, but Deng Fengxian was someone he truly could not control. This was something that Lu Qingmei knew as well.

However, he was also trying to test Lu Qingmei's attitude towards this. If the other party had no intention whatsoever to form an alliance, there was nothing he could do.

As the two spoke, Qin Yi entered the golden palace and the crowd enthusiastically ushered her in. The atmosphere seemed to be heating up.

The countless youths present were not only the geniuses from the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages, but also from other esteemed powers who were invited. They all did their best to exhibit themselves in front of Qin Yi in numerous ways, much like a roost of peacocks spreading their tails to court a partner without any form of restraint.

This display was something Qin Yi was well acquainted with. Her beautiful face held a trace of a smile that didn't seem to alienate anyone, but neither did it give a sense of closeness.

Li Luo similarly glanced towards Li Fengyi, who had beckoned towards him from a corner at this time.

He gave his regards to Lu Qingmei before turning to leave, walking towards Li Fengyi.

She was surrounded by a circle of young and pretty girls. They seemed to be her close confidantes, and all of them were a little older than him.

When Li Fengyi saw Li Luo approach, she directly grabbed his hand and dragged him over whilst smiling at all the ladies who were looking at him with starlit eyes. "Ah, this is my little brother, Li Luo. He's Third Uncle's son, and although he's only been back from the outer divine continent for three months, he's already the Banner Leader of the Green Nether Banner. He also surpassed Li Jingtao's record in the Fiendish Devil Cave. Soon, he will catch up to me."

Although her words were casual, there was an undisguisable pride in her voice.

The ladies around them were also in high positions in the other lineages with relatively high personal standings as well. Thus, they looked at Li Luo with a hint of curiosity, especially at his handsome face. Even when compared to the other geniuses in the golden palace, he would be considered to be one of the best.

Because of their identities, some had not joined the Twenty Banners, and with how vast the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages' were, there were numerous other places they could be posted to.

They were in a similar social circle as Li Fengyi and thus, comparisons between them were unavoidable at times.

And now, she had suddenly brandished her younger brother all of a sudden, completely out of the blue.

"Li Luo, you look quite young. I assume you don't have a girlfriend, do you? Does this elder sister need to introduce someone to you? There are countless beauties in the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages. If you're interested, even I can suffice." A lady dressed in red smiled as she attempted to tempt him.

This was faced with a helpless smile. He naturally expected this after being thrown into a circle full of hungry cougars. He was very confident in his own outer appearance after all.

"Don't fantasize wantonly. He's already engaged to a dazzling girl that is no worse than Qin Yi." Li Fengyi hurriedly protected her little brother. Although she had never really seen this fiancee, it wasn't a crime to brag.

"Haha." Some of the girls around her did not believe in these words, only laughing. Li Fengyi seemed to have been bragging a little too hard.

"However, Li Luo, although the Green Nether Banner's progress has been rapid, your personal strength remains in the Greater Fiend Palace Tier. Frankly, you're the weakest Banner Leader amongst the Twenty Banners. Thus, you need to improve yourself personally. The Green Nether Banner is an external strength that does not belong to you. When you eventually leave the Green Nether Banner, you will have to rely on yourself," the beautiful lady in red attentively stated.

It could be seen that she was chiding him with good intentions. She clearly a good relationship with Li Fengyi, as there was no trace of mockery within her words.

Li Luo listened and nodded with a smile. "I will do my best, Elder Sister."

"Good boy. Elder Sister is the Deputy City Lord of Northcloud City. Come visit me when you're free to have some fun." She had alluring eyes shaped like crescent moons, and she couldn't help but to reach out and stroke Li Luo's gray hair.

However, her hand was swatted away by Li Fengyi just as quickly. "Li Lanyin, don't take advantage of people!"

"Don't be petty. You should loan your wonderful younger brother to me for some fun," the red-robed Li Lanyin retorted.

The two then started to argue noisily.

At this point in time, the atmosphere seemed to have risen in intensity and excitement as countless individuals surged towards a flat platform by the lake. The ones leading were none other than Li Qingfeng, Li Hongli, and Qin Yi, the main characters of this stage.

Li Fengyi and Li Lanyin temporarily stopped their bickering as they similarly lightly pouted upon this sight.

"Li Qingfeng is really putting in some effort."

"What is he trying to do?" Li Luo asked.

Li Lanyin shrugged.

"What else can he do? He is going to pick the lotus seed for the beauty of the night."

Chapter 0820: Battle for the Lotus

The crowd had gathered on the flat platform by the water, and the tranquility of the grand lake was broken for a moment. Li Qingfeng, Qin Yi, and Li Hongli were at the forefront, surrounded by their supporters.

"Lady Qin Yi, the Jade Heart Lotus in the middle of this lake blooms once every six months. It has great beautifying properties and is perfect for a lady. Normally, it is instantly snatched up as soon as it blooms," Li Qingfeng explained with a warm smile on his handsome face as he pointed towards the center of the lake.

Like he had said, the eyes of many girls lit up when they heard about its miraculous abilities. Indeed, a lady's love for beauty far exceeded that of man.

Hearing this, a sense of curiosity appeared on Qin Yi's charming face as she replied gently, "What a treasure."

Li Qingfeng replied with a grin, "Tonight happens to be the time when the oldest Jade Heart Lotus in the center of this lake blooms. It must have known that a lady of impeccable beauty was coming."

Qin Yi rolled her eyes at his praises. She simply responded with a soft voice, "With her unparalleled, ravishing beauty, Miss Hongli is the perfect match for it."

In response to that, Li Hongli merely shook her head and said, "Lady Qin Yi, you are a guest from afar. As the host, I will naturally let you have it in my stead." Of course, she was wary of Qin Yi from the bottom

of her heart as a fellow lady. Furthermore, Li Qingfeng's hospitality towards Qin Yi had made her slightly unhappy. Nonetheless, she was still the host and had to be polite to this important guest.

Hearing their conversation, Li Qingfeng simply laughed and said, "There is no need for the two of you to give in to each other. There has always been a special rule in place to decide who gets to take home the lotus bloom. We can just follow it, how about that?"

"What rule would that be?" Qin Yi asked as she looked at Li Qingfeng with her crystal-clear, blue eyes, dazzling and charming like the sparkling lake in front of them.

Under her enchanting gaze, even the ordinarily composed and handsome Li Qingfeng straightened his back as he responded with a grin, "Under normal circumstances, when there are multiple people eyeing the lotus, each side can send one representative onto the lotus to fight it out on the lotus leaf. The victor will be able to bring the blooming lotus back. This is also known as the Battle for the Lotus."

"However, there is a special addition to the rules. The representative sent in for the fight cannot be too strong, or their resonant power will be too violent and aggressive. That would damage the lotus leaf and the Jade Heart Lotus. As such, someone at the Fiend Finisher Tier is usually the most apt choice for it."

Hearing his explanation, Qin Yi hesitated for a moment before saying, "This means that I am not eligible for it."

Li Qingfeng waved his hands and said, "There is no need for you to go up there yourself. You can send a helper in your place. I am sure there are many souls willing to help a lady like Lady Qin Yi among all the talents gathered here today."

Qin Yi thought about it for a moment. With a soft voice and a gentle smile, she said, "Since the host insists, I'll gladly accept the offer."

At this point, Li Hongli scanned the crowd and called out to a man. "Zhao Fengyang, are you willing to obtain the Jade Heart Lotus on my behalf?"

The person she had identified was a tall young man with a straight body and a handsome face. He was dressed in white robes and was quite outstanding amongst the crowd.

The man named Zhao Fengyang was a Sub Leader of the Violet Blood Banner under Li Hongli. He was pretty talented with an eighth-grade wind resonance, and he was at the Glass Fiend Tier.

In terms of strength, Li Hongli was the only one above him in the Violet Blood Banner.

In fact, he was far above Zhong Ling in both talent and strength. Zhong Ling had tried all he could but still failed to reach the Glass Fiend Tier. As a result, he gave up on it bitterly and then directly rushed towards the Fiend Finisher Tier instead.

However, this would result in a weaker foundation. Thus, Zhong Ling might not stand a chance against Zhao Fengyang in a direct fight despite having the advantage in cultivation level.

His talent definitely exceeded that of just a Sub Leader. Nonetheless, he was content with staying in the Violet Blood Banner and did not want to go anywhere else.

Many people understood his thoughts, actually. Ultimately, there was nothing more fascinating than winning the heart of Li Hongli.

When he heard Li Hongli's call, he stood up with eyes filled with excitement. Without any hesitation, he exclaimed, "Don't worry Banner Leader, I will definitely get the Jade Heart Lotus for you."

This was a rare chance for him to impress Li Hongli. He could not be happier about it.

"Hongli, aren't you being too serious about this? Sending out Zhao Fengyang right off the bat..." Li Qingfeng joked about it.

Li Hongli pursed her lips and smiled as she replied, "With Lady Qin Yi's charm, are you worried that there will be no Glass Fiend hero willing to fight for her?"

On the other hand, Qin Yi chuckled lightly and responded, "It doesn't matter whether the individual is at the Glass Fiend Tier or not. After all, this is just an interesting event to build up the atmosphere."

At this moment, her eyes lit up and she raised her slender, jade hand into the air. An emerald-green butterfly materialized on her fingertip and flapped its wings gently.

"This is a spirit-seeking butterfly, an intelligent, little puppet. I will release it and ask whoever it lands on to represent me in the fight. Of course, winning or losing is not important, so you don't have to worry too much over it." Her soft voice sounded like a river flowing down the mountain, bringing a sense of calm and tranquility to the listeners.

"Isn't that too random?" Li Qingfeng asked with some hesitation.

Li Hongli had chosen Zhao Fengyang, while Qin Yi was choosing randomly. The odds of finding someone who stood a chance against Zhao Fengyang was not high.

Nonetheless, he understood. Qin Yi was not really interested in the Jade Heart Lotus and was merely going along with him.

So he just smiled and nodded.

With all that said, Qin Yi gently raised her hand, and light reflected off her fingers, which seemed to be as clear as glass, perfect and delicate.

The emerald-green butterfly flew into the air, and everyone watched it carefully.

Many of them had eyes burning with anticipation as they hoped the butterfly would land on them. This would give them a priceless chance to fight for Qin Yi and claim the lotus.

Who knows? They might even get to see the beauty's smile and leave a favorable impression for themselves.

Everyone continued to watch as the butterfly danced in the air.

Gradually, the butterfly got tired and started to descend. It passed the heads of one young man after another, and groans of disappointment followed in its wake.

Finally, it landed in front of a certain figure.

Everyone looked over immediately. As soon as they recognized the individual, they were stunned by the result. Chatter erupted in the background.

It was none other than the Banner Leader of the Green Nether Banner, Li Luo!

Li Qingfeng was also slightly taken aback by this scene before his eyes flickered.

Some of them stared at Li Luo enviously. His good luck was a bit too good to believe.

At this time, Qin Yi also glanced across and paused for a moment on Li Luo's face. An undetectable flicker appeared within her beautiful eyes that were clear like a lake as she softly said, "Has the spirit-seeking butterfly selected its candidate? Friend, are you willing to-"

Before she could finish her sentence, Li Luo frowned a little at the butterfly that had stopped in front of him. He stretched out his hand without an expression and slapped it away.

Pa!

The Spirit Seeking Butterfly was slapped away by Li Luo and landed in front of a rotund fellow with an oily face beside him. The fat man was stunned for a moment before he hurriedly grabbed onto the butterfly, exclaiming loudly, "Fairy Qin, I am willing!"

However, no one paid any attention to him. Everyone was dumbfounded as they looked at Li Luo.

No one had expected him to be so blunt!

That was a rare opportunity presented by the Fairy of Water Qin Yi. This guy did not appreciate it at all. Rather, he had rudely slapped it away!

What an idiot!