

Resonance 821

Chapter 0821: Rejection

All of a sudden, the lively atmosphere on the platform by the lake turned silent.

Everyone was taken aback by this series of events, and they were all staring blankly at Li Luo.

At the same time, some of Qin Yi's admirers were disgruntled at how this guy had handled such a precious opportunity. The audacity!

Li Fengyi and Li Lanyin, who were standing beside Li Luo, were also staring at him with strange expressions. It might seem like Li Luo had simply swatted away a pest, but in reality, it was actually a rude slap towards Qin Yi!

Surely, such a stunning and well known beauty in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent had never tasted such rudeness, right?

As they thought about this, there was a little sense of joy in their hearts.

It all stemmed from jealousy.

On the other hand, Li Luo remained nonchalant over it despite the many gazes. He had not even cast a single glance at Qin Yi all this while as he believed that the butterfly had not landed on him purely due to luck.

Qin Yi must have done something to it.

Due to the enmity from their previous generations, Li Luo felt that Qin Yi was well aware of who he was. In fact, she must have seen his portrait before or even knew what he looked like.

As such, it was not a coincidence for the butterfly to land here. Yet it was baffling to understand her motives for doing so.

Was Qin Yi trying to figure him out?

Regardless of her reasons, Li Luo did not want to follow her wishes. To fight for her and claim the Jade Heart Lotus, in spite of all the enmity between them? She had to be dreaming.

If it were any other ordinary guy, they might have fallen head over heels for her charm. However, if she expected this to work on Li Luo... he could only say that she thought too highly of herself.

The silence continued for a while longer before some of the youths from various factions stood up and criticized Li Luo for his rude behavior.

Even Li Qingfeng frowned a little after witnessing this. "Banner Leader Li Luo, you can just speak up if you're not willing to participate. Why did you have to be so rude about it?" he said.

Li Luo raised his eyes a little as he replied with an apologetic smile, "Sorry, I've had too much to drink. I thought there was some dirty thing flying around in front of me and casually smacked it away."

Li Qingfeng glared at him. Naturally, he understood that this was simply an excuse. He also knew about the grievances between the two's families in the previous generation, so Li Luo's reaction was not too difficult to understand.

Besides, why had Qin Yi picked Li Luo? What was she trying to do?

Thinking about this, Li Qingfeng turned towards Qin Yi and noticed that she had yet to recover from Li Luo's rude act. This must have been a first for her. After all, every man she had ever met had treated her warmly and politely thanks to her enchanting beauty.

Nonetheless, Qin Yi was not any ordinary girl, so she soon recovered from it. Without paying any attention to the greasy-faced, plump boy, she stared directly at Li Luo with her pale blue eyes that were clear as a lake. She revealed a smile that would send the hearts of most men fluttering and simply asked softly, "How should I address you, my friend?"

Li Luo glanced at her and replied with a slight smile, "I am the Banner Leader of the Green Nether Banner from the Dragon's Fang Lineage, Li Luo."

"So you're Banner Leader Li Luo." Qin Yi nodded politely before she continued apologetically, "The spirit butterfly flies to people randomly, so I am sorry for the inconvenience it has caused you. However, I do need a friend to help me fight for the lotus. Fate has led the spirit butterfly to choose you. Banner Leader Li Luo, will you please help me out? I will be grateful to you regardless of the result."

Her beautiful eyes looked at Li Luo sincerely as she requested his help. This scene would have made many guys present heartbroken and dying to stand in for Li Luo.

However, Li Luo shook his head with a laugh. "Sorry, I have had too many drinks tonight and am not in my best condition right now. I am afraid I can't help Lady Qin Yi fight for the Lotus," he said. Once again, he rejected her plea.

This time, a commotion arose from the crowd. Some of the youths from the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages could not hold back any longer and shouted back angrily, "Li Luo, Lady Qin Yi is a distinguished guest. This is just a small request, so can you please help her? Why do you have to keep on rejecting her?"

"If others see this, they will surely say that the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li is unable to be a gracious host."

"Exactly."

"Is it because you know you can't win against Zhao Fengyang, and so you'd rather hide and escape? If that's the case, just say so."

Despite all these complaints from the crowd, Li Luo did not say anything. Instead, Li Fengyi, who was standing beside him, raised her brows as she glared at everyone and shouted back, "He already said that he's not interested, why are you still forcing him? Do you all think that everyone is like you, saying yes to everything as soon as you see a pretty girl?"

"Exactly. If you want to win the heart of beauty, do it yourself. Don't attract attention by looking down on others," Li Lanyin shouted in support. Although they were bickering moments ago, she supported her best friend during important times.

The bystanders felt a little resentful and were speechless for a while.

At this moment, Qin Yi lifted her charming face slightly. Her skin was delicate like the ripples of water atop the lake. It was as if water would flow out of her elegant skin if one pinched it even slightly. Gently biting her red lips, she replied with a soft voice, "I always believe in fate, and fate must have played a part when the spirit butterfly chose Banner Leader Li Luo. If Banner Leader Li Luo is unable to help, then fate does not want me to obtain the Jade Heart Lotus. In that case, I will not participate in the Battle for the Lotus."

As soon as she said this, there were many faces of disappointment in the crowd. After all, this battle was the highlight of today's banquet. The atmosphere had been spoiled by Li Luo.

This made many of the people present resentful towards him.

At this point, Li Qingfeng also frowned. He was the main host for today's celebration. If it ended like this, he would naturally be dissatisfied with it.

On the other hand, Li Luo merely stared at Qin Yi's enchanting, white-jade face under the dazzling moonlight. It was truly mesmerizing. However, he still felt that Qin Yi had intentionally chosen him.

In fact, she might have agreed to the banquet's invitation only because of him.

Of course, this was not due to his good looks. It probably arose from the enmity and complex history between their families.

Nonetheless, it was merely a gut feel. Li Luo had no proof.

With a smile, he replied, "It seems like Lady Qin Yi really wishes for me to act."

Qin Yi smiled sweetly and replied, "I'm just respecting the decision of the spirit butterfly."

Li Luo rubbed his chin and slowly said, "Since you are our guest, I have no reason to reject if you need my help. However, I already have a fiancée. Although she is slight prettier than you, it will still be hard for me to explain to her if I help you out for no reason."

As soon as he ended his sentence, many amongst the crowd burst out in frustrated laughter.

Can't you find a better reason, Li Luo? A fiancée? And even saying she was slightly prettier than Fairy Qin?

Wasn't this guy from an outer divine continent? Where would he find an enchanting beauty like Fairy Qin out in the sticks? As everyone was laughing in the background, Qin Yi remained calm and simply smiled lightly as she gracefully responded, "I see. In that case, it was too reckless of me."

At this moment, Li Luo continued, "However, if Lady Qin Yi really needs my help, it's not impossible."

This left everyone in the crowd dumbfounded. So, Li Luo was just playing hard to get all this while, hoping to leave an impression on the heart of Fairy Qin?

Hearing this, Fairy Qin's eyes lit up and she asked delightfully, "Really?"

Li Luo nodded. Under everyone's gazes, he extended out his hand to show one finger and smiled brightly.

"Ten million."

Once again, everyone was stunned by him. Even with her personality, Qin Yi's jewel-like, beautiful cheeks froze upon hearing him.

The same question popped up in everyone's minds.

"What the heck? Is he really charging for his services?!"

Chapter 0822: Beginning and an End

Li Luo's sudden request caused confused looks to surface all around. In the eyes of these youths, being able to do something for Qin Yi was a wondrous blessing that they could never even so much as hope to touch! Li Luo, however, had come up with all sorts of random excuses to reject her goodwill and even asked for money!

In addition, it wasn't a small amount.

Ten million skygold was a massive sum.

In the inner divine continents, this was sufficient to move even a Duke to action. Li Luo was only in the Greater Fiend Palace, so why would he command such a price?

This was just a lion trying to take a bite out of a clearly innocent sheep.

He was clearly just trying to cause trouble!

Even when faced with all of the countless strange stares, Li Luo's gaze remained indifferent. His unreasonable request was a test to see her limit in her attempt to coerce him into action.

Normally speaking, this sort of request would cause an ordinary person to feel absolutely irritated and infuriated at the ridiculousness of the matter. They would simply ignore him and perhaps personally take action, never to raise this idea ever again.

If Qin Yi was willing to cajole Li Luo into action even in such a situation, it would definitely hint at some other problems underneath the surface.

Li Luo's gaze was focused upon Qin Yi, whereas the latter's beautiful face regained a sense of calm as she replied in a sullen tone, "Banner Leader Li Luo, surely you jest... right?"

Upon seeing that Qin Yi now seemed a little angry, Li Qingfeng hurriedly consoled her. "My Lady Qin Yi, do not be quick to anger. Li Luo has just returned from the outer divine continent, so his temperament is naturally a little barbaric."

Li Luo clearly knew her identity, and his refusal to act had to be related to the grievances from the previous generation. There was no goodwill between them.

On the other hand, he was delighted to see this result.

Qin Yi's jade-like countenance had turned frosty. Completely ignoring Li Qingfeng's words, she glared at Li Luo in fury, her chest heaving slightly.

This sight caused her countless admirers to feel a pang of pain in their hearts, creating a sense of dissatisfaction that was directed at Li Luo.

"Since Banner Leader Li Luo wants to make a fool of me, then I'll accompany you to the end. Ten million skygold is no small sum, but since I have some savings, so be it. I'll get you to fight tonight," Qin Yi retorted icily.

This immediately caused an uproar to erupt. Who would have expected Qin Yi to call Li Luo's bluff?

Ten million skygold to get someone at the Greater Fiend Palace Tier to fight? If it was not for the fact that everyone adored Fairy Qin, there might have been uncontrolled outbursts towards Li Luo.

"Fairy Qin, there is no need to get frustrated at Li Luo."

"Indeed, if you wish, just say the word and I will do my very best!"

Numerous individuals took this chance to pipe up. The way they saw it, Qin Yi was clearly aggravated by Li Luo's actions, and this was her way of venting.

Additionally, that bastard was truly not giving her any face.

Anyone in her position would also be angry.

Despite being inundated with advice, Qin Yi lightly shook her head, and her beautiful face turned stern. She raised her hand and flicked, sending a purple crystal card shooting towards Li Luo, who promptly and casually received it. Glancing closer, it was a crystal card emblazoned with the mark of the Golden Dragon Bank.

"This is the Golden Dragon Bank's Golden Dragoncard. It's redeemable for ten million skygold." Her previously soft and gentle voice had turned cold.

When the crowd saw this, they were taken aback and many gave bitter smiles. They had never expected Fairy Qin to act so wilfully.

Li Luo lightly caressed the Golden Dragoncard, his expression calm. However, unbeknownst to the rest, his gaze had trembled momentarily. Qin Yi was more prepared than he had expected.

At this point, he was certain that she was trying to target him.

Spending ten million skygold, a massive sum, just to get him to win the seeds of the Jade Heart Lotus. This was definitely the mark of a magnanimous individual.

His thoughts churned over the possibilities before he slowly strode over before the numerous complicated gazes of the crowd.

"Now that I've taken the payment, I have to take action." Li Luo smiled radiantly.

"Since Lady Qin Yi has so graciously decided to pay me, I have to give this a shot."

Qin Yi's face was now as frigid as ice, no longer bothering to banter with Li Luo. Clearly, she was still annoyed at how the situation had unfolded.

Li Luo remained nonchalant as he casually strolled to the side of the lake before glancing towards Li Qingfeng and Li Hongli. "Is it time to begin?" he asked.

Li Qingfeng's lips twitched slightly. The entire night had been thrown into complete disarray by Li Luo. He had no idea how he ought to reply.

Li Hongli, on the other hand, gave a cold smile. "It looks like your life in the outer divine continent must have been filled with poverty, seeing how you try to extort money from others at every possible opportunity."

"I have to rely on my abilities to make a living. There's nothing shameful about it," Li Luo replied stoically.

Li Hongli could only grit her teeth angrily at Li Luo's thick skin before she turned to Zhao Fengyang. "Fengyang, you better not lose face for the Violet Blood Banner." Within her words lay the implicit meaning not to spare Li Luo any mercy.

Zhao Fengyang nodded before he walked forward and stood beside Li Luo with a smile. "Banner Leader Li Luo, you might have beaten Zhong Ling, but that doesn't mean you have a chance against me."

Li Luo glanced at him and reminded him in a happy tone, "Being a fawning dog doesn't lead to a good end."

This comment immediately infuriated Zhao Fengyang. "Damn it! How can this guy be such a bastard? It's no wonder even Fairy Qin, who is usually well mannered, would lose her composure as well."

Zhao Fengyang clenched his teeth as he retorted, "Don't just be all talk. We'll see if there's any gold hidden beneath that dirt you call your face."

Li Luo shook his head sorrowfully. It seemed as though his good intentions had been misconstrued negatively...

Li Qingfeng similarly took a step forward. "Based on the usual rules, once your feet touch the surface of the water, both parties can utilize any means necessary to prevent the other party from reaching the lotus leaf. If anyone falls into the water before that, they are considered disqualified. If both parties reach the lotus leaf at the same time, they will have to fight, and the victor can attain the lotus."

He then picked up a stone and tossed it towards the lake.

"The moment the stone enters the lake, the Battle for the Lotus will begin."

Time seemed to stop, and everyone was focused upon the falling stone. A few seconds later, it plonked into the lake, setting off a pristine plop.

At that moment, explosive waves of resonant power were emitted from both Li Luo and Zhao Fengyang.

Lightning could be seen beneath Li Luo's feet. He directly shot tens of meters forward with the aid of his Thunderbolt Art.

Zhao Fengyang, on the other hand, was like a gust of wind, his body wreathed in a glaze-like radiance, demonstrating that he had reached the Glass Fiend Tier.

The two had accelerated to their peak and left behind two trails in their wake along the surface of the lake.

In terms of impressiveness, Zhao Fengyang held the upper hand. By bringing to bear the strength of his Glass Fiend Body, worldly natural energy continuously surged into him and resonant power burst out like a flood. The undulations he was giving off were even greater than that of Zhong Ling during the Banner Leader selection battle.

This was the advantage of reaching the Glass Fiend Tier.

It set a sturdy foundation that was incomparable to the Gold Fiend Tier.

However, what surprised everyone was that the resonant power undulations coming from Li Luo were equally strong.

The two dashed forward across the vast lake, their figures basking in the glow of the stars and the moon, heading straight towards the massive Jade Heart Lotus in the center.

Everyone's nervous gazes were fixated upon it.

Li Qingfeng was observing the two figures before he turned towards Qin Yi. "Li Luo might only be at the Greater Fiend Palace Tier, but his body possesses triple resonances. With the aid of three resonant palaces, and his ability to wield dual resonance power, his resonant power is extremely dense and is not weaker than that of someone at the Glass Fiend Tier. It is no wonder he managed to surpass Zhong Ling during the Banner Leader selection. He truly possesses top tier talent. It's just a pity that he spent so many years languishing in an outer divine continent and wasted a significant amount of time. If he wishes to catch up, he will have to put in endless amounts of effort."

Shaking his head empathetically, he seemed to be feeling sorry for Li Luo. Qin Yi's beautiful eyes were focused on Li Luo as they flickered briefly. Triple resonances? This was truly rare, and it was no weaker than her own ninth-grade water resonance. Even when placed amongst the geniuses of the inner divine continent, he could be considered to be a genius amongst them.

Li Hongli smiled as she said to Qin Yi, "Li Luo might have borrowed the assistance of his triple resonant palaces to surge with speed, allowing him to temporarily compete against Zhao Fengyang. Unfortunately, his foundation is lacking, so Zhao Fengyang holds a great advantage in an actual battle.

"Lady Qin Yi, it looks like you have squandered your ten million. However, you can rest assured that if Li Luo fails, I will definitely force him to return your money. This is not the Dragon's Fang Lineage, and we won't tolerate his bad behavior."

Qin Yi merely gave a shallow smile in response.

As she was speaking, on the lake, Zhao Fengyang glanced back to see that Li Luo was barely half a step behind him, and a vicious glint surfaced in his eyes.

In the next moment, his figure flashed to the side, directly pouncing on Li Luo like a hunting falcon.

Dense resonant power condensed in his palm, forming something akin to a tornado. When he slammed outwards, space around him seemed to detonate with a piercing boom.

The tornado that was generated was violent and domineering, directly forming a twister of water and wind atop the lake. The fusion of wind and water resonances merged, forming a gigantic handprint that viciously slammed downwards.

"Raging Giant Palm!" Numerous surprised cries erupted from the lakeshore. Zhao Fengyang had decided to strike Li Luo before they arrived at the lotus leaf. His intention was clearly to injure Li Luo and force him into the water, attaining a perfect victory.

The sound of a terrifying boom was transmitted into Li Luo's ears.

He tilted his head slightly, calmly looking back at Zhao Fengyang, almost as though he was taunting him.

Li Luo did not dodge, only letting the frightening attack strike at him.

"You are courting death!" Zhao Fengyang coldly smirked.

An amused expression surfaced on Li Luo's face as he lifted his palm and lightly swatted at his attack.

At the same time, red light flowed through the scarlet bracelet on his wrist. Zhao Fengyang felt that Li Luo's casual swat was a little strange. He had not felt any resonant power undulations coming from him.

However, it was at this point that he suddenly felt uneasy in his heart. He thought he had heard the howl of a wolf, and following Li Luo's nonchalant strike, the thick stench of blood flooded his nose.

At that moment, Zhao Fengyang's gaze shrank, and the scene before his eyes seemed to have changed. A gigantic beast emanating incomprehensible amounts of fiendish energy was rushing towards him.

This malevolent air was terrifying, and it directly caused Zhao Fengyang's mental state to shudder.

It was a vicious creature that he had no chance of stopping!

Horror filled his eyes and boundless fear arose within his heart. Under the impact of the fiendish energy, his own resonant power seemed to have collapsed from within.

"Just what is that?! Is this Li Luo's attack?"

No one else could explain this to him. Just as his resonant power crumbled away, Li Luo's slap lightly descended and he was impolitely smacked in the face.

Pa!

When the crisp sound resounded, an easily recognized, red welt appeared on Zhao Fengyang's face, and he fell from the air like a bird with broken wings, directly plunging into the lake.

This sudden development left everyone speechless.

Everyone was staring at the scene blankly.

What they had seen was that Zhao Fengyang's Raging Giant Palm was just about to reach Li Luo. Yet at the moment before impact, his resonant power crumbled and he was lightly slapped, falling right into the depths of the lake.

Li Hongli was completely aghast and seemed to have lost her soul at this sight.

The Battle for the Lotus had ended in an even quicker and cleaner fashion than anyone had ever expected.

What was supposed to be the beginning to an exciting fight had ended before it even started...

Chapter 0823: Conclusion

Poof!

The crisp sound of the water echoed across the lake, and what followed was a moment of silence. Everyone was stunned.

How had Li Luo sent Zhao Fengyang flying into the water with just a slap?

Zhao Fengyang was clearly the one to launch the preemptive strike.

Faced with such a sudden development, even Li Qingfeng, Qin Yi, and the others were shocked.

They did not understand what had just happened either.

Li Luo's slap appeared so light, yet it had totally disintegrated the Raging Giant Palm from Zhao Fengyang when the two clashed.

They all assumed it had something to do with Zhao Fengyang, as none of them felt any undulations of energy from the clash earlier.

However, why would Zhao Fengyang suddenly collapse?

The crowd could not fathom what had occurred at all.

Meanwhile, Li Luo smiled lightly as the crowd remained confused. After sending Zhao Fengyang flying into the lake, he took a look at the crimson ring on his wrist and nodded in satisfaction.

The ferocious aura from the Three-tailed Heavenly Wolf must have scared Zhao Fengyang out of his wits earlier, causing him to collapse in fear.

After all, the wolf was at the Duke Stage now, so its ferocious aura was terrifying beyond belief. As a Glass Fiend, there was no way Zhao Fengyang could have resisted the pressure when it had appeared so suddenly.

Simply put, Li Luo had borrowed the ferocious aura from the Three-tailed Heavenly Wolf to give Zhao Fengyang a horrifying mental shock.

As the victim could not bear it, he naturally lost control in an instant and was left totally open to Li Luo.

"Unlucky baby."

Li Luo shook his head sympathetically. Zhao Fengyang's mind was not tough enough. Otherwise, he would not have suffered such a total defeat.

In the next moment, he did not bother with his fallen opponent anymore and skimmed across the water's surface. After a short while, he landed on the Jade Heart Lotus in the center of the lake under everyone's puzzled gazes.

He went straight to the lotus, peeled off the buds, and took out one of the seeds.

Approximately the size of a thumb, the lotus seeds were crystal-clear like jade with a special, glowing light pattern looming on them. It was truly a mystical sight.

"So, this is the Jade Heart Lotus?"

Li Luo played with it on his fingers for a while before he turned around and headed back to the shore.

At this moment, everyone was still filled with confusion as they watched Li Luo return with the lotus seed.

"Li Luo, w-what weird tricks did you use?!" Li Hongli could not help but ask angrily.

She could not come to terms with the sudden loss from Zhao Fengyang.

In response, Li Luo took a glance at her but did not pay much attention to her at all. Instead, he flicked his fingers and shot the Jade Heart Lotus seed at Qin Yi, saying, "Lady Qin Yi, here's your thing. There is no need to thank me, as I'm getting paid."

Qin Yi stretched out her jade hand and caught the seed. After taking a quick look, she casually put it away.

Hearing Li Luo's words, she could barely contain the itch in her heart despite her usually calm personality. This bastard was still acting all kind and good when he had gotten such a good deal out of it. It was just a Jade Heart Lotus seed, an item worth hundreds of thousands of skygold at most. Yet Li Luo had gotten ten million skygold for it!

He had totally taken her for a fool!

Luckily, Qin Yi was very well tempered. Even though Li Luo had cheated her of a large sum, she still kept her composure and elegance without showing any slips.

"You defeated a Glass Fiend while you're still at the Greater Fiend Palace Tier. Banner Leader Li Luo, you are truly outstanding. If not for the time wasted in the outer divine continent, it's likely that you'd be the best candidate for the Dragon's Head position for this generation of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li." Qin Yi praised him with her red lips as she looked at Li Luo with admiration.

These words stirred quite an uproar in the crowd, and many glared at Li Luo with hostility. Li Luo had just been fooling around. What had he done to make Qin Yi think so highly of him?

However, Li Luo merely rolled his eyes towards Qin Yi's praises. He thought to himself, "What the heck? It was not like I was rotting away there! In fact, I had an absolutely great time in the outer divine continent, so there was no time wasted at all!"

In fact, he had constantly heard people repeat the phrase "wasting his time" so many times since he had arrived in the Dragon's Fang Lineage that it was simply disgusting.

Li Qingfeng had gotten a little uneasy after hearing Qin Yi's compliment. He grinned a little as he said, "Banner Leader Li Luo, you must have used some special means to scare Zhao Fengyang mentally, causing him to lose his composure and giving you the opportunity to strike for an instant win. Am I right? That was just a little trick that will only work once due to the element of surprise. I am afraid it won't work a second time."

Nonetheless, Li Luo could not be bothered to argue over this after hearing his remarks. Qin Yi was truly troublesome. Just a small remark had caused so much inconvenience to him. "Fairy Qin is a complete misnomer; she should be known as Troublemaker Qin instead."

Li Luo was very tired of all this by now. The banquet celebration was coming to a close. After receiving his huge reward of ten million skygold, he had no further interest in hanging around any longer.

"Guys, tomorrow is an important day. It's late now, so I will be heading out first."

As soon as Li Luo spoke, he turned around, leaving the palace before Li Qingfeng and Qin Yi could say anything more.

Seeing this, Li Fengyi grabbed onto Li Lanyin, and the two left the venue too.

As the crowd watched Li Luo walk off, they were filled with complex expressions. This guy had made such a mess out of this event, and now he was just casually walking off.

As soon as Li Luo disappeared into the distance, their focus shifted back to Qin Yi, and they started criticizing Li Luo for his rude acts.

Qin Yi merely responded with a light smile. She was also starting to get tired.

Seeing this, Li Qingfeng thoughtfully announced that the banquet was over and sent Qin Yi all the way back to the place where the guests stayed before giving his farewell. This was the graceful behavior a good host should display after all.

As she watched Li Qingfeng disappear into the distance, Qin Yi's eyes moved slightly as she walked towards a brightly lit, luxurious building.

When she pushed open the door and entered, there were two people awaiting her inside.

Seating in the center seat was a beautiful lady in a fiery, red dress with a bright fire lotus embroidery.

She was extremely charming and looked somewhat similar to Qin Yi. Compared to the calm, cooling, water-like Qin Yi, she was more mature like a passionate, burning flame. Despite the slightly loose dress she was wearing, her great and proud curves were evident.

At the same time, an air of strength and dominance seemed to have condensed at a point between her eyebrows.

Sitting by her side was a handsome man around twenty-five or twenty-six years old that gave off a majestic aura. He was wearing silver and golden bands around his arms that were engraved with mysterious, flickering light patterns that attracted the worldly natural energy around them.

Both of them looked up as soon as Qin Yi stepped in.

With a light smile, Qin Yi greeted them. "Mom. Senior."

It turned out that this ravishing lady was Qin Yi's mother, the one who had deep enmity and was entangled with Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan. She was now the Hall Master of the Fire Lotus Hall in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing.

The young man with a tall and straight body and a sharp appearance was Qin Lian's first disciple. He was the talented guy who had entered the Empyrean Chronicle and shocked the whole Heavenly Origin Divine Continent, Chu Qing.

Chapter 0824: Qin Lian

The tall Chu Qing stood up with a smile after Qin Yi's greetings and replied to her warmly, "How did it go, Junior Sister? Did you have fun?"

Qin Yi smiled sweetly and responded, "Senior Chu, you should have gone instead. There were a lot of people who admired you there."

In response, Chu Qing shook his head and said, "I am older than you and everyone there. At present, the Heavenly Dragon Guardians of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li, those from the same generation as me, are all out on missions. What could I have done if I had gone?"

He was already at the Greater Heavenly Resonance Tier and he was older than Qin Yi, Li Qingfeng, and the rest. As such, mingling with the younger crowd was not appropriate for his status and neither was he interested in frolicking with some youths just for some praise.

He had already gotten into the Empyrean Chronicle with his own strength and made a name for himself among the youths in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. In contrast, Li Qingfeng and the rest still needed many more years of hard work before they could reach his level. Even if he had gone to the banquet, he would merely have bullied the weaker ones with his overwhelming strength, which would be very boring.

At this moment, Qin Lian, who was seated at the host seat, stared at Qin Yi and asked, "You have seen the top talents in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. How are they?"

Qin Yi pondered for a moment before replying, "Li Qingfeng is indeed quite capable. Under normal circumstances, he should become the Dragon's Head for this generation of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li."

Qin Lian nodded and continued, "Compared to you?"

Qin Yi laughed a little as she replied, "I am slightly better."

At this moment, Qin Lian lowered her eyes slightly and stared at the wine glass in front of her. "Did you see that person?" she asked. As she inquired, her eyes became a little cold.

Both Qin Yi and Chu Qing could clearly feel the subtle change in her emotions, and so they straightened their backs.

Qin Yi nodded lightly as she responded in a soft tone, "Yes, I met him. His name is Li Luo, and he is currently at the Greater Fiend Palace Tier. He possesses triple resonances and extraordinary talent. Based on what I have seen, if he was not born in the outer divine continent and had stayed in the Dragon's Fang Lineage all this while, he probably would have surpassed Li Qingfeng."

Hearing this, Qin Lian's face turned a little cold and she sneered in response. "He truly is the son of Li Taixuan and that bitch. How could he simply be a mediocre person?"

"Hmph, that bitch killed my family, ruined my marriage, and made me lose face. She is lucky that she is not in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent now. Otherwise, I would definitely make her pay with her blood!" Qin Lian slammed the table, and it instantly shattered into powder. At the same time, the surrounding space began twisting repeatedly and a terrifying heat emitted from her body. Qin Yi and Chu Qing looked at each other quietly. Neither of them dared to speak up.

After all these years, they knew that Qin Lian would lose herself like this whenever those two people were mentioned.

After Qin Lian vented her anger for a while, she took a deep breath as she watched with cold eyes and continued, "I believe that Li Luo is extremely annoying as well."

Li Luo's face flashed across Qin Yi's mind at this moment. She wanted to say that although he was indeed irritating, he was actually pretty good-looking.

Of course, she could tell that Qin Lian was still furious and dared not speak the words in her mind.

"Do you feel confident in winning against Li Luo?" Qin Lian suddenly asked.

Qin Yi hesitated for a moment before she replied, "He's in the Greater Fiend Palace Tier currently. There is not much of a threat coming from him. However, if we act against him, I am afraid the Dragon's Fang Lineage will not take it lying down."

"Old Li Jingzhe only said that our enmity should end at the last generation. If it's a battle amongst those in the same generation, what can he say?" Qin Lian said with an emotionless face.

Qin Yi kept quiet after hearing this.

"There is no hurry for this matter now. Ultimately, this place is the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. If the chance arises in the future, I hope that you will make that little brat pay. I want everyone in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent to know that my daughter, the daughter of Qin Lian, is hundreds of times stronger than the son of Li Taixuan and that bitch," Qin Lian told her as murderous intent surfaced within her eyes.

Helpless before her mother's resentment, Qin Yi calmly replied in a soft tone, "Understood."

With the enmity from the past generation looking over them, it was impossible for Li Luo and her to coexist. A bloody battle would definitely unfold between the two, perhaps even to the death.

However, Qin Yi did not feel threatened by Li Luo's current strength at all. If they did meet in other circumstances one day, Li Luo would only have his bad luck to blame. Although this was enmity from the previous generation, her mother was not a broad-minded person. If she did not shatter Li Luo completely, there could be a punishment waiting for her when she returned.

At the same time, Qin Lian also said, "I heard that the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool will be opened during the birthday banquet of the Dragon's Blood Lineage's Lineage Chief tomorrow. This will be a test for the younger generation of the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages. Based on what I gathered, the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool was supposed to open two to three years from now. It was suddenly brought forward because Li Jingzhe from the Dragon's Fang Lineage changed his mind. I wager that he did it for Li Luo."

"Hehe, Li Jingzhe really loves his grandson, doesn't he? He's even willing to go back on his previous decision. However, does he really think that his grandson, who is merely at the Greater Fiend Palace Tier, can get a Coiling Dragon Pillar?" Qin Lian asked with a freezing face.

"What would you like to do, Mom?" Qin Yi asked.

Qin Lian grinned coldly and replied, "I was planning to let you join in the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool battle tomorrow."

"But this is a rare opportunity for the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. Others aren't allowed to participate," Qin Yi responded in surprise.

"The Lineage Chief of the Dragon's Blood Lineage has always wanted to get closer with the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing. He wants to improve our relationship after what happened back then. He will not turn me down over such a small matter. Besides, it's just a competition among those of the same generation. If the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li dares not accept it, won't they become a joke in front of the other guests?"

Qin Yi pondered for a moment before she replied, "No wonder you accepted the invitation. You even brought the Fire Lotus Camp along."

There were a total of twenty-three halls in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing. Each hall had one camp, just like the setup seen in the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages' Twenty Banners. And the Fire Lotus Camp was the team led by Qin Yi.

They were the strongest of the Twenty-three Halls of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing. Their strength was extraordinary.

"If you can participate tomorrow, you will represent us, the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing, to gauge the power of this generation of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. Remember, there is no need to hold back. If the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li is humiliated, it'll be because they are too weak. They won't be able to blame anyone else for it," Qin Lian said indifferently.

Qin Yi's eyes flickered slightly. She understood that even after so many years, her mother still harbored deep resentment towards the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. Now she was planning to vent her anger a little in the name of a competition among the younger generation.

As Qin Lian stared at her daughter's jade-white, enchanting face, she continued, "Most importantly, I want you to keep a close eye on Li Luo. There are six Coiling Dragon Pillars in the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool, and I don't want him to get one. I can't wait to see how that old man Li Jingzhe will react when he fails."

Qin Yi thought for a moment and replied, "The Green Nether Banner led by Li Luo is only average among the Twenty Banners. Even if I do nothing to him, he will still be unable to get even one of the Coiling Dragon Pillars."

"That is for the best." Qin Lian laughed coldly.

Afterwards, she chatted with Qin Yi for a while longer before she waved her hand and dismissed the two of them.

After Qin Yi and Chu Qing left the room, Qin Lian's face became darker and darker. She murmured to herself in a low voice, "Li Taixuan, Tan Tailan, just what was that secret treasure that you took from the Holy Altar of the Sacred Void Resonance Sect? Is that thing in your hands right now? Or have you given it to Li Luo?"

Chapter 0825: Head of the Five Lineages

On the next day, the entire Dragon's Blood Mountain Range was lively with colorful decorations and the sound of drums flooding the place.

As for Dragon Blood Mountain situated in the center, people had been cheering since the early morning with streams of light shining around the place. Guests from all over the place had been gathering under Dragon Blood Mountain with their gifts, awaiting the arrival of their host to present them to him.

It was a splendid, grand scene with thousands of guests coming forth to congratulate the Lineage Chief.

As for the people from the Dragon's Fang Lineage, they had already gone up the mountain earlier. There was a golden palace at the top of the mountain that was unusually dazzling under the bright sunlight.

In front of it, there was a square paved with white jade filled with golden tables. Countless maids shuffled around the square as they served tea and wine to the guests.

This square was where they had arranged for the ordinary guests to be seated. Of course, although they were just ordinary guests here, each of their foundations was far superior than that of anyone from the Xia Kingdom.

Forces like House Jinque and House Jiyan would have surely been seated on the periphery in this square.

Such was the vast difference between the outer divine continents and the inner divine continents.

As for Li Luo, Li Fengyi, Li Jingtao, and the rest, they had been guided into their seats in the golden palace. After all, they were the direct descendants of the Dragon's Fang Lineage.

They were seated near the side of the golden palace, along with familiar faces like Li Qingfeng, Li Hongli, and Lu Qingmei. This was where the young members of the Dragon Fang's Lineage were all seated.

Li Luo looked a little tired as he stared outside the golden palace in boredom. Loud singing, drinking, and chatter could be heard from time to time.

He had no interest in such big banquets. If not for the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool, he would rather have stayed in the Dragon's Fang Lineage to cultivate.

"Little Brother, I heard that you were very popular last night and totally stole the limelight. What happened?" Li Jingtao inquired from the side curiously.

He was even less interested in such banquets. As such, he had found a reason to sneak off right after the Banner Leaders' discussion yesterday and had only heard about yesterday's incident from Li Fengyi this morning.

Li Luo nodded lazily and replied, "Not really, it's just that the Fairy of Water, Qin Yi, took a fancy to my looks and rewarded me with ten million skygold. But am I the kind of person who bends over for a little bit of pocket money? So I just took the money and left afterwards."

Li Jingtao opened his eyes widely as he exclaimed, "Is that okay!?"

On the side, Li Fengyi could not help but chuckle and roll her eyes at Li Luo for talking nonsense.

As Li Luo did not keep his voice down intentionally, the others at the side had heard what he had said too. Soon, their expressions turned weird.

Even Lu Qingmei, who was leisurely drinking her wine, choked a few times when she heard this, and she shot a strange look at Li Luo.

This guy was more thick-skinned than expected.

A cold laugh came at this moment, and everyone turned over. It was none other than Li Hongli. "Only you people from the Dragon's Fang Lineage would do something like cheat a lady of her money. Hehe, Qin Yi has many fans all over the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. When news of what happened last night spreads, you will surely regret it when you go on missions outside. Only then will you know how short-sighted you are."

There was sarcasm in her tone, and she was clearly unhappy with Li Luo. After all, she wanted to win the Jade Heart Lotus last night so she could steal the limelight from Qin Yi a bit. However, she did not expect Li Luo to disrupt her plans. Not only had she failed to win the limelight, it had even made the Violet Blood Banner lose face.

Nonetheless, Li Luo did not respond to Li Hongli's sharp words. It was Li Fengyi who replied sarcastically, "They were both willing parties. What does it have to do with you?"

"A mere Greater Fiend Palace cultivator is worth ten million skygold?" Li Hongli retorted.

"An ordinary one is not worth that. But the Third Young Master from the Dragon's Fang Lineage is. You got a problem with that? Hm, Li Hongli, you're not part of the direct bloodline, so of course you don't understand," Li Fengyi told her slowly.

At this point, Li Hongli started fuming with anger, and creaking sounds could be heard from her jade hand holding the wine glass.

Although she had a high status in the Dragon's Blood Lineage, there was ultimately still a gap between her and members of the direct bloodlines like Li Luo and Li Fengyi.

At this moment, Li Qingfeng cut in with a wave of his hand and graciously interrupted the conversation with a smile. "Don't harp on things like direct bloodline. Talent and strength are the most important assets one can have in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. Just having the bloodline without natural talent is simply a waste of cultivation resources. Moreover, the Ancestor said that the purity of the bloodline isn't what's important. Even if someone is part of the direct bloodline, he'll be left behind if he can't reach the King Stage."

With a slight grin, he continued, "In the four halls of the Dragon's Fang Lineage, the Gold Light Hall is the strongest of them all. Their Main Hall Master, Zhao Xuanming, is not of the direct bloodline. With that in mind, you members of the direct bloodline of the Dragon's Fang Lineage have to work harder."

Hearing this, Li Fengyi froze and couldn't help but become a little annoyed. Li Qingfeng's words had directly touched on the most painful point for them in the Dragon's Fang Lineage.

"It's okay, the Dragon's Fang Lineage just needs to wait," Li Luo responded with a laugh as he played with his jade cup.

Li Qingfeng frowned and asked, "Wait for what? For you, Li Luo, to take the lead?"

With a warm smile, he replied confidently, "Wait for my father to return, of course."

This time, it was Li Qingfeng that froze. What could he say to this? He knew very clearly how formidable Li Taixuan was. Their fathers' generation had been overwhelmed by that guy and traumatized by his strength.

Although Li Taixuan had left the inner divine continent for years and no one knew what he was doing now, he had heard his name mentioned during private conversations among his elders before. They were filled with such fear that it was unforgettable even for him.

As such, if Li Taixuan really did return to the Dragon's Fang Lineage... it would shock the whole Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages.

The crisis in the Dragon's Fang Lineage would easily be resolved then.

At this point, Li Qingfeng poured himself a cup of wine and drank it down to calm his nerves.

On the other hand, Li Fengyi patted Li Luo's shoulder excitedly and whispered to him, "Well done. When Third Uncle returns to the Dragon's Fang Lineage, who will dare say anything about us, the direct descendants of the Dragon's Fang Lineage, again? Oh, right, there is Third Aunt too. She was even more famous in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent than Third Uncle. Wow, I really want to meet her one

day. She was even able to subdue someone like the Third Uncle. What a formidable demeanor, huh?" Li Fengyi's eyes were filled with admiration.

Li Luo rubbed his chin a little as he pondered over it. Indeed, the lady at the top of the food chain in House Luolan was much more terrifying than his father. As Li Luo was lost in his thoughts, he suddenly felt a huge surge in worldly natural energy within the golden palace. No, not just the golden palace. The worldly natural energy around all of Dragon Blood Mountain was vibrating fiercely.

At the next moment, five golden dragon chairs appeared in the sky above the golden palace. The bright energy condensed intensely before they turned into five figures.

The oddly terrifying pressure was coming from these five figures. It was as if Dragon Blood Mountain had begun to shake under their presence.

Li Luo spotted Li Jingzhe among the five of them. He immediately turned to look at the lead position among the five. An old man wearing a golden and purple dragon robe was there. He had blond hair and exuded an indescribable, majestic, and grand aura. His presence alone, there was an inexplicable sense of awe as if the world was bowing down to him.

He was the Lineage Chief of the Dragon's Blood Lineage. At the same time, he was the Mountain Ruling Chief of the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages, Li Tianji. Li Jingzhe was positioned on his right. On his left was a beautiful woman with silver hair dressed in green. She had a graceful temperament to her, and her delicate and fair cheeks were embellished with golden dragon scales, making her even more beautiful. She was the Lineage Chief of the Dragon's Scale Lineage, Li Qingying.

Further on the outside, there was a tall, middle-aged man that looked like a burly giant. He was bare-chested and the flesh and blood on his body seemed to be beating slowly with life. With every beat, the space around him tore open with cracks.

He was the Lineage Chief of the Dragon's Bone Lineage, Li Xuanwu. It was said that he had the strongest physical body in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. Apart from them, there was an old man cloaked in a black robe. His face was thin and appeared ordinary, but there was a dragon horn on his forehead. Mysterious vibrations pulsed from the dragon horn repeatedly. There seemed to be an indescribable, daunting force to it. He was the Lineage Chief of the Dragon's Horn Lineage, Li Jinjiao.

When Li Luo witnessed these five terrifying forces atop the golden palace, he couldn't help but sigh in his heart. This was the first time he had seen so many King Stage cultivators together.

This was the foundation of the King Stage. Truly daunting. Reacting to the excitement in his heart, he sat himself upright. He understood that the banquet today was finally starting with the arrival of the five elders. And the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool that he had been looking forward to was finally coming.

Chapter 0826: Qin Zhiming

"Haha, it's my honor to have all you distinguished guests with me at the Dragon's Blood Lineage today. I, Li Tianji, express my thanks to all of you."

After the five Lineage Chiefs of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li made their entrance, the hearty laughter of Li Tianji, the Lineage Chief of the Dragon's Blood Lineage, echoed throughout Dragon Blood Mountain like a deafening thunderclap.

At the same time, the important guests were guided into the gilded palace.

The first individual was an elderly man dressed in black robes. He appeared ordinary at first, but his eyes possessed a mystical gleam to them. One of his pupils seemed to flash with lightning, as if a world of thunder was hidden within it. Meanwhile, the other pupil was raging with flames, as if endless magma was flowing within it.

Lightning and fire flowed under his feet as he walked, causing the void to tremble.

Li Luo's heart trembled as he watched the black-robed, elderly man. Without a doubt, he was a King Stage powerhouse.

Behind him was a beautiful woman in a fiery-red dress. Walking beside her was a familiar face—Qin Yi, who he had seen last night.

At this point, Li Luo's heart skipped a beat.

"Is that the King Stage powerhouse from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing?" he whispered to Li Fengyi.

Li Fengyi nodded and responded in a soft voice, "The Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing has a very strong foundation. Their Kings have been around far longer than those in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. Their Six Holy Palaces are the foundation of their power. This black-robed elder in front of us is the palace master of the Lightning Flame Holy Palace, named Qin Zhiming.

"Under the Six Holy Palaces are the Twenty-three Halls and their Hall Masters. The lady behind him is..." Li Fengyi paused for a moment and looked at Li Luo at this point.

"She's the Hall Master of the Fire Lotus Hall, Qin Lian. She's also Qin Yi's mother," Li Fengyi continued.

"The Hall Master of the Fire Lotus Hall, Qin Lian."

Li Luo's heart trembled a little. Although he had kind of guessed it beforehand, he was still mixed with emotions when it was verified by Li Fengyi.

He stared at the beautiful lady in the fiery dress. There were indeed some similarities between her and Qin Yi, but she was much more mature with a strong and fierce look. Evidently, she was not someone that would be easy to get along with.

This was the woman that had caused his parents to leave the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent.

In a certain sense, there was deep enmity between Qin Lian and him.

Li Luo stared with deep eyes before he gradually retracted his gaze.

At present, there was nothing he could do about it. Qin Lian was far too strong and above his level. All he could do now was improve himself.

As all these emotions were surging within him, Li Luo felt a gaze shoot towards him. When he turned around to take a look, he noticed Li Jingzhe, who was seated high up in the gilded palace.

It was a plain and ordinary look, but strangely, Li Luo felt a sense of peace from it. Although Qin Lian was strong, it was not like he had no backing either. His King Stage grandfather over there had managed to keep them in place, so they wouldn't dare to touch him.

With the arrival of the distinguished guests from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing, Li Tianji from the Dragon's Blood Lineage rose up and greeted him with a smile. "Welcome, Brother Qing. You've traveled a long way. Thank you for coming."

"It's the birthday of an old friend, I'll surely be here," Qin Zhiming replied with a laugh.

"Please, take a seat."

Qin Zhiming nodded and then proceeded to take the frontmost seat. Following closely, Qin Lian took a seat behind him.

"Qin Zhiming is Qin Lian's direct bloodline elder," Li Fengyi explained to Li Luo at this point.

Li Luo nodded. It seemed like Qin Lian had a rather prestigious status in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing. However, that was to be expected. If not, the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing would not have pushed her out for an arranged marriage with Li Taixuan back then.

After the distinguished guests from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing had taken their seats, the other important guests started to take their seats too. They were all top talents from the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent.

Nonetheless, there was only one at the King Stage: Qin Zhiming.

It was not as if there were no other Kings in the other forces. Rather, there was no need for them to personally attend this. They had sent their gifts over to congratulate the elder instead.

As such, it was truly a special occasion for a King like Qin Zhiming to personally attend the party.

"Do you see the guy behind Qin Lian?" Li Fengyi asked.

Hearing this, Li Luo shifted his attention. Behind Qin Lian was the ever charming beauty Qin Yi that snatched the hearts of many around the golden palace with each and every smile. There was also a tall man who stood straight, wreathed in an extraordinary aura.

The man looked dignified with silver and gold bands around his arms and exuded a faint but domineering aura.

"Is that Chu Qing?" Li Luo asked.

Nodding, Li Fengyi replied, "Yes, he is Qin Lian's first disciple and possesses dual resonances. Currently, he is in the Greater Heavenly Resonance Stage and is one of the most well-known and regarded as one of the best talents amongst the youths in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent."

"Greater Heavenly Resonance Stage..."

Li Luo sighed when he heard about it. Chu Qing was about the same age as First Princess Gong Luanyu. However, his strength was far superior compared to hers. The First Princess, Gong Shenjun, and the other Seven Astral Pillars from the Astral Sage College were only at the Heavenly Pearl Stage when they graduated. They had not even stepped into the Lesser Heavenly Resonance Stage. Yet Chu Qing was already at the Greater Heavenly Resonance Stage. There was a drastic difference between the inner divine continent and outer divine continent. He had also heard that there was a hall called the Heavenly Star Hall in the Ancient Colleges that existed above the Four Star Hall. Perhaps only the greatest talents from there could be comparable to Chu Qing. As Li Luo was deep in thought, the birthday banquet had begun. Everyone was toasting and chatting with each other. It was a truly lively scene.

Meanwhile, Li Luo was bored and waiting. Based on the schedule, the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool would not be opened until the banquet reached its climax.

He yawned as he played around with his wine cup.

At this moment, he felt a sharp and cold stare sweep past him.

He turned over to take a look and saw the red dressed Qin Lian watching him closely with her cold eyes.

Under the scrutiny of a Duke, Li Luo felt a little pressured. However, his facial expression did not change at all. Instead, he looked past Qin Lian, towards Qin Yi, and smiled warmly at her.

Qin Yi's beautiful, jade face was cold and indifferent, but she shook her head secretly in her heart. Li Luo was really daring. He knew that Qin Lian was staring at him and he still dared to do this. Based on her mother's temper, she definitely would not take this lying down.

Just as Qin Yi was thinking this, she saw her mother place the wine cup down not too hard nor too lightly. A smug look surfaced on her cheeks.

"I heard that the son of Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan has returned to the Dragon's Fang Lineage. May I know which handsome young man he might be?"

All of a sudden, the liveliness in the golden palace quietened down.

Chapter 0827: Competition

The lively golden palace turned silent at this moment. The crowd continued to look ahead, but deep in their hearts, they all knew that the moment had finally arrived.

After all, the incident between Qin Lian, Li Taixuan, and Tan Tailan had shocked the whole Heavenly Origin Divine Continent over a decade ago. A war between the two powers had nearly broken out over it.

If such strong forces had fought, the entirety of the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent would be affected for sure.

Luckily, both sides had been able to restrain themselves. In the end, it concluded with Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan leaving the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. It had been nearly twenty years since the incident,

but Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan had not returned. Instead, they had sent their son back to the Dragon's Fang Lineage.

On the surface, Qin Lian had come to Dragon Blood Mountain to attend the birthday celebration. Truth be told, it was most likely to see the son of Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan.

Li Luo's parents were not around at the moment. However, his grandfather, Li Jingzhe, was present. In order to see his grandson return, he had said that the past grievances of the previous generation would end there. Even if Qin Lian wanted to bully Li Luo using her overwhelming power now, Li Jingzhe would surely not allow it.

Under the deafening silence, Li Luo stood up calmly and answered, "I am Li Luo. Hello, Hall Master Qin Lian."

Many curious gazes turned towards him. After all, he was the son of Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan. They were all curious about the boy that had returned from the outer divine continent.

Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan were once the dominant shining beacons in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. Many of the current Dukes came from the same generation as them and knew very well how strong the two of them were.

It would be strange if their curiosity about their son was not piqued.

As they evaluated Li Luo, they nodded in approval. His appearance was not bad—he definitely had the demeanor of those two back then. However, his resonant power was much weaker, only at the Greater Fiend Palace Tier.

In contrast, even the weakest amongst his peers were at the Fiend Body Tier. Being merely at the Greater Fiend Palace Tier indeed made Li Luo seem like a letdown. The worldly natural energy in the outer divine continents was truly lacking compared to the inner divine continents. Qin Lian sized up Li Luo with her deadly, cold stare. Without a second look, she could see the shadow of Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan from his appearance. This made her stare grow even more frigid. The impression left behind from those two had cut so deeply into her that she would not forget about it even on her deathbed.

"Where are Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan? It's been so long, are they still alive?" Qin Lian asked coldly.

"Of course my parents are still alive. Not only are they alive, they are living like a divine couple. They are very in love with each other, sticking together like glue. They are inseparable. Madly in love," Li Luo replied with a smile.

Many people in the golden palace looked at Li Luo strangely. This kid was still young, but he possessed a fiery mouth.

After all, who didn't know about the incident between Qin Lian and Li Taixuan? Him emphasizing the affection between Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan now was like adding deadly poison to the wound.

As expected, Qin Lian's face turned ugly. With an ice-cold voice, she said, "What a rude little kid. Is that all that Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan taught you?"

"I do not understand your words, Hall Master Qin Lian. I am merely saying that my father and mother have a loving relationship," Li Luo responded with an innocent smile.

At this point, Qin Lian's eyes were fuming with anger.

An icy and dominant voice interrupted their conversation at this very moment. "Hall Master Qin Lian, as an elder, you should not be so aggressive towards the young. Your words are too intimidating. I think you are the one who needs to go back and reflect when it comes to teaching a child."

When the crowd looked over, they saw that Li Jingzhe, the Lineage Chief of the Dragon's Fang Lineage had spoken.

Qin Lian's face changed upon hearing him.

At this moment, Li Jingzhe turned towards Qin Zhiming and said calmly, "Palace Master Qin, you should keep your Hall Master in line."

Hearing this, Qin Zhiming, the Palace Master of the Six Holy Palaces of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing, responded with a light laugh. "Lineage Chief Jingzhe, you're overreacting. Qin Lian is merely asking out of curiosity. She did not mean to intimidate anyone here."

There was a cold glint deep within Li Jingzhe's eyes as he replied, "I have already said this before. What happened back then has been concluded. If anyone dares to take it out on the next generation and bully Li Luo, then don't blame me for defending him. The Dragon's Fang Lineage will not take it lying down."

When he heard this, the lightning fire in Qin Zhiming's eyes blazed more violently as he retorted coolly, "Lineage Chief Jingzhe, you are truly temperamental."

Both parties glared at each other with deathly stares, and the worldly natural energy around the area churned and a wild storm appeared out of thin air above the gilded palace. The void even began to show signs of crumbling.

Even the sky had turned dark.

The guests in the palace were all completely taken aback by the change in atmosphere. No one had expected these two Kings to suddenly clash.

At this moment, the Dragon's Blood Lineage's Lineage Chief, Li Tianji, suddenly waved his sleeves. He summoned forth a strong pressure that shattered the energy storm forming above.

Along with his sweeping gaze, the clashing undulations of resonant power pulses from Li Jingzhe and Qin Zhiming were forcefully calmed down.

"Today's my birthday celebration. There's no need to spoil the mood, right?" Li Tianji said in a deep voice with a hidden tinge of frustration.

After Li Jingzhe and Qin Zhiming heard his words, they slowly contained the terrifying power emanating from their bodies.

However, the lively atmosphere of the party had died down after this sudden clash.

Anyone could tell that the relationship between the Dragon's Fang Lineage from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li and the Lightning Flame Holy Palace from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing

was as cold as ice even after all these decades. If not for the other parties keeping the peace, they would have gone to war long ago.

Seeing the tense situation, Li Tianji smiled and said in an attempt to ease the atmosphere, "It's not appropriate to fight with so many distinguished guests at Dragon Blood Mountain today. However, there is a competition amongst the younger generation in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li that everyone can enjoy watching. Coincidentally, today is the opening day for the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool. Let's give them a chance to show off in front of us."

Without a doubt, Li Tianji had planned to bring forward the opening of the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool to ease the tense atmosphere.

When the guests inside and outside the golden palace heard about it, they all grew excited.

Li Luo heaved a sigh of relief. The time had finally arrived. If not for this, this stupid banquet would not have been worth attending at all.

Similarly, the other Banner Leaders started stretching their muscles with a sense of joy on their faces.

But Qin Lian suddenly looked over to Li Tianji and said, "Lineage Chief Tianji, I heard that the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool is a rare opportunity in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. Since its opening so nicely coincided with the birthday celebration, my little daughter would like to use this chance to exchange some blows with the youths from your bloodline too. As a way to truly join the celebration, I was wondering if you'd give my daughter the chance to join them."

When she finished her words, the Banner Leaders from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li were stunned. Qin Lian wanted to let Qin Yi participate in the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool competition too?

In that case, wouldn't there be one more strong competitor?

Li Luo frowned upon hearing this too. Qin Yi's strength was exceptional, and her ninth-grade water resonance was not something to be looked down upon. If she participated, she would be going straight for the golden dragon pillar.

Furthermore... she might be coming after him too.

After all, he had not held back on his words just now, not giving any face to Qin Lian at all. If she wanted to send Qin Yi into the competition now, it was most likely to deter him.

Li Jingzhe stepped up again at this point. "The Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool is a unique and rare opportunity in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. There has been no precedent of letting any outsiders participate."

Qin Lian smiled lightly as she replied, "Lineage Chief Jingzhe, are you afraid that the Dragon's Fang Lineage will get nothing with my little daughter participating?"

At the same time, Qin Zhiming laughed out and turned to Li Tianji too. He asked, "Lineage Chief Tianji, you don't think the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing is coveting the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool, do you? If that is the case, we can also invite youths from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li

over for a try when we open up the Nine Mountains Spiritual Earth in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing."

Li Tianji pondered for a moment. Qin Zhiming and Qin Lian were so determined. They had to be thinking of using this chance to let Qin Yi display her prowess and suppress the youths from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. Such things had been done many times over the past few decades, whether it was the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li or the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing.

However, since Qin Zhiming had spoken personally and offered the Nine Mountains Spiritual Earth in exchange, it was really hard for him to turn down the offer under such circumstances. After all, they were the ones who had spent so much effort to persuade Qin Zhiming to attend this event. In the end, he nodded and said with a smile, "Alright. I have long heard of Qin Yi's ninth-grade water resonance. Let me take a good look at it today."

When he ended his words, the crowd's spirits were lifted. With the addition of Qin Yi, the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool had just become a much more exciting competition.

Chapter 0828: Opening of the Dragonbreath Pool

On the side of Dragon Blood Mountain.

Anyone standing here would have a majestic view of numerous peaks rising high up from the ground. They connected to each other side by side in a ring, forming an enormous pit that protruded from the ground.

The pit contained a dense, pale, red mist, and worldly natural energy continuously flowed into the area. Deeper in, there seemed to be a faint and low draconic roar resounding between the heavens and earth, causing the void to vibrate slightly.

Gradually, the mysterious air permeated across the area.

This was where the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool was located.

At this moment, the five Lineage Chiefs made their way to a flat platform on a mountaintop with the distinguished guests. It was a lively area as they sat on their stone chairs with anticipation.

Li Luo, Li Qingfeng, and the other Banner Leaders from the Twenty Banners had already gone over to the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool. Their banner members stood behind them with a raging fighting spirit in their eyes.

Although the main prize in the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool battle would go to the Banner Leader only, the members would still be rewarded if their Banner Leader emerged victorious. This was enough of an encouragement to them as they cheered for their respective Banner Leaders.

However, this Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool battle was slightly different from the past.

As the various banner members looked over to the right with strange gazes, they could see thousands of figures on a platform. They were all clad in crimson armor carved with a flaming lotus.

Those guys were from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing. They were the Fire Lotus Camp.

In front of the Fire Lotus Camp stood an enchanting and graceful figure. As the wind blew in with the mist, her black hair danced in the air and her long skirt highlighted the perfect and exquisite curves of her delicate body. Without a doubt, this unbelievable charm made many of the Twenty Banners members' hearts beat faster.

This figure was none other than the leader of the Fire Lotus Camp, Qin Yi.

In other words, this battle consisted of not only the Twenty Banners, but an external guest as well.

Despite her alluring beauty, they all knew that she was a ferocious tiger.

It was said that the Fire Lotus Camp had never lost a single battle since Qin Yi took the helm. Rather, the other twenty two camps from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing had all fallen against them. As such, all the Banner Leaders from the Twenty Banners, including Li Qingfeng, felt a sense of danger in their hearts even as they watched her enchanting figure i.

There was no doubt about Qin Yi's talent. Her ninth-grade water resonance, coupled with the huge amount of resources from the Fire Lotus Hall, would undoubtedly speed up her cultivation pace a thousand times. It was like adding wings to a tiger.

Having to face an opponent like Qin Yi, even the confident Li Qingfeng started to doubt himself.

As such, the addition of Qin Yi had definitely added many more variables into the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool battle.

Li Luo was also looking at Qin Yi, but his face was without much expression. He remained calm as having her around was actually a good thing for him. This would create more chaos during the battle, which would in turn also give him more opportunities. After all, his minimum goal was to obtain at least one bronze dragon pillar.

As for the sole golden dragon pillar, he was not aiming for it at all. After all, there were too many people eyeing it. If he coveted it with his current strength, he might become everyone's target and end up with nothing. As Li Luo was thinking about all this, an administrator stepped forward on the high platform. He raised the golden dragon flag in his hand high into the air and waved it down firmly.

When the golden dragon flag swung down, the twenty-one participants in the field activated Harmony instantly.

In the blink of an eye, the energy level in the area surged as though a tsunami of power had flooded the air above.

In the next moment, these majestic energies whizzed down into the bodies of the contestants below, and they were slowly lifted into the air. Wave after wave of extremely violent energy pulses started to spread out.

At the same time, a terrifying energy pressure erupted, causing thunderstorms to form between the heavens and earth.

The pressure from the contestants was so great that it had reached Duke levels of power now.

It was as if there were twenty-one Dukes present.

This won the praises of many guests. After all, this was the foundation for a Heavenly Emperor power. Using a special method to gather the energy, these Earth Fiend Stage cultivators had managed to obtain the power of the Duke Stage.

Of course, their Duke-level power was kind of fake. Although they seemed as strong as someone at the Duke Stage, they did not possess the expertise and intricacies of a true Duke.

For example, the real power of dual resonances. "Oh, this generation of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li is not bad. Based on their energy level, these Banner Leaders have attained quasi-Duke Stage strength using Harmony."

"Based on the energy pulses, Lu Qingmei, Li Hongli, and Li Qingfeng are as powerful as first-grade Dukes."

"Li Qingfeng seems to be stronger. It feels like he is equal to an upper first-grade Duke. I guess he's getting the golden dragon pillar."

"Without Qin Yi around, the golden pillar would almost certainly go to Li Qingfeng."

"Yes, the beloved daughter of Hall Master Qin Lian is extraordinary indeed. From what I see, the energy pulses from her are the most dominant amongst everyone in the field, perhaps only Li Qingfeng's side can compete with her."

"Surely the golden dragon pillar is not falling into the hands of an outsider, right?"

There were many whispers amongst the guests, who were all considered the top talents in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. They all wielded respectable strength and were mostly in the Duke Stage. As such, they could grasp the power of the twenty-one contestants present with just a quick glance.

As Li Luo hovered in the air, he was also analyzing the strength of the other Banner Leaders. Everyone was pulsing with energy waves, making it an extremely grand sight.

"With the power of the Green Nether Banner's Harmony, I should have roughly lower first-grade Duke strength. However, I am still slightly weaker than Lu Qingmei, Li Hongli, and the rest," Li Luo muttered to himself as he observed the energy pulses of the others. He should be average to above average among the Twenty Banners now, but still below Lu Qingmei and the top few Banner Leaders by quite a bit.

This was actually within his expectations. After all, the Green Nether Banner was really weak before. With slower progress in the Fiendish Devil Cave, they were naturally less motivated in their training and cultivation, resulting in them lagging behind others.

Of course, the most important factor was that their Banner Leader was only at the Greater Fiend Palace Tier.

In contrast, Lu Qingmei, Li Hongli, and group had long reached the Fiend Finisher Tier.

Without the help of Harmony to narrow the gap in strength, Li Luo felt that he would stand little chance in a matchup against them now.

At this moment, he turned his gaze over to Qin Yi's location. He squinted a little as he felt a tremendous sense of pressure coming from her energy undulations.

This was even stronger than the pressure he felt from Li Qingfeng's side.

As Li Luo was sizing her up, Qin Yi seemed to have noticed him and looked over with her icy gaze. Their eyes met for a moment.

With a warm smile on his face, Li Luo said, "Miss Qin Yi, your strength is impressive. You must be going straight for the golden dragon pillar. With his great hospitality, perhaps Banner Leader Li Qingfeng will take a step back and hand it over to you."

A short distance away, Li Qingfeng's face twitched a little when she heard his words. Although he had indeed been very polite towards Qin Yi, how would he dare to hand over the golden dragon pillar to Qin Yi under such circumstances? Wouldn't this make the Dragon's Blood Lineage lose face? The elders were bound to give him a lecture afterwards.

As such, he gritted his teeth and replied, "Banner Leader Li Luo, stop spouting nonsense. With the power Miss Qin Yi wields, she will naturally grab it herself if she wants it. Why would she want anyone to hand it over to her?"

Li Luo laughed a little as he responded, "In that case, we'll have to see who's more capable and can obtain the golden dragon pillar in the end."

As soon as his sentence ended, a flash of anger flashed across Li Qingfeng's eyes. Li Luo was indeed cunning. He had set up a trap for him beforehand and lured him into opposing Qin Yi directly.

Nonetheless, there was no way for him to deny it. There was no way in hell he was handing over the golden dragon pillar to anyone else.

On the other hand, Qin Yi was nonchalant towards Li Luo's words, as if she did not know about his sly intentions. Instead, she told him leisurely, "Banner Leader Li Luo, you are very eloquent. However, I am looking forward to seeing your performance today. I hope you will not disappoint me too much."

Li Luo smiled back in response, but he scolded her in his heart. This woman was really out to get him. At this juncture, the officer on the platform waved the golden dragon flag again and shouted loudly, "Banner Leaders, let's enter the pool!"

After he spoke, the twenty-one faux Duke Stage competitors who had already primed themselves summoned up their massive amounts of energy and rushed into the mysterious, giant pit filled with mist below.

Chapter 0829: Shadow Dragon

As soon as Li Luo stepped into the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool, the noises coming from his surroundings disappeared. He was enveloped in thick, white mist, and the space around him gradually warped.

He stood upright as he attempted to peer through the mist enveloping his surroundings. This place was unfathomable. He had no idea where he was, as he simply could not see through the thick mist.

At present, he was at the top of the dragonbreath pool. He would need to enter the deepest part of the pool in order to obtain a Coiling Dragon Pillar.

From what he had gathered earlier, he already knew that it wouldn't be easy to reach the deepest part of the pool. Apart from the competition from the other Banner Leaders, there were also extremely fearsome threats inside the pool itself.

For example... the Shadow Dragons.

Li Luo turned his head to the right, where he noticed a violent stirring in the mist. In the next moment, a silhouette hundreds of feet tall slowly emerged.

It was a Shadow Dragon. Although it seemed a bit illusory, there was no doubt about the terrifying energy pulses emanating from its body. It possessed strength akin to that of a quasi-Duke Stage cultivator.

Shadow Dragons were the manifestation of the dragonbreath pool's energy. Serving as the gatekeepers, they prevented people from approaching the deepest parts of the pool.

Mysterious light patterns glowed on the lively Shadow Dragon's body as it let out a deep, draconic roar. In the next moment, it opened its maw and an energy blast flew directly towards Li Luo.

The energy blast pierced through the void, and the mist gave way to its flight. The deafening roar shook even the sky and earth.

If Li Luo had to face this attack with just his power alone, he would very likely be wiped out in an instant.

Luckily, that was not the case—he had a Duke's strength.

Li Luo raised his palms expressionlessly, and a torrent of energy surged. In the blink of an eye, an enormous, six-sided water shield materialized in front of him with ripples flowing on its surface.

When the energy blast collided head-on with the hexagonal water shield, the shield mitigated the blast with ease.

Following this, an ancient, straight knife appeared in Li Luo's hand, and he slashed it down with a deafening roar. A dazzling knife wheel about a thousand meters tall materialized out of thin air in front of him.

As the knife wheel flashed by, the thick mist was sliced apart by the sharp blades. In the next instant, the knife wheel cut through the Shadow Dragon's body and decimated it into countless spots of light.

The Shadow Dragon that was as strong as a quasi-Duke was easily defeated by Li Luo.

However, this was nothing celebratory for him. He understood that the strength and numbers of the Shadow Dragons would continue to grow as he advanced deeper into the pool.

Most importantly, there would also be competition in the form of the other Banner Leaders.

Li Luo pondered deeply for a moment. His most urgent task now was to enter the deepest part of the pool as soon as possible. It was said that as time passed, there would be an isolation area formed close to the district with the Coiling Dragon Pillars. This isolation area was created from the condensation of the mist and consisted of extremely terrifying energy. It would be impossible to penetrate it once it materialized.

As such, he would not be able to get close to the Coiling Dragon Pillars once the isolation area formed.

This was akin to the first round of elimination from the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool.

If anyone wanted the Coiling Dragon Pillar, they would need to enter the deepest part before the isolation area formed.

At this point, Li Luo made a quick estimate of the time and dared not procrastinate any further. He clapped his palms together, and a torrent of energy rushed out. It tore apart the thick mist below and opened up a long walkway where he flew down.

Right now, he hoped that he would not meet Qin Yi before the isolation area. If she decided to stall him without going for the Coiling Dragon Pillar, it was unlikely that he would be able to shake her off. In that case, he would lose this precious opportunity.

As he rapidly flew down the passage, he encountered a few Shadow Dragon attacks again. However, they were not much of a threat to him as he was prepared.

But the Shadow Dragons became stronger the closer he got to the deepest part of the dragonbreath pool. He had to spend quite a bit of effort to defeat the last Shadow Dragon that he came across, as its power was close to that of a lower first-grade Duke.

At the same time, he could also sense the clashes of energy nearby as he traveled deeper into the pool. It was the other Banner Leaders fighting against Shadow Dragons. Nonetheless, he paid no attention to them as he headed towards the depths of the dragonbreath pool.

The journey continued for ten minutes or so before Li Luo suddenly froze in his tracks. His eyes shrunk slightly.

Under the thick mist, he could sense a weak wave of energy passing through his body.

The wave was silent and subtle, flowing by like warm, moist water. It spread out like ripples blooming on the surface of a lake.

Li Luo frowned upon it. "This wave must be Qin Yi's doing!"

He assumed that she was using a special method to sense her surroundings. If he was right, the person she was looking for was certainly him.

Li Luo's eyes flickered slightly, but he wasn't surprised by this. One of the main reasons Qin Lian had arranged for Qin Yi to enter the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool was probably to deal with him.

However, Li Luo did not want to clash with Qin Yi right now.

He knew very well what a difficult opponent she would be. In fact, she was probably even stronger than Li Qingfeng.

If he was stopped by her right now, the opportunity to get stronger in the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool would surely be wasted.

Just as Li Luo was thinking of a way to handle the situation on hand, he suddenly felt an aggressive blast of energy coming not far from his right.

This was a very familiar resonant power.

Li Luo thought about it for a moment before he sped up and dashed in that direction immediately.

As the mist gave way, Li Luo could finally see what was at the fore.

There was an enormous, towering Shadow Dragon that was thousands of feet tall. Its body had started to solidify, and it tore apart the void with a swing of its dragon claw. The immense energy pulse it had released was equal to power of a lower first-grade Duke.

A vigorous figure holding a glazed, long rod was fighting against it. This was none other than the Banner Leader of the Holy Scale Banner, Lu Qingmei.

When Li Luo arrived on the scene, Lu Qingmei was flaunting her prowess against the Shadow Dragon as dominant energy surged forth from her runed, glazed rod. She broke apart the dragon's claw attack and struck right at the Shadow Dragon with her rod.

The shadow dragon was defeated. Lu Qingmei turned her oval face over to look at Li Luo.

Clap, clap.

Li Luo clapped with a big smile and walked over to her. "I was wondering who was out here. So it was actually you, Banner Leader Lu Qingmei. Impressive! You were unfazed despite facing off against a Shadow Dragon of the lower first-grade."

"Banner Leader Li Luo," Lu Qingmei said as she brushed back her hair. With the glazed rod in her hands, she stood there in her long, tight-fitting dress that made her lengthy, slender legs exceptionally eye-catching.

Under normal circumstances, everyone except the Banner Leaders from the same lineage would keep a distance from each other, as they were all competitors. However, Lu Qingmei did not say anything. She took a look at Li Luo's handsome face and let him be. Although she was never one to care much about looks, it was undeniable that a handsome guy made one lower their guard.

"Banner Leader Lu Qingmei, I have come here specially to find you regarding an urgent matter," Li Luo said seriously.

"What is it?" Lu Qingmei asked.

Li Luo slowly explained, "Before I came over, I sensed an energy wave coming from Qin Yi. I suspect that she's hunting us, the Banner Leaders from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. Her aim is simple: to ensure that we will not succeed in gaining anything in the Mystical Yellow Dragonbreath Pool. In that

case, the guests will feel that the younger generation from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing is far superior to our generation in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li."

Lu Qingmei looked at Li Luo suspiciously as she replied, "I don't think Qin Yi is that overbearing."

Li Luo replied with a deep voice, "She's not. But her mother is."

Lu Qingmei did not deny this. Hall Master Qin Lian was indeed overbearing, and it would not be surprising for her to do something like this to strike at the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. As her daughter, Qin Yi would surely obey her mother's orders.

However, if Qin Yi was so unscrupulous, wouldn't she make an enemy out of everyone?

Just as Lu Qingmei was contemplating the possibilities, a wave of energy suddenly shot through the mist from the back. In the next moment, a strand of waterlight pierced the void at an unimaginable speed and went directly for Li Luo filled with murderous intent.

The attack was so sudden that Li Luo did not know how to react in time. Just as the strand of waterlight was about to strike him, a rod filled with immense resonant power swept by and collided with the strand of waterlight.

Bang!

The violent storm of energy exploded in the collision. All the mist within thousands of feet was blown away instantly.

Lu Qingmei frowned a little as she looked towards where the waterlight had come from. When the mist gave way, a beautiful figure appeared in the distance.

The only one with that kind of charm and temperament was Qin Yi.

After seeing how Lu Qingmei had interrupted and blocked the attack for Li Luo, her enchanting eyes looked slightly surprised. When had Lu Qingmei gotten so close to Li Luo?

She smiled slightly as she said, "Banner Leader Lu, I have an issue with Banner Leader Li Luo. Can you please step aside?"

Lu Qingmei gave Li Luo a glance as she recalled what he had said earlier. "Is Qin Yi really hunting the Banner Leaders from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li?"

If that was the case, she could not just let Qin Yi deal with Li Luo. If there were too many Banner Leaders from their side hunted, it would be a disgrace. After all, it was a special day today.

As such, she tightly gripped her glazed rod with her slender, jade hands as her short hair lightly danced along with the wind. She took a step forward with her long, slender legs and said with her flat voice as the mist gave way, "Miss Qin Yi, the Coiling Dragon Pillars are not in sight yet. This is not the time for battle. However, if you're looking for some practice, I'll be glad to be your opponent."

When Li Luo heard this, he was touched beyond belief and gave a big thumbs up to Lu Qingmei in his heart. "Nice one, Little Lu! The road ahead has opened up!"

Chapter 0830: Isolation Area

Qin Yi frowned a little when she witnessed Lu Qingmei stepping up for Li Luo. Initially, she had planned to finish Li Luo off before entering the isolation area so that she could focus on securing the Coiling Dragon Pillars later on.

However, she had not expected Li Luo to be so sly. She had just sniffed out his location, but he had already found a helper.

In fact, the most surprising thing to her was that Lu Qingmei was willing to help him.

Among the Twenty Banner Leaders, Lu Qingmei was second only to Li Qingfeng. Although Qin Yi was confident in winning against her, she was afraid that causing such a huge commotion now would attract the other Banner Leaders over.

In that case, she might become a common enemy for all of them. While she was confident that she would come out on top in that scenario, she was afraid it would no longer be a perfect end for the tasks she had on hand today.

As a result, she was slightly hesitant for a moment.

In the same moment, Li Luo had also noticed that Qin Yi did not continue her advance. His eyes lit up immediately as he whispered to Lu Qingmei, "Banner Leader Lu, can you hold her down here for a short while? I'll go get help from the others to surround her!"

However, Lu Qingmei casted an unfriendly gaze towards Li Luo's suggestion. "This brat is really cunning. Is he thinking of slipping away after bringing trouble straight to me?"

"Did you believe I'll just abandon you here and throw you at Qin Yi?"

Luckily, Li Luo understood the meaning behind her gaze. He hurriedly smiled and added, "Don't worry, it's just a suggestion. If she dares to make a move, we'll work together and send her out!"

Lu Qingmei snorted softly as she grasped tightly onto her glazed rod filled with mysterious patterns. Her eyes locked onto Qin Yi, filled with fighting intent. Truth to be told, she had stood forward earlier because her hands were getting itchy.

A true ninth-grade opponent was really hard to come by!

She would gladly welcome it if Qin Yi decided to fight it out here.

However, Lu Qingmei's expectations did not come to fruition. Qin Yi hesitated for a while before she lightly smiled and said, "It's a waste of time to fight now. If we drag it out and miss the opportunity to enter the isolation area, we'll lose more than we gained here. Banner Leader Lu, I am sure we'll have a chance to exchange blows later on."

When she finished speaking, her clear eyes glared at Li Luo again. Without saying anything more, she turned around and left. After a few breaths, her delicate figure disappeared into the mist.

"She left," Lu Qingmei said with a little surprise mixed with disappointment.

"Impressive, Banner Leader Lu! Even Fairy Qin from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing was scared off by your dominating presence. Your name should be on the Empyrean Chronicle instead." Li Luo praised her with a big thumbs-up.

Hearing this, Lu Qingmei merely rolled her eyes and responded, "You're her true target. You can run from her now, but there will be no place for you to hide in the isolation area."

Li Luo smiled as he replied, "I am not afraid of her. I just did not want to be delayed by her before the isolation area and miss my chance for a Coiling Dragon Pillar."

"Still acting tough." Lu Qingmei shook her head. She believed Li Luo was putting on a brave front because he did not want to lose his face.

"You're not allowed to follow me afterwards. We will go our separate ways. After all, we are not from the same lineage and are still competitors," Lu Qingmei warned him as she prepared to leave.

Hearing this, Li Luo sighed with disappointment as he said, "I thought we were already comrades in arms."

This made Lu Qingmei both furious and amused. This guy was really thick skinned.

"Don't follow me!"

She grabbed her glazed rod tightly and waved it towards Li Luo, pretending to be fierce. Nonetheless, this was a rare instance of her acting kind of cute.

Following this, she speedily stepped onto the void and went off ahead without waiting for Li Luo's response. Soon, her silhouette also disappeared into the distance.

As Li Luo watched her get away, he smiled a little. Lu Qingmei had a pretty good personality. Although she was a martial arts fanatic, she was very loyal. He now owed her a favor due to her assistance in stopping Qin Yi. If the chance arose in future, he would surely repay this debt.

As he thought about this in his heart, he did not waste any more time. He dashed ahead towards the deepest part of the dragonbreath pool.

For the next few moments, Li Luo charged ahead at full speed. However, more and more Shadow Dragons appeared as he headed deeper into the pool. This caused him to take a detour several times. After all, even though he could guarantee his own safety against a few lower first-grade Shadow Dragons, he would undoubtedly be slowed down by them. This would make it challenging for him to reach the deepest part of the pool in time.

During this time, he had already seen a few unlucky Banner Leaders entangled in battle with Shadow Dragons. If things proceeded as they were, they would surely not make it in time.

However, Li Luo did not lend a helping hand to the unfamiliar Banner Leaders. He continued full speed ahead as he felt that the isolation area should not be too far ahead.

And so, dozens of minutes passed like this.

Suddenly, the mist ahead of Li Luo cleared up. When he looked into the distance, he noticed dozens of Shadow Dragons in the area with huge energy undulations emanating from their bodies.

He was taken aback by the sight of so many Shadow Dragons at first. However, he soon noticed that they were staying in their original positions instead of moving about.

Furthermore, there was faint light radiating from each of their bodies that were connected to each other, like a giant wall.

Li Luo finally understood what was going on. The so-called isolation area was, in fact, formed from the bodies of these Shadow Dragons.

As he scanned the surroundings, he noticed other people arriving as well.

Li Qingfeng, Li Hongli, Lu Qingmei, Deng Fengxian, and the other Banner Leaders.

At another location, he even spotted Qin Yi.

The top Banner Leaders had arrived before him.

Yet everyone simply hovered in their locations, distinct from one another. They did not attack each other but rather stared intently at the Shadow Dragons that were slowly transforming into a wall of light.

They were all patiently waiting for the Shadow Dragons to completely transform. When the time came, they would grab onto the small window of opportunity and slip past the gaps into the deepest part of the pool.

If they tried to do it now, they would unnecessarily draw the attention of all the Shadow Dragons that were standing guard. And no one would be able to fight against so many at once.

As such, all they could do now was wait.

Some of the Banner Leaders had taken notice of Li Luo's arrival too. However, they were merely surprised at the speed he had taken to arrive and did not give it much thought.

Just like this, ten minutes passed by.

At this moment, the Shadow Dragons ahead started to condense, and the transformation continued unabated. The light walls would merge with each other soon to form an impenetrable barrier that would prevent anyone else from heading into the Coiling Dragon Pillars.

"Let's go!"

The Banner Leaders that had arrived here did not wait any further. The resonant power within them spiked up and they flashed by like bolts of lightning.

This was their only chance to sneak in through the gaps before the light wall formed completely.

Li Luo did not hesitate any longer either. He acted immediately and tried to sneak past through a tiny gap in the rapidly forming wall of light.

However, he was stopped in his tracks when he was about a hundred meters away from the tiny gap he was aiming for. An attack filled with resonant power whizzed through the air and flew straight towards him all of a sudden.

Li Luo frowned at this sudden attack. He retaliated with a swing from his blade, and the dazzling slash tore open the void and neutralized the attack.

At the same time, he looked over to see where the attack had originated.

In the distance, there was a skinny man with a long nose hovering in the air, staring at him with eyes filled with hostility.

Li Luo recognized this gentleman immediately.

He was none other than Li Lu, the Banner Leader of the Dark Blood Banner from the Dragon's Blood Lineage.

"Banner Leader Li Lu, the isolation area is forming now. Why are you coming after me instead of making use of this precious window to sneak past?" Li Luo calmly asked.

Li Lu pouted as he replied, "There are only six Coiling Dragon Pillars. I will not be able to get any even if I go in. As such, my mission here is to stop other Banner Leaders from entering. As you happened to defeat Li Tong from the Dark Blood Banner earlier, I would like to see your skills for myself.

"You will not be able to go in there. You can stop dreaming about taking a Coiling Dragon Pillar," Li Lu continued.

Hearing this, a cold light appeared in Li Luo's eyes. Li Lu was really good at picking his timing. If he was delayed in such a crucial moment, Li Luo would have no more chances to obtain a Coiling Dragon Pillar.

If he were to retaliate, he would need to finish off Li Lu in the shortest time possible.

As Li Luo was lost in thought, Li Lu wasted no time in his endeavor. With a long howl, his resonant power surged and a giant finger made of immense energy fell from the sky, pressing down upon Li Luo.

Li Luo prepared for his counterattack.

However, a beam of light pierced through the air in this instant. A sakura-red spear filled with a domineering aura pierced apart the void.

The spear clashed against the giant finger of energy, creating a deafening roar. The aftermath of the energy collision raged like a storm.

As the energy storm swept across the field, a familiar figure emerged in front of Li Luo.

"Little Brother, you go for the Coiling Dragon Pillar. Leave this young man to me." A shout came from the distance, and it was none other than Li Fengyi.

As she clenched her jade fists, the spear teleported back into her hands. Her high ponytail danced along lightly in the wind.

Li Luo was startled. He knew that Li Fengyi wanted to help him hold down Li Lu here. However, this would mean that she would lose her only chance to slip past the isolation area.

Li Luo felt warmth in his heart, but this was not the time to express his thanks properly. He merely smiled and said, "Thank you, Second Sister."

With that, he turned around and dashed towards the gap in the light wall.

A moment later, there was another tremendous clash of energy behind him.

Li Luo managed to slip past the wall of light, entering the deepest part of the dragonbreath pool.

After passing through the wall of light, his pupils narrowed slightly when he gazed into the distance. In the depths of the mist, he faintly saw the huge pillars glowing with mysterious lights.

There were lively dragon imprints on each pillar that seemed to swallow up the power of heaven and earth.

He could finally see the Coiling Dragon Pillars!