

Resonance 911

Chapter 0911: Dragon Slaying

When the dark-gold flame penetrated Li Luo's body, he finally felt its true terror. In the blink of an eye, the three-coloured light that had been protecting his body became half as bright.

Only the Vestiges of Spirituality from his dual resonance power showed some signs of resistance, entangling themselves with the dark-gold flame. However, it was ultimately not strong enough despite its superior quality. As the flame dragon roared and ravaged wildly, the power of the dual resonances disappeared without a trace.

An immense pain cruised through Li Luo's body, sending warning signs all over.

His eyes turned gloomy. Although he had not underestimated the dark-gold flame, its frightening power still sent a chill up his spine after he personally experienced it.

It was no wonder Li Qingfeng had decided to give up without even giving it a try.

At the same time, many surprising cries came from the crowd as they watched the protection from the Tri-radiance Glass Body diminish speedily. It seemed like Li Luo could hardly endure the terrifying flame either.

Signs of worry appeared on the faces of Li Fengyi and Li Jingtao.

Meanwhile, Li Qingfeng stared at him indifferently. Lu Qingmei shook her head at this sight. It seemed impossible after all.

At this moment, Li Hongli laughed out coldly. The unhappiness in her heart finally dissipated a little as she cried out, "What an arrogant brat. You dare to take that step even though you're merely at the Fiend Body Tier? Did you really think there would be a miracle?"

In the space above, the elders from the various lineages were also watching the dark-gold flame engulfing the tall figure with mixed reactions.

Nonetheless, Li Luo had never been bothered by external gazes. He was fully concentrated on fighting back against the dark-gold flame.

He had understood instantly that defense alone would not suffice against the flame from Nine Dragons Becoming One.

After all, even Li Jingtao with his crazy defense was only able to endure it for another step.

In other words, this was not the way to move forward and conquer the final stretch. At the very least, this was not the way which Li Luo had planned.

He had never opted to do things in an orthodox fashion before.

He opened up his eyes, revealing the sharp look within them. If he could not endure the flame from Nine Dragons Becoming One... why not just destroy it?

However, what kind of immense strength would he need to muster to slay these terrifying flames?

Li Luo did not ponder over this too much. He was solely focused on giving it his all and slaying it in a single strike.

As he took a step forward, an ancient, straight blade materialized in his hands. This was the Onyx-Elephant Blade.

He gripped it tightly and held the blade before him, slightly inclined from his body.

However, he did not do it normally. His whole body remained still and his muscles gradually tightened up, like a beast about to leap onto its prey.

In the same moment, the protection from the Tri-Radiance Glass Body continued to diminish rapidly.

After a dozen breaths or so, the protection was completely gone. In the same moment, Li Luo's body started to turn red as the extremely hot flames tore at his flesh. Fresh blood started to flow out of his skin, but it evaporated immediately.

It was in this same moment that his eyes burst forth with resolve.

Bang!

His resonant power exploded like a volcanic eruption. The amount of resonant power was dozens of times greater than what Li Luo had shown before.

An eerie, black, fiendish energy gushed out amidst the extremely pure resonant power, displaying an unparalleled sharpness within it.

The fiendish energy surged up all the way into the sky, reaching a height of four hundred feet!

Countless spectators watched this unfold with shock and surprise on their faces.

The eerie, fiendish energy was a familiar sight to all of them.

It was Fiend Dipper Energy! The trademark of the Fiend Finisher Tier!

Li Luo had broken through at this moment.

Moreover, his Fiend Dipper Energy had become four hundred feet tall!

This was a sign of an extremely strong foundation!

Only the elders from the various lineages understood that Li Luo had achieved this breakthrough because he had cultivated during the Dragon's Ascent. The pressure was just like a spring—the harder you pressed onto it, the greater the rebound.

Li Luo had borrowed the immense pressure from the Dragon's Ascent to attain this breakthrough with four hundred feet of Fiend Dipper Energy!

This was definitely not a method that an ordinary individual could follow. One could easily crumble under the immense pressure and lose much more than they gained.

At this moment, Li Luo was hoping to counterattack the dark-gold flame with this rebounding strength.

A truly bold and great idea.

However...

There was a hint of darkness within the eyes of the various elders. The dark-gold flame contained a strand of Heavenly Dragon's Will. Although Li Luo's counterattack was indeed shocking, it might not be enough to fend off the flame.

Li Jingzhe watched Li Luo without any change in his facial expression. However, his hands seemed to have become a little tense, gripping his armrests.

Below him, Li Qingpeng and Li Jinpan watched on anxiously.

Before their gazes, Li Luo's spirit seemed to have reached new heights. He stared at the dark-gold flame with extremely vicious eyes.

As the flame rose up, there seemed to be an enormous dragon giving him a cold glare.

Li Luo's high spirits were immediately shaken under its gaze. It was like he was about to face off against an actual dragon with nothing but the blade in his hand.

It was akin to a tiny ant trying to move a huge mountain—things seemed hopeless.

However, Li Luo did not display any signs of fear at all. He had not come to the Dragon's Fang Lineage to enjoy life. The worry over his short life had always hung over his head like a guillotine, keeping him in a constant state of tension.

Strictly speaking, he only had around three years left to live.

If he could not reach the Duke Stage before that time, he would die from the lack of lifespan.

This was a secret that he had not shared with anyone else in the Dragon's Fang Lineage, not even the Respected Elder. It was largely due to his own pride. This was despite having such a strong background. What motivation would he have to continue working hard if he did that? He could simply be given everything he needed. As the son of Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan, he had never lost this self-confidence and innate sense of pride.

He did not want others to look at him with sympathy after learning about his short life.

Besides, things truly weren't as bleak as they sounded.

He was already a Fiend Finisher. The only obstacle between him and the Duke Stage was the Heavenly Dipper General Stage!

It wasn't totally impossible to become a Duke in three years' time.

Since he could achieve it with his own strength, there was no need to tell anyone else and invite any unnecessary troubles. With these mixed emotions, Li Luo tightened the grip on his blade and slowly closed his eyes. In his mind, he thought of the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation.

As a result, the majestic Cosmic Sword Intent emerged in his mind.

Countless strands of sword intent flowed within it, each with an unmatched sharpness that could split heaven and earth apart.

In this moment, the image of a pessimistic and hopeless knight facing off against a tyrannical, giant dragon began to change. The Cosmic Sword Intent appeared behind the knight, charging towards the dragon alongside him.

It was at this moment that Li Luo had consolidated all of his power into a single blow, slashing down with his blade with pure resolution.

His strike directly clashed with the strand of dark-gold flame.

That single blow cut open the void, and his Fiend Dipper Energy continued to absorb energy to power itself.

At this moment, the five Lineage Chiefs froze for a moment, shocked at what they were witnessing. They seemed to have noticed the change in Li Luo as well. Although the others could not tell the difference, they could sense the vast and majestic galaxy of sword intent that had appeared behind him.

The sword intent made them narrow their eyes a little.

However, others could only tell that Li Luo had swung his blade down against the dark-gold flame. It was like a final, desperate attempt to resist a tragic end.

The clash between the blade energy and the flame did not result in an eruption of energy or pulses of shockwaves.

The moment they came into contact, the blade slashed past the dark-gold flame, leaving an afterimage in its wake.

There was seemingly no other change to the flame.

However, everyone could clearly hear a draconic roar deep within the dragon flame. It was a roar filled with shock.

It was as if something had been completely shattered.

Only the five Lineage Chiefs could tell that in that instant, the Cosmic Sword Intent had clashed with the Heavenly Dragon's Will within the flame and destroyed it.

As soon as the Heavenly Dragon's Will dissipated, the flame naturally lost its spirituality.

At this moment, the countless gazes within and outside the stone dragon could see the roaring, dark-gold flame starting to weaken and lose its color.

When the dark-gold color faded off, it became no different from a normal flame.

Li Luo slowly lowered his hands, still holding the blade. At this moment, his spirit was exhausted. The previous slash was not a Duke Art, but it had consumed a terrifying amount of energy.

It was because that strike contained every ounce of his willpower.

Fortunately, he had emerged victorious.

He had slain the will within the dark-gold flame with the help of the Cosmic Sword Intent from the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation.

Everyone watched on in silence. They were bewildered as they watched the color of the dragon flame fade away. None of them understood how Li Luo had done it.

However, Li Luo was in no mood to explain it to them. He lifted up his blade and continued making his way up.

One step at a time.

There were no more obstructions in his path.

His footsteps became lighter.

All of the effects of the infernal baptism and dragonfear had vanished.

He then made his way to the top of the stone staircase before everyone's confused gazes. A single man stood unbowed at the peak of thirty thousand feet. He stood upright on the head of the stone dragon with blade in hand. The brilliance of this moment dazed even the elders from the various lineages. It was as if they had seen the rebirth of Li Taixuan, who had completely overwhelmed his peers decades ago.

Chapter 0912: Another Record

As Li Luo stood on the head of the stone dragon with his blade in hand, the crowd both within and outside were deathly silent.

They all seemed a little lost at this sight. Their minds were unable to comprehend the sheer impact that this young man had upon them, and their faces were frozen in disbelief.

Li Luo had ascended to the top of the stone dragon, reaching the thirty thousand foot summit.

What was more terrifying to them was the way he had done so!

He had directly vanquished the fused nine dragons!

How had he accomplished it? Was this something a Fiend Finisher was able to achieve?

In that moment, if not for the fact that they knew that the five Lineage Chiefs were closely observing his every action, some would have yelled out that something was amiss!

The nineteen other Banner Leaders were deep in thought and utterly silent.

Even Li Fengyi and Li Jingtao were staring at the scene wide-eyed. They stared at Li Luo's figure in disbelief. Although they had hoped to see him conjure a miracle, the fact that it had actually happened left them incredulous.

This was especially true for Li Jingtao, who had personally experienced the Nine Dragons Becoming One's dark-gold flame. He knew exactly how frightening it was, and even his absolute defenses were unable to resist it. Li Luo, on the other hand, had hacked it to pieces...?

"Impossible... IMPOSSIBLE!" Li Hongli's face was full of confusion and she shook her head. The distraught look on her face could not hide the absolute shock in her heart.

"I heard that a trace of the Heavenly Dragon's Will could be found within that flame. How could a weakling at the Fiend Finisher Tier possibly destroy it? In the history of the Dragon's Ascent, all those

who were able to ascend to the peak relied only on their bodies and exceptional resonant power to resist. I have never heard of anyone being able to directly slaughter it!" she babbled. The rest of the Banner Leaders agreed with her. This had never happened before in the history of the Dragon's Ascent.

The ones who had succeeded were geniuses amongst geniuses. Their strength was an entire level above Li Qingfeng's, and they had borrowed the aid of their resonant power to forcefully block the roasting of the flame dragons, ascending to the top with much difficulty.

There were other geniuses in the past who had attempted a similar strategy as Li Luo, attempting to destroy the flame with their own attacks. However, the flame was enhanced with the Heavenly Dragon's Will, and cultivators at their level did not have the means to even harm such an ephemeral concept. No matter how strong their resonant power was, it was difficult to do so. Even the strongest amongst the participants were only at the Heavenly Pearl Tier and naturally did not have the means to do so. Although it was merely a strand of will, it was akin to an invincible monster that they could not tangle with.

What was thought to be impossible had been achieved today.

It was no wonder all the Banner Leaders were completely taken aback.

They did not know what sort of method Li Luo had utilized to vanquish the Heavenly Dragon's Will.

The method was incomprehensible, but the result was not. Otherwise, the elders who were observing the trial would already have said something.

The silence from them also indicated that Li Luo had not borrowed external means to achieve this victory.

If Li Luo was truly skillful enough to cheat before all five Lineage Chiefs, that ability alone would qualify him to become the Dragon's Head.

Thus, even Li Hongli, who was previously in denial, turned pale and fell silent after her words were said. Otherwise, her unreasonable doubts would only paint her as a clown.

She glared at the blade-wielding figure standing at the top, only consoling herself with the fact that successfully reaching the top of the Dragon's Ascent did not mean that Li Luo would definitely become the Dragon's Head.

If Li Qingfeng was able to achieve victory during the Scales Seizure, the situation would turn in his favor.

Still, regardless of how she tried to console herself, she could not contain the fear that she was feeling in the depths of her heart. She realized that this country bumpkin from the outer divine continent who was supposed to be a level weaker than all of them had truly surpassed the so-called talents from the inner divine continent. And if Li Luo truly became the Dragon's Head, wouldn't the geniuses who had been raised on a wealth of treasures and resources be no different from wastrels? Li Taixuan suppressing his entire generation was bad enough. Would his son repeat the same feat in their generation? The air above had plunged into a brief period of silence. The elders beneath the five Lineage Chiefs had complicated expressions. Many of them were from Li Taixuan's generation, and seeing Li Luo ascend to the top had reminded them of what they had witnessed countless years ago. They could only watch helplessly as Li Taixuan forged his way to the top alone.

Lineage Chief Li Tianji from the Dragon's Blood Lineage said, "It seems that the Cosmic Sword Intent that Li Luo utilized was able to overcome the Heavenly Dragon's Will. This Duke Art is no weaker than a Destiny-grade."

The Dragon's Scale Lineage's Lineage Chief Li Qingying commented, "It is even more impressive than your average Destiny-grade Duke Art. From what I know, the Dragon's Fang Lineage doesn't possess such a Duke Art."

Destiny-grade Duke Arts were considered top-tier techniques in all of the lineages. Even the number of elders who wielded such arts was extraordinarily tiny, so there was no need to mention a young man.

The other lineages were all very clear of the fact that they had never heard of the Dragon's Fang Lineage possessing the Cosmic Sword Intent Destiny-grade Duke Art.

Additionally, the sword intent was so domineering that it seemed like it could even wipe out the sun, the moon, and the stars. This was something even they would pay attention to.

Li Tianji glanced at the silent Li Jingzhe with a wry smile. "Unless this is an art left behind by the Ancestor."

As the Mountain Ruling Chief, Li Tianji was privy to numerous secrets. Thus, he knew that the Ancestor had left behind an incomplete Duke Art in the Dragon's Fang Lineage.

The other three Lineage Chiefs were slightly astounded by this statement, so they glanced at Li Jingzhe. An art left behind by the Ancestor?

With the Ancestor's breadth of experience and means, how could an art he left behind be simple?

Li Tianji continued, "The arts left behind by the Ancestor can only be used by those connected to them by fate. Lineage Chief Jingzhe is the type of person who prioritizes rules beyond anything else, so he couldn't have coached him privately... right?"

His tone was piercing and almost seemed interrogatory.

Each of the Lineage Chiefs were independent, but as the Mountain Ruling Chief, Li Tianji had the right to supervise the rest of them.

Li Jingzhe smiled wryly. "Li Luo possesses extraordinary talent. The fact that he was able to master this technique is proof that he is destined for it. The Ancestor left this art behind for someone to complete it in his stead. I doubt he would want to see it gather dust in the treasury forever."

Still, Li Luo being able to wield the Myriad Resonances Dragon Fang Sword Formation naturally implied that Li Jingzhe had a part to play in facilitating his cultivation. Otherwise, who knew how long it would have taken?

That being said, how he had facilitated it was not something he had to tell the rest. Li Tianji's probing words were meaningless; they would not change anything.

In any case, he could always just send people to the Dragon's Fang Lineage to investigate.

Li Tianji similarly understood this and thus changed his tone with a smile. "Being able to cultivate an art created by the Ancestor is his fortune. It's no wonder he destroyed the Heavenly Dragon Will. However, I'm not sure if another strand of the Heavenly Dragon's Will can be refined in time for the next Dragon's Ascent."

"Still, this counts as a record. Youths are high-spirited, and despite him ruining the Heavenly Dragon's Will, his performance was exceptional. Li Taixuan's son has truly inherited his talent." Li Qingying grinned in response.

"Now that they have suffered through the Dragon's Ascent, it's time to reap the fruits of what they have sowed." When he finished speaking, he stretched his hand out and pointed into the air. Then the mountain-like, stone dragon shuddered, and a draconic roar resounded throughout the skies and the earth.

After that, everyone on the stone steps could feel dense Heavenly Dragon energy all around them, emanating from the body of the stone dragon they were on. It then poured into their bodies.

Meanwhile, Li Luo, who was on the dragon's head, received an even greater amount of Heavenly Dragon energy.

The Heavenly Dragon energy that was previously within their bodies rapidly merged with the Heavenly Dragon energy surging up from the stone dragon. Immediately after, the fusion of energy seemed to have ignited, and dense energy wafted in every direction.

The energy then solidified into a mist that wrapped around Li Luo's body.

On the steps beneath, something similar was happening to each Banner Leader.

Each and every one of them could clearly feel their bodies undergoing a magical process of infusion with this energy and being reborn.

This was the Sanctified Dragon's Body taking embryonic form.

Chapter 0913: Nine Scales Sanctified Dragon's Body Embryonic Form

Dense energy in the form of mist wrapped around each of the Banner Leaders like a cocoon.

The banner members were watching in envy from outside. They understood that this was a rare opportunity only available to the Banner Leaders. After this metamorphosis, they would possess the foundation for the Sanctified Dragon's Body.

Although the Sanctified Dragon's Body was just a basic body-tempering art in the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages, it was considered top-class for people in the Earth Fiend General Stage like them.

The Banner Leaders would gain a significant boost to both power and speed after this competition. Naturally, it would give them an edge in all of their future fights.

Of course, ordinary banner members had the option to gather sufficient Heavenly Dragon energy in the future to obtain the Sanctified Dragon's Body. However, doing so would not be easy as they would have to make significant contributions to the lineage. In fact, even in the Heavenly Dragon's Five Guardian Armies, only a select few were able to meet this stringent requirement.

Moreover, they could only reach the Five Scales Sanctified Dragon's Body in the end. It was close to impossible to attain a higher level.

The upper limit for the Sanctified Dragon's Body was predetermined for those who had not participated in the Dragon's Ascent.

Fortunately, if they were able to reach a high enough cultivation level in the future, they could skip this armor completely and cultivate more powerful body-tempering arts instead.

Under all these gazes of envy, the dense smoke of the cocoons lasted for approximately an hour before it started to dissipate.

Once again, figures started to emerge.

The Banner Leaders looked no different from before. However, faint, crisp cracks could be heard in the wind when they started to stretch and move their muscles. Clearly, their physical prowess had been greatly enhanced.

Most evidently, each person had a sigil between their brows when they activated their resonant power.

It was a round sigil that looked like a long dragon biting its own tail. In the center of the circle were dragon scales.

Of course, the number differed between each of them.

Some had four, five, six... All the dragon scales were dark gray in color, seemingly lacking a little in vitality.

This was because what they had obtained was simply the embryonic form of the Sanctified Dragon's Body. The scales in the dragon sigils simply represented the upper limit for each individual's Sanctified Dragon's Body.

Those with four dragon scales in their dragon sigils could cultivate up to a Four Scales Sanctified Dragon's Body. In other words, they could obtain a maximum of four dragon scales in the Scales Seizure stage before their Sanctified Dragon's Body reached its maximum capacity.

The same logic applied for the other numbers.

As the dense mist retreated, more and more Banner Leaders emerged after their metamorphosis. Among them, Li Fengyi had gotten six dragon scales, while Li Hongli and Deng Fengxian had seven. Li Qingfeng, Li Jingtao, and Lu Qingmei had eight dragon scales each.

Roar!

At this point, a low, draconic roar sounded from the end of the stone staircase. Everyone looked towards it and saw the huge, dense energy mist slowly dissipating.

After a while, Li Luo emerged from the mist.

Between his eyebrows was a mark with nine dragon scales. This immediately caught everyone's attention.

Nine Scales! Nine Scales Sanctified Dragon's Body!

As long as Li Luo was able to obtain nine dragon scales in the Scales Seizure, he would be able to awaken his armor to the highest level straight away.

At this moment, there were a lot of mixed gazes among the crowd. It had been a really long time since the Nine Scales Sanctified Dragon's Body had been seen.

Under all the gazes of envy, Li Luo opened his eyes. He lightly clenched his fists, and a look of surprise appeared on his face.

He could sense that his body had strengthened considerably. This boost was not at all inferior to the Three Sonic Pulses Thunderpeal Avatar. Furthermore, this was a natural boost to his physical self—it did not require any activation, unlike the Thunderpeal Avatar.

One of them was a passive boost, whilst the other was an active one.

Moreover, there were the main benefits from the Sanctified Dragon's Body apart from strengthening one's physical body.

Dragon's wings, Dragonfear, and Dragon's Might.

As Li Luo thought about it, the resonant power in his body gathered around the dragon sigil between his eyebrows. In the next moment, a special energy burst out of it.

Pssht!

The energy took the shape of dragon wings that spanned dozens of meters. They were attached to Li Luo's back, and a gust blew across the air when they flapped lightly.

These wings would enable one to fly. It was an extremely practical ability.

As for the so-called dragonfear, it was a special kind of aura that exerted pressure on others. During battles, a sudden release of dragonfear could catch one's opponent off guard. Additionally, one could combine this dragonfear with the dragon resonance they already possessed to apply an extremely deterring effect on other beasts.

Lastly, there was Dragon's Might. It was something that could only be used once the Sanctified Dragon's Body had been awakened.

This power was similar to the Divine Elephant Power from Li Luo's Onyx-Elephant Blade. It could boost one's strength tremendously in the blink of an eye.

It was said that one scale was equivalent to one dragon. If one had the Nine Scales Sanctified Dragon's Body, one could gain Dragon's Might equivalent to that of nine dragons! This power was said to be even stronger than some Duke Arts.

Nonetheless, Dragon's Might did not represent the strength of a true dragon. Strictly speaking, the strength it could demonstrate was that of a dragon beast, an impure descendant of sorts. No matter what, it was still extremely strong. Li Luo was really satisfied with it. This reward was worth all the hard work that he had gone through to ascend the thirty-thousand feet.

The limit of his Nine Scales Sanctified Dragon's Body was far beyond that of the rest.

At this point, he could not help but sigh. Once again, he couldn't help but be impressed by what these Heavenly Emperor powers were capable of. Such a foundation was extremely rare in the outer divine continent. In fact, even the Thunderpeal Avatar was only available to the royal family of the Blackwind Empire. Meanwhile, they had body-tempering arts like the Sanctified Dragon's Body here, which was leagues above the Thunderpeal Avatar.

Besides, his Thunderpeal Avatar had an upper limit of five sonic pulses. This paled in comparison to the Sanctified Dragon's Body, which had a complete line of evolutions.

Regardless, the Thunderpeal Avatar was still useful to Li Luo at the moment.

While everyone was still taking in the Sanctified Dragon's Body's abilities, a majestic voice sounded off in the sky above them.

"We will now conclude the Dragon's Ascent. Please prepare yourself for the last stage of the Battle of the Dragon's Head: Scales Seizure."

Everyone's faces froze for a moment after hearing these words before the fire of competitiveness lit up in their eyes.

The Dragon's Ascent was considered a passive competition, while the Scales Seizure would be an active clash. One would need to defeat an opponent in order to obtain scales.

The Dragon's Head would also be decided with this.

Simply put, the one who was able to obtain the most scales would be the Dragon's Head. Li Qingfeng sighed lightly and then turned his gaze towards Li Luo. He had been completely outshined by Li Luo in the Dragon's Ascent. However, this would not decide the Dragon's Head in the end.

Although Li Luo was able to obtain the embryonic form of the Nine Scales Sanctified Dragon's Body, this was simply the first step. As long as he could stop Li Luo from obtaining nine dragon scales in the Scales Seizure, his Nine Scales Sanctified Dragon's Body would be nothing but an empty shell.

He might have lost the Dragon's Ascent, but he would definitely not lose the position of the Dragon's Head. Just as Li Qingfeng was thinking about this, everyone started to notice a thick mist appearing once again. Soon, the mist engulfed the group.

They could no longer see their surroundings, but the space around them started to warp.

This lasted for dozens of breaths before the mist retreated again.

Li Luo and the rest noticed that the stone dragon they had been standing on was now gone. Now, they were standing on a huge, round platform above the clouds.

There were dozens of stone platforms hovering in the air above them.

Far in the distance behind the round platform was a stone dragon mountain entrenched in the void, with its maw facing the round platform.

That was the stone dragon where the Dragon's Ascent had taken place.

The majestic sound echoed in the air once again. "The battles for the Scales Seizure will be decided by drawing lots. Each individual will fight a total of eight battles, with the winner getting one dragon scale."

The twenty Banner Leaders remained calm after hearing this, as they had all learned about this beforehand.

Hearing this, Li Luo's eyes moved a little. He was not too worried about battles being decided by drawing lots. After his breakthrough into the Fiend Finisher Tier earlier, his cultivation level was not any lower than most of the ordinary Banner Leaders anymore. As such, the ones who would pose a threat to him would mainly be Li Qingfeng and Lu Qingmei. Oh, there was also Li Jingtao, the metal-shell tortoise that would give anyone here a headache.

However, Banner Leaders from the same lineage would usually not meet each other to prevent any match fixing.

If he could secure all eight victories, he would be able to get eight dragon scales. This would allow him to awaken his Sanctified Dragon's Body to eight scales.

However, this was not enough.

There was still the ninth scale.

It had been said that obtaining the ninth dragon scale was the most challenging part of the Battle of the Dragon's Head. Its difficulty was said to be leagues above the infernal baptism from the flames of Nine Becoming One during the Dragon's Ascent.

However, the challenge for the ninth scale was particularly special. One was only eligible for it after securing all eight victories in the Scales Seizure. Hence, there was no need to worry about it for now. Li Luo lightly touched the dragon sigil between his eyebrows. It had not been easy for him to get it.

Naturally, he would love to make full use of this chance to perfect his Sanctified Dragon's Body.

Otherwise, he would have to expend a huge amount of energy and resources to obtain dragon scales in the future.

As long as he had the chance to get the ninth Scale, he would definitely try his hardest.

While he pondered over this, light beams fell from the sky in front of each Banner Leader.

Li Luo reached into the beam. The light condensed upon contact, and a jade tablet appeared.

When Li Luo grabbed the tablet, it lit up and his body was shrouded in its glow. In the blink of an eye, he shot into the sky onto one of the stone platforms hovering above.

Just as Li Luo landed on the platform, another figure landed in front of him. This was one of the Banner Leaders from the Dragon's Bone Lineage.

When he noticed that his first opponent was Li Luo, he could not help but show a look of helplessness.

Li Luo simply smiled and clenched his fists. The Golden-Jade Onyx-Elephant Blade appeared in his hand.

When the battle bell rang, Li Luo's resonant power surged up and he charged ahead like a flash of lightning.

The battle concluded faster than anyone had expected.

This went on for a while, and Li Luo won his first four battles easily. With that, he had four dragon scales secured. However, he would not be able to use these dragon scales until the Battle of the Dragon's Head ended.

In his fifth battle, a tall and slender figure appeared in front of him.

At this point, Li Luo focused.

His next opponent was none other than Lu Qingmei.

Chapter 0914: Challenging Lu Qingmei

When Li Luo saw her, a helpless smile emerged on his face. His opponent, on the other hand, was staring at him with a look of burning anticipation. Her slender fingers were tightly grasping the glazed rod in her hands as she grinned with utmost happiness at the sight of her next opponent.

"Banner Leader Qingmei, I had hoped not to encounter you." Li Luo clasped his hands respectfully with a smile.

"It was just a matter of time." Her beautiful eyes focused upon Li Luo. "After watching what happened on the Dragon's Ascent, my desire to exchange blows with you has far exceeded my desire to face Li Qingfeng."

Faced with Lu Qingmei's fervor for battle, Li Luo smiled weakly. "Isn't this the second time we are fighting? I still have to thank you for taking it easy and throwing the battle that time."

Their first battle was in the Fiendish Devil Cave, where Lu Qingmei had not roused her full strength. In the end, she had even gifted him a God Origin Pill.

"If you truly want to thank me, you'll go all out now," Lu Qingmei replied.

"Although my resonant power is slightly stronger than yours, I believe that with your triple resonances, Fiend Finisher Tier cultivation, and dual resonance power at the third realm, we should be basically on the same level. We can fight each other on equal grounds now."

Li Luo's expression gradually turned serious. He then waved his hand, and a mottled, ancient blade appeared.

He knew that with her personality, truly expressing his gratitude would involve giving everything he had in this fight.

Bang!

Lu Qingmei wasn't courteous in the least. Behind her, a dot of light manifested before quickly expanding into a Heavenly Pearl. The worldly natural energy in the vicinity was roused and resonant power poured into her body.

She radiated the pressure of a Heavenly Pearl Tier cultivator.

This was much stronger than what Li Luo had previously experienced.

Entering the Heavenly Pearl Tier would cause one's resonant power to strengthen qualitatively. Additionally, it would allow the user to absorb endless amounts of worldly natural energy, supplementing their reserves. It was their greatest advantage.

If one were to compare the two stages, the Heavenly Pearl Tier was like being equipped with an engine delivering extra power to the user. Broaching this gap was not a simple feat. Li Luo's gaze turned serious. The Heavenly Pearl Tier Lu Qingmei was no easy opponent. If he had not broken through, he might not have had much chance of victory.

Additionally, she had a sturdy foundation. However, both of them possessed superior battle strength when compared to others; Li Luo could probably compete with two-pearl Heavenly Pearl cultivators from outside the lineage.

He activated the three resonant palaces within him. His strongest resonant powers, water and wood, fused together, forming a mighty dual resonant power.

Bang!

The dual resonant power burst forth, surrounding Li Luo's body. It contained Vestiges of Spirituality, which gave the resonant power sentience.

With his eighth-grade water resonance and seventh-grade wood resonance, the resulting fusion was likely stronger than Lu Qingmei's quasi ninth-grade resonant power.

A flash of excitement could be seen in Lu Qingmei's eyes. She took a step forward with great force, causing the ground beneath her to crack. At the same time, she dragged her heavy, glazed rod along as she rushed towards Li Luo like a prancing deer.

Majestic and dense resonant power wrapped around the glazed rod before she slammed it towards Li Luo's cranium with barbaric force.

This single strike carried all of the power available to her at the Heavenly Pearl Tier and was sufficient to smash apart any opponent at the Fiend Finisher Tier.

Faced with this attack, Li Luo did not plan to retreat. He similarly wanted to know for himself just how strong those geniuses at the Heavenly Pearl Tier were.[1]

Weng!

The Golden-Jade Onyx-Elephant Blade started humming, and a moment later, it radiated light. Li Luo took a step forward, gathering his four hundred feet of Fiend Dipper Energy while his dual resonant power intertwined with the radiance on the blade. He then hacked downwards towards Lu Qingmei.

The four hundred feet of Fiend Dipper Energy was like a massive blade that sliced through the skies. The sheer might it exuded seemed capable of leveling even mountains.

Blade light clashed against the rod.

Deng!

A metallic ringing reverberated throughout the air.

In the end, berserk energy undulations roiled in every direction and terrifying explosions could be heard.

Li Luo and Lu Qingmei both felt their palms trembling from the aftershock before wild remnants of energy rampaged towards them. The two glared at each other eye to eye, both refusing to take even a single step back. Instead, they channeled more energy from their bodies to neutralize the aftereffects.

Behind Lu Qingmei, the lone Heavenly Pearl began to swallow up boundless amounts of worldly natural energy to replenish her resonant power.

Within Li Luo's body, the dual resonant power was gradually being depleted, but he was able to hold on thanks to his three resonant palaces full of reserve energy.

The blast of energy finally scattered after ten breaths. Lu Qingmei's foot stretched out before her figure flashed forward. Countless afterimages of her rod were left in the wake of her speedy strikes, each filled with savage and brutal strength that were all directed at Li Luo's vitals.

Li Luo grasped his blade as he mustered all the power he had, causing his weapon to glow brightly with a solidified layer.

Clang! Clang!

Numerous blows were blocked and the afterimages were shattered.

It was like a tempest had kicked up when the two started exchanging blows. The ground was shattered into pieces and constant explosions could be heard in the sky as a result of their strikes.

After yet another ten breaths, their weapons had collided over a hundred times.

As the fight continued, the fighting spirit within Lu Qingmei's eyes became even more roused. She realized that her current attacks were ineffective and thus no longer held back.

"Duke Art: Heavenly Dragon Scale Armor Art!"

As soon as her voice rang out, numerous scales emerged from Lu Qingmei's slender body, quickly turning into a complete suit of scale armor covering it in its entirety.

The Heavenly Dragon Scale Armor was form fitting, so it wrapped around her delicate body tightly, revealing curves that would make any man's heart stop.

There were even scales that appeared on the side of her face, giving her a charming look.

Her speed, strength, and resonant power all received a substantial boost as a result. She smashed downwards heavily with the glazed rod, easily shattering the blade lights from Li Luo's counter attacks. At the same time, her rod collided with Li Luo's blade, and a terrifying force erupted forth, causing him to be thrown backwards tens of meters.

There were numerous gazes observing the battles from above. Quite a few were focused upon Li Luo and Lu Qingmei's battle. The two were amongst the elites of the Banner Leaders, so their battle was worth paying attention to.

Even the Dragon's Blood Lineage's Lineage Chief, Li Tianji, was observing their battle. He then turned towards Li Qingying. "Lu Qingmei is a good seedling. She has cultivated the Heavenly Dragon Scale Armor Art to minor completion."

Li Qingying gave a slight smile. "She indeed isn't too bad. Although she is not part of the direct bloodline, her talent is excellent and she will inevitably be a pillar of the Dragon's Scale Lineage in the future. Let's see how Li Luo reacts to her Heavenly Dragon Scale Armor Art now."

Chapter 0915: Encountering Li Qingfeng

"The Heavenly Dragon Scale Armor Art of the Dragon's Scale Lineage?" Li Luo whispered to himself as he stood his ground and felt the trembles in his hands.

His gaze was fixed on the exquisite dragon scales covering Lu Qingmei. The Heavenly Dragon Scale Armor Art was the unique Duke Art of the Dragon's Scale Lineage. Once cultivated, it could form a suit of armor made of dragon scales. This would greatly boost the strength, resonant power, speed, and defensive capabilities of the user.

Previously, he could push back against Lu Qingmei's power with his Fiend Dipper Energy and dual resonances advantage. Now that she had used this, the pressure on him had suddenly returned.

"Li Luo, if you don't use your Duke Art right now, I'll be taking this Dragon Scale with me," Lu Qingmei proclaimed as she stood firmly on the ground with the glazed rod in her hands. She looked up into the sky above the stone platform. There was a golden dragon scale around the size of one's palm floating above.

Hearing this, Li Luo smiled in response. She was not wrong. She had just revealed her ace. If he did not want to solely be on the receiving end of the beating, he would have to use his ace too.

With that in mind, Li Luo formed the required hand seals with his fingertips, then the resonant power in his body surged rapidly.

In the next moment, a blade light flashed by and a crack appeared in the void, revealing an eerie, black space. The sound of rushing water could be heard coming from inside it.

Roar!

A gush of ice-cold nether-water rushed out of the crack. Along with the giant torrents, a dragon roar echoed in the air, and a black dragon emerged from it.

Duke Art, Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner!

"Let's go."

As soon as Li Luo spoke, the Underworld River circulated around the black dragon's body before it flew across the sky, charging towards Lu Qingmei.

In an instant, the warm, summer temperature seemed to have fallen into the icy depths of winter.

With Li Luo at the Fiend Finisher Tier, the Underworld River's Black Dragon had gotten even stronger than before.

Lu Qingmei's eyes lit up when she saw the familiar, black dragon appearing once again. She could not wait to clash against it once more. During their first encounter, she was taken aback by the strength of this Duke Art when Li Luo combined it with his third realm of dual resonant power. Its strength was close to matching a Soul Ascension-grade Duke Art back then.

With that in mind, Lu Qingmei gripped her glazed rod tightly with both hands. The Heavenly Pearl behind her roared into action and started absorbing the worldly natural energy around her. It rotated so quickly that it started to emit a soft, humming sound.

At the same time, the resonant power emanating from her body skyrocketed.

She took a step forward, and the Heavenly Dragon Scale Armor erupted with a radiant glow. Next, she raised her glazed rod into the air and firmly smacked it against the Underworld River's Black Dragon.

At this moment, numerous tightly knitted dragon scales covered up the glazed rod, causing it to glow with a mysterious light.

This was a magnificent strike, a true display of Lu Qingmei's power at its peak.

Bang!

A giant explosion echoed in the air when the dragon clashed with the rod. An energy storm swept up in waves, attracting countless shocked gazes.

It was an extremely ferocious fight between the two, and neither was holding anything back.

The two gigantic balls of energy eroded and destroyed each other repeatedly, neither gaining an advantage.

Right at this moment, Li Luo suddenly flicked his finger, and the black dragon opened its maw. A condensed strand of Fiend Dipper Energy unexpectedly came out of its mouth like dragonbreath.

Nonetheless, this sudden development did not make Lu Qingmei panic. She merely raised her eyebrows a little and focused her mind. Then a mysterious light started to condense on her glazed rod covered in dragon scales. At the next moment, the light transformed into a golden deer that was fully clad in dragon scales. The deer jumped out lightly, exuding boundless amounts of energy.

With its head lowered and horns facing forward, the deer charged at the Fiend Dipper Energy directly and shattered it.

"Four hundred feet of Fiend Dipper energy will not be enough to hurt me," Lu Qingmei said.

Hearing this, Li Luo simply smiled.

That was the exact moment that Lu Qingmei noticed something that made her change her mind immediately. She could sense that there was an extremely sharp aura deep within the Fiend Dipper Energy.

It was a strand of sword intent!

Embodying the wondrous power of the galaxy.

This unparalleled sharpness reminded her of the faint breath of energy that she had sensed during Li Luo's Dragon's Ascent, which he had used against the flame from Nine Dragons Becoming One.

It turned out that the Fiend Dipper Energy from the black dragon was not the secret ace. The true ace was the sword intent hidden deep within it!

As the sword intent flowed along and moved across the space, it sliced the golden deer in half upon contact. Afterwards, it charged straight towards the glazed rod.

At this moment, the dragon scales that had shrouded the glazed rod began to shatter.

Her offense had been completely annihilated.

The black dragon didn't let up on the opportunity, roaring majestically. At the next moment, Lu Qingmei's resonant power was frozen by the ice-cold underworld river. Matching the timing of the strand of Cosmic Sword Intent, the black dragon crashed directly into her delicate body covered in dragon scales.

Bang!

She was sent flying back immediately, and her feet left a deep trail on the ground until she stopped over a thousand feet away. She stabbed the glazed rod onto the ground with all her might and barely managed to stabilize herself.

Regardless, the shock on her face was evident as she watched her dragon scales gradually fall apart.

This only lasted for a short while before she turned her bright eyes back towards Li Luo and said frankly, "You've won."

The look in her eyes was really special. His strength had truly surprised her. Although he was merely a Fiend Finisher, he had managed to defeat even a one-pearl Heavenly Pearl like her. This was truly extraordinary.

At the same time, some of the Banner Leaders among the spectators couldn't hide their surprise when Lu Qingmei admitted her loss.

Although Li Luo's performance during the Dragon's Ascent was spectacular, that was not really considered a true battle. Now, he had defeated the rank two Banner Leader, Lu Qingmei. What else could they say?

His strength was definitely amongst the top as far as the Banner Leaders were concerned.

Everyone truly understood at this moment that Li Luo could really stand a chance against Li Qingfeng in this Battle of the Dragon's Head.

Li Luo put his hands together and thanked Lu Qingmei politely for the fight. She did not say anything in response. She simply turned around decisively and left to prepare herself for the next battle.

At the same time, the golden dragon scale floating above them fell down and landed in Li Luo's hands.

He had five consecutive victories at this point. This meant that he had already secured five dragon scales.

Though there was another fellow with five consecutive victories—Li Qingfeng.

When Li Luo thought about this, he took a glance towards a stone platform nearby. The battle over there had just concluded too.

It was between two very familiar faces—Li Qingfeng and Deng Fengxian.

It was clearly a bad draw for Deng Fengxian, and there was no surprises to the conclusion. Li Qingfeng's Heavenly Pearl was a notch stronger than Lu Qingmei's. Deng Fengxian was unable to hold on for long before his gilded armor shattered and he admitted defeat.

When Li Qingfeng sensed Li Luo's gaze, he turned around and stared back with a calm look. There seemed to be a hidden sharpness within his eyes.

It was a look full of provocation.

After all, most people knew very well by now that the winner of the Battle of the Dragon's Head was likely going to be either Li Qingfeng or Li Luo.

As for Li Jingtao...

Li Luo turned towards another stone platform at this time.

What he saw was an unusual battle between Li Jingtao and... the hot-blooded Li Hongli.

Li Jingtao was standing firmly in the center of the stage without moving an inch. His resonant power was overflowing, and dragon fangs seemed to have interwoven into a shield that revolved around his body, stopping Li Hongli's all-out attack.

Despite the repeated hits, the dragon fang shield remained unscathed.

Li Jingtao grinned as he hid behind the shield. His hands were hidden in his long sleeves and his slightly plump face showed an air of harmony. On the other hand, Li Hongli's resonant power was greatly depleted as she pushed her offense to its maximum. This caused her to exhaust herself, so she was currently panting and her face was pale.

Frankly, she was fuming with anger as she looked at Li Jingtao with his shameless grin, feeling more irritated by the second. However, there was nothing else she could do. In the end, she had no choice but to withdraw her resonant power when she realized she could never break Li Jingtao and his turtle shell.

Li Jingtao continued hiding in his turtle shell with no desire to counterattack. This went on until time ran out and the golden dragon scale above them split into two lights, one light falling on each participant.

It was a draw, so each would receive half a dragon scale.

With that, Li Jingtao had a total of five draws. Based on his dragon scales count, he was nothing spectacular. His battles had all ended as draws. However, his methods had left both the spectators and even the elders on the elevated platform speechless. The battles that followed were ordinary and unnotable.

Li Luo and Li Qingfeng kept winning, and there were no other opponents left. The draw finally revealed the two of them.

The eighth battle.

Li Luo vs Li Qingfeng.

When the two of them appeared on the stone platform, all the other Banner Leaders paused for a moment. Everyone, both within and outside the stone dragon, looked over to their battlefield.

This battle would truly decide the conclusion of this generation's Battle of the Dragon's Head.

Chapter 0916: Dragon's Blood Judgment

Clouds and mist gathered above the stone platform.

Li Luo and Li Qingfeng stood facing each other.

Many people watched the stage with their breaths held. The conclusion for this generation's Battle of the Dragon's Head would be decided with this battle.

Over where the members of the Dragon's Blood Lineage and the Dragon's Fang Lineage were, the atmosphere was extremely lively. Thousands of banner members were screaming their lungs out, cheering for their respective Banner Leader.

After all, the Dragon's Head represented the leader among the Twenty Banners. It represented who would hold the helm in their generation. Although it did not hold much authority, it was a really glamorous position.

One's name would be renowned throughout the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent after rising to this position. No one would dare to take that person lightly anymore.

Similarly, the lineage he came from would be treated and groomed as the main pillar of the bloodline. They would have a bright future ahead.

At this moment, the three Banner Leaders of the Dragon's Blood Lineage had gathered. As Li Hongli stared at the stage, she gritted her teeth and said with bated breaths, "It's finally time for this match. As long as Brother Qingfeng defeats that country bumpkin, they will not dare to remain haughty anymore. There were too many variables interfering with the result during the Dragon's Ascent, so it can't be counted. Only the victor in a real battle can be considered the Dragon's Head of the Twenty Banners!"

The other two Banner Leaders nodded in agreement. "That position will surely belong to the Dragon's Blood Lineage!" they responded.

During the Dragon's Ascent earlier, Li Luo's victory had been a big blow to their morale. After all, the Dragon's Blood Lineage was the Mountain Ruling Lineage of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li, so their status was usually the highest and most prestigious. As members of the Dragon's Blood Lineage, they had always been very proud of themselves. Besides, Li Qingfeng had always been the best in their generation with no close competitors, so they had regarded the position of the Dragon's Head as good as theirs.

Who would have expected a dark horse like Li Luo to emerge out of nowhere?

It was true that Li Luo had accumulated a lot of spectacular achievements before this. He had even gotten the Golden Dragon Pillar during the Dragonbreath Pool Battle. However, all of his previous accomplishments had only been made possible thanks to the assistance of Harmony. Perhaps even Li Fengyi and Li Jingtiao had not expected Li Luo to come so far today in the Battle of the Dragon's Head.

This was a test of the individual's true strength after all.

Even with the Tri-Radiance Glass Body Tier, how could someone at the Fiend Body Tier possibly compete with an opponent at the Heavenly Pearl Tier like Li Qingfeng?

Nonetheless... things turned out completely different from what they had expected.

Li Luo had used the Dragon's Ascent to achieve another breakthrough. He had become a Fiend Finisher and narrowed the gap between Li Qingfeng and himself. Notwithstanding this, he had even defeated Lu Qingmei earlier.

At this moment, everyone had to recognize that Li Luo was truly a threat to Li Qingfeng.

This was something that Li Hongli understood too. As such, the upcoming battle was their only chance to turn things around. If Li Qingfeng could defeat Li Luo here, the Dragon's Fang Lineage would have to continue sitting obediently beneath the Dragon's Blood Lineage.

Their spirits would be crushed.

.....

"I truly did not expect to have you as my final opponent," Li Qingfeng told Li Luo calmly under the gazes of thousands of spectators.

With a friendly smile, Li Luo replied earnestly, "I'm not really interested in the Dragon's Head, to be honest. If you are willing to hand the Nine Marks Sacred Heart Lotus to me, I will not fight you for it."

"My father needs that item. I am unable to hand it over to you," Li Qingfeng replied.

Li Luo sighed and responded, "Looks like there's no more room for discussion, then."

"There's never been room for discussion. I am taking this Dragon's Head no matter what. If you're not fighting for it, you can admit defeat now. Otherwise, I will not hold back," Li Qingfeng stated.

Hearing his sharp words, Li Luo simply smiled.

Seeing this, Li Qingfeng did not speak any further. A brilliant glow appeared behind him and started rotating at an extremely high speed. Soon, it transformed into a radiant, luminous Heavenly Pearl that started absorbing worldly natural energy.

His resonant power started rising steadily. It was clearly one notch above Lu Qingmei's pearl.

However, that was not all.

Li Qingfeng formed hand seals with both hands, then his skin started turning crimson. One could faintly see the fresh blood flowing under it.

In the end, the blood broke out of his body and condensed rapidly beside his Heavenly Pearl, where a blood-red glow was formed.

In the next moment, the red glow started rotating at a very high speed as well, absorbing the worldly natural energy from the surroundings. It looked like a second Heavenly Pearl!

Thanks to it, Li Qingfeng's resonant power spiked once again, and a terrifying presence swept across the battlefield.

His strength wasn't at all inferior to that of a two-pearl Heavenly Pearl cultivator!

Witnessing this, Li Luo's expressions changed a little and his eyes narrowed. This was an extraordinary move from Li Qingfeng.

"This is the Dragon's Blood Art, a special art from the Dragon's Blood Lineage.

"We can use our blood to boost our battle powers. After putting a lot of effort into learning this Duke Art, I finally have something to show for it. I can now transform it into a blood pearl," Li Qingfeng slowly explained with a look of confidence on his face.

Cheers erupted from the spectators outside. Li Fengyi and Li Jingtao watched the match anxiously. They were not strangers to the Dragon's Blood Art from the Dragon's Blood Lineage. However, they did not know that Li Qingfeng could get a Heavenly Pearl from it. This was leagues above Li Hongli and the rest.

As soon as Li Qingfeng finished his explanation, he shot forward like an explosion. With the blood light rotating, he had received a monstrous speed boost.

He appeared right in front of Li Luo in the blink of an eye and threw an ordinary punch.

Bang!

Although it seemed like an ordinary punch, the air exploded due to how powerful Li Qingfeng was with his two pearls. Signs of vibrations could be seen as the air trembled under the tremendous pressure.

"Thunderpeal Avatar, Three-Sonic Pulse!"

"Divine Elephant Power, Level Three!"

The dual resonance power within Li Luo surged up as he activated both skills without any hesitation. He summoned up all his strength and threw back a punch in return.

When their fists met, a deafening roar shook the battlefield and the stone platform beneath them cracked like a turtle shell.

Li Qingfeng wavered a little as a result. On the other hand, Li Luo felt an immense wave of force sweeping him back and was forced back dozens of steps.

The banner members of the Dragon's Blood Lineage cheered when they witnessed this scene.

It seemed like Li Qingfeng had a clear advantage in terms of raw strength after all.

When Li Luo stabilized himself again, his eyes turned serious. The previous punch had shown him how strong Li Qingfeng was. His resonant power truly matched that of a real two-pearl cultivator. This was all because of the blood-red Heavenly Pearl.

In fact, stimulating the blood in one's body to get a boost in battle strength was the signature move of the Dragon's Blood Lineage.

Li Qingfeng stood still on his spot with a calm look on his face. "Li Luo, you've already lost half the battle."

He raised his finger at this point, and a drop of fresh blood ran down his fingertip.

Li Luo frowned at this sight and then looked down at his own fist. During the previous clash, Li Qingfeng had gotten a drop of fresh blood from him.

"Li Luo, you may not be familiar with the Dragon's Blood Lineage's battle style since you have just come from the outer divine continent."

After he placed one hand behind his back, Li Qingfeng slowly continued, "Do you know why the Dragon's Blood Lineage is the Mountain Ruling Lineage?"

At this moment, he smacked both his palms together. Li Luo's blood was splattered in the middle of both palms, and strands of it started flowing out. This gradually formed a faint, blood-red rune.

"This is because the bloodline reigns supreme in a dragon's body."

When he finished speaking, the blood light swept across his palm and transformed into a blood-red weighing scale that was hundreds of feet tall.

Li Luo and Li Qingfeng were on each end.

Seeing this, Li Luo slashed out immediately. The blade light flew straight towards the scale. However, it did not come into contact with it. The blade light simply flew straight through the scale, as if it did not actually exist.

Li Qingfeng calmly continued, "This is the Dragon's Blood Judgment Art, the reason why the Dragon's Blood Lineage rules above all four other lineages. With a drop of blood from our opponent as a prerequisite, we can initiate the Dragon's Blood Judgment.

"The purpose of this scale is to measure the Heavenly Dragon's blood within our bodies. The one with purer blood will emerge victorious and the loser will lose half of his blood.

"This is a completely fair art, regardless of your cultivation level or true strength. It only takes your blood into account."

Hearing this, Li Luo stared at him in shock. There was such an eccentric art in the Dragon's Blood Lineage? Anyone would be at a disadvantage if they lost half of their blood just like that.

However, he had absolutely no idea how to defend against it. He could not destroy it either.

This art would not be effective when used by people from external branches, but it was very strong when used by members of the Dragon's Blood Lineage. After all, who could compete with them when it came down to the purity of one's Heavenly Dragon blood?

Most of the Duke Arts exclusive to the Dragon's Blood Lineage revolved around strengthening one's blood.

This was why the people from the Dragon's Blood Lineage had an extremely huge advantage once they managed to pull this art off successfully. It was no wonder why he said this was the reason they could rule above the other four lineages.

While Li Luo pondered over this, Li Qingfeng had started casting his next art. In the next moment, a light hovered above the blood-red scale, and the mysterious art started moving.

Chapter 0917: Blood Purity Competition

When Li Qingfeng demonstrated his Dragon's Blood Judgment Art, the entire audience was shocked.

Li Fengyi's face immediately turned chilly and she gritted her teeth. "When did Li Qingfeng cultivate this Duke Art? I have never seen him use it... ever!" This was the Dragon's Blood Lineage's most famous art for dealing with internal struggles. Li Fengyi knew that Dragon's Blood Judgment Art was created by the Dragon's Blood Lineage first Lineage Chief. It didn't pose much of a threat towards outsiders, but to those who possessed the Heavenly Dragon's blood flowing through their veins like the members of the other lineages, it had a terribly strong suppressive effect.

That being said, there were certain limitations, such as having to obtain a drop of the opponent's blood. Thus, those who fought against people of the Dragon's Blood Lineage had to be careful of this and guard their blood closely. And if they did bleed, they would have to attempt to vaporize it to prevent an unwanted situation from occurring.

However, Li Luo had only spent half a year in the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages, so he naturally did not have a good understanding of how those in the Dragon's Blood Lineage fought. Most importantly, Li Qingfeng had kept a tight lid on his capabilities, never utilizing this in the past two years. This resulted in everyone being caught by surprise.

Li Jingtao similarly frowned and sighed helplessly. "That fellow truly knows how to set a trap. It is not easy to cultivate the Dragon's Blood Judgment Art and thus it's unlikely he just learned it. Like he said, he truly spent some time on it. However, in the past, his greatest threat within the Twenty Banners was Lu Qingmei. This art would not be very effective against her."

Li Fengyi smiled coldly. "There's nothing strange about it. For the sake of controlling the other four lineages, those who are talented in the Dragon's Blood Lineage all inevitably learn it. Li Qingfeng may not have learned this for the sake of the Battle of the Dragon's Head, but rather for future battles. His actions might be sinister, but they are not surprising. Little Brother has always been full of surprises. I thought that he had the means to challenge Li Qingfeng openly, but it seems like..." Before she could finish speaking, an extremely dissatisfied look could be seen on her face. If Li Luo lost in an open and direct competition, there would be nothing much to say. However, he might very well be crippled before the battle started due to the Dragon's Blood Judgment Art.

"Li Qingfeng doesn't care about face. He is already stronger in cultivation level compared to Li Luo and yet he still wishes to rely on such means!" Li Qingfeng was clearly stirred up by this as she did not mince her words nor her voice, making it so all of the other Banner Leaders heard her. Nonetheless, some agreed with her.

This sort of outburst was not surprising. If one were to turn their attention towards the audience, they would similarly hear similar outpourings of emotions.

"Hmph! Was there ever a rule that the Dragon's Blood Judgment Art could not be used for the Battle of the Dragon's Head?" Frosty laughter could be heard coming from the side. To no one's surprise, it was Li Hongli who had spoken up.

Li Fengyi glared at her with an inhospitable look. "I feel like the colorful look you had on your face during the Dragon's Ascent was even better to look at."

This sharp retort caused Li Hongli to turn gloomy, and her enthusiasm was clearly dampened.

Listening to Li Fengyi's mocking words, her eyebrows furrowed as she said through clenched teeth, "So what if you have a sharp mouth? The Dragon's Ascent doesn't determine the Dragon's Head."

Li Fengyi was just about to return some pointed words before Li Jingtao hurriedly restrained her. "There's no need to argue. Third Brother has yet to lose, and the Dragon's Blood Judgment Art is a measure of one's blood purity. Although the Dragon's Blood Lineage has an advantage in this regard, who knows how pure his blood truly is? If it is on a similar level to Li Qingfeng, then this art will not be of much use."

These words seemed logical, so Li Fengyi didn't disagree. Although the Dragon's Blood Lineage focused on developing one's bloodline purity as a source of strength, usually surpassing that of the other four lineages, this was not always an absolute advantage. There were geniuses from the other lineages that similarly possessed extremely pure bloodlines, such as Li Taixuan. When he swept through the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages, they had never heard of anyone utilizing the Dragon's Blood Judgment Art on him.

Generally speaking, if the older generation possessed a bloodline of higher purity, it would increase the odds of the younger generation inheriting it, although this was never guaranteed.

Constant discussion enveloped the audience as their gazes were closely affixed to the platform.

On the platform, a blood-red scale stood tall, emanating crimson runes of light. It was at this point that Li Luo could feel a strange trembling within his body.

Something was mysteriously analyzing his body.

Was it testing his blood purity?

The scale had two ends, and it was the one which Li Qingfeng was standing on that hummed first. Everyone could see a pillar of blood-red light shoot up, extending six hundred feet into the sky.

The manifestation of a dragon could be seen swimming within the pillar.

It was a showcase of the purity and density of Li Qingfeng's blood.

The Dragon's Blood Lineage had a way of classifying this. One could potentially have a pillar of light reaching a thousand feet, demonstrating that their bloodline was peerlessly pure. Anything above three hundred feet was considered to be of a superior quality, and Li Qingfeng's being six hundred feet was definitive evidence that his blood's purity was extremely high.

Anything below three hundred feet was considered average, and that represented the majority of those in the Dragon's Blood Lineage.

The peerless grade was seldom seen; even the Dragon's Blood Lineage only saw this maybe once in a century. Thus, those who were comparable with Li Qingfeng were considered to be amongst the best, worthy of being a talent.

BOOM!

Faced with the reveal of Li Qingfeng's blood purity, the scale began to tilt until it ultimately stopped at a position extremely close to the ground on Li Qingfeng's side.

Whichever side the scale tilted towards was the one who had triumphed in its judgment.

Li Qingfeng stared at Li Luo as he coolly said, "Banner Leader Li Luo, if you surrender now, you might be able to save yourself some dignity."

"Shouldn't it be my turn now?" Li Luo grinned.

Although he had been caught off guard and forced to compete in the Dragon's Blood Judgment, he did not panic. So long as he had an ounce of fight left within him, he would struggle to the bitter end.

When Li Qingfeng saw this, he gave an indifferent smile, no longer speaking.

At this point in time, Li Luo could finally feel the mysterious force within his body dissipate. It seemed to have completed its analysis. He sucked in a deep breath as he tightly grasped the Onyx-Elephant Blade.

Everyone stared at Li Luo without blinking.

A few seconds later, there was still no reaction.

A few individuals felt a little suspicious at what was happening. Was it even possible for the Dragon's Blood Judgment to have a delayed response?

Li Qingfeng similarly frowned. This wait was a little too long.

However, everyone continued to wait patiently. A few seconds later, Li Luo could feel a boiling heat within his body. It seemed as though something was surging out of him, exiting from the top of his head.

Bang!

Blood-red light explosively shot out, and in a blink, a gigantic pillar of light soared from the top of his head, shooting into the clouds and staining the skies a sanguine red.

As the pillar ascended, it radiated a majestic presence, and a dragon manifestation that was incredibly life-like was within its confines.

The pillar continued to grow, quickly reaching the five hundred foot mark.

However, it didn't stop there.

Six hundred... seven hundred... nine hundred...

One thousand feet!

When the pillar of blood light explosively grew to the maximum height of a thousand feet, it left the audience completely and utterly dumbfounded. They stared at it blankly for a second before shock and horror appeared on their faces.

A thousand-foot blood light!

It had reached the peerless grade!

The Dragon's Blood Lineage's Banner Leaders, especially Li Hongli, became completely pale. They could feel a chill running throughout their bodies from their very toes at this revelation.

"Impossible... this is impossible!" Li Hongli trembled as she screamed, her expression aghast as though she had seen a ghost.

This scene had mentally shocked them. This was even more terrifying than Li Luo vanquishing the Nine Dragons Becoming One.

Who would have thought that Li Luo would possess the purest Heavenly Dragon Bloodline imaginable?

Li Fengyi almost wanted to mock her, but upon glancing at the pillar of light, she opted to stay silent. That Little Brother of hers was a little too impressive.

Lu Qingmei and the other Banner Leaders similarly had a change in expression. They knew that Li Qingfeng had dropped a boulder on his own foot this time.

In the air above, the eyes of the countless elders shrank at this sight as well.

This surprise did not extend just to those who were watching. Li Qingfeng himself had blanked out upon seeing this unbelievable sight, losing all of the calm and confidence he usually exuded.

BOOM!

Just as that happened, the blood-red weighing scale reacted, and the platform on Li Qingfeng's side gradually began to rise into the air. The appearance of the thousand-foot pillar of light was like a heavy mountain being placed on Li Luo's side of the scale, causing it to descend instantly.

Weng!

With a hum, Li Luo's platform shifted to the lowest possible position, whereas Li Qingfeng's end was now dangling in the air.

Roar!

A draconic cry resounded from the depths of the scale.

Judgment had fallen.

Li Qingfeng snapped out of his stupor at this point, and his expression instantly changed. The resonant power within his body surged out as he planned to escape.

Unfortunately, his attempt was futile.

He could clearly feel a terrifying suction force coming from beneath his feet, from the scale he had conjured himself. A moment later, an extremely tragic scene unfolded before everyone's eyes.

It was like Li Qingfeng's body had become a sieve, as copious amounts of fresh blood gushed out of every pore. The entire area within a ten meter radius was simply bloody.

The stench of fresh blood wafted through the air.

The grisly scene caused some to shut their eyes.

The judged individual of the Dragon's Blood Judgment Art would have half of their blood extracted.

Everything turned silent, and the weighing scales gradually dissipated.

Li Luo was at a loss as he stared at the visibly withered and pale opponent before him. His body's resonant power had weakened significantly and his gaze was complicated.

Half a moment later, he sighed helplessly.

He simply didn't understand what Li Qingfeng was trying to do.

If Li Qingfeng had truly fought head-on, Li Luo would have had to engage in an epic struggle, and the result would have been uncertain.

However, Li Qingfeng had decided to pull out this magic trick known as the Dragon's Blood Judgment, and the result was before his very eyes.

Li Luo simply stood unmoving, whilst Li Qingfeng was now spurting out blood from every orifice.

If not for how serious the occasion was, he might even have suspected that this was some sort of scam and Li Qingfeng was trying to swindle something out of him...[1]

Regardless, Li Qingfeng was half dead and grievously injured. His strength had decreased immensely, and the Battle of the Dragon's Head was about to come to an end at this rate.

Was this the supposed duel of their fates? The fight that he had eagerly anticipated?

Li Luo felt a little empty inside. If not for the fact that they had clashed numerous times, he might even have suspected that Li Qingfeng was handing him the position of Dragon's Head through an elaborate show.

In the end, only a few words remained in Li Luo's mind.

"Sheesh, I'm going to cry myself to death!"

Chapter 0918: Obtaining the Dragon's Head

The atmosphere instantly became awkward.

Li Qingfeng hadn't moved at all as his blood pooled on the floor. It was an extremely shocking sight. Everyone watched silently as no one knew how to respond to this.

Li Qingfeng was so confident in himself when he revealed the Dragon's Blood Judgment Art. It had caught everyone by surprise, and they all thought that he would obtain an absolute advantage with it. Yet... who could have imagined that he would end up being the loser of this literal bloodbath?

Moreover, Li Luo had not moved a single step from his spot since their exchange of punches to test out each other's strength earlier.

Li Qingfeng had been severely injured before Li Luo had moved a muscle.

This was an extremely bad spot for someone from the Dragon's Blood Lineage to be in. Losing half of their blood was an even greater loss than breaking a bone or tearing a ligament.

This was the caveat of using the Dragon's Blood Judgment Art. If it failed, the user would be struck by harsh backlash.

Li Luo looked at Li Qingfeng helplessly as he said, "Banner Leader Li Qingfeng, why don't we end it here?"

If he had relied on the second Heavenly Pearl created from his blood, this would have been an uphill battle for Li Luo.

However, Li Qingfeng had ended up gravely injured. He had no chance of winning anymore.

One could even say that his overwhelming advantage had been completely shattered by his hotblooded decision to use the Dragon's Blood Judgment Art.

Everyone knew that Li Qingfeng simply wanted to show off with this art. However, who would have expected it to backfire on him?

At this point, Li Qingfeng's face was pale and expressionless. Perhaps he would give himself two good slaps across the face if he allowed his emotions to show right now.

"I will not admit defeat," Li Qingfeng replied with a hoarse voice. He continued to maintain the air of arrogance around himself.

In fact, there was no other choice left for him. If he admitted defeat here, his reputation in the Dragon's Blood Lineage would be completely shattered.

Hearing this, Li Luo nodded. He signaled with his hand for his opponent to make his next move.

Li Qingfeng summoned up all his strength to contain his injuries at this moment. His blood-red pearl had completely disappeared along with his loss of blood. In addition, the bright Heavenly Pearl that he had cultivated himself was also getting dimmer.

Nonetheless, he tried his best to keep up.

Along with it, his resonant power surged up once again.

In the blink of an eye, Li Qingfeng exploded like a storm. All the resonant power in his body had been used for this last move. Like a falling meteorite at the end of its trajectory, he launched towards Li Luo with his final strike.

His momentum was not weak, but the sight was tragic.

Regardless, Li Luo did not underestimate him. He gripped his blade tightly and took a step forward.

Thunder rumbled from his body.

"Thunderpeal Avatar, Three Sonic Pulse!

"Divine Elephant Power, Level Three!

"Dual resonant power, third realm!"

His resonant power surged up like a giant tide as he formed hand seals rapidly with his fingertips. Following this, he slashed down decisively and shouted, "Duke Art: Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner!"

The blade sliced apart the void, leaving a trail of light behind and instantly producing a tear. Sounds of rushing water rang in the air just before a black dragon emerged from the tear, along with the eerily cold Underworld River. For a moment, the air seemed to have frozen.

Roar!

As everyone watched without batting an eyelid, the black dragon clashed with Li Qingfeng directly.

BOOM!

A berserk storm of energy swept across the battlefield. Piercing sounds of explosions reverberated in the air, and the ground cracked apart incessantly.

The single Heavenly Pearl behind Li Qingfeng vibrated violently as it took in all the worldly natural energy from the surroundings to boost his resonant power. He fought against the roaring, black dragon with all his might, his palms screaming in pain as he tried to hold his ground.

Li Luo's strike was strong, but not strong enough to be a threat to Li Qingfeng if he were at full power. However, things were clearly different now. Li Qingfeng could sense that his resonant power was rapidly being eroded as the black dragon got closer and closer.

Moreover, he had started this engagement with very little resonant power in the first place.

Excruciating pain called out from his body.

Li Qingfeng refused to give up—he gritted his teeth and resisted with all his might. This went on for dozens of breaths. Finally, his resonant power ran out completely. The energy of the Underworld River's Black Dragon depleted at the same time, and it turned into a glow of light in the air.

However, it was not time for Li Qingfeng to heave a sigh of relief yet. As the glow of light gradually faded off in the air, a blade of light flew at him like a lightning strike.

It quickly grew bigger in his field of view as it closed in.

Weng!

The blade of light paused right in front of Li Qingfeng. Its sharp aura had sliced off a single strand of hair on his forehead.

This conclusion was surprising to no one, considering how badly Li Qingfeng was injured.

As Li Luo stared at Li Qingfeng, who was now in a daze, he could not help but sigh helplessly again.

"Banner Leader Li Qingfeng, there was no need to use the Dragon's Blood Judgment Art."

Everyone had been looking forward to this showdown for the Dragon's Head. However, Li Qingfeng got himself badly injured thanks to that unnecessarily flashy move. In the end, he could not even take one blow from Li Luo.

With such an ending... even Li Luo wanted to ask Li Qingfeng what exactly he was trying to do here.

Couldn't he have just fought properly? Why did he have to pull such tricks?

His advantage had been completely nullified. Li Qingfeng did not respond to him. His resonant power had been completely used up now. Slowly, his body fell backwards and he fainted on the field.

Seeing this, Li Luo smiled. He did not care if he had really fainted or if he was simply faking it so he wouldn't have to deal with this embarrassing situation. Regardless, it was clear that he had completely given up on fighting for the Dragon's Head.

Li Luo raised his head and looked at the dragon scale hovering in the sky above. This scale was much brighter than the others, evidently filled with an extremely condensed form of Heavenly Dragon energy.

Clearly, there was a huge difference between this scale and the others.

At this moment, the dragon scale gently landed on Li Luo's palm along with the fall of Li Qingfeng.

He stored the dragon scale safely with a look of composure.

With the eighth dragon scale in his hands, he had become the person who had obtained the most scales. Since Li Qingfeng was out of the competition, there was no one else who could catch up to him at this point.

In other words, Li Luo had become the Dragon's Head, leader of this generation of the Twenty Banners.

The surroundings fell silent as everyone was in a daze. The much anticipated battle for the Dragon's Head did not happen. However, the Dragon's Head had been decided nonetheless.

To be honest, this conclusion was kind of ridiculous.

It could be the first time in history that the Battle of the Dragon's Head concluded in such a strange way.

But who could they blame?

Even Li Fengyi and Li Jingtao looked at the stage strangely. There was a surreal feeling to this scene in front of them. Had Li Luo truly become this generation's Dragon's Head... so easily?

There was no ultimate showdown like what they had all expected. It was just Li Qingfeng losing half his blood and falling flat.

The two of them glanced at each other. Perhaps this generation's Battle of the Dragon's Head would go down in history too. Li Luo could go down in history as the Dragon's Head who faced the least opposition.

"Did Li Qingfeng do this on purpose? Perhaps he knew that he could not win against Little Brother and wanted to make a mockery out of this battle?" Li Fengyi muttered.

Although her voice was soft, some of the other Banner Leaders nearby heard it and their faces turned stiff immediately.

Li Hongli's face changed completely and she stared angrily at Li Fengyi.

Seeing this, Li Fengyi pouted and said, "What would you like to say now? Are you going to insist that Li Luo did not obtain the Dragon's Head properly? I wonder who should be blamed this time. Who asked your side to not fight it out properly and mess around with the Dragon's Blood Judgment Art?"

Li Hongli nearly flipped when she heard these sharp words. However, she could not think of any rebuttal for them. After all, everyone had seen for themselves that it was Li Qingfeng who had destroyed his own chances.

It was not an exaggeration at all to say that he was the mastermind behind his own downfall.

"So this is how the Battle of the Dragon's Head ends?" The other Banner Leaders smiled bitterly and sighed. There seemed to be something lacking.

Lu Qingmei stared at Li Luo in the middle of the stage and shook her head lightly. "It's not the end yet. Li Luo may have gotten eight dragon scales, but don't forget... there can be a ninth battle."

Everyone was taken aback when they heard her words. She was right. The Scales Seizure had up to nine battles. It was just that ordinarily, there was little chance of the ninth battle happening. The difficulty of the ninth battle was said to be beyond anyone's imagination.

Moreover, the Dragon's Head was usually decided by the eighth battle. Hence, a lot of people would not choose to go for the ninth battle from there.

With that, the once silent atmosphere started to be filled with whispers once again.

"The victor of the eighth battle of the Scales Seizure is Li Luo. He has obtained eight dragon scales, the highest among all competitors. According to the rules, he will be the Dragon's Head for this generation of the Twenty Banners."

Surprisingly, there was not much commotion among the crowd when the news came. After all, they had already digested this piece of information earlier.

However, their attention was drawn back once again when the voice echoed in the air.

"Although Li Luo has already become the Dragon's Head, there are nine battles in the Scales Seizure. In line with the rules and regulations, we would like to ask if you would like to participate in the ninth battle."

As soon as the speaker finished his sentence, Li Luo narrowed his eyes a little.

"The ninth battle of the Scales Seizure..."

Chapter 0919: The Ninth Battle

At this moment, everyone's attention was drawn back to Li Luo. They watched him with both shock and anticipation.

The ninth battle of the Scales Seizure.

This was not an event that was seen in every Battle of the Dragon's Head. Ordinarily speaking, winning eight dragon scales was enough to make someone the Dragon's Head. There was not much point in going for the ninth battle, since most people who reached this point did not need the ninth scale.

Only those who had obtained the embryonic form of the Nine Scales Sanctified Dragon's Body during the Dragon's Ascent would consider trying. Those who only had the embryonic form of the Eight Scales Sanctified Dragon's Body, such as Li Qingfeng, had nothing to gain in the ninth battle. Thus, they would naturally choose not to go for such a challenge.

Although the ninth battle was very eye-catching and one could leave their name in history by clearing it, its difficulty was truly daunting.

Everyone's gazes were fixed on Li Luo as he pondered over it. He touched the dragon sigil between his eyebrows while he mulled it over. He had already obtained eight dragon scales. Once the battle was over, his Sanctified Dragon's Body would transform into the eight scales grade.

Although this was already a high grade, it was not truly at the level of perfection.

He was being given the chance to elevate his Sanctified Dragon's Body to its final form, the Nine Scales Sanctified Dragon's Body.

Every victory in the Scales Seizure had given him one dragon scale imbued with Heavenly Dragon energy, and the scales he had obtained towards the end contained stronger and more condensed energy.

As such, this was the only method to awaken the Sanctified Dragon's Body at the highest grade immediately.

If he gave up now, he could still exchange resources for items containing Heavenly Dragon energy in the future. However, the time and effort required to make the jump from the eth grade to the ninth grade would be extremely huge.

Li Luo clearly did not have so much time to spend on the Sanctified Dragon's Body alone.

Hence, the ninth battle would be the most direct way forward if he really wanted to awaken its full potential. Of course, the prerequisite was that he had to win.

He had given it his all to obtain the Nine Scales Dragon Sigil from the Dragon's Ascent. No matter what, he had to give it a try now. If he gave up so easily here, he would have wasted all his previous efforts.

With that in mind, he came to a decision. Li Luo looked up at the clouds above the sky. There was a faint but strong aura coming from something high above.

Li Luo put his hands together and asked politely, "How will the ninth battle be held?"

"There is no fixed format to the ninth battle. It will be decided by the drawing of lots."

As the majestic voice finished, a golden light fell from the sky and landed in front of Li Luo. It was an energy lottery box. The box was filled with numerous light tickets. Seeing this, he paused for a moment before he reached inside and drew one ticket out randomly.

Instantly, the light ticket flew into the sky above and transformed into a line of text with a glow.

"The ninth battle: battle against the previous Dragon's Head!"

Li Luo was dumbfounded when he saw those words. He bit his lips in disbelief. So he had to challenge the previous Dragon's Head for the ninth battle? Was it the previous generation's Dragon's Head or a Dragon's Head from the past?

However, it was likely not the Dragon's Head himself. It would likely be an energy mirage created to replicate the individual's strength. This made sense, as the previous Dragon's Head was at least at the Heavenly Resonance Tier by now. If he had to fight against them, there would be no chance of victory at all.

Whispers broke out among the spectators when they saw this. Everyone's interest in the ninth battle grew. Who would have thought it would be a battle between their generation's Dragon's Head and the previous generation's? This was really interesting.

Weng!

As the crowd was discussing among themselves, the light ticket transformed into a pillar of light that landed in front of Li Luo.

Huge amounts of worldly natural energy started to condense at that point.

A human figure gradually formed inside the pillar of light. All the spectators were staring at it without batting an eyelid. At this point, even Li Luo was watching it curiously.

Slowly, the silhouette in the light pillar became clearer. In the end, the person started moving and took a step forward, walking out of the light pillar.

The one who had walked out of the beam of light was a young man with a tall and straight body. His demeanor was pretty extraordinary. Even though it was just a replica created by energy, the confident expression on his face was vividly portrayed.

He was a heroic youth with an astonishing aura around him.

When he walked out of the light pillar, everyone exchanged gazes with each other. They had begun wondering which generation's Dragon's Head this was.

Some of the Banner Leaders were also finding this extremely peculiar, especially Li Fengyi and Li Jingtao. Their eyes were wide open as they stared at the heroic youth.

They were wondering why this youth looked so similar to Li Luo.

Moreover, they seemed to have seen someone like him before...

The confusion lasted for a few breaths before they noticed it. "Is that... a young Third Uncle? Like the one we saw in the painting?"

As soon as they said that, the expressions of Lu Qingmei and the rest at the side changed completely.

Was that... Li Luo's father, Li Taixuan?!

The man who completely overwhelmed everyone else in the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages in his generation?! In fact, it was not just within the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. During his time, he was well known throughout the whole Heavenly Origin Divine Continent.

In other words, Li Luo's draw for the ninth battle was his own father?

A battle between father and son? An uproar broke out within and outside the stone dragon when the spectators realized this.

Even the elders in the elevated platform high above started whispering among themselves. There were mixed reactions when some of the elders from the same generation as Li Taixuan saw this.

This was the youth who had left a really deep impression within their hearts. Their gazes turned complicated when they saw him.

For a moment, the terror he had induced in them back then surfaced in their hearts.

"How could it be Third Brother?" Li Qingpeng asked in surprise as he smiled bitterly.

Li Jinpan also revealed a bitter smile when he saw the familiar, dazzling youth. "It's been a long time since we've seen Third Brother like this."

"Some people here probably did not want to be reminded of him," Li Qingpeng whispered with a grin.

Li Jinpan snorted coldly and replied, "That's good. Let them reminisce about the old days, when they bowed down respectfully to the Dragon's Fang Lineage."

"However, this isn't good news for Li Luo. To have selected Third Brother out of all the previous Dragon's Heads... He must have gotten the highest difficulty," Li Qingpeng commented helplessly.

"Well..."

Li Jinpan rubbed his nose and was at a loss for words. After all, Li Taixuan had gotten through the Battle of the Dragon's Head during his generation without much competition. He had reached the peak of thirty thousand feet, but his method was different from Li Luo's. Li Luo had slain the flame to reach the peak, while Li Taixuan simply endured the infernal baptism and ascended.

In the Scales Seizure that followed, Li Taixuan fought off everyone regardless of whether they were friend or foe. He went through the battles smoothly and went into the ninth battle too.

As such, if one were to rank the Dragon's Heads throughout history, it would not be surprising if Li Taixuan was in the top three.

"If I remember correctly, Third Brother was a three-pearl in the Battle for the Dragon's Head, right? If this energy replica only mimics seventy or eighty percent of his strength, it would be around the level of a two-pearl. That would still be way stronger than Li Qingfeng," Li Qingpeng said worriedly.

Li Jinpan nodded and added, "Besides, don't forget about Third Brother's resonance."

Li Qingpeng pouted when he heard this. Li Taixuan possessed a quasi ninth-grade dragon resonance, which sounded similar to Li Qingfeng's resonance. However, his dragon resonance was slightly different. The dragon resonance that he possessed was the rarest of them all... the Heavenly Dragon resonance. The Heavenly Dragon ruled supreme amongst all the dragon resonances. As such, a quasi ninth-grade Heavenly Dragon resonance was even rarer than a true ninth-grade dragon resonance.

All dragon resonances would be absolutely suppressed in the presence of the Heavenly Dragon resonance.

When they thought about this, Li Jinpan and Li Qingpeng exchanged gazes and shook their heads helplessly.

At the same time, the Lineage Chiefs were also staring at Li Taixuan on the stage. Li Jingzhe was the quietest. He closely observed the youth and seemed to be lost in thought.

For a moment, he could hear the fearless young man shouting, "Old man!"

However, Li Jingzhe soon recovered from his daze and turned towards Li Tianji. "Is this your doing?"

It's too much of a coincidence for Li Luo to pick this lot by chance.

Nonetheless, Li Tianji shook his head and replied with a smirk, "Please don't malign me, Lineage Chief Jingzhe. The world space in the stone dragon was created by our Ancestor, so even I have to follow its rules here."

Li Jingzhe frowned when he heard this. However, he did not have any proof, so it was pointless to argue over this. He simply looked back at the stage calmly.

.....

On the stage, Li Luo had just started to recover from his shock too.

He could not help but laugh out loud when he look at the heroic, young version of Li Taixuan, who looked very similar to himself.

Though there was a hint of anticipation within his laughter.

"Dad, you were always bullied by Mom back in the day. Who would have thought that I'd get a chance to pick on you as well?"

Chapter 0920: Father and Son Clash

The battle between the pair immediately caused the atmosphere to heat up. There were numerous individuals who were dismayed at Li Qingfeng's machinations, resulting in them feeling disappointed as they were unable to watch a fight between peak-level combatants. However, the appearance of Li Taixuan's replica caused their previous emotions to be overwhelmed by sheer excitement.

It was a fight with Li Taixuan!

Although he had left the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent many years ago, his influence had lorded over an entire generation. Thus, there were numerous individuals in the Twenty Banners who understood how amazing he was.

Li Taixuan was a heavenly genius that had the entire Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages under his thumb. His name resounded throughout the continent during his prime, and the other geniuses and talents from the other powers paled in comparison to him. If not for the sudden appearance of Tan Tailan, perhaps he would have been the sole supreme genius, looking down upon everyone else in disdain. However, the tales that had been passed down were the only reference that the young people had. They had never really had the chance to personally experience how outstanding this genius was in his youth. Thus, they were looking forward to the ninth battle.

Although this was just an energy replica and not Li Taixuan in the flesh, the replica possessed the majority of his techniques and strength thanks to the stone dragon's special influence.

Thus, no one knew whether it would be the father teaching the son a lesson, or the son besting the father.

As the crowd's excitement reached its peak, Li Luo's fingers were tightly grasped around the Onyx-Elephant Blade. The three resonant palaces within his body churned, and extraordinary amounts of resonant power gushed out like the rising tide.

Li Taixuan, on the other hand, remained unarmed and seemingly defenseless. His youthful and handsome face seemed to hold a hint of a smirk, but his eyes were vacant and soulless. After all, this was ultimately still just an energy replica and not a true person.

At this point, two Heavenly Pearls appeared behind him and began to ravenously devour the worldly natural energy around him. Tenacious waves of resonant power were released as a result, applying a sense of pressure towards Li Luo.

This suppression was more powerful than what had Li Qingfeng exerted.

This scene caused numerous individuals to sigh in their hearts. From this alone, they could see that Li Taixuan in his youth possessed horrifying strength compared to those of his generation.

It was said that he possessed three-pearl strength when he became the Dragon's Head, which was an achievement that no one had surpassed even now.

"The old man actually reached the three-pearl tier by the time he obtained the position?" It seemed that the energy replica was only able to replicate just seventy or eighty percent of the original's strength. This caused Li Luo to sigh. This sort of strength was amongst the best of the best. Even Li Qingfeng was nowhere near that powerful.

Still, an inevitable question popped up in his head. If he had been born in the Dragon's Fang Lineage and had not suffered from having blank palaces, could he have achieved something similar?

Perhaps. As his heart pondered over the possibilities, he remained focused and decided to strike first. He formed some hand seals, and a strand of green resonant power appeared before everyone's eyes. It tunneled into the ground, causing a towering tree to come into being.

A moment later, its sturdy and thick branches intertwined, turning into a dragon ent. The dragon ent roared, radiating undulating waves of energy from its body as it dashed towards Li Taixuan murderously.

"Pseudo Duke Art: Emerald Dragon Ent!"

Li Taixuan took a step forward, five fingers clenched into a fist

Bang!

A punch flew out. It was like a dragon had roared, and even the void gave way as an ear-splitting sonic boom blasted throughout the field.

The moment the fist collided with the ent, the ent collapsed completely into motes of light without any resistance. It was a domineering strike. This sight caused the Banner Leaders' eyelids to jump in surprise. They could sense that this single punch was something they could not receive without losing pitifully.

A single punch had taken down the dragon ent. Li Taixuan immediately strode forward, each step crossing tens of meters, quickly closing the gap between him and Li Luo.

Li Luo immediately roused his resonant power, giving form to one dragon ent after another, each one dashing towards Li Taixuan in an attempt to obstruct him.

This didn't seem to have much effect as Li Taixuan remained undeterred, sending out punch after punch, each strike leaving afterimages in its wake. The dragon ents shattered one after another like crushed twigs before his domineering display of power, leaving the audience shocked.

Bang!

In the end, after his fist smashed the last tree, he stopped in his tracks. He glared at Li Luo with a gaze full of hostility.

He then lifted his hand and clenched his fist once again, stomping the sole of a single foot, preparing his stance.

BOOM!

The ground below him crumbled into fragments, looking like the back of a turtle's shell. His entire body turned into a beam of rainbow light that soared towards Li Luo. He was holding his fist in front of him, and its target was clearly Li Luo's chest. This was a tyrannical punch that caused the void to explode in its mere presence.

When Li Luo felt the pressure bearing down upon him, he sucked in a breath of air, and the boom of thunder could be heard coming from his body.

It was deafening and berserk, far surpassing anything that had been seen before.

This was because Li Luo had activated the Four Sonic Pulses state!

Thunderpeal Avatar: Four Sonic Pulses!

The sound of the thunderclap flooded the field, and Li Luo's body trembled from the sheer vibration. Majestic amounts of energy surged out like a raging dragon boat coursing through a river of limbs and bones.

His body had strengthened after receiving the Sanctified Dragon's Body, so Li Luo was now able to handle the stress of the Four Sonic Pulses.

He had planned to utilize this move against Li Qingfeng, but the opportunity never presented itself.

"Divine Elephant Power, Level Three!"

With the blade in hand, he met Li Taixuan's iron fist head-on. There was no retreat, and all of his resonant power poured out of his body without reserve.

Pure and dense dual resonant power surged forth with Vestiges of Spirituality.

At the same time, the blade was augmented with Fiend Dipper Energy, increasing its sharpness

This single strike was not bolstered by any resonant art, but it was a strike that carried all of Li Luo's spirit. He wanted to face off against Li Taixuan openly and see just how strong he was in the past.

When the two clashed frontally, gasps could be heard coming from the audience as everyone stared at the scene without daring to blink.

BANG!

During the moment of collision, a wild and furious storm of energy kicked up and the tiles beneath the two began to fracture. The floor cracked in every direction, unable to withstand the sheer impact.

Swish!

The two were forced backwards, and as they stumbled to regain their footing, the floor shattered beneath them.

However, it was clear that Li Luo had been forced back much more than his father.

After stabilizing himself, his blood essence churned and roiled. Glancing at the hand that was holding the blade, he could see a wound gaping like a tiger's outstretched maw with blood oozing endlessly.

His entire arm was throbbing with piercing pain while a tyrannical resonant power gushed into his body. However, it was quickly dissipated and resolved with the aid of his dual resonant power.

"Gosh, the old man is pretty ferocious," Li Luo mumbled to himself. He had evidently suffered more during their first frontal clash. Li Taixuan's two-pearl tier cultivation gave him vigorous and forceful resonant power. This short exchange had given Li Luo a taste of how domineering his father was.

Despite having a quasi ninth-grade resonance comparable to Li Qingfeng's, they were poles apart in terms of sheer brutality.

It was clearly no weaker than a true ninth-grade resonance.

"Li Luo, you have to be careful. Third Uncle's resonance is the Heavenly Dragon resonance. It's known to be both barbaric and overbearing," Li Fengyi reminded him from the side.

Li Luo was slightly taken aback. "Heavenly Dragon resonance? No wonder it's so menacing." He only knew that his father had a dragon resonance. However, as to what sort of dragon resonance it was, he didn't really care much for it. All dragon resonances were the same to him... or so he thought.

At that very moment, Li Taixuan activated his two Heavenly Pearls. They began to vibrate with increased intensity, devouring worldly natural energy ravenously.

Li Taixuan's resonant power began to surge upwards with renewed vigor.

He folded his fingers together, forming a strange hand seal with his fingertips, looking perhaps like a fist seal.

Roar!

An illusory dragon manifested behind Li Taixuan, winding and curling, exuding a sense of immense majesty. As soon as the dragon appeared, everyone from the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages felt an indescribable pressure bear down upon them.

The Heavenly Dragon resonance!

Li Luo immediately realized that fist seal Li Taixuan had just formed was not foreign to him. He once saw him demonstrate it when he competed against his mother.

This was his signature move.

Duke Art: Hundred Battles Dragon Fist!

Who knew just how many Dukes from the Xia Kingdom had fallen to this very strike all those years ago, hammering into them a lingering fear of Li Taixuan that had never left them?