

Resonance 951

Chapter 0951: Spiritual Resonance Cave's Chosen One

The members of the Dragon's Fang Lineage hurriedly flew towards the eastern district.

"Li Luo, why didn't you choose the western district? Apart from the center district, the concentration of worldly natural energy is the highest over there. We'd surely be able to get more Spirit Resonance Golden Dew from there," Li Fuling could not help but ask while they were traveling over to the eastern district.

"Cousin Fuling, Li Wuyuan has always disliked us. Do you think that he would be so kind as to let us be the second pick in choosing the districts? There's definitely a trap there," Li Fengyi explained on behalf of Li Luo.

Li Fuling frowned after hearing this. "It may be a trap, but the Spirit Resonance Golden Dew is worth the risk. Besides, he would not dare to put us in any life-threatening situations no matter how much he dislikes us."

Hearing this, Li Lingjing smiled gently and replied, "It's true that he might not need to threaten our lives, but as long as it results in casualties and injuries on our side, it will hinder our Spiritual Resonance Cave progress significantly."

Li Fuling was still not convinced, so she retorted angrily, "Just continue standing up for him. Let's see what we're going to do at the Golden Dew Platform when we can't gather enough Spirit Resonance Golden Dew later."

However, Li Luo simply smiled and told her, "Don't get so worked up, Cousin Fuling. I'm not really afraid of the traps set by Li Wuyuan. I just feel that the eastern district is more suitable for us. Perhaps we will reap more rewards here?"

Li Fuling eyed him suspiciously. "How do you know? Li Wuyuan has control of the ward in the area, so he can sense the greatest concentrations of energy. How in the world do you know that the eastern district has better rewards?"

At this point, the others looked over at him with curious gazes too.

Li Luo did not know how to explain this to them. He could not possibly tell them that he felt particularly connected to the Spiritual Resonance Cave and therefore he could sense the worldly natural energy in the area more acutely, right?

No one would believe him if he said so.

As such, Li Luo could only give a vague reply. "You'll know when the time comes."

Li Fuling was clearly dissatisfied with this reply. "We'll wait and see how you explain yourself then!" She snorted. However, she did not push him on this issue any further.

As the few of them bickered among themselves, their pace picked up gradually too. A few minutes later, they arrived in the middle of the valley.

There was a faint mist blanketing the region, which seemed to be the result of the condensation of worldly natural energy. Moreover, the worldly natural energy in the Spiritual Resonance Cave seemed to have a very special characteristic. Whenever someone absorbed this energy, they could feel the resonances within their bodies cheering in excitement.

As Li Luo studied his surroundings, he noticed some faint, glowing characters on the walls of the valley. This was clearly part of the ward that had caused the worldly natural energy to gather in the area.

The others crossed their legs and sat down for a break as they awaited the activation of the ward from Li Wuyuan.

Only Li Luo strolled up and down the valley, examining everything with a curious gaze. The others could sense the worldly natural energy that had gathered in this valley. However, he could sense another force beneath it. There was an enormous pool of worldly natural energy there that had not been attracted by the ward.

"Why is the Spiritual Resonance Cave so nice to me? Am I the chosen one here?"

Li Luo had asked himself this numerous times. His acute senses within the cave had possibly exceeded that of even Dukes.

Was this all because of the Acquired Resonance Godly Forging Art?

With that thought in mind, he activated the Acquired Resonance Godly Forging Art that he had not used for years. In the past, he had only used it for creating the resonance affinity wheels and absorbing them into his body. He had not discovered any other use for it under ordinary circumstances.

The other purpose of this art was...

Li Luo stretched out his palm, and a transparent flame materialized on it.

This was the Acquired Resonance Flame, a critical component for his acquired resonances. However... Li Luo had been unable to find any offensive uses for it in the past two years.

"Since it can help me refine an acquired resonance... surely it should do something amazing, right? Are there any other uses for it? Am I using it wrongly?" Li Luo wondered to himself.

However, just as he was pondering these things, the huge pool of worldly natural energy beneath the ground began reacting.

He could faintly sense it moving in his direction.

No. Strictly speaking, it was moving towards the Acquired Resonance Flame.

Li Luo's eyes lit up when he noticed this pleasant surprise. "The Acquired Resonance Flame can attract such a well-hidden pool of worldly natural energy?"

It wasn't really surprising, actually. After all, the Acquired Resonance Flame was the product of the Acquired Resonance Godly Forging Art.

However, this would make it much easier for Li Luo to lure all the hidden energy out now.

As such, he continued walking around the valley, flicking out a faint Acquired Resonance Flame from time to time. When each flame landed on the ground, it was rapidly absorbed into the soil. However, Li Luo was not going to pull out the energy just yet. He hid the flames with a layer of resonant power while he bided his time for the most opportune moment.

This went on for quite some time before Li Luo clapped his hands in satisfaction. With the Acquired Resonance Flames as bait, he should be able to lure out much more worldly natural energy. In that case, the amount of Spirit Resonance Golden Dew in the area would surely increase drastically.

"What're you doing over here?" Someone suddenly called out to him from behind. Li Luo turned around and saw a gleefully smiling Li Lingjing looking at him.

"Just preparing a surprise for the rest," Li Luo replied.

"Acting so secretly." Li Lingjing pouted.

Li Luo laughed it off. Now he just had to wait and see how big of a harvest it would be. This would also be an experiment to see if he was really the chosen one.

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On the same day that the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages headed into their respective districts, there was a faint light signal deep in the forest.

After some time, a different group landed on the top of a mountain.

They were a massive party with even more members than the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages.

And there were a few familiar faces among them. They were none other than the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao.

Zhao Shenjiang was with them too. However, he was not the leader this time. Their leader was an ordinary-looking youth dressed in golden robes. He was named Zhao Yan, an eight-pearl cultivator leading the army from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao.

At this point, Zhao Yan looked at the dozens of people around him. These people were not from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao. Instead, they came from another powerful force known as the Devil Fire Hall.

"Brother Tian, this region is really rich in worldly natural energy. It seems like the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li truly developed it well," Zhao Yan said with a laugh.

Hearing this, the youth known as Brother Tian also grinned. "My men happened to spot the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li setting up this ward here. This is how we get to know that they're developing this location. However, the Devil Fire Hall can't beat them alone. This is why we'll need your help."

"So you're thinking of reaping the benefits from the side while the two of us brawl it out, Brother Tian?" Zhao Yan laughed in response.

The youth with the surname Tian was also a charismatic individual. In response, he only smiled warmly. "With all the enmity between the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li and the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao, surely there's no need for me to fan any more flames, right? You guys are the only ones who'll dare to challenge them. Who else would dare to offend them?"

"Wise choice, Brother Tian. However, there will be quite a few casualties if we go about it forcefully. Looking at you, it seems like you have another ace hidden up your sleeve," Zhao Yan said with a grin.

The youth with the surname Tian replied with a light smile, "It's nothing much, actually. We simply set up a small ward of our own on the side when we noticed what the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li was preparing for. Our ward hid some of the worldly natural energy from their sight. If we activate our own ward when they're ready to harvest the Spirit Resonance Golden Dew, we can cause the Guardian Spirits that spawn to be more powerful. It wouldn't be enough to kill them off, but it should be sufficient to injure them significantly. If we go after them at that point in time, things should be a little easier for us."

Hearing this, Zhao Yan clapped and laughed out loud. "Making use of your opponents. What a cunning plan."

"Just a little annoyance. Surely it won't cause the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li to hold a grudge against us," the youth with the surname Tian replied in a humble tone.

"Let us sit back and enjoy the show for now."

As the two of them were chatting, Zhao Jingyu, who was standing at the side, began to look towards the forest with vicious eyes.

"Li Luo, I bet you didn't think we would meet again so soon, huh?"

Chapter 0952: Birth of the Golden Dew

Li Luo and the group did not have to wait for a very long time in the valley. Soon, the worldly natural energy around the forest began to react, then it began to flow with a loud roar. The forest shook as the green trees began to move with the wind.

"Li Wuyuan has activated the ward. Prepare for it, the Spirit Resonance Golden Dew will be condensing soon," Li Fuling reminded the rest when she saw the changes in the surroundings.

Everyone nodded. Huge resonant power surged up within them and enveloped the area like a thick cloud of smoke. Everyone had taken out their treasured artifacts, which were all of violet-eye grade.

Clearly, they were all fully prepared for the dangers lurking in the shadows. Even those with weaker foundations had utilized all their means to acquire some kind of treasured artifact for this expedition.

The Golden-Jade Onyx-Elephant Blade appeared in Li Luo's grasp. The straight blade was quite out of place here, especially since it was only a gold-eye treasured artifact. Li Fuling and the rest were drawn towards it as soon as he took it out.

"Cousin Li Luo, you're the Dragon's Head—didn't you prepare at least a violet-eye treasured artifact for this occasion?" Li Fuling asked.

Li Luo simply smiled and replied, "I would not trade this blade of mine even if you offered me a triple violet-eye treasured artifact."

The Golden-Jade Onyx-Elephant Blade might just be a gold-eye treasured artifact, but its value was immense. After all, it contained a trace of a Kingmark. This was not a simple mark that was readily available to anyone. It was only possible because this was the partner weapon of Principal Pang, accompanying him in his countless battles throughout the years.

Although he also had the Three-tailed Heavenly Wolf as a hidden ace up his sleeve, the true trump card that would really save him in times of danger would be the Kingmark. It was the only way he could possibly have any chance of survival if he came across any high-grade Duke opponents. Of course, the Golden-Jade Onyx-Elephant Blade would probably shatter completely if that encounter truly took place. He was not lying at all when he said that he would never trade this treasured artifact away even if triple violet-eye treasured artifacts were offered to him.

Nonetheless, Li Fuling and the rest did not take his words seriously. They simply curled up their lips and treated those as stubborn words from Li Luo.

Li Luo did not bother explaining himself any further either. He simply looked up into the sky above the valley. The ward set up around the forest began to activate, and worldly natural energy started condensing.

Looking at the way things were going, it was clear that the center district where Li Wuyuan was located had the highest concentration of energy. They had clearly gotten the biggest share of the pie.

At the same time, the concentration of worldly natural energy where the other three lineages were located was not bad either. They were all in much better situations compared to where Li Luo and his group were located.

Clearly, Li Fuling's face was beginning to turn ugly as she gave Li Luo a deadly stare. This guy had given up the districts with richer energy concentration to choose this broken spot.

However, Li Luo smiled lightly against her deadly stare and said, "There's no need to be hasty. Let's wait and see."

Boom! Boom!

Following a few explosive sounds, a wild storm of worldly natural energy violently swept through the forest.

At this moment, Li Luo and the rest could see a vortex begin to form above the valley. The mist full of energy began to be absorbed into the vortex, as if feeding it to make it grow larger and larger. The amount of energy absorbed into it was simply astonishing.

This went on for dozens of minutes before the energy vortex suddenly shrank. A few golden droplets could be faintly seen at this moment.

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Bang!

The energy vortex exploded, and the golden lights flew out into the air. Floating in midair, the lights sucked in the worldly natural energy, growing brighter and brighter in the process.

"Spirit Resonance Golden Dew!" Li Fuling and the rest exclaimed excitedly. They stared at the four golden lights without batting an eyelid.

Li Luo was also looking at them. There was a mysterious liquid within each golden point of light, slowly flowing as if they were the essence of energy from the elements. It seemed like they could morph into any type of energy at any point in time.

As he studied the golden glows, Li Luo could sense the resonances within his body lusting for it.

These seemed to be the Spirit Resonance Golden Dew that they had all been eyeing.

"Let's wait a little longer. The Spirit Resonance Golden Dew has just been born and will need some time to strengthen itself by taking in the worldly natural energy. We can reap the benefits once each drop is fully developed," Li Fuling reminded the rest.

"Besides... the Guardian Spirit will be spawning soon. Be careful, guys!"

When Li Fuling finishing speaking, they could see the worldly natural energy sweep past the sky like a tidal wave. Faint silhouettes started to appear within it, condensed by the huge concentration of energy in the area. Naturally, they exuded strong pulses of energy from their bodies.

There were around a dozen Guardian Spirits. Among them, the strongest one was tens of feet tall with a heavy halberd in its hands. From the energy radiating out of its body, it seemed to be around the strength of a four-pearl.

The other Guardian Spirits were around the strength of Fiend Finishers and lower Heavenly Pearls too.

"Prepare for battle," Li Fuling ordered as she took the lead and charged towards the Guardian Spirit that possessed four-pearl strength. The other members would help tackle the other Guardian Spirits.

This first wave of Guardian Spirits was not too threatening.

Li Luo and the others did not help out at all. They continued to keep watch over the four droplets of Spirit Resonance Golden Dew in the sky and awaited the time where they fully developed. They would reach for them as soon as that time arrived.

This wait lasted for dozens of minutes. When Li Fuling and her group finished off all the Guardian Spirits, the droplets in the sky had fully condensed, and Li Luo moved in instantly. He summoned up his resonant power and collected all the Spirit Resonance Golden Dew.

The crowd gathered around him.

There were four droplets of Spirit Resonance Golden Dew hovering over his palm, emitting a mysterious force. Everyone eyed them enviously.

However, this was not the time to decide on the allocation. Another wave of worldly natural energy gathered, and Spirit Resonance Golden Dew began to form once more. At the same time, a stronger wave of Guardian Spirits was beginning to spawn.

After a few minutes, they could see the fifth and sixth droplets of Spirit Resonance Golden Dew forming in the air. However, what was more surprising was that the Guardian Spirits were twice as strong as the previous group.

Among them, the strongest Guardian Spirit had three heads and were as powerful as five-pears.

Li Fengyi frowned and asked with suspicion, "That's weird. There are only two more droplets of Spirit Resonance Golden Dew, so why are the Guardian Spirits so much stronger now?"

Li Luo narrowed his eyes at this sight. Others might not be able to sense it, but he could tell that the ward in this valley had started giving off a strange fluctuation. The mightier Guardian Spirits were spawned due to the effect of that ward.

And if one traced along the source of it... the energy was coming from the center district.

Li Luo finally understood what Li Wuyuan was plotting earlier.

"The additional and more domineering Guardian Spirits are coming from the center district. If I'm not wrong, these Guardian Spirits were what the Dragon's Blood Lineage was supposed to be facing. However, they've sent them over to us using this ward. They are hoping that we will fight off their Guardian Spirits for them so that they can enjoy the Spirit Resonance Golden Dew rewards without working so hard," Li Luo told them with a smile.

"It seems like regardless of which district we chose, Li Wuyuan's intention was always to add onto our burden. They will get to enjoy the Spirit Resonance Golden Dew while we'll have to work harder for them. What a good deal for them."

Hearing this, Li Fuling, Li Fengyi, and the rest shouted angrily, admonishing Li Wuyuan.

However, those feelings were of little practical help. As more and more Guardian Spirits spawned, Li Luo and the rest joined the battle to help fend them off.

A berserk energy storm continued to kick up within the valley.

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In the center district of the mountain.

Li Wuyuan stood with his hands behind his back as he watched the Guardian Spirits appear one after another. At this time, everyone in the Dragon's Blood Lineage was working hard to eliminate them. However, things were proceeding exceptionally smoothly, and Li Wuyuan didn't have to join the battle personally yet.

"What a brilliant plan, Brother Wuyuan. I believe those fools from the Dragon's Fang Lineage are panicking right now." One guy from the Dragon's Blood Lineage praised Li Wuyuan with a grin as he continued to collect the Spirit Resonance Golden Dew that rained down from the sky.

Li Wuyuan simply smirked. "I've just sent a few more Guardian Spirits over to them. It won't cost them their lives. They got a free meal for following us here. Surely it's not too much to ask them to work a little harder, right?"

"That's true. They wouldn't even have found this location without our help."

As Li Wuyuan grinned happily, he looked over to the other districts and muttered to himself, "It seems like I can send a few more over to the other three lineages too. If not, the Dragon's Fang Lineage may really die, and that'd be too much for us."

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As the forest was bustling with commotion, the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao and the Devil Fire Hall watched on from the outside of the mountain.

Tian Miao, the leader of the Devil Fire Hall, smiled lightly as he turned towards the group from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao and said, "I guess it's about time."

Hearing this, Zhao Yan rubbed his hands together and smiled.

"Let's begin our feast, then. This time, I will let the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li gorge themselves in their greed until they die."

Chapter 0953: The Acquired Resonance Flame's Effect

Weng!

With a flap of his wings, Li Luo flashed forward like lightning. He charged towards a Guardian Spirit that had the strength of a one-pearl and slashed down aggressively with the Golden-Jade Onyx-Elephant Blade.

The blade light flew through the Guardian Spirit, but blood did not spew out. Instead, highly concentrated energy gushed out continuously from the wound, escaping from its body. However, the wound caused by the blade light began to recover rapidly as well.

Seeing this, the Dragon Sigil between Li Luo's brows glowed.

"Dragonfear!"

An oppressive aura swept out of Li Luo and engulfed the Guardian Spirit. The terrifying aura disrupted the energy pulsing from its body for a moment, and the spirit displayed signs of confusion.

Li Luo immediately took advantage of the opportunity and slashed down with his blade once again. It was an impressive strike, and it almost seemed to produce a dragon's roar.

"Nine Scales Sanctified Dragon's Body, Three Dragons Might!"

The Dragon Sigil between Li Luo's brows glowed again as his blade sliced apart the air, leaving a trail of light behind. A sonic boom accompanied the blade as it fell, cutting the Guardian Spirit in front of him into two.

After finishing off this Guardian Spirit in a single strike, Li Luo did not pause in his tracks. He turned around immediately and charged towards the next Guardian Spirit. As more Spirit Resonance Golden Dew began to form in the sky above, a corresponding number of Guardian Spirits spawned in the surroundings. At the same time, the strength of the Guardian Spirits continued to increase.

The valley was now a messy battlefield with unusually chaotic fights breaking out in every direction.

Apart from those tasked to collect Spirit Resonance Golden Dew, everyone else, including Li Lingjing, had joined the battle.

Fortunately, the fight was proceeding well thanks to the strong assistance from Li Lingjing. However, it was an arduous battle, so they could not afford to slack even for a moment.

Moreover, Li Luo could sense that the Guardian Spirits were continually being channeled over through the ward.

This was getting so obvious that Li Fuling and the rest began to sense it as well.

"That bastard Li Wuyuan! He's still sending them over. If things get out of hand, let's give up this spot. They can have all the fun for themselves!" Li Fuling screamed in fury as she held off three of the five-pearl Guardian Spirits alone. Her face was red with anger at this point.

"Forget it, there's no point in scolding him anymore. If we give up now, our efforts thus far will be in vain," Li Xuan, the previous generation's Green Nether Banner Leader, advised her helplessly. Indeed, giving up was just something she had said out of anger. She gritted her teeth and endured. The endless stream of Guardian Spirits was applying a great amount of stress upon them.

They could only hope to last until all the Spirit Resonance Golden Dew had condensed.

As they were talking about it, Li Luo had gone on to face off against another Guardian Spirit. Although the attacks from the spirits were lackluster, they were extremely challenging to eliminate due to the fact that they were merely bodies of energy. This meant that they could endure far more blows than an ordinary human.

As such, the greatest challenge was actually that of energy consumption.

It would be great if there was a more efficient way to get rid of them.

Li Luo thought about it for a moment before he raised his ancient sword into the air. A transparent flame shrouded his blade.

It was the Acquired Resonance Flame.

All this while, Li Luo had never found any other uses for this flame apart from cultivating his acquired resonance. However, since the Acquired Resonance Godly Forging Art had a special connection to this place, perhaps it would have some special use here too.

Li Luo slashed down once again with that thought in mind. The sharp blade arched downwards, leaving a trail in its wake and directly striking the Guardian Spirit in its patch.

Strangely, Li Luo could sense that the attack felt different this time. The energy waves within the Guardian Spirit seemed to be reacting in some way. In fact, the other Guardian Spirits, which seemed to possess no consciousness of their own, even took a few steps back. They were acting like something had frightened them.

Li Luo was amazed by this discovery.

He wrapped his blade in transparent flames again and struck at the Guardian Spirit once more. This time, something astounding happened. Previously, the energy within the Guardian Spirit was whittled down very gradually after numerous blows from Li Luo. However, this strike seemed to have ignited it on fire just like how fuel reacted to flame.

Li Luo could clearly see that the huge pool of energy within the Guardian Spirit was burning up at a shocking pace.

A few moments later, the Guardian Spirit in front of him had completely disintegrated.

Li Luo froze in his tracks.

Although he had suspected that the flame would have some sort of effect, he had not expected such an amazing result.

He had eliminated a one-pearl Guardian Spirit with just one simple attack.

The problem was cleanly resolved.

Li Luo still found it really hard to believe. However, he extended the energy wings on his back and flew across the battlefield towards Li Jingtao. Li Jingtao was also facing off against a one-pearl Guardian Spirit at this point. From the very beginning, they were both caught up in an endless struggle against one another...

Li Jingtao's defenses were really formidable, but his offensive capabilities were kind of lacking. He could only inflict a light wound on the Guardian Spirit, and all the damage he did would heal up in moments. Similarly, the Guardian Spirit's blows barely had any effect on him.

Just like this, the two were entangled in an embarrassing fight, wasting each other's time.

If one did not know Li Jingtao personally, they would probably be wondering why he was still messing around and wasting time.

However, the situation changed immediately with Li Luo's arrival.

Li Jingtao flashed him an embarrassing smile. He had thought Li Luo had made his way over to help out because his battle had dragged on for too long.

"Be careful, Third Brother, this fellow is extraordinarily tough," he reminded him.

Li Luo thought his warning was kind of funny though. If the Guardian Spirit could speak, surely it would be screaming in frustration right now, rebutting him angrily. "Do you think you're any better, you tortoise?!"

As Li Luo's figure flashed past, the blade light with the transparent flame cut down across the air. Like a bolt of lightning, he smote the Guardian Spirit.

In the next moment, Li Jingtao's eyes widened as he watched in surprise. The Guardian Spirit that he was entangled with for so long disappeared completely in an instant. It was like an illusion had just vanished.

"Big Brother, you're the one who should be more careful," Li Luo said before dashing across the battlefield once more.

After this experiment, he was convinced of the special effect the Acquired Resonance Flame had on the Guardian Spirits. Over the next few minutes, he flew around the battlefield speedily, and everyone was left in awe by the shocking sight they witnessed. One after another, the Guardian Spirits shriveled up and disappeared.

Even the ones with two-pearl strength were eliminated with a single blow delivered by Li Luo.

Such an amazing scene had caught the attention of Li Fuling, Li Xuan, and the others. Some of them even dropped their treasured artifacts in shock. They were very clear that even if they had gone all-out, they would not be able to eliminate those Guardian Spirits so easily.

What drug had Li Luo taken? How had he pulled this off? Li Lingjing, who was in a fierce fight with several five-pearl Guardian Spirits, also turned her head slightly at this moment. A slight smile appeared in the corner of her lips as she watched Li Luo fly across the battlefield.

"Cousin Li Luo is truly full of surprises."

With his sudden display of superhuman power, Li Luo immediately relieved the pressure on everyone on the battlefield. After eliminating a large number of Guardian Spirits, they finally regained the advantage in numbers and ganged up on the more powerful spirits.

In an instance, the flow of the battle had improved drastically.

The five-pearl Guardian Spirits fell one after another, and relaxed smiles began to appear on the people's faces.

Seeing this, Li Luo started to contemplate if he should activate the hidden flames that he had put in place beforehand. Doing so would allow more worldly natural energy to gather, giving birth to more Spirit Resonance Golden Dew.

Bang!

Just as he was mulling it over, a shocking energy eruption blasted out from the center district of the forest. Everyone's attention was drawn towards it immediately.

Their faces changed slightly as the energy undulations were exceptional.

They understood that with stronger worldly natural energy, the Guardian Spirits that spawned would be much mightier as well.

This caught even Li Luo off guard. He stood dumbfounded for a moment, wondering if he had planted the flames in the wrong spot previously.

Li Fuling frowned and asked, "What's Li Wuyuan and his group doing? Can they really handle such a huge eruption of energy?"

Li Luo was about to reply when he felt a chill run up his spine. With his acute senses, he could tell that there were a large number of people with strong resonant power outside the mountain.

"Someone else is here," Li Luo told them immediately.

"I knew it. The Dragon's Blood Lineage is not the only one who knows about this place."

Everyone's faces changed immediately when they heard his words. So, the sudden changes in the center district were not done by Li Wuyuan?

Someone else had set their eyes on them!

Chapter 0954: Trap

In the center district of the mountain.

The moment Li Luo and his group sensed the sudden outburst of worldly natural energy, Li Wuyuan and his team similarly felt it as well. Their faces changed immediately as they looked angrily into the distance.

There was originally a lake in the forest, but a monstrous amount of energy had suddenly surged out of it. The water in the lake morphed into tsunamis up to a hundred feet tall, sweeping towards the mountains and forests.

The waves were nothing to worry about for the members of the Dragon's Blood Lineage. However, the worldly natural energy and giant Guardian Spirits that followed were frightening.

There were roughly a dozen of them at least.

Furthermore, the stronger ones had reached the strength of a six-pearl. Adding onto the Guardian Spirits that had spawned previously, the pressure the Dragon's Blood Lineage was under had increased exponentially.

Most frustrating of all was that the worldly natural energy eruption had disrupted the ward that they had set up previously. Li Wuyuan could no longer transfer the Guardian Spirits over to the other lineages.

"Cousin Wuyuan, something is wrong here. This eruption of energy is too strange!" Li Qingfeng said with a deep voice.

Li Wuyuan nodded in agreement. His face was really dark as he looked over towards the lake and said, "That eruption of energy was caused by another ward. Someone has plotted against us."

The others were furious to hear this. Who would have thought that someone else would have laid a trap in this special nest that they had painstakingly prepared?

"Send out warning signals to the other lineages. There are external enemies around," Li Wuyuan ordered immediately.

One of the Dragon's Blood Lineage members pressed hard against a jade tablet, and a light shot up into the air. It flew into the sky and transformed into a dragon silhouette dancing with its fangs and claws.

"Cousin Wuyuan, the other lineages are most likely still fighting off the Guardian Spirits at this point. If the external enemy comes after us right now, I doubt they will be able to lend us a helping hand," Li Hongli reminded him with signs of worry on her beautiful face. At this moment, there was a vicious look

in Li Wuyuan's eyes. He stared at the outside of the forest and ordered, "Hurry up and get rid of the Guardian Spirits. Our enemies will be coming for us really soon. I would like to see who has the guts to pit themselves against the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li!"

Hearing this, his team members unleashed their resonant power and attempted to clear out all the Guardian Spirits as fast as possible.

Li Wuyuan had also taken out his black guandao and joined the battle. The weapon was decorated with two faintly glowing violet-eye marks that absorbed worldly natural energy from the surroundings automatically.

Without any hesitation, his resonant power surged and he charged towards the strongest few Guardian Spirits.

When he finished those off, he continued to keep watch on the edge of the forest. The external enemies that were waiting to reap the benefits should be appearing any moment now.

Indeed, his wait did not last long.

After a few minutes, beams of light appeared in the distance and shot high up into the sky. They rapidly cruised through the air and flew straight into the vast forest where they were situated.

The other four lineages in the other parts of the forest had also noticed the intruders.

However, they were still caught up with the Guardian Spirits on their sides. They could only watch as the intruders flew into the center district directly.

"Haha! What's with this pathetic look, Li Wuyuan?" Laughter echoed in the air.

"Zhao Yan! As expected, such a plot could only have come from the rogues of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao!" Li Wuyuan shot the leading figure a cold stare. At the same time, his eyes scanned the surroundings, and he picked up a different aura amongst some of the people with the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao.

"You're Tian Miao! There are people from the Devil Fire Hall too, it seems." Li Wuyuan recognized the leader of the Devil Fire Hall immediately. The youth named Tian Miao was also considered one of the best in his generation.

"You're too careless, Li Wuyuan. You didn't even know that something had been done to your treasure trove here. Luckily, our friends from the Devil Fire Hall informed us. Otherwise, we would have missed a good show," Zhao Yan said with a smirk.

Hearing this, Tian Miao's mouth twitched a little. Zhao Yan had exposed them without any hesitation. That guy was truly a smiling tiger in disguise, dragging them into their battles right off the bat. However, this was all within his expectations. He had already taken this into account when he shared the information with Zhao Yan.

"Excellent work, Tian Miao. How dare you plant a trap for the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li!" Li Wuyuan shouted back grimly.

In response, Tian Miao simply smiled. "You're exaggerating things, Brother Wuyuan. It's just a friendly competition between our generation, so how can this be considered a trap for the whole Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li? If I were so capable, I'd have become the Hall Master of Devil Fire Hall already."

At the same time, Zhao Yan declared grandly, "Enough of this nonsense, Li Wuyuan. Hand over all the Spirit Resonance Golden Dew that you have collected so far, or things will get nasty today."

When he finished speaking, the resonant power of the members of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao surged up as they stared daggers at the people from the Dragon's Blood Lineage. It was almost like a pack of wolves was standing watch atop the mountain, ready to strike at any time.

With a disadvantage in numbers, those from the Dragon's Blood Lineage were feeling threatened at this point. Moreover, they still had to deal with the nonstop attacks from the Guardian Spirits.

They would have to pay a really heavy price if they decided to take an attack from both the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao and the Devil Fire Hall right now.

There was some confusion and unrest amongst the members of the Dragon's Blood Lineage. Nonetheless, they were still the elites of their generation. They did not show any signs of fear and simply looked towards Li Wuyuan for his orders and direction.

In the same moment, Zhao Shenjiang from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao whispered something to Zhao Yan. After hearing his words, Zhao Yan gave a slight smile and shouted back at Li Wuyuan, "It's not impossible for us to let you off the hook, Li Wuyuan. As long as you're willing to hand over Li Luo from the Dragon's Fang Lineage, we can negotiate the outcome here."

His voice was shrouded with resonant power, so his words echoed throughout the forest. He had made no attempt to hide it.

Without a doubt, he wanted the other four lineages to hear him too.

The faces of those from the Dragon's Blood Lineage changed as soon as they heard this. They had not expected such a proposal from the opponent.

One of the members looked towards Li Wuyuan and whispered, "Brother Wu, shall we..."

Li Wuyuan frowned and stared back at the guy. With a cold voice, he replied, "Fools! Can't you see what this sly dog is plotting? We may not like Li Luo, but he's from the same lineage as us. If we hand him over to these bastards from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao, the Dragon's Blood Lineage will be utterly disgraced. Forget about the Twenty Banners or the Heavenly Dragon's Five Guardian Armies, everyone will look down on us for doing so. He's trying to hurt our foundation! If we do what he says, the elders from the Dragon's Blood Lineage will be so furious that they'll never forgive us. They'll give up on us, and there'll be no future left for us. Even if we suffer great losses from their trap here today, the loss will only be limited to those of us who are here right now. If we comply with their demand, what we'll be losing is the authority and reputation of the Dragon's Blood Lineage. Surely you all know what we should prioritize here!"

Hearing his words, the crowd from the Dragon's Blood Lineage agreed immediately. Even Li Hongli, who had always disliked Li Luo, did not raise any objections. She could still think rationally even in this situation.

Internal rivalries were something common in every major power and lineage. However, betraying one of their own people and handing them over to the enemy was a different matter altogether. Li Wuyuan lifted his head and shouted to Zhao Yan, "Forget about your despicable tricks. Do you think I am a fool?"

Seeing this, Zhao Yan could not help but feel some pity. Li Wuyuan was sharper than he had expected.

He turned his head towards the other members of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao and ordered, "Split up into four teams and head towards the other four districts in the forest. We have to inflict a heavy blow onto them while they're still entangled with the Guardian Spirits. Force them to retreat and take all of their Spirit Resonance Golden Dew."

They responded immediately after hearing his order. They split into four different teams together with the members of the Devil Fire Hall and speedily flew towards the other districts in the forest.

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At the same moment, the members of the Dragon's Fang Lineage had finished clearing up the Guardian Spirits on their side with the assistance of Li Luo.

"Oh, Li Wuyuan didn't betray me?" Li Luo commented with a laugh. Zhao Yan's voice had echoed throughout the forest a moment ago, so he had naturally heard it too.

"Li Wuyuan may be detestable, but he's not stupid. He would not dare to do something like that, as it would be equivalent to digging his own grave," Li Fuling commented.

"There are people coming towards us. Quite a lot of them," Li Lingjing warned them.

She turned towards Li Luo and asked, "Shall we stop them?"

Li Luo thought about it for a moment. He scanned the valley once again, particularly at the areas where he had planted the flame catalysts previously. At this moment, a bright smile appeared on his handsome face.

"Let them come. If they want to play dirty, we'll prepare a nice trap for them over here."

Chapter 0955: Turning The Tables

The group charged through the forest. As their surging resonant power clashed against the air, a soft ringing could be heard. Trails of dust were left behind as these figures dashed towards their prey.

Every individual in this group was literally seething with killing intent.

Among them were faces that Li Luo was very familiar with. It was Zhao Shenjiang and Zhao Jingyu. However, neither of them was in charge. The leader was a youth by the name of Zhao Fengxu, a seven-pearl from the same generation as Zhao Yan. Accompanying the people from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao were numerous helpers from the Devil Fire Hall. Amongst them, the strongest was at the six-pearl tier.

"The people from the Dragon's Fang Lineage are over there. They should still be busy fighting Guardian Spirits. Let's head over as fast as we can before they wipe out the spirits completely. We can make use of this chance to make a killing out of them!" Zhao Jingyu said excitedly with a vicious face. He never

guessed that he would be able to meet Li Luo so soon. Moreover, he'd be able to catch Li Luo in a vulnerable state.

He would surely take revenge for what happened back in the Dark Domain of the Western Region!

"Don't worry. Now that the people from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li have fallen into our trap, we'll not let them off so easily," Zhao Fengxu said with a smirk on his face.

With a heavy spear in hand, Zhao Shenjiang declared with a ferocious look, "If there's a chance, let me deal with Li Luo myself. Once I've crippled the Dragon's Head, his generation will never be able to lift their heads in the presence of our bloodline ever again."

Nonetheless, no one thought that he was being overly arrogant despite these words. After all, Zhao Shenjiang's talent was indisputable. Even Zhao Yan from the previous generation was somewhat inferior to him. In time, he would definitely be able to exceed even Zhao Yan.

Zhao Fengxu nodded. "Sure. We'll leave Li Luo to you."

The group continued their speedy dash through the forest. After a few moments, Zhao Shenjiang and the rest finally caught sight of the valley.

At this time, there were still loud echoes of energy within the valley, and resonant power surged up into the air in waves.

"As expected, they're still fighting the Guardian Spirits," Zhao Fengxu told them with a pleasant smile. He waved his hand to signal the group before taking the lead and charging into the valley first.

Seeing this, the others did not hesitate for long before they followed after him. After all, they still outnumbered the Dragon's Fang Lineage even if the Guardian Spirits had been disposed of.

A line of figures dashed into the valley. The layout of the land around them was pretty complicated. They walked through it for quite a while, but to their surprise, there were no signs of anyone from the Dragon's Fang Lineage despite the destroyed terrain.

There were also no signs of any Guardian Spirits in their surroundings.

"What happened?" someone asked.

Zhao Fengxu was similarly confused and uncertain of what had happened. However, he did not proceed any further, and his eyes quickly scanned the silent valley. "Let's retreat!" he said in a deep voice.

Although he did not understand why the Guardian Spirits had all disappeared, it was clear that the Dragon's Fang Lineage had emerged victorious in the fight. Now his enemy was lurking in the shadows, while he was out in the open. He had to be extra cautious and preserve his strength.

Unfortunately, the worldly natural energy in the surroundings erupted as soon as the group turned around to retreat.

"Welcome, friends. Why don't you stay for a little while longer and experience the hospitality of the Dragon's Fang Lineage?" A peal of laughter echoed through the air at this point.

Zhao Shenjiang and Zhao Fengxu raised their heads immediately. In front of them was a line of individuals. Li Luo was in front, and he was the speaker.

"Retreat!" Zhao Fengxu shouted, his eyes turning grim. He did not waste any time speaking with Li Luo. He flashed into the air in an attempt to leave the valley first.

However, the people from the Dragon's Fang Lineage coordinated their moves at the same moment. Their resonant power surged up and formed layers of barriers, pushing them back down and containing them within the valley.

When Zhao Fengxu and the rest tried to break through, it inevitably caused a moment of delay.

Li Luo grinned as he watched them panicking and trying to escape. He stretched out his hands and snapped his fingers coolly.

With that, all of the catalyst flames that he had planted earlier exploded.

Bang!

The valley shook violently, as if it was about to flip upside down. A frighteningly large amount of energy shot into the sky in a gigantic beam, causing the worldly natural energy in their surroundings to churn vigorously.

Everyone's face changed completely when they sensed the enormous amount of worldly natural energy.

Even Li Fuling and the rest were shocked to see this.

They were not aware that such an enormous pool of worldly natural energy had been hidden underneath this valley. Most importantly, how had Li Luo triggered it?

Li Luo did not have time to explain anything to them at the moment. As the worldly natural energy shot up into the sky and condensed, a large number of Guardian Spirits began to spawn.

These Guardian Spirits were both superior in numbers and strength compared to what they had previously fought.

Amongst them were even Guardian Spirits reaching seven-pearl tier levels of power!

Of course, Spirit Resonance Golden Dew had also started forming. There were so many of them that Li Fuling, Li Fengyi, and the rest were left dumbfounded at the sight.

No one dared to move a single muscle, as none of them wanted to attract the attention of the Guardian Spirits.

Zhao Fengxu and his group watched the Guardian Spirits with dry mouths. They knew that they had fallen into the Dragon's Fang Lineage's trap. These people had been waiting for them to head into the valley before they triggered their trap, causing the Guardian Spirits to spawn and fight against them.

"Retreat slowly." Zhao Fengxu said in a soft voice as he attempted to step back.

However, this proved fruitless. They were the ones closest to the Guardian Spirits after all. Moreover, they were right in the middle of the valley where the energy eruption had just occurred. Once the Guardian Spirits spawned, they glared down at them furiously and launched their attacks.

"Fight them off. Send out signals for help!" Zhao Fengxu shouted.

Taking the lead, he charged towards the Guardian Spirits. Seven radiant Heavenly Pearls appeared behind his back immediately. They sucked in the worldly natural energy from the surroundings, powering him up for his Duke Arts. In the blink of an eye, wild winds swept up and manifested into a wild beast, attempting to stop the Guardian Spirits.

Zhao Shenjiang gritted his teeth as he threw a deadly stare towards Li Luo. "Li Luo, come down and fight me! Stop playing these little tricks!"

On the other hand, Li Luo simply watched him like a fool. Only an idiot would throw away the advantage they had earned!

Bang!

The Guardian Spirits clashed with the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao and the Devil Fire Hall.

At the same moment, a flame flew high up into the air. The blaze showed a hundred beasts running, and it could be seen clearly from hundreds of miles away.

This was the distress signal sent from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao.

However, the rest of their force was currently fighting with everything they had. When this signal appeared in the sky, everyone in the surrounding mountains and forests was shocked.

Why were they asking for help when they had such a huge advantage?!

Chapter 0956: Surrender

In the center district of the mountain.

The people from the Dragon's Blood Lineage were trapped between the Guardian Spirits and Zhao Yan's forces. Zhao Yan's group was being really crafty with their offensive, launching long range attacks while staying just far enough to keep the Guardian Spirits from turning on them. This proved to be extremely problematic for the Dragon's Blood Lineage, and they struggled embarrassingly.

With a sly smirk, Zhao Yan watched Li Wuyuan and his team arduously defend as he commented, "Why bother with these pointless struggles, Li Wuyuan? Just hand over your Spirit Resonance Golden Dew and your team can still leave here intact. This is just the beginning of the Spiritual Resonance Cave, you'll still have plenty of opportunities to earn more later on. Going down here is an irrational choice."

He had planned to persuade Li Wuyuan and his team into giving up. After all, these folks from the Dragon's Blood Lineage were not ordinary people. If they really decided to fight to the bitter end, it could result in heavy casualties for Zhao Yan's side too.

And this was an undesirable result. Ultimately, it was just like what he had said. The Spiritual Resonance Cave was just beginning, and it was essential for them to conserve their strength.

Hearing these words, Li Wuyuan's face darkened and his eyes flared up in rage. He was the one who had led the rest here, and if he were to give up now, his standing and reputation among the five lineages would be tarnished for sure.

Moreover, he would have to cough up all the Spirit Resonance Golden Dew that he had collected thus far. He was extremely unwilling to do so.

Li Qingfeng leaned over and told him with a complicated look on his face, "Cousin Wuyuan, our situation doesn't look good. If we drag this on any longer, we'll suffer heavy casualties."

Although Zhao Yan had an ulterior motive, what he had suggested was indeed the rational choice.

Li Wuyuan gritted his teeth with a gloomy gaze.

"Li Wuyuan, the other four lineages have fallen into the same predicament. If they decide to retreat before you, the Dragon's Blood Lineage will be the only one left. If that happens, there'll be no chance for you to surrender anymore," Zhao Yan continued calmly with a cold, murderous intent hidden within his words.

When he heard this, Li Wuyuan's expression finally changed.

Zhao Yan gave him another deadly stare, and resonant power surged within his body. Eight blindingly bright Heavenly Pearls shone behind him as he took a stance and prepared to attack Li Wuyuan, increasing the pressure on him.

As long as he could convince Li Wuyuan and his team to retreat here, the other four lineages would surely follow suit. In that case, he would be able to obtain all the Spirit Resonance Golden Dew easily.

However, just as Zhao Yan attempted to persuade Li Wuyuan into surrendering, a bright flare shot up into the sky from the forest in the distance. This was the distress signal from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao.

Zhao Yan was completely taken aback by the sudden development. Everyone else was also dumbfounded when they saw the signal in the sky.

The distress signal required the blood essence of someone from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao. As such, there was no chance that it was a false alarm.

In other words, had one of their teams fallen into such grave danger that they were forced to ask for help?

"How's that possible?!" At this moment, even Zhao Yan spoke out in disbelief.

Zhao Shenjiang and Zhao Fengxu's group had gone in that direction. That was the location of the Dragon's Fang Lineage. Based on their strength, they would not require any help even if the Dragon's Fang Lineage had not been trapped by the Guardian Spirits' slaughter. There was no reason whatsoever for them to send out a distress call.

What exactly was happening over there?

"What's that useless bastard Zhao Fengxu doing over there?!" Zhao Yan shouted with ferocious eyes. He had nearly convinced the Dragon's Blood Lineage to retreat and gained control over the situation before this sudden development.

Just as Zhao Yan flared up over it, the other members of the Dragon's Blood Lineage stared in that direction in disbelief too.

"Is that... where the Dragon's Fang Lineage is? They actually forced the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao to send out a call for help?" Li Qingfeng asked in surprise.

"How's that possible? Is it a mistake?" Li Hongli shook her head in disbelief. Although this was good news, it was still unbelievable. After all, the Dragon's Fang Lineage should have been under a pincer attack from both the Guardian Spirits and the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao as well. As such, they should barely be able to protect themselves. How had they forced the enemy into a difficult predicament instead?

Li Wuyuan was also caught by surprise for a moment before he regained his composure. His lips twitched slightly as he replied, "That is not a distress call that one would send out accidentally. You need to utilize your blood essence to activate it, so the chance of accidentally sending it out is really low. It seems like the situation over at the Dragon's Fang Lineage has taken an unexpected turn..."

Nonetheless, Li Wuyuan had no idea how the Dragon's Fang Lineage had pulled it off. Even though Li Lingjing was comparable to himself in strength, the forces from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao were not that weak. There was no way the Dragon's Fang Lineage could have forced their enemies into such a difficult predicament within such a short span of time. It would be impossible even if Li Wuyuan had led his own group over there to assist.

However, this was good news for them ultimately. With Zhao Fengxu and his group in danger, Zhao Yan would have to send aid over. In that case, the pincer attack he was facing on his side would weaken. He could finish off the Guardian Spirits first, and the end result would be anyone's guess now.

At the same time, the Dragon's Scales Lineage, the Dragon's Bone Lineage, and the Dragon's Horn Lineage were shocked to see the distress signal in the air too. The foes they were facing were surprised by it as well.

The four other groups were overwhelming the enemies completely, so why was one group surrendering and asking for help?!

What were they supposed to do now?

As they pondered over this, another flare shot up into the air from the center district. This was a signal from their leader, Zhao Yan.

It was a signal that told the other teams from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao to each send some men over to help out the distressed team in the east. This would ensure that their combat capabilities were not weakened too much.

However, this would also provide a chance for the teams from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li to catch their breath.

But there was little they could do about it. After all, they could not ignore Zhao Fengxu, Zhao Shenjiang, and their team. Zhao Shenjiang was the highly valued leader of the current generation. If they ignored it and things got out of hand, they would be severely punished upon their return.

As such, the three teams each sent two people over to their aid. Without any hesitation, these people flew towards the distress signal at their fastest speed.

Back at the center district, Zhao Yan looked over to Tian Miao from the Devil Fire Hall and told him, "Brother Tian, I'll leave this place to you for now. You just need to keep watch over the Dragon's Blood Lineage here. Once I've dealt with matters over there, I'll return immediately. We'll finish them off together!"

Tian Miao could only nod helplessly. "I can help you hold them back for a while. However, I'll not be able to handle Li Wuyuan once they finish clearing up the Guardian Spirits."

"Don't worry, I'll be back before then," Zhao Yan replied with a cold voice. His resonant power surged and he flew into the sky, rushing towards where the distress signal had come from.

At this moment, numerous figures were soaring towards the east.

The situation had changed completely.

The root cause of this was Li Luo. He stood over the valley and enjoyed the view as Zhao Fengxu, Zhao Shenjiang, and his team struggled pathetically against the waves of Guardian Spirits.

"Li Luo, they've sent out a distress call. Assistance from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao will arrive shortly. Should we strike at them now?" Li Fuling asked.

Li Luo simply shook his head and replied, "If we attack now, the Guardian Spirits will come after us too."

"When their help arrives, these Guardian Spirits won't be able to handle them," Li Fuling said with a frown.

Hearing this, a radiant smile appeared on Li Luo's handsome face.

"There's no need to hurry. Wait for their help to arrive first."

He glanced around the valley as he said this. There were still some flame catalysts that he had yet to trigger. He had kept them around specifically to deal with the reinforcements.

The wait did not last long. Soon, beams of light descended from the edge of the sky towards them, each with a terrifying murderous aura.

Amongst them, the resonant power from their leader was so domineering that Li Fuling's face changed completely.

"It's Zhao Yan. He's an eight-pearl!" Li Fuling reminded them immediately.

In fact, Zhao Yan's vicious voice had echoed loudly in the air before he even arrived here.

"Since all of you from the Dragon's Fang Lineage do not know your place, I'll bury all of you here today!"

Chapter 0957: Forced Retreat

On his way over, Zhao Yan had spotted Zhao Fengxu and the encirclement of Guardian Spirits. Similarly, he instantly understood why they had sent out the call for help.

The Guardian Spirits that were attacking them did pose a significant threat, and there were also the people from the Dragon's Fang Lineage closely watching them like tigers eyeing their prey, waiting for the right opportunity.

However, the people from the Dragon's Fang Lineage did not dare to enter the valley. Doing so would make the Guardian Spirits target them, and the pressure on the group from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao would be reduced as a result.

Still... Zhao Fengxu and the rest were supposed to combine their efforts with the Guardian Spirits to pressure the Dragon's Fang Lineage. How was it that they were the ones trapped instead? Could it be that the people from the Dragon's Fang Lineage had not gathered any Spirit Resonance Golden Dew to begin with? That they had been waiting there in ambush all along?

"Elder Brother Yan, are we going to rescue them?" someone beside Zhao Yan asked.

Zhao Yan sighed deeply and then sternly shook his head. "Let's wait for a while longer. I feel like things are a little strange. The situation should not have resulted in the Guardian Spirits encircling Zhao Fengxu's group."

After which, he coldly glared at Li Luo's group, who were standing atop one side of the valley. "I'll give you one chance. Leave the valley and surrender all your Spirit Resonance Golden Dew. Then I'll let you go." The ones around him were shocked that Zhao Yan had chosen to take a step back in this situation.

Li Luo was similarly surprised. With the way Zhao Yan had barged onto the scene with that murderous aura and statement, why had he suddenly changed tack and only requested for the Spirit Resonance Golden Dew to be surrendered? Had he discovered something?

"Well, if you let the other four lineages off, we will go." Li Luo smiled after thinking about things.

Zhao Yan emotionlessly stared at him. "I chose to give you face, but it seems you want it. Do you really think I won't deal with you?"

"Why don't you give it a try, then?" Just as Li Luo's voice sounded out, he could feel a sense of impending danger that made his skin begin to prickle. With a thought, the resonant power within him burst out and the Dragon Sigil on his forehead burst out with blinding light.

At that very moment, a dark-green shuttle appeared before Li Luo, and it seemed to be fused with the wind. On its tip was a sharp light.

Killing intent exploded from it.

The shuttle flashed by with almost imperceptible speed, directly swiping at Li Luo's throat.

However, a sword appeared from behind Li Luo's back at this moment, surged with monstrous amounts of resonant power that tore through the air and moved with great agility before colliding directly with the shuttle.

Bang!

Large amounts of resonant power radiated in every direction. It was as though a bomb had gone off, forcing everyone else to retreat.

Li Luo took two steps back, but his gaze was tightly fixated upon the point of collision. The green shuttle had been blocked by the sword, then it gradually vanished into thin air.

After which, it reappeared by Zhao Yan's side. It started whizzing around his body, causing ear-piercing sounds of wind to break out as it whistled past.

Zhao Yan's assassination attempt had been foiled, and a look of shock surfaced in his eyes. He then looked behind Li Luo and saw a gorgeous young lady beside him. Her hand was grasping a longsword, and her jade-like face had a slight smile on it. Her clear eyes seemed to contain a hint of demureness, whilst the slightly raised corners of her eyes gave her a mysterious but alluring aura.

"What a despicable person. Striking covertly in the middle of a conversation." She grinned as she locked eyes with Zhao Yan.

"Who are you? I've never heard of someone like you in the Five Guardian Armies." Zhao Yan had an overcast expression on his face as he spoke. The young lady before him seemed to be no weaker than Li Wuyuan. However, Li Wuyuan was the previous generation's Dragon's Head, so how could it be that this unknown lady was comparable to him?

As a close nemesis of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li, he naturally possessed a lot of understanding of the inner workings of the Heavenly Dragon's Five Guardian Armies, yet he knew nothing about this lady.

When Li Lingjing heard those words, she sullenly replied, "I'm just an incapable and weak young lady who was unable to enter the Five Guardian Armies."

Zhao Yan snorted. Someone who could defend against his move was a weak young lady?

Li Luo similarly smiled. "Thank you, Cousin Lingjing."

Zhao Yan's sudden aggression was beyond his expectations. Even though he had noticed traces of the wind shuttle, he might be in a terrible state right now without Li Lingjing's timely intervention.

"You are very courteous, Cousin." Li Lingjing laughed before she turned her gaze back towards Zhao Yan. "This man is crafty and devious, you best be careful."

Li Luo nodded as he glanced at Zhao Yan. "It looks like you're not in a rush to save your companions."

Zhao Yan indifferently replied, "They can still hold on for a bit more. Dealing with you before rescuing them will lead to the same outcome. We are in an advantageous position, so all we have to do is hold on. Once the other lineages are unable to fend us off, they will retreat and our advantage will further snowball till you give up. Conversely, if you were smarter, you would know that retreating now is the best course of action."

Li Luo shook his head. "I have a feeling they can't hold on any longer." When he finished that sentence, he stretched out his hand and lightly beckoned in the air, causing the remaining flame catalysts to detonate.

He had originally wanted to do this after Zhao Yan entered the valley, but it seemed like the latter was still remaining on high alert, unwilling to descend. Since that was the case, he might as well give Zhao Shenjiang the massive banquet he so desired.

Bang!

Everyone was taken aback by the sudden swelling of worldly natural energy within the valley. Accompanying the condensation of countless drops of Spirit Resonance Golden Dew, numerous Guardian Spirits spawn out of thin air, directly rushing towards Zhao Shenjiang, Zhao Fengxu, and their companions.

Their group was barely holding on, so their faces turned green the moment they noticed what was happening.

"Li Luo, you bastard!" Zhao Jingyu screamed. He had already accumulated numerous injuries, and due to the significant numbers of Guardian Spirits, Zhao Shenjiang was unable to watch his back.

Li Luo beamed at him as he couldn't be bothered to reply. Instead, he turned his attention back towards the extremely despondent Zhao Yan. "How long do you think they can last?"

Zhao Yan coldly glared at Li Luo. "So it turns out you're the one who lured them into a trap through some unknown means and activated all of the hidden worldly natural energy in the area. This is why they were stuck and had to call for help."

"Well, if you don't rescue them, they are going to be grievously injured," Li Luo calmly explained. "If you take action, we will too. Thanks to the help of these Guardian Spirits, you'll also be stuck in a pincer attack."

Zhao Yan's gaze was now completely flooded with killing intent. If looks could kill, Li Luo would have been shredded to pieces.

This sight caused Li Luo to give a wry smile, and the Dragon Sigil on his forehead glowed. He had directly activated his Sanctified Dragon's Body and bolstered his body's defense.

"Don't even think of trying to sneak attack me again. My cousin isn't any weaker than you, and your lackeys might not be any stronger than my team." Li Luo pointed at Li Lingjing after setting up some defensive measures.

"Thus, the one who has to make a decision is you. Of course, you can also take a gamble and see if the other four lineages collapse first. However, will Zhao Shenjiang and the rest be able to hold on for that long?"

Li Luo's piercing words caused Zhao Yan's expression to turn malevolent. He realized that his side's situation had truly become a little precarious at this very moment.

Zhao Shenjiang and Zhao Fengxu were in imminent peril, and if he did not take action, the people in their group would either die or be seriously injured.

It was as Zhao Yan had just said to Li Wuyuan. The Spiritual Resonance Cave had just opened, and if they were to accumulate injuries so early on, their chances at later opportunities would dwindle.

Additionally, Zhao Shenjiang was someone who was being nurtured and seen as important to the bloodline. If he were to fall under his watch, Zhao Yan would receive unimaginable punishment.

However, taking action to save them would lead to the Dragon's Fang Lineage taking action, and their situation might not improve either.

If he had not discovered Li Lingjing's true power, Zhao Yan might very well have chosen to attack Li Luo directly to kill him. But that short exchange had demonstrated that Li Lingjing was at the eight-pearl tier, and he had no faith that he would be able to swiftly get rid of Li Luo in such a situation.

He was stuck at an impasse. They could not advance, nor retreat, nor fight...

Could it be that the only solution was to wait for one of the other lineages to crumble?

Looking at the desperate situation Zhao Fengxu and his group were in, Zhao Yan knew that they could not hold on for that long.

Zhao Yan felt so furious that his temples were throbbing. He simply could not understand how their advantageous position had ended up in such a disastrous state.

Was Li Luo the harbinger of disaster?

Zhao Yan took a deep breath and recomposed himself whilst icily staring at Li Luo. "What do you want?"

Li Luo coolly replied, "Give the command to retreat. Once the signal has been sent, the Dragon's Fang Lineage will take a step back and you can rescue your men. After that, you can do whatever you wish."

So long as the leader issued the signal to retreat, the other teams that were attacking the other lineages would obey obediently, even if they did not understand the reason for it. This would resolve the dangerous situation the five lineages were in and allow them to quickly deal with the Guardian Spirits. Without the two-pronged attack, they would not be afraid of a head-on clash with the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao, and blood would run across the fields. It would be anyone's guess who would end up in a worse situation.

"The other four lineages on your side are already at a disadvantage. Just what gives you the right to ask us to relinquish our advantage and retreat?" Zhao Yan furiously smiled.

"Then we'll just see who dies first. Either way, the Dragon's Fang Lineage is fine and I've done everything I could. No one would blame me if the worst case scenario came to be," Li Luo casually remarked.

The veins on Zhao Yan's temples were throbbing in fury. He was originally going to watch two tigers go at each other and then take advantage of their weakness to benefit from both parties. However, Li Luo had dumped a bucket of cold water over all his plans. Even if they could succeed in the end, they would have to pay a considerable price.

If this had happened near the conclusion of the Spiritual Resonance Cave and they had already obtained all the opportunities possible, Zhao Yan would very well have chosen to engage in a grand struggle against them. Alas, they hadn't even seen the shadow of these prized opportunities.

On the Dragon's Fang Lineage's side, Li Fuling, Li Fengyi, and the rest were closely observing the conflicted Zhao Yan. They couldn't help but glance at Li Luo momentarily as well. They had never expected such a turning of the tides to be orchestrated by Li Luo, and if they were able to assist the other lineages in escaping this problematic situation, Li Luo's influence would surely grow to be as strong as Li Wuyuan's.

Zhao Yan's internal struggles continued for only a short while before the sound of a pitiful cry punctuated the air. One of the members from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao had his arm severed, causing his fresh blood to spray in an eye-catching sight.

This cry finally broke the stalemate within Zhao Yan's heart. He sucked in a deep breath and, without any further hesitation, directly sent out a signal with his blood essence. A gigantic, blood-red painting that contained hundreds of beasts shot into the air and scattered in every direction.

Chapter 0958: Full of Hatred

When Zhao Yan released the signal to retreat, the other teams in the forest similarly noticed it. However, they couldn't help but wonder if their leader had gone absolutely insane in the head.

They were in an advantageous position and the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages were on the verge of collapse. Holding on just a while longer would force them to rout.

Yet right as they were on the precipice of victory, Zhao Yan had given the signal to retreat.

If not for the fact that Zhao Yan's family members were high-level elders of the bloodline, they would have suspected that he had been compromised. The leaders of each team were full of questions. The signal had come from the east, which was the direction the rescue team had gone towards.

Wasn't Zhao Yan reinforcing that group?

Had Zhao Yan also been trapped in the same situation? What was going on there? Was there a Duke present?!

Why else would Zhao Yan be forced to retreat despite their perceived advantage?

Based on their understanding of him, something major should have occurred. Something that he could not resolve easily. The numerous team leaders on the side of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao felt extremely complicated at this development. Should they comply with the order or continue to push their assault?

Still, they did not take long to come to a decision. If they retreated and something went wrong, it would be Zhao Yan's fault. On the other hand, if they did not retreat and the situation blew up, they would inevitably have to take responsibility.

It was easy to see which path they should take.

A few moments later, the team leaders gave the command to retreat, and the group turned tail in a flash.

This strange change left the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages in confusion.

On the Dragon's Scale Lineage's side, Li Guan was single-handedly holding off three five-pearl Guardian Spirits. He originally held the upper hand, but with the arrival of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao and their constant harassment, he had to split his attention. This left him in a sorry state.

He was still bitterly awaiting an opportunity to turn things around, but who would have expected that they would all turn tail just like that?

Although he didn't know what was going on, he took advantage of this opening. His resonant power burst out without restraint and he viciously attacked a Guardian Spirit.

"Duke Art: Golden Scaled Fist Strike!"

Worldly natural energy started rushing towards him and fusing with his resonant power. A giant, golden fist around a hundred feet wide manifested in the sky, and it was covered in a layer of golden dragon scales. This fist was like a gigantic dragon striking with all its force, capable of shattering mountains.

When the golden fist manifestation crashed into the first Guardian Spirit, its target immediately shattered into motes of light and the remaining two were sent flying, energy constantly dissipating from their bodies.

After dealing with one of the three Guardian Spirits, Li Guan felt the pressure on his end subside immensely.

The people of the Dragon's Scale Lineage similarly summoned up their strength and launched a vicious counterattack, dealing with a large number of Guardian Spirits.

Not too long after, the situation was under control and the group congregated.

"What happened in the east?" someone asked curiously. They clearly saw that the situation there had changed and the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao had been forced to step back.

"Isn't the east where the Dragon's Fang Lineage chose to go? Could someone from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao have been captured?" Lu Qingmei suggested as she tightly clutched her glazed rod and glanced in that direction.

Li Guan hesitated for a moment before saying, "Zhao Yan was sent to reinforce the east, and he is comparable to Li Wuyuan in terms of strength. Even though the Dragon's Fang Lineage has a Li Lingjing, it should only lead to a stalemate. How could they have forced Zhao Yan to release the signal to retreat?"

The only explanation behind Zhao Yan's decision was that their side had encountered colossal danger.

The rest glanced at each other, none of them able to come up with any plausible responses.

"Forget about it. Now that the Guardian Spirits have been dealt with, let's collect the Spirit Resonance Golden Dew and regroup with the rest," Li Guan commanded.

The rest assented as they quickly scattered to do so.

A similar sight occurred in the other directions of the forest as well.

On the other hand, the Devil Fire Hall were the ones who felt the most confused.

Tian Miao was leading the group suppressing the Dragon's Blood Lineage and attacking them from afar. The way he saw it, with Zhao Yan taking action, the Dragon's Fang Lineage would be quickly dealt with and they would be in a superior position.

However, he never expected that Zhao Yan would release the signal to retreat.

It was especially confusing when he saw the team from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao pause momentarily before choosing to leave. As a result, he couldn't contain himself as he shouted, "Wait! Wait!!! The Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li is about to collapse. If we don't deal with them now, our efforts will all be in vain when they eventually regroup!" Tian Miao's expression was steely green.

An individual from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao frowned. "Elder Brother Yan has given the signal. I'm sure he has a good reason for doing so, and he is also our leader. We naturally have to obey his orders. Tian Miao, we feel even more disgruntled than you are. However, we have no choice but to follow orders; otherwise, who can take responsibility if something goes wrong?"

After which, they ignored Tian Miao, who was clearly panicking, and quickly retreated out of the forest.

"Trash! You'll never be able to accomplish anything in your lives!" Tian Miao was trembling with anger. He had put himself at great risk by plotting against the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li, and his team would inevitably bear the brunt of their anger after they escaped this predicament.

At the same time, he understood that being angry wasn't a solution. With the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao's retreat, the Devil Fire Hall could not single-handedly restrict the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li's teams, so he had to grit his teeth and lead his men away.

The people from the Dragon's Blood Lineage watched their enemies scatter like frightened animals and fell into deep thought.

After which, their gazes turned towards the east as well.

What was going on?

"You still haven't left?" Atop the valley in the east, Zhao Yan's gloomy gaze surveyed the group from the Dragon's Fang Lineage.

He could already imagine the countless scoldings he would attract after releasing the signal to retreat. But there was no other option. Although the other areas were at an advantage, it was ultimately just a minor one. On the other hand, this location was already completely compromised.

The other four teams would not emerge victorious in a short amount of time. Meanwhile, Zhao Shenjiang and Zhao Fengxu were facing the very real risk of falling here.

If they had to blame someone, it would be Li Luo with his vicious summoning of countless Guardian Spirits.

Li Luo looked at Zhao Yan's malevolent eyes. Deep down, he knew that he might have just become the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao Yan's number one target.

The enmity formed today might end up being a little too much to bear.

Still, he could only sigh helplessly. If that was the case, then he might as well push things to the extreme.

At the same time, he pointed towards the Guardian Spirits who were chasing a miserable-looking Zhao Jingyu. "I like that Underworld Thunder Runic Arrow you bought at the Golden Dragon Bank yesterday. Give it to me."

Zhao Jingyu seethed in anger when he heard that greedy statement. "In your dreams!"

This bastard was clearly hitting him when he was down.

"Your refusal has forced us to stay here for a while longer. Your fellow teammates are getting more and more injured as time goes on. Just let it go, treasures are just objects. After all, don't you remember giving me those five dragon fangs in the past? You might have been unfamiliar with the practice of giving on your first time, but you're already accustomed to it. That's what's important," Li Luo stated.

Li Fuling and Li Fengyi shot Li Luo a strange look. They were completely taken aback by how shameless he was.

"Give it to me, Zhao Jingyu," Zhao Yan emotionlessly commanded.

Zhao Jingyu clenched his teeth and unwillingly removed the Underworld Thunder Runic Arrow from his pocket sphere before throwing it in Zhao Yan's direction.

Zhao Yan received the object, and after inspecting it briefly, he shot it towards Li Luo with a flick.

"Take it. I hope you'll keep that little life of yours safe. The Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao will definitely spare no effort in killing you before we leave the Spiritual Resonance Cave. Take care." Zhao Yan's icy voice was laced with bone-chilling murderous intent.

One could clearly see that he had been absolutely aggravated by Li Luo.

Li Luo received the Underworld Thunder Runic Arrow and, without any other words, turned to leave with unfurled energy wings.

The rest of the Dragon's Fang Lineage similarly left.

Only then did Zhao Yan and the rest proceed with a rescue.

Chapter 0959: Li Luo's Growing Influence

Somewhere far away from the valley.

Li Luo and the rest stopped, and he glanced towards the valley they had retreated from. Frightening surges of resonant power undulations were emanating from that location, causing the ground to tremble and shudder. Gigantic cracks were forming in every direction like giant pythons tunneling beneath the surface, leveling the forest.

Zhao Yan and the rest had taken out all the stops to rescue Zhao Shenjiang and Zhao Fengxu.

"Do we want to take this opportunity to ambush them?" The one who asked was Lu Ze, who was the previous generation's Gold Light Banner Leader. He could feel the tremors quaking through the ground, and a sinister gleam could be seen in his eyes.

Li Luo shook his head. "If we truly drive them into a corner, we will also pay a heavy price. We were only able to force Zhao Yan back a step because the time was right. If the Spiritual Resonance Cave was about to end, he would not have opted to rescue his teammates. Dealing a crippling blow to the Dragon's Blood Lineage would have been a far better choice."

Li Fuling and the rest nodded in agreement. They had been lucky to come out unscathed, and if they did try to harass Zhao Yan, he might really put his life on the line. If that happened, they would suffer as well.

"It looks like we have to thank you, Third Brother. Otherwise, all five lineages would have fallen into a trap. The combined efforts of the Guardian Spirits, the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao, and the Devil Fire Hall would have left us scrambling for our lives with significant injuries." Li Jingtao sighed.

This was something no one could deny. Even Li Fuling, who was the group's leader in name, let go of her formality, speaking to Li Luo pleasantly for once. "Cousin Li Luo has not only saved the Dragon's Fang Lineage, but the other four as well."

Li Luo didn't really care about the other four lineages, because he was ultimately just looking out for himself.

"More importantly, how much Spirit Resonance Golden Dew did we gather?" Li Luo asked the question everyone was most interested in knowing.

Li Fengyi piped up. "We received fifty-two droplets of Spirit Resonance Golden Dew. There was more than that, but some landed in the valley and we didn't dare to collect it."

The rest flashed excited smiles. This had far exceeded their expectations, as they had only expected perhaps twenty droplets in the beginning. Li Luo nodded. Fifty-two wasn't considered little, but it was far from what they needed. There were over ten individuals from the Dragon's Fang Lineage, and if they wanted at least half of them to be able to ascend the Golden Dew Platform, they would need over two hundred droplets.

However, he was not in a rush. The Spiritual Resonance Cave had just opened, so there was plenty of time to obtain more.

"Give the signal to inform the rest of the four lineages to gather here. Enemies are still around, so scattering will leave us susceptible to being chased down," Li Luo informed Li Fuling.

After defusing the previous situation, Li Luo's standing within the squad had soared, and even Li Fuling started to take his opinions more seriously. Thus, she immediately released the signal with her blood essence to inform the rest to gather.

The manifestation of a dragon soared into the skies with life-like vigor, a sight which could be seen hundreds of miles around.

Ten minutes later, sonic booms could be heard as ten over figures with dragon wings descended before Li Luo.

Li Luo swept his gaze over them, and his eyes eventually landed on Lu Qingmei. It seemed that the first group to arrive was the Dragon's Scale Lineage.

"Fuling, what happened on your end?" the leader of the Dragon's Scale Lineage's squad, Li Guan, asked the very moment he arrived as though he could not hold in his curiosity any longer.

The rest from the Dragon's Scale Lineage were all similarly shocked.

"Is Lady Lingjing the reason for this?" Li Guan turned towards her. She was the most mysterious individual, and her true strength was unknown. If it was because of her, things would make sense.

Li Lingjing gave a shallow smile. "Although I wish to claim credit for this, it largely has nothing to do with me. The one who contributed the most is my handsome cousin Li Luo."

These words caused everyone's looks to shift towards Li Luo in complete disbelief. He was the one who had forced the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao and the Devil Fire Hall to retreat? How could that be possible?

Li Fuling then proceeded to briefly explain the situation.

This caused the people from the Dragon's Scale Lineage to fall into momentary silence as they processed the surprise within them.

"There's no need to be too surprised over this. I was simply lucky. The first group sent by the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao was coincidentally surrounded by Guardian Spirits, then Zhao Yan rushed over to help. In the end, he realized that the Guardian Spirits were too strong, and he was concerned we might launch a pincer attack on them. Therefore, he opted to retreat." Li Luo grinned.

Li Luo's words were simple and they glossed over the details. However, the Dragon's Scale Lineage were not fools and did not fully believe him either. What did he mean by coincidentally encircled by the Guardian Spirits? And then the Guardian Spirits happened to turn out to be too strong? Someone must have manipulated things behind this series of lucky encounters.

Lu Qingmei's gaze then turned towards the valley, where the energy undulations seemed to have died down. They then saw several figures ascend into the skies.

The one in the lead was Zhao Yan, but astonishment arose within Li Guan and the rest's hearts. There were countless individuals behind Zhao Yan who were riddled with eye-catching injuries. Some even had broken limbs, and they looked extremely pitiful.

"Such serious wounds? How many Guardian Spirits did they face off against?" The Dragon's Scale Lineage's people were scratching their heads. They finally had an idea about how mighty the supposedly "stronger" Guardian Spirits were.

Zhao Yan gloomily glared in their direction with immense amounts of killing intent. Unsurprisingly, most of it was focused upon Li Luo, and it could be seen that he detested him.

However, Zhao Yan noticed that another lineage had arrived, and his expression darkened even further. He had wanted to see if there was an opportunity to deal with Li Luo right away, but the quick arrival of his allies caused him to rethink. The rest of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao had already left the forest anyway.

"Go!" Zhao Yan spat out a single word as he fiercely turned, his resonant power surging into the air.

Zhao Jingyu's eyes were red as he sinisterly eyed Li Luo like a wolf, almost desperate to find a way to deal with him to vent the bitterness in his heart. He had unwillingly offered Li Luo five dragon fangs on a silver platter during their first encounter. After their second meeting, the Underworld Thunder Runic Arrow he had barely bought a day ago was now sitting in Li Luo's pocket as well.

Even his respected father was not as generous as he was! "Let's go. Now that it's with him, we will find a way to pry it from his dead corpse in future." Zhao Shenjiang did not look at Li Luo, merely reminding Zhao Jingyu with a single sentence before leaving and following Zhao Yan. His actions seemed nonchalant, but those who were well-acquainted with Zhao Shenjiang knew that he hated Li Luo to the core as well.

Thus, Zhao Jingyu took a deep breath and calmed himself before quickly tailing behind the leaving team.

Not long after the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao's team had left, the remaining three lineages appeared from the depths of the forest, gathering where Li Luo had previously signaled from.

"Where is Zhao Yan?" Li Wuyuan uttered with the desire to kill.

Li Luo pointed in the direction they had gone towards. "They've left already. It's too late to chase them."

The corner of Li Wuyuan's lips twitched as he looked towards Li Lingjing. As he was about to speak, she sighed lightly. "Don't ask any. It had nothing to do with me. The reason why you were able to escape your predicament was mainly due to Li Luo."

Li Fengyi then explained what had happened, repeating the sequence of events before intentionally looking at Li Hongli. "If not for Li Luo, the Dragon's Blood Lineage might have been injured, perhaps even finished."

This caused Li Hongli's expression to turn white. She wanted to retort, but she realized that it was truly possible that the story she had just been told was true. Additionally, she wasn't particularly outstanding when it came to her personal strength, so if something had happened, she might not have been able to protect herself adequately.

Thus, she swallowed down the words in her mouth and quietly stood by.

The rest similarly fell silent. No one could deny Li Luo's contribution—they wouldn't have been able to turn the tides without his brazen actions. Otherwise, they might have been forced to pay a significant price to escape.

In the end, the people of the Dragon's Horn Lineage and the Dragon's Bone Lineage turned towards Li Luo and respectfully cupped their hands. On the Dragon's Blood Lineage's side, Li Wuyuan sucked in a deep breath before saying, "Dragon's Head Li Luo, you are extraordinary. The Dragon's Blood Lineage is truly thankful to you for salvaging such a hopeless situation."

Li Fuling coldly snorted at this point. "The Dragon's Fang Lineage would never take advantage nor plot against our own." Anger could be sensed in her statement. This was clearly directed at the Dragon's Blood Lineage and how they had used their ward to transfer some of the Guardian Spirits to other districts, secretly borrowing the aid of the other lineages to reduce the pressure on their end.

When faced with Li Fuling's words, Li Wuyuan's expression turned a little overcast, but he could only shamelessly reply, "This is something I'm not aware of. Perhaps it was the ward malfunctioning. No one informed us about this when we were told of this area."

Li Wuyuan would never dare to admit the truth before the other lineages. Additionally, the number of Guardian Spirits that were transferred to the other lineages was not as overt as that of the Dragon's Fang Lineage.

The other three lineages similarly glanced at Li Wuyuan briefly but did not say anything. They had similarly sensed that the ward could transfer Guardian Spirits from one district to another, but as the numbers sent their way was not as significant, they would not speak out against the Dragon's Blood Lineage so openly.

The only thing was that a hint of distrust had been seeded within their hearts, unknowingly lowering the prestige and image Li Wuyuan had built up. If he ever wished to rally the other three lineages for assistance, it would not be as easy to do so as before.

Still, Li Wuyuan had no other choice. If things had gone smoothly, the other lineages would have tolerated his actions since they had benefited off him. But things had ended up this way...

Thus, Li Wuyuan could only bite the bullet, ignoring the slightly judgmental gazes of the other three lineages.

Li Luo gave a slight smile, but he did not comment any further. "Now that everyone has gathered, we can leave. This way, we can prevent the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao and the Devil Fire Hall from regrouping and causing trouble for us."

The other lineages agreed. With a tiger like the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao eyeing them, they would temporarily choose to band together.

"Let's go." Li Luo unfurled his energy wings and left the forest.

Behind him, the other squads from the other lineages immediately followed suit. The only difference was that the people from the Dragon's Blood Lineage felt a little uncomfortable as they were used to being in the lead.

Li Wuyuan's expression changed upon this sight. However, he could only sigh and follow the group as well.

Chapter 0960: Pairs

When the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li left the forest, they did not encounter a single individual from the rival Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao. It seemed as though Zhao Yan did not wish to engage in a decisive battle at this point in time.

The two parties did not differ too much in strength, and if push came to shove, achieving victory would not be a simple matter. The most likely scenario would be that both sides would end up heavily injured and retreating to lick their wounds.

If enemies were plotting in the shadows, both parties might very well depart the Spiritual Resonance Cave prematurely.

Thus, despite the fact that Zhao Yan was absolutely incensed and hated Li Luo, wishing to tear him into thousands of pieces, he had to retreat.

Meanwhile, the Devil Fire Hall had received news of Zhao Yan retreating much earlier, so Tian Miao naturally did the same as well. However, he berated Zhao Yan deep in his heart.

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Despite not seeing any traces of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao, the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages continued to maintain a single body as they retreated, in order to ensure that they would be guarded from any retaliatory measures by them.

The entire squad began to head in the direction of the Golden Dew Platform and the deeper regions of the Spiritual Resonance Cave.

This situation persisted for half a day before the leaders of the respective lineages gathered again to determine the next course of action.

"Everyone, now that we have reached this point, I believe it is time we split up." The one who spoke first was none other than Li Wuyuan. His expression was slightly helpless. The group had encountered droplets of Spirit Resonance Golden Dew, but what they had received was far too lacking when compared to what was gathered in the forest.

Only a few droplets would be found during each encounter, and with almost a hundred individuals gathered together, such a pitiful trickle was insufficient for everyone's needs. In fact, it would only lead to strife as people bickered over the distribution. At the end of the day, it would also affect the overall efficiency of distribution and it only cause frustration.

"The Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao has left, and it's unlikely they are still chasing us. Thus, we should change the way we move." Li Luo agreed. Based on past experience, it made more sense to split into groups of two to scour for Spirit Resonance Golden Dew. This way, when the Golden Dew Platforms opened up, there would be a larger number of individuals who could reap the benefits.

The other leaders nodded in agreement as well.

"Since that's the case, let us divide ourselves into new groups and scatter from here. When the Golden Dew Platform is ready, we can gather," Li Wuyuan continued. Everyone nodded, and Li Luo and Li Fuling returned to the Dragon's Fang Lineage's squad.

Li Luo explained the situation to the rest. "We are going to scatter, and the most effective way to do so will be in pairs, with one stronger and one weaker. This way, everyone can be taken care of." This meant that an individual of a higher Heavenly Pearl Tier would be matched with someone with weaker combat strength. Only by doing this could each group possess significant might and successfully obtain more dew.

"I'll group up with you, Cousin Li Luo, since my role is to protect you." Li Lingjing immediately spoke up before she glanced at Li Fuling with a smile.

"Fuling, I don't believe you'll fight me for this chance, will you?"

Li Fuling pouted. "It's not like he's some sort of amazing steamed bun. What is there to fight over? I'll group up with Fengyi."

The rest similarly formed their own pairs, which, to a certain extent, were already decided beforehand. Deng Fengxian and Lu Ze were one pair, and Li Jingtao was paired with the previous generation's Violet Spirit Banner Leader.

After this was complete, Li Luo smiled. "Since this is the case, I'll congratulate everyone in advance for successfully obtaining ample amounts of Spirit Resonance Golden Dew. Let us butt heads again at the Golden Dew Platform."

"Take care, Little Brother," Li Fengyi teased.

Li Luo grinned and nodded. "If you encounter danger, don't forget to release the Dragon's Fang Lineage's signal for help. If I'm nearby, I will definitely come to your assistance."

"You too. Now that the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao hates you to the bone, they will definitely take revenge if the opportunity surfaces," Li Jingtao reminded.

Li Luo nodded.

After the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages had completed their own arrangements, they said their goodbyes and the pairs scattered.

Li Luo and Li Lingjing similarly picked a direction, and he activated his energy wings whilst she surrounded her body with dense amounts of resonant power. The duo then soared away steadily.

They passed through mountains and rivers before discovering places with dense amounts of worldly natural energy which they would then descend to and investigate.

Generally, it would be Li Luo doing the searching as Li Lingjing leisurely followed behind. She even picked up a small branch and twirled it around for fun, rolling up a leaf into a whistle and creating a pleasant melody.

It was an indescribably leisurely and elegant sight.

They occasionally encountered Guardian Spirits, and Li Luo was the one who almost always took action. Whenever she watched from the side, she would beam happily whilst cheering him on.

They also came across groups of rogue cultivators who were similar to jackals, greedy and vicious. These cultivators were mostly above the Fiend Body Tier, and some even had multiple Heavenly Pearls. Li Luo might have had a hard time escaping their clutches if he were alone. They didn't care about his background, and if they did take action to rob and plunder, no one would know.

The bright side was that Li Luo had Li Lingjing as a reliable guardian. With strength at the eight-pearl tier, none of the rogue cultivators dared to even set their sights upon them.

Two days passed quietly this way, with a tacit understanding between them.

They had obtained eight droplets of Spirit Resonance Golden Dew. Combined with the dew they had obtained in the valley, each of them had fifteen droplets to their name, which was halfway to the required amount.

However, no one would resent having more droplets. Even though thirty droplets were needed to activate the Golden Dew Platform, the extra amounts could be used to temper one's resonance. It could be considered a type of spirit liquid and purifying light that was created by the world around them.

If this liquid were placed in the outside world, it would undoubtedly attract endless demand. It was thus a pity that the Spirit Resonance Golden Dew would dissipate shortly after it was taken out of the Spiritual Resonance Cave.

However, Li Luo and Li Lingjing were not in a rush. There was still plenty of time, so obtaining thirty droplets should not be a problem.

A small fire was lit in a vast field, sending smoke wafting into the sky.

Li Luo took out some meat that he had prepared beforehand from his pocket sphere and roasted it above the fire. The golden-yellow fat glistened as it dripped off the bone, resulting in an unbelievable fragrance that permeated through the area.

Li Lingjing was sitting beside the fire, focused on the meat with a look of anticipation.

As the meat slowly reached the ideal temperature, Li Luo flashed Li Lingjing a smile. "You seem a lot more carefree these days."

She took a light whiff of the delicious aroma before she replied, "Well, there's no one else around. Of course I can feel more relaxed."

"Do you dislike interacting with others, Cousin Lingjing?" Li Luo asked after a short pause.

Her eyes seemed to droop at this point. "Perhaps it's mental trauma after all these years."

Hearing this, Li Luo picked up a perfectly grilled piece of meat and handed it to her before he said with a soft voice, "You don't need to worry any longer. The nightmare has passed, and with your talent, we will become the Dragon's Fang Lineage's dual geniuses. Becoming a Duke or even a King is just a matter of time!"

Li Lingjing covered her mouth coyly as she gently bit into the piece of meat. Her red lips seemed even more delicate when smudged with a hint of oil, and her gaze seemed to be filled with happiness. "You speak such honeyed words, Cousin. Before we separated, Cousin Fengyi reminded me to protect you properly. Your enemies are not few—on top of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao, there's also the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Qing's renowned Fairy of Water. So you can relax—I'll still do my best to ensure your safety even if you don't say such nice things."

She then gave a strange smile. "Of course, the Fairy of Water is an exceptional lady, so I can leave her to you if you don't want me to interfere."

Li Luo rolled his eyes as he scarfed down the remaining pieces of meat before starting to cultivate.

Li Lingjing, on the other hand, continued to sit by the fire, tending to the flame with a stick. Then she paused all of a sudden, and a frown crept up on her face. At the same time, she looked towards the darkness in the distance.

There was a strange feeling tugging at her ever since she entered the Spiritual Resonance Cave, as though she was being watched.

The feeling was eerie and cold. It even seemed a little familiar.

Her eyes shrunk, and a frightening look surfaced from the depths of her eyes. Her slender fingers slowly ground the wooden stick into dust.

As the fire crackled lightly, she whispered almost indiscernibly, "Don't force me..."