

Resonance 981

Chapter 0981: Activating the Lantern Bearer

Li Luo stared at the lantern bearer in front of him. He remained quiet as he continued his slow stroll along the destroyed hallway, appearing illusory from time to time. The same old lantern was swaying from side to side in his hand, its flame appearing to have been extinguished since time immemorial.

Li Luo took a deep breath and did not hesitate any longer. Ignoring the warning signs from his body, he carefully approached the lantern bearer.

In a few moments, he was standing right beside him.

From such a close distance, he could see that the lantern bearer's face was kind of blurry. However, his size and posture indicated that he stood tall and stalwart.

Li Luo grit his teeth and reached out with his hand, trying to give the lantern bearer a light tap.

To his surprise, his hands went straight through him. Nonetheless, he had no reaction to Li Luo's sudden action. He simply continued with his slow walk.

Li Luo pulled his hand back. It seemed like ordinary methods would not suffice if he wanted to awaken the lantern bearer...

After putting some more thought into it, his gaze turned towards the old, bronze lantern. "The flame has died out... The flame has died out..." the same phrase continued to echo faintly from the lantern bearer, as if these words had come from a far more ancient time.

"Don't worry, brother. Little brother here will help you light the flame. I only hope that you'll show some other reaction afterwards..."

After saying this, Li Luo placed both of his hands together as if he was doing a prayer. He then stretched out his arm and activated the Acquired Resonance Godly Forging Art. In the blink of an eye, a transparent ball of Acquired Resonance Flame hovered above his palm.

He was not sure if his eyes were playing tricks on him, but for a moment, the illusory lantern bearer seemed to have finally reacted when his Acquired Resonance Flame appeared.

"Is it working?!"

Li Luo felt his spirits lift. With a flick of his fingers, the Acquired Resonance Flame flew through the air, aimed right at the bronze lantern.

He did not even dare to blink as he watched the flame's flight carefully.

What happened next was shocking. The acquired resonance flame reached the inside of the bronze lantern, but it did not fly past it like every other object. Instead, it hovered inside the lantern for a moment. Li Luo's heart was beating rapidly as he watched the situation unfold.

Pop!

The wick inside the lantern ignited!

A ball of flame faintly rose into sight in the ancient, bronze lantern.

In the same moment, the lantern bearer finally stopped his endless walk.

Li Luo excitedly looked at the lantern bearer. There finally seemed to be a faint sign of life within his empty eyes. However, it was still a mere glimmer.

Nonetheless, this was much better than the illusory state that he was in previously.

In fact, Li Luo could feel that the lantern bearer had begun to turn his confused eyes towards him in an extremely slow manner.

"...who's... that..."

"Cultivated... acquired resonance flame... but... did not merge... with resonance..."

"F... foolish..."

Li Luo was dumbfounded, but the words gradually entered his mind.

"Who cultivated the Acquired Resonance Flame but did not merge it with their resonance. Foolish?"

Li Luo's face turned black. "This elder must have been a really strict teacher back in the Sacred Void Resonance Sect. Despite how weak and faint he sounded, the first words out of his mouth are calling me a fool?"

"Nonetheless, what did he mean by merging it with my resonance? No one taught me anything about it at all!"

Li Luo felt aggrieved by these words, but he knew that there was something more important now. He carefully said, "Elder, an Other has snuck into the Sacred Void Resonance Sect. Please help us out and eliminate this devil!"

As soon as he finished speaking, he noticed the illusory figure of the lantern bearer showing violent fluctuations. This time, anger appeared to surface within those dead and blank eyes.

"Other? Other! How dare it sneak into the Sacred Void Resonance Sect! It deserves to die!"

His words and voice had chained together and became coherent this time.

Li Luo was really pleased as he replied, "Yes, it deserves to die. Please help us out quickly, Elder!"

"Kill it! Kill it!" The voice of the lantern bearer echoed.

However, Li Luo's face changed quickly after a few seconds. He realized the lantern bearer was repeatedly chanting for it to be killed, but there was no further action...

"Elder, what's the use of shouting? Please act now!" Li Luo could not help but shout in response.

The lantern bearer turned silent for a moment before he replied, "I am just a remnant of memories from years ago. What can I do?"

Hearing this, Li Luo felt like he was about to vomit blood! This was completely different from how he had imagined it to turn out.

At this point, the lantern bearer continued slowly, "I may not be able to act directly. However, I can still borrow your hands to slay this devil."

Li Luo was taken aback after hearing such big words from the elder. However, he immediately answered, "As long as I can get rid of the devil, I am more than willing to help out as a disciple of the Sacred Void Resonance Sect!"

The lantern bearer nodded slightly. In the next moment, the flame in his bronze lantern burned more brightly before it condensed into a golden flame talisman.

The flame talisman rose into the air and hovered in front of Li Luo.

"This is the Golden Holy Fire Talisman. You can use this to help you get rid of the devil. However, you will also suffer burns when it's used. If you can endure through this ordeal, you may perhaps earn some unexpected rewards."

Li Luo's heart wavered when he heard the lantern bearer's words. He looked at the flame talisman in front of him, and he could feel terrifying undulations it faintly emitted.

He carefully reached out to it. At the same time, he noticed that the flame in the lantern had died out once again after being used to create the fire talisman. The lantern bearer's body was also beginning to fade, as if he was about to disappear.

Li Luo quickly took the chance to ask him another question. "Elder, what did you mean by merging it with resonance earlier?"

The lantern bearer replied in a deep voice, "You fool. Didn't you pay attention during our daily training? I've never seen such a foolish disciple." Li Luo was stunned by his blunt scolding.

Nonetheless, the lantern bearer explained to him in the end. "Go towards the Golden Dew Platform and complete the ritual. You'll be able to merge it with your resonance."

"Golden Dew Platform?"

Li Luo's eyes move slightly. He was about to say more, but the lantern bearer was about to disappear completely. As such, he took the chance to ask one last question. "Sorry, but how should I address you, Elder?"

All of a sudden, the blank eyes of the lantern bearer reacted violently again. It seemed like he had regained consciousness completely for a moment as he stared back at Li Luo. He seemed to have seen right through him.

In the next moment, Li Luo saw a surprising scene. The lantern bearer vanished completely, but the bronze lantern remained, falling onto the ground.

He then heard a soft echo that seemed to have come from a time long past.

"I am known as the Sixth Son of Void Resonance, Wang Taixi."

"The Sixth Son of Void Resonance, Wang Taixi?" Li Luo whispered to himself as the image of the lantern bearer's gaze surfaced in his mind once again. He frowned for a moment, unable to understand the

lantern bearer's reaction in that last moment. However, he could not come to any conclusion. Li Luo took a look at the bronze lantern on the ground and hesitated for a moment before he carefully reached out and picked it up. Using some resonant power, he tried to activate it, but there was absolutely no reaction from it. It seemed to have become a piece of useless junk. Li Luo stored it in his pocket sphere though, never wasting anything. He then looked down at the Gold Light Fire Talisman, and his eyes lit up. With this in hand, his trip here had not been wasted.

Li Luo turned around and dashed back towards the depths of the thick mist once again.

“Cousin Lingjing, please wait for me!”

Chapter 0982: Rescue

Ear-piercing laughter echoed throughout the main hall. The giant hand of the Soul Eater True Devil stretched out as the mouth on the palm continued to chew, letting out harsh grating sounds accompanied by the dripping of fresh blood.

The next moment, the mouth in the palm unlatched and spat out three white pearls. These pearls were bleached white and seemed to have been formed from the bones of the consumed bodies. On top of that, they were covered in a layer of smelly blood.

And each pearl was decorated with a constantly swiveling eyeball that was wrapped in blood-red threads, forming a nauseating sight.

When the three bone pearls appeared, they shot forward like rays of light, directly rushing at Li Lingjing, Qin Ying, and Zhu Zhu.

The expressions of the three changed when they saw the projectiles barreling towards them. They could sense terrifying undulations the pearls emitted.

Qin Ying shouted loudly, and a suit of scarlet body armor appeared on his body. It contained scarlet runes in the shape of a turtle, and a single violet eye mark was on the top of the shell.

This was the Scarlet Turtle Carapace, a violet-eye treasured artifact. When faced with the Soul Eater True Devil's frightening attacks, Qin Ying could not hold back anything in reserve, taking out his defensive artifacts.

Zhu Zhu formed hand seals with both hands, and a dark-green pearl of light materialized from her head, slowly rising into the sky and forming a dark-green barrier that enveloped her.

Li Lingjing did not have any protective violet-eye treasured artifacts, but the Aquamarine Bamboo Python Staff was sufficient. The best defense was a strong offense after all.

With a thought, the gigantic Abyssal Serpent manifestation behind her transformed into a ray of black light that entered the Aquamarine Bamboo Python Staff.

She then released the staff, and it began to float in the air, emitting resplendent, azure light.

A moment later, the Aquamarine Bamboo Python Staff disappeared, transforming into a gigantic, aquamarine python that let out an ear-rending screech. It shifted its body, directly covering Li Lingjing in its protective embrace.

Seeing that the three mightiest fighters on their side were taking defensive measures, the remaining five and six-pearls started to escape with expressions of fear.

The three bleached, bone-white pearls pierced through the void before detonating on impact.

Pasty, white light radiated in every direction coupled with endless gusts of chilly winds. This was accompanied by endless shrill screams that caused a tingling sensation in the heads of everyone in earshot. The whole sequence caused the negative emotions within their hearts to well up and overwhelm them.

As the white energy swept past, it submerged everything in its path.

Li Lingjing, Qin Ying, and Zhu Zhu were struck directly, and their defenses gradually shattered and collapsed. In the end, all three were sent flying, heavily colliding into the ruined buildings below.

If the best amongst them were left in such dire straits, the rest understandably suffered even more. Those who had been struck directly by the pasty white light, even the ones at the five-pearl tier, had all of the blood within them sucked dry, leaving them as bare skeletons that fell from the skies and shattered into bone fragments.

When the cultivators who were fighting the corrupted saw this scene, their faces filled with utter shock and terror welled up in their eyes.

Even Qin Yi, who had been calm all this while, began to frown deeply.

"It's over!" Zhu Dayu's entire body was trembling as he grimaced.

He then rushed in the direction where Zhu Zhu had fallen and began to dig her out of the debris. After which, a hand that was covered with fresh blood stretched out before a robust body busted out from beneath.

It was naturally Zhu Zhu, but she was drenched in blood. Most of the flesh and blood on her arms had melted away, leaving just the bone.

She collapsed on the ground, constantly gasping for air as blood dripped from the corner of her mouth.

However, she immediately took out several large pieces of meat from her pocket sphere and ravenously wolfed them down.

With the ingestion of copious amounts of food, her flesh and blood started to squirm and the injured locations began to heal and repair at a speed visible to the naked eye.

"Dayu, things are going to get quite serious today. If the situation takes a turn for the worse, you have to find a way to escape by yourself," Zhu Zhu stated as she continued to shove food down her throat, never breaking eye contact with the worried Zhu Dayu.

Zhu Dayu gave a bitter smile as he consoled her, "Sister Zhu, you don't have to be so down. Li Luo has gone in search of the lantern bearer, and he might find a way to break the stalemate."

"Li Luo? That Fiend Finisher brat?" Zhu Zhu glanced at him. "I've always thought he was bright. Perhaps instead of finding a solution to deal with the Other, he has taken the opportunity to run away."

Zhu Dayu scratched his head. "Li Luo seems quite loyal and shouldn't have escaped..."

"Who knows." Zhu Zhu clearly was not planning to pin her hopes on an outsider. She and some of the most powerful cultivators in the cave were unable to hold on much longer. Even though Li Luo was the Dragon's Head, his assistance didn't count for much.

Not far away, another figure crawled out of the debris—Qin Ying. However, the entire Scarlet Turtle Carapace had shattered into half, leaving his face bloodstained.

Qin Yi immediately rushed over and formed a few hand seals.

"Duke Art: Coming of Spring Rain."

With a wave of her hand, rain that possessed strong restorative effects was formed, the droplets landing upon Qin Ying's body and quickly healing all of his injuries.

Qin Ying's pale demeanor improved immediately, but he was still gasping heavily, giving Qin Yi an agonized smile.

"Cousin Qin Yi, you might need to prepare for the worst," Qin Ying said heavily.

Qin Yi fell silent as she naturally understood what he was referring to. She had to plan her own escape from here.

Her beautiful gaze turned towards the depths of the mist, landing on the location where she last saw Li Luo. He had been gone for a while and there had been no response. She didn't know if he had actually managed to awaken the lantern bearer.

Or perhaps... he had already escaped?

This possibility flashed through her mind as her gaze turned towards another location full of debris. A beautiful figure was currently walking out slowly with an azure staff in hand.

It was Li Lingjing.

Qin Yi swept her gaze past Li Lingjing and realized that she was the least injured amongst the three. There were no signs of her flesh and blood having been eroded, and only her clothes were a little tattered, leaving her white thighs exposed.

However, she had a haggard and pale expression as well, showing that she had also suffered quite the blow.

Qin Yi's eyes flickered with her thoughts. Li Lingjing had always given her a strange and mysterious feeling. Before Li Luo left to search for the lantern bearer, the two had briefly interacted. Perhaps she had given him a hint.

Did she have something up her sleeve that would allow Li Luo to remain immune to the mist?

Just as Qin Yi thought of this possibility, Li Lingjing seemed to have noticed her examining gaze. However, her expression remained unchanging, like a pool of stagnant water that did not ripple.

Li Lingjing then turned to face the floating Soul Eater True Devil. The injuries left on them after the previous exchange were not light, but the Soul Eater True Devil's presence seemed to have diminished slightly. Perhaps it was due to the continuous suppression from the Spiritual Resonance Cave.

"Cousin Li Luo, where did you run to?" Li Lingjing asked in her heart.

She then turned to face the rest of the survivors emotionlessly.

"With so many people here, the Soul Eater True Devil is bound to have its fill. Qin Yi will be a great treat, so I doubt it will let her off easily. This is a good thing. Cousin Li Luo has enmity with her, and having her die here would ease some of his troubles. However, this girl is quite intelligent and I don't know what sort of preparations she has made for her escape. Her position in her clan is very high, so it may not be impossible for her to run. Perhaps I can look for an opportunity amidst the chaos later to kill her. She should not be watching out for me. The Soul Eater True Devil likely wants to eat me in the end, and from what it said before, I'm number three and it is number two. Does this mean there's a number one? It seems like the Soul Eater True Devil is not an Other that was born naturally, but a creation of humans... Either way, being eaten doesn't matter. I've already made my preparations. Even so, being devoured is something I have experience in."

The corners of Li Lingjing's lips lifted lightly into a smirk as she tightly grasped the Aquamarine Bamboo Python Staff. It seemed a little sinister when contrasted against her fair and beautiful cheeks.

At this point, the Soul Eater True Devil glanced downwards at who was left as it once again started letting out its ear-piercing screeches that sounded almost like infants crying.

The sounds it made caused the crowd to turn pale. Even the strongest fighters were grievously injured in the previous exchange, and it seemed as though the creature was about to go on a killing spree.

Some began to run away in terror, ignoring the mist and running into it.

However, before they took even a few steps, the mist enveloped them and eroded away the resonant power that surrounded their bodies. Then their steps turned stiff and their pupils darkened. Afterwards, worms could be seen squirming within their eyeballs.

A moment later, they started to contort their bodies, all four limbs on the ground as they slowly crawled back.

This was a sight that caused the rest to feel a sense of despair.

The Soul Eater True Devil continued to watch the scene below before focusing upon Li Lingjing. It seemed that she was its true target.

It stretched its giant arm out, and the palm full of fangs immediately spat out a blood-red bone spur that was covered with spikes.

The bone spur zipped forward and pierced the air like a bolt of lightning.

Li Lingjing had no chance to even hide. A moment later, the bone spur penetrated her body before the shocked gazes of the crowd, nailing her to the ground.

She was injured severely by this sudden attack, but her gorgeous face did not show any signs of pain, only continuing to coldly stare at the Soul Eater True Devil.

The Soul Eater True Devil then let out a wave of cackling, grating laughter. It picked up the bone spur, lifting Li Lingjing's frail body with it. Then the mouth in the palm began to swallow the bone spur.

Li Lingjing was naturally inching closer to the palm.

The massive mouth began to chew ravenously, and malodorous blood began to leak from the corners like a beast drooling before a meal. It was almost as though it was eagerly anticipating the treat.

This scene caused everyone present to feel a sense of utter despair and sadness.

However, just as the bone-red spur was ten feet away from the mouth, the Soul Eater True Devil's body suddenly froze as it could innately sense a threat to its life.

"Damned beast! Put my cousin down!"

It was at this point that a thunderous shout reverberated throughout the skies.

The familiar voice caused Li Lingjing's previously unmoving expression to change, despite having been skewered through.

She hurriedly raised her head and saw that a slender and tall youth was standing atop one of the numerous halls.

Who else could it be but Li Luo?

She saw that he was completely out of breath. "Hadn't that brat already escaped through the mist? Why did he come back!"

However, amidst her fury, complex emotions surged within her heart.

Was he unwilling to leave her to suffer alone and had come back to protect her?

"Cousin Lingjing! I'm here to save you!" Li Luo shouted. The Heavenly Dragon's Sunchaser Bow was fully drawn, and with the flick of a finger, a golden flame talisman flew up and attached itself onto the bowstring.

A golden flame ignited a moment later, setting the bow ablaze as a flaming arrow took shape.

The flaming arrow was golden in color, and absolutely alarming undulations of power could be felt rippling throughout the area when it took form.

The sheer aura was so formidable that Zhu Zhu's and Qin Ying's expressions also shifted nervously.

They looked upon Li Luo with faces full of disbelief. Never in their wildest dreams would they have imagined a Fiend Finisher capable of exploding forth with so much power in a single arrow.

Even Qin Yi trembled slightly when she focused upon Li Luo.

"Has this brat actually succeeded?"

Chapter 0983: Single Arrow Slays the Devil!

When Li Luo drew the bow and transformed the Golden Holy Fire Talisman into a flaming arrow, he finally understood why the lantern bearer had said that he would experience untold amounts of pain.

The wantonly burning holy fire had spread from the bow in just a few breaths of time, enveloping Li Luo within a giant ball of fire.

The holy fire did not differentiate between friend and foe, so the flames brought him immense pain.

Li Luo's face immediately twisted in agony as the hand holding the bowstring began to tremble.

If his heart was not resolute, he might have already thrown the bow away.

He sucked in a deep breath of scalding air as the golden holy fire continued to adhere to his body, sending waves of pervasive burning pain. "Nine Scales Sanctified Dragon's Body, Thunderpeal Avatar!"

Li Luo activated his two body-strengthening arts without hesitation, which brought momentary relief from the flame.

"Oh?"

However, as the fire continued to burn, Li Luo was shocked to discover that the Fiend Dipper Energy in his body had increased! It was previously seven hundred feet long, but as the fire continued to refine his body, it had increased by another ten feet in just a short span of time.

"Was this the benefit that the lantern bearer said I would receive? The holy fire can refine my Fiend Dipper Energy?" Satisfaction welled up in his heart.

It seemed that being able to endure the pain was worth it.

As he was thinking about this, his gaze continued to stare unabated at the Soul Eater True Devil. All the power in his body surged up explosively at this critical moment. The bowstring was pulled so hard that it began to creak, the entire bow forming the shape of a full moon.

The arrow was engulfed in burnished flame like a dragon made of fire, releasing terrifying fluctuations of energy.

Li Luo's palms were burned to the point that the skin had peeled off and was completely worn out. The increasingly turbulent flames continued to wildly burrow into his body.

At this moment, the black, demonic mist that covered the skies seemed to have felt something, and they began to gradually retract.

Roar!

The Soul Eater True Devil roared in response as it could feel that its life was in danger. It momentarily set aside the thought of devouring Li Lingjing, and the massive mouth in the middle of the palm immediately spat out a ball of bloody light. Within it were countless faces stacked over each other like layers of skin.

In the end, it culminated with a huge, pale face with a twisted and strange expression. Blood poured from every orifice of the face as it floated before the True Devil like a bulwark made of skin. The only thing was that one could sense endless iciness and negative emotions emanating from its core.

Meanwhile, all of the gazes from the crowd were now focused upon the top of the hall where Li Luo stood, armed with his flaming bow that had been fully drawn.

They could see that the flames had completely engulfed him and were incinerating every inch of his body. They instinctively knew that the horrifying arrow was causing him extreme suffering.

Li Luo's eyes were unwavering as he focused on the Soul Eater True Devil. His now charcoal-black fingertips released the bowstring without any hint of hesitation.

The frightening energy at his literal fingertips was released. As a result, the flesh on the fingers holding the bowstring burst apart, revealing the white bone beneath.

With that, the golden flame arrow penetrated through the void thunderously. The blazing light streaked through the air like a golden crow, burning the mist in its path into nothingness.

The arrow flew by so quickly that even Qin Ying was unable to perceive its movement completely, only seeing the trail of light left in its wake.

When he came to his senses, the golden flame arrow had already struck the face made of human skin. It was like a fire dragon bearing its claws and striking anything that dared impugn upon its majesty.

Roar!

In a blink, a fiery tornado that was reminiscent of the sun ignited the skies.

The human-skin face let out shrill cries as it was swiftly incinerated. The arrow instantly pierced a hole through it, shooting right at the Soul Eater True Devil.

The Soul Eater True Devil continued to scream. Its giant hand swatted outwards, forming countless black shadows that attempted to block the unimpeded advance of the arrow.

However, the flowing flaming arrow possessed irresistible force, easily tearing through all of the Soul Eater True Devil's defenses. Before everyone's surprised eyes, it shot right into its body.

Bang!

A moment later, golden flames erupted from the body of the Soul Eater True Devil like a volcano. The flames leaked from every single hole on its body, swiftly causing it to melt.

Shrill wails continued to echo out endlessly.

A few moments later, the Soul Eater True Devil's entire body was completely disintegrated by the golden flames.

Everyone stared at the result blankly. Was this how the terrifying Soul Eater True Devil would meet its end? It almost seemed a little uneventful.

Li Luo's single arrow was terrifying beyond comparison! With the Soul Eater True Devil being burnt to ashes, the remnant mist began to swiftly vanish and the corrupted individuals began to thrash around, seemingly having lost control.

The chaotic scene was like a ray of hope for the crowd, representing a new opportunity at life.

Everyone burst into unrequited cheers. No one had expected the situation to change when they were stuck in the pits of despair.

As the group celebrated, Li Luo, who was still atop the hall, weakly set his arms down. He was in a miserable state, his entire body charred black after suffering from the effects of the golden flames.

The insides of his body were such a mess that his resonant power could barely circulate.

As a result, he staggered forward before plummeting from the top.

However, a slender figure had shot over right before he landed, embracing him and landing stably on the ground.

Li Luo glanced at the pale Li Lingjing and flashed a weak smile. "Cousin Lingjing, are you alright?"

Li Lingjing's body was also full of bloodstains, and she too seemed to be in a bad state. However, a radiant smile emerged on her beautiful face.

"I'm fine," she replied with a nod.

"You shouldn't have come back," she continued.

Li Luo sighed weakly. "Abandoning a comrade is not something I'll ever do."

Li Lingjing fell silent as she stretched out her slender arm, wiping off the ash on his face. She chuckled as she looked at the sorry man before her, whose handsomeness didn't seem to have diminished. "Alright, I guess I have to thank you. You can rest for now."

He was definitely in a worse state than her.

Li Luo nodded and then closed his eyes, quickly circulating his resonant power to restore the mess within his body.

At this point in time, not too far away, Qin Yi and Qin Ying approached, their gazes focused upon the heavily injured and weakened Li Luo.

"Haha, Fairy Qin, I don't suppose you are planning to do anything to Li Luo, are you?" At this point in time, a well-built but chubby figure flashed over, blocking them from moving any closer.

It was Zhu Dayu.

He stared at Qin Yi with some apprehension as he was well aware of the enmity between the two. Now that Li Luo and Li Lingjing were critically injured, it was the perfect opportunity to take revenge.

They may have joined hands previously, but it was only to deal with a superior foe. Now that their common enemy had been dispatched, things would go back to the previous status quo.

Qin Ying glared at Zhu Dayu. "What does this have to do with you?"

"Hey! Qin Ying! Has your conscience been eaten by beasts? Li Luo took the initiative to save you and yet you want to strike him when he is down? You're definitely not human." Zhu Zhu then appeared beside Zhu Dayu, smiling coldly.

The remaining individuals nodded in agreement.

Qin Yi softly replied, "The two of you have misunderstood. I noticed that Li Luo's injuries were not light and wanted to render him some aid."

Zhu Dayu smiled. "Fairy Qin, you are benevolent. I suppose us brutes have misunderstood your intentions. However, for the sake of preventing any trouble, I think we should leave it as it is."

"You!" Qin Ying fumed.

Qin Yi fell silent, but she did not show any signs of anger. She knew that Zhu Dayu was on guard against her and thus did not pursue things, only turning to leave.

The cultivators from the other powers as well as the rogue cultivators approached the two and clasped their hands respectfully. They gave thanks before scattering as well.

Looking at their panicked expressions, they had clearly gone through the fright of their lives and no longer wished to linger.

Li Lingjing then turned towards Zhu Dayu and Zhu Zhu as her gaze flickered. "Can I trouble the two of you to take care of Li Luo for a moment?"

Zhu Dayu asked with a strange expression on his face, "What do you plan to do?"

"I'm going to take advantage of the chaos and gather more Spirit Resonance Golden Dew." She grinned.

Zhu Dayu scratched his head briefly before pounding his chest in affirmation.

She then grunted her thanks before flashing away, a cold expression forming over her beautiful face.

The others may not have felt it, but the Soul Eater True Devil had not been truly destroyed by Li Luo.

She could vaguely feel that it was heavily injured and was planning to escape.

Li Lingjing would not let that happen.

Chapter 0984: Disliking the Light

The damaged gilded hall was a mess.

Rogue cultivators and the teams from various powers were scattering in all directions, hurrying to leave this damned place. Although the Other had been eliminated, the fear they felt for their own lives earlier had remained vividly in their minds. They did not want to linger around here any longer.

Of course, there were some who were more greedy and continued searching for treasures within the chaos.

Amongst them were also the corrupted individuals. At present, they seemed to have lost control and were running about like walking corpses. Their bodies continued to decompose as blood flowed out and white bones were revealed. Even though the Soul Eater True Devil had lost control of them, it seemed like a matter of time before these people disappeared from this world completely.

Everyone else avoided them like the plague. They did not want to risk getting corrupted as well.

At this moment, Li Lingjing dashed past the countless halls, bounding atop the roofs. Her charming face remained emotionless and icy.

All the strangers kept their distance from her.

Originally, some of the teams that got lost in the action earlier wanted to greet her when they saw her running by. However, they quickly changed their minds when they saw how unapproachable she seemed.

Li Lingjing was not bothered by this. She followed her senses and ran past the vast gilded halls before arriving in front of an eerie and dark forest.

She tightly gripped her Aquamarine Bamboo Python Staff and slowly walked into it.

The forest was pitch-black with barely any sunlight passing through the canopy, and it was shrouded in a chilly air. Li Lingjing looked through the forest and noticed a handicapped corrupted individual lying in the distance. This individual seemed to have lost any hope of survival as he lay with the stench of decay.

Li Lingjing simply stared coldly at it. "Stop acting dead. Aren't you dying to get a bite of me? Come on, I am here now." However, the corrupted individual did not move at all.

Li Lingjing then proceeded to take a step forward. Suddenly, the Aquamarine Bamboo Python Staff swung towards the right and a poisonous ray shot out, filling the bamboo forest with a faint fragrance.

An amputated limb could be seen falling onto the ground from above where the poisonous ray had struck.

The flesh of the limb appeared to be wiggling with something.

Li Lingjing's resonant power surged when she saw this, and she blasted it into pieces without any hesitation. The bloody remains splattered across the ground.

As the blood and flesh spewed across the dirt, a black light that could hardly be detected by the naked eye suddenly shot out and flew towards the center of her forehead.

It was so fast that an ordinary Heavenly Pearl cultivator would hardly ever notice it.

However, a slender arm shot up just before the black light struck her. She caught the black light just in time.

When Li Lingjing looked down at her hand with her icy eyes, she saw a strange, black worm wriggling in her palm. It was really tiny, but one could see that there was an extremely twisted human face on its head.

The worm continued to struggle violently at this point. Its negative energy erupted and shot high up into the sky. It was so strong that it could even corrupt a late stage Heavenly Pearl cultivator.

However, Li Lingjing allowed it to come towards her. Her red lips curved slightly as she whispered, "I've managed to keep my consciousness intact even after sinking into the depths of despair and madness. Do you think you can actually corrupt me? You Soul Eater True Devils make me sick."

As Li Lingjing looked at the strange, black worm in her palm, she seemed to be talking to herself as she asked, "So, it seems you are number two. Is number one in the Spiritual Resonance Cave too?"

The worm wriggled and its twisted face suddenly burst into an eerie laughter. "Number three, you'll surely be eaten by it! You can't escape! Only the last Variant can reach the perfect form! It'll be a masterpiece!"

Hearing this, Li Lingjing pondered for a moment before she asked, "Perfect form? Based on what you've just said, a Variant can get stronger by consuming others?"

At this moment, her bright, almond-shaped eyes stared at the strange, black worm in her hand. The smile on her red lips became a little strange. "Doesn't that mean... I can eat you too?"

The worm seemed to freeze for a moment before it started struggling violently, trying to escape.

Li Lingjing's eyes turned gloomy and dark as she stood in the dimly lit bamboo forest with her Aquamarine Bamboo Python Staff. There was a heart-stopping sense of darkness around her, as if she was a Rakshasa from the abyss.

In the end, Li Lingjing took out a black jade bottle with a rune on it and threw the black worm inside. At the same time, she directed poisonous rays from the Aquamarine Bamboo Python Staff into the bottle to continuously deplete the black worm's strength, not giving it any chance to recover back to its original power.

Li Lingjing's eyes lit up as she looked at the jade bottle. She let out a light sigh of relief before she held it close to her chest.

After finishing this, she slowly walked out of the dim bamboo forest. When she found herself back in the sunlight, she felt a little disorientated. She instinctively retreated a few steps back into the darkness of the forest.

This was a natural reflex. However, this surprised even Li Lingjing herself. She laughed and murmured to herself, "It seems that I still prefer the darkness. Light is really not suitable for me."

At this moment, the sound of breaking wind could suddenly be heard coming towards her. Li Lingjing looked up and saw Li Luo rushing towards her direction. There was a look of worry on his face.

Li Lingjing fell into a moment of silence as she watched him rush over. Then a bright smile appeared on her pretty face and she stepped out of the shadows of the forest, waving to him.

Li Luo landed in front of her and let out a sigh of relief as soon as he saw her.

"Cousin Lingjing, you're seriously injured. You should not be running about. I've more or less collected enough Spirit Resonance Golden Dew, so there is no need to search for it anymore," Li Luo complained to her. Zhu Dayu and Zhu Zhu soon arrived on the scene too.

In response to his complaints, Li Lingjing smiled and nodded. Then her eyes paused as she studied Li Luo and said with some surprise, "You seem to have gotten stronger somehow."

Li Luo smiled modestly and replied, "It's a small boost. My Fiend Dipper Energy has only increased by one hundred and fifty feet."

Although the Golden Holy Fire Talisman had brought about enormous pain for Li Luo, it also came with many benefits. Originally, he only had seven hundred feet of Fiend Dipper Energy, and now that number had increased to eight hundred and fifty feet.

His current plan was to head towards the Golden Dew Platform and leverage its power to consume the Nine Orifices Dipper Smelting Pill. With that, he could give it one last push.

He would reach the pinnacle of the Fiend Finisher Tier there.

Afterwards, it should be really easy for him to break into the Heavenly Pearl Tier.

Chapter 0985: Call for Help

The chaos that ensued in the main hall did not last for long. Some began to realize that the hall itself was beginning to turn illusory and that the entire gilded hall was about to vanish.

Li Luo and Li Lingjing departed immediately upon seeing this. They could see the entire structure turning illusory and gradually vanishing.

Everyone else felt that this scene seemed a little strange. Everything that had happened within seemed incomparably realistic, but when they looked back, it was as though everything was just an illusion.

Li Luo assumed that the illusion was created by the Sacred Void Resonance Sect. It might not have truly existed in this particular time and space but was projected here through some means.

However, the Spirit Resonance Golden Dew was real, and the miraculous powers of the Sacred Void Resonance Sect caused Li Luo to sigh in amazement. They must have been incomparably domineering during their prime.

The foundation which they were built upon was something even the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li, a Heavenly Emperor power, was unable to compare to. He retracted his gaze and then smiled at Li Lingjing. "Let's go. Now that we've collected enough Spirit Resonance Golden Dew, we can head to the Golden Dew Platform."

His voice was full of anticipation as his plans and aims were all resting upon the platform's powers.

Once he got there, he could complete his breakthrough and improve his resonance grade.

If he succeeded in doing so, his strength would advance by leaps and bounds.

Li Lingjing lightly smiled as she grasped the Aquamarine Bamboo Python Staff, looking quite carefree at the moment.

Li Luo then turned towards Zhu Dayu and Zhu Zhu, who were beside him, and thanked them profusely for their assistance. However, the two pairs did not continue to move together, each taking their own separate paths. There were three Golden Dew Platforms, and it would be good to split their goals to prevent unnecessary competition.

After saying their goodbyes, Li Luo and Li Lingjing zoomed away.

The two were no longer held back by anything, and even though they occasionally stumbled upon traces of Spirit Resonance Golden Dew, they couldn't be bothered to collect any more. Their gains in the gilded

hall were already stupendous—they would have dew to spare even after gaining entry to the Golden Dew Platform.

As a result, their journey was smooth.

When they stopped to rest, Li Luo used his Acquired Resonance Flame to refine some of the Spirit Resonance Golden Dew into a golden crystal before he beamed happily at Li Lingjing. "Cousin Lingjing, please hold out your hand. I have another gift for you."

Li Lingjing looked at him suspiciously but did not reject, only smiling as she stretched out her slim hand.

"Be careful now, taking advantage of your elder sister might be grounds for a beating," Li Lingjing mischievously said as her other hand waved the Aquamarine Bamboo Python Staff in Li Luo's face

Li Luo pouted slightly as he placed the golden crystal in her hand.

She inspected the golden crystal with much curiosity as she was also able to feel some sort of incomparably pure energy coming from it.

It felt familiar, and although it seemed to resemble the Spirit Resonance Golden Dew, it was purified to a much higher degree.

"Why don't you try to absorb it?" Li Luo continued.

If it were anyone else giving her a strange object for her to absorb, she would simply give a friendly smile as her other hand slammed the staff downwards, causing their brains to splatter.

However, the person asking her to do so was Li Luo, and she trusted him. Thus, she circulated her resonant power and absorbed the golden crystal.

A moment later, her eyes were wide open, full of surprise at the result.

"My resonance seems to have become more pure. This degree of improvement is equivalent to what eighth-grade spirit liquids and purifying lights provide."

Li Lingjing had a lower ninth-grade Abyssal Serpent resonance. At this point, it was extremely difficult to rely on spirit liquids and lights to temper it further. Based on her needs, only eighth-grade spirit liquids and purifying lights could work, and even then, the effect was minuscule.

Ninth-grade spirit liquids and purifying lights? One shouldn't even bother thinking about those, as they were so rare that their prices were terrifying. Even the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages found it hard to obtain one, much less the Western Region's Li Family.

As a result, the fact that the golden crystal could benefit her came as a surprise.

Li Luo grinned. "Good stuff, isn't it?"

Li Lingjing smiled lightly and nodded. However, she did not ask where it had come from.

Just as he spoke, his expression suddenly changed and his gaze shifted towards the sky. There was a burst of light, and it very quickly transformed into a massive, coiling dragon that looked alive.

In particular, the dragon's fangs were exceptionally eye-catching.

"Dragon's Fang Signal?" When Li Luo saw the light signal, his expression changed. That was the Dragon's Fang Lineage's emergency signal, which meant that someone from the Dragon's Fang Lineage had encountered danger.

"Was it Second Sister or Elder Brother?"

Energy wings unfurled from Li Luo's back, flapping with great strength, almost kicking up a tornado as he shot into the air.

Li Lingjing followed quickly.

They utilized their full speed without any restraint and rushed in the direction of the emergency signal.

A while later, they finally approached the location where the signal originated from.

It was a relatively hidden ravine, and worldly natural energy was coursing towards it wantonly. It seemed that this was a location that contained quite a bit of Spirit Resonance Golden Dew.

However, Li Luo was not concerned with any of this, only focusing his vision into the interior of the valley.

Massive bursts of energy undulations were exploding, and it looked like an intense fight was ongoing.

Li Luo swept his gaze across the area and noticed that the battlefield had been split into two. On one side he could see Li Fengyi, Li Jingtao, and Deng Fengxian.

The three had grouped up closely.

What surprised Li Luo was that they were only facing one opponent.

The trio were currently working together to fend off a light red-robed girl. She gave off an ethereal beauty, and behind her were two Heavenly Pearls that constantly absorbed worldly natural energy.

In her hand was a fiery-red jade ruler, and she emitted mighty resonant power waves. What surprised Li Luo the most was that her resonant power was a combination of wind and fire. This meant that she possessed dual resonances!

Despite only being a single individual, her battle power was so ferocious the trio were forced into an embarrassing situation.

Li Jingtao's side could only weather her assault, but the young lady was also equally smart. After experiencing how terrifying Li Jingtao's defensive arts were, she focused her attacks on Li Fengyi instead, targeting the weakest link.

Although all three of them had their own strengths, they had been forced into a miserable state.

On the other side, the explosions and exchanges were even more fiery. Clearly, the higher stage Heavenly Pearl cultivators were engaged in a brawl there.

Li Fuling and the other two Banner Leaders of the previous generation were surrounding a single male. He looked extremely ordinary, but there were eight Heavenly Pearls floating behind him, giving him the ability to burst forth with frightening strength.

With a wave of his sleeves, yellow sand was kicked up, transforming into an amber dragon that entangled the trio, preventing them from escaping.

"Eight-pearl male... fire and wind dual resonances young lady..."

Li Luo glanced at the battle as he mentally reviewed the intelligence he was given. He soon knew who they were.

They came from the Heavenly Origin Ancient College. The male was Zong Sha, the one leading the group. The younger lady was Jiang Wanyu, who possessed dual resonances of fire and wind.

It seemed as though the two sides had burst into conflict over the appearance of Spirit Resonance Golden Dew in this valley.

"As expected of the best amongst the Heavenly Origin Ancient College." Li Luo sighed in his heart. The two were outnumbered, but they had still forced the trio to release a signal for help.

Of course, the signal was mainly to garner more assistance to deal with these troublesome foes. "Cousin Lingjing, separate them," Li Luo immediately said as he blazed towards Li Fengyi's group. Li Lingjing then made her way towards Li Fuling's battle.

When the two made their move, it attracted the attention of the combatants. When Li Fengyi spotted Li Luo, she happily shouted, "Little Brother! Come help us get rid of her!"

Jiang Wanyu, who was locked in battle, also noticed Li Luo. Frowning, she immediately opened her mouth, and crimson flames rolled out of her lips. At the same time, a berserk tempest of wind whistled as the combination of flame and wind roiled and forcefully pushed the trio back. At the same time, she retreated atop a giant tree and icily glared at Li Luo.

"You cretins from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. Is using numbers to overcome others the only thing you're good at?"

Chapter 0986: Jiang Wanyu

Li Luo landed behind Li Fengyi and the trio, then his eyes focused on the girl in the red dress before them. She was like a fiery rose full of thorns, with captivating looks mixed with a hint of coldness and arrogance in her eyes.

He was not at all bothered by her ridicule earlier. Turning around to take a look at Li Fengyi and the rest first, he asked, "Are you guys alright?"

Among the three of them, Li Jingtao was in the best state. He had barely suffered any injuries at all. Li Fengyi, who had been the main target, appeared to be relatively unharmed too. In contrast, Deng Fengxian's gilded armor that was flowing with resonant power seemed to be badly damaged.

Li Fengyi took a closer look at Deng Fengxian. She paused for a moment before asking, "Are you okay? Why did you help me block that attack? I could've handled it myself, I didn't need your help." It seemed like Deng Fengxian had stepped forward to fend off Jiang Wanyu's attack. He must have taken the majority of the blow for Li Fengyi, but it came at a heavy price.

In reality, she was deeply grateful. She just could not easily switch to words of gratitude after acting in such a hostile manner towards him for so long. Nonetheless, Deng Fengxian did not mind it at all. "Don't worry about it, I have the Gilded Armor to protect me," he replied.

Hearing this, Li Fengyi mumbled a little to herself but did not say anything more in the end.

"Third Brother, you arrived just in time. We discovered a batch of Spirit Resonance Golden Dew, but these two suddenly appeared. Simply put, we got into a fight over it," Li Jingtao explained with a smile. Li Luo nodded. This was similar to what he had thought.

While they continued to banter, Jiang Wanyu unceasingly stared at them icily. She did not show any signs of backing down just because of Li Luo's arrival. Rather, she pointed her fiery-red ruler at Li Luo in a provocative manner.

"If my guess is right, you are Li Luo, the Dragon's Head for this generation. I wonder, are you truly worthy of that title?"

Li Luo simply smiled after hearing this and asked, "What do you want?"

He had no intention to make enemies with the people from the Heavenly Origin Ancient College. After all, he still wanted to make use of this opportunity to get acquainted with them. However, he could tell that this lady in front of him was arrogant, so it would be best to display his strength first when communicating with her.

"I want to test your skills!"

Jiang Wanyu's personality was just like her resonance—direct and unyielding. Like the wild flame and wind, she dashed towards Li Luo as soon as she finished her sentence. She then waved her jade ruler in front of her and drew a line in the air.

A crack appeared in the air, and a deafening dragon roar echoed throughout the space. A fire dragon burning with incinerating flames broke out from the crack and soared into the sky. It charged towards Li Luo with a domineering and tyrannic presence.

Li Luo could not help but freeze for a moment when he saw her Duke Art. This was one that he felt really familiar with.

In the next instant, Li Luo snapped out of his confusion with a smile appearing on the corner of his lips.

He formed a hand seal with a single hand, and resonant power surged up within his body. With a swing of his blade, he slashed down in front of him.

This time, a crack appeared in the sky as well. Sounds of rushing water could be heard as a black dragon flew out of the crack riding on the Underworld River, flying straight towards the crimson fire dragon.

Bang!

When the two clashed, the atmosphere exploded as boiling vapor hissed from the combination of water and sheer heat. The two opposing elements struggled and eroded each other continuously.

After a few moments, the aftermath of the clash gradually subsided.

Li Luo put his blade away and stood upright. He then looked over to Jiang Wanyu, whose cold and arrogant face had turned into one of shock and surprise. She could not believe her own eyes as she looked at Li Luo and asked, "Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner?! How did you learn one of the Heavenly Origin Ancient College's Duke Arts!"

As she was one of the elite students from the Heavenly Origin Ancient College, Jiang Wanyu was naturally very familiar with the Duke Art that Li Luo had just used. In fact, it was in the same class of Duke Art as the Purgatory's Crimson Dragon Banner that she had just activated! They were all a part of the same Destiny-grade Duke Art, the Three Dragons' Heavenly Banner Canon! It was a top tier Duke Art even in the Heavenly Origin Ancient College.

The Purgatory's Crimson Dragon Banner that Jiang Wanyu had mastered was just one part of it. The Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner that Li Luo had used was another part of it!

She had recognized it instantly because it had always been her dream to master the complete version of the Three Dragons' Heavenly Banner Canon one day. Therefore, she had some knowledge of the Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner.

Seeing her response, Li Luo smiled a little but did not answer her directly. He looked over at the battle in the distance. Over there, Zong Sha from the Heavenly Origin Ancient College was fighting against Li Fuling's group. With his eight-pearl strength, he had pressured them into a corner.

However, the situation changed completely when Li Lingjing arrived to help.

Li Lingjing did not hold back at all. As soon as she dashed into the battlefield, she waved the Aquamarine Bamboo Python Staff, and the poison rays fueled with shocking resonant power shot directly at Zong Sha's face.

Bang!

As the poison rays swept across, the void shook fiercely. The sudden strike was so domineering that the expressions of Li Fuling and the rest changed.

Zong Sha was also taken aback. He could sense a grave threat coming from her attack, and as such, he did not dare to hesitate, only spitting out a stream of amber sand from his mouth immediately. The amber sand seemed to possess a sort of mystical charm, as if it was some form of treasured artifact.

When the sand landed on Zong Sha's fist, it transformed into an auric glove with which he threw a strong punch. Golden light radiated from it like the rising sun.

Bang!

The glove struck so quickly that a golden afterimage was left behind when it clashed directly with the poison rays. A tempest of wild energy swept across the battlefield upon collision, resulting in Li Fuling and the rest being blown back, feeling their blood churn within their bodies from the sheer aftershock.

Zong Sha took a few steps back as his body shook from the direct confrontation. His gaze turned exceptionally serious at this moment. "Is this girl one of the elites from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li?"? However, he had zero intel about her. From what he knew of those who had entered the

Spiritual Resonance Cave, the strongest individual from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li was Li Wuyuan. This lady in front of him was at a similar level and yet she was not recognizable.

As he retreated, Li Lingjing had no intention of losing the initiative. Her small body moved forward in a flash, chasing after him. With a swing from her Aquamarine Bamboo Python Staff, the sky seemed to be enveloped by countless pythons that rained down upon Zong Sha.

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"Duke Art: Gold Sandstorm!"

Zong Sha did not dare to let his guard down. He formed hand seals with both hands and let out a long scream. Continuous streams of glittering sand flew out of his sleeves and turned into a raging sandstorm, clashing with the rain of pythons.

Bang!

Astonishing energy undulations constantly caused explosions within the void as well as in the space around them.

This exchange of blows did not last very long before the golden sandstorm started to disperse up in the sky. Zong Sha was forced to retreat, and he landed beside Jiang Wanyu. He stared at Li Lingjing with a hint of fear as he said, "The situation is bad. They have gotten strong reinforcements. We should prepare to retreat."

However, Jiang Wanyu did not pay him any heed. She kept looking at Li Luo and asked incessantly, "How did you learn the Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner?"

"Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner?"

Zong Sha was shocked when he heard her. He looked at Li Luo suspiciously and said, "The Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner is a secret art of the Academic Federation. You're from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li, so how did you learn it?"

Li Luo cupped his hands together and smiled. "My two friends from the Heavenly Origin Ancient College, there seems to have been some misunderstanding. Can we take a break and talk things over, please?"

"Explain your possession of the Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner first. The Heavenly Origin Ancient College has a team of inspectors meant to protect the secrecy of our arts. If you do not have a legitimate reason for possessing it, our college will send a team over to demand an explanation, even though you're from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li," Zong Sha said.

Hearing this, Li Luo smiled and replied, "Before I came to the Dragon's Fang Lineage, I studied in the Astral Sage College in the outer divine continent. The Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner is something that I learned back then."

"In other words, I'm actually from the Academic Federation as well."

"The outer divine continent? Astral Sage College?"

Zong Sha and Jiang Wanyu took a look at each other. They were aware that some Sage Colleges were allowed to obtain incomplete copies of Duke Arts from the Ancient Colleges. Li Luo's explanation did seem reasonable here. Besides, they could easily verify if he was really from a Sage College later on.

With that, their expressions gradually became less serious. Their gazes towards Li Luo softened a little, showing less hostility.

Like what Li Luo had said, they were all part of the Academic Federation, even though he was from a Sage College. Therefore, they were all on the same side.

As such, the duo slowly descended from the top of the tree after a few moments of hesitation.

Chapter 0987: Acquaintance

When Li Fengyi and the rest saw Zong Sha and Jiang Wanyu descend with their resonant power restrained, they understood what Li Luo was trying to do and similarly withdrew their hostile intentions. After all, there wasn't much enmity between them—they were simply fighting over the Spirit Resonance Golden Dew.

At the next moment, Li Luo turned and asked Li Fengyi, "How many droplets of Spirit Resonance Golden Dew are there?"

Li Fengyi answered, "Twenty droplets."

Li Luo pondered for a moment before taking out a jade bottle and throwing it over to Zong Sha with a smile. "Since there's twenty droplets of Spirit Resonance Golden Dew here, we'll split it equally. What do you think about this, Senior Zong Sha?"

After the rich harvest from the gilded hall earlier, Li Luo had a lot of excess Spirit Resonance Golden Dew on hand. The two parties were scuffling over just ten droplets, and he was not too concerned about gathering even more.

Zong Sha caught the bottle before inspecting the interior. He could tell that there were ten droplets of Spirit Resonance Golden Dew inside. Feeling a little embarrassed, he replied, "Since Dragon's Head Li Luo has said so, I've no problem with this distribution. We did not plan to fight over the Spirit Resonance Golden Dew if it wasn't for the fact that some of the people in our team were still lacking the necessary amount."

Li Luo had been really kind and polite towards them. In fact, he had even given away Spirit Resonance Golden Dew out of his own pocket. Zong Sha naturally understood that there was no need to continue acting aggressively.

On his side, Jiang Wanyu did not say anything. However, her attitude had also softened a little. At the minimum, there was nothing to complain about from Li Luo's attitude towards them.

Besides, their opponent appeared to be stronger than them. If they had decided not to share any Spirit Resonance Golden Dew with the two of them, there was likely little they could have done except sigh and retreat.

At this moment, Li Lingjing and the rest also arrived beside Li Luo.

Zong Sha was still wary as he took a look at Li Lingjing. The exchange earlier had left a deep impression on him. At the same time, he looked over to Li Luo with a friendly smile and said, "Who would have expected we would have such a connection with Dragon's Head Li Luo?"

"You may address me as 'Junior' following the rules of the academy, Senior Zong Sha," Li Luo said.

Zong Sha could tell that Li Luo wanted to be friends with them. Additionally, he himself did not want to be on bad terms with the people from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. As such, he nodded as a friendly gesture.

"I'll call you 'Junior Li Luo,' then."

Jiang Wanyu continued to stare at Li Luo as she asked, "If you were still in the Astral Sage College now, which hall would you be in?"

Li Luo replied with a smile, "It should be the Two Star Hall."

Jiang Wanyu was a bit surprised at the response. Li Luo had yet to reach the Heavenly Pearl Tier, but his battle strength was already amazing. When the two of them fought earlier, she was not able to gain an edge over Li Luo despite being a two-pearl. Without a doubt, his resonant power now was on par with that of an ordinary Heavenly Pearl cultivator. Such talent was a rare sight even in their Heavenly Origin Ancient College, let alone the Astral Sage College.

At the very least, it seemed like even the strongest person in their Two Star Hall would not be able to match up to Li Luo. "In that case, you'll have to refer to me as 'Senior' too," Jiang Wanyu said with a muffled voice.

"Senior Jiang," Li Luo responded cheerfully, trying to get on closer terms with them.

"I have heard that you possess triple resonances, Junior Li Luo. Although you're still at the Fiend Finisher Tier, the foundation of your resonant power is really strong. In fact, it's not any weaker than those in the Heavenly Pearl Tier," Zong Sha commented as he noticed Jiang Wanyu looking a little gloomy.

This Junior of his had always been proud. Back in the academy, she had many diehard fans and her own talent was exceptional. Not only was she at the top of the Three Star Hall, she had also cultivated the Purgatory's Crimson Dragon Banner, which was one of the prerequisites to fully mastering the Three Dragons' Heavenly Banner Canon.

Mastering the Three Dragons' Heavenly Banner Canon one day was undoubtedly her goal, meaning she had high ambitions for herself.

"Is the Purgatory's Crimson Dragon Banner used by Senior Jiang part of the Three Dragons' Heavenly Banner Canon? I've heard that the complete version of this Duke Art is at the Destiny-grade back in Astral Sage College. Unfortunately, my college only has the Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner," Li Luo said with a smile.

Jiang Wanyu nodded in response. She continued staring at Li Luo and asked, "You have a Dragon resonance?"

Li Luo nodded and replied, "Yes. My third resonance is a Dragon resonance."

Hearing this, she felt a little jealous. She possessed wind and fire dual resonances, but not the dragon resonance. She had only managed to utilize the Purgatory's Crimson Dragon Banner thanks to the help of an extremely high-grade treasure with dragon resonant power affinity. While this had allowed her to create the dragon resonance power artificially, it was ultimately much less convenient than possessing the actual resonance.

"Your Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner and my Purgatory's Crimson Dragon Banner are only two parts of it. There's also an art known as the Heavenly Judgment Silver Dragon Banner. Once you've mastered all three of them, you'll be able to unleash the full potential of the Three Dragons' Heavenly Banner Canon," Jiang Wanyu explained.

"Purgatory's Crimson Dragon Banner, Heavenly Judgment Silver Dragon Banner..." Li Luo's eyes lit up as he listened. These two arts seemed to require fire, lightning, and dragon resonance power affinity to be activated. In that case, it would fit perfectly with the dragon resonance he possessed.

"You can forget about the Three Dragons' Heavenly Banner Canon. Now that you've left the Astral Sage College, the academy will not give you the chance to learn the other two anymore," Jiang Wanyu added, trying to pour some cold water over him when she noticed the desire in his eyes.

"It's always worth a try," Li Luo replied. He did not seem affected by her comment at all. Instead, he continued with a smile, "Speaking of which, I'll need to head over to the Heavenly Origin Ancient College some time in the future."

Hearing this, Zong Sha replied with hospitably, "We'll welcome you with open arms. You can visit at any time."

Li Luo thanked him politely. As they chatted, the atmosphere in the air grew more relaxed.

At this moment, multiple beams of light flew across the sky and landed around Zong Sha. They were the other students from the Heavenly Origin Ancient College that had noticed his call for help earlier.

After Zong Sha spoke with them for a while, their hostile presence reigned in and they sheathed their swords.

Li Luo warmly invited Zong Sha, Jiang Wanyu, and their group to walk together as they were pretty close to the Golden Dew Platform already.

Zong Sha did not turn it down. As such, the two groups gathered and walked towards the same direction with a casual pace.

On the way, Li Luo continued to gather more information regarding the Heavenly Origin Ancient College.

"Senior Zong Sha, is there a mentor called Lan Lingzi in your college? The Principal from the Astral Sage College had a close relationship with her."

"Lan Lingzi? She's not a mentor in our college," Zong Sha replied with a smile.

Li Luo was surprised to hear this. Vice Principal Su Xin had clearly told him to go to the Heavenly Origin Ancient College and look for someone named Lan Lingzi. Could it be that she had already left the place?

"Lan Lingzi is the Vice Principal of our college," Jiang Wanyu added from the side.

Li Luo heaved a sigh of relief when he heard this. At the same time, his interest was piqued. He had heard that Principal Pang Qianyuan and Lan Lingzi were old acquaintances. However, he did not know how close they were. If they were close enough, perhaps he could make good use of their relationship.

Speaking of which, Principal Pang was really good at cozying up to Vice Principals... Not only did he have the loyal Vice Principal Su Xin serving under him, his old acquaintance was a Vice Principal in an ancient college.

"Senior Zong Sha, does the Heavenly Origin Ancient College have a close relationship to other Ancient Colleges? As my roots are from a sage college, I've always looked up to ancient colleges like yours. Initially, I had never planned to return to the Dragon's Fang Lineage... The only place I really wanted to visit back then was an Ancient College," Li Luo said with a grin.

Hearing this, several students from the Heavenly Origin Ancient College beamed with joy. They all praised Li Luo for having such good vision... or skills at flattery.

Zong Sha also laughed and replied, "All the major ancient colleges are rivals with each other as well as friends. Our relationships are tight knit. At times, students from various colleges even work together for some of the special missions we are assigned to."

Li Luo's eyes flickered when he heard this. With a grin, he asked, "Senior Zong Sha, have you heard about the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College in the Central Core Divine Continent? I have a really good friend that is studying there. With her exceptional talent, I bet she's gone straight into the Heavenly Star Hall."

"Oh? Straight into the Heavenly Star Hall? Your friend must be really amazing, then," Zong Sha replied with surprise.

At this moment, Jiang Wanyu's expression suddenly changed. She spoke out from the side. "I've heard something about the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College. There are a few new people who have ascended to the Heavenly Star Hall this year. Amongst them, there was a single girl that caused a huge commotion."

Zong Sha nodded and continued, "Now that Junior Jiang has mentioned it, I have some recollection of this as well... I heard that the Heavenly Star Hall in the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College has a new superstar. She's broken the record for rising up in ranks at the fastest pace. Currently, her fame is not restricted to just her own college—even the guys from our college are gathering information about her."

Li Luo's heart started pounding and he felt a little excited. He could not help but feel that the person they were talking about was the one that he had in mind.

"What's her name?" Li Luo asked curiously.

Jiang Wanyu thought about it for a moment before replying, "Jiang Qing'e, the Hallowed Coruscation's Holy Maiden."

Although he had expected it, Li Luo could not help but feel emotional when he heard her name. An overwhelming sense of longing surged out from the depths of his heart. He was speechless for a moment as that unforgettable and familiar face filled up his mind.

Jiang Wanyu didn't pay attention to his sudden change in expression. She continued with great interest, "Senior Jiang has a really domineering personality. She is now the most popular girl in the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College. Countless elites have wanted to chase her, but she turned all of them down ruthlessly and even declared in public that she already has a fiance. Although her fiance is from the outer divine continent, none of the geniuses could compare with him in her eyes. I don't know how many arrogant individuals were provoked when she said those words. Some of them even began investigating the identity of this fiance, hoping to travel thousands of miles to the outer divine continent to force him to annul the engagement."

When she finished speaking, Li Luo could feel his head drooping down in abject sadness.

He was both moved and on the verge of tears. How had he unknowingly and unwillingly attracted so many enemies all of a sudden?

Chapter 0988: Golden Dew Platform

Li Luo felt a hint of complication within his heart. Although he was elated at the fact that Jiang Qing'e was flaunting her splendor at the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College, he felt a little helpless at the newfound legion of enemies his status had brought upon him. However, he still felt pleased deep down. When Jiang Qing'e had returned the engagement certificate to him, it signified that their official relationship had taken a turn for the worse. At the very least, they were no longer engaged to one another.

However, Jiang Qing'e had continued to maintain their relationship, at least to the outside world. Perhaps in her heart, this engagement agreement had never really mattered. Only someone as prideful as Li Luo would bother bickering over something insignificant like it.

Li Luo's downcast expression attracted the attention of the others around him. Zong Sha suspiciously stared at him with a grin. "Junior Li Luo, could it be that you know this senior from the Hallowed Coruscation Ancient College?"

Li Fuling smiled as she asked, "Could it be that she is your fiancee from the outer divine continent?"

Jiang Wanyu pouted. "That was probably just an excuse that she came up with to prevent the rabble from disturbing her whilst she cultivates. She has no equal within her college, and she has a boundless view of the world. How could she possibly have fallen for some bumpkin from the outer divine continent?"

Her words were logical, and they resonated with the crowd as they similarly agreed.

/p>Li Fengyi snorted in dissatisfaction. "Please! Third Brother is also unrivaled and incomparable to anyone else. Even though he is supposed to be in the Two Star Hall, his battle strength is no weaker than that of a Three Star Hall student. Just who can compare to him in terms of talent and potential? Is there anyone in the Heavenly Origin Ancient College that can be compared to him?"

Jiang Wanyu frowned as she rebuked, "Please, I'm no slouch when compared to Li Luo. He might have triple resonances, but he has not entered the Heavenly Pearl Tier. When we arrive at the Golden Dew Platform, I would like to see what he's made of for myself if we have the chance."

Li Luo helplessly smiled but did not retort. Being able to hear news of Jiang Qing'e from the Heavenly Origin Ancient College's students was more than enough to satisfy him.

It seemed that the issue with the sacrificial ignition of her Heart of Light had been resolved. This was what brought him relief. When the Spiritual Resonance Cave concluded, he would find a way to pay a visit to the Heavenly Origin Ancient College and see if they had a method to deliver the Nine Marks Sacred Heart Lotus to her.

That heavenly treasure could revert the damage to Jiang Qing'e's foundation as a result of the sacrificial ignition and prevent any issues from cropping up during her breakthrough into the Duke Stage.

The group then continued to make their way towards the Golden Dew Platform.

After half a day, they noticed more and more people rushing in the same direction. It was clear that they had gathered the requisite amount of Spirit Resonance Golden Dew and were now headed towards the Golden Dew Platform.

Li Luo glanced into the distance. He could barely make out a faintly glowing blip of light, akin to a star at the edge of the sky.

There seemed to be a restless whisper echoing throughout the heavens and the earth the closer they approached.

Eventually, Li Luo and the rest saw that the land they were on had an end. At the point where the land mass ended, clouds and mist covered the entire area, as if forming an invisible wall that blocked any further progress.

At the edge of the cloud wall stood a lone, towering mountain.

It was like an unmovable pillar supporting the skies. There was a source of golden light at the peak of the mountain, and it was shaped like a huge and magnificent platform.

This was the goal of everyone in the cave, and their gazes turned heated with anticipation.

Making it past the Golden Dew Platform would allow one to enter the core districts of the Spiritual Resonance Cave to search for rarely seen treasures. But the platform itself was a miraculous treasure that was capable of improving one's resonance grade, so just taking advantage of that was a goal for many. Obtaining the right to enter the core districts was too hard of a task for certain rogue cultivators, so there was no need to try too hard.

Just being able to experience the Golden Dew Platform's baptism made this a worthwhile trip.

Li Luo and the rest had looks of hope and excitement. It was said that just stepping onto the platform would lead to a baptism that could temper their resonances. The purity of their resonances would thus rise significantly, and some could even evolve their resonances.

"I now have a lower eighth-grade waterlight resonance, an upper seventh-grade woodearth resonance, and a lower seventh-grade Thunder Dragon resonance. Advancing to the upper eighth-grade for the waterlight resonance is probably not going to happen even with the assistance of the Golden Dew Platform. However, if I focus on tempering my seventh-grade woodearth and Thunder Dragon resonances, there is a much higher chance of evolving them, considering my accumulations,"?Li Luo

thought to himself. The minimum goal for him was to raise the Thunder Dragon resonance to the upper seventh-grade.

Evolving one's resonance was an arduous task, even with the magical properties of the Golden Dew Platform. Even though the Sacred Void Resonance Sect was the unquestionable tyrant of their time, it was surely just as difficult to achieve. The group finally stopped before the towering mountain. The area was filled with countless other powers and rogue cultivators.

When Li Luo arrived, he noticed some unfriendly gazes that were shot towards him.

When he investigated the source of the hostile looks, he recognized a familiar group of "friends."

The one leading the pack was the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao's Zhao Yan. Behind him were Zhao Jingyu and Zhao Shenjiang, who were glaring at him with gloomy expressions.

"Ah, enemies..." Li Luo smirked slightly upon seeing this.

He was not surprised at all. Although there were three Golden Dew Platforms, there was still a significant chance that they would encounter the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao.

Qin Yi and Zhu Dayu, on the other hand, were not present. It seemed that they had picked a different Golden Dew Platform. If they had all coincidentally picked the same one, there would be too little gruel and too many monks, and the battle would inevitably turn bitter.

Not long after, a group from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li arrived, and Li Luo recognized Lu Qingmei's heroic figure within the crowd.

The Dragon's Scale Lineage was all together.

Li Guan led the group, and when he saw Li Luo's party, he immediately approached them.

"Haha, it seems you've arrived pretty quickly, Fuling." Li Guan looked slightly happy as he flashed an elated smile at Li Fuling. The people already present were of assorted groups from different powers, and since they were both of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li, working together would bolster their advantages.

Li Fuling similarly beamed when the two groups combined, becoming much stronger than before.

As time passed, the number of teams that gathered at the foot of the mountain steadily increased. Many altercations broke out during this period when some of the groups that had failed to collect enough Spirit Resonance Golden Dew saw that the Golden Dew Platform was before them. They were unwilling to accept the fact that they were not qualified to progress any further. As a result, frustration boiled over into violence and they attempted to pilfer it from others.

Thus, chaotic brawls ensued.

However, most of these conflicts were between the rogue cultivators; the groups with both numbers and strong battle power like Li Luo's were ignored.

Li Luo similarly remained unconcerned about these battles, only quietly awaiting the opening of the Golden Dew Platform. It was not yet time, and the Gold Resonant Talisman in his hand had not been activated.

They continued to wait for another half a day, and it was then that the Golden Dew Platform began to buzz with activity atop the mountain.

Blinding, golden light overflowed from the giant, floating platform, and seats started appearing beneath it. These seats were spread out from the top of the mountain and were shining with strange light, like a sea of stars.

Gazes turned fiery upon this sight.

Li Luo was no different as he swept his gaze across the entire mountain. At this point, he noticed that there were some differences amongst the seats that had materialized. The ones closest to the Golden Dew Platform were resplendent, golden lotus thrones that shimmered with an enigmatic radiance.

The golden thrones were fewest in number. Further behind were jade praying mats that were crystal-clear and engraved with ancient runes.

Even further behind were stone mats that were tinged green, shining with inscrutable light.

The appearance of these three types of seats allowed everyone to see at a glance the different grades of baptism that were available.

Clearly, the golden lotus thrones were the best, followed by the white jade praying mats, and then finally the greenstone mats.

Li Luo's gaze was focused upon the golden lotus throne. Even someone who used their butt to think would conclude that those were the beast seats. The only thing was that obtaining one would be tricky with so many people around. In terms of strength, there were also countless individuals at the late Heavenly Pearl Tier who could absolutely suppress him at the Fiend Finisher Tier. The bright side was that he was not unaccompanied—his group possessed numbers and an almighty expert by the name of Li Lingjing. Even if there were some disgruntled rogue cultivators, they would be forced to give way.

However, the ones he had to pay most attention to were the other elite powers that were present. For example, the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao. With the enmity between them, they would not idly sit by and watch the Fiend Finisher Li Luo hog a golden lotus throne. Thus, this was a battle that could not be avoided.

Chapter 0989: Battle for the Thrones

When the lotus seats, jade mats, and stone mats appeared beneath the Golden Dew Platform, the crowd turned rowdy and everyone stared at them with eyes full of desire.

There was a limited number of seats beneath the Golden Dew Platform. Only those who managed to secure one could experience the baptism they desired.

Everyone could tell from a quick glance that there were roughly a hundred seats, with better rewards for the more exquisite ones.

Among them, the golden lotus thrones were the fewest. Naturally, the competition for them would be the fiercest. Only those at the seven or eight-pearl tiers would dare to aim for them. Perhaps with the help of a strong backing, some of them could acquire more golden lotus thrones for their respective groups.

However, most of the people had accepted the fact that the golden lotus thrones were not meant for them. They would be more than happy if they could get their hands on the jade praying mats. If worse came to worst, they would be fine with just the greenstone mats as well.

At this moment, Li Luo's gaze turned from the numerous seats towards Li Fuling, Li Guan, and the rest. He said, "Everyone, let's work together to get as many seats as we can, regardless of whether it's the lotus thrones, jade praying mats, or greenstone mats. Once we've gathered all of them, we will guard them with all our might until the situation clears up. We'll allocate them based on our contributions later. How does that sound?"

It would definitely be a chaotic mess later on as everyone, including the rogue cultivators, fought like hungry tigers and wolves for the opportunities available. As such, they would easily draw the attention of enemies in a group if they were simply fighting and guarding the seats individually. It would be best for them to work in teams now.

With their advantage in numbers, they could form a line of defense and guard the seats they secured. In that case, the rogue cultivators would not dare to fight with them no matter how hungry they were.

Everyone nodded in agreement after hearing Li Luo's suggestion. This was indeed the most natural choice for a domineering power like them to make full use of their advantages.

"I excel in defense. You can send me to the seats and I'll guard them for everyone," Li Jingtao said with a grin, securing the best position for himself before anything even started.

"We'll depend on Lingjing, Cousin Fuling, and Li Guan to compete for the golden lotus thrones, then," Li Luo added. Those three were the strongest present. Li Lingjing had stunned the crowd with her eight-pearl strength, and there weren't many that would dare to stand up to her. While Li Fuling and Li Guan were slightly weaker, they were still seven-pearls and the top tier in terms of battle strength. As such, the three of them were most suited to fight for the golden lotus thrones.

Hearing this, Li Fuling and Li Guan nodded as well. Li Lingjing said, "If I get a golden lotus throne, the priority will go to Li Luo."

"What about you?" Li Fuling asked.

"I can do without it," Li Lingjing replied nonchalantly.

"Aren't you generous?" Li Fuling said with a few coughs.

At this point, Li Lingjing waved the Aquamarine Bamboo Python Staff in her hands and continued, "Li Luo gave me this earlier. It's only right that I return something valuable to him as well."

In fact, Li Fuling had been paying attention to this staff in her hands since earlier. It was exuding potent and pressurizing energy undulations. Now that Li Lingjing showed it off in front of them, the crowd could

clearly see the triple violet-eye marks on the staff. This elicited cries of surprise. "Triple violet-eye treasured artifact?"

Such a high-grade treasure was so rare that not even Li Fuling had owned a single one in her life. Even though such treasures did exist in the Dragon's Fang Guardians, the price was so ridiculously high that she could only ever watch in envy.

Li Luo had handed such a treasure to Li Lingjing? What was going on between these two? "Cousin Li Luo is very generous," Li Fuling sourly complained with a bit of jealousy.

Li Luo simply gave a dry cough as he explained, "We happened to enter a place full of treasured artifacts earlier, which came with immense danger. Since Cousin Lingjing's treasured artifact was destroyed, I gave her that one to help us fight off our powerful enemies. If I hadn't, we might have lost our lives."

At this point, he turned towards Li Lingjing and continued. "It's alright, Cousin Lingjing. If we only get one golden lotus throne in the end, you can have it. There's no need to give it to me."

Li Lingjing smiled a little, but she did not say more. It seemed like she would have to get at least two golden lotus thrones in the end. Otherwise, Li Luo might not be willing to accept it after he made his stance clear. As they continued to discuss their plans, the Golden Dew Platform on the mountain peak began to glow brightly and the faint sound of beating drums started echoing in the air.

At the next moment, everyone noticed the resonant talismans in their hands glowing as well, as if they were attracted by some otherworldly force.

"The battle for the seats beneath the Golden Dew Platform is about to begin. Prepare yourselves!"

Some of the guys shouted out excitedly.

Bang!

Countless beams of resonant power surged up into the sky. The colorful resonant energy enveloped their surroundings and the rustling of wind filled the air. Everyone soared high up into the sky towards the peak.

Li Luo and the rest also took this opportunity to gather up, and they flew high into the sky as a group.

It took them just a short moment to arrive at the vicinity around the Golden Dew Platform.

Everyone's eyes were locked onto the seats hovering in the air immediately.

Without any hesitation, Li Lingjing, Li Fuling, and Li Guan rushed up to the golden lotus thrones all the way at the front. Radiant Heavenly Pearls materialized behind them and began to ravenously devour all the worldly natural energy in the environment. Violent energy undulations that emitted an immense sense of pressure crackled in the air.

However, no one was willing to give up on the golden lotus thrones so easily. The elites from the other powerful forces, as well as some of the stronger rogue cultivators, charged towards it as well.

Waves of wild attacks flew across the air. Everyone who tried to get any closer to the golden lotus thrones were faced with layers of obstruction almost immediately.

Li Lingjing was no exception—three people flew towards her as soon as she tried to move towards one of the golden lotus thrones. They were all six-pearls, and they launched a coordinated attack to try to take her down.

Her cute face turned cold instantly, and she waved her staff in response. Fierce, poisonous rays shot out directly towards the trio.

Bang!

The three of them attempted to resist it with all their might. However, their faces changed drastically when their resonant power barriers came into contact with the poison rays. Their resonant power was eroded immediately and the one with weaker defenses was struck. The poisonous rays pierced through him, and one of his arms had all of its flesh melted completely. All that was left was the white bone beneath.

“Argh!”

He screamed out in pain. After seeing Li Lingjing's true strength, he no longer dared to fight her and retreated immediately.

With one member down, the other two were thrashed by Li Lingjing soundly. She struck fiercely with her staff once again, and the two of them spat out blood as a force that could even split mountains came crashing down upon them.

After just a few moments, the two of them lost their nerve and attempted to escape.

However, Li Lingjing wanted to make an example out of them. Her eyes turned icy with murderous intent as the eight Heavenly Pearls behind her back shone brightly. Two gigantic manifestations of the python staff smacked down.

Bang! Bang!

When the manifestations descended upon them, the two six-pearl fellows were squished. Their bodies were smashed into the ground, resulting in two pulpy messes that were horrifying for all to see.

At this instant, everyone who was watching the battle fell silent as they observed Li Lingjing with fear in their eyes. Despite her delicate and beautiful appearance, the girl was brutal and vicious when she struck, like a Rakshasa from the abyss.

While everyone was stunned by how quickly she had dealt with the two six-pearl opponents, she moved swiftly and appeared beside a golden lotus throne.

However, more people appeared around her as soon as she got her hands on one of the thrones. Their eyes were unable to hide the greed that filled them.

“Let's work together. She may be an eight-pearl, but she's dead meat if we all work together!” one of them shouted.

Everyone jumped in to give it a try.

However, a black serpent manifested behind Li Lingjing before they could even strike. Her gaze turned frigid and resonant power surged within her body. With a preemptive strike, all the fools who dared to infringe upon her majesty were decimated.

As a result, the battlefield descended further into chaos.

Battles were happening in every corner of the mountain.

It was not just the highest grade golden lotus thrones that were contested for—the battles for the greenstone mats were really fierce as well.

This treasured opportunity would affect how their cultivation journey would proceed in the future. No one was willing to give in without giving their all.

The battles in the golden lotus throne area were the most dangerous. Only four-pearls and above dared to involve themselves with those. As such, Li Luo did not charge recklessly. His targets were the jade praying mats where the opponents were weaker and more suitable for him. Nonetheless, there was still quite a bit of obstruction.

When Li Luo firmly stepped on one of the jade praying mats, the Golden-Jade Onyx-Elephant Blade materialized in his hand and he slashed downwards. The void cracked open, and a black dragon surfing a river roared to life.

Duke Art: Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner!

The Greater Completion Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner exuded an impressive presence. The face of one of the two-pearl rogue cultivators changed into fear as his resonant power was eroded in an instant. His body was pierced by the gushing, black water, and blood flowed out of every orifice. Then his body landed on the ground pathetically.

Li Luo had eliminated a two-pearl rogue cultivator in a single strike. In the next moment, he released the blade from his hand. He then clenched his fist again, and a tyrannical greatbow appeared in his grip.

Heavenly Dragon's Sunchaser Bow.

Without any hesitation, he pulled the string back, causing the bow to tremble as three unstoppable arrows pierced through the air and forced three of the figures who were trying to get closer to retreat immediately.

"A triple violet-eye treasured artifact?!" one of them exclaimed in shock. The bow in Li Luo's hands was a clear sign of the threat he posed.

Some of the others hesitated for a moment and decided to give up on this praying mat in the end.

Nonetheless, Li Luo did not let his guard down. He hefted his bow with a cold expression, ready to strike again at any moment. At the same time, he dragged the jade praying mat with his feet towards a region not too far from here.

Li Jingtao, Li Fengyi, and the rest had formed a defensive formation at that location. Their treasured artifacts were all out as they stood guard.

Li Luo kicked the jade praying mats into the group. Li Jingtao and the rest summoned up their resonant power and a shield made of light appeared, securing the object.

It was only at this moment that Li Luo looked over at the deepest district. Li Lingjing had been getting the most attention as she stood firmly on one of the golden lotus thrones. This attracted many foes towards her, but she had not retreated. Everyone who came after her was faced with her brutal retaliation.

Fresh blood continued to flow down her staff without pause

At the same time, Li Fuling and Li Guan tried their best to make their way towards Li Lingjing as well.

When Li Lingjing noticed the two of them, she slammed her staff onto the golden lotus throne under her feet. It transformed into a stream of golden light that flew towards them.

"Take this over to Li Luo and the rest," Li Lingjing told them with a light cough. At the same instant, the Aquamarine Bamboo Python Staff transformed into a giant python and soared into the sky above. Once again, poisonous rays swept across the field, forcing the people that were also eyeing the golden lotus throne to retreat.

Li Guan and Li Fuling caught the golden lotus throne and rushed over to Li Luo's side immediately. "This is the property of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li now. Who dares to steal it!?" they shouted at the same time.

These words were relatively effective. The mightiest individuals were all caught up in battle over at the main area where the golden lotus thrones could be found. The others dared not approach Li Fuling and Li Guan, who were both seven-pearls.

Making full use of this chance, the two of them attempted to make their way across the chaotic battlefield once again.

However, a sharp, golden light suddenly shot towards the two of them. Like a falling blade, it hacked down from the sky above.

The faces of Li Fuling and Li Guan changed immediately as the Heavenly Pearls behind them spun crazily and their resonant power surged up.

Bang!

The two sides clashed directly. Unfortunately, the two of them were forced back as the golden resonant power continued to push towards them.

Horror filled their faces as they looked over to see where the gold light resonant power had come from. There was a figure floating in the air over there.

It was Zhao Yan!

Behind him were eight Heavenly Pearls constantly rotating as he smirked with cold eyes.

"The others might not dare to steal it, but I do."

The faces of Li Fuling and Li Guan darkened. Zhao Yan had come prepared, but they were not afraid. They smacked the back of the golden lotus throne. At the same time, the two of them charged towards Zhao Yan directly.

"Catch it, Li Luo!"

Their voices followed after them. The golden lotus throne flew towards Li Luo, who had noticed the commotion and was running towards them.

Energy wings unfurled behind Li Luo and then he flew across the air like a bolt of lightning. Reaching his destination, he stood firmly on the golden lotus throne.

Zhao Yan gave Li Luo a cold stare as he waved his hand.

"Shenjiang, I'll leave him to you."

Immediately after, a vicious-looking figure dashed across the air. With a heavy, black spear in his hand, Zhao Shenjiang charged towards him with an icy stare. A vicious smile appeared on his face as he looked at Li Luo.

"Li Luo, who do you expect to save you this time?"

Chapter 0990: Battle against Zhao Shenjiang

Murderous intent filled the air as the vicious-looking Zhao Shenjiang charged at him ferociously. Li Luo looked at the angry figure and said with a smile, "Big Brother Zhao, why are you being so aggressive? We can discuss things peacefully."

Zhao Shenjiang revealed an icy smirk as he replied, "You had a fun time tricking me back in the valley, right?"

Li Luo responded in a serious voice, "Well, that's because you lack a brain. It was such an obvious trap, yet you stepped into it without any precautions. You can't blame me for that."

Zhao Shenjiang's grin became wider and his murderous intent nearly solidified in the air at this point. "What a sharp mouth. I'll see what else you have to say when I tear your limbs off later. When your brain juices are flowing beneath my feet, I will hear you out fully."

"Seems like it's a fight I can't avoid," Li Luo said with a sigh. Following it, he asked, "Have you prepared anything for me?"

Zhao Shenjiang glared at Li Luo but did not answer. Although he did not understand Li Luo's question, he knew it was a form of trash talk.

Li Luo sensed the lack of reaction from Zhao Shenjiang, so he decided to explain, "All of you from the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Zhao are charitable individuals, you see. The brother named Zhao Jingyu always gives me something wonderful whenever we meet. The first time we met, he gave me a set of dragon fangs. Just a while earlier, I received a valuable runic arrow from him. If you have any gifts for me, there's no need to go through all the trouble. You can just pass them to me right now."

As expected, Zhao Shenjiang knew that nothing good would come out of Li Luo's mouth. Nonetheless, he was boiling with rage now. He understood that he could never triumph over Li Luo with mere words. In that case, it was time to act.

Bang!

Resonant power burst out of Zhao Shenjiang's body like a volcanic eruption. His skin gradually turned blood-red and his veins began squirming like dragons on his body. A terrifying force flowed beneath his flesh.

Zhao Shenjiang possessed a ninth-grade strength resonance. It was a rare resonance that would give one incredible physical prowess. When he took a step forward, the air seemed to explode from the sheer speed and force his body was able to produce. He then shot across at the speed of sound and appeared in front of Li Luo in an instant. With his fist tightly clenched, he punched out.

Bang!

A thunderclap boomed from the absolute speed of the strike, and a dark-red fist manifestation flew towards Li Luo, leaving an afterimage in its wake.

Li Luo stood firmly on the golden lotus throne, and the dragon sigil between his eyebrows lit up.

"Nine Scales Sanctified Dragon's Body! Thunderpeal Avatar!"

Li Luo activated both of his strongest body-enhancing secret arts immediately. At the same time, the Golden-Jade Onyx-Elephant Blade had appeared in his hand.

"Level Three Divine Elephant Power!"

Li Luo clenched his other hand tightly into a fist. He had boosted the physical prowess of his body to its peak at this point. He wanted to have a taste of just how strong Zhao Shenjiang's lower ninth-grade strength resonance was in a physical battle.

Li Luo took the dark-red fist manifestation head-on. When the two clashed, the void shuddered aggressively and cracked open, causing huge torrents of energy to sweep across the field in all directions.

Li Luo's body shook violently at the moment of impact. He slid back with the golden lotus throne under his feet. Blood spurted out from the pores of his right arm as it trembled continuously in an attempt to neutralize the devastating energy that had invaded his body.

"Truly impressive physical strength," Li Luo said as he stepped backwards. He had barely managed to withstand it. Zhao Shenjiang had sent him flying even with both the Nine Scales Sanctified Dragon's Body and Thunderpeal Avatar in effect.

Without a doubt, Zhao Shenjiang was the strongest foe Li Luo had come across in his generation in terms of physical prowess.

He took out the Blackwood Feather Fan immediately. With a wave, a white light surrounded his arm and his injuries swiftly recovered.

"Kill this brat, Big Brother!" A voice came from the distance. It was coming from Zhao Jingyu, who had been watching their battle with eyes full of murderous intent. He had shouted out of excitement when he saw how Zhao Shenjiang had pushed Li Luo back with his punch.

In fact, the fight between Li Luo and Zhao Shenjiang had caught the attention of many other individuals from the various powers. This was ultimately a battle between two of the strongest in their generation. With their background, this was like a confrontation between both of the Heavenly Emperor powers.

This included Jiang Wanyu, who was not too far from them. She appeared more relaxed at this moment as most of the people from the Heavenly Origin Ancient College had gathered at this point. They clearly held the advantage in terms of numbers, so most people had not approached them recklessly.

"Sister Jiang, are those two elites from the younger generation of the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent?" some of the curious and younger students asked her as they watched the battle.

Jiang Wanyu nodded. "Zhao Shenjiang is a two-pearl, and he possesses a lower ninth-grade strength resonance. However, it seems like he can easily kill three-pearl rogue cultivators if they dare to stand in his way."

"What about Li Luo? He doesn't seem to have reached the Heavenly Pearl Tier yet. Is he still a Fiend Finisher? The Dragon's Head of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li is only this strong?" a beautiful girl asked in surprise from the side.

"Li Luo is not as simple as he looks. He possesses triple resonances. With just the presence of three resonant palaces, the foundation of his resonant power is extraordinary. Earlier, I crossed swords with him for a little, and his resonant power was no weaker. He's likely to have many trump cards hidden as well. This battle against Zhao Shenjiang can really be considered a fight between two of the strongest in this generation," Jiang Wanyu calmly explained.

"Who do you think will win, Senior Jiang?"

Jiang Wanyu shook her head and replied, "I don't know. Li Luo may have his trump cards, but Zhao Shenjiang is not simple either. This will be a climatic fight between the dragon and the tiger."

As they were talking about it, Zhao Shenjiang continued to stare at Li Luo with deadly eyes, his hand tightly gripping his spear. It gradually started to turn dark-red as well, as if layers of fresh blood were covering the weapon. The red was so dark that it was nearly black. There were two faintly visible violet marks on the spear as it continuously absorbed the worldly natural energy from the surroundings.

Twin violet-eye treasured artifact, Heavy Mountain Spear. This spear was as heavy as a mountain. In fact, it was the perfect weapon for someone like Zhao Shenjiang.

Bang!

Zhao Shenjiang took another step forward before dashing towards Li Luo with murderous intent, causing the space to shake.

Li Luo griped the Golden-Jade Onyx-Elephant Blade tightly, and the three resonant palaces within him started to activate. Huge amounts of resonant power surged within his body.

The power of dual resonances fused together with the Vestiges of Spirituality, creating a lively and sentient resonant power.

Li Luo's face was expressionless as he slashed his blade downwards. The void in front of him cracked open. At the next moment, a black dragon charged out of the crack, soaring towards Zhao Shenjiang with a ferocious roar and a river of black water.

Greater Completion Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner!

Zhao Shenjiang snorted as he watched the dragon rush towards him. He waved the Heavy Mountain Spear, and for a moment, a mountain seemed to have manifested into being as the void rippled from the terrifying force it exuded.

With a wave of his spear, manifestations of mountains appeared in the sky above. This added onto the weight of his spear, creating a truly devastating force.

Duke Art: Nine Mountains Heavy Spear Technique.

Zhao Shenjiang thrusted his spear, and white waves of energy rippled and set off a series of explosions. At that moment, it was like a meteorite had fallen from the sky and collided directly with the black dragon.

Bang!

Wild energy undulations swept across the battlefield, drawing the attention of many in the surroundings. The fight between these two was so crazy that the shockwave was comparable to the result of a clash between four-pears.

The fierce black dragon claw clashed repeatedly with the enormous mountain manifestations. At the same time, the heavy spear pierced through the cold, black water like a bloody streak, going straight through the black dragon's body.

In the end, Zhao Shenjiang emerged from the black rain. The Underworld River's Black Dragon had been destroyed completely.

However, his face changed completely before he could say anything regarding his victory against the black dragon. In that instant, he felt an imminent sense of danger.

He looked intently at Li Luo, who was holding onto a greatbow exuding an archaic aura. He had also drawn a black arrow beating with lightning and was about to shoot.

This arrow was something Zhao Shenjiang was very familiar with. It was the Underworld Thunder Runic Arrow that Li Luo had taken from Zhao Jingyu.

Li Luo loaded the Underworld Thunder Runic Arrow onto his bow as he smirked. "Come on, let's test out this gift from your good brother."

As he ended his sentence, resonant power surged within his body and flowed onto the pitch-black runic arrow.

Roars of thunder echoed from the runic arrow, and a terrifying presence could be felt.

At that moment, many of the four-pearls had expressions of shock after noticing the energy waves coming from it. When it was released, a series of deafening thunderclaps reverberated in the air.

The runic arrow combined with the Heavenly Dragon's Sunchaser Bow was a frightening sight, even to a four-pearl.