

Unparalleled 161

Chapter 161: The Demonic Heart Is Gone, Killing The One Who Got Away

“Heaven-Slaying Sword Drawing Technique!”

Chu Kuangren’s calm voice was an extremely large contrast to the might of that Emperor Technique he had just unleashed, and it shocked everyone at the scene.

The mighty purplish sword ray, which contained a powerful Emperor’s Aura within it, emanated outwards. Wherever the sword qi passed by, the void shook so frantically that it was at the point of breaking down!

Meanwhile, in the face of such an unprecedented amount of power, the Ashura Sect’s Elder Sect Master’s anxiety was at its extreme.

“Great Ashura Avatar!” He roared, almost depleting all the spiritual power within his body to infuse them all into the avatar’s saber attack.

The moment the purplish sword ray collided with the avatar’s saber ray, the former seemingly used a crushing battle form to shatter the latter.

Not being able to withstand that attack in the first place, the Daoist Rhyme and spiritual energy within the Great Ashura Avatar immediately collapsed and dispersed into the surroundings the second it made contact with the purplish sword ray.

The unyielding sword ray engulfed the Ashura Sect’s Elder Sect Master mercilessly, which cracked and eventually shattered the armor that he was wearing!

“No!” What came after was a tragic cry as the Elder Sect Master’s body was torn apart under the barrage of sword qi from all directions, with mists of blood spurting everywhere.

Chu Kuangren raised his hand and activated the Gluttonous Devouring Technique, transporting the corpse of the Ashura Sect’s Elder Sect Master into the Avarice dimension to refine his blood and flesh essence.

The blood and flesh essence of an Honorable Supreme was a big nourishment!

After killing the Elder Sect Master, the sword ray smashed onto the ground, and everyone who lived in Capital City could feel the ground shake a few times.

Among the cloud of smoke and dust that rose, the crowd could make out a huge crack in the ground that was thousands of feet long and hundreds of feet deep. It was like a great canyon!

The forests there were completely obliterated.

“What... What a horrifying sword technique! ”

“By the gods, is this the poise of an Emperor Technique? It’s just too strong! Even an Honorable Supreme was killed in a single attack!”

“The rumors of Chu Kuangren mentally sparring with a Sage and creating his own Emperor Technique seems true now. What kind of monster is he!”

“We had no chance of winning in the first place at all!”

Chu Kuangren’s single attack had caused such a shock to the demonic cultivators present that they ceased all intentions of resisting. All they wished was to leave that place as soon as they could.

Unfortunately, with an army led by King Qian himself and also the help of both Honorable Qing Lan and Old Lady Meng, none of the demonic cultivators ever stood a chance to escape at all!

At that time, several figures rushed out from a spatial rift not far away.

These cultivators were trying to take advantage of the chaos to enter the secret realm, wanting to get the demonic heart for themselves. Zhao Wuji was among one of those people who went in.

Upon seeing him, the Chakra King who was not far away smiled in delight. “Wuji, have you gotten the demonic heart?”

“The demonic heart was nowhere to be seen. Someone is one step ahead of me!”

Zhao Wuji’s expression was horribly unpleasant.

The same thing could be said for the Chakra King and the other demonic cultivators since everyone had put in so much effort for that demonic heart. Now that someone had stolen it first, everyone could not help but feel a seething rage within them.

This was especially so for the Ashura Sect’s Sect Master. Not only did he lose his Elder Sect Master, but the demonic heart was nowhere to be seen as well. In other words, not only did he fail to steal a chicken, but he had lost his bait too.

“Retreat!”

The Chakra King forced the Seventh Forefather back with a finger attack and immediately dragged Zhao Wuji away from the scene. Yet right at that moment, a large amount of sword qi suddenly gathered from everywhere and formed into twelve long sword qi pillars. It was the Nine Heaven Sword Prison Transformation!

“To all the demonic cultivators who’re here today, none of you shall leave!” Chu Kuangren said in a chilling tone.

Having just killed an Honorable Supreme, the cold killing intent still lingered around his body and struck fear into every single demonic cultivator!

Under King Qian and his men’s encirclement, the number of demonic cultivators had decreased drastically too. Only a few strong cultivators were still struggling to hold their ground.

“Kill Chu Kuangren first and the Nine Heaven Sword Prison will break apart!” The Ashura Sect’s Sect Master yelled and led a group of demonic cultivators towards Chu Kuangren. Despite having no chance of winning, that was all they could do for their survival.

The weakest demonic cultivator among the group that was rushing towards Chu Kuangren was in the Honorable Realm. Even Honorables like the Ashura Sect and Euphoria Sect's Sect Masters would be scared to death in the face of their powerful poise, let alone ordinary Battle Monarchs.

It was a pity that the person they were going against was Chu Kuangren!

"Phantom Light Strike!"

No one could see how Chu Kuangren moved.

All they saw was a stream of light flashed across their eyes before they felt a horrifying power erupting from their bodies as if it was going to completely tear their flesh and bones apart.

That was the power of the Human Mountain Stamp!

Boom, boom, boom!

A stream of light moved quickly among the demonic cultivators, and one by one, they were all sent flying. Those who suffered minor injuries only experienced some blood vomiting, while those who suffered more severe injuries were beaten into a pulp that eventually exploded into a mist of blood!

Not long after, more than a dozen of Honorable demonic cultivators were beaten until they laid on all sides on the ground with no strength for resistance left in them anymore.

"Gluttonous Devouring Technique!" Chu Kuangren then revealed himself, and a dark vortex appeared in the center of his palm like the mouth of a dark beast.

The demonic cultivators were all sucked into that vortex which refined them all.

"How... How can he be so horrifying!" Not far away, Zhao Wuji immediately turned pale upon witnessing that scene.

He had improved quite a bit in the three years, so he thought that he had closed the gap of power between Chu Kuangren and him.

However, it now seemed like that gap was getting larger and larger instead!

"For the one that slipped away three years ago, come and meet your death as well!" Chu Kuangren immediately shifted his gaze onto Zhao Wuji.

Zhao Wuji instantly felt a chill in his heart. He hurriedly urged his spiritual power and increased his Daoist Physique's power to its maximum. "Supreme Demonic Daoist Physique, World Ending Punch!"

A powerful Daoist Rhyme erupted alongside the fist attack!

Although that attack was not weaker than an Honorable's, Chu Kuangren instantly shattered that Daoist Rhyme with a mere slap from his palm.

That horrifying power struck Zhao Wuji with immense fear that he quickly reached out to the Chakra King for help. "Teacher, please save me!"

However, when the Nine Heaven Sword Prison was deployed, the Chakra King was once again occupied with the Seventh Forefather's attack, hence he had no chance to save his disciple at all.

Turning into a stream of light, Chu Kuangren then appeared before Zhao Wuji and instantly let out a palm attack on his forehead. With the force of the Godly Mountain, the horrifying palm attack shattered Zhao Wuji's veins, bones, and flesh!

After that, the Gluttonous Devouring Technique was activated. Before Zhao Wuji could scream in pain, he was already dragged into the Avarice dimension to be refined.

Moreover, only then did Chu Kuangren realize that although Zhao Wuji's cultivation level was not that of an Honorable's, the blood and flesh essences that were produced from his opponent were still far better than an Honorable's essence.

"Is it because of the Supreme Demonic Daoist Physique?"

"Compared to a person's cultivation level, I guess their physique was a more important factor in affecting the Gluttonous Devouring Technique's refinement results." Chu Kuangren soon figured it out after some pondering.

"Wuji!"

Just like that, Zhao Wuji was killed, and the Chakra King's eyes filled with extreme rage.

One thing to note was that Zhao Wuji was his carefully-selected successor, yet he was now killed by Chu Kuangren, and he did not even leave his body behind.

"Chu Kuangren, you said that we are demonic cultivators! But your actions now are more akin to a demonic cultivator's than us!"

"If the news of you absorbing the blood and flesh essence of others to increase your cultivation level goes out, how can you even claim to be on the side of righteousness?"

The Chakra King yelled furiously.

However, Chu Kuangren completely ignored him. After all, those mere few words could not possibly be enough to shake his Daoist heart.

"Cultivation techniques are never the ones affecting the user, it's the user who determines what to do with the techniques instead. In your hands, this Gluttonous Devouring Technique is a technique used to commit evil, yet in my hands, this technique is a tool for me to eliminate evil! "

Chu Kuangren casually replied. Having refined dozens of Honorables and even an Honorable Supreme, his momentum steadily increased and broke through by a small step. He was now in the late stage of the Battle Monarch cultivation!

"D*mn it!" The Chakra King's expression was terrifyingly unpleasant. With the Seventh Forefather in front of him and Chu Kuangren at his back, he never had a chance of winning this battle at all!

Chapter 162: Demon Disintegration, Killing Chakra King, This Is What You Deserved

"Chu Kuangren!! Let's die together!"

Chakra King growled before an extremely intrepid energy erupted from his body. Spiritual qi from the surroundings began to boil like burning oil as it frenziedly seeped into his body, rapidly increasing his spiritual power.

The Seventh Forefather's expression changed. "This is the Great Demon Disintegration Technique!"

"Great Demon Disintegration Technique; you want us to perish together?" Daoist runes flashed in Chu Kuangren's eyes as he analyzed Chakra King.

The Great Demon Disintegration Technique is a peculiar technique that originated from demonic orthodoxies. It would depend upon burning the root foundation in one's body to rapidly increase battle strength. Such a technique would deal massive damage to enemies but even greater damage to oneself!

In the most fortunate of circumstances, the user of this technique would end up destroying their cultivation base, but in the worst-case scenario, the user would self-destruct and explode on the spot!

It was a type of technique that would bring all to an end. Even in demonic orthodoxies, this technique had been labeled as forbidden, so demonic cultivators who could cultivate it had become lesser and lesser.

Chakra King was one of them.

He knew that he had little hope of making out of this alive, hence he used this technique as a last resort.

Boom!

A loud blast was heard from the void. Chakra King had disappeared from where he was standing as he had dashed towards Chu Kuangren.

Throwing out a punch, a violent spiritual power with an ominously cold Daoist Rhyme burst out and locked down on Chu Kuangren.

"White Lotus Light of Purification!" White lotuses appeared around Chu Kuangren's body, neutralizing Chakra King's first wave of attack.

However, the second wave of his attack was already coming in hot.

"Human Mountain Stamp!" Chu Kuangren activated the spiritual power in his body and threw out a palm attack. With that, the Human Mountain Daoist Rhyme was unleashed to block Chakra King's second punch with brute force.

There was another loud boom and the void quaked. The sheer force of their clash swept through the entire place like a tornado. Quite a few cultivators around them were flung off into the air.

Just as Chakra King was about to follow up with another attack, the Seventh Forefather intervened and lashed out a beam of sword ray, attempting to force him back.

However, Chakra King reacted to it with an unexpected move. Instead of standing down, he sustained and endured the sword ray head-on before he waved both his arms wilfully, activating his Daoist Rhyme. He had a look on his face that said he must have Chu Kuangren dead whatever the means.

Chu Kuangren was simply too incredible.

Even Chakra King felt fearful of Chu Kuangren. To Chakra King, as long as Chu Kuangren lives on, he would surely be a huge threat to the Underworld Palace or even the entire demonic orthodoxy in the days to come.

Besides, Chu Kuangren had murdered Zhao Wuji, so Chakra King hated him to the core. Since he was going to die anyway, he might as well drag Chu Kuangren along with him.

“Sage Technique, Yin Ender Finger!” Chakra King pointed out a finger, and an ominously chilling finger strength landed on Chu Kuangren’s shoulder.

With a loud thud, the finger strength imprinted a big crater on his enemy’s shoulder, almost severing Chu Kuangren’s whole shoulder.

However, what happens next left Chakra King staring wide-eyed and mouth agape.

He saw a huge amount of flesh sprouts started growing on the blood crater on Chu Kuangren’s shoulder — firstly the bone, then the muscle fibers, and lastly the skin. Within seconds, the blood crater that he inflicted had healed completely!

Chu Kuangren’s skin looked as fair and perfect as always, not showing even the tiniest sign of the injury he had sustained earlier.

“How is this possible?!”

Chakra King was baffled. What kind of technique was this?

While Chakra King was still recovering from the shock, Chu Kuangren seized this window of opportunity and whipped out his Descendant Self Sword. The valiant sword qi straight away blew Chakra King off his feet.

Following that, Chu Kuangren levitated into the air as his Five Supreme Foundation Levels radiated with resplendent divine rays. The surface of his body glowed with light patterns that looked like gold and jade. With the boost of his Golden Jade Body, Chu Kuangren’s spiritual power was raised to maximal capacity.

“Heaven-Slaying Sword Drawing Technique!”

He cast the Emperor Technique once again and the overwhelming Emperor Aura locked down onto Chakra King.

Ghostly purplish sword rays were unleashed!

In an instant, he slew Chakra King right there and then!

Tonight, Chu Kuangren had slain two Honorable Supremes back to back!

Holding the Descendant Self Sword in one hand, dressed in a peerless white robe, with shoulder-length raven hair, and Sword-based Daoist Rhyme emanating around his body; under the moonlight, Chu Kuangren looked exactly like a sword fairy who had descended from the skies.

Everyone stared at Chu Kuangren’s empyrean demeanor, spellbound by the sight before them.

“Brother Chu, you are truly god-like!”

Amongst the crowd, Li Xingchen could not help but exclaim in admiration.

Even the Sage Ruler Remnant Spirit inside his body was amazed. “Such a peerless individual, I don’t think there have been many like him throughout the ages.”

“Indeed. Without a doubt.”

Li Xingchen nodded in agreement. He then said, “Teacher, now that we have obtained your heart, what shall we do next?”

“When you get back, I will teach you how to refine it.”

There were indescribable joy and excitement in the Sage Ruler Remnant Spirit’s tone.

Li Xingchen felt rather perplexed at that, but he did not give it any much thought and took it that his teacher was excited at being able to increase his student’s strength.

The massacre continued for the whole night, and it only came to a stop at the break of dawn.

The demonic cultivators had all been annihilated.

The rift of the secret realm has closed too.

“It’s just a shame that we couldn’t find that demonic heart,” King Qian said disappointingly after he had returned to the Royal Palace.

That was a Sage Ruler heart after all, and although it was a demonic heart, it was still extremely sought after. It would be a priceless possession to cultivators who had not attained the Sage level.

“Perhaps the rumors were inaccurate,” the Seventh Forefather said.

“Perhaps.”

King Qian shook his head and put that thought behind him. He then gave Chu Kuangren a fist salute and said, “Praise Brother Chu for helping us clear out the demonic cultivators this time. Otherwise, we couldn’t have done it on our own.”

“You’re very welcome, King Qian. Oh right, where did Brother Li go?” Chu Kuangren smiled and asked for Li Xingchen’s whereabouts.

King Qian replied, “I think he went to nurse his injuries. Brother Li has been of massive help in exterminating the demonic cultivators this time. He has truly lived up to his title of the White Jade Hotel’s Young Master. We mistakenly captured him last time due to a misunderstanding. Truth be told, I still feel terribly sorry for that mistake.”

“Brother Li is not someone who holds grudges, so don’t worry about that too much, King Qian. If there’s nothing else, I shall entrust King Qian with the rest of the matters.”

“No problem. Go and rest, Brother Chu.”

“Alright.”

As soon as Chu Kuangren returned home, he immediately organized the items that he had looted from this battle.

He had gained quite a lot from this big battle. With the Avarice Technique, he had absorbed a great amount of demonic cultivators' blood and flesh essences, which greatly increased his cultivation base.

Besides, the few Honorables, especially Chakra King, had immense riches.

In soulstones alone, he had gotten several million Top grade ones. There were also some rare treasures like spiritual marrows, but he fed them all to the Godly Phoenix Egg.

Moreover, since he had cast the Heaven-Slaying Sword Drawing Technique twice this time, he now roughly understood the raw power of this Emperor Technique.

Although it was his self-creation, an Emperor Technique was still an Emperor Technique. With his current power, he was still unable to unleash its full potential.

Nevertheless, nobody below a Sage would have the ability to block off this sword of his now.

"Young one, I think you won't be needing Protectors like us anymore very soon." the Seventh Forefather sighed.

His words came with mixed emotions.

Chu Kuangren had grown too fast. He was now capable of slaying Honorable Supremes. Why would he need their protection when he was already more powerful than them?

"Seventh Forefather, the few of you have protected me all these while. Although the time is short, your sincerity has genuinely touched me. It will remain etched in my memories for a long time to come."

Chu Kuangren said earnestly.

"Oh right, Elder Meng, I've decided to stay at the Qian Royal Palace for a few more days. I have some herbs that I need here. Why don't you help me gather them?"

Chu Kuangren dished out a herbal recipe and passed it to Old Lady Meng.

When Old Lady Meng read it, she was utterly shocked. "This... this is the recipe for a Life Extension Pill. You plan to refine such a pill?"

"That's right. Old Lady Meng. You may still have quite some time left before reaching Heavenly Deterioration Stage Five, but I've decided to refine a furnace of Soul Extension Pill for you first."

Chu Kuangren flashed her a faint smile.

When Old Lady Meng heard that, she was moved to tears. She kneeled before Chu Kuangren as her body shook with emotions. "Oh, Your Highness, thanks for being so kind and considerate towards an old lady like me. I'm indelibly indebted!"

"No, no, please get up. This is what you deserve," Chu Kuangren said.

"Thank you so much, Your Highness," Old Lady Meng, and then she immediately went off to prepare the necessary herbs.

Chapter 163: Li Xingchen Gets Walked-In, Refining A Ninth Grade Honorable Supreme Pill

Inside a side hall of the Qian Royal Palace.

Li Xingchen sat on the bed with his mood and expression changing from time to time. At times he was seething in anger, at times he was joyous, and at times he was wicked and creepy...

"B*stard, get out of my body!"

Li Xingchen scowled in fury.

At the next second, the look on his face turned sinister again. "My dear student, let me borrow your body!"

"Teacher will bring glory to your name. It'll be known all across the Firmament Star!"

There seemed to be two distinct characters that were interchanging inside his body.

Li Xingchen's expression changed again. "I don't want this. So the real reason you asked me to retrieve your heart is not to help me increase my powers but for you to walk-in on me after I refined this demonic heart!"

"Hah, it's all too late now!"

"This is the power of my Great Eternal Soul Transference Technique. As long as my demonic heart exists, I will live on. All I need is for someone to refine this demonic heart, then I will be able to occupy a new vessel and relive through walk-in!!"

"But why me?!" Li Xingchen asked as he gritted on his teeth regretfully.

"Tsk ts, it's all just fate. It was you who found me. Besides, you have the Starlight Physique. With an extraordinary talent like yours and your background as the White Jade Hotel's heir, who else if I don't choose to walk-in on you?!" Eternal Elder laughed coldly.

"Don't you worry. I will inherit all that you have. Your parents, your background, I will use them all to the fullest, to aid my conquest of becoming an Emperor!"

"No!" Li Xingchen let out a weak growl, then his head flopped downwards. It looked as though he had lost all of his energy as he sat there silently.

After a while, Li Xingchen lifted his head up and an eerie glimmer flashed across his eyes. "Ah, I've finally managed to oppress this fellow's soul. Now I'll just need to integrate this body with the demonic heart."

Once the demonic heart had been fully integrated, he would be reborn as the Eternal Sage King while Li Xingchen would be wiped off from existence forever!

"Li Xingchen, my dear student, rest easy."

Li Xingchen let out an evil laugh.

...

At this moment, Chu Kuangren was in an alchemy room within the Qian Royal Palace.

He was about to refine a Soul Extension Pill for Old Lady Meng.

This whole time, Old Lady Meng had given a lot of time and effort as his Protector. Chu Kuangren may have never mentioned it explicitly, but he knew very well what she had sacrificed for him, so he felt like he should at least show some form of gratitude.

It was quite convenient as well because refining the Soul Extension Pill was not a difficult task for him. However, due to the lack of herbs, he would not be able to refine the Starlight Grade one like he did last time, which was a kind of Soul Extension Pill with about the same quality as a Sage Grade Supreme Pill.

Nonetheless, refining an Honorable Grade Pill, which was of slightly lesser quality, would still be manageable.

Before long, a huge amount of pill qi billowed skywards from within the alchemy room. An incredibly vibrant life force swept across a good half of the Royal Palace.

Many cultivators inside the Royal Palace could sense this tremendous life force.

“Such immense life force and pill qi. Is it possible that someone is refining an Extension Pill?”

“There are a few grades to an Extension Pill. But with this pill qi, it should be at least an Honorable Grade Life Extension Pill. Only Alchemy Masters are capable of producing these pills!”

“Wait a minute, we don’t have this class of alchemist in the Royal Palace though, so who on earth is this?”

“Quick, go and have a look.”

The prospect of a Soul Extension Pill being refined attracted a large crowd. Even the Eternal Sage King, who had just finished his walk-in had sensed it.

“This is strange. I never thought there would be an Alchemy Master here. I can’t believe I’ll have the chance to meet one in this place. How lucky.”

“Such a person would greatly benefit me. I must take this chance and get to know him. I’m sure that it would be of immense help to my cultivation base in the future.”

Li Xingchen muttered to himself as he approached the source of the pill qi.

Above the alchemy room.

Billows of pill clouds were condensed together. One cloud, two clouds, three...

There were a total of nine pill clouds that radiated with golden brilliance. An incredibly vibrant Life Force Daoist Rhyme emanated the surroundings, shocking all the cultivators.

King Qian, who had just arrived, was bewildered too. He may not have extensive knowledge in alchemy, but he knew what nine clusters of pill clouds signified.

“Nine... Nine Clustered Pill Cloud. Such a scale of pill qi means none other than an Honorable Grade pill. It has to be a Ninth Grade Honorable Supreme Pill!!”

King Qian's voice tremored.

He had never heard of anyone who could produce Ninth Grade Honorable Supreme Pills; not even an Alchemy Master!

"This is an Alchemy Master. Only an Alchemy Grandmaster in the legends could refine such a Supreme Pill!"

"I wonder who is this inside the alchemy room."

All the other cultivators who had just arrived at the scene were astonished by what they were witnessing.

Even Li Xingchen showed the same reaction.

"A Ninth Grade Honorable Supreme Pill, and an Alchemy Grandmaster. Who knew that we would be graced by such a legendary figure here. I must seize my chance and build good relations with this person!"

Li Xingchen proclaimed as his eyes glowed with a fiery gaze.

Soon, he noticed that a few people were guarding outside the alchemy room.

"Eh, it's them." Li Xingchen was somewhat surprised. Those few people were Lan Yu, who was always by Chu Kuangren's side, and three other Protectors.

Only Chu Kuangren was nowhere to be found.

He felt rather curious. "There was not a moment where the Protectors would leave Chu Kuangren alone. Why are they here while Chu Kuangren is not?"

Li Xingchen walked up to them and greeted them, "Greetings, my few elders."

"Junior Li, you're here too."

The Seventh Forefather responded with a slight nod.

Li Xingchen felt rather unpleasant at being referred to as a junior. They needed to know that he was now the Eternal Sage King that was reincarnated through a walk-in. Not just his knowledge, but even his cultivation and experience were much superior to that of the Seventh Forefather.

So how could he not feel annoyed at being called a junior?

However, he was able to hide that well as he did not show his annoyance at all. "Who is inside this alchemy room? Oh, and where did Brother Chu go?"

Since he was previously in a Remnant Spirit form, it was a necessity for him to keep away from Chu Kuangren. However, now that he had a walk-in and was reborn, even Sages would not be able to trace back his origins, so he was naturally not afraid that Chu Kuangren would see through him.

"Ah, it's the Bachelor Sage who's inside the alchemy room."

Honorable Qing Lan laughed as she explained.

“Oh, so Brother Chu is an associate of this Alchemy Grandmaster.”

“No, the Bachelor Sage is that alchemist in there.”

Upon hearing that, embezzlement was written all over Li Xingchen’s face. He asked in astonishment, “Dear elders, you’re not kidding me, are you?”

The Seventh Forefather returned him a smile and said, “Yes, I know that this may sound unbelievable, but this is the fact.”

Li Xingchen was completely thrown off guard.

Chu Kuangren was also an Alchemy Grandmaster?!

His talent was unparalleled throughout the ages with his extraordinary battle strength, and yet he was also an Alchemy Grandmaster. What other logic was left in this world?

“Shame. What a shame.”

“If only the body that I have walked-in was this Chu Kuangren, how good would that have been!”

“With his physique and alchemic prowess, complemented with my cultivation and experience as a past Sage Ruler King, it would have made a perfect match for me to escalate through the ranks and catch up to that position as Emperor!”

Deep down, Li Xingchen sighed regretfully.

For his walk-in, it made complete sense to choose a sky-pride with exceptional talent and cultivation. Yet in comparison with Chu Kuangren, every other sky-prides in this world would be as inferior as dust speckles.

“Now that I’ve been reborn with Li Xingchen’s identity, I must strike up a good relationship with this Chu Kuangren. Even though I could never possess his powers, I need to avoid making an enemy with such a person, unless it is the last resort.”

He was clearly aware of his current state. He was fresh out of a walk-in so he would surely not be Chu Kuangren’s match. He still needed some time to expand his potential.

With a loud creak, the door of the alchemy room opened, and out walked Chu Kuangren with his hand holding a small jade bottle. Inside were a few shiny golden Supreme Pills, and they were the Ninth Grade Honorable Supreme Soul Extension Pills.

“Elder Meng, there are a total of twelve Supreme Pills here. Take one of them once every month. By my calculations, they should help extend your lifetime by approximately three millenniums.”

“Many thanks, Your Highness.”

With a heart full of gratitude, Old Lady Meng took the pills with her trembling hands.

Chapter 164: You Are Threatening Me, First Usage Of The Soul Retriever

“I never thought that you are an Alchemy Grandmaster too, Brother Chu. You are truly a man with many talents.” King Qian walked up to Chu Kuangren and said.

The group of cultivators who were behind King Qian surrounded Chu Kuangren and saluted him too.

“Not only does Brother Chu have extraordinary talent, but you also know how to refine pills. You are truly incredible. I humbly admire your greatness.”

“Yes, even an old guy like me only knew a little alchemy. As compared to Brother Chu, I am really just a nobody who has never seen better. I expose myself to ridicule.”

“Brother Chu, I have a daughter at home who is currently twenty years of age. She is a great admirer of yours. May I kindly set up an arrangement between you two?”

All the cultivators who were there could not stop talking.

Some of them even began to introduce their own daughters.

King Qian stared at the group of cultivators with disgust. ‘These people knew no embarrassment. They just don’t know how to restrain themselves!’

“Brother Chu, I too have a daughter. She is accomplished in music, chess, calligraphy, and painting. Do you need me to call her over to be in your company?”

King Qian smiled at him.

The crowd of cultivators was speechless.

It was not their fault that they reacted that way as the abilities that Chu Kuangren had showcased were simply too remarkable.

Forget his combat strength, but just the usefulness of his alchemic abilities alone, who could assure that they would never be down with a headache or a fever?

Who could assure that they would never descend into Heavenly Deterioration Stage Five?

Chu Kuangren’s ability as an Alchemy Grandmaster was just too valuable. As long as he would agree, he could very well be capable of prolonging the lives of most cultivators!

Nobody would dare offend Chu Kuangren based on that fact alone, even if he could not defend himself. On the contrary, there were many who wished to get in his good books.

Facing the zealous King Qian and the crowd of cultivators, Chu Kuangren kept a smile on his face, then proceeded to deal with them one after another.

After a while, he looked at Li Xingchen who was standing beside him. “Brother Li, you have contributed a lot to our demonic extermination yesterday. Thank you for that.”

“You’re welcome, I did what I had to. On the other hand, you’ve given us quite a huge surprise today, Brother Chu. Who knew that you also have your ways around alchemy.”

“Haha, can’t survive in this competitive world without a skill or two, can we?”

Chu Kuangren laughed.

“I can’t say I disagree, Brother Chu,” Li Xingchen said.

Chu Kuangren looked at Li Xingchen with an eyebrow slightly raised. He felt that something was amiss about Li Xingchen today, but he could not tell what it was.

So he activated his spiritual thought and activated his Eye of Revelation.

However, this one closer look instantly shook him.

"Eternal Sage King, currently in a walked-in status; fifty thousand years ago, after his original flesh and body were destroyed, he remained in this world in the form of a Remnant Spirit; cultivates the Eternal Soul Transference Technique..."

"Li Xingchen; soul currently in a deep slumber..."

All the information about the Eternal Sage King appeared and flashed past his visual field.

As for Li Xingchen, all he got was his current state of deep slumber.

Nonetheless, the fact that he was not dead yet made Chu Kuangren breathe a sigh of relief. He maintained his calm as he continued to say, "Brother Li, why don't we go out for a walk?"

"How could I reject Brother Chu's invitation? Let's go."

The two of them exited the side hall and started their leisurely stroll inside the Royal Palace.

Along the way, they walked past several maids who all bowed when they saw Chu Kuangren and Li Xingchen, looking extremely courteous and eye-pleasing.

"Greetings, Master Chu, and Master Li."

"Yes."

After another pair of maids had passed by, Chu Kuangren started to speak, "Brother Li, I feel that you have changed. You don't even look at the girls anymore."

When Li Xingchen heard that, his heart sank.

Only then did he remember that Li Xingchen was a man who was easily attracted to pretty faces. He would normally take a few looks at the people he finds pleasant to his eye.

However, now that there were so many beautiful palace maids in the Royal Palace, he had not even given any of them a second look. Could this have raised Chu Kuangren's suspicion?

"Don't be silly, Brother Chu. When it comes to good looks, you're the one who is a level above us all. With you here, how would I dare look at anyone else here."

Li Xingchen tried to patch up the awkwardness by laughing it off.

"What you just said made me feel rather awkward."

Chu Kuangren gave Li Xingchen a weird glance.

"Oh, don't worry, Brother Chu. Don't misunderstand me. I have no such desires towards the same sex."

The two of them, along with Lan Yu, walked all the way until they reached a garden. After checking that there was nobody around, Chu Kuangren asked, "That was indeed a great battle last night. The demonic cultivators came here for the demonic heart, but unfortunately, it was nowhere to be found. Who do you think has it now?"

"How would I know?"

"Oh, but the demonic heart is pumping inside your body right now, don't you know?"

When Li Xingchen heard of that, he was dumbfounded.

How did Chu Kuangren know that he had the demonic heart inside his body?

"Brother Chu, I never intended to lie to you, but the circumstances surrounding this demonic heart are just way too important to be taken lightly. I was worried that you would think I have strayed into the demonic ways. I couldn't think of a better way to inform you about this, so I hid the truth from you," Li Xingchen hastily explained himself.

"That's enough. Stop pretending, Eternal Sage King!"

Chu Kuangren skipped straight to the endgame. He kindled his spiritual thought, and by then, the Battle Monarch Domain was already locked onto Li Xingchen's body, suppressing any of his control.

It worked even for a Sage Ruler. Besides, he was in the form of a Remnant Spirit, so even after he had walked-in on Li Xingchen, Chu Kuangren's Domain still made him feel immensely pressured. He felt like his whole body was trapped in quicksand, and he found it hard to make any movements.

The pressure that came from the Domain was, however, incomparable to the pressure that he was currently feeling in his heart. Eternal Sage King looked at Chu Kuangren with a face full of bewilderment. He had no idea how Chu Kuangren had managed to see through his real identity.

He had only just finished the walk-in last night!

How did his cover get blown today?

It was just too fast!

"Brother Chu, what are you saying, why would I..."

Li Xingchen, no, Eternal Sage King was about to say more, but the energy from that Domain started increasing, pinning him onto the ground.

"Get the hell out of Li Xingchen's body!"

Chu Kuangren demanded firmly.

Deep down, Eternal Sage King felt extremely frustrated. As a mighty Sage Ruler, he had never once bowed down to anyone, what more like this situation now where he was down on all fours like a dog in front of someone.

Although he could not grasp his head around how Chu Kuangren had done it, he knew very well that the fact that Chu Kuangren was so adamant must mean that he had indeed seen through his actual identity.

“Chu Kuangren, you best be careful. This body still belongs to Li Xingchen, and I am currently one with him, inseparable. If I die, he would have to die too!” Eternal Sage King warned him in an evil tone.

“Oh, you’re threatening me now?”

“Hmph, and what’s wrong with that? Not like you can do anything to me now. I may not know how you managed to see through my identity, but I do know one thing, that if you want Li Xingchen to live, you best let me off the hook.” Eternal Sage King let out a cold sneer.

The Eternal Soul Transference Technique was extremely powerful. His Remnant Spirit was attached inside Li Xingchen’s body which also integrated with the demonic heart that originally belonged to him. The soul and the physical body were combined flawlessly, and none could separate the two.

“Just nice, I can experiment this thing on you.”

The item in Chu Kuangren’s hand let out a bright flash. Suddenly, a pitch-black chain appeared, from which a type of ominous energy was emitted.

This dark energy made Eternal Sage King worry, and he started to feel unsafe.

“What is this?” Eternal Sage King asked anxiously.

Chu Kuangren did not give him an answer. Instead, he tossed out the part of the chain with a hook. The hook was seen turning invisible as it penetrated into Eternal Sage King’s heart right away.

At that moment, Eternal Sage King began to look extremely terrified. “What are you doing?”

His Remnant Spirit began to quiver uncontrollably as if it had just encountered a fierce predator.

“Tsk, come on out now!” Chu Kuangren scoffed and then forcefully pulled on the chain. The chain flung out from within Li Xingchen’s body, and at the same time, extracted a white-haired elder in grey robes.

This elder was hooked tightly onto the hook on the metal chain until it was stuck and unable to move. It was the Eternal Sage King’s Remnant Spirit!

“No way... How is this possible...”

Chapter 165: Untold Secrets Of The Sage War, Did You Think I Would Save You For Next Year? No, You Die Here!

“How? How could this be?!”

Having been pulled out of Li Xingchen’s body by the Soul Retriever, the Eternal Sage King was in disbelief. He could feel the Soul Retriever emanating a cold aura, which continuously numbed his holy spirit.

“This is a top-grade weapon used on souls! How do you have this?” Eternal Sage King howled in rage.

Weapons meant to target souls were extremely rare. So much so that even the Eternal Sage King himself had never seen it but only ever heard of it.

For Chu Kuangren to have such a weapon meant to deal with him felt like more than just a coincidence!

The Eternal Sage King's holy spirit quaked with rage. "By the Gods! Is this really my fate?! Do the heavens wish for my death this badly?!"

"No. No! Even that Sage War couldn't kill me. I refuse to believe a mere chain can end my life!"

The Eternal Sage King thrashed and resisted, his holy spirit growing agitated.

Chu Kuangren tugged lightly at the Soul Retriever. The cold aura then intensified before it faded the Eternal Sage King's energy, freezing his holy spirit into a block of unmoving ice.

"What do you want from me, Chu Kuangren?!"

The Eternal Sage King feebly said.

"I'm curious. What is this Sage War you speak of? If you speak, I might take mercy on you," Chu Kuangren simply stated.

Hesitation flashed across the Eternal Sage King's face, but Chu Kuangren practically had a knife to his throat now. He would gut him like a fish if he objected.

"The Sage War was a great battle that took place fifty thousand years ago. All the warriors were Sages, hence the name."

"Wait, everyone was a Sage?!" Chu Kuangren was mildly surprised.

He glanced at Lan Yu, who stood to the side, and noticed that she was also in shock.

"A war that happened fifty thousand years ago, involving only Sages... It appears to be the same war that the Sage Ruler Holy King was a part of." Lan Yu stated.

After all, she had gained some of the Sage Ruler Holy King's memories when she received the Scepter of Light.

One of them included a mortifying war that also took place fifty thousand years ago. It was likely the same war the Eternal Sage King mentioned.

"The Sage Ruler Holy King? I believe there was a Sage by that name during the war," the Eternal Sage King replied.

"Continue. What was the purpose of the Sage War?"

"Why, of course, to become Emperors!"

"During the Era where Dharma ended, the path to Dao ascension was unclear to us. To become Emperors, we Sages set ourselves up for battle; we would fight to the death and let our Dao energies weave and collide. We used this method to catalyze and push for the emergence of Dharma! With that, the chance to become Emperor would appear!"

The Eternal Sage King whispered.

Chu Kuangren was shocked to hear what he said. "To think there was another way to become an Emperor. You guys tried so hard, but did it work?"

"I don't know. I didn't make it to the end of the war. But before my physical body vanished, I saw it. The Dao energies from all the Sages formed a golden cloud of Dharma. The Emperor's Essence appeared!"

"Wait, the Emperor's Essence?"

"Yes."

The corner of Chu Kuangren's mouth twitched. "You caused a huge war just for the sake of one or two Primordial Emperor's Essences?"

"I know what you're thinking. You think it wasn't worth it."

The Eternal Sage King laughed at himself. There were forty-nine pieces of the Primordial Emperor's Essences now even without there starting a Sage War.

"You are lucky to be born in this era, Chu Kuangren. You have no idea how far people would go to become an Emperor during those times. The Sage War was only the tip of the iceberg."

The Eternal Sage King spoke impassively.

"Okay, so you started the Sage War, and the Emperor's Essence appeared. Surely, someone was the winner, right? Who was it?"

"I don't know. Like I said earlier, my physical body perished midway. It was only recently that my holy spirit reawakened. I am unaware of anything that has happened in the past few thousand years." The Eternal Sage King shook his head.

"I see. So, where did the Sage War take place?"

Chu Kuangren asked one final question.

"Back in the day, we called it the Tali Desert, but now, it's known as the Ancient Battlefield."

"Oh, it's one of the Ten Great Forbidden Areas!" Chu Kuangren gasped in surprise.

The Ten Great Forbidden Areas were the most dangerous places in the Firmament Star. Even Sages may not return alive from those areas.

The Ancient Battlefield was one of these dangerous and forbidden areas. Legends say that countless raging wars have taken place there, and evil spirits roam the area all year round.

"I'd like to see it if I get the chance."

Chu Kuangren felt the impulse to take a risk.

However, he suppressed the urge and pulled on the Soul Retriever.

Instantly, the Eternal Sage King howled in agony as a burst of cold energy emanated from the Soul Retriever and relentlessly gnawed away at the remnants of his soul.

"Chu Kuangren! You're breaking your promise!"

The Eternal Sage King glared at him hatefully.

“When did I promise you anything? I said I might spare you. Keyword, might.”

“Besides, what use do I have for a Remnant Spirit? Not to mention that you were plotting to kill my friend. Did you think I would save you for next year? No, you’re dying here.”

The corner of Chu Kuangren’s lips curled up as he tugged on the Soul Retriever hard.

The Eternal Sage King’s Remnant Spirit instantly shattered and vanished.

Using his Eye of Revelation, Chu Kuangren thoroughly checked Li Xingchen for traces of the Eternal Sage King, and only relaxed when he found none.

“As long as the demonic heart exists, the Sage will be eternal.”

“He only had one chance to transfer his soul into a new host. It was his last resort. At least he’s dead now.”

Chu Kuangren stowed away his Soul Retriever.

Li Xingchen, who was lying on the floor, slowly began to wake up. He looked around, dazed and confused, before he jumped up and screamed with his hands clutched onto his head. “Get out of my body, Eternal Sage King!”

“Stop yelling. He’s dead.”

Chu Kuangren stood there, rolling his eyes.

“Wait, why are you here, Brother Chu?”

“Because of you?”

Chu Kuangren recounted the tale of how he discovered the Eternal Sage King.

“I thought that the clingy old man was just your golden finger, but it ended up being this old fogey that wanted to kill you,” Chu Kuangren tutted.

Even though Li Xingchen was not too sure what Chu Kuangren meant by his golden finger, he was very aware that he had saved his life.

“I’m deeply indebted to you, Brother Chu. From now on, my life is yours. If there’s anything you need, do let me know.”

Chu Kuangren patted his shoulder. “Don’t mention it. We’re friends, after all.”

“Brother Chu...” Li Xingchen was touched beyond comprehension.

After the whole debacle with the Eternal Sage King, Chu Kuangren stayed in the Royal Palace for another two days before he left.

...

Congratulations! The Host has rolled the Golden Grade Green Emperor’s Sword!”

On the Fairy boat, Chu Kuangren's daily gacha rolls gave him a Golden Grade Green Emperor's Sword. According to the cultivation world's classifications, it was an Honorable grade sword.

"Another sword?" Chu Kuangren muttered, placing the weapon into the Sacred Emerald Sword Case. It was the seventh treasured sword he had rolled this month.

Although every sword he had gotten was a treasured sword that could be cultivated with his sword case, the Descendant Self Sword was more than enough for him. He suddenly had no idea what to do with so many new swords.

Could he use them as concealed weapons?

Each strike would be an Honorable grade treasured sword. Ha! How bourgeois it would look.

Chapter 166: At Least Ninety Percent Confidence, Vibrant Rejuvenation Pill, Spring Slumber Pill

Just as Chu Kuangren was about to begin his journey around the world, a piece of news was suddenly spread across Azure Dragon Domain and it shocked a lot of people.

It was said that Honorable Xuan Qi, the Sect Master of Black Heaven Sect, was about to attempt ascension!

This news had sent shockwaves through the entire Azure Dragon Domain.

Once an Honorable succeeded in ascension, he would enter the Boundary Sage State. As long as the person continued to accumulate wisdom, he would go on to become a Sage in the future!

Would the Black Heaven Sect be welcoming another Sage?!

At this moment, the whole Azure Dragon Domain was discussing this.

"Black Heaven Sect is a sage orthodoxy, so they would surely have a Sage backing them. But if they were to have another Sage, that would be scary stuff."

"Yeah, even for any sage orthodoxy, there usually aren't many Sages behind them. The addition of each new one would be of substantial importance."

"Tsk, the prerequisite is that Honorable Xuan Qi succeeds in his ascension."

"I think some people would not sit idly and allow Honorable Xuan Qi's ascension to happen."

"Honorable Xuan Qi had offended god knows how many people in his younger days when he was traversing all across Firmament Star. Now that he is going into ascension, surely those people would not wish him success. Who knows what they'll come up with."

This news became a hotly-debated topic worldwide.

Chu Kuangren had caught wind of this too.

"Honorable Teacher is attempting ascension soon. It's time to get back to Black Heaven Sect." Chu Kuangren immediately made up his mind to end his trip prematurely. With that, he changed his route and headed back to the Black Heaven Sect.

Li Xingchen too had tagged along for a visit.

Back at the Black Heaven Sect, the atmosphere in the Longevity Hall was extremely solemn.

A few elders had gathered to discuss the arrangements for Honorable Xuan Qi's ascension, which entailed the appropriate venue and necessary ascension tools amongst others.

In the midst of their discussion, Chu Kuangren walked in.

"Lead Disciple, you're back."

"Kuangren."

Chu Kuangren entered the main hall and gave the several elders there a bow.

After that, he stared at Honorable Xuan Qi with a discontented look. "Honorable Teacher, your ascension is such an important matter, how could you not notify me about it? You're treating me like an outsider now, eh?"

"Haha, it's just an ascension."

Honorable Xuan Qi laughed in response.

Chu Kuangren and the others were puzzled.

Just an ascension?

This may have been very easy to say, but the truth was that many cultivators viewed the heavenly tribulations in ascension as a nightmare. With just the tiniest bit of error, they would end up dead and gone.

"Honorable Teacher, how much confidence do you have in this?" Chu Kuangren asked.

"At least seventy percent."

Honorable Xuan Qi smiled proudly.

"Just seventy? That's too little isn't it?" Chu Kuangren frowned.

The few elders glanced at each other when they heard that.

'Is seventy percent little?

Honorable Xuan Qi shook his head and smiled. "My dear Kuangren, for matters like ascension, a seventy percent confidence is already beyond excellent."

"Why can't you wait until you're a hundred percent confident?"

"Truth be told, I should've done this ascension many years ago. However, I just kept accumulating wisdom, and now it has reached the max."

"Alright then, when are you ascending?"

"In seven days."

“Then we have time.”

Honorable Xuan Qi was stunned for a moment. “What do you mean?”

“Seven days is enough for me to prepare some stuff for you, Honorable Teacher. Seventy percent is too little, we need you to have at least ninety percent confidence.”

Chu Kuangren let out a faint smile.

For the next few days, he started to get busy.

...

On the same day, in the brewing chamber.

An intimidating pill qi billowed skywards and condensed into nine golden pill clouds high up in the sky, which emanated with prosperous energy.

Wherever the pill qi swept past, wilted plants would blossom and once again return to life.

Many alchemists were drawn towards this strange sight.

“What a scary pill qi. Is this the Ninth Grade Honorable Supreme Pill?”

“No way, I think it’s sufficient to be a Sage Supreme Pill!”

“Is the Elder Senior Brother refining pills?”

“Duh, who else but Elder Senior Brother would have such capabilities?”

Inside the brewing chamber, Alchemy Master Gu Jiang, who had just joined Black Heaven Sect not long ago, could not help but be amazed by the sight that was unfolding before his eyes.

“Ninth Grade Sage Supreme Pill. I think of all people on Firmament Star, only you, Alchemy Grandmaster Chu, could produce such a pill. This is just astounding.”

He had studied under Chu Kuangren for quite some time now, but the more he studied, the more he realized how superior Chu Kuangren’s alchemy abilities were compared to his. The gap was so huge that it was almost immeasurable.

Moments later, Honorable Xuan Qi and the rest of the people arrived.

Once they saw the peculiar herbal transformation in front of them, they exchanged glances with each other.

“What sort of commotion is Kuangren conjuring up again?”

“Sigh, why did I even need to use the word ‘again’?”

The pill cloud started to dissipate, and the transformation gradually faded away. Everyone thought that Chu Kuangren was done with his pill brewing, but the brewing chamber’s door remained tightly shut.

“Why is he not out yet?”

“Shall we go inside and have a look?”

Outside the door, Lan Yu said to Honorable Xuan Qi, “Master has instructed that, if he still hasn’t come out yet, nobody is allowed to go in and disturb him.”

Helpless, the crowd could only wait on.

Not long after.

Another fog of pill qi soared skywards, condensing into nine pill clouds.

However, the crowd did not react as they were already accustomed to this sight.

The Ninth Grade Supreme Pills were like a fable in the alchemy world, yet for Chu Kuangren, it was just business as usual. He could make them whenever he wanted to

“He really is a freak of a talent.” One of the elders lamented.

Even the word “talent” alone would not suffice to describe such a person.

He was a freak of a talent.

A freakish talent who defied all natural laws.

About half an hour later.

A creak was heard.

The brewing chamber’s door was finally flung open, and Chu Kuangren walked out holding two jade bottles. Each of the bottles was filled with two types of pills — one yellow and the other green.

“Honorable Teacher, you are all here.”

“Nonsense. How can we not come to take a look when you have made such a commotion?”

Honorable Xuan Qi said begrudgingly.

“Aw, I, your student am only doing this because I’m worried for you, about your ascension.”

Chu Kuangren whispered cheekily. He then passed the two jade bottles over to Honorable Xuan Qi and said, “The yellow one is the Vibrant Rejuvenation Pill, a Sage Healing Supreme Pill. It would help you recover from your injuries rapidly.”

“As long as you’re not dead yet, consuming a pill would recoup all of your energy and restore you to a highly spirited state. There’s a total of three pills, so use them wisely when you go into ascension. As for the green pill, there’s only one. It’s called the Spring Slumber Pill, otherwise known as the Death Feigning Pill!”

“If you feel like you don’t have the strength to carry on, take this pill and it will make you enter an apparent death state. By then, you’ll be able to trick your way past the heavenly tribulations. Even though it is considered a failed ascension, it’s still better than losing your life I reckon.”

After Chu Kuangren was done explaining the two types of pills, he looked at the crowd only to find them staring at him as though he was an alien.

“What’s wrong? do you guys have any more questions?”

“No.”

Elder Ruyan shook her head and said, “It’s just that with this method of ascension, it suddenly made me feel like I could manage it too if I were to go for it.”

The pills that Chu Kuangren had given were too precious. It was without a doubt that they could greatly increase any strong cultivator’s odds of a successful ascension.

“Vibrant Rejuvenation Pill is a Sage Healing Supreme Pill, which is extremely rare. Not to mention that it is a Ninth Grade Supreme Pill, I don’t think I could even tell the difference between this and a True Sage Pill. Alchemy Grandmaster Chu, you’re too incredible.”

Gu Jiang gulped. He then looked at the Spring Slumber Pill and raised his doubt. “This Spring Slumber Pill, why have I never heard of it?”

‘It would be strange if he has heard of it.’

‘This is a pill recipe that I’ve won from my gacha roll.’

Chu Kuangren thought to himself.

“This is a pill recipe that I have obtained through good fortune. I’ve tried this pill before myself, so don’t worry about it, Honorable Teacher,” Chu Kuangren said.

Honorable Xuan Qi received the pills with a smile. “Surely I trust you, my dear student. You’ve done so much for me, and I really appreciate it.”

“With these pills, I now have at least eight percent confidence.”

Chu Kuangren shook his head. “As I said earlier, you must have at least ninety percent confidence. Eighty percent is still not enough.”

The few elders beside them smiled bitterly.

In all honesty, fifty percent confidence would already suffice for a cultivator to have a go at ascension. Being able to have seventy percent confidence was already quite extreme.

Eighty percent was still not enough?

D*mn, if that was really the case, would anyone in this world even dare to attempt ascension?

Chapter 167: Thundersoother Rod, An Attempt To Thwart Honorable Xuan Qi

“Honorable Teacher, elders, please follow me.”

Chu Kuangren said.

He then led Honorable Xuan Qi and the few other people to a mountaintop, where the surroundings were immaculately quiet. It was the place that was designated for Honorable Xuan Qi’s ascension.

At the place.

There were four black metal rods, which stood tall and lined up in a square. There were even mysterious runes carved on them.

The few of them stared at the four metal rods with confusion.

“What the hell is this? I don’t remember these being here the last time I came.”

“These metal rods are made of unique material, and they vaguely contain some sort of Daoist Rhyme. By my guess, this should be some kind of treasure.”

“Kuangren, don’t tell me that you’re the one who set these up?”

Honorable Xuan Qi asked curiously.

Chu Kuangren nodded slightly. “Yes, these four metal rods are called the Thundersoothe Rods. They are able to redirect the surges of tribulation into the ground.”

Upon hearing that, all of them were shocked.

The ability to redirect the surges of tribulation was something that they had never heard of before. Did these metal rods really have such special abilities?

“Lead Disciple, not that I don’t believe you, but the Sect Leader’s ascension is not a matter to be taken lightly. Are these metal rods really as magical as you’ve described?”

One of the elders questioned.

Chu Kuangren smiled but remained silent. He then walked into the middle of the four metal rods before he turned back towards that elder and said, “Second Elder, I remember that you cultivate the Nine Heavens Lightning Sword Art. You can deliver an attack at me now.”

“This, this is not a good idea.” Second Elder hesitated.

“Just do it.”

“This...” Second Elder glanced at Honorable Xuan Qi.

“What are you looking at me for? If Kuangren allows you to strike at him, then just do as he wishes. With that little cultivation base of yours, I don’t think you’ll be able to hurt him.”

Honorable Xuan Qi replied amusingly.

He had already obtained knowledge of Chu Kuangren’s abilities from the Seventh Forefather. Not to mention the Second Elder, even he himself would not be able to do any damage to Chu Kuangren.

He felt rather insecure whenever he thought of that.

His student was so capable that the pressure on him as a teacher was just too immense.

“Alright then.”

Second Elder nodded as he formed a sword hand sign with one hand. A Lightning-based Daoist Rhyme was then unleashed from his fingers, turning into a lightning-based sword qi that struck out instantaneously.

The lightning-based sword qi swept towards Chu Kuangren, but Chu Kuangren remained standing within the metal rods, undeterred by the attack.

When the sword qi was close to him, the lightning energy made a quiver before it was unexpectedly twisted towards another direction by an invisible force. It crashed onto the metal rod and then vanished.

“Eh.” Second Elder gasped in surprise and let loose another sword strike which was even more powerful. However, just like before, the lightning energy was sucked into the ground by the metal rod, not harming Chu Kuangren even the slightest bit.

“Interesting.”

Second Elder leaped into the air, and a terrifying Lightning-based Daoist Rhyme was emitted instantly. Dark clouds amassed, and thunder started to rumble.

The majestic force of nature encased the entire place, sending shudders down the spines of everyone present.

“Lead Disciple, I’m about to unleash my full power.”

“Please do.” Chu Kuangren smiled faintly.

The crowd watched on intently.

“Nine Heavens Lightning, I summon you!”

Second Elder let out a loud cry, and the turbulent lightning energy from the dark clouds instantly condensed above the top of his head, forming a giant Lightning Sword!

The giant sword swung down, its sheer force of nature shaking the earth!

No one would have dared to be sloppy or complacent in face of this sword strike, even for Honorable Supremes.

Even so, Chu Kuangren still remained unmoved.

Boom!

The giant sword landed and shook every air particle in the void!

However, just when the giant sword edged close to the four metal rods, that violent lightning energy was instantly manipulated and directed into the ground once again.

A stripped-off, pure sword qi was the only thing left that was facing Chu Kuangren. Without the incantation of the lightning energy, this sword qi was no threat to Chu Kuangren. So he cast the White Lotus Light of Purification and dispelled this sword qi effortlessly.

Everyone at the scene was dumbfounded by what they saw.

“This metal rod could indeed divert Lightning energy?!”

“Heavenly tribulations will emerge in the form of lightning. This means that this metal rod truly has the ability to divert the surges of tribulation!”

“Splendid.”

Second Elder slowly landed back onto the ground. He stared at the Thundersooother Rods and exclaimed in admiration, "Lead Disciple, where did you get this treasure from?"

"Obtained it via good fortune." Chu Kuangren smiled and said.

When the rest of them heard his words, the edges of their lips twitched.

'That pill recipe was via good fortune, and this Thundersooother Rod was also via good fortune... Why does he always seem to have so much good fortune!'

"Lead Disciple, fortune truly favors you."

Second Elder could not help but sigh.

Chu Kuangren responded with a slight smile. It was not his fault that he was such an overpowered "hack".

He had gotten this Thundersooother Rod from the gacha roll. He had drawn quite a number of valuable items from some time ago, and since some of them were rarely used, he kept them in his inventory and never took them out again.

This Thundersooother Rod was one of those items.

He had to take another look at his inventory when he got back, to see if there was any other stuff that could be used in this ascension.

It felt necessary to make a more thorough preparation for it.

Looking at Honorable Xuan Qi staring at the Thundersooother Rod in awe, Chu Kuangren felt relieved. He, as a student, had given his all to help out his Honorable Teacher in his ascension.

"With the Vibrant Rejuvenation Pill and this Thundersooother Rod, I am almost one hundred percent confident now that I will succeed in the ascension."

Honorable Xuan Qi burst into laughter. After that, as if something had crossed his mind, a hint of coldness flashed in his eyes. "As long as those people don't come and cause trouble."

Chu Kuangren's heart sank upon hearing that.

He knew that during Honorable Xuan Qi's younger days he had offended a number of people in the Firmament Star while trying to create a name for himself. These people had all gone on to become greats, so neither their strength nor influence should be taken lightly.

Now that Honorable Xuan Qi was attempting ascension, would they really just sit back and watch?

"Black Heaven Sect has a Sage to back us up. If those people were to come and wreak havoc, they would need to figure a way to deal with our Sage."

"And only another Sage... could contend with a Sage!"

"There are plenty of sage orthodoxies in the Firmament Star, but only a few hold against the Black Heaven Sect. Who should we expect this time?" Chu Kuangren thought to himself.

...

Inside a restaurant.

A disheveled man with a broken arm was sitting at a corner, drinking.

Just then, a middle-aged man dressed in a splendor robe arrived. He walked to the front of the disheveled man and said, "Who knew that an outstanding swordsmanship talent, whose name was famed all over Azure Dragon Domain thousands of years ago, would fall off the glory and stoop to such a low point in life."

The disheveled man turned a cold eye at the middle-aged man. "Who are you?"

"Linghu Hong."

"Linghu? Rare surname. From my impression, the most famous Linghus are from Scarlet Phoenix Domain's swordsmanship family sect, the Linghu clan."

The disheveled man let out a wine burp. "Are you one of them?"

"Yes."

"What are you here for?"

"Honorable Xuan Qi is about to attempt ascension. Do you know this?"

Bam!

The wine jar in the disheveled man's grip suddenly cracked. He stared at Linghu Hong with blood-streaked eyes. "Don't mention this name in front of me!"

Linghu Hong was not deterred by his big reaction as he continued, "You now live a penniless and destitute life, while he's now the Sect Leader of a prestigious sage orthodoxy. Now that he's about to attempt ascension, he will become a Sage once he succeeds!"

"By then, you and I would be nothing but ants to him. Tell me, are you really willing to see all this come to reality? If I remember correctly, your arm was chopped off by him, right?"

"What else am I supposed to do? That's a sage orthodoxy you're talking about. They have a Sage defending them. Do you really think I can go there and kill them?"

The disheveled man said dejectedly.

"The Linghu clan has a Sage too!"

"What?"

"Let my family sect deal with the Black Heaven Sect's Sage. You and I will storm all the way into Black Heaven Sect and thwart Xuan Qi's ascension. If you are content to remain in this dreadful state of yours, I shall leave at once."

The disheveled man gulped down the last bit of his wine, then a formidable sword qi suddenly erupted from his body. "Why I've never reattached this broken arm of mine is because I wanted to keep it as a reminder of the shame that Xuan Qi has brought unto me!"

"All these years, I may have slacked, but I've never given up on cultivating. Now it's about time I go and settle an old score with Honorable Xuan Qi!"

Chapter 168: Honorable Teacher, You Have Quite A Few Enemies, Heavenly Tribulation Begins

"Linghu family sect?"

Chu Kuangren was slightly surprised when he heard Elder Ruyan bringing them up. "You're saying that the Linghu family sect might come and look for us?"

Elder Ruyan nodded slightly. "Yes. When Sect Leader was cultivating in the outside world back then, he once had a conflict with the sky-pride of the Linghu clan, Linghu Hong. Linghu Hong had taken a lot of losses in the hands of Sect Leader, so he has always held on to the grudges."

"It's likely that they will come and ruin things for Sect Leader's ascension this time."

Chu Kuangren pondered for a while.

"Linghu clan... This spells trouble to me."

In Firmament Star's swordsmanship world, there was a famous saying of "a mountain, a sect, and two clans". This saying described the four orthodoxies that were most skilled in sword Dao.

"A mountain" referred to Tempest Mountain, while "a sect" referred to Black Heaven Sect.

"Two clans" would then be the Linghu clan and the Murong clan.

These "a mountain, a sect, and two clans" were sage orthodoxies that were equally adept in sword Dao. Constant competition would exist between these four on any usual day as they attempt to oust or best each other both openly and secretly. Each one of them strived to prove that they were the strongest amongst all, hence they were on hostile terms with each other.

This was especially true between the Linghu clan and Black Heaven Sect. The relationship between these two was as incompatible as oil and water.

Back then, Honorable Xuan Qi had beaten Linghu Hong to an incredibly awful state, so bad that he could not hold his head up ever again. He hated Honorable Xuan Qi and even the whole Black Heaven Sect to the core. Due to that, it was highly likely that he would take Honorable Xuan Qi's ascension this time as an opportunity to do something.

"Aside from Linghu Hong, Sect Leader has also offended quite a number of people during his earlier travels. For instance, Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries, one of the Seven Heroes of the Swordsmanship World. This guy challenged Sect Leader to a battle during his younger days and was defeated by Sect Leader in just three sword strikes."

"There's also Feng Wuchang, whose whole arm was chopped off by Sect Leader..."

“On top of that, the Great Elder of Jade Watersword Sect... Honorable Zhuo Lang, a wandering cultivator of the Thirty-Six Isles from overseas, Honorable Wusheng...”

Chu Kuangren’s head started to spin as he listened on. He looked at Elder Ruyan who was rattling endlessly, then quickly cut her off. He wanted to cry so badly but failed to shed a tear.

“Why does Honorable Teacher have so many enemies?”

“Sigh, who isn’t hot-headed and prone to offending people when they were younger? Kuangren, haven’t you offended quite a few sky-prides too?”

Elder Ruyan remarked nonchalantly.

“But this is way too many.” The edge of Chu Kuangren’s lip twitched.

What kind of Honorable Teacher had he sought tutelage under...

One who was so skilled at making enemies?

After sending Elder Ruyan off, Chu Kuangren stroked his eyebrow. It seemed that he had a great task ahead for Honorable Xuan Qi’s ascension this time.

“I hope these people would be a bit wiser to not come and seek their own deaths.”

Chu Kuangren muttered under his breath as a cold glint flashed past his eye.

...

Atop a mountain on Black Heaven Sect.

Honorable Xuan Qi was sat cross-legged inside the Thundersoothe Rod with both his eyes slightly shut and a mysterious Daoist Rhyme flowing through his body.

At that moment, it seemed like he had felt something and so he looked up into the sky.

“It’s coming.”

He had just finished speaking when he saw the layer of clouds from a distance away tossing and tumbling. It looked as though a drop of ink had dripped onto a pile of freshwater, slowly dying it into a shade of black.

The ominous dark clouds amassed, gushing towards his direction.

Wherever these clouds passed, a majestic force of nature followed.

All cultivators of the entire Black Heaven Sect had felt this too.

“It’s the heavenly tribulation. Heavenly tribulation!”

“What a horrifying energy. Sect Leader’s heavenly tribulation is finally here.”

“It’s my first time witnessing an ascension.”

“Once Sect Leader succeeds in his ascension, we, the Black Heaven Sect, would be welcoming a new Boundary Sage. And we’d have the addition of a new Sage in the near future.”

“That’s right, God bless.”

“It’s fine, I’m sure Sect Leader will succeed in his ascension.”

Everybody looked towards the direction of the dark clouds, their eyes filled with anticipation.

Elder Ruyan and the others had quickly gotten up as well to head towards the mountaintop where Honorable Xuan Qi was currently at, preparing to safeguard him.

At the mountaintop, Elder Ruyan, Seventh Forefather, and a few others were standing guard around him.

“This fella is more excellent than I am. I haven’t attempted ascension even after all these years. He had beat me to it.”

Seventh Forefather looked towards Honorable Xuan Qi with a faint smile.

Beside him, Elder Ruyan said, “Seventh Forefather, the only reason you couldn’t complete an ascension before this was that you’ve entered the Heavenly Deterioration Stage Five. Now that you’re back at your peak, surely you can look forward to another ascension attempt. We Black Heaven Sect must prosper.”

“Heh, instead of counting on me ascending successfully, I think Black Heaven Sect’s future would still have to rely on that little fellow,” Seventh Forefather said.

Everybody knew exactly who the little fellow he referred to was.

Elder Ruyan deeply agreed with that. “Yeah, this boy Kuangren is indeed too extraordinary. Just look at what he did for the ascension this time. The things that he has brought out for us are all incredibly rare treasures!”

“No matter in fate and good fortune, or in talent and dexterity, he is truly one of a kind throughout the ages. The key to Black Heaven Sect’s longevity and prosperity would depend on whether or not he could continue developing and dominate over this era.”

At that moment, a white-clad figure arrived not far away.

It was the person whom they were discussing, Chu Kuangren.

“Greetings, Elder and Seventh Forefather. How is Honorable Teacher doing?” Chu Kuangren bowed to them upon his arrival before he asked worriedly.

When they saw how concerned he was towards Honorable Xuan Qi, they felt very pleased.

“Lead Disciple, don’t you worry. The heavenly tribulation has not yet begun.”

“That’s right. With the things that you’ve prepared for Sect Leader, I bet we can be nine-tenths certain that he will succeed in the ascension this time.”

Chu Kuangren nodded. “Still, we need to be cautious.”

Who knew what sort of gimmicks those enemies of his Honorable Teacher would pull off.

Up in the sky, the dark clouds became heavier.

That incredibly terrifying domineering aura had become increasingly stronger as well. Every living thing within a ten thousand miles radius had felt a shudder rippling through their hearts.

The force of nature!

This was the true force of nature!

“It’s about to begin,” Seventh Forefather said solemnly.

The dark clouds started to tumble and form a colossal black whirlpool, where flashes of azure blue lightning were flickering crazily inside it.

A large bolt of blue lightning shot down from the sky all of a sudden, locking down onto Honorable Xuan Qi. This bolt of light was very appalling as it ripped through space and formed an invisible barrier that confined the space around, leaving Honorable Xuan Qi with no means to escape. All he could do now was face-off with the heavenly tribulation!

He would either have to survive through the heavenly tribulation and reap the rewards, or get wiped off from the face of the earth by the heavenly tribulation!

Honorable Xuan Qi slowly got up onto his feet, and an immense sword qi erupted from his body. An incredibly majestic Sword-based Daoist Rhyme started to circulate around his body.

At a distance away, the Sword Mountain quivered. A purple longsword gushed through the air like a stream of light before it dashed into the pillar of lightning and appeared right in front of Honorable Xuan Qi.

This sword was the Purple Star Sacred Sword!

There was a time where Honorable Xuan Qi would wield this sword and traverse across all of Firmament Star. After he had become the Sect Leader of Black Heaven, he returned this sword back to the Sword Mountain.

“Old friend, let’s fight this heavenly tribulation together!”

Honorable Xuan Qi held on to the Purple Star, exuding a sense of regality.

Meanwhile at a place far away.

A ferocious energy wave erupted from the direction of the Black Heaven Sect. Immediately following that, Elder Ruyan’s communication compass started to vibrate.

When she had gotten the message, her expression turned incredibly grim. “Someone is here to cause the Black Heaven Sect trouble!”

Upon hearing that, many of their faces turned strange.

It need not take idiots to deduce that, for someone to cause trouble at Black Heaven Sect at this impeccable timing, it must be those who came for Honorable Xuan Qi.

Then, more messages came through that people were wreaking so much havoc at each corner of Black Heaven Sect, there were already many casualties amongst their disciples.

“D*mn it, they’re trying to stray us from our objective, luring us away from guarding the Sect Leader.” Elder Ruyan and the others were incredibly pissed.

“You guys, go and deal with those lackeys.”

Suddenly, Honorable Xuan Qi spoke.

“Sect Leader, but you won’t have anyone left to safeguard you.”

“Haha, I don’t need any safeguarding. When I’m in ascension, they won’t dare to touch me. They can’t even touch me when I’m not in ascension!”

Honorable Xuan Qi burst out in laughter.

If people were to intervene when a cultivator was attempting ascension, they would become a mark for the heavenly tribulation as well.

As such, those people would not dare to harm Honorable Xuan Qi during his ascension. The only thing they could do was to wait for the interval between each surge of tribulation recharge and attack him at that time.

However, Honorable Xuan Qi would be completely free by then.

“Quick, just go. Let them know that Black Heaven Sect is not a place where they could come and go as they please,” Honorable Xuan Qi said.

“We’ll be back as soon as possible.”

Elder Ruyan gritted on her teeth as she led some of her people over to soothe the chaos.

Chapter 169: The Elites Have Arrived One After Another, I Am Number One, You Dare To Have An Issue With That?

Honorable Xuan Qi stood at the peak of the mountain, facing the surges of tribulation alone.

Only Chu Kuangren and Lan Yu were behind him. Chu Kuangren said to Lan Yu, “You should go and help Elder Ruyan too.”

“Master, can you handle this alone?”

“They’re just a bunch of lackeys. I alone can deal with them.”

Lan Yu hesitated for a bit before she nodded and left the place.

With that, only two people — Honorable Xuan Qi and Chu Kuangren were left at the mountaintop.

“Kuangren, why are you still here?” With the Purple Star Sacred Sword in one hand, Honorable Xuan Qi turned around and gave Chu Kuangren a look.

“To safeguard you, Honorable Teacher.”

“Oh, very well then. You can observe how I go through ascension. It might be of some help to you in the future.” Honorable Xuan Qi laughed.

Boom!

Just then, a bolt of azure blue lightning with the diameter of a water bucket emerged from within the black whirlpool, and its target was Honorable Xuan Qi!

The first heavenly tribulation had begun!

Honorable Xuan Qi had a grim look on his face, but when the lightning bolt was nearing him, its direction was diverted by the Thundersooother Rod beside him. The lightning blasted directly onto the rod, sending the tremendous lightning energy into the ground.

He had passed the first heavenly tribulation just like that.

Honorable Xuan Qi had a somewhat surprised look on his face, "Kuangren, this Thundersooother Rod of yours is really extraordinary. My ascension is going to be so easy."

"Honorable Teacher, please keep your guard up, this is just the first heavenly tribulations."

There would be at least nine heavenly tribulations for a cultivator's ascension, with each one of them stronger than the other. The last one could very well be akin to a strike from a Sage.

After the first heavenly tribulation, the tumbling clouds started to accumulate the energy for the second heavenly tribulation, so there was not any commotion for now.

Suddenly, Chu Kuangren's expression shifted.

Out of the blue, a malicious and murderous intent appeared in the air. From not far away, a disheveled man with a broken arm was seen slowly walking up the mountain.

This person emitted an extremely sharp sword qi that cut down every flora around the area, creating a scene of mess.

"Oh, it's you, Feng Wuchang."

Honorable Xuan Qi took one look at the disheveled man and immediately recognized who he was.

"Honorable Xuan Qi, you've got yourself a very good disciple I see. Of the Black Heaven Sect's vast cultivator count, he's the only one who's here safeguarding you."

Feng Wuchang said nonchalantly as he batted an eye on Chu Kuangren.

"Heh, if it wasn't just me here, would you guys dare show up?"

Chu Kuangren sneered.

Then, he looked at the sliced foliage behind his enemy and said coldly, "This place, even when it comes to a flower or a tree, is still Black Heaven Sect property. Nobody is allowed to touch them."

At that, he raised one hand up fiercely and majestic earth qi started to gather. He threw out a palm and a Godly Mountain appeared out of nowhere.

Feng Wuchang was slightly taken aback by that, but he then raised his hand up to let out a sword attack, and the terrifying sword qi crashed onto the Godly Mountain. The clash generated a violent force that pushed him back a few steps.

“What a scary power. Chu Kuangren, it seems that your reputation is not a sham!”

Feng Wuchang stared at him seriously.

He had heard quite a few rumors about Chu Kuangren. Now that he was face to face with this peerless sky-pride, he felt an immense pressure on his shoulders too.

On the thought of that, his hatred and envy towards Honorable Xuan Qi deepened.

What did he do to deserve such a destitute life while his rival had become a prestigious Sect Leader with such an amazing student?

This was too unfair!

“Haha, Honorable Xuan Qi, long time no see.”

A laughter was heard. From a stone’s throw away, a sword ray flashed past and landed before the few people, turning into a white-haired elder dressed in a green robe.

The sword qi that was emanating from the elder’s body was as powerful as Feng Wuchang’s.

Buzz buzz...

Suddenly, a buzzing sound was heard from the void.

It was as if there were countless vibrating swords. However, all they saw was a white-haired man walking up from the base of the mountain with his hand holding a quaint longsword.

“Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries.”

Honorable Xuan Qi was able to tell who that was.

Since the death of Honorable Swordsman White Cloud, of the entire Azure Dragon Domain, this Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries’ sword Dao could be considered second to his.

Of course, the list did not include Chu Kuangren.

“Heh, what a big occasion we have here.”

An elder dressed in a black robe walked up to them. Majestic Daoist Rhyme was flowing around his body just like endless ocean waves.

Elite cultivators had shown up one after another, heavily surrounding the whole mountaintop.

The atmosphere at the scene was incredibly tense!

Chu Kuangren activated his Eye of Revelation to scan all the people who were present. “It seems like quite a number of you have shown up here today. The Senior Elder of Azure Watersword Sect, Feng Wuchang, Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries, Honorable Zhuo Lang, and in addition to that are

those other people who have wreaked havoc at Black Heaven Sect. I wonder if there's a mastermind orchestrating all this."

"Are you not going to show yourself?"

Chu Kuangren stared at the void somewhere in the distance.

A ripple soared through and out walked Linghu Hong from the void. He looked at Chu Kuangren, impressed. "Little guy, today, we are here for your Honorable Teacher. This has got nothing to do with you. If you leave now, you save your life."

"Are you dumb? Since you're here for my Honorable Teacher, how does this have nothing to do with me?" Chu Kuangren smirked.

Linghu Hong's expression turned dark when he heard that. "You ungrateful b*astard!"

Boom!

At this moment, the second heavenly tribulation struck down on Honorable Xuan Qi.

The group of people hastily looked in his direction.

All they saw was how the surge of tribulation was again directed into the ground by the Thundersoothe Rod. Linghu Hong and his company were astounded by the sight that they had seen.

"What is this? How can it divert the surge of tribulation?"

"How incredible!"

"No wonder Honorable Xuan Qi dared to attempt ascension. It's because he has this thing."

Linghu Hong's and his crew's hearts raced as they realized that things had gotten out of their expectations. They had absolutely no idea that there was such a treasure that was used especially for heavenly tribulations!

They had initially planned to attack Honorable Xuan Qi after he was done with the heavenly tribulations, at a state where he would be sapped. However, with this precious treasure, it now seemed that Honorable Xuan Qi would definitely have most of his strength to defeat them.

"Haha, Linghu Hong, bet you guys didn't see this coming. Your trips to Black Heaven Sect today are destined to be a one-way trip!" Honorable Xuan Qi let out a loud laugh and held onto the Purple Star, bracing himself to first settle off Linghu Hong and his compatriots.

At this moment, Chu Kuangren stepped out in front of him and stopped him. "Honorable Teacher, may I ask you to please reserve your strength for the heavenly tribulations. Just leave these people to me."

"What?"

Not just Honorable Xuan Qi but even Linghu Hong and the others were stunned.

There were a total of five of them here who were all Honorable Supremes. How dare Chu Kuangren claim to want to deal with the five of them alone?

Who did he think he was?

A Sage?

“Absolute nonsense!” Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries let out a cold jeer. “I shall take your head today to let Sword Prayer City and the whole world witness how this so-called Hundred Sword Spectrum number one title of yours is nothing but a joke!”

The Hundred Swords Spectrum was highly regarded and widely acknowledged amongst the swordsmanship world, but to enlist Chu Kuangren as the top of their list sparked quite a controversy.

Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries was precisely one of the people who were most outspoken at rejecting it!

“Kill!”

Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries attacked first. He let out the first sword strike, and a majestic sword qi came flowing out. It was as if a giant sword, made up of a thousand swords, had been unleashed.

In face of such a strike, Chu Kuangren looked extremely composed. The moment the Descendant Self Sword appeared in his hand, a terrifying Daoist Rhyme burst out!

With a single swing of the sword, the blinding purple sword ray almost engulfed the whole sky. In just a split second, it tore that giant sword figure apart and bashed onto Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries, which sent the highly-esteemed Honorable Swordsman flying out with that one blast!

An enormous amount of sword qi was brutal to Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries’ body, tearing his clothes apart and lacerating numerous sword cuts all over his body. In the blink of an eye, he was turned into a bloodied, calamitous being.

Just one sword strike alone had everyone at the scene staring wide-eyed.

‘Heavily injuring an Honorable Swordsman with just a single sword strike?’

‘What terrifying power is this?’

“I am the Sword Spectrum’s number one, you dare to have an issue with that?”

Chapter 170: The Greatness of The Soul Retriever, You All Shall Remain Here

“I am listed as number one in the Sword Spectrum, you dare have an issue with that?”

Chu Kuangren said in a calm manner. One sword strike was all it took to heavily injure Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries. At the same time, he had intimidated the remaining four Honorable Supremes.

The few of them looked at Chu Kuangren dumbfoundedly, finding it hard to believe what they had just seen.

All of them were Honorable Supremes who were once unparalleled sky-prides during their younger days. However, as compared to Chu Kuangren now, they felt like their so-called talent was not even worth mentioning at all!

Heavily wounded an Honorable Supreme with just a single sword strike?

Since when had such a monster emerge amongst the younger generation?

“Let’s all go at him. Third Forefather Linghu won’t be able to hold off the Sage of Black Heaven Sect for long, we need to be quick with this!” Linghu Hong said.

He made a decision on the spot and drew out an attack on Chu Kuangren.

His sword struck out, unleashing the Honorable Supreme Poise to its fullest.

“Let me witness the sword techniques of a swordsmanship family sect.”

Chu Kuangren let out a light laugh while he cast his Three Supreme Daoist Physique Transformations.

Nine Heaven Sword Prison, Green Lotus Sword Song, Sword of the Heavens!

A terrifying Sword-based Daoist Rhyme surrounded Chu Kuangren, and a majestic spiritual power circulated within his body. The energy from every swing of his sword brought enormous pressure unto Linghu Hong.

Moreover, Chu Kuangren’s enlightenment regarding Dao Techniques was too deep. On top of his Exquisite Nine Orifices Sword Heart, Linghu Hong’s Sword-based Daoist Rhyme was immediately suppressed.

If it were not for Linghu Hong’s expertise as a seasoned Honorable Supreme, which made his powers far greater than that of Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries, he would have been crushed in Chu Kuangren’s hands in just a few moves.

“I’ve heard of Chu Kuangren’s exquisite talent and prowess before this!”

“But simply too ridiculous to have such power!”

“I don’t think even the Young Emperor from our Linghu clan has such kind of combat strength. Can’t believe Black Heaven Sect has produced such a monster!!”

Linghu Hong was shocked to the core.

At this moment, Honorable Zhuo Lang, Senior Elder of Jade Watersword Sect, and Feng Wuchang had joined in the battle too. The three of them flanked and attacked Chu Kuangren along with Linghu Hong!

In an instant, various Dao Techniques lit up and shook the void.

Not far away, Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries took out a pill and consumed it. As he stared at Chu Kuangren, who was soloing against four Honorable Supremes, his face drained pale. “This guy is so indestructible. What an absolute monster!”

Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries had seen numerous sky-prides before him, but he swore that he had never seen anyone quite like Chu Kuangren. No one could possibly match his power.

"I concede. You are indeed worthy of the number one title in the Sword Spectrum!"

"Regardless, Xuan Qi's ascension today has to fail!"

Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries capitalized on Chu Kuangren being occupied at battling the four Honorable Supremes, and dashed in the direction of Honorable Xuan Qi!

His target had just completed the third heavenly tribulation. All Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries had to do now was deplete his enemy's energy and strength so that he would fail his ascension!

While in battle, Chu Kuangren too had noticed where Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries was headed. A cold gleam flashed through his eyes. "Do you not know what death is?"

A black chain then flew out of his body all of a sudden, swooping through the air like a black flash of lightning.

On his way to Honorable Xuan Qi, Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries could only feel frostbites on his spine, a tingling sensation on his scalp tingling, and the blood of his body almost frozen.

Danger!

He was in grave danger!

Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries hastily turned around and struck out his sword. The sword qi landed on the Soul Retriever, trying to hit it another way. However, the Soul Retriever was a Sage Ruler Weapon and it had an extremely unique material, so even a Sage would not be able to do any damage to it.

With that, Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries's sword qi could not destroy the chain. The chain swirled around in mid-air for a minute before it continued to attack him as if it had its own consciousness.

"What kind of weird object is this?!"

Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries dodged the Soul Retriever. His sixth sense told him that if he was ever hooked by this chain, only bad things would happen to him.

Chu Kuangren held on to the other side of the chain, maneuvering the Soul Retriever as it held on to Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries' trails.

This Soul Retriever was very unique. It looked like it could stretch for as far as the eyes could see. So no matter how far Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries tried to run, it could still track him there.

Before long, the length of the chain had already reached about a dozen miles. It circulated in the void, emitting an eerie energy wave.

Not only that but Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries was trapped by the chain's encirclement too, and the area in which he could escape became smaller and smaller.

"Quick, stop him!" Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries yelled.

Linghu Hong, Feng Wuchang, and the others quickly unleashed their ultimate move. Several distinct Daoist Rhymes and majestic spiritual powers suddenly exploded!

“Flight of Annihilation!”

“Torrential Cascade!”

“Winds of Impermanence!”

“Endless Jade Waters!”

Three surges of sword qi and a palm qi were blasted at Chu Kuangren. This was the combination of attacks by four Honorable Supremes, and it was incredibly powerful.

“White Lotus Light of Purification!”

Chu Kuangren stood motionless on his ground as numerous white lotuses began to appear all around him. The lotuses swayed in the void, looking absolutely magical!

When the four forces of powers blasted onto the lotuses, there were no earth-shaking booms. The white lotuses then disintegrated one after another, yet at the same time, Linghu Hong and his three compatriots’ ultimate moves were also dispelled.

The Daoist Rhyme and spiritual power clashed and intertwined in the air, but in the end, everything diminished back to nil.

While not far away, Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries had finally run out of places to evade. He was tightly entangled by the Soul Retriever, with the hook at the very end of the chain piercing through his body but there were no traces of blood splatter.

The hook was like a vicious huge hand, scouring inside Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries’ body. Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries first let out an agonizing cry before both his eyes gradually became hollow.

“What is going on?!”

“There’s something odd with this black chain!”

Linghu Hong and the others fixed their gaze on Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries. Then, they witnessed a scene that sent tingles down their scalps.

To their astonishment, that hook scraped out another Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries out of his very own body, or to be more accurate, it was his soul!

“How is this possible!”

“My physical flesh, what the hell is this thing!”

All Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries could do was bear sight to the extraction of his soul out of his physical body. There was nothing that he could do about it, and his face was filled with terror.

Chu Kuangren raised his arm and initiated the Gluttonous Devouring Technique. He sucked Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries’ body into the Avarice dimension and refined it into extremely pure

blood and flesh essences. With that, his spiritual power, which was drained more than half earlier, was rapidly replenished.

"This chain, it's capable of handling souls!!"

"D*mn it, how did he get such a thing!"

Linghu Hong and the others were so terrified that their faces turned pale.

The way he dealt with a soul was too rare, too scary a sight to behold.

"Chu Kuangren really has a lot of treasures on him. I can't believe that he has such a weapon that could deal with souls," Honorable Xuan Qi muttered under his breath. After that, he shook his head and laughed, not planning to inquire further.

He was absolutely certain that Chu Kuangren would only answer him with four words... Obtained through good fortune.

He knew that Chu Kuangren was hiding something, but because he was a good student of his, Honorable Xuan Qi chose to let it go and put all his trust in him.

Chu Kuangren held the Soul Retriever in one hand and the Descendant Self Sword in another. He gazed at the few Honorable Supremes in front of him and declared, "From the moment you guys decided to come to the Black Heaven Sect and disrupt my Honorable Teacher's ascension, your fate has already been sealed!"

"Today, my Honorable Teacher will succeed in his ascension, then ascend his way into Sagehood, while you guys shall all remain here!"

Chu Kuangren pronounced coldly, then tugged forcefully on the Soul Retriever which caused Honorable Swordsman of a Thousand Cries to let out a tragic squeal. Cracks started to appear on his sou before he burst open without a sound, his soul dissipating into nothingness!

"No way, this chain is too horrifying! Moreover, Chu Kuangren's combat strength could not be looked down upon. The longer we drag this battle on, the worse our outcomes will be!"

"It seems like we can only whip out the item that Third Forefather gave us!"

Linghu Hong gritted his teeth as he picked out a tiny golden sword which emanated with streams of mysterious Sword-based Daoist Rhyme.