

War God 101

Chapter 101 - Great Harvest!

Since Long Chen had entered the Human Core Realm, he had been promoted from a Level Four to Level Three disciple. He had also moved out of the Level Four disciple quarters into the Level Three disciple quarters.

However, since entering the Lingwu family, he had spent all his time either cultivating or outside the compound, so he rarely interacted with the other members. Therefore, he could barely recognize the other Level Three disciples.

His room was larger than before and he even had his own yard, which was a tranquil place with beautiful landscaping.

Once he returned, he hurried to his underground room and sat cross-legged. He was clutching the Universe Pouch Ling Xi had stolen tightly.

“Quick, let’s see what’s inside. This is the Universe Pouch he pulled the Blazing Thunder Crystal from. That bastard has another Universe Pouch, but I couldn’t steal that. I think that one contains the rest of the stuff he owns!”

Long Chen had only just opened the pouch when a gust of electrical and fiery energy flew into his face. Although energies like that were stored in Blazing Thunder Crystals, and considered very controlled energies, they were still powerful.

He laid the familiar crystals out in a row. Both of them were very excited.

“A total of forty-seven crystals!”

Ling Xi was beside herself with joy when he finished counting them.

Long Chen knew that he only needed ten crystals to cultivate the Blazing Thunder Combat Body and become a Blazing Thunder Warrior!

These forty-seven crystals were enough for him. “I’m guessing the Dawn Trading Alliance’s headquarters only gave him fifty crystals. He gave me one, then he gave other people two more, so we’re left with forty-seven.”

After he left the quiet room at the Dawn Trading Alliance, Long Chen returned the four remaining crystals back to Zhao Tianfang.

But they ended up coming right back to him.

If Zhao Tianfang ever discovered the truth, he would vomit blood. “When he saw the number of steel hearts I earned, he knew that my body was tough and that I possessed extraordinary abilities. He treated me well only because he wanted to test me using these Blazing Thunder Crystals. If he were to find out my body did well with them, I’m afraid he would use them to rope me into the Dawn Trading Alliance ...”

Long Chen could see through Zhao Tianfang as a person, so he wasn’t too torn over it.

“Long Chen, there are only a few days left until the training exercise. You should hurry up and merge with the Blazing Thunder Crystals and test your body. Let’s see how many you can merge with!”

He nodded. The private quarters of the Lingwu family members could only be opened with identity jade tokens, so privacy was guaranteed. Long Chen put away the other crystals and left only one in his hand. “When I merged with the first crystal, although it was agony, I wasn’t at my limit. Based on that, merging with the second crystal should not be a problem.”

He had made up his mind. Taking a deep breath, Long Chen then merged the crystal into his body. He was afflicted with the same agony as last time. He was suffering, but he was happy.

The surge of energy generated by the second merging was much larger than before, approximately more than two times larger than the first. Long Chen was gritting his teeth in pain as the energies of lightning and fire clashed and battered his body.

Ling Xi was initially a little worried, but when she saw that Long Chen’s body looked fine despite his expression of anguish, she felt a little schadenfreude, giggling as she spun in circles.

The power of lightning and fire rolled through his whole body, destroying it and building a new one in its place. Step by step, his body slowly solidified and strengthened.

Merging with the first crystal had taken him less than an hour. While the second crystal was essentially the same thing, the Blazing Thunder Crystal was strange in a way that merging the second would be twice as hard as the first.

And if Long Chen merged with the third, it would be twice as hard as the second.

The level of difficulty rose exponentially, so one could imagine how difficult it would be later on.

He spent more than two hours merging with the second crystal. By the time he was done, it was already late at night.

He stood up, stretching happily. “I am indeed much stronger. There’s also more Blazing Thunder Power in my dantian’s Qi.”

“How are you feeling? Can you withstand one more?” asked Ling Xi expectantly next to him.

She sensed that this was not his limit.

“Yes.”

The suffering that came with the crystal disappeared completely after a successful merger. All that was left was a numb sensation in his muscles.

Although this feeling crept him out a little, it wasn’t enough to scare him.

Afterwards, his body absorbed the third crystal. Indeed, it was much more difficult to merge this time.

Long Chen spent almost four hours on the third one. His body’s strength and Qi had increased substantially. However, the agony was much more frightening. He had clenched his teeth hard to suffer through this merging. After the ordeal was over, he was indeed a little afraid.

“Three Blazing Thunder Crystals. This is already beyond Supervisor Zhao’s expectations of you. Long Chen, we can stop here. I don’t think you can hold on any longer,” said Ling Xi with concern when she saw him finally catching his breath.

“That was only three crystals; that’s not my limit yet. There are four more hours till dawn, I want to try again!”

Long Chen was stubborn, and he had a determined look in his eyes. Ling Xi couldn’t convince him, so she let him do what he wanted. Although the third merger was scary, he looked like he still had the energy to go on.

The fourth merger was about to begin. As expected, it was much more frightening than the previous crystal. He felt like someone was waving multiple swords inside his body, chopping it to pieces.

His face turned green with pain. Ling Xi watched lightning and fiery sparks emerging from his body, as well as his pained expression, anxiously, clenching her fists tight.

Time passed slowly. Long Chen gritted his teeth in pain. Indeed, the fourth crystal would not be tamed so easily. When its power entered his body, it seemed to merge with the other three to fight his Dragon Soul Qi together.

Fight it! Stay strong! This is what’s needed to be extraordinary!

The desire to become stronger remained in his mind.

He needed to be powerful to save the Yang family and protect Ling Xi. That was why he had to be strong. *You’re just a tiny crystal! You think you can defeat me?*

Long Chen was willing to give everything up to become stronger. To a normal person, this pain would feel like their heart and lungs were torn apart, but Long Chen gritted his teeth and held on with a green face!

Based on this, I can only merge with four crystals at most. I’m still so far from attaining the Blazing Thunder Combat Body and becoming a Blazing Thunder Warrior ...

He wasn’t satisfied. However, he didn’t know that there were very few teenagers at the initial Human Core Realm in the Dawn Trading Alliance who could reach four crystals.

Also, those were the ultimate top prodigies of Yuanling County!

“Right, Long Chen, how could we have forgotten about the Dragon Soul Transformation? That form is the true form of a Dragon Warrior!” Ling Xi suddenly cried.

He suddenly remembered that his body post-transformation had a few times more dragon brands and that his Qi would become ten times stronger than normal Qi instead of just four. He could definitely merge with more crystals if he used his Dragon Soul Transformation!

His eyes brightened, then he completed the transformation an instant later. Perfectly arranged red scales and sharp spines emerged from his body.

He’d turned into this majestic being in just the blink of an eye.

Long Chen could feel the aura of countless dragons surrounding him.

The pain from merging with the fourth crystal dissipated quickly after completing the transformation!

The power of the fourth crystal was nothing significant now; it was easily absorbed into his body. Long Chen's body then changed drastically. "It merged so quickly. It's even going a lot smoother than my first merger?!"

He was amazed by his Dragon Soul Transformation, that his body could merge with a few times more crystals now compared to before. That meant the sky was the limit.

"It's indeed working!"

After a while, he had completely merged with the crystal. It was a drastic change compared to the four hours he spent on the previous crystal. Ling Xi was also astonished by the mystery and power of a Dragon Warrior. "Hey, how many crystals will you be able to merge with like this?"

"I'll find out if I just carry on, won't I?"

Long Chen laughed. He initially thought he wouldn't be able to make it to five, but he was merging his fifth crystal and looked relaxed.

"This strange man ..."

Ling Xi was speechless at his look of enjoyment, but her eyes were glued to him, and they contained a sense of achievement.

After all, without her, Long Chen wouldn't have gotten so many crystals in the first place.

Less than an hour later, the fifth merger was complete. Long Chen opened his eyes, looking smug. "Merging with the fifth crystal was even easier than my first one. Hey, girl, I'll show you exactly how strong I am tonight. I guarantee I'll look very cool."

"Tsk, the seventh and eighth crystals are more than a hundred times harder than the first. I'll see how you fare then! What's there to be smug about?"

Chapter 102 - Liu Yuan

It was already dawn, but there were still six days until the training exercise.

During that time, everyone was busy cultivating and increasing their strength, so none of them bothered with Long Chen.

The sixth Blazing Thunder Crystal ... It doesn't hurt as much, but it still took me four hours to merge with it!

Long Chen slowly felt the barbaric strength coursing within his body.

I might've died if I didn't have the Dragon Soul Transformation. The more crystals I merge with, the harder and more painful it becomes to merge with the next one. I wonder what the limit of my dragon body is?

There was little time left, so Long Chen went all out.

With so little time until the training exercise, Long Chen would rather increase his physical strength and Qi using the Blazing Thunder Crystals rather than cultivating something else, as the benefit was immense.

I should be able to deal with someone at the mid-Human Core Realm, but I would lose if I came across someone at the late Human Core Realm, much less Feng Wutian himself. Not only does he have numerous martial techniques, his bloodline is also very strong.

The peak Human Core Realm was just a step away from the Earthly Core Realm. If Feng Wutian had more resources at his disposal, he could easily dish out attacks beyond the strength of a Human Core Realm cultivator.

“If he were to attack you now, you would die in one strike.” Ling Xi frowned.

Long Chen was worried when he thought about Feng Wutian. He knew that the key to surviving the Heavenly Martial Realm was the seventh Blazing Thunder Crystal.

“Damn it! I don’t care anymore. I will just go all out. I don’t care who I will face, but I will make sure to hit them so hard that they can’t stand up anymore!”

Ling Xi shook her head silently when she saw how agitated Long Chen was. The gap in strength was not something passion and determination could bridge.

But she didn’t have the heart to tell him so.

The merging of the seventh Blazing Thunder Crystal gave Long Chen some pressure even though he had transformed. Still, the pain was not as bad as the fourth crystal, but the time it took to merge with it was significantly longer.

He finished half a day later.

“Time for the eighth one!”

The date of the training exercise was getting closer, so he didn’t dare to stop. The pain he was enduring during the merging of the eighth crystal was comparable to the pain of the fourth.

But Long Chen knew he couldn’t chicken out now. The pressure Feng Wutian placed on him was immense!

“Only those that can endure this will survive! Those who can’t endure hardships would perish!”

He gritted his teeth and endured the pain. Ling Xi’s voice became slightly hoarse when she saw how determined Long Chen was.

She didn’t know what to say when she saw how hardworking and smart Long Chen was.

It took him two whole days to merge the eighth crystal!

The pain was quite unforgiving at first, but he grew used to it as time went on. His determination to endure the pain was unbreakable.

“Long Chen, how about we stop here? We shouldn’t merge the ninth one now.” Ling Xi was worried about him.

She was, however, impressed by how resilient Long Chen was.

“Are you kidding me? This small amount of pain is not my limit!”

Long Chen fished out the ninth crystal from his Universe Pouch.

After merging with the eighth crystal, his body was considerably stronger than before.

The powers of lightning and fire in his dantian were slowly fusing with his Human Core.

“I can become a Blazing Thunder Warrior the moment I merge with ten!”

Long Chen was confident, so he quickly started merging the ninth crystal. The merger this time was significantly more difficult than the previous one, and it was even more painful, leaving his face pale from the pain.

He was currently enveloped in blue fire and lightning, making him look very gnarly.

A large amount of energy gradually leaked out of his body. He was covered in flames, and lightning was flickering through the flames and his skin.

He endured the pain for the next few days and gradually got used to it. Even though it was difficult, he still endured.

The ninth crystal took me three whole days to merge with. Tomorrow is the training exercise, so I don't have enough time to merge with the tenth crystal ...

Long Chen sighed. He had almost become a Blazing Thunder Warrior, but there was no time.

“I don't know if I would become one if I finished absorbing the tenth crystal, but if I did, I would at least increase my chances of survival in the Heavenly Martial Realm.”

Long Chen, however, was not disappointed with his progress.

I now have the intermediate Black-tier martial technique Burning Devil Sun Fist and the Life Combat Technique Recovery. I even have the elementary Black-tier Body Combat Technique Nine Heavens Dragon Step. Thanks to the Blazing Thunder Crystals, both my physical strength and Qi have become much stronger. Adding in the Dragon Soul Transformation and Blood Transmutation, I should be able to fight against a late Human Core Realm cultivator ...

Long Chen was filled with determination and confidence.

After merging so many crystals, he took an entire day to consolidate what he had learned so far. The second day soon came, and it was already morning. Gan Lin escorted him from the Turquoise Willow Residence.

“We will go to the Turquoise Sun Hall first. The administrator has already brought both Liu Ling and Feng Wutian over. Our expert cultivators as well as our Sect Elder, Liu Yuan, will be there. He's at the Heavenly Core Realm, so you should treat him with respect.”

Long Chen noted down in his heart what Gan Lin had said.

There were numerous experts in the Lingwu family. Long Chen was just a minor character here, so he was excited to see how strong they were.

Mo Xiaolang and Liu Yuan were the two strongest cultivators he had ever seen.

But Liu Lan had ignored him and brought Feng Wutian and Liu Ling to the Turquoise Sun Hall instead. This made Long Chen feel dejected.

So she doesn't think highly of me at all?

That was the only explanation.

It was Liu Lan who had instigated the conflict with Feng Wutian. Long Chen had no idea what she was trying to accomplish here.

There were five administrators in the Turquoise Sun Hall. They each had their own residence to take care of. The Turquoise Willow Residence was one of them. As for the Turquoise Sun Hall, its buildings were much more elaborate, considering it was one of the eight major halls of the Turquoise family.

While the residences of the Turquoise family housed the youths, the Turquoise Sun Hall housed older experts. Long Chen saw several middle-aged cultivators beyond the Human Core Realm here even though he had just set foot in the Turquoise Sun Hall.

As for the hall itself, everyone with significant strength was already gathered here.

The Sect Elder was at the top of the hierarchy and the administrators were just below him. Older disciples who were strong would have the chance of being granted the title of elder. There are currently four elders in the Turquoise Sun Hall.

A sage-like middle-aged man was sitting at the chair in the center. On his left sat four old people, and on his right were five younger people. Liu Lan was one of them.

Sitting directly in front of them were the talented disciples who would represent the Turquoise Sun Hall in the training exercise.

When they arrived, Gan Lin greeted them and then sent Long Chen in before exiting courteously to return to the Turquoise Willow Residence.

Because Long Chen was the last person who had entered the hall and he had a grudge against Feng Wutian, everyone stared at him in unison.

Why are they staring at me like that? It's as if they are trying to strip me bare.

He cursed in his heart, but he did not show any disrespect. He greeted everyone. "Disciple Long Chen greets the Sect Elder, the four elders, and the five administrators!"

The four elders were so old that their faces were almost frozen in place. They stared at Long Chen blankly, while the four administrators smiled at Long Chen. Liu Lan, however, was acting as if this was the first time she had met him.

Damn. What is that bitch thinking ...

Long Chen finally noticed Liu Yuan.

Liu Yuan had also finished observing Long Chen. Thinking back about what his younger daughter had told him, he glanced at his elder daughter, Liu Lan, without a word.

It was clear what he was trying to say. Liu Lan had given Long Chen a false estimate of three stars in terms of potential.

He has just entered the Lingwu family and is not from a prestigious bloodline. Not only did he break the promise to fight in the Mortal Arena, but Long Chen is also at the initial Human Core Realm. Why did Liu Lan give him three stars?

Even though he was unsatisfied with Long Chen, Liu Yuan was too lazy to change the roster after he had submitted it. "So you are Long Chen? You have just entered the Lingwu family and have the opportunity to join a training exercise held in the Heavenly Martial Realm. I hope you can seize the opportunity without ruining our reputation. The competition between each hall is fierce, and it directly affects our standing, so the ten of you must fight with all of your strength. Understand?"

Chapter 103 - Heavenly Martial Palace

Liu Yuan ignored Long Chen after saying what he needed to say and focused on the other youths instead.

Although Long Chen looked courteous on the outside, he hated environments like these. None of the youths said anything when Liu Yuan was preaching to them.

Long Chen paid no mind to what Liu Yuan was talking about. He initially had some respect and expectations for the Sect Elder, but he was uninterested after being treated like someone whose purpose was to fill in the numbers.

It seems that everyone in the Turquoise Sun Hall has a negative perception of me after I decided to not fight Feng Wutian at the Mortal Arena.

Looking at how the elders and administrators were looking down on him, Long Chen guessed that this was most likely the case.

Feng Wutian and Liu Ling ... To think that they would look down on me because of you two ...

While Liu Yuan was preaching to them, Long Chen carefully stared at Liu Ling, who was listening to her father quietly.

She suddenly felt like someone was watching her and turned around. She smiled coldly when she saw that it was Long Chen.

Just you wait. If I get the chance, I will make sure to spank you until you can't sit down!

While Long Chen was thinking about how to fight them, Liu Yuan nodded at the youths. "It's almost time, so you should depart to the Heavenly Martial Palace of the Turquoise family now. Feng Wutian will be the leader for this exercise, so everyone must listen to him. Remember, the reputation of the Turquoise Sun Hall is at stake."

He then turned to his elder daughter. "Lan'er, go and lead them to the Heavenly Martial Palace."

Liu Lan nodded and stood up. Her tall and sexy body was very eye-catching. She nodded and led Long Chen with the rest of the youths out of the hall. They bid their goodbyes to the Sect Elder before leaving for the Heavenly Martial Palace.

Liu Yuan sent them off before convening with the four elders. "Do you think we can win this time?"

One of the elders said, “The fight to obtain the Taiqing Sword hinges on the strength of the elite within the group. The rest are only there to fill up the slots. Even though our group as a whole isn’t that strong, Feng Wutian has both a prestigious bloodline and the appropriate talent. I don’t think it will be too difficult to win.”

Another elder shook his head. “If we are comparing the strength of the elite in the team, then the other halls are nowhere near as weak as we thought, especially the Turquoise Imperial Hall. Their leader is Sect Elder Chu Fengqing’s sixteen-year-old daughter, Chu Yunyao. Feng Wutian will be under a lot of pressure this time.”

Liu Yuan frowned and nodded. “Feng Wutian will indeed have a hard time against Chu Yunyao, but since she’s much younger than him, she won’t have as much experience in combat. Our chances of winning should still be high. If the Turquoise Sun Hall comes out on top of this exercise, our reputation will improve drastically. We will then receive much more resources from the Grand Elder. This is our chance to become stronger.”

Everyone was excited when they heard Liu Yuan. They discussed it further before leaving.

“One more thing ... Sect Elder, I recall that Long Chen and Liu Ling have unresolved grudges. Do you think he will cause trouble in the Heavenly Martial Realm?”

Liu Ling was the little princess of the Turquoise Sun Hall. Everyone adored her.

Liu Yuan chuckled. “He’s nothing but an outsider who has just joined the Lingwu family. He wouldn’t dare. If he did, Wutian would kill him for me. Also, Ling’er is already at the mid Human Core Realm, so he can’t do anything to her.”

Long Chen watched the other nine youths congregate together without him once they came out of the Turquoise Sun Hall. Feng Wutian was the leader, and there were three more youths at the late Human Core Realm.

Liu Lan said nothing as she led the way while the nine of them were chuckling and taking glances at Long Chen. It was clear they looked down on him.

“To think he didn’t have the balls to follow his promise to fight at the Mortal Arena. Long Chen is such a wimp.”

One of them shook his head and sighed.

“Didn’t Miss Ling’er tell us before? Those who come from a backwater place like him don’t have the balls to back it up. It’s also very likely he will drag us down today.”

“It’d be much better if he died instead. Our reputation would be tarnished if he ran away later on. The Sect Elder would punish us if he did that.”

“It’s fine. I don’t think Feng Wutian will let him come out alive. I heard that Long Chen’s tricks killed Huang Feiyang.”

“He couldn’t fight Huang Feiyang head-on and instead ambushed him? What a coward.”

The group whispered and gossiped while they were walking.

Liu Ling was very happy to hear what they were talking about. She hated Long Chen a lot.

She knew that Long Chen would be able to hear what they were talking about since they were traveling quite close. She turned around, expecting to see Long Chen's angry face, but she was surprised to see him as relaxed as he could be.

Is he just putting up a front, or does he not have the bravery to stand up for himself?

Liu Ling thought about it while walking. She looked towards the front and saw Feng Wutian's determined gaze. Her heart skipped a beat when she saw how handsome he was.

Senior Feng Wutian is the perfect man. Ten thousand Long Chens would not even hold a candle to him ...

She was drowned in happiness when she thought about how she would be married to him soon.

Feng Wutian looked at her gently, causing her heart to beat rapidly.

"Ling'er, you were the one who spread the rumors about how Long Chen agreed to fight but did not show up, right?"

Feng Wutian's tone was calm, but there was a hint of unpleasantness within it. Liu Ling panicked and quickly explained herself. "That's because he's so incorrigible! How dare he insult you that day? I get so angry every time I look at his obscene face!"

Feng Wutian shook his head and patted her head. "Don't do this next time. A weak man will pay for his actions in the end. There's no reason to do anything to him, because he will die on his own. Why waste your time on such an insignificant character?"

"Oh ..." Liu Ling nodded obediently and chuckled. "Thank you, Senior Wutian. I will remember your advice."

Even Liu Lan heard what Feng Wutian had said. She turned around and nodded approvingly before continuing on their journey.

Feng Wutian has matured so much in just two years. Ling'er should be able to lead a peaceful life with him after they get married. Sigh ... Why did Father ask me to marry him instead? What should I do?"

Liu Lan turned around and saw Long Chen walking at the back all on his own. Everyone was walking quite close to each other, so Long Chen heard all of their whispering.

But he was very relaxed even though he was ostracized. Liu Lan was surprised.

He's very mature and resilient. Too bad he doesn't have a prestigious background.

After giving her verdict, she focused on their path ahead.

There were many other people on the path they were walking on. They soon arrived at the entrance of the Heavenly Martial Realm, the Heavenly Martial Palace.

The Heavenly Martial Palace was one of the most crowded places in the Turquoise family, losing out only to the Treasure Pavilion and Martial Deeds Hall.

The daily activities of Lingwu family members were either cultivating, training, or conducting missions. For their training, most of them would enter the Heavenly Martial Realm to fight against demonic beasts. Doing so also allowed them to obtain resources from the demonic beasts and sell them for contribution points.

Long Chen knew that the Heavenly Martial Realm was separated into three major areas, the Human Core area, the Earthly Core area, and the Heavenly Core area.

The strongest demonic beasts in the Human Core area were limited to the Category Four Black-tier. The strongest demonic beasts in the Earthly Core area were limited to the Category Seven Black-tier. Anything beyond that could only be found in the Heavenly Core area.

Most disciples trained at the Human Core area, so it was one of the most crowded areas daily.

However, due to the training exercise of the Turquoise family today, the other eight families had requested that their disciples leave the Heavenly Martial Realm for the duration so that the exercise could go smoothly.

“The exercise will last eight days. You must obtain the Taiqing Sword hidden within the stomach of the Heart Eater before time is up. If you fail to obtain it within eight days, the exercise will still end regardless because we must let the other disciples enter the Heavenly Martial Realm too!”

Liu Lan repeated the rules once more after arriving at the Heavenly Martial Palace.

“Eight days ...”

Long Chen did some calculations in his head. “It should take me roughly six to seven days to merge the tenth Blazing Thunder Crystal. Since the Taiqing Sword doesn’t suit my fighting style, I would rather find a hidden place to merge the tenth crystal instead. If I succeed, I can finally ...”

Ling Xi heard him mumbling and was worried. “Long Chen, you can’t be too optimistic about it. Disregarding how you might not be able to merge the tenth Blazing Thunder Crystal, your ‘team’ might not let you leave them in the first place. Look at how they are glaring at you ...”

Ling Xi was much more observant than him.

Long Chen raised his head and indeed saw killing intent within the gazes of the nine other youths.

Feng Wutian was still staring at him calmly even though he was the one who had a grudge.

Long Chen knew he had to be careful after Ling Xi warned him.

Just then, everyone followed Liu Lan and entered the Heavenly Martial Palace. Even though the palace was massive, it was almost devoid of people. There were a few groups of people around, and most of them had around ten people with them.

“They must be the youths selected by the other halls. I think there’s roughly a hundred of them ...”

Every single one of them looked very strong. None of them were weak at all. There were even quite a few of them roughly the same age as Long Chen, but they were already at the late Human Core Realm!

The training exercise in the Heavenly Martial Realm was starting!

Chapter 104 - Chu Yunyao

The rest of the teams from the other halls soon arrived. A total of eight teams gathered in the Heavenly Martial Palace in no time.

Long Chen stood within the Turquoise Sun Hall team and inspected the other teams.

He knew that the Turquoise Sun Hall's overall strength was roughly the weakest or second weakest amongst the halls, but since they had Feng Wutian, it was very likely that they would win.

But there were many other teams with an expert at the peak Human Core Realm, especially the girl from the Turquoise Imperial Hall. She attracted everyone's gazes the moment she entered.

"So she's Chu Yunyao from the Turquoise Imperial Hall?" Liu Ling gritted her teeth when she said that.

Chu Yunyao was wearing a pale-yellow dress. She had a delicate but cold face, her elegance radiating from every inch of her body.

It was clear Liu Ling was envious of her.

Both of them were the daughters of their respective Sect Elders, but the difference between them was massive.

Liu Ling was only at the mid Human Core Realm, while Chu Yunyao was at the threshold of the Earthly Core Realm.

Chu Yunyao was loved by everyone, while Liu Ling could only garner attention by staying beside Feng Wutian.

Feng Wutian was currently staring at Chu Yunyao, causing Liu Ling to be envious. She wanted to twist Feng Wutian's head to look at her only.

When Long Chen laid eyes on Chu Yunyao, he confirmed that she was indeed as strong as Feng Wutian even though she was younger.

Chu Yunyao was very pretty, not as sexy as the mature Liu Lan, but slightly prettier than Liu Ling.

Liu Lan and the other seven administrators of their respective teams gathered together.

Even though the Turquoise Sun Hall was a mediocre group, Liu Lan's beauty was very famous within the Turquoise family.

While they talked, some of them took glances at Liu Lan's sexy body from time to time.

"Everyone, now that we are here, we can proceed with the Heavenly Martial Realm training exercise."

"Yes, let's not delay any more. We can lead them into the passageway to enter the Heavenly Martial Realm. I trust everyone has explained the rules clearly to the teams beforehand?"

"Naturally."

After confirming some other issues, Liu Lan returned to the Turquoise Sun Hall team.

At the same time, one of the administrators called for the teams to enter one of the passageways not far from Long Chen.

The passageway was ten meters wide with a membrane composed of light at the end. The light membrane flowed like water and sparkled like a kaleidoscope. It was very pretty.

But it emitted a sinister aura.

“This is the entrance to a Miniverse. It seems that it was made by a very powerful person in the past.”

Ling Xi exclaimed in surprise while within her sword.

“You mean there might be treasures inside of it?”

“Probably not. The Lingwu family has been here for so many years, and the Miniverse is not very big. All of the treasures were most likely already found.”

Long Chen sighed and abandoned all thoughts of treasure hunting.

He had been forced into the training exercise, so his only thoughts were training and becoming stronger.

Some of the groups passed by Long Chen and entered the passageway.

After some time, the Turquoise Imperial Hall group passed by. They had around twenty members, and Chu Yunyao was at the forefront.

When they were just beside Long Chen’s group, Chu Yunyao suddenly approached Liu Lan.

“Greetings, Senior Liu Lan. My brother sends his regards. Unfortunately, he had some issues to deal with, so he couldn’t meet you today. He said he misses you.”

Liu Lan didn’t know how to react and replied awkwardly, “Ugh ... Thank you for the message. Be careful during the exercise.”

Chu Yunyao nodded and left.

She acted coldly to everyone except Liu Lan, to whom she showed a hint of respect for.

Brother? So Liu Lan has a relationship with him?”

Long Chen suddenly had an image in his mind of cabbage being thrown to a pig when he thought how such a sexy lady already had a man.

Liu Lan turned around and calmly said, “Remember the rules. I will wait for you here. Good luck.”

Feng Wutian acknowledged her and led the rest of them toward the entrance of the Heavenly Martial Realm.

When Long Chen passed by Liu Lan, he saw that she was smiling at him without a hint of remorse even though she was the one who had placed him in such a dangerous position.

Liu Lan shook her head after Long Chen disappeared into the passageway. *Sigh ... How could an initial Human Core Realm cultivator win against a peak Human Core Realm cultivator? Was my training method too extreme?*

She frowned when she thought of that particular man. *If there's no one strong enough to help me, I'm afraid my fate is sealed ... Is this my destiny?*

While she was still deep in thought, Long Chen and the rest passed through the light membrane.

A sudden chill enveloped Long Chen. He felt like he had fallen into a deep pool. The sensation of falling through the air lasted for quite some time before his body suddenly stopped. When he looked around, he saw that he had landed on a piece of yellow soil.

The area he was in was a flat plain with nothing but hard, yellow soil. A few shrubs and trees dotted the area. It wasn't much, but at least there was some vegetation.

He raised his head and saw that the sky was yellow too. The sun was covered behind yellow clouds.

The air was chilly and barren. Long Chen knew that he was in a different realm now.

"Is this ... the Heavenly Martial Realm?"

Everyone else had entered the place at least once before, so they weren't surprised. Long Chen was the only one who reacted this way.

Everyone chuckled when they saw how in awe he was.

The other teams that had entered the Heavenly Martial Realm were long gone. Feng Wutian led his team towards an area with some shrubs and trees.

It was all down to luck to find the Heart Eater.

Feng Wutian looked around and pointed in a direction. "All of you, follow me and don't lag behind."

He turned and looked at Long Chen as a warning.

But Long Chen had no plans to stay with them. "Well, good luck finding the Taiqing sword. I will go by myself."

He didn't have a friendly relationship with Feng Wutian or anyone else in the squad, so there was no point in sticking together.

Long Chen also knew that Feng Wutian wanted to kill him even though he seemed relaxed. As expected, Feng Wutian's face grew unfriendly.

"The Sect Elder has instructed that everyone must follow my orders. Are you disobeying his instructions?"

"Disobey? Oh no, I dare not do that. It's just that I will only drag you down because I'm so weak. You should go find the Taiqing Sword without me ..." Long Chen said that in a haughty tone.

Everyone else initially ignored Long Chen, but they were surprised to see how haughty he was. All of them were now looking at him like a clown.

Liu Ling hated Long Chen the most. Now that there weren't any superiors here, she chuckled when she saw how disobedient he was. "Senior Wutian is our leader. His words are our orders. If he tells you to die, you must die. You dare disobey him?"

Long Chen looked calm, but he was carefully analyzing their strength and situation.

If Feng Wutian's priority was the Taiqing Sword, he would've just let me go and wouldn't be bothered by me. Since he's trying to keep me from leaving, that means he wants to kill me now. He's trying to kill me before I get strong enough to threaten him.

As expected, Feng Wutian did not want him to leave. "The Sect Elder has appointed me as leader. If you keep causing us trouble, I have the authority to kill you!"

"I'm afraid that I will die too if I follow you, Feng Wutian."

Long Chen smiled. Feng Wutian was surprised Long Chen had seen through his tricks and was angered. Even Liu Ling could ignore it no more. "You are seeking death!"

She was about to fight Long Chen when Feng Wutian held her back. For the first time, killing intent spilled forth from his eyes. His voice grew colder too.

"Everyone, since Long Chen does not want to follow my orders, he is jeopardizing our mission. I will now vanquish him in place of the elders. Does everyone agree?"

The other eight people in the group respected Feng Wutian, while Long Chen was someone they couldn't care less about.

All of them smiled and agreed. "Just do as you like. We will bear the consequences with you if the elders question you."

Even though they were all against him, Long Chen felt no fear.

So Feng Wutian is finally revealing his true self?

After obtaining their approval, Feng Wutian stepped away from the team and approached Long Chen.

Chapter 105 - Lesson

Feng Wutian's killing intent leaked out, and an oppressive force enveloped Long Chen. The aura from a peak Human Core Realm foe wasn't something he could handle right now.

In Long Chen's eyes, Feng Wutian was like a massive mountain rolling towards him. He had to tense up his whole body to barely fend off the oppressive aura.

Long Chen was angered by Feng Wutian's bullying, but there was nothing he could do for now.

Feng Wutian is still looking down on me. I can't fight against you now, but I can run away. But before I do, let's give you a surprise so that you will think twice next time.

Even though he was weaker, the gap was not all that wide. Since Feng Wutian still had to lead the team to find the Taiqing Sword, he couldn't abandon everyone just to chase after Long Chen.

After getting a grasp of the situation, Long Chen felt very relaxed.

Feng Wutian was currently less than ten meters from him.

“You killed Huang Feiyang. I will avenge him today ...”

Feng Wutian clenched his fist, and a powerful force condensed onto it.

“I don’t even need to use a martial technique to kill someone at the initial Human Core Realm like you!”

Feng Wutian flew towards Long Chen like a gale. Even though he was only punching Long Chen normally without any martial technique, Long Chen felt like the fist contained enough power to cover the heavens and the earth.

“Is that so?”

Long Chen knew that he would have to pay a steep price to block the attack. Not only would he have to transform, he would also need to use the Primordial Dragon Seal, costing him a lot of energy. So instead, he utilized his speed and instantly zipped past Feng Wutian using the Nine Heavens Dragon Step.

Long Chen didn’t need to transform to do this. Feng Wutian saw Long Chen as an average initial Human Core Realm cultivator, but the latter was on the threshold of obtaining the Blazing Thunder Combat Body, meaning that he surpassed the average cultivator when it came to speed and dexterity. This was why Long Chen had easily evaded the attack.

The whole team had been watching expectantly, waiting for Feng Wutian to get rid of Long Chen, especially Liu Ling. She had expected Feng Wutian to kill Long Chen in one blow. But all of them were surprised when Long Chen not only evaded Feng Wutian, he even got close to Liu Ling!

“How can this be? He’s faster than me!”

Liu Ling was horrified to see how fast Long Chen was.

The others were equally surprised by how he had evaded the attack.

And no one had thought that Long Chen would speed up and approach Liu Ling instead!

The distance between them wasn’t large to begin with, so they didn’t react in time.

Liu Ling was so shocked that Long Chen was already right in front of her by the time she reacted, his eyes filled with glee.

“You pervert!”

Liu Ling shouted before she attacked Long Chen. She thought his attacking power would be lacking, considering how much faster he was compared to a regular mid Human Core Realm cultivator. She was under the assumption that Long Chen had only trained his speed.

So she punched him while panicking.

An attack from a mid Human Core Realm cultivator would’ve injured him, but since he had merged with nine Blazing Thunder Crystals, he was not afraid of her attack.

Liu Ling lacked battle experience—Long Chen determined that her battle experience was next to zero.

When he struck back, a faint, red Qi carrying the power of lightning and fire burst forth from his dantian and into his fist before colliding with Liu Ling's fist.

Everyone had thought Long Chen would be defeated on the spot. But once again, they were wrong. He emerged victorious from the clash, while Liu Ling cried out in pain.

The lightning and fire within his Qi had burned her fist, turning it black.

Liu Ling had never experienced pain like this before and started crying.

Long Chen took this chance to circle behind her back and clutched her neck while retreating.

"You lowly bastard! Stop!"

Feng Wutian had watched everything unfold, and his face turned red from anger. He launched numerous attacks on Long Chen.

The other seven were angry too and attacked Long Chen at the same time. They were trying to corner him.

He's only at the initial Human Core Realm. How could he avoid Feng Wutian's attack and even take Miss Liu Ling as hostage?

Everyone was still reeling from the shock. They had thought Long Chen was nothing but a coward who came from a backwater town. But now they knew they had been tricked.

How dare he take the Sect Elder's daughter as hostage! Long Chen is dead this time!

Everyone attacked Long Chen without reservation, but he was not afraid. Amidst Liu Ling's painful cries, Long Chen raised her as a shield.

Feng Wutian immediately recalled his attack. Long Chen used this chance to retreat even further and shouted, "You can attack me all you want if you don't care about her life! Stop right now! If anyone moves, I will kill her!"

Liu Ling was scared. Long Chen's words, the hand clutching her neck, and even the pain in her body were too much for her to bear.

She had never experienced such a horrific encounter before, and her face paled from shock. "No! Please don't kill me! Senior Wutian, help me!"

Feng Wutian, who she thought was capable of doing anything, was currently glaring at Long Chen with venom in his eyes, but he dared not move. All he could do was shout, "Long Chen! Liu Ling is the Sect Elder's daughter! If you touch even a strand of her hair, he will kill you! Release her now!"

"Is that so?" Long Chen chuckled. "You think I'm an idiot? Weren't you already going to kill me? Since I'm going to die anyway, I might as well take someone with me."

Long Chen felt a hint of relief when he saw how Liu Ling was trembling from fear and Feng Wutian could do nothing.

He had already retreated more than thirty meters during the time.

She's still the daughter of an influential figure. It's best if I stop now.

Long Chen stopped retreating, and right before everyone's eyes, he placed Liu Ling onto his knee and raised his hand.

"How dare you spread rumors and try to defame me! Let me teach you a lesson today!"

He then spanked Liu Ling right in front of Feng Wutian. A crisp *slap* could be heard, and Liu Ling howled in pain, her pale face turning red ...

The handprint on her pale butt would last for a very long time.

Feng Wutian roared in anger.

"Ling'er! Long Chen, you must die!"

Long Chen felt satisfied after spanking her. He then taunted Feng Wutian. "You must feel aroused after I spanked your woman, right?"

Without caring how angry Feng Wutian was, he threw Liu Ling with his entire strength towards Feng Wutian.

Feng Wutian was about to kill Long Chen, but he had to stop and catch Liu Ling gently.

When he did so, Long Chen laughed and ran as fast as he could towards another direction.

When Feng Wutian caught Liu Ling and put her down, Long Chen was long gone.

As for the others, they tried to chase Long Chen, but to no avail. After some time, they gathered on Feng Wutian once again. They saw that his face was extremely flushed from anger, and he wasn't saying anything.

Liu Ling was still crying, and the painful sensation on her butt still lingering. Feng Wutian tried to console her, but there was nothing he could do.

"Why are you still standing here? Senior Wutian, why aren't you chasing him?!"

Feng Wutian revealed a difficult expression. "Ling'er, he is too fast and too far. We still need to find the Taiqing sword ..."

"Bastard! You ... Get away from me! You only care about the Taiqing Sword, not me! I've been bullied by him and yet you still didn't chase him to kill him! Feng Wutian, are you even a man?!"

"Enough!" Feng Wutian's face was green from the insults. "Ling'er, I promise I will catch him the next time I see him. You can kill him with your own hands, so stop this right now."

"Waaah ... But it hurts!"

After escaping them and ensuring that they would not chase, Long Chen sighed in relief. "Xiao Xi, quickly find me a place to hide. I need to merge with the tenth Blazing Thunder Crystal!"

“Bastard, did you just realize I’m right here? You were very impressive just now, weren’t you?” Ling Xi gritted her teeth in jealousy. She was still in the Lingxi Sword.

Long Chen knew he might’ve gone overboard with how he had punished Liu Ling. He tried coaxing Ling Xi. “Darling, please don’t misunderstand. I was just punishing her. Don’t you think she’s evil? I just gave her a good punishment!”

“Hmph! And how does that relate to me? There’s nothing between you and me!”

Chapter 106 - Recovery’s Effect

The Heavenly Martial Realm was not composed of just plains. There were mountains, hills, basins, and canyons.

Everything that could be found in the outside world was found here too.

“To think that the Heavenly Martial Realm is almost the same as outside. I can’t even tell that it’s a Miniverse. This is very interesting.”

Long Chen admired the world he was in. The mystery of the Miniverse was beyond his imagination.

“True, but if you were to reach the border of the Miniverse, you would be able to touch the boundaries. As for the outside world, no one knows where the boundary is.”

Long Chen knew that the boundary was far from his current location.

He was currently in a canyon filled with unique boulders and rocks. He carefully navigated the area before finding a spot to hide.

It was a crack on the face of a wall. Long Chen pushed the big boulder away from the entrance and walked inside. He then pulled the boulder back to cover up the hole.

I’m like a mole now!

Long Chen was somewhat depressed since he still had to hide himself like a thief. Still ... The teams would be all over the Miniverse in search of the Taiqing Sword. Long Chen needed a quiet place to merge with the tenth Blazing Thunder Crystal.

If he was interrupted, especially by Feng Wutian, his life would be over.

“Long Chen, are you sure you want to merge with the tenth crystal?” Ling Xi was worried since she thought there was a chance of failing.

But Long Chen had already transformed into his strongest state and sat down. He took out the tenth Blazing Thunder Crystal from the Universe Pouch.

His eyes were filled with determination.

“Of course. I know where my limits are, so calm down. Am I even a man if I can’t endure this? Also, since I angered them, I will most certainly die soon if I don’t get strong.”

Ling Xi sighed after failing to persuade Long Chen. “Please be careful, then.”

Even though she said that, she was already thinking of how to help him if he failed.

Long Chen smiled when he looked at the Blazing Thunder Crystal. He then swallowed it without any hesitation.

The crystal transformed into pure fire and electric energy the moment it entered his body. It converged with the existing energy in his dantian, which caused a strong resonance.

The tenth crystal is indeed the hardest to merge so far!

Long Chen was initially surprised before he felt a faint ache that slowly grew into an unbearable pain. The pain spread throughout his body. Even though he had transformed, the pain was almost impossible to endure!

He felt the energy of the lightning and fire breaking down his body. The speed of the destruction was much faster than his own body's recovery. Soon, Long Chen felt pain much more intense than ever before. The pain came from all over his body, tearing and cutting him up like small knives.

The energy tearing his body apart was enough to make a normal person insane. Ling Xi saw blood flowing out of his lips.

Still, he continued to clench his teeth and persevere.

The energy of lightning and fire never stopped. Every time it circulated his body, the dragon scales covering him started to crack.

Even if he can endure it, he will still die! What should I do?

Ling Xi didn't know what she could do.

Long Chen endured the pain, but he knew he would reach his limit. The current situation was not in his favor due to the destruction brought onto his body by the energy of the Blazing Thunder Crystal.

My body is reaching its limit!

Long Chen recalled that he had something that might help.

Recovery! It healed my hidden injuries before I can test it out now!

Long Chen immediately used Recovery. The intermediate Black-tier Life Combat Technique was capable of healing even the most serious injuries.

A stream of warmth intertwined between the gaps of the lightning and fire energy within his body. It circulated slowly within him, healing and mending the wounds of his flesh.

It works!

Long Chen was ecstatic and immediately increased the power of Recovery. A surge of warmth circulated within him. Every time a part of his body was destroyed by the lightning and fire, Recovery mended it.

The constant destruction and healing made his body stronger and more resilient.

Ling Xi saw Long Chen slowly become more stable, a far cry from how pained he looked when he first started merging the tenth Blazing Thunder Crystal.

"This is ... the trace of Recovery."

Ling Xi finally recalled that Recovery could help with this pain!

If he had used a spiritual herb, he would've had to use some of his Qi to refine it. But Long Chen was currently focusing all of his Qi and attention to oppose the energy of lightning and fire, so it was impossible for him to focus on refining spiritual herbs.

But Recovery was a technique embedded within his body, so he could activate it without any restrictions.

This was the unique aspect of Life Combat Techniques. Quick, reliable, and effective. Also, aside from the initial cost, Long Chen didn't have to spend any money to continue using it.

"He's too lucky."

Ling Xi had a feeling that without Recovery, Long Chen might not have been able to endure it. Thankfully, he was slowly adapting to the pain, leaving her relieved.

With Recovery aiding him, Long Chen barely managed to endure the pain. Still, it would be extremely difficult to endure it for up to six days. His situation was still perilous.

Using Recovery still consumed some of his Qi, and with his Qi lessening, the energy of lightning and fire could cause a backlash!

Long Chen had expected that this would happen sometime down the road. It took him two days before his Qi finally ran out.

After just two days, Long Chen's body had improved so much that it was just a step away from the legendary Blazing Thunder Combat Body.

But he had no more Qi, so the energy of lightning and fire backlashed. It was initially suppressed, but now it circulated his entire body without any restraints.

Long Chen was initially quiet, with the energy slowly and methodologically refining his body, but Ling Xi noticed that the energy was suddenly circulating wildly. Not only did it envelop his entire body, it even shot towards his blood-red Human Core!

"Oh no! He's going to explode!"

Long Chen broke out in a cold sweat. The energy had already reached his Human Core. He did not have enough Qi to hold it back!

If the energy surged into his dantian and he couldn't withstand it, his Human Core would be destroyed and he would explode.

The tenth Blazing Thunder Crystal. Am I just a step away? I don't want to yield to it!

He thought about how many things were unfinished, how the Yang family was waiting for him to rescue them, and how Ling Xi needed his help.

Long Chen had already expected something to go wrong when he merged with the tenth crystal, but this was beyond his expectations. He had underestimated the crystal's power.

No! I will not die here!

Long Chen's will to survive was indomitable. He swore he would not die to a mere Blazing Thunder Crystal!

“I am Long Chen! I WILL NEVER DIE!” Long Chen roared, causing the small crack he was in to reverberate and shake.

The energy of lightning and fire within him had transformed into a blue streak and hurled itself towards his dantian.

Within his dantian was his Human Core. It was currently dim and spent. There wasn't much it could do after exhausting all of his Qi.

Only the blood-red pattern on the Human Core could be seen clearly.

The energy of lightning and fire was about to enter his dantian. Long Chen gritted his teeth and did his best to withstand the impact. Just then, the blood-red pattern on his Human Core started glowing brightly, as if it was coming alive.

A pair of red lights shot out from the eyes of the dragon pattern, and they were heading straight towards the energy of lightning and fire.

A blood-red mist enveloped the energy, then Long Chen miraculously felt the energy slowly transforming.

Soon, the energy that filled his dantian was no longer blue. It had changed into a blood-red energy filled with the same lightning and fire.

Chapter 107 - Blazing Thunder Warrior!

The unexpected change stunned Long Chen.

He never would've imagined that the blood-red dragon print on his Human Core would spit out a ray of light that could turn the power of all ten Blazing Thunder Crystals blood-red.

He now sensed that he had gained control over the blood-red lightning and fire! *Has the Blazing Thunder Crystal's power merged with my Qi already?*

The lightning and fire were already stuck to his Human Core, so the blood-red core was now burning with blood-red flames and also enveloped by blood-red lightning.

The Blazing Thunder Power had completely merged with his Dragon Soul Qi.

His Qi was now no longer only ten times stronger than regular Qi in terms of toughness and attacking power, but much, much more!

Time passed slowly as Long Chen's body underwent the gentle tempering of the blood-red lightning and flames and the nourishment of Recovery. He slowly became stronger, and after almost two days, he felt like he was approaching a boundary.

Ling Xi suddenly sensed a fluctuation in his body and paled with fear. But in the blink of an eye, Long Chen tamed the power of fire and lightning once more. She watched him with amazement. “What secrets does Long Chen hold? He almost died when he first received the Inherited Blood Essence of the Primordial Dragon, but he somehow survived. This time, he initially wasn't able to withstand the Blazing Thunder Crystal, but he magically survived once again. Looking at him, he must have already merged with the tenth crystal successfully ...”

Although Ling Xi was well-versed with many things, she still didn't know what secrets his body held.

Long Chen could feel the boundary. As long as he could break through it, he would successfully complete the Blazing Thunder Combat Body and become a Blazing Thunder Warrior!

If this was in the past, the fluctuations of the Blazing Thunder Power in his body would have made it very difficult for him to break through.

This time, however, it was different. Now he was completely in control of the Blazing Thunder Power, and he let it slowly and gently strengthen his body. After some time, under his complete control, he naturally broke through.

Blazing Thunder Warrior...

He felt the power skyrocketing in his body.

Long Chen smiled faintly and stood up. He then opened his hand and discovered the image of a Blazing Thunder Crystal at the center of his palm, though it was different from normal because the image was blood-red.

He knew that it was the symbol of a Blazing Thunder Warrior. Now, in addition to his identity as a Dragon Warrior, he was also a Blazing Thunder warrior!

A Blazing Thunder Warrior possessed high-quality Qi and a very tough body. Long Chen currently possessed only a Level One Blazing Thunder Combat Body, but its effects were equivalent or beyond intermediate Black-tier Body Tempering Techniques!

Intermediate Black-tier combat techniques were hard to come by. Long Chen's Burning Devil Sun Fist was from the mysterious steel token, and the single intermediate Black-tier Life Combat Technique he had was from the strange Recovery Fruit.

He was currently in a training exercise designed for Human Core Realm elites of the Turquoise family, and the champion's prize was merely an intermediate Black-tier spirit sword and sword technique. This fact alone proved how precious an intermediate Black-tier skill was!

However, Long Chen was only at the initial Human Core Realm, yet he already possessed an intermediate Black-tier combat technique, Body Tempering Technique, and Life Combat Technique. And all of them were extraordinary too!

"Long Chen, have you become a Blazing Thunder Warrior?"

Ling Xi was overjoyed, circling happily around Long Chen and touching him.

He had already deactivated his Dragon Soul Transformation and reverted back to his harmless-looking human form.

He still had a concern about the Dragon Soul Transformation because other people thought he was a Beast Warrior. Now that he had entered the Human Core Realm, he needed to cultivate a new Beast Soul.

However, the feeling that other people got from his transformation was that he was still using a Yellow-tier beast's Beast Soul. This was a very dumb issue to neglect, and it indirectly proved that Long Chen hadn't even killed one Black-tier beast on his own!

He didn't want to dwell on these matters for the moment. Now that he was finally a Blazing Thunder Warrior, a weight had lifted off him. With his current strength, although he might not be Feng Wutian's equal, at least staying alive would be easy!

"Mhm! I now have a Blazing Thunder Combat Body! Xiao Xi, aren't I awesome?"

Ling Xi scoffed at his smug look. "Tsk. I used to be ten thousand times stronger than you are right now. Only idiots like you would be so smug with such a small achievement. Don't get too happy with yourself!"

In truth, she understood that based on how Long Chen had started with nothing, it was an impressive feat to have come so far.

His journey was more difficult than the journey she took to achieve the level she once reached.

She admired him from the depths of her heart but would never say it out loud. *If I ever compliment this bastard, he'll be so smug that his tail will be pointing at the sky.*

Long Chen calculated that only about four days had passed since he entered the Heavenly Martial Realm. "I wonder if those stupid donkeys have found the Heart Eater yet. There's still a lot of time left, and I haven't used Blood Transmutation in a while. It's a good time to explore and see if I can kill a few beasts!"

Emerging from his hiding spot, Long Chen headed to a mountain valley. This valley was long and narrow, with its deeper parts containing dark forests. A thick, heavy aura seemed to radiate from the deepest of the deepest parts.

He had already encountered a few beasts along the way, with the weakest one being a Category One Black-tier beast. There wasn't even one Yellow-tier beast anywhere to be found.

If I use it well, the Heavenly Martial Realm can be heaven for me ... thought Long Chen as he ventured towards the deep parts of the forest. Under Ling Xi's guidance, he soon encountered a few herds of social animals.

"This is called the Devil Ape. It is a Category One Black-tier beast, and it's very strong with a lot of Qi in its blood. It should be very suitable for you ..."

"Really?"

Long Chen was also observing a few Devil Apes that were screeching and chasing each other from afar.

These beasts were more than three meters tall, covered in black fur, and had muscles as tough as boulders. "I approve! You all shall be my meal for today!"

Then, with a *whoosh*, he charged towards the few apes.

His strength had just recently skyrocketed, so although he was at the same cultivation level as the apes, he was infinitely better in combat. Therefore, they were no match for him. In less than fifteen minutes, they were all carcasses.

Using Blood Transmutation, Long Chen cultivated, though he soon started to frown.

"What's the matter? Is there a breakthrough?" Ling Xi asked with concern.

Long Chen shook his head. “There isn’t. I’m guessing that the blood essence of a Category One Black-tier beast is no longer effective to me. I need to find higher-tiered beasts. It won’t matter how many Category One Black-tier beasts I get, I don’t think they’ll work anymore.

“It makes sense. When you were at the Fifth Draconic Stage, you consumed a Category Seven Yellow-tier Blood Lizard King. At the Eighth Draconic Stage, you consumed a Category One Black-tier beast, the Blue Eyed Snow Lion.”

By then, Long Chen had already taken the demonic cores of the Devil Apes. Next, he took out four transparent beads. “The demonic cores and beast souls of these guys can be sold for contribution points, so I won’t let them go to waste.”

Looking at the transparent beads in his hand, Ling Xi asked, “Since when did you have Soul Collecting Beads with you? Why haven’t I seen them?”

“Do I have to report every item I have on me to you?”

He grinned, and then he used the Soul Collecting Beads to extract the apes’ beast souls.

The dead beast souls were strongly attracted to the beads. They had to be stored in the beads, or they would dissipate.

“Long Chen, do you think I’m like these beast souls trapped in a Soul Collecting Bead?” she suddenly asked, sounding a little sad.

Long Chen froze, then he answered, “You silly girl, why are you overthinking? You’re ten thousand times cuter than these wild beasts. Don’t compare yourself to them. Also, it’s not like you have been in that sword all your life.”

In reality, the Ling Xi Sword was also an extremely mysterious object. Long Chen knew that Ling Xi was extremely powerful at some point. If even she couldn’t escape the sword, then it had to be some mysterious treasure. It was just that both Ling Xi and Long Chen couldn’t discover the secrets it held.

As for the name “Ling Xi Sword,” that was just a name that she had casually given it.

After collecting the beast souls, Long Chen started to search for his next target.

Within a day, he killed many Category Two Black-tier beasts and collected many awesome items. “I’m going to be so rich! Xiao Xi, can you count how many contribution points I’ll get from these?”

“If you sell the demonic cores and beast souls to the Lingwu family, Category One Black-tier beasts usually go for two to three points, while Category Two Black-tier beasts probably will be about ten points each ...”

Back at their quarters, Ling Xi usually killed her boredom by reading books about the Lingwu family stored in Long Chen’s room. At this point, she likely knew more than him about the Lingwu family.

“So does that mean I have more than fifty contribution points by now?”

More money! Long Chen was as happy as a man who had struck gold.

However, using Blood Transmutation on Category Two Black-tier demonic beasts had barely done anything for him. He still hadn't reached the intermediate Human Core Realm after consuming many beasts.

"I wonder if their search for the Supreme Purity Sword has ended. Lingqing has learned the Illusory Seven Killings Sword Technique, so if it's possible, I would like to give her the Supreme Purity Sword Dao when she reaches the Human Core Realm. As her older cousin, I should be working hard to help her.

"But before that, I should go look for a Category Three Black-tier beast. I refuse to believe that a beast stronger than a late Human Core Realm cultivator won't be enough for me to advance my cultivation level!"

Chapter 108 - Flaming Golden Lion!

Category 1 Black-tier beasts were very common in the Human Core Area of the Heavenly Martial Realm. Occasionally, he encountered Category Two beasts, but Category Three ones proved to be more difficult to find.

These beasts tended to stay in their own territories, and Long Chen's current location coincidentally had a sparse population. He had no choice but to change his search area, heading towards a direction that Ling Xi pointed to.

During this time, he didn't encounter even one team. "The Turquoise family is conducting a training exercise, so at least the Human Core area is empty. Since there are only eight teams in such a huge place, it's normal not to see them.

"This also means that they haven't found the Heart Eater yet. Otherwise, the exercise would be over by now, and other people would've swarmed this place. If that happened, there would be more people here."

The Heavenly Martial Realm was as big as Lingwu City. The place where Long Chen lived in the Turquoise family was just a tiny piece of it.

After walking for approximately half a day, Long Chen arrived at a desolate desert. There were much fewer trees around, and only a few cacti could be seen when he looked around. "On top of a forest, there's even a desert in a small place like the Heavenly Martial Realm," Long Chen praised.

He walked for a while, and he felt his surroundings grow hotter and hotter. "Xiao Xi, I don't think there will be any beasts in a place like that. Even if there are, they won't be Category Three Black-tier beasts."

"Let's walk a bit further."

Long Chen had no choice but to carry on under Ling Xi's request. Soon, they spotted a crater in the sand, and Ling Xi quickly made him stop.

"What's the matter?"

She whispered excitedly, "Look at the lowest part of the sand. There's a beast hiding there. It's probably sunbathing and cultivating at the same time ..."

Long Chen walked forward for a long time and finally lay on his stomach on the ground. He gazed at the lowest point of the crater, and his eyes lit up with surprise. “Isn’t that ... a Category Three Black-tier Flaming Golden Lion?”

At the bottom of the crater was a huge, lion-type demonic beast, the Flaming Golden Lion. It was ten meters long, currently lying on the ground. If it stood up, it would be taller than the average house.

It was covered in golden fur and had a dense mane on its neck. It looked majestic, a faint, red, fiery glow radiated from its fur, and its eyes looked like two fireballs the size of lanterns. It was a terrifying beast that instilled fear in any onlooker.

“That’s indeed a Flaming Golden Lion. This beast’s combat capabilities are amongst the top of all Category Three Black-tier beasts.”

Long Chen did a brief calculation. “This beast is almost on the same level as Feng Wutian. Whatever. I’ll use you to test out my Blazing Thunder Combat Body!”

After he’d made his decision, a burst of determination erupted through him.

He didn’t need to use his Dragon Soul Transformation when fighting Category Two Black-tier beasts, but an opponent as strong as the Flaming Golden Lion had to be dealt with in peak form.

Perfect dragon scales and spines emerged from his body. Now that he had become a Blazing Thunder Warrior, faint, flickering, red lightning and flames flew on his body at high speeds, radiating a chilling energy.

The blood-red image of the Blazing Thunder Crystal on his palm was the center point of the Blazing Thunder Power flowing within him.

“I’m much stronger than I was before. Just using this body, I think I can defeat a mid Human Core Realm cultivator. Plus, my Dragon Soul Qi now contains Blazing Thunder Power ...”

Long Chen was confident he could defeat the Flaming Golden Lion.

When he completed his Dragon Soul Transformation and appeared not far in front of the Flaming Golden Lion, the beast finally noticed him!

It was initially resting with its eyes closed, but an annoying little guy had trespassed into its territory so disrespectfully. It raged instantly.

It was the king of this territory; how dare a nameless ant cross him on its land? It clambered up on its feet and glared down at Long Chen. Angry flames slowly rose from its body.

Although Long Chen was tiny, there was a strange quality to his body that invoked some fear in the Flaming Golden Lion.

Lions were usually kings, but Long Chen was more royal than this king.

“Roar!”

It unleashed a mighty roar, and when all four of its limbs landed on the ground, it sprung powerfully. A huge killing intent was now locked on Long Chen, who was charging towards the

lion. The man and the lion, hugely different in sizes, collided mid-air. The fiery energy the beast emitted charged at Long Chen manically!

“Do you think I’m afraid of flames like yours when I have the Blazing Thunder Combat Body?!”

He smirked, and despite the flames that towered over him, he charged into the fire. A storm of attacks rained down on the Flaming Golden Lion!

Using his Blazing Thunder Body and boosted by his Dragon Soul Qi, Long Chen exploded in one swift attack! “Primordial Dragon Seal!”

The image of a dragon was blasted towards the lion, who was shocked that Long Chen dared to charge directly into its flames. However, that was not enough to frighten it, though its chest tightened when it saw Long Chen’s Primordial Dragon Seal!

There was now powerful, blood-colored lightning erupting within the Primordial Dragon Seal. The image of the blood-colored dragon was now decorated with blood-red flames. Even the Flaming Golden Lion dared not be careless in the face of such a scary attack!

“Roar!”

It unleashed a deafening roar, opening its gigantic jaws. A gigantic, bright, red fireball more than one meter in diameter was launched directly at Long Chen’s Primordial Dragon Seal!

Boom!

The Primordial Dragon Seal collided with the fireball, and a powerful force rippled in all directions. Sand and dust were thrown up into the air! “This animal could neutralize my Primordial Dragon Seal with just one fireball. Indeed, it is not a simple animal!”

In terms of volume, Long Chen’s Qi was many times lesser than the Flaming Golden Lion. However, their combat abilities were similar because it was more concentrated!

He also sensed that the Flaming Golden Lion was his strongest opponent so far! “After generations and generations of fighting, demonic beasts have long evolved their own fighting techniques. Even a casual attack from them is as powerful as a combat technique. Furthermore, that gigantic fireball just now seemed to be an attack that it has mastered!”

Although he had launched the Primordial Dragon Seal reinforced with Blazing Thunder Power, it had been defeated. Long Chen hadn’t given up yet. Turning into a gust of red wind, he charged at the Flaming Golden Lion once more!

The lion was also nervous when it saw how fast the tiny human was. In terms of agility, Long Chen was a few times quicker than it. It unleashed several angry roars, and at least ten fireballs were hurled violently at Long Chen!

Startled, he quickly used the Nine Heavens Dragon Step. His agile body turned into an illusion, brushing past every single fireball. The burning flames caused him some damage, but not enough to kill him!

When the last fireball arrived, Long Chen could not dodge it at all, so he had no choice but to use the Primordial Dragon Seal once more!

Boom!

The fireball exploded, and Long Chen shot through the thick smoke like a blood arrow, dashing at the Flaming Golden Lion!

Demonic beasts were typically very strong, much stronger than cultivators.

The Flaming Golden Lion was even more infuriated that Long Chen dared fight it at such close range. It suddenly swiped its claws, which were harder than steel!

Long Chen did not back down though. He had just broken through the fireball and was now faced with a paw that resembled a mountain falling on himself. He felt suffocated instantly!

“I have the Blazing Thunder Body! Do you think I’m afraid of you?”

A fist and the paw collided, and both man and beast were blasted backwards by the impact. The lion was shocked that a tiny ant like Long Chen could block its paw with just the strength in his body!

This angered the lion even more!

“Roar!”

The gigantic beast pounced on Long Chen! “You’re so slow! Yet you want to fight me at close range?!”

He smirked and unleashed the Nine Heavens Dragon Step, quickly slithering between the beast’s legs.

Admittedly, the lion’s flames were unbearable to him! *The Burning Devil Sun Fist is fundamentally fire, and my Qi also currently contains fire energy. I wonder how powerful my Burning Devil Sun Fist could be if I use it now?*

With that thought, Long Chen simultaneously dodged the lion’s furious attacks and started to use the Burning Devil Sun Fist. “This fight is causing a huge commotion. It’s time to end it once and for all!”

During the fight against the Flaming Golden Lion, Long Chen had slowly learned the extent of the Blazing Thunder Combat Body’s capabilities. He also had Blazing Thunder Power in his Qi now. However, the Flaming Golden Lion was considered a powerful presence amongst all the Category Three Black-tier beasts in terms of physical strength and demonic power!

Being equal to this lion in terms of physical strength and Qi was extremely hard for an initial Human Core Realm cultivator like Long Chen!

There seemed to be no limit to the number of fireballs that could be emitted from the lion’s body. At this point, the whole desert was filled with craters from the barrage of fireballs. Sand and dust were thrown in the air, decreasing the visibility. Long Chen kept it busy as he moved around at close range! “Flaming Golden Lion, all of this ends here!”

This time, Long Chen slithered out from beneath its belly. The Flaming Golden Lion locked on his position and shot out seven or eight fireballs!

Long Chen was burning with blood-red flames, and a blood-red fireball was quickly forming on his fist. When the lion shot out the fireballs, he roared and punched! “Burning Devil Sun Fist, Blazing Flame!”

A blood-red, fiery Fist Seal shot out immediately, and there was a faint, human face in the Burning Devil Sun Fist!

The gigantic Fist Seal shattered the lion's fireball and hit it squarely on the head!

Boom!

Chapter 109 - Mid Human Core Realm!

The Burning Devil Sun Fist had hit the Flaming Golden Lion directly. The tsunami of power shattered its skull instantly!

The Flaming Golden Lion let out an earth-shaking roar of agony, and then its enormous body crashed into the ground and the ordeal finally ended.

Long Chen was greatly emotional after he killed the lion. He quickly extracted a red demonic core approximately the size of a fist from its head, then took out a Soul Collecting Bead to collect its Beast Soul. "I'm going to make a fortune with these two things ..."

The Flaming Golden Lion was a Category Three Black-tier demonic beast, so its demonic core and Beast Soul should be able to fetch a high number of contribution points.

Long Chen dared not visit the Dawn Trading Alliance right now. He had just completed the Blazing Thunder Body, and if he were found out, he would be in trouble. That was why he could only purchase items through the Lingwu family's Treasure Pavilion, and in order to do that, he needed contribution points first!

While he was extracting the Beast Soul, he thought about how he wanted to use Blood Transmutation on the Flaming Golden Lion. However, that was when a group of people appeared on the horizon. They were charging towards him at high speed.

Long Chen knew that his fight against the Flaming Golden Lion had caused too big of a commotion, and these people must've heard them. They were all elites, so they moved extremely fast. He had just finished extracting the Beast Soul when three teenagers under twenty years old surrounded him in an intimidating manner.

The rest of their squad subsequently arrived.

When they saw his face, they were all stunned for a moment because they didn't know which hall Long Chen belonged to.

The three teenagers who arrived first were late Human Core Realm experts.

These were true prodigies who had reached high cultivation levels at a young age. Long Chen stored the Soul Collecting Bead in his Universe Pouch, then he looked at them in amusement. He said mildly, "Why are you all watching me like that? Is it because you're swooning over my good looks?"

The three teenagers froze. One of them questioned coldly, "Which hall are you from? Why haven't I seen you before?"

"I should be asking you guys—who are you and why haven't *I* seen *you guys* before?"

Long Chen had actually seen them before at the Heavenly Martial Palace, but he never found out which hall they were from.

“We are from the Turquoise Vanguard Hall. Did you kill the Flaming Golden Lion?”

Long Chen was currently in his post-Dragon Soul Transformation form and had both a regal and vicious air about him. However, to them, his aura wasn't extremely powerful and he didn't seem strong enough to kill a Flaming Golden Lion.

“Are you kidding me?” Long Chen joked. “How could I kill such a huge beast? But finder's keepers. The demonic core and Beast Soul are mine. Do you guys plan to rob me?”

The three elites of the Turquoise Vanguard Hall looked at each other and saw the tempted look in each other's eyes. Although they were cautious of the way Long Chen didn't seem to fear them, it still wasn't enough to cancel out their greed. “Attack!”

All three of them moved instantly and closed in on Long Chen. “You guys are actually going to rob me?”

Long Chen was well aware that they were pinning after the carcass the moment they appeared. In their eyes, he was just a junior who had gotten lucky. They should be able to finish him in two or three moves!

These three were all late Human Core Realm experts. Although none of them could defeat a Flaming Golden Lion, they were much more powerful than one when they teamed up.

Long Chen did not plan to fight them directly. Under everyone's astonishment, he broke the lion's belly open and slipped inside!

The heavy Flaming Golden Lion suddenly began to move, and it was quickly running away!

“Think you can run?!”

All three young elites' expressions changed, and they hurried after Long Chen. The carcass wasn't moving as fast as they were, but as they gave chase, the carcass seemed to be ... withering?

In the blink of an eye, the Flaming Golden Lion carcass dried up, greatly shocking the three young elites. “What's going on? Why is this happening?”

They ran forward and reached out, grabbing at the dried carcass. That was when the carcass suddenly exploded, sending dried flesh and blood in all directions. Most of it hit the three young elites!

The dried pieces of flesh looked harmless, but they contained great power. All three were stopped in their tracks from the vibrations!

A ray of blood-red light shot up into the sky, and Long Chen appeared in front of them once again. In comparison to before, his eyes were now even redder, his gaze sharper. He was a lot stronger!

“You brat! Finally willing to show yourself? Hand over the Flaming Golden Lion's demonic core and Beast Soul, then I'll show you mercy!”

Long Chen couldn't care less about what he said. He just smiled.

He had finally suppressed the boiling blood and Qi within him. Right now, the Human Core in his dantian had shrunk a bit, but it was more condensed.

If the volume of his Human Core was previously nine units, now it would be eight units. Long Chen knew that its volume would continue to decrease if he worked harder. When he reached the late Heavenly Core Realm, it would probably be the size of a soybean. Cultivation at the Human Core Realm progressed by strengthening the Human Core and condensing it. This was accomplished by gathering Qi in the dantian and having it batter the core. Once there was enough Qi crashing onto the core, Long Chen could quickly advance to the next level.

He had been trapped at the initial Human Core Realm for the past few days. Absorbing numerous Category Two Black-tier demonic beasts didn't have a great effect, but their blood essence had accumulated. At that point, he was not far from the mid Human Core Realm. Once he cultivated the Flaming Golden Lion's blood essence and generated a huge amount of blood-red Qi, it all crashed into the dantian at the same time and caused his Human Core to condense, resulting in a breakthrough. Long Chen's Qi skyrocketed!

"Is this the power of the mid Human Core Realm ..."

When he first entered the initial Human Core Realm, he could defeat a Category Three Black-tier Flaming Golden Lion. Now, his strength had increased once more. At this point, the people in front of him were nothing to him. "I wonder how surprised Feng Wutian will be when he meets me again!"

Long Chen was looking forward to that.

He had successfully attained the mid Human Core Realm and become a Blazing Thunder Warrior, so his main objectives could be considered complete. After this, it was time for his last sprint to see if he could get Yang Lingqing the Supreme Purity Sword and its combat technique!

From the three late Human Core Realm teenagers' perspective, Long Chen seemed to have suddenly become stronger, though he was only at the mid Human Core Realm.

Anyone amongst them was able to kill him. However, their elders had reminded them not to cause too much conflict during this training exercise, and it was best not to kill anyone.

That was why one of them threatened coldly, "You brat, I'm giving you one last chance. If you still don't know what's good for you, don't you blame us for your death!"

"I'm counting to three. After three, if you still don't hand over the demonic core and the Soul Collecting Bead, we won't show you any mercy just because you're also a Lingwu family member!"

Long Chen felt the surging energy within his body reach its peak, as if it didn't belong to him at all. He had the impulse to experiment with it. "Hey, you three stupid donkeys! When I'm done with you, all your teeth will be on the ground! And your butts will be sore!" he said coolly.

All three teenagers were furious and about to attack when a bout of fireworks bloomed in the sky not far away.

Rumble!

All three froze, then looked at each other anxiously. "The Heart Eater has appeared!"

"What now?"

They should be heading over as fast as possible, but Long Chen

But they knew their priorities. Long Chen may have insulted them, but as long as he remained in the Lingwu family, there would be a chance to take their revenge. Therefore, they immediately made the decision to lead the rest of their hall's disciples to rush towards the place with the fireworks! "Everyone, follow me!"

After they glared threateningly at Long Chen, the three Turquoise Vanguard Hall brats ran in front of the group once more.

The rest of the Turquoise Vanguard Hall disciples were mostly at the mid Human Core Realm. They all ran as fast as they could to catch up. Only a young teenager of about thirteen years old, who was at the initial Human Core Realm, was tragically left behind ...

He was running with all his might, trying to keep up with the group. But now that the Heart Eater had appeared, did anyone have the time to worry about him? Therefore, he was quickly left behind.

Has the Heart Eater appeared already? I should go check it out ...

Long Chen smirked and quickly caught up to the teenager who was left behind. When he saw Long Chen running next to himself, he was startled and tried to threaten him. "Don't you dare touch me, or Senior Li, Senior Zhang, and Senior Wang will kill you!"

"Are you talking about the guys who tried to rob me?" Long Chen grinned.

"That's nonsense! They only want your stuff because you're too weak and you don't have the right to own it!" defended the teenager arrogantly.

"Is that so? Then do you believe me when I say that I can make those three seniors stay here so they won't get to see the Heart Eater?"

The young teenager froze, then he burst into a snicker. "Are you daydreaming? My three seniors are powerful late Human Core Realm cultivators from the Turquoise Vanguard Hall. How dare you tell such lies when all you have is that pathetic dead cat trick!"

"Wait and see if that was really a lie ..."

Long Chen grinned mysteriously, then, under the teenager's shocked gaze, he sprinted off a hundred times faster than before. He was running at a speed far faster than a mid Human Core Realm expert should've been capable of, charging towards the very front of the group like the wind!

Chapter 110 - Heart Eater

"How could he be so fast?!"

The youth all the way at the back of his team was surprised.

He rubbed his eyes and confirmed that Long Chen had indeed just surpassed them.

The mid Human Core Realm experts were equally surprised when Long Chen ran past them too. Senior Li, Senior Wang, and Senior Zhang finally noticed him.

Similar to the rest, they were surprised too. They were already using their fastest speed in order to catch the Heart Eater, but Long Chen had somehow managed to catch up to them!

“Brat, are you looking to die?!”

Senior Zhang was at the back when he shouted at Long Chen. He thought he could scare Long Chen away, but he was wrong. Rather than running away, Long Chen smiled and ran towards him instead

Senior Zhang’s face paled when he saw how fast Long Chen was.

Long Chen’s Qi pulsated and emanated from his body, transforming into crimson flames. The fire flowed into his fist and completed his technique.

Long Chen used the Nine Heavens Dragon Step and became nothing but a mirage. He then suddenly appeared in front of Senior Zhang, causing the latter to almost fall over from surprise. He was so flustered that he didn’t even bother checking how strong Long Chen’s technique was before he used his strongest martial technique.

“Raging Sea!”

“Burning Devil Sun Fist, Blazing Flame!”

Boom! The two of them collided and their techniques exploded. The ones at the back could not believe their eyes when they saw that Senior Zhang was the one who got flung away by Long Chen’s technique. His body was burning up and he spat blood in the air.

“Senior Zhang!”

“Old Zhang!”

It was not a scene they had expected to see, especially the youth at the back. Even though he was still running, his mind had halted.

Is ... Is he really going to teach the three seniors a lesson? Impossible, our seniors never lose ...

Even though he couldn’t believe it, the truth was right in front of him. Staring at the red mirage at the front, the youth despaired.

Senior Zhang’s life was in danger after that clash. Those chasing from the back did their best to catch Senior Zhang from the air, while Long Chen did the same and used Blazing Flame once more, this time against Senior Wang.

“Senior Wang, be careful!”

Senior Wang roared and used his strongest technique too, but to no avail. Everyone saw the same thing happen as Senior Wang flew into the air with blood flowing from his mouth.

“Impossible!”

Senior Li, who was at the front, could not believe his eyes. The rest were already too surprised to react anymore. Senior Li was their leader and the strongest in their team. The rest of them placed their final hope on him.

Even though Senior Li was still running towards the direction of the Heart Eater, he also took a quick glance backwards and saw how injured his sworn brothers were. He saw Long Chen smiling as he was about to catch up to him.

Shit! What kind of monster is he? What kind of bad luck is this!?

Senior Li lost his will to fight and changed directions instead. He ran as fast as he could to escape Long Chen.

Seeing how even their strongest member, Senior Li, had run away, the rest of them stopped and looked at each other, not knowing what to do. All of them saw the despair in Senior Li's eyes. The youth at the back was so shocked when he saw Senior Zhang's and Senior Wang's injuries that he didn't know what to say.

"What ... What kind of monster is he?"

Their final hope, Senior Li, was currently doing his best to escape Long Chen. "Who are you? Which hall did you come from? We have no grudges and you've already injured my two sworn brothers. Are you still unsatisfied?!" he cried out in despair.

"Who says we don't have any grudges?! You wanted to take my stuff just now!"

"That was just a joke! Please, I'm sorry! The Turquoise Vanguard Hall will forfeit! Are you happy?!"

When he said that, he felt Long Chen's murderous aura approaching him. Senior Li was on the edge of breaking down!

"Who cares if you forfeit or not?"

Senior Li was just three meters away from him. Long Chen saw Senior Li's buttocks shaking rhythmically, and he had a nasty idea. Long Chen increased his speed, ran past Senior Li, and disappeared into the horizon.

Senior Li stopped, not knowing what had happened. In the short amount of time he was trying to process what had happened, Long Chen had disappeared.

Why did he just leave me alone?

Senior Li blanked out and turned around. No matter what he thought of, he could not think of a reason why Long Chen would let him go.

Maybe he's afraid of the Turquoise Vanguard Hall?

Senior Li thought that was the more probable reason and quickly approached his team, but was perplexed when he saw that they were staring at him in shock. "Why are you guys like that?"

"Senior Li ... Your clothes ... Are gone ..."

Senior Li looked down and shrieked.

Long Chen had run past and stripped him without him noticing!

The Heart Eater is a Black-tier Category Four demonic beast. Even though its attack isn't strong, it has a special technique called Heart Eating Magic. It's a technique that can influence your mental state instead.

Long Chen recalled everything he knew about the Heart Eater.

“Long Chen, how could you do that to Senior Li? You ... Do you actually like guys?”
Ling Xi whispered. She was conflicted about it.

Long Chen didn't know how to react to that statement, so he teased her instead. “Don't worry. You will know whether I prefer guys or girls once I strip you on the bed ...”

“You pervert!”

While Long Chen was teasing her, he sensed there were already a lot of people in the forest ahead.

It was a different environment than the yellow sand area he was in before.

The earth in the forest was black, an indication of it being nutrient rich. There were various large trees growing everywhere, their roots snaking around boulders and rocks. It was a complicated terrain to be in. When Long Chen entered the forest, he saw that many others were already here.

He hid his aura, so almost no one detected him. Then he traveled further inwards and sensed a strong yet bizarre aura within the depths of the forest.

The forest is filled with Yin energy, and the humidity is higher too. Since the Heart Eater is a demonic beast affiliated with darkness, this is an obvious hiding spot. It's definitely different from the Flaming Golden Lion.

Long Chen tracked the aura and soon found himself near the edge of an opening within the forest. He hid himself behind a large tree to observe his surroundings.

Soon, other people started appearing and saw the black beast in the middle of the opening.

“Is that the Heart Eater?”

The Heart Eater was slightly smaller than the Flaming Golden Lion. It was a quadruped beast with a black body. Its fur had an eerie, crimson pattern shaped like a rune. Its most striking feature was its hazy, blood-red eyes. It was as if anyone who stared into its eyes would not be able to move.

The beast resembled something between a wolf and a dog. Its snout was long and it had sharp claws. Its tail was like braids that had thorns on it, making it a deadly weapon.

Looks like the Heart Eater will be much harder to deal with than the Flaming Golden Lion.

The Heart Eater was gradually getting angrier when it saw more and more people surrounding it. Still, it did not act, because it sensed that some of the people were quite strong.

Not only was it stronger than a Flaming Golden Lion, its intelligence was higher too.

The strongest individuals were standing at the forefront. The remaining seven teams were already gathered here.

The only team absent was the Turquoise Vanguard Hall. No one knew why they were absent, but they did not investigate it.

The only ones who stood a chance against the Heart Eater were those at the late Human Core Realm and above. Out of all the people present, there were only around ten of them. As for those at the peak Human Core Realm, there were only two: Feng Wutian and Chu Yunyao.

While those at the late Human Core Realm were strong, they were still no match for the two of them. Feng Wutian and Chu Yunyao were currently keeping the Heart Eater in check by standing at opposite sides to it.

Long Chen smiled when he saw the proud Feng Wutian.

You might look cool now, but you are dead once I fight you.

He saw Liu Ling in the crowd. A few days had passed, and she had returned to normal. She was now staring at Feng Wutian nervously.

Long Chen was happily looking at the beautiful lady before turning to look at Chu Yunyao.

Even though she's still young, she's very pretty too. If it wasn't for Ling Xi, I might've already flirted with her.

While Long Chen was daydreaming, Ling Xi suddenly called to him. "What are you thinking about?"

Long Chen was surprised and lied. "I was just wondering why my darling Ling Xi is so pretty while they're so ugly?"

Just then, the Heart Eater's patience wore off.