

## War God 141

Chapter 141 - Huge Surprise!

Long Chen had defeated Feng Wutian once again. The news spread like wildfire across the whole Turquoise family, then to the other outer families and even the inner families.

He was now even more famous than before. At least among the outer families, he was the celebrity newcomer.

His reputation in the Turquoise family had exceeded Chu Yunyao's, almost reaching Chu Yunxi's level.

Liu Lan wasn't thirty years old yet, but she was already at the late Earthly Core Realm. She was the trump card of the Turquoise Sun Hall amongst her age group, while Long Chen was the trump card of his generation.

Due to all the spiritual herbs Liu Yuan had given him, Feng Wutian recovered in a day. Afterwards, he merely walked out of the Turquoise family silently. Liu Yuan and the rest heaved sighs of relief.

Long Chen could finally continue cultivating with peace of mind. He still hadn't hit the limit of the Blazing Thunder Crystals. When he merged with his twenty-eighth crystal, Liu Yuan sent someone looking for him.

What does the old man want with me?

It was a rare opportunity to relax, and Long Chen was preparing to head to the Heavenly Martial Realm once more to replenish his contribution points. He didn't expect Liu Yuan to ask for him.

When he arrived at the Turquoise Sun Hall's Great Hall, Liu Yuan was there alone. He looked happy when he saw Long Chen and welcomed him.

"Sect Elder, you look happy. Did you just have a newborn child?"

Long Chen's status was now vastly different from before, so he was allowed to tease his superior.

Liu Yuan wasn't mad. He eyed him in exasperation, then grinned. "I have amazing news."

"What is it?"

He hadn't expected a surprise. Long Chen perked up to listen.

Liu Yuan asked mysteriously, "Do you know what happens on the first day of the eleventh month?"

"I don't. Stop making me guess, just hurry up and tell me," said Long Chen anxiously.

"The first day of the eleventh month is the first day of the inner family qualifiers."

"What has that got to do with me?" blurted Long Chen, his eyes sparkling. "Old man, are you telling me that I have passed the assessment for entering the qualifiers? That I will be participating in the qualifiers?"

Long Chen usually called him 'old man' privately, but he had accidentally blurted it out due to his excitement.

To be honest, Long Chen really wanted to join one of the inner families because first, he would get a lot more resources; second, the recent incidents had proved that status was important. After the incidents with Dongfang Tianyu, Feng Wutian, Beitang Mo, and Mo Xiaolang, Long Chen knew that he had to join the inner families if he wanted to have a voice in the Lingwu family.

Most importantly, Yang Lingqing had entered the Northern Black Tortoise family. He was most worried about her being bullied, so he longed for the right to join the qualifiers. *I absolutely have to find a way to enter one of the inner families ...*

However, based on what other people said, he needed to reach the Earthly Core Realm in order to qualify. He was still at the late Human Core Realm, so he never had much hope. But based on Liu Yuan's tone, maybe ...

“You've gotten lucky, brat. That's right. I just received news that you have passed the assessment. This really is out of my expectations ...”

Liu Yuan was happy to see the young Long Chen receiving such a great opportunity.

With Liu Yuan's confirmation, Long Chen was overjoyed. “I will take this opportunity very seriously, but ...” He looked at Liu Yuan. “Sect Elder, aren't I only at the Human Core Realm? How did I pass the assessment? Have they made a mistake?”

Liu Yuan shook his head. “I think they heard about you defeating Feng Wutian. You may be at the late Human Core Realm, but you managed to defeat an Earthly Core Realm inner family member. Perhaps the assessor recognized your potential based on this point.”

Long Chen thought about it and decided this was the only possibility.

Looks like accidentally seeing Liu Ling bathe was a blessing in disguise. She asked Feng Wutian to beat me up because I saw her, leading to him losing and allowing me to participate in the qualifiers. I can barely handle the speed at which events are unfolding.

Long Chen grew smug.

“Long Chen, don't celebrate too early.” Liu Yuan's words were like a bucket of cold water dumped on his head.

“Why?”

He didn't understand why the old man was suddenly so serious.

Looking at the brat who didn't know what was ahead of him, Liu Yuan shook his head. “The full list of participants has been generated. A total of twenty people have received the right to participate in the qualifiers. The Gold and Silver families have three people each, while the rest of the seven families are each sending two people. You and Chu Yunxi will be the only participants from the Turquoise family.”

“What's the problem with that? Chu Yunxi is at the mid Earthly Core Realm, I think. I'm no match for him.” Long Chen knew this clearly.

Liu Yuan nodded. “Five out of these twenty people were automatically approved, including Chu Yunxi. They are all elites amongst the cultivators at the mid Earthly Core Realm, each one being

almost as strong as Lan'er. They are more powerful than Feng Wutian. That is why I won't beat around the bush—you are the weakest participant in every aspect ...”

After Liu Yuan gave him an analysis of the others, Long Chen finally knew why he had said not to celebrate too early. “Sect Elder, how many people will pass the qualifiers?” Long Chen wanted to enter the inner family, so he had to ask this question.

“Two.”

Liu Yuan lamented, “That is why I don't want you to celebrate too early. Even though you've received a spot in the qualifiers, the difficulty of entering the inner family is unimaginable. Even our famous prodigy of the Turquoise family, Chu Yunxi, isn't very confident. Much less you.”

“In that case, what's the point of the qualifiers? Am I just there to make up the numbers?” Long Chen was speechless.

Liu Yuan smiled bitterly. “That is correct, unfortunately. This experience is for you to gain some exposure and get to know how powerful the other prodigies are. This is extremely important to you. However, people sometimes die in the inner family qualifiers, so you must be mentally prepared. I do not want the Turquoise family to lose a prodigy.”

“There are deaths?”

Long Chen felt pressured. He had used every trick up his sleeve to defeat Feng Wutian. Coming out on top in a competition with nineteen other prodigies more powerful than Feng Wutian for one of two spots would be unimaginably difficult.

“Every opportunity comes with risk. It's the same with the inner family qualifiers. If you're afraid, you are not fated to advance. Only the courageous succeed on the path of cultivation ...” remarked Liu Yuan, stroking his beard.

Long Chen wasn't afraid, just stressed out.

“Whatever. There's still some time until the first day of the eleventh month. I'll work hard until then, and maybe I can advance more. Even if I don't qualify in the end, I need to make it out alive.”

This time, Long Chen was going to compete against the top prodigies of the nine outer families.

His opponents had strengthened—from Huang Xiang to Huang Feiyang and then to the Turquoise family's number one, Chu Yunxi. This showed the immense speed of his growth.

However, when he thought about how Lingqing, whose cultivation level was currently very low, was currently in the inner family, he knew that he had to fight with everything he had!

Seeing the determination in his eyes, Liu Yuan nodded with approval. Then he frowned when he thought of another matter. “Long Chen, there's one more thing. It's about something inappropriate you did.”

Long Chen had done many inappropriate things, so he jumped when Liu Yuan suddenly said such a thing. *Does the old man know about me peeping on Liu Ling? I'm done for if he forces me to marry her!*

His mind raced for an excuse, but Liu Yuan started to talk about something else. "I wanted you to earn five hundred contribution points in exchange for the Violet Demonic Lizard's Beast Soul, yet you used three hundred contribution points for some useless Soul Grass. Why?"

So, this was what he was referring to. Long Chen heaved a sigh of relief and said hurriedly, "Sect Elder, the Soul Grass is extremely important to me. But it's not that I don't want the Violet Demonic Lizard's Beast Soul. I'll go to the Heavenly Martial Realm right now to earn more contribution points.

Liu Yuan was indeed uncomfortable with this behavior. He was offering Long Chen something he felt would be extremely important to him, yet Long Chen didn't seem very interested. What was going on?

"It's fine." Liu Yuan waved. "There's not a lot of time till the inner family qualifiers. Use the remaining time to cultivate. Just take the Violet Demonic Lizard's Beast Soul as a gift."

"Really?" Long Chen was overjoyed. This was a gift worth a hundred thousand divine jades.

The old man had treated him very well. Long Chen never liked him very much, but now he was genuinely grateful.

Although Liu Yuan was treating him like the Turquoise Sun Hall's trump card, and his reputation improved whenever Long Chen grew more famous, a Category Six Black-tier Beast Soul was not something that could be given away so easily.

The old man took out a Soul Collecting Bead from his Universe Pouch. The bead was purple due to the Violet Demonic Lizard's Beast Soul inside. Long Chen could faintly see the Violet Demonic Lizard roaring in the bead.

"Work hard to cultivate the Violet Demonic Lizard as your Primary Beast Soul. Your strength will improve greatly!"

Long Chen's expression turned bitter because he didn't even need this Beast Soul in the first place. But at this point, he had no choice but to take it.

"You should go back and cultivate. Also, there's another thing ..." Liu Yuan suddenly recalled another matter. "Chu Yunxi is coming with a marriage proposal for Lan'er in five days. I'll arrange for you two to meet up on that day too, since you will be on the same team."

Chapter 142 - Turquoise Family's Number One Prodigy!

Chu Yunxi? Marriage proposal?

Long Chen was so shocked that he couldn't stop himself from blurting, "Isn't Chu Yunxi eighteen? He's proposing to Liu Lan? Not Liu Ling?"

Long Chen thought Liu Yuan had the wrong name.

“That’s right. It’s Lan’er. Yunxi has liked Lan’er for quite some time, and this is well-known too. It’s not surprising that you didn’t know, seeing as you’ve only recently joined the Lingwu family.”

Long Chen was privately disapproving of this, though when he recalled Liu Lan’s seductive looks, he knew that he would’ve been tempted by her if he didn’t have Ling Xi with him.

“Sigh. Lan’er is probably going to marry into the Turquoise Imperial Hall soon. However, if Chu Yunxi enters the inner family, Lan’er’s status will also rise together with his ...” Liu Yuan remarked wistfully.

*She’s so beautiful! It’s such a waste, like giving a beautiful head of cabbage to a pig!* Long Chen cursed privately.

When Liu Yuan saw that Long Chen was silent, as if uninterested in the topic, he said, “In that case, you may return. Work hard to cultivate this Beast Soul.”

“Sect Elder, you mentioned that I’ll be on the same team as Chu Yunxi. What did you mean by that?” Long Chen hadn’t forgotten about this.

“The inner family’s qualifiers are the same as the outer family qualifiers with two rounds. One of the rounds places participants in teams of two to compete against other teams. Since you and Chu Yunxi are from the Turquoise family, you two will make a team. I’ll tell you the specific details later. We aren’t yet sure if past rules will be changed.”

Long Chen nodded, bade him farewell, and returned to his quarters.

Once they were home, Ling Xi emerged from the sword. She looked extremely happy, strolling around as she wrinkled her delicate nose and hummed a tune.

“Xiao Xi, why are you in such a good mood?”

“I’m not telling you! Hmph ...”

Long Chen smirked. “It’s not because the beautiful Liu Lan is getting married, is it?”

Ling Xi was surprised. “How did you know? Hmph, she’s always trying to get her hands on you. She needs to get married!”

“Uh...”

Long Chen already had Ling Xi figured out a long time ago. “Do you think I have a chance at the inner family qualifiers?” He sat down in the underground room.

“Of course! Don’t we have plenty of time? You’re only at the Human Core Realm, the bottommost level of cultivation. But cultivation is a very quick process. I barely put any effort into cultivation before, yet I easily entered the Heavenly Core Realm.”

Long Chen was secretly startled by how nonchalant she was. *This girl’s status must’ve been extremely high since young. She doesn’t know the suffering that peasants like us go through ...*

Ling Xi had finished cultivating the Soul Grass, so she was in peak form. She was very energetic and kept running around all the time. Long Chen let her off to play on her own.

Any spare time was to be used for cultivation.

“It’s time for me to use Blood Transmutation on the two Giant Devil Bears now. If I keep them in the Universe Pouch for too long, they may lose their strength.”

There were five more days until Chu Yunxi came with his proposal.

And Long Chen wasn’t expecting to be interrupted before that. He began by consuming the Giant Devil Bears’ blood essence, as he had enough time for it. “I can’t believe that two Category Four Black-tier beasts barely made a difference. The Earthly Core Realm is still pretty far off.”

Long Chen took out the Violet Demonic Lizard’s Soul Collecting Bead. Any Beast Warrior would see it as a treasure, but it was useless to Long Chen. He was a Dragon Warrior, not a Beast Warrior.

What he needed was the ancient dragon’s inherited blood essence, not a Beast Soul ...

“A normal Beast Warrior would be able to completely cultivate this Beast Soul by the time the qualifiers begin. When that happens and the old man sees that I still haven’t cultivated it, heaven knows what he’ll do to me. Ugh. I need to find a way to sell this for a hundred thousand divine jades without anyone knowing.”

However, Long Chen still hadn’t come up with a way to do so. He put the bead away, then he took out the Blazing Thunder Crystals. “The Blazing Thunder Crystals are almost gone too. My limit is probably thirty crystals. I’ll spend the next five days merging with three more to strengthen my Blazing Thunder Combat Body further!”

Achieving the Level One Thunder Combat Body had required ten crystals. Long Chen estimated that he was not far away from breaking through to the second level.

The Level Two Blazing Thunder Combat Body was the equivalent of an advanced Black-tier Body Tempering technique. It would be formidable!

Four days passed slowly. In the early morning of the fifth day, Long Chen was finally freed from the suffering. As he used Recovery to heal his body, he said happily, “I have merged with a total of thirty Blazing Thunder Crystals. The Blazing Thunder Combat Body is now three times stronger than when I first cultivated it, though it still hasn’t advanced to Level Two.”

He waited for his body to heal completely through Recovery. Then he stood up and moved around. “The stronger my body gets, the weaker the effects of Recovery become. Once my body reaches the advanced Black-tier level, Recovery will be much less effective.”

It was early in the morning. The meeting that Liu Yuan had planned out was going to start soon. Long Chen had just finished merging with his Blazing Thunder Crystals, so the timing was perfect. “I don’t think I need to be involved in a matter like a marriage proposal. Once they’re done, I’ll go meet that Chu Yunxi guy and witness the prowess of the Turquoise family’s number one prodigy myself.”

After organizing his things, Long Chen lay down on his bed and relaxed, joking around with Ling Xi while he waited for someone to call for him.

“Hey, aren’t you sad that that beautiful lady is going to be married off?” asked Ling Xi, pursing her lips enviously as she was perched on the edge of the bed.

“Of course! I’m broken-hearted! Xiao Xi, should we go snatch her away?” asked Long Chen excitedly, suddenly sitting up.

When Ling Xi’s expression turned into annoyance, he laughed and reached out to pinch her cheek. She quickly dodged, glaring at him angrily. “You bastard. Don’t touch me.”

“Don’t be mad, I’m just joking. She’s so old and so ugly, I don’t want her! My Ling Xi is young and beautiful! Everyone wants her.”

“Hmph, I don’t want you.”

Ling Xi was happy to hear the compliment, though she still maintained her look of contempt.

Time passed quickly. Before noon, someone knocked on the door.

“Long Chen, Administrator Liu requests that you meet her at her residence.”

“Her residence? Aren’t I supposed to meet Chu Yunxi at the Turquoise Sun Hall?”

Gan Lin didn’t know either. He shook his head and said, “You should go meet her at her residence first. I have some matters to attend to, so I’ll be going.”

Long Chen was left puzzled, so he said to Ling Xi, “Ling Xi, we’ll go visit the beautiful Liu Lan first.”

“That’s strange. Why does that smelly woman want you to come to her?” Ling Xi cocked her head in annoyance.

“Whatever, we’ll just have to see what she has to say.”

“I’m not going.” Controlling the Ling Xi Sword, she left Long Chen’s ear. “I don’t want to see her, so you go on your own. I’ll stay in the house. Just come back when you’re done.”

*Whoosh!* Ling Xi disappeared. Exasperated, Long Chen closed the door and headed to Liu Lan’s residence, which was the center of the Turquoise Willow Residence.

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Within the Turquoise Sun Hall, Liu Yuan was sitting in the main chair on the left of the room. In front of him were the four Elders and four Administrators, though Liu Lan was not present.

On the other chair on the right side of the room was a tall, muscular middle-aged man whose gaze was deep and moved with great power. Sitting in front of him was a teenager with clean features and a reserved power within him.

The middle-aged man was Chu Fengqing, who was the Sect Elder of the Turquoise Imperial Hall, also the Turquoise family’s most powerful hall. Next to him was naturally his son, Chu Yunxi, also known as the Turquoise family’s number one prodigy. Chu Yunxi looked quite different from Chu Fengqing, though similar to his younger sister, Chu Yunyao.

These two were here for their marriage proposal. “Yunxi has been ambitious since young. He was never willing to fall behind, so he has always been ahead of everyone else since he started cultivating. Now, he has obtained the right to participate in the inner family qualifiers. He’s considered an outstanding young prodigy by the outer families.”

Chu Fengqing did not even attempt to be humble, bragging openly about his son.

Liu Yuan chuckled and turned to look at Chu Yunxi. “May I ask how confident Yunxi is in the inner family qualifiers?”

Chu Yunxi thought for a while, then he answered politely, “Uncle Liu, I’ll say that I’m fifty percent confident. I’m very familiar with the other participants, and I know that Jin Shengen will definitely get one spot. As for the other spot, I have some hope.”

When Chu Fengqing heard Jin Shengen’s name, he said wistfully, “That little prince of the Gold family is indeed impressive. He’s the best amongst the outer family’s youths.”

Liu Yuan nodded in defeat too. “He is indeed impressive.”

“That reminds me. Didn’t Liu Lan almost pass when she participated in the inner family qualifiers years ago?” asked Chu Fengqing mildly.

“Brother Chu, you have over-complimented Lan’er. Although she was at the mid Earthly Core Realm, she wasn’t as powerful as the others and was disqualified in the first round. She didn’t come anywhere near ‘almost’ passing.”

Listening to their conversation, Chu Yunxi’s brows were knitted, and he said, “Uncle Liu, I will definitely help fulfill Sister Lan’s wish!”

Liu Yuan genuinely admired this teenager and approved of him marrying Liu Lan. It was just that she was a little too stubborn. “Lan’er has been on Xi’er’s mind for a long time now. Brother Liu, I think the deal is sealed just based on the deep feelings he has for her. What do you think?”

Liu Yuan smiled bitterly. “Naturally, I agree, seeing as I approve of Yunxi too. However, Lan’er hasn’t arrived yet, so let’s wait till she’s present for the final decision. Would that be alright?”

At this moment, a young cultivator knocked on the door and entered, saying reverently, “Sect Elder, Administrator Liu requests that Young Master Yunxi heads to the Turquoise Willow Residence.”

Chu Yunxi got up from his seat.

Chapter 143 - Billowing Cloud Finger!

“She’s acting so mysterious. Why does she want to meet me?”

Long Chen felt like his heart was empty without Ling Xi by his side.

There was a beautiful courtyard at the center of the Turquoise Willow Residence. This was where Liu Lan lived. When Long Chen arrived, he noticed that the door wasn’t closed and knocked on it a few times. When there was no response even after he shouted a few times, he was puzzled and entered directly. *What a crazy woman. The landscaping is exquisite, the flowers are blooming, and the birds are chirping. I can’t believe her residence is so beautiful.*

Bright, green bamboo grew everywhere in the yard despite the chilly weather.

Passing through the bamboo forest, Long Chen found himself before a group of exquisite wooden houses. He searched around the wooden houses but still couldn't find Liu Lan, making him fume. *That damn woman is playing with me.*

After searching for a while, he noticed some movement in one of the wooden houses. The door was also slightly ajar. *This is not the same situation as that incident with Liu Ling, is it? Is the beautiful lady also bathing?*

Evil thoughts ran through his mind, though he knew that he would never get to experience such a wonderful thing twice. Liu Ling was fine, but if he saw Liu Lan nude, Long Chen felt like he wouldn't be able to withstand her extremely hot figure. *This woman is a demon. Tsk tsk ...*

Long Chen walked over and indeed, he sensed the presence of a person. And since he'd known Liu Lan for a while now, he knew that the aura belonged to her.

"O beautiful Madam Liu, you called for me ... What the heck are you up ..." Long Chen announced as he pushed the door open, though he froze and his eyes widened the moment he stepped.

This was clearly a bathroom. The air was filled with steam, and a snow-white figure, with her feminine curves, was lying lazily in the bathwater. The subtle beauty of this scene almost caused blood to spray out of Long Chen's nose. *Damn it! Why does she have to be in the bath?!*

Long Chen couldn't figure out what Liu Lan was doing. This was different from the last time with Liu Ling, because Long Chen hadn't entered on purpose and Liu Ling had forgotten to close the door. But Liu Lan was clearly scheming to lure Long Chen in! *Unless she thinks I'm handsome and has decided to give me her body at this important moment? Coincidentally, Ling Xi isn't here ...*

Perverved thoughts ran through his mind as his eyes were glued to the pale curves within the steam.

However, he knew very well that there were no free meals in this world. Now that he had eaten the meal, he would be tortured by her!

As he mulled over the suspicion that Liu Lan was scheming, Long Chen glared at her body once more, then prepared to leave. That was when a powerful aura exploded from Liu Lan's body and a piece of white cloth caught Long Chen's left leg, dragging him in. "Behave yourself. You're here now; how could you just walk away?"

The voice gave him goosebumps. Before he could react, he had already fallen into the water with a splash.

He fought to break free from the white cloth and stand up in the water. When he opened his eyes, Liu Lan was in front of him, her red, seductive lips inches away from himself. Her dreamy eyes were luring him in, and those arousing curves and her delicate skin were all within his reach.

It was a pity that her key parts were wrapped with white cloth, though he found her even more alluring this way.

"Do I look good?" asked Liu Lan demurely, gazing at Long Chen with a suggestive look in her eyes.

"Not at all! I look sexier!"

Although this was all very tempting and a normal person would succumb, Long Chen was not going to lose his wits over a beautiful woman. He broke free from Liu Lan's grasp and leaped out of the water. Dragging his drenched clothes with him, he rushed out without even looking back!

Liu Lan was giggling behind him. *What the hell is this bitch doing? Why is she letting me take advantage of her like this?*

Although he had enjoyed the view, Long Chen felt like something was wrong. Indeed, as soon as he left Liu Lan's bath, he ran into a clean-looking teenager with aristocratic airs. When he saw Long Chen, his face turned icy and he yelled sternly, "You again! Why are you here?!"

This teenager obviously recognized him, though Long Chen couldn't figure out who he was. "You know me?"

Long Chen was completely drenched, and both his clothes and hair emitted a feminine, floral fragrance. It was a peculiar scene indeed.

"I've seen you before! You were speaking to Sister Lan the other day!"

Long Chen froze and recalled the day he and Yang Lingqing separated. He'd only flirted with Liu Lan briefly, but there was a teenager glaring angrily at him from afar. It was him.

"You brat! I'm asking you a question! Why are you in Sister Lan's quarters? Where is Sister Lan?!"

That was when a demure voice sounded from within the bathroom. "Mister Long, why aren't you coming in yet?"

Then Liu Lan walked out, wrapped in a towel. When she saw the teenager not far away, her expression changed and she asked, "Yunxi, why are you here?"

"What is going on?"

Long Chen was very confused when Liu Lan called him "Mister Long." However, when he heard Yunxi's name and connected it with the fact that Chu Yunxi was coming with a marriage proposal for Liu Lan, he immediately realized that he had been used.

Chu Yunxi was glaring with complete grief and rage.

This was what he had just seen: Long Chen had just exited from his goddess' bathroom, drenched in water with a few small flowers in his hair. Liu Lan had called him "Mister Long," then came out wrapped in her towel, her hair dripping wet ...

What the hell were they doing before this?

Chu Yunxi had initially been excited to come meet Liu Lan, but it all immediately turned to rage. Long Chen could feel the instantaneous eruption of killing intent and violence from Chu Yunxi's body. The aura of a mid Earthly Core Realm cultivator, who was also the number one prodigy of the Turquoise family, almost knocked Long Chen over!

"You ... You! Why? Why?"

The gentlemanly Chu Yunxi momentarily transformed into a beast when he saw that his beloved had done something unspeakable with another man!

Ignoring Liu Lan, he glared at Long Chen with killing intent in his eyes!

That son of a bitch! He wants to kill me!

Long Chen could understand Chu Yunxi's intentions from his glare. Liu Lan knew too, and yelled sternly, "Yunxi, don't do anything! Listen to me!"

*Fuck your explanation!* Long Chen cursed privately, furious, because Chu Yunxi had completely lost his wits and was charging. And Liu Lan's words were obviously just for show.

When she saw this, Liu Lan hurriedly rushed into the bathroom. Long Chen guessed that now that her scheme was successful, she was going to put on her clothes.

You psychotic woman! If I get my hands on you, I swear I'm going to spank your bottom so hard!

Chu Yunxi was the number one prodigy of the Turquoise family, so he would not be a simple opponent to beat. Long Chen couldn't even withstand his aura. In order to stay alive, Long Chen activated his Dragon Soul Transformation and ran backwards as fast as he could! "Chu Yunxi! Don't attack yet! Don't fall for Liu Lan's evil schemes! She clearly doesn't want to marry you, that's why she dragged me here to use me to block you!" explained Long Chen as he ran.

"I saw you with my own eyes, and you dare argue with me?! It doesn't matter who it is—anyone who touches my woman must die!"

Long Chen was speechless. It was no wonder Chu Yunxi liked Liu Lan, a woman much older than he was. The guy had a one-track mind, and once he made up his mind, it was impossible to change it. That sly vixen, Liu Lan, was banking on this trait! All she had to do was trap Long Chen, act a little, and Chu Yunxi would completely fall for it!

"Billowing Cloud Finger!"

Chu Yunxi immediately opened with his most powerful move. The winds and clouds billowed as dust and sand flew amidst this infinite gale that hid tremendous power. And it was all directed at Long Chen!

Long Chen didn't have time to explain himself in the face of such a powerful attack. At this critical moment, he could only clench his teeth and punch, unleashing the Burning Devil Sun Fist Seal! "Burning Devil Sun Fist, Devil Sun Collision!"

Two powerful forces collided, though what broke Long Chen was the fact that Chu Yunxi's attack was easily much more powerful than Feng Wutian's Fire Bird Transformation. Long Chen's Devil Sun Collision was shattered in the blink of an eye, and a powerful force hit his body, throwing him back in the air. Blood sprayed out of his mouth!

This was the most severe injury he had ever experienced. When he landed, his body twitched in pain. He was incapacitated after withstanding one attack!

He hurriedly sat up, suppressing the infinite pain within him, and used Recovery with great difficulty!

Long Chen was absolutely furious, for he'd just been played by Liu Lan out of the blue, and then injured this badly.

Although Chu Yunxi looked like he had a good upbringing, in reality, he was used to being arrogant. He had decided that Liu Lan belonged to him. Now that Long Chen had touched what belonged to him, he had to die.

Previously, Long Chen thought that the conflict between them was completely incited by Liu Lan and that it was all just a misunderstanding. However, when Chu Yunxi launched a fatal attack without even trying to understand the situation first, Long Chen knew that he had just made a huge enemy!

Chu Yunxi, I tried to explain, but you didn't even pretend to listen! And you immediately tried to kill me! I'll remember this! If I don't die today, you'd better hope I don't have a chance to take revenge later!

Although it was just a misunderstanding, Long Chen was furious to have been injured this badly.

When Chu Yunxi saw that Long Chen was sitting cross-legged and healing himself, his anger remained. He smirked and charged at Long Chen, roaring, "That didn't kill you?! Then I'll give you another! Die!"

Chapter 144 - Showdown!

Another life-threatening attack closed in on Long Chen instantly. *You can't be reasoned with; all you want to do is kill me ...*

At this moment, Long Chen was completely calm.

He knew he had value and that Liu Lan wouldn't let him die by Chu Yunxi's hand.

And so, he sat cross-legged, fully relaxed, and used the Black-tier Life Combat Technique Recovery to treat his injuries.

As expected, as Chu Yunxi angrily charged at Long Chen, a curvy figure shot out of the house and stood in his path. She thrust a palm at Chu Yunxi to block him, and this powerful move immediately sent him flying back!

This was Long Chen's first time witnessing Liu Lan's strength. Indeed, someone at the late Earthly Core Realm was powerful. Just one random move was enough to throw the Turquoise family's number one prodigy back!

"Sister, did you just attack me to protect him?" Chu Yunxi's eyes were bloodshot and his face darkened.

"Yunxi, don't think too much about it."

Liu Lan turned and gazed at Long Chen, as if sad that he was hurt. She faked a pained expression and said to Chu Yunxi, "Since you've already seen it, I no longer want to hide it from you. I hadn't agreed to your proposal before this because there is someone I like ..."

Long Chen almost vomited blood over the lies.

He was about to scold Liu Lan, but she had anticipated this. She turned around and gently placed a hand on Long Chen's shoulder, out of Chu Yunxi's view. Long Chen immediately swallowed his words.

“Is he the person you speak of?”

Chu Yunxi looked like he wanted to swallow Long Chen whole. Long Chen was also furious, because he had just made a huge enemy for no reason and almost died. However, Liu Lan was stronger than him and he couldn't say a word under her control!

“I know him. I heard he's also participating in the inner family qualifiers, right? Good! Good! Good!”

The furious Chu Yunxi's heart clenched painfully when he recalled the scene he had just witnessed. He glared at Long Chen and smirked. “You attacked me because of him ... I still am no match for you, but the day of the inner family qualifiers will also be the day that brat dies!”

He glared at Long Chen like a fierce beast for a while, then his broken-hearted gaze fell on Liu Lan. He bit his lip, then he turned and left.

Today's events had driven him crazy.

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After Chu Yunxi left for the Turquoise Willow Residence, Liu Yuan and Chu Fengqing had nothing to do but drink some wine to pass the time.

“Brother Liu, why do you think your daughter asked to meet my son alone?”

Liu Yuan was equally confused, so he smiled awkwardly. “The girl has always been unpredictable. How would I know?”

“Unless she wants my son to have a tour of her bedroom?” Chu Fengqing chuckled.

Chu Fengqing didn't really act his age sometimes. Liu Yuan was speechless at the remark, and they continued joking around for a while.

That was when Chu Yunxi returned with a dark, stony expression.

Liu Yuan froze. “Yunxi, where's Lan'er?”

“How do you still have the decency to ask me?” Chu Yunxi sneered, then he turned to look at Chu Fengqing. “Father, let's go. We're not coming back to the damned Turquoise Sun Hall ever again!”

Everyone was stunned. Liu Yuan immediately guessed that something had happened between Chu Yunxi and Liu Lan, so he asked hurriedly, “Yunxi, this isn't because Lan'er said something, is it?”

Chu Yunxi glared coldly. “The things your daughter does... Do you dare say you don't know about them?”

He was out the door before Liu Yuan could react. Chu Fengqing immediately had a bad feeling when he saw this.

In reality, if it wasn't for his son's unwavering insistence, he wouldn't have agreed to this marriage. He also wouldn't have wasted his time talking nonsense with Liu Yuan, who was the weakest out of the eight Sect Elders.

Based on his son's words, Chu Fengqing guessed that Liu Lan had made him give up completely.

This is for the best. Liu Lan's reputation isn't very good at all. If she married into the Chu family, she might have embarrassed us!

With that thought, Chu Fengqing's demeanor towards Liu Yuan made a complete one-eighty. He smirked coldly, then he followed Chu Yunxi out of the Turquoise Sun Hall without even looking back.

"I need to see what the hell Liu Lan did!"

Liu Yuan was also a Sect Elder, and being treated with contempt like this made his face turn stony green. He slammed the table and stood up.

The other Elders and Administrators around him kept quiet when they saw Liu Yuan in a rage. *What happened to Administrator Liu? Even if she didn't agree to the Turquoise Imperial Hall's marriage proposal, she didn't have to cause such a huge conflict, did she? The Turquoise Imperial Hall is the most influential hall in the Turquoise family, and Chu Yunxi is a prominent figure amongst the outer families. How could Liu Lan not know the severity of this matter?*

These questions plagued the Elders' minds.

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Although Long Chen had been injured very severely, he had used Recovery to heal himself in time, and Liu Lan had even given him intermediate Black-tier medicinal herbs. Therefore, he was back in tip-top shape quite quickly.

Looking up at her mild expression, Long Chen smirked. "You've truly made an enemy out of me this time."

"Really?" Liu Lan shrugged. "You were only a little hurt. Plus, didn't I give you a good show?"

"Is your body really that valuable?" Long Chen struggled to stand up.

"Come into my room and finish healing your injuries before you go."

"Don't even think of appeasing me, Liu Lan. I, Long Chen, will take my revenge. It doesn't matter if it's you or Chu Yunxi. You may kill me now, if you dare. But if you wait until the day I become stronger than you ..."

Long Chen took a few steps, then he turned and said flatly, "You'll be in deep trouble."

Liu Lan froze, then she smirked, as if challenging him. "If you can beat Chu Yunxi and enter the inner family, I'm yours to torture."

Long Chen clenched his fists, but he released them in the end. He was indeed no match for Liu Lan right now. Even though she had brutally used him, there was nothing else he could do.

"Do you really think I want you?" Long Chen burst into a snicker. "I have so many girls! Why would I put in effort for an auntie like you?"

"Auntie?" Liu Lan almost fainted from anger. She was about to rage, but he had walked off without even turning back.

She watched as he left. Although he was injured, he still stood as straight as a lance. *Did I overdo it, using him like that? Once he gets stronger, he'll surely come back to bite me ...*

Liu Lan shuddered when she recalled what had happened to Huang Feiyang and the Grand Priest. *Whatever. At least that Chu Yunxi brat has completely given up on me. That brat may look like a gentleman, but he's actually aggressive and arrogant. My life would be ruined if I married him. How could I, Liu Lan, live a life of codependency and be at the mercy of his whims ...*

These were her true thoughts. She was extremely repulsed by Chu Yunxi; therefore, she had to resort to these tactics to make him give up on her completely.

The relationship between the Turquoise Sun Hall and the Turquoise Imperial Hall is completely ruined. However, this was destined to happen ever since Chu Yunxi set his mind on me.

Liu Lan looked defeated.

She thought about Long Chen and how quickly he had grown, nodding approvingly. *Now, I can only bet on him. He has created miracle after miracle. The more pressure he has, the faster he grows. Since Chu Yunxi attempted to kill him today, he'll definitely take revenge during the inner family qualifiers!*

Liu Lan was very familiar with Long Chen's behavior.

Everything that had happened today looked sudden, but it was all within Liu Lan's control. She had mastered the personalities of Chu Yunxi and Long Chen. It was clear just how high-level her tactics were. *But with the lies I told just now, if he really gets lucky and joins the inner family, I'll be ...*

And when she thought about Long Chen's dazed look when he saw her body, she suddenly felt her cheeks heat up ...

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Long Chen had been used, out of the blue, and almost died. It was impossible not to be furious. *That crazy woman is terrifying! I think she's been planning this for a long time. And I, the idiot I am, literally walked into the hole she dug! Now I've made an enemy in Chu Yunxi and got myself injured ...*

When he thought of Chu Yunxi, his killing intent intensified.

Liu Lan had only used him as a shield to block herself from Chu Yunxi. However, Chu Yunxi actually wanted to kill him. And he had almost succeeded.

He didn't even see me as another human being, treating my life so lightly just because he's stronger and has a higher status than me ...

Long Chen also had Chu Yunxi's personality figured out. Even if Chu Yunxi knew the truth, he still wouldn't let Long Chen live. *Also, Old Man Liu said that we'll have to team up for the inner family qualifiers. How will we work together now? I'm afraid he'll kill me the moment the event starts!*

His brows were deeply furrowed. *Damn that bitch! She keeps making me enemies, and she took it way too far this time. Aren't you afraid of burning yourself when you play with fire like that? I am Long Chen! I'm not a sheep for you to play with!*

Long Chen didn't dare let Ling Xi see him injured like this. First, he didn't know how he would explain what had happened. Even if he did explain clearly, with Ling Xi's hatred towards Liu Lan, she might rush over and kill the woman.

He hid in a corner of Turquoise Willow Residence and started to heal his injuries using Recovery while consuming the remaining intermediate Black-tier spiritual herbs that Liu Lan had given him. However, it was only enough to heal most of his injuries. If he held it together, other people wouldn't be able to tell that he was injured.

Long Chen finally went back to the Level One disciple quarters. He was approaching them when he met Gan Lin, who had a strange expression when he suddenly spotted Long Chen. Shaking his head, he said, "Long Chen, I didn't expect you'd end up with Madam Administrator in the end. But there's going to be a lot of obstacles ahead. I don't think Chu Yunxi will let you go ..."

"What did you say?" Long Chen's eyes widened.

Chapter 145 - Liu Lan's Romantic History

"Senior Gan, what do you mean?" asked Long Chen with surprise.

"You don't have to hide it anymore. Everyone knows," said Gan Lin with a forced smile. "We all know about what happened just now, that you two confessed your relationship to Chu Yunxi. This news is probably going to spread throughout the whole Turquoise family very soon. It's going to be the biggest piece of news before the inner family qualifiers ..."

*Fuck!* Long Chen cursed privately. He knew this was Liu Lan's doing.

Obviously, she couldn't let anyone know that she had hatched a scheme that involved Long Chen walking in on her during a bath, so she had to resort to a funny lie like this one. However, it was exactly juicy gossip like this that people easily fell for ...

My reputation is going to spread across all the nine outer families, seeing as I stepped on Chu Yunxi to snatch his love! But I'm going to be in so much trouble during the inner family qualifiers. Liu Lan!!

Long Chen had the urge to swallow Liu Lan whole.

After bidding Gan Lin farewell, Long Chen turned to return to his quarters. But Liu Ling, who lived next door, was standing at her door and glaring at him. "You bastard! I won't let you touch my sister!"

Then she shut her door with a bang.

"Huh?"

Long Chen's resentment was indescribable. *Whatever! They can think whatever they want! I need to work hard and cultivate while I can. Not just for Lingqing, but also to stay alive! I must survive the inner family qualifiers!*

But I'll be competing against the best prodigies from all nine outer families. The pressure is on ...

When he pushed the door open, Ling Xi was already waiting for him.

When he saw the concern in her eyes, his heart suddenly became infinitely calmer.

He felt like a ship returning home after fighting the rough seas for a decade.

“You’re back.”

“Mhm.”

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Long Chen spent the next ten days cultivating.

Two of those days were dedicated to hunting demonic beasts at the Heavenly Martial Realm. He still couldn’t kill Category Five Black-tier beasts, so he had to stick to Category Fours.

News of the unfortunate event involving Liu Lan had spread across all the outer families, causing the Turquoise Imperial Hall to turn into the butt of the joke and target the Turquoise Sun Hall.

Long Chen kept a low profile within the Heavenly Martial Realm in order to avoid creating more conflict.

He lived like a mouse, hiding himself to avoid unnecessary conflict. He didn’t even take the demonic cores and Beast Souls he collected to the Treasure Pavilion for contribution points.

At this point, Ling Xi was naturally well aware of what had happened to Long Chen that day, though he had given her a watered-down version of the story. After Ling Xi heard it, she was merely disgusted by Liu Lan.

The inner qualifiers were getting very close. “Even if Chu Yunxi doesn’t go for me immediately, many of the other prodigies are on the same level as him. If I aim to join the inner family, being at the late Human Core Realm is definitely not enough.”

Sitting in the spacious underground room, Long Chen consumed the blood essence of four Category Four Black-tier demonic beasts. However, they didn’t have much of an effect. He was indeed closer to the Earthly Core Realm, but he did not make a breakthrough.

All the inner family members were excited for the inner family qualifiers.

The qualifiers were a huge event for the outer families. Only the best of the best members of the outer families could win, and they would shine brightly when they joined the inner families. This was also a platform for the outer families to compete against each other. Although they were all united against the outer world, there was still a lot of internal competition.

The nine outer families had worked as hard as they could to prepare for this event, to show off their strength and strengthen their ranking amongst the outer families.

The Turquoise family members were especially excited.

In other families, the two participants all had great relationships and made great partners. However, the Turquoise family had Long Chen, who was at the Human Core Realm and was selected despite not meeting the requirements. Most importantly, there was a huge ongoing conflict between him and Chu Yunxi.

Everyone loved gossip. At this point, there was no one in the nine outer families who didn’t know the romantic story of Chu Yunxi fighting another man to the death over a woman.

The most mysterious character in this story was Long Chen. It hadn't even been two months since he joined, but his cultivation had skyrocketed from the Eighth Draconic Stage to the late Human Core Realm.

Not only was he impressive in the field of cultivation, he was also a force to be reckoned with when it came to romance. Everyone thought Liu Lan and Chu Yunxi were going to be a definite match, yet Long Chen had somehow won her heart instead. It was like giving a head of good cabbage to a pig, or a flower stuck in a lump of cow dung.

The fact that these two love rivals were going to represent the Turquoise family as a team triggered curiosity in the audience. That was why they were all looking forward to the qualifiers.

There were about ten days left until the first day of the eleventh month. Every day that they waited felt like a year.

Although Long Chen had won in the field of romance, he was likely going to suffer on the battlefield.

Being the only one at the Human Core Realm among the twenty participants, Long Chen had attracted a lot of attention. Countless people pored over his details, and it was surmised that although he had defeated Feng Wutian, he was still the weakest participant in the qualifiers.

Whenever Long Chen went out, he found that most people in Lingwu City were talking about the inner family qualifiers. He was also one of the most popular topics. The conversations about him were never positive, and when they mentioned him, they said that they wanted to witness how big the fight between him and his love rival would be. "Chu Yunxi is the ultimate miracle prodigy, and the Chu family has deep pockets. The beautiful Liu Lan must have been dropped on her head as a baby—why else would she pick a pig like Long Chen!?"

Every time he heard something like that, he had to fight the urge to vomit blood. This was why he didn't dare go to the Treasure Pavilion, because if he were surrounded by these people, he'd probably drown from the spit.

"What a shameless bitch." Ling Xi had also been furious for days, puffing up her cheeks. "Long Chen, it will indeed be difficult for you to compete against them at your cultivation level now. Don't worry though, now that I have consumed the Soul Grass, I can at least launch one attack that an Earthly Core Realm cultivator cannot withstand. If that Chu bastard tries to touch you, I'm killing him!"

When she recalled that he had hurt Long Chen, she grew furious.

Long Chen felt slightly helpless. "Whatever. I will just have to hope for a breakthrough during the qualifiers. If not, I might not stand a chance ..."

Ever since he joined the Lingwu family, his status and reputation had quickly risen, so he never felt afraid. However, this time, he needed to compete against all the other prodigies from the other outer families, which made him feel helpless. *I don't think I'll be able to take revenge on Chu Yunxi any time soon.*

Just as he was thinking about it, what made him feel even more helpless was that Liu Lan was here to see him.

He didn't want to see her, but she continued to stubbornly wait outside. "Xiao Xi, I'm going to go out and see what nonsense she spouts. Don't be rash. That woman is very strong. We'll wait until I'm stronger to beat her up. What do you think of that?"

Before he left, he saw Ling Xi's dark, hostile glare and quickly pacified her.

"Hmph! Wait till I recover my strength, I'll make her suffer."

When he opened the door, Liu Lan was wearing the black chiffon dress that she had worn the first night she entered his room, revealing her attractive figure. However, she was also wearing a black cloak that covered her face.

"The inner family qualifiers are about to begin, and you have no trump card. There is a large auction at Yuanling City's Dawn Trading Alliance marketplace today. Shall we go check it out?"

Long Chen wanted to shoo her off the moment he emerged to avoid accidentally attacking her out of rage. But when he heard about the auction, he hesitated and then decided to go.

He took another cloak from Liu Lan and followed her to Lingwu City.

Many cultivators had offended someone or done something to create enemies, so it was quite common to hide one's identity. And being secretive was especially common at auctions. That was why it was normal to wear a cloak to one.

Since he had the cloak, Long Chen could walk openly next to Liu Lan without causing a huge commotion.

"It's been a lively ten days. Your romantic history has become a popular topic for after-meal gossip," said Long Chen mildly.

"Is that a complaint, or are you enjoying it?" Liu Lan asked, amused.

"Are you teasing me again?"

Liu Lan smiled, neither agreeing or disagreeing. "Don't worry about those things too much. Long Chen ..." Her brows furrowed. "The qualifiers are far more dangerous than you can imagine. It doesn't matter if you believe me, but I genuinely don't want you to die."

"Are you actually a cougar?"

No matter how good her upbringing was, his repeated insinuations of her being old almost made her rage. However, she owed him, and now was not a good time to rage.

Rolling her eyes, she continued, "All I can do is apologize for what happened last time. Chu Yunxi turned out to be more extreme than I expected. When the qualifiers begin, I expect he'll kill you no matter the cost."

"What are you trying to say? Are you happy about it?" Long Chen's voice turned cold.

"I didn't mean that." Liu Lan panicked a little. "I am just telling you to be more reserved this time. Staying alive is your priority. You're still young, a few years

younger than Chu Yunxi, and you've only just joined the Lingwu family. You will be able to surpass him in the future."

"That's enough. I will not show mercy towards people who should be killed," Long Chen stated, then he walked ahead.

Chapter 146 - Jin Sheng'en

The auction was being hosted by all the Dawn Trading Alliance divisions in the Eastern Ling District.

The division led by Supervisor Zhao Tianfang was one of them.

Long Chen was cautious because of the Blazing Thunder Crystal incident, but with Liu Lan next to him, there was nothing much to be afraid of.

Even if the sky fell on top of him, the Lingwu family would be there to hold it up.

The auction was held on a massive scale. There were more than ten thousand people gathered in the gigantic plaza. The focal point of many stage lights was a stage carved from divine jade. It was obvious how large the Dawn Trading Alliance's budget was for this event.

There were almost two hundred booths within the plaza. Long Chen and Liu Lan were currently inside one. Although it wasn't huge, it was quite sophisticated.

With Liu Lan's status, it was very normal to get a booth.

Being in a tight, confined space with this woman, who according to the rumors was already his woman, made him uncomfortable as her seductive fragrance kept creeping into his nostrils.

If that incident hadn't happened, he would've really enjoyed this time. However, hatred and anger took up most of his feelings towards her, so he was no longer interested in the beautiful lady next to him.

His unnatural expression made Liu Lan think he was impatient. *What's there to be impatient about ...*

Liu Lan looked at him in amusement, then she stretched a little. Her curves were faintly showing under the thin, black chiffon, tempting him. "If you can complete my task for you, everything of mine will be yours... Hehe ..."

She shook as she giggled, while Long Chen turned to look at the stage at the center of the plaza. It was the brightest spot in the whole place, as well as the focal point of the auction.

Right now, there was a pretty girl at the center of the stage. She looked around, then she said with a melodious voice, "Everyone, welcome to the Dawn Trading Alliance's auction! We have taken almost two months to prepare for this event, collecting all sorts of rare artifacts that you all will surely approve of. I hereby declare that the auction begins now!

"As for the rules, the party who makes the highest bid naturally gets the item. We also welcome trades if anyone would like to exchange their items for items of the same value. However, the Dawn Trading Alliance will have the final say in your item's value."

Although she didn't have a high cultivation level, she was sophisticated and her voice was melodious and animated, which made the audience very comfortable. She was perfect as the host of this auction.

Liu Lan wanted to tease Long Chen to lighten the mood, but when she saw that he wasn't up to it, she looked down and said, "I asked you to come mainly to search for something to assist you during the inner family qualifiers. Just tell me if you see anything you're interested in."

"I have my own money."

Long Chen was still planning to give Liu Lan a memorable lesson. If he spent her money now, it would be shameless if he decided to take revenge in the future.

He was willing to sit with Liu Lan and even flirt a little, but that was just a facade because he was still no match for her. Once he was powerful enough, she would be the first one he punched.

Liu Lan was slightly stunned by Long Chen's stubbornness, but she was very familiar with his background, so she found it a little amusing that he would say such a thing. "I'm not in the mood to argue right now. I came to the auction specifically for you, but don't overthink it. At least to other people, you're my man right now. If you lose too badly, I won't even be able to show my face to anyone. I'm only paying to save me some face," said Liu Lan.

"As I said, I will get the thing I want on my own," said Long Chen flatly.

Liu Lan was a little annoyed that Long Chen wasn't making the smart choice. However, she was indeed the one who had overstepped the boundary this time, so she mocked him. "You're good at bragging! I'd like to see how you can get anything at an auction on this level."

She knew very well how much money Long Chen had. This was the grandest auction in the whole Eastern Ling District, and the starting price of the items would be at least a thousand divine jades.

The sun would rise from the west if Long Chen had that much money.

Time slipped away as they chatted. Very quickly, two items had already been auctioned off. The opening item was an intermediate Black-tier divine weapon, auctioned off at fifty thousand divine jades. The second item was also sold at a high price of thirty thousand divine jades.

Long Chen knew that auctions started with more expensive items.

A mid Earthly Core Realm cultivator's net worth was usually about a hundred thousand divine jades. Any item here would be enough to bankrupt them.

This was why Liu Lan was sure that Long Chen was lying.

"Don't place a bid if you don't have the money. You won't be able to leave the Dawn Trading Alliance's marketplace if you can't pay up. The hosts of this event may only be their branches, but there are many Heavenly Core Realm masters here. I won't be able to rescue you," said Liu Lan, seeing Long Chen remain stubborn and unwilling to admit defeat.

Long Chen watched the auction and did not answer her.

Liu Lan shook her head when she saw that he was still behaving this way. *This brat is too childish. He's grown, yet he is still throwing a tantrum. I came here to get him something. If this continues, this trip will be a waste of time. I need to find a way.*

After a while, Liu Lan's eyes lit up. She asked, "Long Chen, how many contribution points do you have?"

"Three hundred and sixty-one. Why?"

Long Chen didn't understand why she would ask this question.

"I'm not going to sulk with you. Since you want to get items with your own ability, I won't force you, but you know how many divine jades you have in your pocket right now. Let's do it this way: you can trade one contribution point for ten divine jades from me. So I'll give you four thousand divine jades. What do you think?"

At least this wasn't him taking advantage of her money. Long Chen could accept this, so he nodded.

Admittedly, after seeing the first few items, Long Chen also felt like something would appear that would be critical to his performance at the qualifiers. It would be great if he could get something like that.

"Dear participants, our next item is the Seven Colored Glass Steel. It is ten times better in terms of quality compared to regular Glass Steel. In the hands of a competent blacksmith, it is enough to forge two or more intermediate Black-tier divine weapons. If the blacksmith is expert enough, it is not impossible to produce an advanced Black-tier divine weapon! The starting price is ten thousand divine jades! The minimum raise per bid is five hundred divine jades!"

The bidders exploded into a crescendo once more as the pretty girl fanned the flames. "Twelve thousand divine jades!"

"Thirteen thousand!"

"Fifteen thousand!"

"Twenty thousand!"

The Seven Colored Glass Steel was an extremely precious material that could be forged into an advanced Black-tier weapon. That was why the atmosphere was bustling and the price kept climbing until it was close to sixty thousand.

Long Chen wasn't very interested in it, but Liu Lan was paying attention to a familiar person in the booth next to hers throughout the bidding process for this item. In the end, that person bought the Seven Colored Glass Steel at seventy thousand divine jades.

"It's him? I didn't think he'd be here too." Liu Lan was shocked when she recognized his voice.

"Who is it?" asked Long Chen.

“The strongest participant of the qualifiers, also known as the number one prodigy of the outer families—Jin Sheng’en of the Gold family. I’ve seen him fight before, and he is indeed extraordinary. I think his true combat power can match someone at the late Earthly Core Realm.”

“Jin Sheng’en, late Earthly Core Realm?”

Long Chen was speechless; that guy was indeed inhuman. Long Chen was consistently improving, but he kept being humbled by even stronger prodigies.

From his perspective, Chu Yunxi was already a prodigy that would be difficult for him to surpass, and now he had learned that Jin Sheng’en was even more terrifying.

“Do you know what strengths he has?” Long Chen was curious.

Long Chen was able to kill opponents above his own cultivation level because he had the Dragon Soul Transformation, the Blazing Thunder Combat Body, and other powerful techniques.

“The most genius thing about Jin Sheng’en is the fact that he successfully cultivated an advanced Black-tier Body Tempering Combat Technique called the Molten Gold Combat Body! It’s the Gold family’s best Body Tempering Combat Technique, and not many Gold family members have succeeded in learning it. Jin Sheng’en successfully cultivated it despite being only at the mid Earthly Core Realm. Don’t you think that’s impressive?”

Long Chen’s current trump card was that his physical body was stronger than that of the average person, but Jin Sheng’en had succeeded in cultivating an advanced Black-tier Body Tempering Combat Technique. In terms of Qi, he was way ahead of Long Chen too.

After Liu Lan’s explanation, Long Chen felt completely defeated when he thought about the psycho next to him.

“What’s the matter? Finally realizing how brutal the inner family qualifiers are?” Liu Lan glanced at him with smugness in her eyes.

“It’s still early. The outcome is not set yet.”

Long Chen knew in his heart that he could not afford to be afraid. This was for Yang Lingqing and for himself. No matter how powerful the enemy was, he would grit his teeth and fight!

“Hehe ...” Liu Lan covered her mouth and giggled. “You’re just bragging. One more thing—Jin Sheng’en and Chu Yunxi are good friends. If you meet him, even if you don’t die, I’m afraid you’re still going to suffer badly ...”

Long Chen was exasperated. *What’s wrong with this world? Why are all the prodigies such good friends? I offended one and ended up offending so many more? And each one is stronger than the last!*

He was speechless.

Liu Lan's intention was to warn Long Chen of the dangers of the qualifiers, so he would listen to her and let her pay. Now that she had reached her objective, she was happy and relaxed.

"The next item to be auctioned is the Blazing Thunder Crystal!"

Chapter 147 - Demonic Blood Essence

"Blazing Thunder Crystal?"

Liu Lan's cherry-colored lips were agape, looking shocked. "Since when did the Dawn Trading Alliance have Blazing Thunder Crystals? They're extremely rare in Yuanling County! They probably got them from somewhere else."

Long Chen didn't expect the Dawn Trading Alliance to auction off Blazing Thunder Crystals either. He had stolen more than forty crystals from Zhao Tianfang, so based on that, the Dawn Trading Alliance definitely had a lot of them.

Even the most powerful cultivator only needed a maximum of one hundred Blazing Thunder Crystals. Therefore, any faction that possessed large quantities of them could enjoy a huge boost to their strength.

Ling Xi had mentioned before that the Dawn Trading Alliance might have a Blazing Thunder Crystal mine.

If that was really true, it would make them much wealthier and more powerful. They might even be as powerful as the Lingwu family and the Beast Soul Palace. Even the Lingwu family would be envious if they really had a mine.

"We have a total of ten Blazing Thunder Crystals. If you merge with all of them, you will become a Blazing Thunder Warrior and succeed in cultivating the Blazing Thunder Combat Body, which is an intermediate Black-tier Body Tempering Combat Technique, or maybe even more powerful than that. I'm sure everyone here knows what effects they bring, so I won't elaborate further. The starting price for these ten crystals is twenty thousand divine jades! Every bid must increase by at least a thousand divine jades!"

A portion of the esteemed guests erupted into discussion when the Blazing Thunder Crystals were displayed. Although they were not extremely expensive or valuable, they were still rarer than the average item.

Excitement spread across the crowd.

Liu Lan turned and looked at him inquisitively, "Long Chen, what do you think of the Blazing Thunder Crystals?"

As far as she was aware, Long Chen was a Beast Warrior, meaning he could enjoy a great boost in strength within a short period of time if he cultivated an intermediate Black-tier Body Tempering Combat Technique. That way, he might stand a chance at the qualifiers.

The difference between Blazing Thunder Crystals and techniques was that techniques required large amounts of time to cultivate, while cultivators only had to merge with the crystals.

If only she knew that Long Chen had already merged with thirty Blazing Thunder Crystals. The look on her face would be fun to watch.

Long Chen would always need more Blazing Thunder Crystals because he aimed to attain the Level Two Blazing Thunder Combat Body, or maybe even Level Three.

However, the problem now was that he only had enough contribution points to get four thousand divine jades from Liu Lan. The amount of money he had was negligible in this case. Just the starting price alone was far more than four thousand divine jades.

He hadn't expected something Ling Xi had stolen at the cost of two Soul Nourishing Fruits to be this valuable. When he realized that he'd spent a hundred thousand divine jades just like that, his heart bled ...

Long Chen had no money to buy the Blazing Thunder Crystals, so he ignored her.

Liu Lan wasn't angry. The audience had been bidding for a while, and she called out her own bid without hesitation among the chorus of voices. "Thirty-five thousand divine jades."

Her cold, clear voice rang across the vast plaza.

The current highest bid was only at thirty-one thousand divine jades. After Liu Lan's abrupt bid at thirty-five thousand, no one else offered a higher price.

Thirty-five thousand divine jades for ten Blazing Thunder Crystals was not a reasonable price. Usually, one could buy a Body Tempering Combat Technique with about ten thousand divine jades without the risk that the Blazing Thunder Crystals bore.

When Liu Lan won the bid, she grinned smugly at Long Chen, as if challenging him.

"I'm going to make this clear. You wanted to buy this on your own; don't blame it on me."

Honestly, she was attractive, but Long Chen understood that she was like a rose. Although she was fragrant and beautiful, tempting every man who approached, whoever came too close would get pricked by her thorns.

She was deliberately trying to do him a favor today, but while Long Chen did want the Blazing Thunder Crystals, he wanted to avoid a situation like this.

"Do you think I am begging for your forgiveness?" Liu Lan was getting increasingly embarrassed and angry at Long Chen's nonchalant attitude. She composed herself and warned darkly, "I'm here helping you prepare today only because I am worried you'll be killed by Chu Yunxi at the qualifiers. It's going to be the first of the eleventh month soon; if you refuse my offer because you're sulking, it will only mean that you're an idiot. A true idiot."

Long Chen was indeed not confident he could leave the inner family qualifiers alive. "I'll take the Blazing Thunder Crystals. As for the thirty-five thousand divine jades, I'll pay you back after the auction," Long Chen said curtly right after she finished speaking.

"Oh?"

He doesn't have money now, but will he have it after the auction? What does that mean?

Liu Lan could never figure this brat out. She wanted to see how he would pay up after the auction ended, so she nodded. "And I shall await your payment. If you can't pay up, don't blame me for laughing at you then ..."

"Whatever."

After the Blazing Thunder Crystals were sold, someone soon brought them to their booth. Long Chen received the crystals, then the rich lady Liu Lan took out the money for payment. The Dawn Trading Alliance staff member had a strange look.

When he left, Liu Lan looked at Long Chen flirtatiously. "Did you recognize the look on his face?"

"From his perspective, you are a rich lady and I'm the sugar baby you use to satisfy your lonely heart. Did I guess it right?"

Liu Lan broke into a beautiful smile.

After the two exciting items, the Seven Colored Glass Steel and the Blazing Thunder Crystals, the auction slowly approached its end.

About two hours had passed, and the more valuable items started to appear. There were three penultimate items to be auctioned: the first was an advanced Black-tier attacking combat technique, which was sold for eighty thousand divine jades. In reality, eighty thousand divine jades were definitely not enough to purchase a truly impressive advanced combat technique. Some of the truly formidable combat techniques sold for a million, or even multiple millions. The price differences showed that the values of different skills could differ so much even though they were in the same category.

An advanced Black-tier combat technique was probably only a little more powerful than an intermediate Black-tier one. It was even possible that there were intermediate Black-tier combat techniques more powerful than advanced ones.

There were few Heavenly Core Realm masters within Yuanling City, and all of them held significant status. Earthly Core Realm cultivators were considered special guests at an auction division like this one, while Human Core Realm cultivators were ordinary participants.

The last item was an advanced Black-tier spiritual herb with a starting price of two hundred thousand divine jades. However, it was not very useful to Long Chen. He was instead completely drawn to the second to last item.

"The Demonic Blood Essence. This is the Demonic Blood Essence of a Category Eight Black-tier demonic beast. If one is strong enough to control and cultivate this, it will boost a cultivator from the initial Human Core Realm to the mid Human Core Realm, or from the mid Human Core Realm to the late Human Core Realm!"

The pretty host's voice echoed across the plaza.

"Demonic Blood Essence?" There was a hint of excitement in Ling Xi's voice. She quickly whispered, "Long Chen, you should get the Demonic Blood Essence."

“What’s it for? It might be useful to other Human Core Realm cultivators, but I don’t think it’ll be effective for me.”

“When a demonic beast’s blood and flesh remain wrapped around its demonic core for more than a century, sometimes its blood is not lost but rather condensed into Demonic Blood Essence. The power of the demonic core and its blood are mixed within the Demonic Blood Essence to form a peculiar spiritual power that can be absorbed in small quantities by cultivators. This is very similar to the Ascension Fruit.”

“What do you mean?” asked Long Chen.

“The Ascension Fruit can boost a cultivator into the next cultivation level in a short period of time, helping them reach the Human Core Realm without any negative side-effects. The Demonic Blood Essence is the same. This one contains power equivalent to the late Human Core Realm. If an initial Human Core Realm cultivator consumed it, they could just straight to the late Human Core Realm if they absorbed the whole thing.”

Because Ling Xi was talking, Long Chen deliberately turned and leaned his body towards the edge of the booth.

Ling Xi’s voice could be considered to be emitted from her soul directly to Long Chen’s soul, so although it was soft, he could hear her clearly. Liu Lan would normally be able to hear Long Chen loud and clear though, it was just that his voice had been covered by the loud announcements outside.

“Blood Transmutation is impressive because it converts fresh blood Qi into your own Qi. The Demonic Blood Essence is even more useful to you because while other people mostly absorb the demonic core’s power, you would be absorbing more of the blood’s power. With this, I think you can break into the Earthly Core Realm.”

Long Chen heard her say “Earthly Core Realm” loud and clear. It was the cultivation level he had been dreaming of.

He couldn’t defeat a Category Five beast at the moment, and he’d need to kill a certain number of Category Four beasts in order to reach the Earthly Core Realm.

The inner family qualifiers were close, and it was inconvenient for Long Chen to travel around due to the rumors related to Liu Lan. That was why it was currently very difficult for him to attain the Earthly Core Realm.

Even with a tool like Blood Transmutation, it’ll be difficult for me to increase my cultivation level. Plus, using it too often isn’t good for me.

Long Chen thought about it.

After Ling Xi’s explanation, he knew that the Demonic Blood Essence would determine whether he lived or died.

That was why he absolutely had to get his hands on it.

## Chapter 148 - I'm Disappointed in You

While Ling Xi was giving Long Chen the rundown of the Demonic Blood Essence, the lady from the Dawn Trading Alliance announced the starting bid.

It would start at thirty-five thousand divine jades, the same price as the Blazing Thunder Crystals.

When it came to spiritual herbs, some held more value than their grade indicated.

For example, the Demonic Blood Essence was merely an elementary Black-tier spiritual herb. However, it was highly sought after because it could increase one's cultivation level immediately and without any side-effects.

Some people would give one to a youth in their family to speed up their cultivation.

Xue Yuanzi and the people of Baiyang Town didn't know the true value of the Ascension Fruit. Even though it was an elementary Black-tier spiritual herb as well, it was valued at around ten thousand divine jades due to the fact that it could help the user condense their Human Core.

Liu Lan was unsatisfied with how she had only managed to get Long Chen the ten Blazing Thunder Crystals. She wanted to leave as the auction was going to finish soon and the remaining items weren't suitable for Long Chen.

There was a surprising amount of people bidding on the Demonic Blood Essence.

What caught her attention was that even Jin Sheng'en joined in.

"Forty thousand divine jades."

A cold voice came from the booth beside them. There was a hint of snobbishness beneath his tone, much like the children of nobilities Long Chen had met in Baiyang Town.

"Forty-one thousand!"

"Forty-two thousand!"

"Forty-five thousand!"

The price continued to increase.

The previous item's starting bid was fifty thousand divine jades and was sold at eighty thousand. The Demonic Blood Essence was the second to last item, so its value was nowhere near the previous one.

The reason they placed the Demonic Blood Essence as the second to last item was to attract some of the older customers to buy it for their families as well as to give the guests some time to compose themselves before the final item.

However, the final item was useless for Long Chen, and the Demonic Blood Essence was extremely helpful to him.

When the price reached fifty thousand, almost no one wanted to bid for it anymore. Fifty thousand was the usual market price for it.

"Fifty-five thousand."

Jin Sheng'en chuckled and bid once more. Everyone else thought about it and gave up on bidding.

“Fifty-five thousand! Are there any more bids?”

Her beautiful voice reverberated around the place.

“There are no more bids. Miss, just start the countdown. I, Jin Sheng'en, want the Demonic Blood Essence.”

His arrogant statement made a lot of people hate him.

Jin Sheng'en had announced himself as a method to use his identity to bully those without a strong background. Even if they had the money to bid for it, they would definitely be pressured by Jin Sheng'en's family later on, so they had no choice but to give up.

“Jin Sheng'en is famous in Yuanling City. On the one hand, he's arrogant and always finds trouble. On the other hand, his strength is second to none. People always called him the strongest genius of the outer family. Moreover, his father is the youngest and strongest Grand Elder of the outer family!” Liu Lan explained when she heard Jin Sheng'en's bid. It was clear she hated him.

She then looked at Long Chen, who had been silent the whole day. The lady in the plaza was visibly upset too and was just about to announce who would get the Blood Demon Essence when a low voice rang out.

“Sixty thousand.”

It was Long Chen!

“Who is that?”

To think there was someone who was willing to go up against the little prince of the Gold family. Everyone was shocked and curious about who the owner of the mysterious voice was.

The pretty lady turned towards the booth, feeling confused. *The booth beside the little prince of the Gold family should belong to Liu Lan from the Turquoise family, but why was it a man's voice? He must be special if he is willing to go against Jin Sheng'en.*

She hated the way Jin Sheng'en had announced himself, so she was more than happy when someone outbid him by five thousand divine jades. “Sixty thousand divine jades! Is there another bid? If not, the Demonic Blood Essence will belong to that man!”

Liu Lan was surprised with Long Chen. “Long Chen, what are you doing? You are already at the late Human Core Realm. The Demonic Blood Essence is useless for you!”

Long Chen eyes were filled with desire and resolution. He remained quiet and ignored Liu Lan.

The Demonic Blood Essence was capable of pushing him up to the Earthly Core Realm, so he had to get it no matter what!

“Sir, will you not give me the honors?”

Jin Sheng'en's tone clearly contained a hint of anger.

Long Chen felt the coldness in his voice.

However, his open threat had undermined the authority of the Dawn Trading Alliance.

An elder working for the Dawn Trading Alliance stood up. “Young Master Jin, please do not break the rules of the auction, or we will call your father to take you home. Every industry has their rules. You may be high above us, but that does not allow you to interfere with our business!”

Jin Sheng'en was indeed in the wrong. Being openly warned by the Dawn Trading Alliance had brought shame to his name.

His intention was to buy the Demonic Blood Essence for one of his brothers. He didn't actually need it for himself, so he lost all interest in it after being shamed in public.

Although he was arrogant, he was smart.

It's clear that man is not afraid of me, as if the Demonic Blood Essence belongs to him. If I get into a bidding war and lose control, I might lose a lot of money. I should let him win, but don't think this is over!

After thinking about it, he defended himself. “Please do not spread false accusations about me. I am only exchanging pleasantries with the man in the booth beside me. When did I break any rules? I will relinquish the Demonic Blood Essence to him.”

Jin Sheng'en's statement made it clear that he intended to not ruin the Dawn Trading Alliance's reputation. Since he didn't want to escalate things, the Dawn Trading Alliance would definitely not go further than that. The old man even apologized politely. “It seems I overreacted. I sincerely apologize for that. I will personally come to the young master after the auction to apologize.”

Both of them had decided to take a step back, and the issue was resolved. The pretty lady quickly announced who would get the Demonic Blood Essence. “I now announce that the Demonic Blood Essence belongs to the man inside the Rose Booth for sixty thousand divine jades!”

Liu Lan was displeased at how Long Chen had completely ignored her. The Dawn Trading Alliance was in the process of auctioning off the final item when Liu Lan stared at Long Chen coldly.

“Long Chen, do you not fear death?”

“Why do you say that?”

After obtaining the Demonic Blood Essence, Long Chen saw how crossed she was and finally talked to her. He was afraid she would kill him.

Liu Lan felt disappointed upon seeing how Long Chen was still so nonchalant.

Even though everyone thought he would merely make a fool out of himself in the qualifiers, Liu Lan still had some faith in him, considering how many miracles he had created thus far.

But she realized that she had overestimated him after seeing how immature and rash he was.

“Ignoring Chu Yunxi, Jin Sheng'en is even stronger than her. Aren't you seeking death for angering him?”

Long Chen knew what might happen, but the issue was not that severe.

If he entered the qualifiers with his current strength, he would surely die. But if he entered the Earthly Core Realm, there was a chance of surviving even though he would have to fight Chu Yunxi and Jin Sheng'en.

But he could not reveal the secrets of the Blood Transmutation, so he remained silent.

Liu Lan became angrier after seeing how Long Chen did not realize the gravity of the situation. Her chest heaved from anger while her eyes were cold.

"I'm disappointed in you, Long Chen. I thought you were amazing, but it seems that you've just been lucky all this time."

Liu Lan could not comprehend why he would anger Jin Sheng'en for no reason.

Long Chen chuckled secretly from being underestimated by her. "What are you talking about? There's nothing between you and I. I'm just a pawn to you, so why are you disappointed? Administrator Liu, remember this ... I will always be Long Chen. I will do what I want, and I will take responsibility for my life. There's no need for you to worry about my future and achievements. No need to talk to me, scold me, or even insult me. You just need to watch."

Long Chen's cold glare and stubborn voice made her feel confused.

After hearing his confident words, her anger dissipated and she once again saw the confident Long Chen, the one who had somehow killed Huang Feiyang, defeated Feng Wutian, and killed the Great Priest of the Blood Saints.

"You've owed me from the moment you used me against Chu Yunxi. Even though you are my superior, you have no power against me."

Long Chen's tone was irresistible.

At this time, someone delivered the Demonic Blood Essence to them.

Liu Lan etched Long Chen's words into her heart and asked him coldly, "Do you have sixty thousand divine jades?"

#### Chapter 149 - Arrogant Man

The man from the Dawn Trading Alliance was holding a black tray. Within the tray was a red, oval-shaped crystal around the size of an egg.

Within the red crystal were several black veins. The Demonic Blood Essence radiated a very pure energy.

"It's a good quality Demonic Blood Essence since the energy radiating from it is quite pure. It's probably from a Category Nine Black-tier demonic beast rather than a Category Eight," Ling Xi explained.

A Category Nine Black-tier beast was comparable to an expert at the late Heavenly Core Realm. There were only a few people at that level in Yuanling County, one of them being the Grand Elder of the Turquoise family.

But the Category Nine Black-tier demonic beast was gone. All that was left of it was the remnants of its energy.

“Dear Sir and Madam, this is the Demonic Blood Essence. Please pay the sixty thousand divine jades.”

Liu Lan was still angry at Long Chen and feigned innocence. She wanted to get back at him by faking that she was poor now that someone was asking for money.

Long Chen had already told her to just watch, so she was merely doing what she was told. If he couldn't take out the money, he would be embarrassed!

Liu Lan wanted to see Long Chen flustered. Only then would she feel somewhat satisfied.

The man had delivered their previous purchase and thought Liu Lan would be the one to present the payment again. He had thought she was the one covering the expenses, but to his confusion, she did not pay. Liu Lan crossed her arms as if she was not involved in the matter.

What is happening?

The man looked at Long Chen while Liu Lan glanced at him. She wanted to see how flustered Long Chen would be.

I won't pay for it if you don't beg me!

Liu Lan had yet to realize that she was acting like a little girl. Long Chen's words were so domineering that she had fallen for him.

Long Chen did not hesitate when he saw both of them staring at him. He took out a purple orb from his Universe Pouch. “I remember the Dawn Trading Alliance saying that we are allowed to sell items. Could you help me appraise this? This is the beast soul of a Category Six Black-tier demonic beast, the Violet Demonic Lizard. What is it worth?”

The man had thought Long Chen would not be able to pay the money, but to think he was able to produce the beast soul of a Category Six Black-tier demonic beast! His eyes were filled with surprise.

“Long Chen! That beast soul is the one-”

Liu Lan was shocked.

She knew the beast soul was given to him by her father. It was supposed to become Long Chen's Primary Beast Soul!

Liu Yuan had even argued with the other five Elders for it. It was only after Long Chen defeated Feng Wutian that the five Elders approved it.

But now Long Chen wanted to sell the Category Six Black-tier beast soul?

What kind of bastard was he?

Liu Lan felt her vision go black and almost fell unconscious.

She wanted to stop him, but Long Chen had already placed the beast soul into the man's hand and pushed him out.

“Long Chen, are you crazy?!”

The Category Six Black-tier beast soul was supposed to be Long Chen's strongest trump card, second only to the Blazing Thunder Crystals. Once he refined it, his strength would increase exponentially. If he did so, it would be possible for Long Chen to create yet another miracle!

But he had not only angered Jin Sheng'en today for the useless Demonic Blood Essence, he had even sold the important Violet Demonic Lizard beast soul!

"What's wrong? I can do anything with my own belongings."

Long Chen scoffed at her.

He had long wanted to sell the beast soul but thought it was inappropriate. But when Liu Lan tried to embarrass him again, he had no reservations about selling it off.

"What are you talking about? Have you gone insane?"

Liu Lan was completely speechless at Long Chen's actions.

She had no idea what the idiot was thinking.

She had given up on trying to figure him out. "Don't play with your life! I know I owe you for pitting you against Chu Yunxi, but you can't just give up like that to protest it! Long Chen, it's not like you to run away!"

"Who says I'm running?" Long Chen asked.

"You just sold your most important asset, the Violet Demonic Lizard beast soul, and even angered Jin Sheng'en! Is that not you trying to piss me off? Whatever, I don't care anymore. I will just pay the man sixty thousand divine jades once he returns. You can pay me back later if you don't want to owe me any money.

"What are you thinking?"

Long Chen was speechless by her imagination. "Let me tell you this. I was never afraid of Chu Yunxi and Jin Sheng'en. I have my own reasons for doing this, and there's nothing that an idiotic woman like you can do about it!"

"Idiotic woman?!" Liu Lan almost spat blood.

"If you have any questions about me, you can just watch my performance during the qualifiers. You will understand then. I will sell the beast soul, and there's nothing you can do to stop me."

This was the first time in many years that Liu Lan had almost hit someone out of anger.

She was utterly speechless and gave Long Chen a disappointed look, but the latter was not afraid. Long Chen stared at her without flinching. Liu Lan had to suppress her hands to prevent herself from slapping him after seeing how arrogant he was. It took her a long time to settle down.

She glared coldly and spat bitterly, "No need to boast in front of me. I will say this, Long Chen: one day you will pay for your actions, and that day is not far off!"

"Is that so? Let's just wait and see, Administrator Liu."

Long Chen's upcoming enemies were immensely powerful, and there were twenty of them! No one favored Long Chen except for Liu Lan, who held a glimmer of hope for him. But she was disappointed by him today.

"We will wait and see indeed."

Liu Lan shook her head and sat down, her back facing the door. It was clear that she was still angry, because her shoulders were trembling.

She would've killed Long Chen immediately if he were a regular junior. But now that he had been approved to take part in the qualifiers, killing him would cause her far too many problems. Not even her father would be able to protect her. Adding in that she did owe him for last time, she had no choice but to do nothing.

Long Chen, on the other hand, was very happy.

After getting framed by Liu Lan previously, both him and Ling Xi were feeling depressed. But thanks to the qualifiers, they would be able to get back at Liu Lan. There was no better feeling than this.

"Not bad. Not bad at all. Hehe."

Ling Xi turned around within the Ling Xi Sword and chuckled.

Liu Lan was just beside them, so Long Chen didn't dare respond to Ling Xi. All he did was laugh.

The man from the Dawn Trading Alliance finally returned with the Demonic Blood Essence and the Violet Demonic Lizard beast soul. He respectfully addressed Long Chen now that he knew Liu Lan was not Long Chen's mistress. "Good day. We've just appraised the beast soul of the Violet Demonic Lizard, and it is worth ninety-five thousand divine jades. Deducting the price of the Demonic Blood Essence, the remaining thirty-five thousand divine jades are contained within the Universe Pouch here. Please confirm the amount."

Long Chen took the Demonic Blood Essence and then checked the Universe Pouch. There were indeed thirty-five thousand divine jades inside it.

After dealing with the matter, Long Chen threw the Universe Pouch containing the onto the table in front of Liu Lan. "Thirty-five thousand divine jades. That's the price of the Blazing Thunder Crystals. I told you I would pay you back before the auction ended. I've kept my word."

The thirty-five thousand divine jades were obtained from selling off the Violet Demonic Lizard's beast soul. Liu Lan was frustrated by this fact. "You make it look easy, but you just lost the Violet Demonic Lizard's beast soul. I can't wait to watch you die during the qualifiers!"

"Whether I die or not does not concern you. Your objective has been achieved, as Chu Yunxi will not bother you again."

Long Chen knew that Liu Lan would never have taken him to the auction if she was completely heartless. This showed that she was at least apologetic about what had happened.

Although Long Chen had been rude to her the whole time, it was Liu Lan's fault in the first place, so there wasn't much she could say. She glared at Long Chen. "How will you explain to my father that you sold the beast soul?"

Long Chen chuckled. "It seems that I might need to implore you to keep this a secret."

"Bastard!"

Liu Lan finally realized that Long Chen was a wolf in sheep's clothing all along.

Long Chen spied her heaving chest and teased her. "Stop moving or they might bounce out."

Liu Lan knew what he meant based on where he was looking.

Even though she looked flirtatious, she had zero romantic experience. She blushed when she heard what Long Chen said and almost wanted to tear him apart.

Just then, the door to the booth was kicked open. An arrogant man wearing a gold and white robe entered the booth with a gloomy face.

Chapter 150 - Lingqing's Hidden Danger

The one who had barged into the booth was none other than the Gold family's Little Prince Jin Sheng'en. The title of "Little Prince" was something he had bestowed upon himself.

"You two are so daring. To think that you would humiliate me in public."

Jin Sheng'en stared at the unfamiliar Long Chen, though all he saw of Liu Lan was her back. Jin Sheng'en didn't know who she was, but he knew Long Chen did not have a strong background, so he started plotting.

He immediately glared at Long Chen after saying that.

Long Chen felt a sharp aura emanating from Jin Sheng'en. He felt like the latter was a sharp blade that started piercing into his body even though he was standing a distance away.

Seeing numerous beads of blood appearing on his skin, Long Chen knew Jin Sheng'en was doing it on purpose.

He wouldn't have done anything if Long Chen was strong, but how could he be calm after seeing someone at the late Human Core Realm humiliate him?

Hence, Jin Sheng'en used his Molten Gold Combat Body when he entered the booth.

He could hurt me by just standing close to me. Is this the strength of the advanced Black-tier Molten Gold Combat Body?

Although Long Chen was surprised, he was not afraid. He might've been more cautious if he had been here alone at the auction, but there was no reason to be afraid, since Liu Lan was present.

Just as he had expected, Liu Lan stood up and turned around, revealing her beautiful face and curvaceous body. She stood between Long Chen and Jin Sheng'en.

Jin Sheng'en gulped when he saw the beauty in front of him. He was about to flirt with her when he realized it was Liu Lan, the woman Chu Yunxi loved.

Does that mean that the brat is Long Chen? I remember Chu Yunxi telling me about him.

Even after finding out who it was, he wanted to beat up Long Chen and take the Demonic Blood Essence away. Unfortunately, his plan had been foiled by Liu Lan's presence.

Jin Sheng'en was ready to give up the Demonic Blood Essence, but he wouldn't give up on the issue with Chu Yunxi.

"And here I was wondering who it was. To think it was you two. Why are you here today? Looking for a place to hook up?"

Even though Jin Sheng'en looked gentlemanly, his speech and behavior were anything but. Liu Lan felt disgusted by him. "I've heard that the Little Prince of the Gold family was crude. It seems that the rumors are true."

She was not a match for Long Chen in a battle of words, but she was not an easy foe for Jin Sheng'en.

"What did you say?"

Jin Sheng'en was angry, but he knew he couldn't beat Liu Lan. If he fought her here and now, he might make the Dawn Trading Alliance angry, so he had no choice but to suppress his anger. Therefore, he tried to ridicule Long Chen instead. "I've heard that Liu Lan was very flirtatious. To think someone would chase after a woman like her. What a joke ..."

"Is that so?" Long Chen did not fall for his trick. "Why do I feel like someone is jealous? As the saying goes: a fox that cannot reach the grape tells everyone that the grape is sour. I feel like Chu Yunxi is the fox."

"What did you say?!"

He had thought Long Chen was just a lucky bastard who had used Liu Lan. Jin Sheng'en's murderous intent started leaking when he saw how Long Chen dared to fight back.

Liu Lan was actually hurt by what Jin Sheng'en had said. She knew that her reputation was bad. Regardless of how strong her heart was, she still felt hurt when she heard that. But Long Chen's retort made her laugh.

She looked at him gratefully, her eyes filled with satisfaction.

Long Chen chuckled and said calmly, "I thought I made it very clear. Did you not understand me? Even a pig would understand what I meant."

"Haha!" Liu Lan covered her mouth and laughed.

The Little Prince of the Gold family felt humiliated. He clenched his fists and his eyes became bloodshot.

"Long Chen, do you want to die ... ?"

Long Chen thought he would start a fight, but Jin Sheng'en stopped what he was doing.

Long Chen was a bit worried upon seeing how patient Jin Sheng'en was. Even though he was rash and stupid on the outside, he was actually quite smart and patient.

Foes like him were the scariest.

"If you have nothing else to say, get out. Don't you know it's rude to barge into someone's booth?"

Long Chen did not back down.

“Not bad, not bad.”

Jin Sheng'en smiled coldly and stared at the duo. “What an amazing couple! To think both of you are so detestable! Long Chen, I've heard that you will be joining the qualifiers. I hope you get back to the Turquoise family alive, or your woman will be so bored that she will have to find another man.”

“No need to worry. I will make sure she's satisfied.”

Long Chen didn't really mean it, but Ling Xi was angry. Long Chen felt an intense pain in his ear, but he endured it.

Oh shit! I forgot about Ling Xi, the little devil!

Realizing that Long Chen was unfazed by his threat, Jin Sheng'en's patience had reached the breaking point. It took him everything to suppress his anger. “Since you are not afraid of dying, I will let you know that Chu Yunxi will be my partner. I don't think anyone will want to become your partner. Hahaha ...”

He laughed and glared at Long Chen before looking at Liu Lan. “You stupid bitch. I will let you watch Long Chen beg for his life in front of everyone. But I won't let him go ...”

He turned around and left the booth.

The pressure surrounding Long Chen finally dissipated.

Long Chen finally looked down and saw that his body covered in numerous shallow wounds thanks to Jin Sheng'en's Molten Gold Combat Body. It was as if he had been pierced by numerous needles.

“Are you alright?”

Liu Lan was concerned when she saw blood dripping down Long Chen's face.

“What a joke.”

He wiped the blood off. With the help of Recovery, the wounds disappeared completely.

“Are you satisfied now?”

Liu Lan rolled her eyes and fell onto the chair tiredly. Long Chen saw that her eyes were filled with disappointment.

“You might've had a chance to survive the qualifiers if you hadn't angered Jin Sheng'en and utilized the Violet Demonic Lizard beast soul along with the Blazing Thunder Crystals. But now you have no chance at all. How will you deal with Chu Yunxi and Jin Sheng'en, who are at the mid Earthly Core Realm?”

Long Chen smiled and explained nothing. He didn't have to and only needed to perform well.

“It seems you are quite relaxed about this ...”

Liu Lan shook her head.

“Long Chen, there’s something I haven’t told you because I was afraid you already had a lot of pressure.”

“What is it?” Long Chen was nervous when he saw how serious she was.

Liu Lan pursed her lips before she explained, “It’s about your sister entering the inner family.”

When he heard that it was about Yang Lingqing, he had a bad feeling. “What’s going on with Lingqing?”

“You know too little about the inner family. Most inner family members come from the original four families: Dongfang, Ximen, Nangong, and Beitang. When the Lingwu family started accepting people from the outer family, they were forced to marry members of the inner family. The ladies from the outer family who had good looks would become highly sought-after bride candidates, while the men would be betrothed to a lady of the inner family. Do you understand what I’m saying?”

Long Chen frowned. “Are you saying that to prevent the outer family from gaining power, the inner family absorbs everyone from the outer family into their own family?”

“Correct. Anyone who joins the inner family must get married to someone from the inner family.”

This meant that if Long Chen wanted to join the inner family, he would have to get married to a lady from the inner family. However, strong men got to marry more than one woman. If Long Chen was strong, he would have the right to get married to multiple women.

Liu Yuan had planned to let Chu Yunxi enter the inner family and marry Liu Lan. But Liu Lan would not become the first wife.

This was why Liu Lan was against being married to him.

She was a proud woman, and she could not bear the thought of her husband getting married to multiple women.

But Long Chen was more worried about Yang Lingqing.

“Does that mean Lingqing will be forced to marry into the Beitang family even if she doesn’t want to?”

He frowned.

Liu Lan nodded. “Do you still remember Beitang Mo? When he heard that Yang Lingqing had the Dark Yin Body, he rushed to the Blood Saints. It’s very clear that he wants to unlock her potential and marry her ...”

“What?!”

Long Chen's face turned gloomy when he heard that ...