

War God 201

Chapter 201 - Resilient Cockroach

The moment Long Chen flew out, Dongfang Xuanxiao caught him in his arms and placed him flat on the ground. There was a stalk of spiritual herb in his hand, radiating spiritual Qi. He crumbled it and then stuffed it into Long Chen's mouth, guiding his Qi to help Long Chen's body refine it.

Long Chen's eyes were shut, and black blood was flowing from the corner of his mouth. His body was cold and black smoke was rising from it. He looked almost like a dead person.

"Big Brother!" When she saw how he had ended up, Yang Lingqing felt like her world had crumbled. She knew that he likely wasn't going to survive, and even if he was lucky enough to live, he would be crippled!

There were four levels between the initial Earthly Core Realm and the mid Heavenly Core realm. Long Chen had taken one strike from Beitang Mo for her despite the massive gap. How would he survive this unscathed?

Even Dongfang Xuanxiao wasn't very confident, but his many years of experience told him that this was no time to admit defeat. If he took action in time, Long Chen might be saved!

"Big Brother, you must hold on! Aunt and the rest of the family are still waiting for you at home ..."

Yang Lingqing slid to the ground weakly. There was no strength left in her body. All she could do was stare at him for a long time, as if her whole world had collapsed.

She wrapped her arms around herself, her shoulders twitching, her expression full of helplessness and self-blame.

When Beitang Mo saw Long Chen in this state, he turned to give his father a small smile. Beitang Ming was proud. *Mo'er has matured.*

Beitang Ming knew that when he suggested striking Long Chen, Long Chen would not agree to it because he knew he would die. But if Beitang Mo suggested it, someone as arrogant as Long Chen was sure to agree, as they were part of the same generation!

And that was how they had achieved this result!

"Father, I heard that this brat was going to participate in the Azure Dragon Halberd tournament too. Dongfang Tianxing and I are good friends, and we met up a few days ago. I think he said that his younger brother, Tianyu, was going to kill Long Chen there. So if Long Chen manages to survive today, he will be left with broken meridians and weakened cultivation, so he will surely be killed by Dongfang Tianyu later on. Once Long Chen dies, Lingqing will definitely be mine. Don't you agree, Father?" said Beitang Mo in a low voice, standing next to Beitang Ming.

"You're right. You've done a good job today." Beitang Ming's praise was completely genuine.

Then they looked at Long Chen. "He is probably dead." Beitang Ming smirked to himself.

Dongfang Xuanxiao, who was treating Long Chen using an advanced Black-tier spiritual medicine, wasn't confident either when he saw his stepson's state. He was regretful too. *He might not wake up. Have I done the wrong thing? I only felt that men should be brave enough to take responsibility during critical moments, facing the world fearlessly even at the risk of death ... Or was I wrong?*

When Dongfang Xuanxiao saw the helpless, despairing Yang Lingqing, some memories resurfaced, and he felt like he had been stabbed in the heart. *Long Chen, I have wronged you.* He, too, was filled with self-blame.

While Dongfang Xuanxiao's face darkened, he suddenly sensed a healing energy within Long Chen's body. The energy was moving through every part of him, as if sentient. Although it was faint, it was able to heal corners that couldn't be treated by spiritual medicine. *This is ... the legendary Life Combat Technique!* A wave of shock crashed through him. He was overjoyed that Long Chen possessed the legendary Life Combat Technique. Most importantly, if it was flowing in an intelligent manner, it meant Long Chen wasn't dead! He was still conscious enough to heal himself!

With that realization, Dongfang Xuanxiao was ecstatic and took out another advanced Black-tier spiritual medicine. He crumbled it and then inserted it into Long Chen's mouth. He used his Qi to carefully treat Long Chen's injury.

"Xuanxiao, he took my son's Yin Poison Strike. Don't waste good advanced Black-tier spiritual medicine," said Beitang Ming with an insincere smile. He was irritated that Dongfang Xuanxiao had threatened him just now, and now he was happy to mock him.

When Yang Lingqing heard that there was no hope for Long Chen, her mind went blank. That was when she saw Long Chen's finger move! "Big Brother, you didn't die!" She immediately got to her feet and rushed to Long Chen's side.

Dongfang Xuanxiao knew that it was time, so he quickly helped him up into a sitting position, legs crossed and palms facing up. Although Long Chen's eyes were still closed, he was able to use his Qi to refine the medicinal power, simultaneously using the Recovery technique!

Long Chen was extremely familiar with the injuries in his own body, so letting him do it himself would be most effective!

"He didn't die?" Beitang Mo and Beitang Ming looked at each other, slightly shocked. *Is this guy a cockroach? He just won't quit! He's only at the initial Earthly Core Realm, yet he survived after I used my Yin Poison Strike on him as a mid-Heavenly Core Realm cultivator!* Beitang Mo thought to himself. *But even though he's alive, he'll be crippled for the rest of his life.*

Under Yang Lingqing's expectant gaze, the darkness in Long Chen's face slowly dissipated. After a long time, he finally opened his eyes. The first thing he saw was Yang Lingqing, who was smiling through her tears.

“Where did this crybaby come from?” he uttered slowly, smirking. It was a simple sentence, but it took him great effort to form those words.

Long Chen’s joke made her suddenly recall the times he used to laugh at her when they were young. The joy in those memories made her freeze. She only snapped back to reality after a long time, and then she asked the young man who was like a god to her anxiously, “Big Brother, are you alright?”

“My hips are fine, my kidneys are fine, everything is fine. And my abilities in bed remain great, as always,” said Long Chen, forcing a smile because he was afraid the girl would worry.

“You’re a jerk!” Yang Lingqing both cried and laughed.

He wanted to touch her face, but he was frustrated that his current state did not allow him to do so.

Dongfang Xuanxiao looked at him and asked, “How do you feel?”

“I’m fine. Let’s finish this matter before we talk.” Long Chen then turned to Beitang Mo and said, “I have withstood one strike from you, and I did not retaliate. Beitang Mo, remember what you said ...”

Beitang Mo was surprised that Long Chen had survived, but he knew that the latter would surely die if he went to the Azure Dragon Halberd tournament in this state. And once he was dead, Yang Lingqing wouldn’t leave the Northern Black Tortoise family. So, wouldn’t she still be his? Therefore, he said coldly, “I, Beitang Mo, always keep my word.

“Really?” Dongfang Xuanxiao glanced coldly at Beitang Ming and said mildly, “I have nothing else to say. Long Chen has withstood one strike. If one day I discover that he took that strike for nothing, then someone will have to take one strike from me, Dongfang Xuanxiao.”

“Since the matter is settled, Brother Xuanxiao, you may leave.” Beitang Ming did not want to talk to him, so he started to chase him out.

Dongfang Xuanxiao had no intention of staying. “Let me carry you on my back.”

“Mhm.” Long Chen nodded. He was too weak to walk. But he did feel very embarrassed that he was being carried by another man at this age.

Before they left, while he was on Xuanxiao’s back, he turned to look at Beitang Mo. “Beitang Mo, I will return the strike you gave me ten thousand times over! Or may my soul never reincarnate again!” Long Chen had made a poison oath!

“Lingqing, come outside with me for a moment.” He still had something to say to her before he left.

Beitang Mo wanted to stop them, but his father blocked him. “Why stop them? He’s a dead man. Let them see each other one more time. We Northern Black Tortoise members are compassionate people ...”

Once they left the compound, Long Chen turned to say to Lingqing, "I initially wanted to scold you today, but it's fine. Lingqing, if you don't tell me when you're bullied, it means you're looking down on me. And if I find out you're hiding it from me, I won't punish you, but the bully will be chopped to pieces! And I don't care about the consequences!"

"I understand. Big Brother, are you alright?" Yang Lingqing was frightened by the day's events. Long Chen had managed to pull off a miracle in the end, successfully saving her. Right now, she was most concerned about his injuries.

"Even if one survives the Yin Poison Strike, it usually results in broken meridians and clotting in the meridian vessels, causing their cultivation to weaken," added Dongfang Xuanxiao with great concern.

"Don't worry, you two. I'm a cockroach that can't be killed," Long Chen responded with a chuckle. "Although my injuries aren't minor, they didn't cause my cultivation to worsen. I can guarantee that I will recover fully before the Azure Dragon Halberd Tournament!"

His body's toughness was on par with the Level Two Blazing Thunder Body, but it was fundamentally a dragon body with the blood essence of a primordial dragon. Therefore, it was peerless when it came to resilience and immunity. Beitang Mo might have planned to cripple him with one strike, but it wasn't so easy!

Of course, that was also because Beitang Mo hadn't used his most powerful technique.

When they heard Long Chen's promise, they sighed in relief. Long Chen had survived yet another crisis. "Lingqing, you have pledged your loyalty to the Northern Black Tortoise family, so I have no way to take you out of here. This is all I can do for you, but Beitang Mo should be more reserved from now on. You must still be careful, and tell me if you face any trouble!"

"Mhm, I understand." After today, she knew that as long as she had Long Chen, the man who could carry the sky on his shoulders, she didn't have to be afraid!

"Big Brother, if you're going to participate in the Azure Dragon Halberd Tournament, you must focus on healing and cultivation. Do your best, I have high hopes for you!" She squeezed a smile.

Long Chen nodded. As he stared at her beautiful face, he suddenly recalled a serious question and whispered, "Xiao Qing, Beitang Mo didn't force himself on you, did he?"

"What are you talking about?!" Yang Lingqing was embarrassed, but she knew that it was logical for him to worry about this. "Big Brother, don't worry about that. I heard from someone else that with my Dark Yin Body, uh ... If the other person isn't at least at the late Heavenly Core Realm, they ... will not end up well. So, you don't have to worry about that at all!"

“I see.”

Yang Lingqing was still an innocent girl, so she could only mumble incoherently when she spoke about the taboo topic. Once Long Chen understood what she meant, he sighed in relief. “That’s interesting.” He was so happy that he burst into laughter, but doing so strained his wounds, so he grimaced in pain.

After giving her a few reminders, he knew it was time to go. He had to make adequate preparations for the Azure Dragon Halberd tournament.

Beitang Mo’s attack was deeply etched into his memory. One day, he would get revenge. But first, the most pressing matter was defeating Dongfang Tianyu for the Azure Dragon Halberd.

Yin Mengyao had been cultivating very hard these few days, so he didn’t tell her about Yang Lingqing.

After consuming two consecutive stalks of advanced Black-tier spiritual medicine from Dongfang Xuanxiao, Long Chen’s injuries were mostly healed after three days.

Yin Mengyao had shut herself away to focus on cultivating, so she didn’t know that he had been injured.

But this was much less trouble for him.

His Recovery technique allowed him to treat his injuries at every moment, so he healed much faster than other people. Although Dongfang Xuanxiao knew that he had a Life Combat Technique, he didn’t ask questions.

On the fourth morning, Long Chen went to see Dongfang Xuanxiao and said, “Stepfather, I have reached a bottleneck in my cultivation. I want to go to the Star Devil Prison again; I have a feeling that I can break through to the mid Earthly Core Realm this time!”

“Oh?” This was good news for Dongfang Xuanxiao. He knew that the Life Combat Technique had contributed greatly to Long Chen’s rapid recovery.

He had great expectations for Long Chen, so he was overjoyed to hear that he was nearing a breakthrough. He quickly took him to the Heavenly Martial Realm, and they arrived at the Star Devil Prison’s entrance once more.

After greeting Yan Honghai, Long Chen entered alone, no longer needing a guide. He soon arrived in front of the two thick chains. “Mo Xiaolang is in that direction.” Long Chen looked at the chain on the left, then he looked up far away. There were five large stars in that direction. He knew that the faint green one was the Azure Dragon Star, where Mo Xiaolang was trapped.

“I need to hurry up and start cultivating. I need to break through as quickly as possible.” Long Chen stepped on the chain on the right and hurried along within the empty space. After an hour, he arrived at a fork amidst the infinite vastness of space. “Five times gravity ... Ten times gravity ... Twenty ... Thirty ... Fifty ...” Long Chen mulled over which asteroid to pick as he read the labels.

“Last time, I could move easily under twenty times gravity. The largest number here is one hundred times, and I think only Heavenly Core Realm cultivators can enter. Let’s enter the second asteroid with fifty times gravity!”

Fifty times gravity meant that Long Chen’s bones and muscles would have to withstand seven tons of force. A regular person would be squashed to death immediately. “This is still acceptable to me. The stronger the gravity, the better it suits me. There aren’t many days left. I must achieve a breakthrough, or I won’t have another chance.”

Long Chen stopped hesitating and decided to go towards the fifty times gravity asteroid.

When he approached the seven-hundred-meter diameter asteroid, he was sucked in by its gravity, crashing onto it.

Slam!

Long Chen felt his wind get knocked out. Having only just recovered from his injuries, it was extremely painful, and he felt his muscles go taut and his blood flow obstructed. He lay on his stomach on the ground, unable to move. “Very good, this is powerful.” Long Chen was very satisfied with the gravitational pull. He let out a roar, then he gritted his teeth and pressed his palms on the ground made of yellow soil, doing his best to push himself up. Green veins popped from his arms like tiny, green snakes circling his arms and neck.

“Fuck me!” he cursed. The gravitational pull was too strong. He was already drenched in sweat. After working hard for about fifteen minutes, all he managed to do was push himself up. However, his body was being greatly trained in the process. “My next target: to sit up!” As long as he could sit up, he could control his Qi flow!

Under the influence of the terrifying gravitational pull, he clenched his teeth to do something he had accomplished not long after he was born: sit up!

An hour later, he was soaked in sweat, panting heavily. But he had succeeded in sitting up and got into position. “Next, I should control my Qi flow to train it.”

Under the influence of the fifty times gravity, controlling his Qi flow was extremely difficult. He exhausted a hundred times more strength than usual to barely move his Qi. It felt like dragging an elephant without the strength of a cultivator.

It was that difficult.

However, he knew that he had to hold on so he could break through to the mid Earthly Core Realm within a short time. The growth process would be even more complete than using Blood Transmutation. Although Ling Xi had said that he was still weak and didn’t have to worry about his foundation, Long Chen knew that he had to be cautious about using Blood Transmutation too often. Growth earned through tough training like this was definitely the best to progress!

Time passed slowly through his bitter cultivation. The time taken for him to move his Qi one cycle through his body slowly shortened, and five days later, the time taken went from one day to one hour. “After five days of training, my Qi has condensed, and it merges much better with the Blazing Thunder Power. This has made my Qi tougher. The breakthrough is close!

“I must hold on!”

During these few days, whenever Long Chen thought about Yang Lingqing, then about Ling Xi, who still needed his help, a powerful force would fill his heart. He knew that a true man had to constantly improve to protect his loved ones, and defeat those who wanted to kill him!

Another half a day passed. When he controlled his Qi, the difficulty was the same as when he was on the twenty times gravity asteroid! “It’s time!” When his Qi poured into his dantian for the last time, they merged at lightning speed! The blood-red mist slowly solidified into a blood-red Earthly Core!

This process took a very short time. Soon, he let out a roar, and the surging Qi in him shot out of his mouth, turning into a plume of blood-red mist around his mouth!

The Earthly Core within his dantian shrank greatly, becoming much more condensed than before, even much stronger! “Mid Earthly Core Realm, success!” Sensing the surging Qi within him, Long Chen knew that he was now almost on the same level as Dongfang Tianyu in terms of Qi!

With the precondition that he used his Dragon Soul Transformation!

Power was flowing through his entire body. He tried to stand on the fifty times gravity asteroid and realized that it wasn’t that difficult. It felt just like how he previously felt in twenty times gravity. If Nangong Cheng could come here, he would be able to fight him and use the Nine Dragon Flashes once more! “It feels good to be stronger!” He was now more confident about winning the Azure Dragon Halberd tournament. This was related to Mo Xiaolang, so he absolutely had to succeed!

“There should be three more days until the tournament. I’ll spend the next two days completing the Nine Dragon Flashes in fifty times gravity! Xuanxiao can achieve the ninth flash, so why can’t I?”

In the face of such huge pressure, he did not slack off even for a little. He started cultivating the Nine Dragon Flashes immediately after his breakthrough. To his surprise, his comprehension of the Nine Dragon Flashes deepened thanks to the influence of fifty times gravity. “If I continue progressing like this, the ninth flash will not be a problem!”

Long Chen had learned that martial techniques weren’t so easily cultivated. Even he was considered quite talented already, and his progress with cultivating the Nine Dragon Flashes was much faster than when Dongfang Xuanxiao first started.

Two days later, he completed the ninth flash, fully mastering the Nine Dragon Flashes. He would now be able to incorporate it into every battle with ease. “It’s time to go back and give them a surprise.” Long Chen straightened himself, then he made his way back. When he returned to the Transit Hall, he looked in the direction of the Azure Dragon Star and said, “The next time I’m here, I should be rescuing you.”

For some reason, Long Chen felt like Mo Xiaolang was the kind of person who would fight alongside him for the rest of his life, being his right hand.

Once he emerged from Star Devil Prison, Yan Honghai approached and said, “Young Master Long Chen, Lord Xuanxiao has been here for two days. He’s waiting for you there.”

Long Chen nodded and went towards Dongfang Xuanxiao.

“Why does Young Master Long Chen seem different?” asked Yan Honghai in surprise, watching him leave.

“He has undergone a metamorphosis,” mumbled another guard.

“Stepfather,” Long Chen greeted when he arrived at Dongfang Xuanxiao’s side. Dongfang Xuanxiao was currently meditating with his eyes closed.

“Have you succeeded?” His eyes sprang open.

“Mhm.”

“Let’s go back and see how you perform.” Standing up, Dongfang Xuanxiao eyed him for a while. He knew that Long Chen had undergone a metamorphosis after experiencing Yang Lingqing’s incident. He looked more like a man with responsibilities, not a green teenager.

And just like that, they started heading back.

Xiaolang, wait for me, thought Long Chen, looking back.

Dongfang Xuanxiao was also staring in the direction of the Star Devil Prison, silently deep in thought.

Long Chen didn’t know why. *Unless ... Does he also have a friend imprisoned inside?*

His imagination ran wild.

Chapter 203 - Azure Dragon Patriarch

After returning to the Eastern Azure Dragon compound, Long Chen didn’t leave again. The Azure Dragon Halberd tournament would take place tomorrow, and he had achieved breakthroughs in many aspects. This one day was a rare chance for him to rest, spending his time chatting with Ling Xi and Yin Mengyao.

“I can’t believe you made a breakthrough right before the tournament. Long Chen, you’re doing much better than I am. So far, I’ve only been able to cultivate the rudimentary form of the Flowing Water Body.” There was a hint of resignation in Yin Mengyao’s tone. She felt pressured spending time with him.

Long Chen smiled. Looking at her, he suddenly thought of Yang Lingqing and asked, “Sister Mengyao, did that Dongfang Tianxing guy pester you again?”

“That bastard ...” She furrowed her eyebrows thinking about him and complained angrily, “He has teased me many times, just because he is stronger than I am. If I hadn’t used Stepfather’s name like you did, it would have been ...”

“Is that so?” His eyes glinted coldly. Dongfang Tianyu, Dongfang Tianxing, and Beitang Mo were all his enemies. “Whatever, I’ll deal with them one by one. Tomorrow, it’ll be Dongfang Tianyu’s turn!”

At dawn the next day, Long Chen followed Dongfang Xuanxiao and Yin Mengyao to the Xuanfeng Pavilion. It was already filled with people.

Everyone present was powerful, many being above the Heavenly Core Realm. The most attention-grabbing individual was an old man with white hair but a youthful face and a thin figure. His gaze was hawk-like, and his aura felt like a sharp, unsheathed sword. His white hair shone like silver needles and evoked fear any the onlooker.

Looking at this man, Long Chen felt like a large mountain was standing in front of him, making him feel suffocated.

He knew that this was the Eastern Azure Dragon family's Patriarch, the legendary Heavenly River Realm master who had surpassed the Divine Core Realm. He was the Azure Dragon Patriarch! There was a flying, coiled Azure Dragon embroidered on his clothes. "Patriarch!" Even Dongfang Xuanxiao bowed slightly to the old man upon arriving.

"Since everyone is here, let's go to the ancestral mausoleum." The Patriarch's voice was much hoarser than Long Chen expected. His expression was cold, obviously a person who should not be angered.

The Azure Dragon tournament was going to be held in the ancestral mausoleum. Dongfang Xuanxiao had told Long Chen this yesterday, and the rules were simple: all of the youths of the younger generation would participate, other than Dongfang Tianchen, Dongfang Tianxuan, and Dongfang Tianxing, who had already received the right to the Azure Dragon Halberd. Of course, the strongest participant was Dongfang Tianyu!

The mausoleum was where the ultimate divine weapon, the Earth-tier Azure Dragon Halberd, was located. Along the way to it, there was a large, underground space where the clan had placed more than a thousand molten gold puppets. As long as the participants collected a hundred molten gold cores, they could rush towards the Azure Dragon Halberd. Of course, they could also fight each other during the process!

The molten gold puppets were the newest, strongest puppets within the Lingwu family, much stronger than the wooden and steel ones. When Long Chen heard the name, it reminded him of Jin Sheng'en's Molten Gold Combat Body. Since they had the same name, he surmised that they wouldn't be too far from the advanced Black-tier Body Tempering technique in terms of hardness.

While the molten gold puppets had very tough bodies and powerful attacks, they had no Qi. If they had Qi and martial techniques, and were a little more agile, then they would be almost the same as true cultivators.

Long Chen was a little speechless when he heard the rules. *In that case, Sister Mengyao and I will definitely be ostracized. And if Dongfang Tianyu encourages everyone else to group together, it'll be much more difficult for us.*

With that thought in mind, Long Chen followed the group until they arrived in front of the mausoleum. The youths who were about to participate in the tournament were anxious, especially those who had only just attained the Earthly Core Realm, grimacing tightly.

"No talking in the ancestral mausoleum!" warned the Azure Dragon Patriarch in a low voice, and the crowd quietened down.

He then opened the mausoleum and let them in.

The people who wanted to speak only dared to discuss in hushed voices. “Do you see him? Long Chen was injured so severely that Fourth Uncle had to carry him back. He’s probably not faring well now. Brother Tianyu’s plans might not even be of use.”

“That’s none of your business. All we need to do is listen to their instructions. Once everything is done, Brother Tianyu will reward us generously, hehe ...”

“I really don’t understand. Isn’t he only at the initial Earthly Core Realm? I’m already at the mid Earthly Core Realm! Is it necessary for such big plans? I think I can defeat him alone.”

The teenagers didn’t know that their hushed discussions were clearly heard by Dongfang Xuanxiao and Ling Xi. She was worried when she heard their conversations, but when Long Chen learned about them, he only gave a small smile. The person who would prevail in the end would undoubtedly be the most powerful participant. Petty tricks like this were useless.

Very soon, they all entered the ancestral mausoleum and stood before the ancestral tablets.

Long Chen remembered that the last time he came here, there was something hiding behind the door that lay behind the ancestral tablets, and that thing had triggered the mysterious dragon jade. Although it wasn’t triggered this time, Long Chen had a strange feeling, knowing that the thing that had attracted him was still there. “The Azure Dragon Halberd is inside,” whispered Dongfang Xuanxiao, pointing at the large, golden, metal door behind the ancestral tablets.

I think the Azure Dragon Halberd is the one triggering the mysterious dragon jade. It lives up to its Earth-tier divine weapon classification; I can’t believe it can excite the dragon jade. It’s clearly something special. I must do my best to get my hands on it. This will be my only chance to turn the tides, thought Long Chen.

Members of Dongfang Xuanxiao’s generation had started praying to the ancestors, led by the Azure Dragon Patriarch and a few other elders. Long Chen and Mengyao stood together with the other youths of the family.

The most attention-grabbing person in the lineup was not the ice beauty, Dongfang Tianxuan, nor was it Dongfang Tianxing, the mischievous and handsome boy, but rather a stern, masculine young man with chiseled features. This young man hadn’t spoken since entering, nor shown any changes in his expression, similar to Dongfang Xuanxiao. Long Chen sensed from his aura that he was definitely as strong as Beitang Mo.

“That’s the number one prodigy of the Eastern Azure Dragon family. He is at the mid Heavenly Core Realm and has studied the Azure Dragon Martial Technique. Rumors say that he’s very strong!” whispered Yin Mengyao, leaning close to Long Chen’s ear.

“Dongfang Tianchen?” Long Chen and him both had the character “Chen” in their names, yet they were separated by a whole realm in cultivation.

“It looks like the pinnacle of the Lingwu youths is the mid Heavenly Core Realm. Mo Xiaolang must have also been at this level at the time, though with the Heavenly Wolf

Dagger, perhaps he was stronger!" Long Chen only now understood that Mo Xiaolang, whom he had first met in Baiyang Town, was much more non-humanly talented than himself. But today, Long Chen was very close to that level too.

"Hey, isn't that Long Chen? The guy who was crippled? I can't believe you're here to participate in the tournament. I'm impressed," said an amused voice. Long Chen turned around and saw Dongfang Tianyu leading his group of younger siblings and cousins, looking at him in contempt.

Dongfang Tianyu wasn't the oldest among them, but he was the strongest. Quite a few of them were at the mid Earthly Core Realm, and more than ten at the initial Earthly Core Realm. These were all the people who would participate in the tournament.

"There'll be many more things that will impress you," said Long Chen mildly before proceeding to ignore him.

"Then I shall look forward to your performance! Don't you dare pee yourself and start crying for mommy because of the puppets! At least wait until I get to you!" Dongfang Tianyu laughed, and the teenagers behind him laughed as well.

"Silence!" The prayer had just ended, and the second child, Dongfang Xuanyu, walked over and gently reprimanded them. Dongfang Tianyu and the rest quickly stopped laughing and greeted her obediently. "Aunt Xuanyu!"

Dongfang Xuanyu nodded, then she walked up to Dongfang Tianyu and looked at him lovingly. "Yu'er, you've grown so quickly! You're a man now. Perform well for your Second Aunt today; make me proud after caring for you all these years."

"Thank you, Second Aunt. I will never forget all that you've done for me. Today, I will perform well and get the Azure Dragon Halberd, then I will learn the Azure Dragon martial technique and beat someone out of the Eastern Azure Dragon family!"

"How could you say that?" Dongfang Xuanyu merely glared at him reproachfully after he said such rude things, but she did not reprimand him. Though her expression seemed to indicate that she agreed strongly with him. Then she looked at Long Chen, eyeing him up and down, and said mildly, "You're healed already?"

"I can't die as long as you're still here." Long Chen didn't care to be polite to her.

"You!" Dongfang Xuanyu was furious that Long Chen was still being so rude, even at the brink of death. The more she looked at the brat, the more she hated him. "I really don't know what's so special about you. You're still at the initial Earthly Core Realm at this age; there are already so many like you in the Lingwu family. Today, Xuanxiao will see how laughable his choice was. I can't believe he went up to the Northern Black Tortoise family to cause trouble just for you, even arguing with my father when he

came back. And it became physical too! If it wasn't for him being a capable person himself, do you think he'd be standing here today?"

What? Xuanxiao got into a fight with him? Long Chen didn't know about this at all. He was just wondering why Dongfang Xuanxiao seemed so fatigued recently. Now he knew that it was because he had fought the Azure Dragon Patriarch because of him.

Long Chen thought about it and felt like it wasn't too unbelievable. It was already very difficult for the four inner families to maintain a united and peaceful front, and Dongfang Xuanxiao had broken the rules to threaten Beitang Ming in his compound. Wasn't this overstepping the Azure Dragon Patriarch's power?

I, Long Chen, must repay him for his kindness no matter what. Long Chen committed this to memory.

The Azure Dragon patriarch turned around and said coldly, "The tournament shall begin soon. Are you all ready?"

Chapter 204 - Molten Gold Puppets

The most important moment had finally come.

The Azure Dragon Patriarch led all of them around the ancestral tablets and to the large door.

Approximately twenty teenage cultivators fanned out into a row. Long Chen was standing next to Dongfang Xuanxiao. There was nothing to say, so Dongfang Xuanxiao merely patted his shoulder and said, "Do your best. Based on your current condition, you have great odds of winning!"

"I know." Long Chen nodded, then he looked at Dongfang Tianyu, who was also glaring coldly at himself. He thought about how Long Chen was just an ant to him when they first met, having to act reverently around him with his back bent. He didn't expect him to be his greatest competitor today!

How dare you threaten my position? Long Chen, I will kill you today! This is also to avenge Yunyao's older brother! There are no rules against killing in this tournament! But I won't act unless necessary. I doubt you'll live with seventeen Earthly Core Realm cultivators and countless molten gold puppets surrounding you!

These were the thoughts racing through Dongfang Tianyu's mind, killing intent clearly visible in his eyes.

Long Chen was nonchalant, but Yin Mengyao was a little worried.

The old Azure Dragon Patriarch's gaze swept across every cultivator, and it finally rested on Long Chen. *I heard that his teenager is a Beast Warrior, but why is his aura so strange? What beast could have such a powerful aura, and why does it also feel ancient? Why is it similar to the Azure Dragon Halberd's aura?*

It didn't matter how much the Patriarch thought about it, as he didn't know that there were Dragon Warriors in this world.

Long Chen was a Dragon Warrior, but because his cultivation level was low and his body had only absorbed a thousandth of the Inherited Blood Essence, most of the strength usually displayed by a

Dragon Warrior hadn't shown. If that happened, his aura would be even more terrifying. The Primordial Dragons were entities that ruled over the Dragon Continent in the Ancient Ages after all.

It was time. The Patriarch did not dwell on this. Under his control, the golden door opened!

Rumble, rumble!

Probably to protect the Azure Dragon Halberd, the giant door was reinforced to be extremely thick. The whole ancestral mausoleum shook as it moved. Very soon, it was completely open. The space behind was pitch-black, so no one could see anything, but they could sense a killing intent radiating from within.

One thousand molten gold puppets, and every person must collect one hundred molten gold cores. This means that only ten people at most will get to do the final sprint, and the person who gets the Azure Dragon Halberd should be the first person who completed the task, thought Long Chen.

"Xuanfeng, we'll go to the place with the Azure Dragon Halberd. You take the lead here!" instructed the Azure Dragon Patriarch. He then led the elders and members of Xuanxiao's generation to hurry towards the Azure Dragon Halberd. They were going to wait for Long Chen and the rest there.

Dongfang Xuanxiao glanced at Long Chen and Yin Mengyao once more and said, "I'll be waiting to see you two on the other side." This showed his unwavering confidence in them. However, he was also the only one who supported and had hope for Long Chen.

Dongfang Xuanfeng waited for the Patriarch and the rest to almost reach their destination before he looked around and said loudly, "Are you all ready? You all may enter the moment I say so!"

"Ready!" A passionate fire burned in Dongfang Tianyu's eyes! It was finally his turn to get the Azure Dragon Halberd. He had participated in the last few tournaments, but he wasn't the strongest in those. He always felt jealous when his three older siblings had the chance!

Once I get the Azure Dragon Halberd and master the Azure Dragon martial technique, I'll become like my older brother! Grandfather, the elders, and my father will respect me!

Dongfang Tianyu was filled with battle spirit!

"Begin!" Under Dongfang Xuanfeng's command, the youths rushed inside, scrambling after each other. Long Chen and Yin Mengyao locked eyes, then they rushed in too!

"Sister Mengyao, follow me closely!" Yin Mengyao was his only ally in this tournament, and she was also his stepsister. They were close, so he had decided to protect her throughout the competition!

There was a wide and long tunnel ahead. Although it was dimly lit, it was bright enough for Long Chen and the rest.

Having just entered, Long Chen sprinted at a shocking speed, following tightly behind Dongfang Tianyu. They made it through the tunnel and entered a gigantic, underground space. It was a square

room, its ceiling and walls lined with light green bricks that had all sorts of realistic Azure Dragons carved on them. A strange warmth suddenly grew in Long Chen's heart when he was suddenly surrounded by so many dragons.

The Primordial Dragons are extinct. The Inherited Blood Essence is probably reacting this way after sensing the presence of these carvings, thought Long Chen. His eyes followed the walls down and saw that they opened up to various rooms that were filled with humanoid figures.

They were golden puppets covered in green runes. Unlike the slow and heavy steel puppets, they were shiny and looked strangely tough with slim figures. It was very likely that they were faster and more agile too.

The moment the participants entered the room, the eyes of the molten gold puppets suddenly shone with a blinding, white light, radiating violence! "Careful!" Long Chen's guard went up, and he immediately led Yin Mengyao, thinking of moving to the side.

But it was at that moment that all the youths around them, except for Dongfang Tianyu, suddenly swarmed towards Long Chen!

"Tire him out, haha! Long Chen, just wait for your inevitable death! I'll be away collecting my molten gold cores! I'll come for you once I get a hundred!" Dongfang Tianyu said.

This was his airtight plan. More than ten Earthly Core Realm cultivators, all inner family prodigies who had received generous resources. Although they were not experienced in real battle, they were excellent in all other aspects. Long Chen would need to fight them while fending off the molten gold puppets, so he would be much slower than Dongfang Tianyu!

Dongfang Tianyu had spent a lot of effort on this plan in order to get everyone to work for him!

The rest of them had charged towards Long Chen before the molten gold puppets arrived. The power of more than ten Earthly Core Realm cultivators was no joke, and the moment they attacked, the world seemed to shake.

Long Chen was calm, but Yin Mengyao was very worried about the situation. She knew that this fight would not be easy, but she hadn't expected it to be this difficult from the beginning!

"This is it? And you think it's enough to trap me?" Long Chen smirked coldly. He had no choice but to use his Dragon Soul Transformation. A moment later, his powerful Dragon Body appeared.

"Your Beast Soul Transformation is nothing in front of my siblings!" Dongfang Tianyu was already starting to fight the molten gold puppets. He had mastered an advanced Black-tier martial technique along with others, so he was very effective in combat. Although the puppets were agile and fast with bodies as tough as his own, they lacked Qi and ultimately were no match for Dongfang Tianyu. Even with more than ten puppets surrounding him, he remained calm, massacring them with a cold smirk!

“Long Chen, I’ll help you hold them off! It’s more urgent for you to kill molten gold puppets!” Yin Mengyao gritted her teeth and stepped up. To her surprise, the moment she moved, Long Chen pulled her back with a grin.

“My dear silly sister, do you really think them surrounding us will work here?”

Not a single one of them was stronger than Long Chen, so with Yin Mengyao’s assistance, they easily picked the weak link and charged!

“Dongfang Tianya, do you still remember the taste of this?” One of the teenagers’ faces changed when he heard Long Chen’s cold laughter. Long Chen charged at him, turning into a shadow!

“He’s so fast!” His speed startled them!

“Quick, surround him!” But it was too late, because Long Chen was already next to Dongfang Tianya. He used his Burning Devil Sun Fist to break through Dongfang Tianya’s attack, then he roared, “Mountain Shattering Kick!” This was what he had learned from Jin Sheng’en, now used on Dongfang Tianya. The storm-like force sent Dongfang Tianya stumbling back pathetically!

“Save me!” Dongfang Tianya shouted miserably, but then his mouth was struck by Long Chen’s foot! A few bloody teeth flew out and he fell backwards on the ground. Long Chen stepped on his face and broke free of their ring!

Long Chen is strong! Yin Mengyao was very impressed that he could defeat a late-Earthly Core Realm expert so quickly and hurried after him to break free of the encirclement.

“What?” The crowd was shocked that he could break free so quickly. Two people went to help the tragic Dongfang Tianya, while the rest charged after him. However, he was too fast, and both him and Yin Mengyao had already rushed into the swarm of molten gold puppets. They wanted to follow him, but he was already in the middle of the puppet swarm. The thousand puppets far outnumbered them!

“Motherfucker!” Dongfang Tianyu killed the puppets in his vicinity, furious at the outcome. He’d planned for so long, and he couldn’t believe that Long Chen had broken free so easily. *Whatever. Even if you catch up to me, I’ll still kill you in the end!*

Dongfang Tianyu started to kill molten gold puppets as quickly as he could. While Long Chen was facing off the other prodigies, he had already obtained more than ten cores, placing him far ahead in the lead.

How could you possibly get cores as quickly as me?

Although he hated Long Chen deeply, he had no choice but to admit that Long Chen was almost qualified to compete against him!

Long Chen finally began his massacre of molten gold puppets! “It’s the same as fighting the steel puppets. I’ll kill them in close-range!” Reaching out his sharp claws, Long Chen rushed to the side of a puppet!

Chapter 205 - Azure Dragon Halberd Tournament

The molten gold puppets, each with a body toughness corresponding to the advanced Black-tier, were more difficult to kill than the steel puppets. However, Long Chen’s claws were extraordinarily sharp, and their hardness was almost on par with a divine weapon.

Clang!

There was a deafening clang. Long Chen then used his shoulder to knock a molten gold puppet off balance. He braced his core, then twisted his waist and reached out, his sharp claws piercing into its body! Its hard body was butter in the face of Long Chen’s powerful attack, forming a hole! “Thank goodness I can puncture its body!” He then twisted his hand, and his fingers touched a boiling-hot crystal inside.

Long Chen immediately pulled the crystal out of its body, then he tossed it into his Universe Pouch without even looking!

Dongfang Tianyu was far ahead in the lead, so there was no time for Long Chen to look. The other puppets swarmed him, blocking his front, right, and left!

They threw punches with their hard fists, every attack powerful enough to injure Long Chen if he was hit directly, even with Recovery. More importantly, it would slow him down.

That was why he had no choice but to focus!

He glanced out of the corner of his eye and saw that Yin Mengyao was just starting to fight her first puppet. As for the other teenagers, although they were already surrounded, they were still fighting to approach Long Chen and surround him once more, so Dongfang Tianyu could get to a hundred molten gold cores! *Sister Mengyao has cultivated the Flowing Water Body and has trained with wooden puppets, so she should be fine! I only need to collect the cores as fast as possible!*

With that thought in mind, Long Chen ignored everything else and charged towards an area with more puppets. He attacked with his whole body, engaging in melee combat. He looked like a madman, but his mad frenzy gave the others the feeling of a wolf entering a herd of goats. Of course, Long Chen was the wolf, and the puppets were the goats!

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Long Chen’s claws and the spines on his knees and elbows repeatedly pierced the puppets, causing shrill screeches from the friction. Pieces of puppets started to fall to the ground all around him, forming a small hill!

“What?!”

When they spotted Long Chen’s performance, the teenagers were astonished. “When did he get so strong? He alone has killed as many puppets as the rest of us combined!”

“That’s impossible. I know he has an advanced Black-tier Body Tempering technique, but I do too!”

“Look, his claws and spines are extremely sharp and can easily puncture the puppets’ bodies. They’re much more convenient than our techniques.”

“I see! I thought he was actually that strong!”

“My brothers! He’s almost caught up to Brother Tianyu, and we’ve made our brother a promise! Won’t we look bad if we let him accumulate one hundred cores? Let’s stop him!”

They moved towards Long Chen, simultaneously discussing loudly among themselves. When Dongfang Tianyu heard their discussion, he quickly looked over and was startled to see Long Chen fighting like a madman. “So fast?! My brothers, stop the brat! When I’m done collecting cores, I will kill him immediately!”

Dongfang Tianyu planned to finish collecting a hundred molten gold cores before attacking Long Chen to prevent any unexpected circumstances. Doing so would be risky, as there was a possibility that he could come out injured, and collecting cores while injured would be much more difficult.

“Understood!”

“Thirty-eight!” When Long Chen put the thirty-eighth core into his Universe Pouch, he saw more people approaching out of the corner of his eye. He smirked. “Can you even trap me?”

Then he moved at lightning speed. After a few flashes, he successfully broke free of the ring they had formed, which they had put great effort into preparing. He arrived at another spot with many puppets. *The Nine Dragon Flashes are indeed extraordinary. It provides me with a huge advantage in a situation like this.*

With the Nine Dragon Flashes and the extraordinary strength of the Dragon Soul Transformation, Long Chen could very likely complete the task before Dongfang Tianyu.

“What? He escaped?” The crowd was speechless when they saw that he had broken free once more.

“That technique he used just now—why did it look like the Nine Dragon Flashes?” one of them suddenly said.

“How could that be possible? He only just joined the Eastern Azure Dragon, so there’s no chance he could have mastered it already. That’s Fourth Uncle Xuanxiao’s unique technique!”

“There’s no time to think! We need to catch him!”

“How will we catch him when he can use the Nine Dragon Flashes? Everyone, I have an idea. Yin Mengyao is working with him. He might come to us if we attack her, right?”

Everyone agreed and immediately charged at her.

Yin Mengyao was at the mid-Earthly Core Realm, and while she was considered talented in the outer family, she was weaker than these kids. How would she win against so many people? No one had ever shined so brightly the moment they entered the inner family like Long Chen; he was the exception.

There were more than ten of them, so if they surrounded Yin Mengyao, she wouldn't be able to defend herself.

"I didn't initially plan to attack you, but since you have decided to come looking for death yourselves, don't blame me." When Long Chen saw that they were planning to target Yin Mengyao, he was furious. He stopped the puppet massacre and wove through the swarm of puppets like a tornado. The crowd sensed a gust of killing intent heading their way!

"He's so agile, weaving through the puppets so easily. But there are more than ten of us, so he doesn't stand a chance." When they saw that Long Chen rushed towards them idiotically, they were overjoyed and quickly charged at him!

This is a critical moment; I should not suppress my power any longer. I must defeat these brats in the shortest time possible so I can focus on getting molten gold cores!

Long Chen then made a decision. "Blood Devouring Domain!" A cloud of blood-colored mist poured towards the teenagers, and they were enveloped by it before they knew what was happening. Looking at the red mist around them, their expressions changed and they asked in puzzlement, "What is this?"

The moment the question left their lips, they felt their blood boiling and moving around, completely out of their control. The kids who had only just attained the Earthly Core Realm were even more miserable, screaming in agony. A young boy even collapsed!

Now's the time, thought Long Chen. Without another word, he arrived by their sides and started attacking. Most of them were using all their energy to counteract the Blood Devouring Domain, so it was as easy as chopping melons to him, striking them down one by one!

They each screamed in pain. Yin Mengyao, who was watching it all nearby, stared at him in utter disbelief. When Dongfang Tianyu saw this scene, his hands trembled, almost letting the puppet before him strike him.

As Dongfang Tianyu watched, Long Chen struck the Eastern Azure Dragon teenagers unconscious one by one. They would not cause trouble again. Yin Mengyao focused on fighting molten gold puppets once again, feeling like she was safe.

"How's that possible?" Many of the people present were almost on the same level as Long Chen. Dongfang Tianyu himself didn't expect Long Chen to be this good, defeating same-level opponents so easily.

I must not let Long Chen continue. He must die. Dongfang Tianyu made a poisonous oath to himself. He had no time to worry about those useless idiots. Instead, he exploded with all the strength in his body and attacked the puppets. He had already collected more than fifty cores.

Let's see if any of you will dare to bother me again!

Under the influence of the Blood Devouring Domain, the prodigies were all beaten and incapacitated. Long Chen intended to stop them from moving, so he had struck hard.

"Long Chen, there's not much time left. Hurry up and collect the cores!" Yin Mengyao cared about Long Chen, but this tournament's results were also related to Mo Xiaolang, so she felt the need to remind him as he was the only one who could compete with Dongfang Tianyu.

The final champion would be determined from the final fight between these two!

Dongfang Tianyu didn't have any external distractions, so he's in the lead!

Without another word, Long Chen entered the group of puppets and started killing them.

Initially, he was worried that the molten gold puppets would go kill the unconscious teenagers and was wondering what he would do if that happened. However, he realized that the puppets weren't touching the unconscious people.

Since he was lagging far behind Dongfang Tianyu, he had no choice but to use martial techniques and even the Nine Dragon Flashes to kill the puppets. The Nine Dragon Flashes allowed him to move wherever he wanted even while surrounded by enemies, making him much more efficient. He was able to collect one core with almost every strike.

Both of them eyed each other out of the corner of their eyes while killing violently. What threatened Dongfang Tianyu was that despite the gap between their numbers, Long Chen was collecting cores faster than he was. If this continued, Long Chen would catch up eventually!

"You brat, my preparations will be pointless if you catch up to me." Dongfang Tianyu chuckled coldly, then he sped up.

Time passed as they killed the puppets, and when Long Chen reached ninety, Dongfang Tianyu laughed loudly. "Long Chen, I'm going to get the Azure Dragon Halberd now! I've got no time to play with you! Take your time! Goodbye!"

Dongfang Tianyu initially planned to kill him here, but he knew that doing so would be difficult. If he was injured, it would be difficult for him to comprehend the martial technique of the Azure Dragon Halberd. That was why he swallowed his anger and headed straight for the Azure Dragon Halberd.

Chapter 206 - Azure Dragon Halberd

After Dongfang Tianyu bade Long Chen farewell, he headed deeper into the ancestral mausoleum, to where the Azure Dragon Halberd was kept!

He saw that Long Chen was still killing puppets so he knew that Long Chen hadn't completed his task yet. He'd been worried, but he had managed to obtain one hundred cores before Long Chen could.

“Long Chen, hurry!” Yin Mengyao grew anxious when she saw that Dongfang Tianyu had left. She had only collected a bit over thirty cores so far and knew that she was completely hopeless. Long Chen was her only hope.

Long Chen remained calm as if he hadn’t heard her. Fighting like a machine, he continued collecting cores as Dongfang Tianyu ran further and further away.

In the deepest part of the ancestral mausoleum, there was another wide space that resembled a cave. Shadows were elongated by the torches that lit up the whole space.

The people waiting within were the Azure Dragon Patriarch and the few elders. Dongfang Xuanxiao was also there, waiting for the first person who had collected a hundred molten gold cores to appear.

Dongfang Xuanyu went up to the Patriarch and said cautiously, “Father, it’s almost time.”

“Mhm.” The Patriarch nodded.

Dongfang Xuanyu smiled to herself. This meant that if Dongfang Tianyu had indeed been planning to kill Long Chen, Long Chen was likely dead by now.

That brat had disrespected her repeatedly, even talking back to her. He had irritated her greatly. *This is a good thing. Once Yu’er removes this thorn from his heart, he will be able to focus on his cultivation.* Although Dongfang Tianyu wasn’t her son, she cared for him very much.

“Don’t worry, Mother. That brat Long Chen is no match for Xiao Yu,” said Dongfang Tianxing, grinning as he crossed his arms. But when he met Dongfang Xuanxiao’s gaze, he coughed and lowered his head.

“Someone’s here!” The Azure Dragon Patriarch was the strongest cultivator in the room, so he was the first to sense the incomer.

Everyone grew anxious and followed his gaze. They looked towards the dark tunnel in front and soon enough, they heard hurried footsteps. “It’s Xiao Yu!” When they saw the person’s face, Dongfang Xuanyu and the rest were overjoyed.

Their tightened nerves finally relaxed.

To them, Long Chen was clearly no match for him, but they felt uncomfortable whenever they thought of Long Chen. He had created many miracles in the outer family after all.

When Dongfang Xuanxiao saw that it was Dongfang Tianyu, he froze, as if in disbelief. Out of all the people present, he was the one who knew Long Chen the best. He lowered his head and mumbled to himself, “Could he have fallen for Tianyu’s tricks? Is that why he was delayed?”

“Xiao Yu, not bad! Did you finish off someone?” Dongfang Tianxing was smug and started laughing like a maniac, ignoring the other seniors. His mother and Dongfang Xuanxiao were enemies, so he didn’t give Dongfang Xuanxiao any face.

But Dongfang Tianyu did not reply, sprinting hurriedly towards the Azure Dragon Halberd!

“What?” Everyone was stunned because Dongfang Tianyu had clearly won, but not only did he not look happy, he was also in a rush. Was it because ...

“There’s someone else!” They looked at the tunnel and heard another bout of footsteps. To their shock, a red silhouette was flying towards Dongfang Tianyu. That person caught up a few seconds later, and they started running side by side!

“That’s Long Chen! He’s so fast! He actually caught up to Tianyu from the back!” Dongfang Xuanyu and Dongfang Tianxing gasped, shaken to their core.

Since when did Long Chen possess such speed?

The people who had sighed in relief previously now held their breaths once more. No one had touched the Azure Dragon Halberd, so the victor was not confirmed yet!

This meant that Long Chen had a chance to win!

After Dongfang Tianyu collected a hundred cores, Long Chen spent a few breaths’ time completing the task before rushing towards him. The tunnel was long, so he had to sprint faster than Dongfang Tianyu to catch up at the last segment!

Dongfang Tianyu looked anxious because Long Chen was catching up.

When Dongfang Xuanxiao saw Long Chen, he finally relaxed a little. He knew that he was about to watch a good show.

“What’s there to be smug about? So what if he caught up? He’s nothing compared to Xiaoyu, who is at the late Earthly Core Realm. It looks like Xiao Yu was going easy on him just now,” said Dongfang Xuanyu, rolling her eyes.

“Yeah, and Xiao Yu has the advanced Black-tier Sun Halberd. Long Chen can cultivate for ten more years, but he will never be his match,” Dongfang Tianxing said with a grin, supporting his mother.

They were mocking Long Chen, but Dongfang Xuanxiao remained calm. He watched his stepson without a word.

The Azure Dragon Patriarch was watching their conflict. All of this was because of the teenager named Long Chen. He looked at the boy in question, then at Dongfang Xuanxiao. None of them saw the slightest smirk that had crept up on the Patriarch’s face.

Xuanxiao, it’s been eighteen years. Do you think I don’t know what you’re thinking? No one could hear the Patriarch’s thoughts, and even if they did, not many would know what he meant.

Long Chen, who was racing alongside Dongfang Tianyu, had become the focal point of attention. His eyes were fixed on the object ahead, which was triggering something inside him!

It was a magical sensation that made him feel like his entire being was boiling with excitement like a wanderer returning home after many years. When he saw it, he had the urge to cry.

He knew that the object belonged to him and that no one could take it away.

There were steps at the back of the cave, and at the top was a black altar. On the altar was a multi-colored cauldron that looked like a crystal. It had three legs and two handles, its design exquisite. But that was not important, as it was just a container. What truly attracted Long Chen was the object inside.

There was a halberd, about two meters long, placed inside the cauldron. Its shaft was light blue and forged with an unknown metal, and a faint, dark blue light flowed on its surface[1]. Upon closer inspection, the handle was covered in dense, uniform dragon scales, similar to the scales on Long Chen's body.

There was a realistic dragon head at the end of the halberd with a blade protruding from its mouth, its sharp edge glinting coldly. There were three pointed tips and two blades, extremely sharp and resembling dragon teeth. Any onlooker would feel a chill in their heart when they saw it.

It has such an immense aura. It doesn't feel like it's at the Divine Core Realm. That must be the Azure Dragon Halberd! Long Chen thought excitedly.

That halberd was infinitely better than the one he had in his Universe Pouch. Most importantly, it radiated a sense of regality that made a peasant like Long Chen have the urge to kneel.

Long Chen was overcome with the same feeling he had when he merged with the Inherited Blood Essence. This was a dragon! *Is the Azure Dragon Halberd related to the primordial dragons?* Long Chen was shocked. He knew that the Lingwu family was so powerful because of the Heavenly Martial Realm, or more specifically, the Star Devil Prison. Ling Xi had said that the Heavenly Martial Realm was a relic, so the Azure Dragon Halberd had to be from the Heavenly Martial Realm!

"Brother Chen, I can sense a very faint primordial dragon soul in the Azure Dragon Halberd. If you get your hands on it, it'll be greatly beneficial to you! You can do it!" Ling Xi was pleasantly surprised when she saw the halberd. This was a critical moment, so she didn't dare speak too much, or she might distract Long Chen.

"Primordial dragon soul?" Although he didn't know what that was, it solidified his determination to get it.

Both competitors ran side by side towards the Azure Dragon Halberd. Everyone was fixated on the race. Who would prevail in the end?

"Long Chen, no more running! Let's begin the final fight!" Dongfang Tianyu was filled with anger, and he threw a punch directly at Long Chen!

It was meaningless to race like this, so he chose to fight instead!

"Alright, you're the one who asked for it! If you go after the Azure Dragon Halberd while we fight, then you will be my grandson, Dongfang Tianyu!" warned Long Chen coldly, dodging his punch.

If Dongfang Tianyu wanted a final duel, then he was happy to oblige. But the halberd was a sentient divine weapon, and Long Chen did not know how it would react if they fought over it.

But Long Chen's insult was indeed a little over the top. Dongfang Tianyu's grandfather was the Azure Dragon Patriarch, so wasn't that also an insult to the Patriarch himself? Although it was just something he had just said in passing, the Patriarch's face darkened. The elders shook their heads.

They thought that Dongfang Xuanxiao should not have taken him in as a stepson.

Long Chen was faster, so Dongfang Tianyu was initially worried that he would just go for the halberd first. Seeing that Long Chen was willing to stop and fight him, he grew more confident. It was exactly what he wanted. *You were merely faster than me! You're delusional if you think you're going to defeat me in front of all our seniors. Long Chen, die!*

They prepared for the final duel in front of the Azure Dragon Halberd!

"Don't worry, Dongfang Tianyu! After training in the fifty times gravity of the Star Devil Prison, I will surely surprise you!" Long Chen was not afraid at all, and his eyes glinted coldly.

"Enough talk, take this!" Dongfang Tianyu exploded with his late Earthly Core Realm Qi and pounced on Long Chen!

"I'll show you the difference between the people from the inner and outer families!"

Chapter 207 - Fighting Dongfang Tianyu

Long Chen and Dongfang Tianyu had been at each other's throats since the start of the event, but no victor had been determined yet. Therefore, their duel greatly piqued the crowd's interest.

Dongfang Tianyu was an almost peerless individual in his generation. While Long Chen's performance was shocking, he had not reached the late Earthly Core Realm, so no one other than Dongfang Xuanxiao had any hope for him.

Dongfang Tianyu glared at him like a panther, then he pounced. Long Chen's expression did not change. Blood-red Qi swirled within his body, ready to erupt at any time to launch a powerful attack!

"Heavenly Dragon Seal!" Dongfang Tianyu quickly formed a seal, his hands leaving behind afterimages. A gust of wind along with a faint dragon image was launched forward from his hands, whistling as it flew towards Long Chen!

"Haargh!" exclaimed Dongfang Tianyu. The dragon roared as it flew at Long Chen. It was a seal that contained Qi!

Is that a dragon-related seal technique? It's stronger than the Yang family's Primordial Dragon Seal, but ... Long Chen's eyes glinted coldly. He kicked off the ground and shot towards Dongfang Tianyu like a blood arrow!

He was now at the mid Earthly Core Realm, and his strength was multiplied by ten times due to the Dragon Soul Transformation. In terms of Qi levels, he was almost similar to Dongfang Tianyu.

Now they would be competing against each other through martial techniques, experience, and wits. In terms of martial techniques, they both had advanced Black-tier skills, but they were vastly different in nature. Long Chen had learned the Sword Devil Finger from Ling Xi, so it was unlikely

to be inferior. As for the Nine Dragon Flashes, it was definitely better than whatever Dongfang Tianyu was using.

“Since you’re using a dragon seal, then I shall use one too!”

While he shot forward, Long Chen unleashed the Primordial Dragon Seal. Nine blood-colored dragons merged together and formed a powerful force, colliding with Dongfang Tianyu’s Heavenly Dragon Seal!

Roar!

Two huge dragons collided, causing the underground room to shake. A violent energy spread in all directions, causing everyone’s clothes to flap in the wind!

It was the first time they had exchanged attacks, and both of them were sent flying backwards, though Long Chen was sent further back. He stumbled several times, almost falling!

“Haha! Like I said, Long Chen is no match for Xiao Yu! Now I’ve been proven right, haven’t I?” Dongfang Tianxing was so smug that he started laughing when he saw the result, as if everything was as expected.

“That’s not right. Xiao Yu used an intermediate Black-tier martial technique. While Long Chen also attacked with some type of dragon seal, that was at most an advanced Yellow-tier technique. He used an advanced Yellow-tier technique to deal with Xiao Yu, which is ... quite difficult to achieve ...”

Dongfang Xuanyu was shocked, staring at Long Chen in a daze. Although he was stumbling, he wasn’t hurt.

The others present were wondering the same thing. Long Chen had displayed a combat ability beyond his level right at the beginning of the fight, much to their disbelief.

“Although the technique was merely an advanced Yellow-tier, he has complete mastery of it and has excellent chemistry with it. It looks like despite Long Chen’s low cultivation level, he’s a prodigy in the cultivation of martial techniques,” said the Azure Dragon Patriarch.

“I see.” The rest of them realized the significance of his statement. The Azure Dragon Patriarch rarely spoke words of praise, so if he said that Long Chen was a prodigy at cultivating martial techniques, that meant that his talent was definitely nonhuman.

This was all thanks to the mysterious dragon jade.

Long Chen and Dongfang Tianyu were locked in battle once more! “Dongfang Tianyu, looks like this is the best you can do.” Long Chen smirked and combined his Mountain Shattering Kick with the Burning Devil Sun Fist, forcing Dongfang Tianyu to stumble back. He proved to everyone once more that he definitely had the capability to fight Dongfang Tianyu head-to-head!

“Looks like you won’t admit defeat until you’re dead!” Dongfang Tianyu said coldly while stepping back, then he reached into his Universe Pouch.

“To be honest, you are indeed capable of causing me problems. But what you’re experiencing is just a small fraction of my capabilities; it’s nothing to be excited about. Now I will show you that I am on a level untouchable to you!”

Dongfang Tianyu laughed and grabbed, pulling a long halberd from his Universe Pouch. It was an extraordinary halberd, being entirely fire-red with a fire-like light flowing on it. Faint sparks flew from the tip, which glinted coldly in the light. It was an eye-catching weapon.

“This is the Sun Halberd, an advanced Black-tier divine weapon. You’ve never seen anything like this before, have you? The Sun Halberd may not be the Azure Dragon Halberd, but it’s powerful enough to defeat you.”

When he saw Dongfang Tianyu taking out the Sun Halberd, he knew that it would spell trouble. He had already known that Dongfang Tianyu owned an advanced Black-tier weapon, so he was prepared. *Divine weapons are very useful in battle, so the Sun Halberd will definitely boost Dongfang Tianyu’s strength. If I can completely master the Azure Dragon Halberd like how Xiaolang mastered the Heavenly Wolf Dagger, my combat abilities will skyrocket!*

Long Chen eyed the Azure Dragon Halberd greedily.

“What are you looking at? The Azure Dragon Halberd belongs to me. You can get it in hell!” Dongfang Tianyu felt like he should be a bit more decisive, seeing as the elders were watching. Without another word, he swung the Sun Halberd and charged at Long Chen!

This was Long Chen’s first time fighting against an opponent with a weapon. The weapon emitted a sharp aura that made him feel like it was constantly slashing his body, causing his scalp to go numb!

Dongfang Tianyu was now two times more intimidating! “Die! Sun Halberd, Eight Golden Slashes!”

When he released the attack, it locked straight on to its target—Long Chen. The fiery-red Sun Halberd released eight shadows that charged at Long Chen from the top, bottom, front, back, left, and right at astonishing speeds. Every shadow attacked with force that was equivalent to an Earthly Core Realm cultivator attacking at maximum capacity!

This is bad!

Long Chen was irked when he saw the attacks. He had no choice but to reveal his trump card now!

“Long Chen’s finished.” When the crowd saw Dongfang Tianyu pull out the Sun Halberd, and how Long Chen had practically no way to retaliate, they were slightly resigned. Dongfang Xuanyu and the others grinned with schadenfreude. But when they saw Long Chen’s response, they froze.

He used the Nine Dragon Flashes!

“Is that a body technique? But can you dodge eight times in the face of the Eight Golden Slashes?” Dongfang Tianyu increased the force of the attack. Long Chen did

not dare touch even one of them, because he knew that they were simply too powerful. Facing them directly would not bear any positive results.

“Who said I couldn’t dodge eight times?” Long Chen grinned. He charged forward, moving so fast that afterimages appeared as if he was passing through the Eight Golden Slashes!

“Nine Dragon Flashes? How is that possible? That’s the fifth consecutive flash already!” Dongfang Tianyu was shaken. Five of his attacks had been completely dodged; they hadn’t even harmed one hair on his foe’s body!

I don’t care how talented you are! There’s no way you can perform all nine flashes! The next three slashes will be enough to take your life! Dongfang Tianyu was enraged, and Qi erupted from his body. More blades of Qi shot out from the Sun Halberd, flying towards Long Chen!

“Nine Dragon Flashes?” The audience eyed Dongfang Xuanxiao out of the corner of their eyes. The Nine Dragon Flashes had definitely been passed down to Long Chen by Dongfang Xuanxiao, and obviously not long ago. But Long Chen had already achieved such a level?

How talented was he to be able to master it so quickly?

“Seven!” At this point, Long Chen had effortlessly dodged seven attacks of the Eight Golden Slashes.

He made it look effortless. Meanwhile, Dongfang Tianyu despaired.

Every slash had missed its target, and now the crowd was praising Long Chen. These unconscious praises were extremely humiliating to Dongfang Tianyu! “You animal! I refuse to believe that you can dodge the eighth slash! Eight Golden Slashes, Tyrant Slash!” This was the last attack of the Eight Golden Slashes. The halberd turned into a large mountain that charged at Long Chen!

“Tianyu’s attack is definitely on the level of the Heavenly Core Realm! Long Chen has already used the seventh flash of his Nine Dragon Flashes; I don’t believe he can continue to dodge!” Dongfang Xuanyu, despite always looking down on Long Chen, had begrudgingly admitted that he was indeed a little talented to achieve seven flashes in such a short time.

The most astonished person present was Dongfang Xuanxiao. He had cultivated the Nine Dragon Flashes himself, so he naturally knew how difficult it was. Long Chen’s effortless and seamless use of the technique was almost on his level.

“Will he be able to dodge the Tyrant Slash?”

The final slash was almost as strong as an attack from someone at the Heavenly Core Realm. If Long Chen dodged it, it would definitely cause a shockwave!

A tsunami surged through their hearts as they watched the final scene. Even the Azure Dragon Patriarch’s eyes were fixed on the duo, though mostly Long Chen!

The attack seemed to swallow the world around Long Chen, causing all his hair to stand on end. He had to admit that Dongfang Tianyu was powerful, but he, Long Chen, was no weakling either!

When a body technique is used to its maximum, it's as good as a martial technique! This was what Long Chen thought. In the face of the Tyrant Slash, he moved his legs once more and turned into a blur! After the seventh flash, he used the eighth and then the ninth immediately after!

Using two consecutive flashes, the Tyrant Slash brushed past his shoulder and blasted a crater on the ground of the ancestral mausoleum. Soil flew in the air, clouding their vision!

And everyone's faces changed.

Chapter 208 - Final Victory

"Nine ... Nine flashes?" Even Dongfang Xuanyu's jaw dropped, completely shocked. When she recalled the times she mocked Long Chen, they felt like a tight slap across her face ...

Dongfang Tianxing was also in a daze after hearing his mother.

The rest of the Eastern Azure Dragon family were almost as shocked as Dongfang Xuanyu. They previously looked down on Long Chen, and now they saw that he had mastered the entirety of the Nine Dragon Flashes. "It looks like Xuanxiao has found a true martial technique prodigy. How can Long Chen be this special ..."

In contrast, Dongfang Xuanxiao was filled with pride. He knew that Long Chen would surprise him, but the surprise was larger than expected.

He had many things he wanted to say, but he was speechless after he saw Long Chen use his final flash to successfully dodge Dongfang Tianyu's Tyrant Slash.

However, would Long Chen stop creating miracles after dodging the Tyrant Slash?

It's down to the deciding moment, Long Chen thought to himself. As the cloud of dust flew in the air, Long Chen's finger suddenly shone with starlight. The shining light suddenly charged towards Dongfang Tianyu, who had just exhausted a lot of energy from the attack and was in a state of shock!

"Sword Devil Finger!"

The advantage of this technique was its speed. Long Chen had only just lifted his finger when the sword light hit Dongfang Tianyu's body!

"No!"

At the very last moment, Dongfang Tianyu had no choice but to throw the Sun Halberd away and block instinctively. The sharp sword light blasted his sleeves, and the Sword Devil Finger turned into countless sword shadows that stabbed into his body, slashing his internal organs!

Dense patches of cuts were carved into his body, all gushing out blood as Dongfang Tianyu was thrown backwards. He looked terrifying, or more specifically, pitiful!

With a shriek, Dongfang Tianyu was thrown back into the air. *Slam!*

He hit the ground hard, throwing another cloud of dust into the air! His blood formed a pool beneath him!

Long Chen caught his Sun Halberd and tossed it, so it stabbed on the ground right between his legs, just five centimeters from his crotch. That was enough to make the rest of his family draw in a sharp breath!

If we weren't in the Eastern Azure Dragon family, I would've broken your balls, thought Long Chen.

The dust around him finally settled, and Long Chen returned to his original form. The battle had ended. He stood tall with a hint of pride in his eyes as they watched him.

Not far from his feet, the bleeding Dongfang Tianyu was already unconscious. The scene that had just unfolded kept replaying in all of their minds. They realized that no matter how hard they tried, they couldn't forget the look of arrogance and refusal to submit in his eyes!

He was like a wild wolf after killing its prey, baring its teeth in front of the people who wanted to kill him but couldn't!

"Tianyu ... lost?" Dongfang Xuanyu, who had watched Dongfang Tianyu grow up, felt her heart clench in pain when she saw him in this state. She glared at Long Chen with violence in her eyes.

Dongfang Xuanfeng was stationed outside for the event. If he saw Dongfang Tianyu's tragic state, the killing intent in his heart would be no less intense than Dongfang Xuanyu's.

There was one other person who caught Long Chen's eye—Dongfang Tianchen. While everyone was still in shock, he walked silently to Dongfang Tianyu and treated his wounds. The proliferation of cuts on his body were just external injuries, so the bleeding was easily stopped. However, his internal organs, which were hurt by the sword Qi, would likely take a long time to heal.

Long Chen saw danger in Dongfang Tianchen's cool eyes.

The only eyes that were different from the rest, that contained warmth, were Dongfang Xuanxiao's. There were many emotions within them—praise, pride, warmth, arrogance. They Long Chen had turned the tides today in such a dramatic manner was beyond his expectations.

Everyone had no choice but to accept the reality that Long Chen had beaten Dongfang Tianyu and had won the right to study the Azure Dragon Combat Technique!

They felt like they were dreaming. Was an outsider really going to study the Azure Dragon Combat Technique?

Although the inner family did recruit from the outer families, in reality, who would truly accept someone without the Azure Dragon blood to truly become one of them, even getting to study the highest-level secret scripture?

After a brief silence, everyone started to think about this question. Dongfang Xuanyu was the first to wake up, saying righteously, "Father, Elders, I feel like it is inappropriate for Long Chen to study the Azure Dragon Combat Technique. Long Chen is not truly a member of our clan, so how could he study our most secret scripture? What if he is traitorous? What if he leaks it? What will we do?"

Dongfang Xuanyu had hit the nail on the head. Everyone started to chime in, wanting the Patriarch to change his mind.

“Tianchen, take Tianyu back to rest.” They couldn’t tell what the Patriarch was thinking, as all he did was instruct Tianchen in a mild tone. After Dongfang Tianchen brought Dongfang Tianyu away, he finally dealt with Long Chen’s matter.

Long Chen and Xuanxiao stood on one side, while the rest were on the other. Dongfang Xuanyun, who had a good relationship with Dongfang Xuanxiao, hesitated, then he chose to stay next to the Patriarch.

“Father, please reconsider this. That brat Long Chen is vicious, violent, and evil-hearted to have attacked Xiao Yu so violently! He has injured a member of our family, yet he gets the right to study the Azure Dragon Combat Technique. I think our whole clan would be upset by this too, right?” Dongfang Xuanyu was almost crying by now.

“Xuanxiao, why aren’t you saying anything?” The Azure Dragon Patriarch didn’t listen to Dongfang Xuanyu, but rather stared at Dongfang Xuanxiao.

“The rules have long been set, and Long Chen has pledged his loyalty to us and entered our clan. I hope you’ll deal with the matter according to the rules, and not be swayed by the shallow views of women,” said Dongfang Xuanxiao mildly.

“What did you say?” Dongfang Xuanxiao’s words were obviously targeted at Dongfang Xuanyu, who raged in response. But there were elders present, and it was inappropriate for her to yell at him, so she said coldly, “Xuanxiao, don’t you think that you’re being disrespectful? I have done my best to contribute to our family all these years, how could you say they’re just ‘views of women?’”

Dongfang Xuanxiao pursed his lips and ignored her.

Long Chen was standing next to his stepfather, observing the situation. He thought the Azure Dragon Halberd would be his after defeating Dongfang Tianyu. He hadn’t expected conflict to arise within the family. It looked like the Azure Dragon Halberd was hanging in limbo.

The situation doesn’t look good. Long Chen was worried when he saw them strongly discriminate against him as an outsider.

The few elders discussed for a while and then leaned towards the Patriarch’s ear and said, “Big Brother, why don’t we forget about the Azure Dragon Halberd and reward Long Chen with an excellent advanced Black-tier martial technique? And throw in another advanced Black-tier divine weapon? What do you think?”

The elder had whispered, but everyone could hear him.

This is hopeless. Long Chen had worked so hard for this, yet it was all for nothing. It was impossible for him to not be mad. But these were all masters, so as a weak mid Earthly Core Realm cultivator, how could he have the right to speak here?

Even Dongfang Xuanxiao’s brows were deeply furrowed.

“What are you talking about?” Under everyone’s anxious gazes, the Patriarch suddenly smiled. “The Eastern Azure Dragon family is a huge clan in Yuanling County. Huge clans naturally operate according to set rules. After what you all said just now, aren’t you afraid that we’ll become a joke to other clans if this gets out? We’re the Eastern Azure Dragon family! How could we be so petty?”

When the Patriarch said this, Long Chen was stunned. What was going on? He knew that although the Patriarch’s decision was appropriate, he was definitely favoring Long Chen.

But Long Chen was willing to believe that it was due to Dongfang Xuanxiao, because that’s who the Azure Dragon Patriarch’s eyes were on when he gave his verdict.

“Patriarch, please reconsider this!”

“That’s enough!” scolded the Patriarch sternly, and they trembled, not daring to speak. Even the few elders did not dare disobey him. Long Chen could now see that the Patriarch was the sole leader of the gigantic Eastern Azure Dragon family. He was the only Heavenly River Realm master here after all, so it made sense that he held this amount of power.

“I have made my decision. I hereby announce that the winner of the Azure Dragon Halberd tournament is Long Chen! He shall receive the right to use the Azure Dragon Halberd for ten days, and the right to study the Azure Dragon Combat Technique! Long Chen, come here!”

Dongfang Xuanxiao once told Long Chen that the current owner of the Azure Dragon Halberd was the Patriarch. If he won, the Patriarch would condense a blade of his Qi into a seed and plant it in Long Chen’s body. With the Qi seed, Long Chen would get to use the halberd for ten days and it would treat him as its owner. After ten days, the Qi seed would disappear and the halberd would return to the multicolored cauldron within the ancestral mausoleum.

The Patriarch was about to plant the Qi seed.

Chapter 209 - Primordial Dragon Soul

Long Chen was a little surprised about getting the Azure Dragon Halberd even under such circumstances, though he still had a bad feeling. Unlike Dongfang Xuanxiao, the Patriarch displayed no warmth in his eyes when he looked at him. So why would he ignore his family’s opinions to give Long Chen the Azure Dragon Halberd?

This is a cunning old man indeed; no one can guess what he’s thinking. Like they say, the older the ginger, the spicier it is. This old geezer is very spicy indeed. Privately musing, Long Chen accepted the Qi seed and carefully merged it into his own Qi, so his own Qi now contained a sliver of the Patriarch’s Qi.

The crowd felt an array of emotions well up within themselves as they watched him accept the seed. There was jealousy, frustration, hatred, and unwillingness. “Child, go take what belongs to you. You have ten days. After that, the Azure Dragon Halberd will return here. As for whether you’re able to

comprehend the Azure Dragon Combat Technique, that will depend on your talent,” the Patriarch said with a smile.

“I will do my best. I won’t disappoint you!” said Long Chen. He felt like there was a hint of malicious intent in the Patriarch’s smile.

What is this old geezer planning? Long Chen was suspicious.

Under everyone’s watchful gazes, he strode towards the halberd. When he saw the Earth-tier divine weapon up close, he grew emotional. The Azure Dragon Halberd had a piece of a primordial dragon soul as its weapon spirit. It was clear that it was a very powerful presence amongst the Earth-tier weapons, as weapons of that level usually did not possess a weapon spirit.

It was a beautiful weapon with green dragon scales, tough curves, and sharp tips. *How nice it’d be if I could keep it as my own. It’s too bad I only have ten days. Let me try to pick it up.*

When he arrived next to the halberd, he did not hesitate to reach out and grab it. Very quickly, his fingers touched it.

He suddenly felt the halberd let out a cry and tremble slightly in fear. Long Chen guessed that the primordial dragon soul within it sensed the dragon blood in him, and his intimidating blood lineage had frightened it.

The Azure Dragon was one of the lowest ranked primordial dragons. Long Chen, however, had Inherited Blood Essence in him that was likely from the Ancient Blood Soul Dragon, the most powerful dragon.

“Brother Chen, the primordial dragon soul in the Azure Dragon Halberd senses your presence, which is both familiar and frightening to it. That’s why it’s like a child right now, hiding far away. Take the Azure Dragon Halberd with you and soothe it slowly when you get back home,” Ling Xi said.

Anyone else would have felt a violent resistance the moment they touched the halberd. But when Long Chen came into contact with it, it hid fearfully.

You’re afraid of me? Is the primordial dragon soul inside you a little girl? Long Chen grinned, then he grabbed the halberd. He felt a chill. Weapons normally felt cold to the touch, but the halberd was warm, as if it was a living being. Long Chen wasn’t holding a halberd, he was holding a dragon.

“This primordial dragon soul died millions of years ago. What’s left is just a sliver of memory that turned into a strange dragon soul after a long, long time. Brother Chen, put it in your Universe Pouch. It’s afraid of you now, so it will not resist,” Ling Xi explained.

Whether a person could store the Azure Dragon halberd in their Universe Pouch was the first test of whether they could master it. He put it inside his pouch, preparing to study it when he got back.

The events of the day came to a close after he took the halberd. “He could actually put the Azure Dragon Halberd away. He won’t actually master the Azure Dragon Combat Technique, will he?” said one of the elders.

“That’s impossible. Very few of our generation managed to comprehend it, and not even Xuanfeng and Tianxuan were able to. So how could Long Chen?” another elder said decisively.

“That makes sense.”

Everyone had the same thought when they saw him put the weapon in his pouch. *You may be smug now, but you’ll get nothing after ten days. How could Father do this? He should have given Tianyu a chance. He wouldn’t be rejected by the halberd, and he would have a higher chance of mastering the technique since he has Azure Dragon blood in him.*

Dongfang Xuanyu shot Long Chen a cold glare.

“Long Chen, use these ten days well.” After the Patriarch spoke, the tournament was officially over.

“Long Chen, focus on your cultivation. I myself have comprehended the Azure Dragon Combat Technique, so I have some experience. Come ask me if you have any questions,” said Dongfang Xuanxiao after they returned to their quarters.

“I’ll try to figure it out on my own first, then I’ll ask you if I don’t understand anything. What do you think?” asked Long Chen.

“That’s good. You have great talent in cultivating martial techniques, so I have great expectations for you,” said Dongfang Xuanxiao with a smile. He was proud that Long Chen had won the Azure Dragon Halberd.

He has ten days ... I’ll give him eight days to cultivate. As for the remaining two, it’ll be time to fulfill my final wish. Long Chen, you won’t blame me, right? If I don’t do it, I will regret it for the rest of my life.

This was what Dongfang Xuanxiao thought. If Long Chen could hear his thoughts, he would be confused.

Ten days will be enough to save Xiaolang, but I must be extremely careful. Before that, I must familiarize myself with the Azure Dragon Halberd. I mustn’t lose such a great opportunity, thought Long Chen.

Their thoughts seemed to be similar, but what were Dongfang Xuanxiao’s plans?

Still deep in thought, Dongfang Xuanxiao left. Yin Mengyao asked him anxiously, “Xiao Chen, what is your plan?”

Yin Mengyao was shocked that Long Chen had won the Azure Dragon Halberd and could complete her objective. She was greatly emotional when she thought about how she could save Mo Xiaolang.

“So far, there is only one solution. I will first find an excuse to enter the Star Devil Prison to train, then I’ll go to the Azure Dragon Planet alone to rescue Xiaolang. He is

at the mid Heavenly Core Realm, and there are four mid Heavenly Core experts at the entrance. If he has the Heavenly Wolf Dagger with him, he might be able to escape!”

“It’s still possible even without the Heavenly Wolf Dagger. Xiaolang has a body combat technique called the Illusory Divine Step, making him extremely fast. Even the average mid Heavenly Core Realm cultivator will find it difficult to see him clearly.”

“That’s good. I’ve gotten close to the four armored guards, so it will be best to let Xiaolang escape without endangering myself or killing them. Sister Mengyao, is the Illusory Divine Step really that impressive?”

Long Chen was previously worried about one thing—after he rescued Mo Xiaolang, what would he do if other people found out what he had done?

If Long Chen was alone, he could run wherever he wanted. But Yang Lingqing was still in the Lingwu family, and he also had roots in Baiyang Town. If they knew he was behind the jailbreak, the consequences would be disastrous.

But if Yan Honghai and the rest didn’t know who was behind it all, it would be better.

“The Illusory Divine Step is indeed impressive. I have seen Xiaolang use it before, and as long as he has some sort of disguise, I guarantee the four armored guards will not recognize him. But Long Chen, if the Azure Dragon Patriarch goes to the Azure Dragon Star, he will naturally know who is missing. Plus, you have the Azure Dragon Halberd, so won’t it be easy to figure out that you’re the one behind it if you go to the Star Devil Prison?”

She frowned. On the one hand, she wanted Mo Xiaolang to be freed. On the other hand, she didn’t want Long Chen to get into trouble.

After her analysis, he felt like it was too complex. “Why don’t we get Stepfather to help? I see that he’s quite good to us. As long as he can use some excuse to lead the guards away, wouldn’t Xiaolang be able to exit without being noticed?” Yin Mengyao suddenly suggested.

“Dongfang Xuanxiao?” This was a great idea, but he was an Azure Dragon family member. Would he really agree to help them, and not reprimand them?”

“Let’s do it this way. Long Chen, you go comprehend the Azure Dragon Combat Technique for now while I think of a way. If we have no choice, then we will take a risk and tell Stepfather. He’s really good to us, and he is against the other family members. Even if he doesn’t agree, maybe he won’t stop us,” said Yin Mengyao.

“That’s the only thing we can do.” Long Chen felt like they could try involving Dongfang Xuanxiao.

After bidding her farewell, he returned to his room, where Ling Xi emerged excitedly. She had become even more beautiful thanks to the Sky Soul Fruit.

“Xiao Xi, how do you think I should deal with the Azure Dragon Halberd?”

Long Chen knew that she had a powerful background and was very knowledgeable, so she would have great tips.

“Other people would need to have a standoff with the primordial dragon soul and forcefully make it submit. Dongfang Tianxuan and the rest couldn’t comprehend the Azure Dragon Combat Technique because their minds were not strong enough to subdue the dragon’s soul. But you’re different. The primordial dragon soul has fled to the deepest parts of the Azure Dragon Halberd, proving that it’s afraid of you. You only need to try to communicate with it and coax it out and then you should succeed easily. You might even gain absolute control over it and remove the old geezer’s seal on the halberd, becoming its true master! Just like what Mo Xiaolang did.”

“What?” Long Chen was overjoyed. “Ling Xi, are you saying that the old geezer still isn’t the Azure Dragon Halberd’s master?”

“Of course not.” She wrinkled her cute nose and said, “He doesn’t have the ability for that! But his ancestor once mastered it and passed down this ability, that’s why he somewhat has the right to use it.”

“So, you mean I have a high chance?”

Chapter 210 - Comprehending The Azure Dragon Combat Technique

“Neither high nor low,” answered Ling Xi.

“As long as I have a sliver of a chance, I will work hard. I only have ten days, so I shall study it for a day. If I can produce results, then I can start thinking about rescuing Xiaolang in a few days. The Azure Dragon Halberd won’t stay in my hands for long after all.”

He shut the door tight and went to the underground cultivation room.

Ling Xi was afraid of disturbing him, so she returned to her sword while Long Chen sat on the ground, crossing his legs. Then he pulled the warm Azure Dragon Halberd out of his Universe Pouch. He studied the weapon in detail, and the more he did, the more perfect he thought it was.

After caressing the green dragon scales and feeling its patterns, Long Chen had a sudden feeling that their blood lineages were related.

“Primordial Dragon Soul ... How should I get closer to it?” Long Chen didn’t know how, so all he could do was close his eyes and sink his mind into the halberd, feeling it with his heart.

“I should imagine the Azure Dragon Halberd as a living being.” The warm weapon in his hand made him feel like he was holding a beating heart. Although the heartbeat was faint, it was definitely there.

“This should be right.” Long Chen sat deep in thought. Ling Xi had told him to get close to it, but she hadn’t given any other hints. He thought about how two beings of the same species could easily form a bond. The Azure Dragon Halberd seemed to have its own intelligence, almost on par with a human’s. He found that he could imagine it as a living being and communicate with it as such.

In the beginning, he was doing it blindly. After connecting with the weapon in his hand, he suddenly found himself in a world full of white mist, directionless and clueless as to where the other being was.

I need to call for it. Long Chen couldn’t use his real voice, but he could call with his heart, which was not difficult. He thought about finding it, and at the same time, used his soul to get closer to it.

That was when the mysterious dragon jade in his sea of consciousness vibrated once. He sensed a wave of energy flow into his eyes, then the white mist suddenly disappeared. Now that nothing was blocking his eyes, all he saw was a huge mountain range spanning across his field of vision!

The mountain range was so large that Long Chen could only see a small portion of it. The rest of it was hidden in the infinite, illusory space.

This is not a mountain, this is the primordial dragon soul. With that guess, Long Chen started to walk. Indeed, he realized that this was a portion of the primordial dragon soul’s dragon body. Its body was as large as a mountain range, and every single dragon scale was over ten square meters in size. *Were the dragons of ancient times really that gigantic?*

Long Chen was filled with awe. That was when the whole world shook, and the mountain-like dragon moved. Dust and clouds flew in all directions, then a gigantic dragon head appeared in front of him. It looked at Long Chen with both anxiety and confusion, along with a hint of fear in its eyes.

If anyone else confronted the primordial dragon soul directly, it would have attacked with all its might. But this was Long Chen, and the dragon soul was afraid. *This is all thanks to the mysterious dragon jade.* Without it, Long Chen might not even have found this piece of primordial dragon soul.

I can tell that the primordial dragon soul is extremely weak. But in terms of consciousness, it is still a little stronger than you. Long Chen, try communicating with it like you’re coaxing a child.

“Coaxing a child?” Long Chen was puzzled, but he was willing to do anything for the Azure Dragon Combat Technique.

How would he coax it?

He had no idea, so he tried his best to look at the humongous dragon head that was large enough to block out the sun and the sky above him with all the friendliness he could muster.

Its dragon beard fell like a waterfall, almost drowning Long Chen in it.

If this was the lowest-ranked dragon, then how terrifying were the other dragons?

“Be a good boy and come here. Big Brother’s got some candy for you,” Long Chen said shamelessly, as if speaking to a child.

“Brother Chen, I can’t stand you anymore,” said Ling Xi, rolling her eyes. She still looked pretty while doing so.

Just as she was trying to think of a way to help Long Chen deal with the primordial dragon soul, it suddenly let out a sorrowful cry, and a ray of green divine light shot out of its huge eyes and pierced through the clouds, pouring into Long Chen’s body.

A huge quantity of data appeared in his mind. “Azure Dragon Combat Technique?” Long Chen was stunned. Ling Xi had said that he needed to get to know it better, and he hadn’t even started. But the dragon soul had already given him the technique?

The primordial dragon soul slowly disappeared, and his consciousness exited the Azure Dragon Halberd and returned to the underground room. He was still in a daze. “Xiao ... Xiao Xi, have I ... succeeded?”

“I know you’ve gotten a good deal, but don’t be shameless about it.” Ling Xi chuckled, covering her mouth. She was genuinely happy for him. “I don’t know why either. Maybe the primordial dragon soul sensed your Dragon Warrior aura and treated you better.”

“I see. Does that mean that it took me less than fifteen minutes to accomplish something that Dongfang Tianxuan and the rest couldn’t do in ten days?” As he silently flipped through the information in his brain, he looked ecstatic.

“How is it? What did you get?” asked Ling Xi curiously, leaning in and staring at him with her huge eyes.

“The Azure Dragon Combat Technique, including a general playbook. Cultivating the general playbook will allow my Qi to carry the Azure Dragon’s Qi, forming Azure Dragon Qi. I think this is the same concept as the Blazing Thunder Power, but the Azure Dragon Qi is stronger.”

This was Long Chen’s first encounter with a combat technique that had a general playbook. The Azure Dragon Qi would greatly boost the Azure Dragon Combat Technique.

“Just the general playbook? What about the Earth-tier combat technique?” she asked expectantly.

“We can take our time. The Azure Dragon Combat Technique has a total of three attacks, and the legendary Earth-tier combat technique is the last attack, which is already inside. Since I have comprehended the Azure Dragon Combat Technique so quickly, I’ll spend five days cultivating the general playbook first. At the same time, I’ll work on the first attack—Split Yellow River!”

“Three attacks? What are the other two called?”

“Azure Dragon Halberd, Split Yellow River, Shattered Skies ... and the Earth-tier technique called Starsweep Dragon!”

After making his decision, Long Chen started cultivating the Azure Dragon Combat Technique. Under his peerless power of comprehension, he easily cultivated the general playbook. But something unexpected happened when the Azure Dragon Qi was formed. When the newly generated Azure Dragon Qi encountered his original dragon soul Qi, it all turned blood-red. Long Chen now understood that the Inherited Blood Essence definitely belonged to a primordial dragon that was far higher ranked than the Azure Dragon.

“Split the Yellow River in one slash with the power of the heavens and earth!’ The first two attacks, when used with the Azure Dragon Halberd and Azure Dragon Qi, are more powerful than my Sword Devil Finger. They’re considered the best advanced Black-tier martial techniques. I can even fight a master at the Heavenly Core Realm!”

Long Chen was filled with battle spirit. “It’s too bad that I will have to return the Azure Dragon Halberd soon.” He stood up, looking at the halberd that seemed to have a connection to his own blood. He couldn’t do anything about it.

He had been communicating with it for the past few days, and there were no signs of it recognizing him as its master. But Long Chen had grown more and more attached to it. Especially when he used it to practice the first attack, Split Yellow River. This powerful weapon couldn’t even be compared to the intermediate Black-tier halberd he had.

“Any signs of it recognizing you as its master? There are only five days left. Long Chen, when will you leave to rescue Mo Xiaolang?” Ling Xi asked.

“I have already comprehended the Azure Dragon Combat Technique and therefore completed my task. Although the Azure Dragon halberd is important, Xiaolang only has this one chance to escape. I can’t leave him there because of the Azure Dragon Halberd. Whatever, I’ll just leave this up to fate. Let me go discuss this with Sister Mengyao!”

Long Chen had always been decisive and quick to react. After saying that, he immediately exited his room.

He’d been thinking about Mo Xiaolang’s situation. Disregarding the consequences wasn’t an option, because he had people like Lingqing to worry about. After thinking about it for the past five days, he had decided to ask for Dongfang Xuanxiao’s help. *Stepfather has helped me so much since the beginning of the inner family qualifiers, especially the time with Lingqing. Without him, Lingqing would’ve been someone’s wife by now. He sees me as an important person, and with Sister Mengyao begging him on the side, we might have a chance.*

He had contemplated Dongfang Xuanxiao’s personality in detail and came to the conclusion that the plan could work.

Yin Mengyao hadn’t come by for a few days. He knocked on her door but realized that she wasn’t there.

It’s only been five days. She was so worried about Xiaolang, so she should’ve been waiting for me here. Where has she gone?

Long Chen was puzzled. They didn't have much time, so he left in search of Yin Mengyao. There were not many buildings in the Eastern Azure Dragon family compound, but it was still a vast area. Long Chen went to the Xuanyun and Xuanyu Pavilions but still didn't see her.

Why can't I find her? Whatever, let me ask someone.

After walking around, he saw two teenagers approaching. He wanted to ask them, but to his surprise, they ran off as soon as they spotted him!

"Something's wrong!"

Long Chen rushed forward and caught them, one in each hand. He asked sternly, "Do you two know where Sister Mengyao is?"

As if their secret had been discovered, both of them were startled and one of them blurted, "Brother Tianxing was the one who lured her into the Cloud Forest, it's got nothing to do with me!"