

War God 211

Chapter 211 - Worse Than An Animal

Cloud Forest was a dense forest located not far from the Eastern District. It was beautiful there, and Lingwu family members occasionally went there to cultivate or rest.

It was deep winter now. Although the winter of the Cangyang Kingdom was not cold, trees still shed their leaves. Without the beautiful scenery to enjoy, few people went to the forest during winter.

Although Long Chen hadn't been there before, he had heard Yin Mengyao mention it a few times. When he heard that Dongfang Tianxing had touched his stepsister, his eyes turned blood-red and he started radiating the aura of violence and murder. The two teenagers, despite being almost his age, grew even more terrified.

Experiencing Long Chen's Blood Devouring Domain at the Azure Dragon tournament had taught them a very memorable lesson that had been burned deep in their minds. They had lost to him personally, and he had defeated Dongfang Tianyu. It made sense that they were terrified of him, especially when they were guilty.

"Lead the way. We will arrive there in half a minute, or I won't mind giving you another taste of that day," said Long Chen coldly, putting them down.

He initially thought he was going to discuss rescuing Mo Xiaolang with Yin Mengyao. This was truly an unexpected turn of events. If he hadn't emerged from his room in time, he would've never lived this down for the rest of his life.

Yin Mengyao was now his older sister, and she treated him very well. He refused to let anyone touch her, including Dongfang Tianxing, even though he was at the Heavenly Core Realm.

The two teenagers naturally did not want a taste of the strange horror that was the Blood Devouring Domain, so after Long Chen's threat, they locked eyes and chose to take him to the Cloud Forest.

"Do you want to die? Hurry up!" roared Long Chen when he felt like this was not the fastest they could travel.

Indeed, they moved much faster afterwards.

Long Chen was panicking inside, but he was cool on the surface. After many experiences, he had long learned the importance of staying calm during emergencies.

Dongfang Tianxing had had his eyes on Yin Mengyao. He thought it would be easier to get her after Dongfang Tianyu killed Long Chen. But Long Chen had defeated Dongfang Tianyu and even gotten the Azure Dragon Halberd, and the impatient Dongfang Tianxing couldn't wait any longer.

I'll test the powers of the Azure Dragon Halberd on you, then.

There was a manic rage in Long Chen's eyes.

There was a tranquil, emerald lake in Cloud Forest, and two people were standing on its edge.

“Mengyao, do you see these flowers? This is a gift I prepared for you. It’s deep in winter, yet I still got them to bloom. I spent a lot of money on this! What do you think? Aren’t they beautiful?” asked Dongfang Tianxing, staring greedily at the beautiful girl before him.

Yin Mengyao was wearing a long, white dress adorned with stars. There was a cold winter breeze, so it fluttered slightly in the wind, revealing her delicate, feminine curves. Dongfang Tianxing swooned over her fair and sophisticated features.

There were many beautiful girls in the world, and while Yin Mengyao stood out amongst them and had her own unique quality, that was not the main reason why he liked her. The main reason was her identity and capabilities. It was extremely rare to find a female prodigy cultivator who did not have Eastern Azure Dragon blood and was not from a rival faction.

Looking at the patch of flowers that bloomed fully despite the season, she admitted that they were beautiful. Unfortunately, the person who had created this beauty repulsed her.

“That’s the reason why you asked me to come here? You said you wanted to tell me your experience in comprehending the Azure Dragon Halberd; was that just an excuse to lure me here?” Yin Mengyao was too intelligent to swoon over this idiotic tactic.

“Of course not, but don’t you think it’ll be much more pleasant if we talk and get to know each other better in this beautiful scenery?” said Dongfang Tianxing with a smile.

In reality, he was an extremely impatient person. As he spoke, his voice trembled because he could no longer suppress his excitement when he thought about what was to come, and he kept glancing greedily at Yin Mengyao’s full chest.

“I’m sorry, I’m no longer interested in hearing about your experience. I think my younger brother can comprehend it on his own. Goodbye.” After she spoke, she turned to leave, sensing that something was wrong because of the strange look in his eyes. Two teenagers stumbled upon the area at that very moment, and they were silently turned away by his glare. Yin Mengyao had noticed this subtle move.

The fragrance of flowers filled the air, and it was indeed pleasant. But Yin Mengyao had a strange feeling, as though something was slowly seeping into her body, but she couldn’t describe it. She treated it as nothing at first, but the moment she decided to leave, she was sharp enough to realize that her face was feeling warm and her breathing quickened.

She had only hatred towards Dongfang Tianxing, so this reaction should’ve been impossible.

“Is there something wrong with the flowers?! Dongfang Tianxing! What the hell did you do?” Sensing the source of the problem, Yin Mengyao quickly turned around, glaring at him with fierceness in her eyes.

“Haha, have you finally felt it? But it’s too late.” Dongfang Tianxing’s expression cooled all of a sudden. He shrugged and then said nonchalantly, “Don’t worry, it’s just a small trick. But adding this liquid aphrodisiac to the flowers cost me a whole hundred thousand divine jades. Are you feeling your whole body heating up? And a growing yearning you can’t suppress?”

Dongfang Tianxing was right. Yin Mengyao had sensed the strange reactions in her body. Her breathing quickened and her body was fiery hot. When her cheeks reddened, she grew even more attractive, instilling a primitive instinct in him.

The ice queen had changed into such a tempting state. The moment he saw her face, he gulped loudly and his whole body also grew hotter.

“I forgot to tell you. I also added some herbs into the aphrodisiac that’ll make your body relax. But don’t worry, I will treat you very well!” Then a perverted look appeared in his eyes as he slowly approached Yin Mengyao, who was gradually losing strength.

“You lecher! Bastard!” Yin Mengyao was utterly stunned by this. She had never imagined that Dongfang Tianxing would dare to do such a thing within the Lingwu family!

“Dongfang Tianxing! How bold are you? How dare you touch me? Aren’t you afraid that my stepfather will kill you?” The heat in her body and her weakening muscles filled her with endless terror. But she knew that she had to remain calm to scare this madman!

But Dongfang Tianxing had prepared well. How could he be scared off at a moment like this? His greedy eyes were fixated on her chest, which was rising and falling. Just from the fair skin on her neck, he could imagine how beautiful the rest of her body would be! And this beauty would be right in the palm of his hand in mere moments!

With that thought, he gulped hard.

“Darling, when the rice is fully cooked[1], will you still be brave enough to tell Dongfang Xuanxiao about this? Be good and become my girl! It’ll be infinitely better than being some stepdaughter, haha!”

He looked insane as he reveled in her terror. Without another word, he pounced on her body!

At this point, all she could do was do her best to break free and shout, trying to escape his clutches. She regretted this very much. If she hadn’t been trying to do something good for Long Chen, she wouldn’t have been stupid enough to believe Dongfang Tianxing.

“Don’t run! Very soon, you will understand that becoming my woman is the most enjoyable thing in the world!” Dongfang Tianxing exclaimed.

Suddenly, there was a commotion in the forest ahead, then a figure rushed past Yin Mengyao. A bright sword light erupted and stabbed directly at Dongfang Tianxing’s chest!

“Who is it?!” Dongfang Tianxing gasped.

Amidst the chaos, he could only move backwards to dodge the attack. Dongfang Tianxing used an advanced Black-tier body combat technique, though it was not the Nine Dragon Flashes. The Nine Dragon Flashes was the highest-ranked body combat technique in the Eastern Azure Dragon family, but few chose it due to its high difficulty.

Both Yin Mengyao and Dongfang Tianxing knew who the incomer was the moment they saw the shining sword light. The only person in the whole Eastern Azure Dragon family who used the Sword Devil Finger was Long Chen.

After successfully using the Sword Devil Finger to force Dongfang Tianxing back, Long Chen wasn't sure how Yin Mengyao was faring but knew that she was not doing well if Dongfang Tianxing was so boldly pouncing on her.

“Long Chen, why are you here?” Dongfang Tianxing was in disbelief. He had her right in the palm of his hand, and now it was all ruined! How could he stand to take this insult? Dongfang Tianxing didn't know what to do right now, but his anger for Long Chen was steadily rising to an unprecedented level.

“Why am I here? Haha, Dongfang Tianxing, look at how low you have to go to get what you want. How do you deserve to be considered an elite disciple of the Eastern Azure Dragon family? You're even worse than an animal.”

Although Long Chen didn't witness it, he could roughly guess what had happened. Dongfang Tianxing must've decided to make a move on Yin Mengyao because he couldn't wait any longer.

Long Chen had a bad feeling about the strange scent in the air too, and he knew that it was time to leave. That was when he felt a gush of warmth from behind, and a pair of delicate arms wrapped around his waist, hugging him tight.

That was when he understood that Yin Mengyao had been poisoned by Dongfang Tianxing. He quickly held his breath and spotted a lake not far away. Although he was enjoying it, this was his older sister, so it was not appropriate. He could never cross the line with her!

Long Chen's killing intent did not wane!

Chapter 212 - Challenge on the Mortal Arena

“How are you feeling?” Long Chen asked with concern while he used his Qi to dry her clothes.

He dried her as soon as she could because her wet clothes had been clinging to her body, revealing her curvy figure. Even though Long Chen would not lay a hand on her, the others would!

Dongfang Tianxing and the other two youths who had guided Long Chen here would not hesitate.

“I'm much better now.” Yin Mengyao lowered her head and blushed.

It was different from the blush she had when she was under the influence just now. She was just embarrassed.

“Yin Mengyao, don’t worry about it too much. This is not embarrassing. It’s that bastard’s fault.”

“Who are you calling a bastard?” Dongfang Tianxing was angry. He was a cultivator at the Heavenly Core Realm. It was one thing for Long Chen to save her, but it was another to insult him. Dongfang Tianxing had planned to let them go, but he was angered now.

His plans were destroyed the moment Long Chen stepped in. If he killed Long Chen and obtained Yin Mengyao, he would be in deep trouble. Long Chen was now famous in the family, so Dongfang Tianxing would lose his life if he didn’t take care of things tactfully.

He was about to give up when Long Chen insulted him, making him want to hit the brat.

I can’t kill him, but I can hit him! I will kill him one of these days if there’s an opportunity to do so!

Dongfang Tianxing was just about to hit Long Chen when he saw the latter glaring at him. “Who else here could be called a bastard? You’re the only one who would attempt such an underhanded method. Dongfang Tianxing, do you remember asking me to fight on the Mortal Arena?”

“The Mortal Arena?” Dongfang Tianxing was confused. “You want to fight me on the Mortal Arena?”

This was unexpected. Dongfang Tianxing was very frustrated and wanted to vent his anger somewhere. He had thought Long Chen would not agree to it, but to think he would suggest it himself.

“I will ask again. Do you dare to fight me on the Mortal Arena?” Long Chen glared at him coldly.

“Haha! Of course! Let’s go now!” Dongfang Tianxing was excited when he thought about beating up Long Chen in public. He could also show off his strength to Yin Mengyao. He was more than happy to do it.

But he still had some slight reservations as to why Long Chen would propose it. He was only at the mid Earthly Core Realm and yet he dared to request a fight?

Is it because of the Azure Dragon Halberd? It’s only been five days, so he couldn’t have learned how to use it. Dongfang Tianxing thought there was no problem with the suggestion. His lecherous gaze was still fixated on Yin Mengyao.

The more she hated him, the more he wanted her. He was in love with her cold appearance.

She knew the difference in strength between them, so she asked after she recovered from the drug’s effects, “Long Chen, what are you doing?”

“Would you believe me if I told you I’ve already finished cultivating the Azure Dragon combat technique?” Long Chen whispered to the surprised Yin Mengyao.

“Wait, does that mean ...” She was overjoyed.

“Shh ... Don't let him know. I will take revenge for you.” Long Chen chuckled.

Before they could fight on the Mortal Arena, they had to contact the elders. They could only duel if the elders approved and oversaw the entire fight. While Long Chen and Dongfang Tianxing went off to find the elders, the news of their fight was spread to everyone else by the two youths. Everyone who was interested in their match gathered near the arena.

The Mortal Arena was essentially a stage located within the Xuanyu Pavillion. It was made of dense, grayish-white steelstone that had been polished until it was as smooth as a mirror. Long Chen and Dongfang Tianxing stood on opposite ends of it.

There were tens of seats surrounding the Mortal Arena, and all of them were full. Everyone was in attendance except for the Patriarch and several elders, who didn't attend such trivial matters. All four of the strongest cultivators of the Eastern Azure Dragon family were present though.

Dongfang Xuanfeng stared at Long Chen. Although he looked calm on the outside, he actually despised the teenager. His son would have obtained the Azure Dragon Halberd, but Long Chen had not only taken it away from him, he had even beaten him. Therefore, Dongfang Xuanfeng's eyes had a hint of killing intent behind them.

Yin Mengyao was standing behind Dongfang Xuanxiao, while Dongfang Tianxuan, who had once bullied her, was standing beside her. Dongfang Tianxuan was Dongfang Xuanyun's daughter. By logic, she should've been on friendly terms with Long Chen. However, she had been prideful and arrogant ever since she was young, so she didn't really see eye-to-eye with her father, much less Long Chen and Yin Mengyao.

Dongfang Tianxuan was the second strongest fighter amongst the youths. Even though she was at the initial Heavenly Core Realm, her fighting strength was above Dongfang Tianxing's. If she had learned the Azure Dragon Combat Technique, she would be just as strong as Dongfang Tianchen.

Still, Dongfang Tianxuan had managed to cultivate the only Earth-tier martial technique, making her the second strongest youth of the family. Even though she had only learned the bare minimum of the technique, Long Chen would still lose to her.

Dongfang Xuanxiao didn't know what Long Chen was doing. Yin Mengyao whispered something to him, and Dongfang Xuanxiao was surprised to learn that Long Chen had comprehended the Azure Dragon Combat Technique. He smiled bitterly in response. “It's only been five days. It took me nine days to comprehend it, while Tianchen took eight days!”

“Stepfather, Long Chen said that he comprehended it in one day. He has been cultivating it for the past few days.”

This was beyond Dongfang Xuanxiao's expectations. He took a deep breath and tried to calm himself down.

“Let's see his performance, then.”

Dongfang Xuanxiao had just finished speaking when Dongfang Xuanyu decided to taunt him.

“Some people are just weak yet brave. A mere initial Earthly Core Realm brat dares to request a

fight with a Heavenly Core Realm cultivator on the Mortal Arena. I suppose he will only learn his lesson through death.”

She had gone overboard and Yin Mengyao wanted to talk back. Seeing how Dongfang Xuanyu was an elder, however, she could say nothing. Dongfang Xuanxiao ignored her and focused on the two people on the stage.

Dongfang Xuanyu got angry at him for not acknowledging her. Her gaze was dripping with poison when she glared at Dongfang Xuanxiao. *How dare this bastard ignore me! I'm at the Heavenly Core Realm too! I deserve respect, yet he's so aloof. I can't wait to see your face once Tianxing defeats Long Chen!*

Dongfang Xuanyun smiled bitterly between the two of them.

“Brother, your stepson sure is rash. I thought he was reckless when he asked for the Sky Soul Fruit. I suppose a little bit of a setback will help him grow.”

“Let's just watch. Maybe there will be a miracle.” Dongfang Xuanxiao laughed.

Just then, the emcee stood up and started announcing the start of the match. Everyone stopped discussing and watched what was happening on the stage. The crowd was sure that Long Chen would lose to Dongfang Tianxing. Even though Dongfang Tianxing didn't know any Earth-tier martial techniques, his Comet Dragon Seal was one of the strongest martial techniques in the family, barring the Earthly-tier technique or the Azure Dragon Combat Technique.

“Do you think Long Chen can use the Azure Dragon Halberd? If he can, his battle strength will skyrocket!”

“Don't be stupid. It's only been five days. How could he have comprehended it? Even Tianxuan didn't manage to learn it!”

“Tianxuan was really unfortunate. She was just a step away.”

The people discussing it were the siblings and cousins of Dongfang Xuanfeng, Dongfang Xuanyu, Dongfang Xuanyun, and Dongfang Xuanxiao. Most of them were at the mid Heavenly Core Realm. Some of them who were less talented were still at the initial Heavenly Core Realm.

Everyone was looking at Dongfang Tianxing. He was standing on the stage while his clothes billowed in the wind. Thinking about how he could soon beat up Long Chen, his heart was itching for it to start. “Hey, brat, didn't you obtain the Azure Dragon Halberd? How about showing me the Azure Dragon Combat Technique?”

It was a taunt, and everyone laughed at it. Five days was not enough to comprehend it, much less cultivate it. Only a god could do it in such a short period.

But to everyone's surprise, Long Chen actually brought it out. The sun reflected off the sharp blade, its azure dragon scales shimmering from the light. It contained an unbounded power. This was the first time many in the crowd had seen it.

“Haha!” Dongfang Tianxing laughed out loud. “Long Chen, what are you doing? Are you crazy or stupid?”

Everyone had the same thought.

“Crazy? No, I’m just listening to your suggestion, to use the halberd against you.” Long Chen twirled it around, producing strong shockwaves around him. Everyone was surprised by the power contained within the halberd.

But rather than fear, all of them laughed. Dongfang Xuanyu laughed the loudest. Even Dongfang Xuanyun smiled. Dongfang Tianxuan, however, was very amused by the farce.

Not even she had comprehended it after ten whole days, and yet Long Chen had already cultivated it? Was that even possible?

While everyone was laughing at Long Chen, he actually pointed the Azure Dragon Halberd towards Dongfang Tianxing. He was still calm, as if he was not affected by the crowd. Just then, an enormous pressure exuded from the halberd and engulfed everything surrounding him.

“What?!” The teacup in Dongfang Xuanfeng’s hand fell onto the ground and broke.

Chapter 213 - Comet Dragon Seal

A broken teacup would’ve garnered everyone’s attention under normal circumstances, but no one paid attention to it. Everyone was in disbelief when they saw the ancient energy radiating from Long Chen’s hands.

Dongfang Xuanyu, who had been laughing the loudest, froze in shock. Her mouth was wide open, and she didn’t know how ugly she looked. But that was not important compared to what was happening to Long Chen.

Was it an illusion?

Everyone rubbed their eyes in disbelief, but that didn’t change the reality before them. Long Chen was using the Azure Dragon Halberd’s Azure Dragon Combat Technique to fight against Dongfang Tianxing!

“This ... This is impossible!” Dongfang Xuanyu was not crying, but her face looked worse than that. Everyone else was feeling the same too. Was Long Chen some kind of god? How had he mastered it in just five days?

Dongfang Tianxuan, who had been standing behind Dongfang Xuanyun, was in disbelief too. She had twisted her brain inside and out for ten days just to try to comprehend the Azure Dragon Halberd, yet she had failed. Long Chen didn’t have the Eastern Azure Family bloodline and yet he had succeeded in such a short amount of time?

Maybe he’s a genius beyond our understanding, but his cultivation level is still low ... Even the calm Dongfang Tianxuan was shocked, much less the others.

The spectators who had been cheering were suddenly quiet when Long Chen used the power of the Azure Dragon Halberd.

Dongfang Tianxing was currently the one facing the brunt of its ancient power. He had been joking and taunting his opponent. He had never expected Long Chen to have comprehended the Azure Dragon Combat Technique!

Dongfang Tianxing was confused and his mind in shambles, but he had no more time to think when he sensed the immense aura emanating from Long Chen. It was clear Long Chen wanted to decide the winner in a single blow. Dongfang Tianxing gathered all of his Qi and even pushed his limits to condense it in his body. He was about to unleash his strongest technique, the Comet Dragon Seal.

Long Chen was gripping the Azure Dragon tightly and felt the pulses coming from it. He felt like the weapon was part of his body when he twirled it around. The dragon soul within the halberd was connected to his soul and bloodline, so the weapon had turned into another source of power in addition to his own dantian.

My strength skyrockets when I use the halberd. It makes me as strong as when I use the Dragon Soul Transformation. What can I do to not return this?

Long Chen was bitter about having to give it back, because he really loved the halberd. But the priority right now was to defeat Dongfang Tianxing. Dongfang Tianxing was one of the weakest in his age group, but he was still at the Heavenly Core Realm, meaning he was at least several times stronger than Long Chen. If Long Chen didn't have the Azure Dragon Halberd, he would've never fought against him.

Long Chen had just assumed his dragon form. His blood-red scales and the azure scales on the halberd were similar, making everyone think that the Azure Dragon Halberd was made for Long Chen and was part of him!

I need to use all of my strength! Long Chen did not want to waste his time with Dongfang Tianxing. Since Dongfang Tianxing tried to lay his hands on Yin Mengyao, he wanted to teach him a serious lesson and also test out the waters with the Azure Dragon Halberd.

The Comet Dragon Seal was the Eastern Azure Dragon family's strongest Black-tier martial technique, second only to the Azure Dragon Combat Technique. Long Chen leaped up, and the Azure Dragon Halberd shimmered like an illusion before crashing down.

Everyone was shocked to the core when they saw the tip of the halberd turn into an illusion of a massive, azure dragon. The dragon looked extremely realistic and covered the heavens. It roared and crashed down on Dongfang Tianxing like a massive blade.

“Azure Dragon Combat Technique, Split Yellow River!”

The massive pressure exuded from the attack made Dongfang Tianxing realize that he was in danger. He felt an insurmountable pressure pushing him downwards like a mountain. His instincts told him that if he didn't move, he would die.

Getting killed by Long Chen? This was not something he would ever think of even if he was dreaming.

He circulated his Qi even faster. When Long Chen's attack approached him, he channeled all of his strength to his feet and leaped towards Long Chen.

He quickly formed the necessary hand seals, and a hazy dragon illusion appeared on his fingers. A small Azure Dragon mark appeared on his forehead, similar to the Vermillion Bird mark. With it, he could squeeze out even more power!

“Die! Comet Dragon Seal!”

Dongfang Tianxing released his attack the moment his seal was completed. A dragon-shaped seal made of starlight flew towards Long Chen's attack. Everyone held their breath when they saw that the attacks were about to collide.

Boom! Crack!

The shockwave from the clash exploded everywhere, kicking up a massive gust and blowing up a dust storm.

"Is that it?" Long Chen smiled coldly. *No wonder the Azure Dragon Halberd and the Azure Dragon Combat Technique became the keystone that dictated the survival of the Eastern Azure Dragon family. The Comet Dragon Seal is not its match!*

"The strength of the Azure Dragon Halberd is not something you can win against!" Long Chen howled, and the mighty energy transformed into a sharpness that rended the skies. Another illusion of an Azure Dragon appeared on the tip of the halberd and shrouded the Comet Dragon Seal before ripping it in half.

The remaining energy fell downwards onto Dongfang Tianxing. If he was hit by that attack, he would be split in half!

Amongst the crowd, only Dongfang Xuanxiao was in a state of mind to understand what was going on. Even Dongfang Xuanyu hadn't snapped out of it. She had failed to recognize that her son had lost and was on the verge of death.

Dongfang Xuanxiao disappeared from his chair and reappeared on the stage. Dongfang Tianxing caught the Azure Dragon Halberd and redirected the attack, but he was curious as to why the attack was weaker than he thought.

"Wait, can you use Split Yellow River at will?" The reason why he felt like the attack was weak was because Long Chen had already stopped attacking. Dongfang Xuanxiao's interference had been unnecessary, because Long Chen never planned on killing Dongfang Tianxing.

Dongfang Xuanxiao was beyond surprised. Not only had Long Chen cultivated the Azure Dragon Combat Technique and was capable of flawlessly executing Split Yellow River, he could even control it as he wished. How was this possible?

Even Dongfang Tianchen, who could barely use the Earth-tier martial technique Starsweep Dragon, could not control Split Yellow River as he wished.

"Somewhat," Long Chen answered casually. He had expected to win, so he was very relaxed. The Azure Dragon Halberd was beyond his expectations—it had allowed him to defeat someone at the initial Heavenly Core Realm with ease.

But that was also because Dongfang Tianxing was the weaker one. It might not have been the same if the one he was fighting had been Dongfang Tianxuan.

Dongfang Xuanxiao almost fell down when he heard Long Chen say "somewhat."

As for the others, they gradually recovered from the shock when they saw what had happened. They realized painfully that they were inadequate. There was never a shortage of geniuses in the Eastern Azure Dragon family, but seeing a genius of Long Chen's caliber made them feel uneasy. They realized that Dongfang Xuanxiao was not only good at cultivation, but his eyes were so accurate that he could choose Long Chen out of the tens of thousands of people in the outer family. What kind of insight did he possess to be able to do so?

Even Dongfang Xuanfeng and Dongfang Xuanyun were somewhat jealous of Long Chen's ridiculous talent. As for Dongfang Xuanyu, she was stuck in the defeat of her son. She was both angry and sad at the same time.

"Tianxing!" Dongfang Xuanyu ignored everyone and ran towards the stage. Her son's face was pale and his hands were trembling when she held him.

Seeing how bad her son looked, Dongfang Xuanyu felt pain in her heart. Everything was Long Chen's fault. She turned around and glared at Long Chen. "Long Chen, you damned bastard. You ruined everything! How dare you show up out of nowhere and stir up trouble in the Eastern Azure Dragon family! I will!"

"You will what?" Dongfang Xuanxiao shouted, interrupting her. His aura enveloped her, and his tone was ice-cold as he said, "Let me remind you again. Long Chen has prayed to our ancestors and is now a part of our family! He's not an outsider! As for the duel today, both of them agreed to it. Long Chen also didn't harm your son! If you tarnish our reputation again, I will not hold back!"

Dongfang Xuanxiao did not care about preserving Dongfang Xuanyu's dignity in public, causing her eyes to twitch in anger. Her beautiful face was red from fury, and she didn't know how to respond to him. Dongfang Xuanfeng appeared beside her and said plainly, "Shut up and don't embarrass us. Today's issue ends here and now. Everyone, return!"

Dongfang Xuanfeng's face was gloomy when he said that. Dongfang Xuanxiao said nothing and left with Long Chen and Yin Mengyao.

"Xuanxiao, you will die soon!" Dongfang Xuanyu shouted behind their backs.

Die? Long Chen had a bad feeling.

Chapter 214 - News About Ancient Ruins

The family of three gathered in a gazebo in the courtyard. Dongfang Xuanxiao was looking at Long Chen while Yin Mengyao was standing beside Dongfang Xuanxiao. They had just left the Mortal Arena, and Xuanxiao had stayed with them instead of going off to deal with his own matters. This was good as Long Chen needed his help with Mo Xiaolang. If Dongfang Xuanxiao helped him, it would make his life very easy.

"You comprehended the Azure Dragon Combat Technique in a single day and then spent five days cultivating Split Yellow River. Long Chen, you are the single most talented individual I've ever seen when it comes to cultivating martial techniques. I

should've known based on how fast you cultivated the Nine Dragon Flashes.” Dongfang Xuanxiao sighed.

Long Chen nodded and did not deny it. Ever since the Dragon Jade Pendant entered his sea of consciousness, he had a feeling that his comprehension skills had increased rapidly, as if both his soul and mind had become much more clear. He could comprehend martial techniques much more quickly than anyone else, as if he knew them since he was born. But his hard work was definitely a factor as well.

Yin Mengyao looked at Long Chen with admiration. She thought back to how she had leaned on his broad back when she was poisoned, causing her to blush. He was her brother, and she didn't know why she had done that.

“But Dongfang Tianxing only entered the Heavenly Core Realm a few months back. He's also very arrogant and prideful, just like his mother, and so he's destined to be useless for the rest of his life. Chen'er, I need to tell you something else. Originally, this matter didn't concern you, but I need to tell you now.”

“Do tell, Stepfather.”

“When you first entered the inner family, I remember telling you that the Patriarch brought Tianchen and the rest for training. The reason why he did so was because of something else that's coming up. Do you know the Beast Soul Palace of Yuan Ling City?”

“I know about them. It's one of the factions that live in Yuandi City. Their strength is equal to the Yuanling family.”

“Yes. And do you remember how the Yang family had to fight another family to obtain the rights to rule Baiyang Town? Just like them, we have to fight against each other every twenty years for the right to rule the city. The twenty year period is almost up. Two months from now, the youths from the Lingwu family and the Beast Soul Palace will fight against each other. The team who wins will be allowed to rule Yuanling County for twenty years. This concerns a massive amount of profits ...”

“Wait, we need to fight for it too? Will the one overseeing it be the royal family?” Long Chen was shocked.

“We are indeed forces who've sworn loyalty to the royal family, so we naturally must listen to them. The difference between us and them was just like the difference between Baiyang Town and the Lingwu family. Do you understand now?”

“I understand. That means that the Patriarch took them away to train to increase their strength so that they could fight for the right to rule Yuanling County.” Long Chen was secretly surprised by the strength of the royal family. To him, the Lingwu

family was already a massive force, so how much stronger did the royal family have to be to be able to control them? How strong were they?

“There’s also a very special rule this time. I’ve heard that the royal family has found an ancient ruin in Yuanling County. It contains the inheritance of a strong cultivator from the middle ages. The youths from the Lingwu family and the Beast Soul family will enter the ruins. Only one person will be able to obtain the inheritance, so whichever faction comes out with it will be declared the winner,” Dongfang Xuanxiao explained.

“Ancient ruins?” Long Chen looked forward to it, but his strength was far from ideal. The strongest youths of the Lingwu family were on the level of Dongfang Tianchen, Mo Xiaolang, and Beitang Mo. All of them were at the mid Heavenly Core Realm, so there was no reason for Long Chen to be able to even participate.

“Stepfather, how do the youths from the Lingwu family and the Beast Soul Palace compare?”

“We have four people at the mid Heavenly Core Realm and ten at the initial Heavenly Core Realm. The Eastern Azure Dragon family can send two people. Tianchen will most definitely be chosen. The elders and the Patriarch were ruminating between sending Tianxing or Tianxuan. But somehow you defeated Tianxing today. Judging by how fast you’re growing, you might even be able to win against Tianxuan if you work hard for the next two months.”

“Tianxuan? Is she that strong?” Dongfang Xuanxiao made it look like Tianxuan was miles ahead of Tianxing.

“Tianxuan is hardworking and has a tenacious spirit. She has already cultivated an Earth-tier martial technique, albeit barely. Still, she’s amazing. Long Chen, if you can cultivate Starsweep Dragon, an Earth-tier martial technique, she will not be your opponent.”

“Stepfather, do we have a large chance of winning this?” Yin Mengyao asked quietly.

“I don’t know. The strength of the youths from the four inner families are roughly the same. None of us have someone with ungodly talent. The Beast Soul Palace has fewer talented youths, but we are competing in terms of which faction has the strongest individual. I’ve heard rumors that one of Emperor Yuan’s grandsons has incredible talent. He should be at the late Heavenly Core Realm, but these are only rumors.”

“Late Heavenly Core Realm?!” Long Chen heaved a sigh. *He’s even stronger than Mo Xiaolang! There are geniuses everywhere.*

Dongfang Xuanxiao shook his head and smiled bitterly. “The four Patriarchs are having a headache over this. If they lose the right to rule, then the resources and network of the Lingwu family will be pushed to a very dangerous situation. Also, the one who obtains the inheritance will be allowed to become an Immortal Guard. This is quite a lucrative reward.”

“What’s an Immortal Guard?” Long Chen was confused.

“You don’t know? I suppose that’s normal.” Long Chen came from a small town, so it was natural he didn’t know. Dongfang Xuanxiao provided him with a full rundown of the Immortal Realm and the Immortal Guards. “There is a massive Miniverse in the Cangyang Royal Capital. It’s hundreds of times larger than the Heavenly Martial Realm, large enough to fit ten Royal Capitals. It’s called the Counter Essence Realm.”

“The Counter Essence Realm? I’ve been told that the spiritual energy in the Counter Essence Realm is ten times denser than in the outside world. Though I’ve also heard rumors saying that it’s a thousand times denser in some places. That’s why numerous spiritual herbs grow inside it, and there are even rumors of a secret treasure left behind from the middle ages!” Yin Mengyao chattered happily when she heard about the Counter Essence Realm.

“Ten times? A thousand times? Spiritual herbs?” This was the first time Long Chen had heard of it. Yuanling City was the most prosperous place he had ever seen, but the Royal Capital and the Counter Essence Realm were even richer. But he knew that the stronger he grew, the more places he would visit. He was sure he would eventually stumble across places with riches beyond his imagination. The Counter Essence Realm would be trivial by then.

“But it’s not a piece of heaven. Even though there are numerous treasures in the Counter Essence Realm, there are dangerous beings too. Long Chen, you’ve seen one of the variants of the demonic beasts, the Poison Beasts, right?” Dongfang Xuanxiao asked.

“The Poison Beasts of the Nine Devil Mountains. How could I forget?” Long Chen smiled.

“The Poison Beasts are one of the variants. Due to the density and purity of nature’s spiritual energy as well as the spiritual herbs in the Counter Essence Realm, a different variant of demonic beasts can be found there. We call them the Immortal Beasts. They are terrifying and numerous. They have excellent reproduction rates and, more importantly, are smarter than regular demonic beasts. Some of them are so strong and cunning that their intelligence is comparable to us humans.”

“The demonic beasts could be as smart as us?” Long Chen had learned so many new things today that he really felt like he came from some backwater place.

“There are two main forces in the Counter Essence Realm. One of them is the Immortal Beasts, while the other is the royal family of the Cangyang Kingdom. The entrance to the Counter Essence Realm is controlled by the royal family. They have to deal with the Immortal Beasts in order to gather spiritual herbs. The only ones who are allowed to enter the Counter Essence Realm to partake in missions issued by the royal family are called Immortal Guards. Because the mortality rate is high amongst the Immortal Guards, the royal family has a hard time finding replacements, so they are constantly searching for talented youths from various regions. But those who work as Immortal Guards also obtain excellent benefits from the royal family!” Dongfang Xuanxiao explained in detail.

“So the Immortal Guards are all prodigies from the Cangyang Kingdom, and maybe even members of the royal family?” Long Chen asked excitedly.

“You are half right.” Dongfang Xuanxiao was not afraid of knocking Long Chen down a peg. “To the royal family, a prodigy is someone who has reached the Heavenly River Realm before the age of twenty-five. Tianchen is already twenty-three, so it’s very likely he won’t make it. So far, no one in Yuanling County has satisfied the requirements set by the royal family. Long Chen, this was what I needed to tell you. There is no end to cultivation. You are indeed growing very quickly, but you must not restrict yourself based on what you see around yourself! Everyone around you might be mediocre, but there could be geniuses more fearsome than you somewhere else!” Dongfang Xuanxiao said in a serious tone.

His advice came like a lightning strike, and it made Long Chen realize his hubris. “Thank you, Stepfather. I will never be content with my situation here in Yuanling City.”

“Good, as long as you understand. I’ve told you all you need to know, but I have another request for you.” Dongfang Xuanxiao suddenly turned serious and looked at Long Chen. His eyes were filled with hesitation, but he made his decision very quickly as if it was the only chance he would get.

Long Chen was taken aback. He also needed to request help from Dongfang Xuanxiao regarding Mo Xiaolang.

Chapter 215 - Storming Azure Dragon Star

Once Dongfang Xuanxiao finished talking about the battle that would decide who would rule the city, Long Chen felt like it was time to ask him for help, but his stepfather’s last sentence left him stumped. He locked eyes with Yin Mengyao, and after understanding her intention, he told Dongfang Xuanxiao, “If it’s something I can do, I will do my best to fulfill your request.”

Long Chen had always been a person who repaid kindness with kindness and evil with revenge. Mo Xiaolang had given him the Constellation Body and helped him during the Demon Hunting

Tournament. Those were acts of kindness to be repaid; therefore, he would do his best to rescue him.

On the other hand, Dongfang Xuanxiao had helped him even more in his development ever since they first met in the inner family qualifiers. Long Chen had lost track of how much assistance his stepfather had provided. He often wondered why Dongfang Xuanxiao was so good to him. Was it only because he liked him?

“First, let me tell you two about my past.” There was a hint of sadness in the depths of Dongfang Xuanxiao’s eyes, which was caught by both of them.

“Go on, Stepfather. We’re listening,” Yin Mengyao said gently.

Dongfang Xuanxiao calmed himself down and said, “You guys might think that the royal family is the Cangyang Kingdom’s most powerful faction. However, they have a major rival faction called the Heavenly Demon Palace. Based on what the royal family told us, they are vicious when they operate, and they have caused much pain and terror in the kingdom.”

“The Heavenly Demon Palace? I’ve heard of them, but they mainly operate close to the royal capital and not here. I hear they’re indeed a powerful organization that is almost on the royal family’s level,” Yin Mengyao said.

“I did something stupid twenty years ago,” Dongfang Xuanxiao said suddenly.

This was the beginning of Dongfang Xuanxiao’s story.

It was a tale as old as time. Years ago, Dongfang Xuanxiao, who was one of the most well-known members of the Lingwu family, started a relationship with an outsider. It was only much later that he learned the teenage girl’s identity. She held a high position in the Heavenly Demon Palace, and they had met when she was traveling around for fun. However, Dongfang Xuanxiao, with his rebellious streak, did not care about this. They continued to spend time together without hiding it, and he didn’t expect to ever cause her harm.

When the four patriarchs found out who she was, they were worried about being punished by the royal family, so they sent her straight to the Star Devil Prison and wiped this embarrassing story out of the family’s history. It had been twenty years since then.

This was why Dongfang Xuanxiao had never found himself a wife.

When the man spoke of his past, his tone was calm. But judging by the glazed look in his eyes, Long Chen knew that he had been suffering for twenty years. Long Chen recalled what his stepfather had told him regarding women, and his chest tightened. Mengyao was a girl, and despite looking cold on the outside, she had always been emotional and was already tearing up. She had always admired stories of rebellious love.

After he told his story, Dongfang Xuanxiao looked up at Long Chen wistfully. “Long Chen, be honest. I have done a lot for you in recent times, even fighting the Patriarch because of your cousin. You must’ve been suspicious of my motives, right?”

“I did suspect something. I knew that you had some kind of goal, and you participated in the inner family qualifiers maybe because you were looking for

someone to do something for you. I still believe that you saw something in me though, haha!" Long Chen laughed. He understood everything now. Dongfang Xuanxiao had picked him and Yin Mengyao at the qualifiers because he hoped one of them could get the Azure Dragon Halberd, and then use it to rescue the woman he loved from Azure Dragon Star.

"And just like that, your impression of me will fall quickly. I was nice to you only because I had hidden intentions. You must be repulsed by me, right?" Dongfang Xuanxiao was visibly anxious when he said this.

"Don't overthink it. I'm not a fool; I can still see how you genuinely cared for us. Right, Stepfather, I need to tell you something ..." Long Chen was initially worried that Dongfang Xuanxiao might disagree or even stop them if he asked him for help with rescuing Mo Xiaolang. But now, it looked like their plans matched serendipitously. It was going well.

"What is it?" Dongfang Xuanxiao was stunned.

"You must know about Mo Xiaolang from the outer families, right? He's my good friend, and to be honest, the reason I worked so hard to get the Azure Dragon Halberd was to rescue him. This time, we want to ask you for your help," said Long Chen. He did not beat around the bush.

Although it was revealed that Dongfang Xuanxiao had hidden intentions since the beginning, revealing the truth did not affect their relationship. Dongfang Xuanxiao had only decided to tell him about his goal after he saw that Long Chen had comprehended the Azure Dragon Combat Technique.

"Mo Xiaolang received the Heavenly Wolf Dagger ..." Dongfang Xuanxiao's brows were furrowed.

"What has that got to do with this? Out of the five divine weapons, only the Heavenly Wolf Dagger has never been tamed. If he was lucky enough to get something out of it that the Lingwu family couldn't, why hide it?" Long Chen tried to convince him.

"Alright." Dongfang Xuanxiao nodded. "Since we have made the decision, then let's not waste any more time. We will move tonight."

Everything was decided. Long Chen and Yin Mengyao locked eyes and smiled.

The operation they had planned for such a long time was finally going to happen tonight.

After a discussion between Long Chen and Dongfang Xuanxiao, they both unanimously decided to let Yin Mengyao stay home. First, she had no function in the rescue operation. Second, she was not powerful enough. Yin Mengyao knew that she would only be a burden to them, so she gritted her teeth and said, "Stepfather, Long Chen, I will await the good news!"

“Naturally.” Long Chen grinned, and then he left with Dongfang Xuanxiao.

This was not Dongfang Xuanxiao’s first time bringing Long Chen into the Star Devil Prison. Long Chen was a hard worker who spent a lot of time cultivating, so it was completely normal for him to enter once again. The same four guards, including Yan Honghai, were still guarding the entrance. They quickly bowed when they saw Dongfang Xuanxiao.

“Greetings, Lord Xuanxiao! And Young Master Long Chen!” Although they were posted here, they were quick to receive information. They knew that Long Chen had surpassed their expectations and won the Azure Dragon Halberd. More importantly, he had comprehended the Azure Dragon Combat Technique, used the Split Yellow River, and defeated Dongfang Tianxing, who was at the Heavenly Core Realm!

They all looked at him with admiration. “Young Master Long Chen is only sixteen, but he has achieved so much. It just makes us feel guilty! All I can say is that I, Yan Honghai, am thoroughly impressed,” said Yan Honghai, smiling bitterly.

“Yeah, thinking back to when I was sixteen, I don’t even know if I could defeat another Earthly Core Realm cultivator on my level, let alone a Heavenly Core Realm cultivator,” said a guard in red armor. He was the guard from the Vermilion Bird family.

“Most importantly, Young Master Long Chen comprehended the Azure Dragon Combat Technique in one day and could use it in battle after five days. I don’t think anyone in the four inner families has ever achieved something like this, right?” The White Tiger guard sighed.

They were all thoroughly impressed by Long Chen’s inhuman talent.

“I’m taking him to the asteroid where gravity is a hundred times stronger. I’m afraid he might not be able to withstand it, so I’m accompanying him there. Honghai, you guys carry on with your work.” When Dongfang Xuanxiao finished speaking, his face remained neutral, and he led Long Chen into the Star Devil Prison.

Looking at their disappearing figures, the four of them looked at each other. The red-armored guard said, “Brother Yan, didn’t the Azure Dragon Patriarch tell you about this? To immediately inform him if they enter the Star Devil Prison?”

“Alright, though why would the old Patriarch want information like that? Isn’t it normal to enter the Star Devil Prison?” Yan Honghai was puzzled.

“Whatever. You just need to listen to what the Patriarch says.”

When he entered the Star Devil Prison, Long Chen felt nervous when he looked at the other thick chain. Fortunately, Dongfang Xuanxiao was with him. “We cannot afford to waste time, so we must travel as fast as we can. Long Chen, let me take you.”

Then Dongfang Xuanxiao grabbed his arm, stepped on the metal chain, and sprinted toward the Azure Dragon Star. He was indeed much faster than Long Chen.

“The gravity on the Azure Dragon Star is a thousand times stronger than normal, as it’s meant to trap criminals. An initial Heavenly Core Realm cultivator would be squashed after spending half a day there. Mid Heavenly Core Realm cultivators can barely move, while late Heavenly Core Realm Cultivators can move wherever they please, though there’s no way they can leave. That is why once you enter, you must be very careful of late Heavenly Core Realm cultivators. If you meet anyone who can move easily, run as fast as you can. You have the Azure Dragon Halberd, so they can’t catch up to you!”

Long Chen nodded.

“As for Xuan Ming’s appearance, I’ve already explained it to you. If you see someone that almost fits the description, just a few questions and you’ll be able to confirm it. I just don’t know if she’s managed to survive after all these years ... She was at the mid Heavenly Core Realm when she was imprisoned.”

Xuan Ming was the woman that Dongfang Xuanxiao loved. Long Chen had two people to search for—Mo Xiaolang and Xuan Ming.

“Once you’ve completed the mission, I will lure Yan Honghai and the rest away, then Xuan Ming and Mo Xiaolang will go to the Human Core Territory and leave via the outer family’s tunnel. They just need to change their appearance a bit as they won’t be easily recognized in the outer family!” instructed Dongfang Xuanxiao.

The plan was perfect, and there were no holes, yet Long Chen was still strangely anxious. He felt like they had missed something, but he couldn’t think of what it was.

Dongfang Xuanxiao was much faster than he was. After about an hour, Long Chen started to sense the force of gravity acting on his body. There were five planets in front of him, each one a kilometer in diameter. They were green, red, white, black, and silver, all sitting neatly in a row. They looked the same as five stars in the sky to him, beautiful and magnificent to the eyes.

Long Chen arrived at a fork in the chain road. There were five paths, one leading to each of the five planets. Though they were still far from their destination, gravity was twenty times stronger.

“Go ahead. I will wait for you here.” Hope filled Dongfang Xuanxiao’s eyes.

Chapter 216 - Xuan Ming

Under Dongfang Xuanxiao’s watch, Long Chen stepped on the metal chain that led to the Azure Dragon Star. The deeper he ventured, the stronger the gravity he experienced. He could see that there was still a way to go before reaching his destination, but he was already experiencing fifty times gravity. “Time to take out the Azure Dragon Halberd.” Long Chen took it out of his Universe Pouch and held it in his hand. A green light flowed on the surface of the halberd, as if there was fluid moving on it.

A ring of light emerged from it soon after, which turned into a transparent dome that encased Long Chen. The light dome was impossible to see, and Long Chen only knew about it because the weight of the gravity disappeared instantly. *The Azure Dragon Halberd and the Azure Dragon Star must be related somehow, though I don't know how.*

With the Azure Dragon Halberd in hand, he traveled towards the Azure Dragon Star, which was fast approaching. The planet grew bigger and bigger until he finally entered it after fifteen minutes. Due to its size, the ground did not appear to be curved to him.

How is this possible? Long Chen was stunned as he stood on the Azure Dragon Star's ground. The bareness of this place had surpassed his imagination. The asteroids in the asteroid area had yellow soil, but here, it was all gray rock and nothing else. Long Chen had no idea how the people imprisoned here could survive.

There's no time to waste. I need to find Xiaolang and Xuan Ming as soon as possible. He knew that they were short of time and couldn't afford any delays, so he quickly hurried along with the halberd in hand. If it wasn't for the Azure Dragon Halberd, he would be a meat patty flattened on the ground by now.

There were likely extremely evil but powerful masters trapped on the Azure Dragon Star, so he kept a low profile and crept around carefully. Thankfully, he had Ling Xi's help, so everything was much simpler. Ling Xi was best at sensing other souls, and this ability was strengthened after she refined the Sky Soul Fruit. With her, Long Chen could avoid danger and search for his targets.

"Xiao Xi, any updates?" asked Long Chen as he walked.

"There's no one around here. Due to the immense gravity, the people trapped here are mostly dead. Let's walk further ahead and see," said Ling Xi.

Long Chen nodded, though there was worry in his eyes. Mo Xiaolang was at the mid Heavenly Core Realm, so he could barely move on the planet. The chances of his survival seemed to be slim.

"Brother Chen, have you forgotten that he has the Heavenly Wolf Dagger? I don't think he'll die," said Ling Xi.

"Mhm, I know." After Ling Xi's remark, he was much more relaxed. They walked ahead for a while, and along the way, he encountered two late Heavenly Core Realm cultivators. Their clothes were tattered and they no longer looked human. They were clearly vicious, and if they found out that Long Chen had the Azure Dragon Halberd, he would be in deep trouble.

That was why he had no choice but to carefully avoid them. "Brother Chen, I feel like they're very pitiful. They've been trapped in this place for so long ... This torture is scarier than death. If it were me, I'd rather kill myself," said Ling Xi bitterly. She was thinking about how she was still trapped in the Ling Xi sword, and if it wasn't for Long Chen giving her the will to live, she would've been dead by now.

"Silly girl, don't talk like that. I won't let you be in that state forever. Very soon, you'll be able to live a good life like other girls." His heart ached when he saw her so sad.

“Your promise is enough. I know you care about me the most, hehe ...” The worry on her face disappeared, and she chuckled.

Long Chen chuckled too, though there was a huge weight on his chest.

“Brother Chen!” Ling Xi suddenly exclaimed in surprise. “About two kilometers to your left, there is a woman sitting cross-legged. She is wearing black clothes, and should be in her thirties. She’s very pretty, and is at the late Heavenly Core Realm. She is similar to your stepfather’s description—she must be Xuan Ming!”

“Really?” Long Chen was filled with surprise. Usually, late Heavenly Core Realm cultivators survived on the Azure Dragon Star, and there seemed to be only one female cultivator of her age here.

Finally, I can do something for him. With Xuanxiao’s personality, he would’ve stormed this place long ago if he hadn’t already used up his time with the Azure Dragon Halberd. He lacked the Qi seed, so he couldn’t use the halberd. If he had all that, he wouldn’t have waited twenty years. Long Chen was feeling emotional. Xuan Ming was alive, and that was the greatest news to Dongfang Xuanxiao.

He rushed over, though he remembered to be cautious. Soon, he arrived near her and lay on his stomach on a gray boulder. He regarded her carefully. She was different from the other later Heavenly Core Realm cultivators because despite being imprisoned for twenty years, she was still very clean. It was clear that she had sufficient resources.

The black-clothed woman had lost all the childishness in her looks. Although her true age was almost forty, she looked like she was just older than Liu Lan at about thirty years old, radiating a mature elegance and sophistication.

Looking at her beauty, he confirmed that she was Xuan Ming.

There was no one around, so he stood up and walked over to her with the Azure Dragon Halberd in hand.

Sensing Long Chen approaching, her eyes sprung open, and a black ray of light shot out, so blinding that Long Chen struggled to keep his eyes open.

“Who are you?” A clear, cold voice rang. She stood up and looked at him coldly. When she gauged his cultivation level and saw the Azure Dragon Halberd in his hand, she was completely stunned. “I am Xuanxiao’s stepson, and I’m here to break you out.”

To prevent any misunderstandings, Long Chen’s first sentence clearly stated his identity and purpose. Indeed, the black-clothed woman shuddered after hearing him. Her bright eyes instantly welled up. “He says he’s sorry that he’s late.” This was what Dongfang Xuanxiao had reminded him to say as soon as he met her. Long Chen felt all sorts of emotions looking at this woman, who was so emotional that she couldn’t speak.

Twenty years. What was twenty years like? A woman shone the most between her teens and her thirties. And due to the rashness of youth, she had wasted her best years on this barren land with nothing but gray rock as company.

Long Chen knew that Dongfang Xuanxiao was extremely sorry for this, but he also knew that he had his own struggles. He was born to a family that had no freedom, and a powerful Heavenly River cultivator sat atop his head. Although he was lackadaisical in mannerism, he had never been able to escape the palms of the four patriarchs.

“Xuan ... Xuanxiao ...” Biting her lip, Xuan Ming wiped her tears away. She looked at Long Chen in a daze. The teenager that had suddenly appeared in front of her felt like something she had been dreaming of for twenty years. She didn’t know if this was a dream or reality.

Life slowly returned to her dead eyes. Ling Xi, whose heart ached for her, was watching it all unfold. Long Chen could sense that she was secretly crying in the sword. Girls were easily moved, and Ling Xi was no exception. Teenage girls were at the age of budding love, and such a tragic love story was like a tsunami of emotion washing over her.

“Let’s go.” Long Chen realized he didn’t know what else to say.

“Alright,” Xuan Ming said woodenly. She knew that if this was a dream, she might as well go along with it. Perhaps she could see the person she thought about night and day at the end.

“Right, I still need to rescue a good friend. His name is Mo Xiaolang, do you know where he is?” asked Long Chen.

When he mentioned Mo Xiaolang, Xuan Ming knew that this was not a dream, but reality. To her, Mo Xiaolang was an irrelevant figure, and a person like that would not appear in her dream. His presence had gone against the law of her dreams.

“This is not a dream, get yourself together. Do you know Mo Xiaolang? He’s a teenager, fourteen years old, and he has very feminine features.” Long Chen knew what she was thinking.

“... I’ll take you to him,” she said gently. She hadn’t spoken in a very long time, and she realized that she wasn’t used to talking.

Along the way, they didn’t speak because Long Chen didn’t know what to say. In the end, he blurted, “Do you hate him? Twenty years ... He really is late.”

Xuan Ming fell silent. After a long pause, she said, “I don’t know. I hated him for a long time; I even wanted to kill him. But now I want to leave with him, leave this place, and go somewhere far, far away so he can spend the rest of his life making it up to me. The price I paid was far too hefty. He is a jerk.”

Long Chen was a little shaken. She wanted to kill him, but she also wanted to spend the rest of her life with him. Was this love? He had always been toeing the edge and didn’t know what love was. But ever since he met Ling Xi, that strange feeling was getting stronger.

The silence continued, and they traveled ahead. Not long after, Ling Xi whispered, “Brother Chen, I sense Xiaolang’s aura. But he seems to be fighting.”

Chapter 217 - Heavenly Wolf Dagger

Long Chen pushed all thoughts about Dongfang Xuanxiao and Xuan Ming to the back of his mind when he thought he was about to meet Mo Xiaolang, but Ling Xi suddenly said that Mo Xiaolang was about to fight someone.

Long Chen was shocked.

There were very few people on the Azure Dragon Star at the mid Heavenly Core Realm. If someone had picked a fight with Mo Xiaolang, they would probably be at the late Heavenly Core Realm. Mo Xiaolang could barely move on the star and would easily become a victim!

Long Chen told Xuan Ming he was going to find Mo Xiaolang before running ahead. Since he had the Azure Dragon Halberd, he could move freely without being impeded by gravity. Xuan Ming could not catch up to him, but since they were close to where Mo Xiaolang was, she didn't get lost.

Long Chen soon came across two people. One of them was a disheveled man. His hair covered his eyes, but Long Chen saw the bloodthirsty look between the gaps of the hair. Every time that man attacked, he did it with the intention to kill.

His opponent was a young boy who looked to be around fourteen years old. His eyes were bright like the stars, his skin was milky white, and his body was skinny. It was the very same boy Long Chen had met in Baiyang Town.

Long Chen thought he was dreaming when he saw him. Mo Xiaolang was at the mid Heavenly Core Realm when he first came to Baiyang Town, while Long Chen was only at the Second Draconic Stage. Long Chen had closed the gap between them in just half a year. Mo Xiaolang would be surprised to learn that.

The gravity of the Azure Dragon Star was strong enough to severely hinder someone at the late Heavenly Core Realm. With the assistance of the Azure Dragon Halberd, Long Chen was confident that he could deal with a cultivator at the late Heavenly Core Realm to save Mo Xiaolang. However, Ling Xi stopped him before he could do anything. "... Long Chen, he's already at the late Heavenly Core Realm."

"What?" Long Chen almost choked on his saliva. *Late Heavenly Core Realm? Isn't that the same cultivation level as Dongfang Xuanxiao? Dongfang Xuanxiao is one of the strongest in Yuanling County. He's only fourteen, yet he's already made it that far? He even got the Heavenly Wolf Dagger ...*

Long Chen felt defeated for the first time. He thought he had caught up, but the other person was already long gone.

Still, Long Chen was happy for him. Since Mo Xiaolang was at the late Heavenly Core Realm, his strength would flourish once more when he left the Azure Dragon Star. A true genius would never be smothered.

Since Mo Xiaolang was on the same level as his opponent, Long Chen decided to wait and observe the situation for now. He hid himself and watched them fight.

Both Mo Xiaolang and the man were fighting to the death. They said nothing while exchanging explosive blows. Long Chen thought he was watching a silent film.

After some time, Mo Xiaolang took out a dagger. Long Chen's eyes lit up when he saw it. The dagger resembled the fang of a beast, and its pommel was a silver wolf head with two black gemstones as the eyes. The gemstones were radiating power as strong as the Azure Dragon Halberd.

Is that the Heavenly Wolf Dagger? It looks strong. Long Chen silently admired the dagger while Xuan Ming arrived beside him. She was observing the fight too.

“So you finally brought out the Heavenly Wolf Dagger. It’s mine now!” The man’s eyes exploded with a red flash and then he charged towards Mo Xiaolang with his heightened aura.

Mo Xiaolang’s demeanor became colder when he pulled out the dagger. The dagger flew around his hand before it disappeared. At the same time, he swung his right arm, and a silver wolf flew past the man’s body. Not even a moment later, blood sprayed everywhere.

Pah!

The man’s body fell to the ground.

“He’s a prodigy,” Xuan Ming whispered. The reason why she had kept tabs on Mo Xiaolang’s location was because he was far too strong.

Long Chen stood up when he saw Mo Xiaolang killing the man. He felt excited.

They hadn’t met for half a year, and now both of them were on the Azure Dragon Star with a gravity a thousand times stronger than normal. Their gazes met, and one put the dagger away while the other showed off the halberd.

Mo Xiaolang’s eyes were wide with shock when he saw Long Chen. The Heavenly Wolf Dagger fell onto the ground and stabbed into the gray rock.

“ ... Long Chen?” The man he had met only once by chance, the man that was similar to the brother he respected, the man he had not expected to meet in such extreme conditions, appeared once more in front of Mo Xiaolang.

“You are right. I am Long Chen indeed. We met once in Baiyang Town.” Long Chen smiled gleefully upon seeing Mo Xiaolang’s look of disbelief. It was as if all his efforts from the past six months had paid off.

“Impossible. I must be dreaming.” Mo Xiaolang rubbed his eyes just to make sure Long Chen was real. He swallowed his saliva and said with difficulty, “Then you must be imprisoned ... Wait, you have the Azure Dragon Halberd ...”

“It’s a long story. I’m here to save you. Time is running out, so we must leave now. We need to go to where the chains are, and you have to stay beside me so we can escape together. We need to escape the Azure Dragon Star and leave the Star Devil Prison. We can talk while we run!”

Mo Xiaolang nodded, and the three of them instantly escaped. With Ling Xi’s strong sense, they ran towards the chains and avoided the other prisoners. If they ran out together with them, the

commotion would be too big and they would attract the guards. Long Chen couldn't care less about them.

While escaping, Long Chen recounted everything that had happened since he departed from Baiyang Town and joined the Lingwu family. After the story was over, Mo Xiaolang was in disbelief. Still, he was very grateful to Long Chen.

"Thank you, Long Chen. The reason I gave you the Constellation Body was because I saw that you were kind, which made me want to help you. But to think you would repay me like this. If you ever encounter any sort of difficulty, you need to tell me. I will run through a sea of fire to help you!" Mo Xiaolang was not an expressive person, so even though he swore that he would help Long Chen, it sounded very plain.

But Long Chen knew Mo Xiaolang had a passionate heart. It was easy enough to discern when he saw Mo Xiaolang's eyes when he killed the other man.

"Now that I call Yin Mengyao my sister, what should you call me?" Long Chen teased the young Mo Xiaolang.

"I might as well call you my brother. My older brother's name is Mo Xiaolong. Since your name is similar to his, and you saved me today, I'm more than happy to call you my older brother."

Long Chen chuckled when he thought about having a genius of Mo Xiaolang's caliber calling him "brother." Once Mo Xiaolang got stronger, he could even protect Long Chen. Still, it was embarrassing for the younger brother to protect the older brother.

"Brother, you managed to rise up to your current level from the Second Draconic Stage in just half a year. You are five times faster than me, so you should be able to surpass me soon. If I call you my brother now, I will definitely benefit in the future." Mo Xiaolang smiled, revealing his white teeth. Mo Xiaolang was clearly a wolf, similar to Long Chen, but for some reason, his mannerisms and speech reminded others of a sheep.

Long Chen noticed Xuan Ming smiling at them.

"What are you smiling at, Stepmother?" Long Chen thought everyone could soon lead a happy life and feel good. He was very happy to be able to save everyone like this.

Xuan Ming was stunned when he called her "stepmother." She then mumbled to herself, "You little rascal ... I was jealous of the two of you ..."

"I'm also jealous that someone will soon be able to meet their lover and live a happy life." Long Chen smiled.

"Since my brother calls you 'Stepmother,' I will do the same too." Mo Xiaolang smiled. His smile was much purer than Long Chen's.

Xuan Ming smiled out of embarrassment for the first time in twenty years.

“Can ... Can I ask you a question?” Xuan Ming was worried about something.

“What is it?”

“Do you think ... Do I look old?” Xuan Ming touched her own face, feeling insecure. Twenty years ago, she was a beautiful girl that everyone swooned over. But she wasn’t sure if she looked the same after she had been imprisoned for two decades. Would Xuanxiao still love her?

She felt insecure because she cared for Xuanxiao.

Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang exchanged glances before Long Chen responded, “I’m sure Stepfather will go unconscious when he sees how beautiful you are. I’m very jealous that a beautiful woman like you will still love him. He’s already in his forties but has yet to get married.”

“I know. I already knew when you called me ‘stepmother,’” Xuan Ming said lightly.

They saw the chains soon enough. Long Chen told Xuan Ming and Mo Xiaolang to stay close to him, and they ran up the chains like an arrow. They didn’t look back as they ran into the starry void, the two ex-prisoners seeing hope for the first time.

They could finally bid that horrible place farewell.

Thanks to the Azure Dragon Halberd, the three of them were no longer affected by the gravity. Soon, they ran out of the Azure Dragon Star and were sprinting at full speed towards the crossroad. The Azure Dragon Star, the place where Xuan Ming had lived for twenty years, grew smaller behind them. Long Chen was ecstatic about successfully accomplishing his mission.

Both Xuan Ming and Mo Xiaolang were extremely grateful for Long Chen.

“We are almost there. He’s just up ahead.” Xuan Ming started crying when she heard Long Chen’s words. She had waited for twenty years, and her dream would soon come true. Her heart could not hold on any longer.

When they reached the crossroad, they heard an ancient and hoarse laugh. Long Chen panicked. The voice belonged to the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch!

Chapter 218 - We Shall Die Together

The Patriarch of the Eastern Azure Dragon family is in the Star Devil Prison! Long Chen was shocked by that thought. If it was true, their plan had been leaked. Their plan was going to be ruined right when it was on the verge of success. Mo Xiaolang and Xuan Ming might not be able to escape, and Long Chen and Dongfang Xuanxiao might undergo a terrible punishment.

Even Mo Xiaolang and Xuan Ming were horrified at what they heard.

“We need to run out now!” Long Chen did not hesitate. If he was right, Dongfang Xuanxiao was fighting the Patriarch alone. Although Long Chen would be of no help, Xuan Ming and Mo Xiaolang might be able to tip the scales!

Once out of the Azure Dragon Star, they could run far faster than Long Chen, especially Mo Xiaolang. He grabbed Long Chen and ran like the wind towards Dongfang Xuanxiao’s location.

Soon, they arrived at the crossroad and saw Dongfang Xuanxiao kneeling on the chains. He had suffered an injury and his face was pale. Even so, he had not given up while he snarled at the Patriarch. The Eastern Azure Dragon family Patriarch was standing in front of him with a smirk!

Long Chen's arrival caught their attention. Dongfang Xuanxiao turned around and saw the woman he had been longing for. His eyes widened with shock before he started crying. He had not cried in twenty years, but he failed to control himself when he saw her again. Both of them had aged, and she was no longer the young girl he remembered.

"... Brother Xuanxiao." Xuan Ming couldn't control her body, feeling as if she had been struck by lightning. If it wasn't for Long Chen holding her, she might've accidentally fallen off the chains. If she did, she would die down in the abyss.

"Ming'er!" Dongfang Xuanxiao shouted. He had always been serious and calm, but now he was very agitated. He ran towards Xuan Ming and hugged her tightly. He held her so tight that his veins showed on his hands. She hugged him back as if she was afraid she would lose him.

It was clear that their love for each other was very deep. Twenty years had passed, yet they still loved each other. Long Chen felt sourness in his heart. He pitied them because there was one more obstacle in front of them, one that was most likely insurmountable.

Ling Xi was already bawling in the sword.

If I were to be separated from him for twenty years, would he still think of me? Ling Xi could not shake off the thought.

"What should we do?" Mo Xiaolang pulled at Long Chen while his voice trembled. It was the Patriarch himself that had sent Mo Xiaolang onto the Azure Dragon Star, and now he was standing in front of them.

"We react according to the situation." Long Chen felt powerless. He was the weakest one among them, so he could do nothing to help. His thirst for power had just grown a bit stronger. If he was strong enough, he could easily take over the situation now.

Their dream had come true after twenty years of enduring, but it was already on the verge of collapsing. Long Chen felt like the heavens had played a cruel trick on them. He only had one real father, Long Qinglan, the man who had given him the Dragon Jade Pendant and turned him into a Dragon Warrior. Therefore, Long Chen was reluctant to accept his stepfather as a true father figure. But it was undeniable that Dongfang Xuanxiao had helped him enough to at least be seen as a respected elder.

And now one of the men he respected the most would be facing the most painful moment in his life.

To every man, being unable to protect their loved ones was the most painful thought.

But the Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch would never understand this. He smiled coldly and scoffed. "Xuanxiao, did you think you could beat me in a battle of wits? I thought you would have forgotten her after twenty years, but to think you endured it. Unfortunately, you forgot one crucial thing, and that is how deeply I understand you. I understand you even better than your father did. Ever since

you were young, your stubbornness and endurance were beyond your peers. You would never give up, and the behavior you exhibited back then has sold you out. I already knew what you were doing when you chose to have your stepchildren compete in the tournament to obtain the Azure Dragon Halberd. Did you think I would forget?"

Dongfang Xuanxiao never even turned back as he caressed Xuan Ming's long hair. "I'm sorry, Ming'er. I failed again. But don't worry, even if I die today, I won't let him send you back."

"Brother Xuanxiao, we will die here together." Xuan Ming made her decision.

Taking one more look at her, Dongfang Xuanxiao nodded and turned around. He was not afraid of the Patriarch.

The Patriarch laughed at what they said. He was disgusted by their naivety, then he looked at Mo Xiaolang. "To think that you've arrived at the late Heavenly Core Realm. You are full of surprises. Mo Xiaolang, if you agree to my condition, I will let you go. But first, I will have to deal with this disgusting couple."

The Patriarch's eyes grew serious.

"Little devil girl, I heard that your father is one of the strongest people in the Cangyang Kingdom. I didn't dare to kill you twenty years ago out of fear, but I think your father has forgotten you after so long. As for you, Xuanxiao, I had expectations for you and hoped that you could become as strong as your father. But to think you would still be distracted with her even after twenty years. You haven't even managed to enter the Heavenly River Realm. But even if you did, you would still lose to me. I will send both of you down to hell so you will not struggle anymore. I hate people that plot against me."

His words were like a death sentence to them. Long Chen clenched his fists tightly.

"Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch ..." Long Chen's killing intent for the Patriarch intensified. There was always someone he really wanted to kill ever since he got here. First, there was the Grand Priest of the Blood Saints, and now the Patriarch of the Eastern Azure Dragon family.

"Brother Chen ... I don't want them to die ... They shouldn't die ..." Ling Xi was moved to tears by their relationship. Dongfang Xuanxiao was a kind man who had earned her approval.

"But I don't have a plan, Xiao Xi ..." Long Chen's voice was filled with powerlessness.

Strength. It's always an issue with strength. I've improved so much, but I'm still so weak. How could I be content with myself? If I were to meet the same fate as Dongfang Xuanxiao one day, what could I do? Long Chen struggled with his powerlessness.

The Heavenly River Realm poised an immense threat to him.

Dongfang Xuanxiao glared at the Patriarch, his voice filled with despair as he said, "Ming'er, I'm so sorry I've made you suffer. I regret it. If I hadn't fallen in love with you, you wouldn't have had to suffer so much."

"I've never regretted it. My instincts were never wrong. Brother Xuanxiao, if we have to suffer together, so be it. I don't care. I don't care even if I die." Their hands were firmly clasped together.

The Patriarch got angrier after seeing them ignore him. "Don't waste my time! Fight me together!"

Dongfang Xuanxiao and Xuan Ming prepared themselves. Dongfang Xuanxiao turned around and told Long Chen, "I'm sorry for dragging you down. When we fight, find a chance to escape and never come back to the Lingwu family. Long Chen, if you grow strong enough one day, come back and kill this fucker!"

Without waiting for Long Chen's response, he led the attack with Xuan Ming to fight against the Patriarch at the Heavenly River Realm. Soon, their massive energy shook the entire chain. The three of them jumped and weaved on the chain without falling down.

It was extremely difficult to fight on the chain hanging over the abyss!

"Brother, wait here! I will go and help." Mo Xiaolang brandished the Heavenly Wolf Dagger and ran towards the Patriarch.

With him joining the fray, Dongfang Xuanxiao's situation became slightly better.

"You think the three of you at the late Heavenly Core Realm could escape from me? Dream on! The power of the Heavenly River Realm is beyond your understanding! I've absorbed the power of the stars to dig out the river of Yin and Yang within my body! I will show you my true strength!"

The Patriarch launched blow after blow, each of them containing the deadly power of the stars. The power behind them was several times stronger than Long Chen's Meteor Fist!

Every time he punched, the chains shook violently! The destructive power of the stars melded with his Qi, launching an attack several times stronger than what someone at the Divine Core Realm could muster. Even the strongest fighter on their side, Dongfang Xuanxiao, spat blood twice after receiving the Patriarch's attack.

This was not the first time Dongfang Xuanxiao had fought against the Patriarch, but the power of the stars was still his nemesis. Xuanxiao was currently using an advanced Black-tier halberd!

"Azure Dragon Combat Technique, Starsweep Dragon!" he shouted.

His move caused the chains to rattle violently. Long Chen saw several beams of light shoot out of the tip of the halberd, forming a rain of illusions of miniature dragons. All of the dragons crashed into the Patriarch, their roars containing immense power.

"Your Starsweep Dragon is impressive! It's almost as strong as an attack from someone at the Heavenly River Realm! But it's weak without the power of the stars!" The Patriarch laughed.

Long Chen stared in disbelief.

“Is that Starsweep Dragon? Xiao Xi, do you think I should do something?”

Chapter 219 - Heaven Bearing Sword Prison

The Earth-tier Starsweep Dragon was truly a powerful martial technique. The dragon illusions that covered the skies pushed back even someone of the caliber of the Patriarch. But soon, the Patriarch’s punches infused with the power of the stars tore the martial technique to pieces.

“I’m much more familiar with the Azure Dragon Combat Technique than you! If I were to use the Azure Dragon Halberd, I could defeat you even if you were at the Second River Stage, much less now!”

The Patriarch’s hoarse laughter made everyone’s scalps numb. They knew what he meant. He was just toying with them. If he wanted to kill them, he could just take back the Azure Dragon Halberd and do so in a matter of seconds.

“Xuanxiao, do you see the difference between you and me? Haha!” The Patriarch had used only his punches to push everyone back.

“Comet Dragon Seal!”

Dongfang Xuanxiao was hit by the advanced Black-tier martial technique, causing him to vomit blood once more. Even though his face was pale, he stood defiantly and refused to fall down.

“Brother Xuanxiao ...” Xuan Ming’s face was pale while she held him up. She knew his organs were injured when she saw the black blood spilling from his mouth.

“I’m fine.” Dongfang Xuanxiao took out some spiritual herbs and placed them into his mouth. He refined them immediately and then took his stance.

“Ming’er, I fear we will die today. Even so, we have to send Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang out of this place,” Dongfang Xuanxiao said as he rushed towards the Patriarch.

“I know.”

The Patriarch was currently fighting against Mo Xiaolang, but he was pulling his punches for some reason. Even so, Mo Xiaolang’s situation was bad and he could die at any time.

“The Heavenly Wolf Dagger ... It seems as if it was made just for you ...” the Patriarch said in a mocking tone.

“You seek death!”

At the same time, Xuan Ming arrived beside Long Chen. She was here on Xuanxiao’s order. Long Chen knew what it meant—she was here to take him away.

Xuan Ming grabbed his hand, and Long Chen did not reject it. With Dongfang Xuanxiao and Mo Xiaolang fighting to their last breath, as well as how large the chains were, Xuan Ming managed to carry Long Chen away from the fight.

“Run now!” Xuan Ming placed Long Chen a distance away and told him to run. Having said that, she ran back to help. She was worried that Dongfang Xuanxiao and Mo Xiaolang would be unable to endure the onslaught of the Patriarch without her.

At the same time, Dongfang Xuanxiao stood in front of Mo Xiaolang and took the brunt of the attack.

“Xiaolang, take Long Chen and run away. We don’t stand a chance right now. You guys are still young, so you must survive and take revenge some other day!”

Mo Xiaolang felt his heart waver. He was not an unreasonable person, and he knew that everyone would die if they dragged this on for too long. This was the best opportunity. If he could get Long Chen out of here, they would be able to get strong enough to take revenge rather than dying here pointlessly.

“I will be back.” Mo Xiaolang steeled his heart when he saw Xuan Ming return. This was his only chance to escape with Long Chen. He turned around but was shocked to see Long Chen’s blood-red eyes.

Dongfang Xuanxiao and Xuan Ming had sustained heavy injuries under the Patriarch’s fierce attacks. They had also lost a lot of blood, but they remained standing through sheer force of will.

The strength of someone at the Heavenly River Realm could not be matched by several people at the Heavenly Core Realm.

“Long Chen, run!” Dongfang Xuanxiao howled.

An intense pain blossomed in Long Chen’s heart. Dongfang Xuanxiao and Xuan Ming were giving up their lives to save him, but Long Chen could do nothing. He hated himself, and when the hatred appeared on his face, Ling Xi felt pain in her heart too.

She had never seen Long Chen look so defeated before.

This was a massive blow to Long Chen.

“Brother Chen ... Are they really that important to you?” Ling Xi stared at Long Chen, her voice trembling weakly.

“Of course! I would rather die so they can live, but there’s nothing I could do! I’m too weak. All I can do is watch from afar! I have no choice but to let them sacrifice themselves to give me a chance to escape! I’m just a weakling that can only run!”

“No! Brother Chen, you are not a weakling!” Ling Xi was crying, but her voice suddenly grew resolute in the end.

“Brother Chen, I will do something for you, but you must promise me that you will remember me your entire life. Never forget me!”

“Ling Xi, what are you saying?” Long Chen was shocked, but he realized too late that the Ling Xi Sword had detached from his ear after she said that.

He felt his heart grow cold when he touched his ear and felt nothing there.

“Xiao Xi, come back!” Long Chen knew that she must’ve felt the pain in his heart and was about to do something stupid! He cared much more about her than his stepfather. Even though he didn’t want Dongfang Xuanxiao to die, he couldn’t bear to see anything happen to Ling Xi!

Dongfang Xuanxiao and Xuan Ming were fighting a bitter battle against the Patriarch while Mo Xiaolang was about to take Long Chen out of the Star Devil Prison. Suddenly, all of them saw a rusted sword becoming larger above Long Chen’s head.

“What is that?” The Eastern Azure Dragon Patriarch was shocked to see white fog billowing out of the sword. And then an extraordinarily beautiful girl emerged from the fog. Even though the Patriarch was very old, Ling Xi’s beauty made him catch his breath. She looked too pure to partake in the matters of mortals.

But her overwhelming killing intent snapped him out of it.

The Patriarch retreated, giving Xuanxiao and Xuan Ming some breathing room. Ling Xi’s appearance was out of their expectations, and she left them stunned as well. They had heard Long Chen calling out for someone named “Xiao Xi” and assumed it was the girl that had appeared from the sword.

Dongfang Xuanxiao recalled seeing that sword before. It was the ear stud Long Chen was always wearing.

Is that girl the reason why Long Chen wanted the Sky Soul Fruit?

Dongfang Xuanxiao had a daring thought.

The Sky Soul Fruit had given Ling Xi the power to fight right now. After she refined it, she had told Long Chen that she could block an attack from someone at the Heavenly River Realm.

“Brother Chen, run! I will stop him! I can stop him for fifteen minutes! Do not waste my efforts!” Ling Xi shouted, and an enormous aura gathered around her. The aura exploded from her body and transformed into Sword Qi. The Sword Qi engulfed the space around them, causing everyone’s hearts to throb from the massive amount of energy.

But to Long Chen, this was his nightmare.

“Ling Xi! What are you doing?!” Long Chen’s heart was throbbing too. He knew he couldn’t stop what was going to happen next and started crying.

“I’m very happy I was able to spend my last six months with you. I still remember all of the promises you made, but it seems you will have to fulfill them in your next life. I hope that we can meet each other again in our next lives, and maybe ... Maybe I can be your wife ...”

Long Chen’s heart almost shattered when he heard that.

Ling Xi's body became the sole source of light within the void. She did not hesitate to use all of her strength, and numerous illusory swords appeared beside her.

"Such an immense Sword Qi ..." Dongfang Xuanxiao and Xuan Ming looked at each other. They didn't know what was going to happen next.

Ling Xi's body was covered by the light. Long Chen felt intense pain coming from his gut. If he didn't know what love was before, he knew now. It was a pain that made him want to die.

"Wife ..." Ling Xi's words were like a sword that pierced through his heart.

All of the indecision and hesitation were destroyed by that one word. Under any other circumstances, it would've been great to find out that Ling Xi liked him, but now he wasn't sure if she could return to him.

A clear voice rang in the void.

"Return to dreams ... Heaven Bearing Sword Prison!"

Shrieking sounds could be heard as the swords rotated wildly in the void before forming a prison that trapped the Patriarch. The prison was made entirely out of swords! Soon, only the silent prison was left in the void.

Dongfang Xuanxiao, Xuan Ming, and Mo Xiaolang stared at the miracle they had witnessed, but Long Chen was now trapped in a nightmare.

Everything had disappeared. The Patriarch was trapped for fifteen minutes. That amount of time was more than enough for them to escape the Lingwu family, but this was not what Long Chen wished for.

He looked around and finally saw a black metal sword falling off into the abyss to his left. If he did nothing, he would be separated from her forever.

Numerous scenes flashed through his mind. It was all the time he had spent with Ling Xi. There were so many memories that he felt like his brain was going to explode. When they met, when they bickered, when they laughed, cried, got angry, and flirted—he felt like things were just getting started, and now was it going to be over?

Long Chen smiled.

Without saying a word, without caring for Dongfang Xuanxiao and Mo Xiaolang, he jumped down the abyss. He only shouted one thing to them as he fell.

"Stepfather! If you waste even one minute, I will not forgive you even after I become a ghost! You only have fifteen minutes to run!" His words hammered everyone's brains. Dongfang Xuanxiao and Mo Xiaolang did not cry easily, but they couldn't control themselves now.

"Long Chen!"

"Brother!"

Ling Xi's sudden appearance, the trapped Patriarch, and Long Chen suddenly jumping into the abyss. All of these developments were beyond their control. Dongfang Xuanxiao's heart was in pain too. He could only release the pain if he jumped down with Long Chen, but Long Chen's word and Xuan Ming at his side stopped him from doing so.

Dongfang Xuanxiao endured the immense pressure in his heart and uttered only one word. "Run."

Chapter 220 - Ancient Coffin in the Abyss

Cold.

A bitter cold that pierced the bone.

Long Chen slowly woke up when he felt the cold seeping into his body.

Am I dead? He remembered how fast his body was falling when he jumped into the abyss. It was so fast that he knew his body would outright disintegrate if he collided with a solid object rather than becoming meat paste.

He saw nothing but darkness surrounding him. It was so dark that he was unable to spot the Ling Xi Sword or even catch a glimpse of his own fingers. He didn't know if diving down into the abyss to find Ling Xi was the correct choice. Xuan Ming had said she did not regret being with Dongfang Xuanxiao.

And Long Chen did not regret jumping down into the abyss.

All he thought about was how dark it was. *What if she's afraid of the dark? What if she died? What would I do?*

Long Chen still couldn't fully open his eyes. He felt like he was floating in water. He tried struggling and found out that he was not dead, or at least he probably wasn't, since he could still feel the coldness.

He slowly collected his thoughts and remembered being told that the abyss had an end and was not a limitless void. He knew he would've been dead if he continued to fall at that speed and crashed into the ground. At that time, he only remembered gripping the Azure Dragon Halberd.

He remembered a warm feeling emanating from the halberd that enveloped his body, causing his falling speed to reduce drastically before a massive impact made him faint. All he could remember was crashing into what felt like extremely frigid water.

The Azure Dragon Halberd saved me while I was falling into the abyss of the Star Devil Prison ... But ... Did I fall into a deep pool of water? Long Chen slowly collected himself. Now that he was coherent, he used Recovery.

He woke up after using Recovery for fifteen minutes.

"Ling Xi!" Long Chen shouted as he opened his eyes. Unexpectedly, his surroundings were bright. He was laying in a deep pool of emerald water. The pool was deep and frigid. Even though Long Chen's Qi was slowly gathering in his body, he still trembled from the cold.

The pool was massive, so much so that he couldn't see the border. The skies were completely dark, although he faintly saw five bright stars in the distance.

Are those the five stars? Is that the Azure Dragon Star?

But what attracted his attention weren't the stars in the distance, but what was directly in front of him. It was the dragon soul that lived inside the Azure Dragon Halberd. He had seen it when he comprehended the Azure Dragon Combat Technique. At the moment, the dragon was very small but much more solid. It was thanks to the dragon illuminating their surroundings that he could see in the darkness. The dragon was emanating a pale, azure light that lit up a small area around them.

The warmth given off by the dragon soul was protecting Long Chen from the frigid chill.

The dragon soul had half of its body submerged in the deep pool. Long Chen saw that it was staring at him with gentle eyes.

Long Chen examined the dragon soul and realized that it was exactly as the books had described them. It had the head of an ox, the horns of a deer, the eyes of a shrimp, the ears of an elephant, the abdomen and neck of a snake, the scales of a fish, the claws of a phoenix, and the paws of a tiger. It had eighty-one scales on its back, and its roar was like a gong. Two whiskers grew beside its mouth, with a prominent chin. There was a reverse scale on its throat, and the top of its head was bulbous.

"You saved me ..." Long Chen knew that the ancient dragon soul in the Azure Dragon Halberd had saved him. Without it, Long Chen's body would've disintegrated from hitting the water at such high speed.

The ancient dragon soul nodded as if it understood him. It then touched the top of its head to Long Chen, spreading the warmth and dispersing the cold.

Just then, the dragon soul merged into Long Chen's body, and an azure dragon brand appeared on his palm. A stream of information entered Long Chen's mind.

"I've been recognized as the owner?" Long Chen was surprised. That meant that unless he died, the halberd would always be his. It was different from the inheritance process initiated by the ancestors of the Eastern Azure Dragon family.

"You are the first important weapon in my journey of cultivation, the Azure Dragon Halberd."

The Azure Dragon Halberd was not far away from Long Chen. He put it in his Universe Pouch and deciphered the information in his mind.

"The Azure Dragon Halberd is an intermediate Earth-tier Divine Weapon, and it's even stronger than regular intermediate Earth-tier Divine Weapons. It also has an intermediate Earth-rank martial technique!"

Long Chen realized that Split Yellow River and Shattered Skies were the basics of the Azure Dragon Combat Technique. The true strength of the halberd would only be unlocked when the intermediate Earth-tier martial technique was used. Starsweep Dragon was considered an elementary Earth-tier martial technique. Now Long Chen was sorting out the information about the intermediate Earth-tier martial technique in his mind. It was even stronger than Starsweep Dragon!

To think that there was an intermediate Earth-tier Divine Weapon in Yuanling City, and it even contains an intermediate Earth-tier martial technique! The Eastern Azure Dragon family must've

never known about it because no one has ever managed to obtain the true acknowledgment from the halberd itself, not even the Patriarch!

However, Long Chen was not eager to cultivate it.

After putting the halberd away, the surroundings got darker again. He couldn't see anything at all. Accepting the acknowledgement from the Azure Dragon Halberd hadn't taken much time, but he was still very anxious about Ling Xi's condition.

Ling Xi used the Heaven Bearing Sword Prison to trap the Patriarch. She must've returned back into the sword and fallen into the deep pool. She must be still alive, so I must find her!

Ling Xi's name had been carved deep into Long Chen's heart.

The pool was cold, so Long Chen enveloped himself with Qi, but he was still freezing. *If it means saving Ling Xi, this cold is nothing!* He had jumped down with no hesitation just for Ling Xi, so the cold was nothing to him.

She must have fallen close to where I am. Even though the pool is big, she should be around my vicinity.

Long Chen dove down into the water. It was even colder and his vision was worse, but he did not give up.

Ling Xi had used a lot of power when she used the Heaven Bearing Sword Prison, and she had fallen from such a great height. Her chances of survival were slim even if he found the Ling Xi Sword. Long Chen was on the verge of crying when he thought about that.

The deeper he sunk into the water, the colder it got. Normally, the water should've frozen from that temperature, but Long Chen was surprised to see the absence of even a single speck of ice.

Thankfully, he managed to detect the bottom of the pool. He was close to his limit and could barely endure it. At his current depth, his body was trembling and his lips were blue.

Xiao Xi ... Where are you ... Long Chen gritted his teeth and dove down deeper. If Ling Xi had indeed fallen into the water, she would most likely be at the bottom of the pool.

He braced himself and soon reached the bottom, but when touched it, he was stunned.

"Wait ... Why is it metallic?" Long Chen could tell that the bottom of the pool was not muddy, it was made of metal. The metal was harder than anything he had touched before.

Why is the bottom metallic?

Long Chen knew he couldn't last long at the bottom, so he continued his search for Ling Xi even though he had come across something bizarre. Still, he kept his guard up as he wondered why it was metallic. He circled around and was even more confused.

The bottom of the pool is a metallic coffin? And the coffin is massive! It's two hundred meters wide! I wonder how long it is?

Long Chen surfaced due to the cold. He had to take a rest before continuing.

His eyes were still wide with shock as he processed what he had just witnessed. When he was in the water just now, part of his attention had been directed to the bottom of the pool while he was searching for the Ling Xi Sword. He walked on the metallic bottom until he saw an opening. He then swam into the opening and found out that the bottom was muddy. Then he turned around and saw that what he once thought was the bottom of the pool was the surface of a metallic coffin!

He managed to identify it after taking a look at the shape. *But where did the coffin come from? Why is it so big? What did it contain? What is this place?*

Long Chen was confused.

Whatever. My priority should be Ling Xi. Thankfully, we fell directly on top of the coffin. If the Ling Xi Sword had fallen deeper and into the mud, it would've pierced deep into the soil thanks to its sharpness. Since the bottom is metallic, I should be able to find it on the surface of the metallic coffin... But would the Ling Xi Sword break on impact?

The Ling Xi Sword's origin was mysterious, but the metallic coffin was equally mysterious.

Long Chen was worried and dove into the pool again. He limited his search area to the surface of the coffin, making it much more systematic for him to search the area.

He surfaced nine more times before he finally found the Ling Xi Sword. He found it embedded on the coffin, leaving just the hilt on the surface. He took one look and knew it was what he was looking for.

The Ling Xi Sword was stronger. It had pierced the coffin, creating a dent and a crack.

"Xiao Xi!" Long Chen ran over and touched the familiar hilt. He was so happy that he could barely speak.

But another problem lay ahead of him. *Is Ling Xi alive?*