

War God 591

Chapter 591 – Choose One

After studying Lei Zhen, Long Chen, and Xiaolang, Zhao Danchen smiled. “Two young, delicate-skinned teenagers! The preferences of the Battle clan leader must be quite special. I didn’t know you liked them this way.”

Lei Zhen had always been an honest man, so he did not understand Zhao Danchen’s subtle insult. Long Chen did, so he instantly understood this person’s personality. The fact that he had managed to stand out amongst countless children and climbed up to his current position showed that he was no simple man. His personality was quite similar to Long Chen’s.

Long Chen knew that he had met his match this time.

Lei Zhen ignored him and said coldly, “Zhao Danchen, you have come to the Battle clan’s territory, so just tell me what this is about. If you keep beating around the bush, you’re going to lose my respect!”

Zhao Danchen laughed for a while, then he finally said, “Tell me, what do you think I’m here for?” His eyes ran up and down Lei Zhen. “Lei Zhen, you’re useless, but they let you command the whole Battle clan. I don’t think you’re fit for the job, so I want to kill you. That way, a new clan leader will be chosen. What do you think?”

Zhao Danchen’s tone made it sound like he was joking, but Long Chen and Lei Zhen knew that he was not. Although Lei Zhen was weak in terms of cultivation, he was stubborn and was a clan leader who was hard to deal with. Zhao Danchen had a faint feeling that even if Lei Zhen lost the bet, he would bite back. That was why he had come over to survey the situation.

Based on what he had just seen, he felt like there was a huge possibility that his hunch was correct.

Yang Ningfeng had made the bet without Zhao Danchen’s consent. At the time, Zhao Danchen was undergoing treatment for his injuries. When he woke up and heard about what Yang Ningfeng had done, he immediately slapped Yang Ningfeng in the face.

Although they were both Martial Emperors, Zhao Danchen held a lot more power than Yang Ningfeng. Zhao Danchen was the Martial Overlord’s direct disciple with a clean background. Yang Ningfeng, on the other hand, used to be the Great Priest of the Wind God Sect. There was no comparison between them, so even though Yang Ningfeng had been slapped, he had to hold his anger back.

However, the Martial Alliance had already made the bet, so they could not change anything.

Lei Zhen was not intimidated. He replied mockingly, “Is the great Martial Alliance unable to follow through with its own bet?”

Zhao Danchen replied, “The bet will still go on, of course. But the bet did not state that I cannot change the Battle clan’s clan leader, right? Since you’re so disobedient, Lei Zhen, I need to put who is more obedient in your seat.”

Zhao Danchen spoke as if it was very logical, but Long Chen found a flaw in his logic and laughed loudly. “I’ve long heard that Zhao Danchen was the ultimate prodigy, but I didn’t expect you to be

the kind of man that doesn't keep his promises! I am utterly shocked by how low you are willing to get!"

"Why do you say that?" Zhao Danchen looked at Long Chen. He did not know who this First Earthly Martial Stage teenager was, but there was no need to know.

"The bet consists of a total of three battles. My Fourth Brother will be representing the Battle clan in the first battle. If you kill him, doesn't that count as breaking the rules of the bet? If the Martial Alliance is so scared, you might as well kill all three representatives, then! If you do that, I'm sure you will die of embarrassment!" Long Chen said without a hint of submission.

Zhao Danchen had said that the bet would still be upheld, but since Lei Zhen was going to participate in the duel, killing him was considered breaking the conditions of the bet. Zhao Danchen had just shot himself in the foot. He had actually come today to kill Lei Zhen, but his plan was ruined because of a few words from Long Chen.

"You're a great Martial Emperor of the Martial Alliance! Supposedly the number one person beneath the Martial Overlord himself! But you are actually such a lowly character; I have learned something new today," Long Chen continued.

Lei Zhen looked at Long Chen gratefully. After what Long Chen said, Zhao Danchen no longer had an excuse to attack Lei Zhen. The bet had already been made and announced to the world. If Zhao Danchen killed Lei Zhen here, he would only embarrass the Martial Alliance.

"Alright! Alright!" Zhao Danchen had been cornered in wordplay by Long Chen, leaving him furious. Indeed, he did not know that the Battle clan would send Lei Zhen for the duel.

He would not be able to kill Lei Zhen today, but since he was here, how could he leave empty-handed?

His cold, golden eyes moved from Lei Zhen to Long Chen, whom he had ignored since the beginning. He gave a cold sneer and said, "You are weak, yet you have so much to say. May I ask what your name is?!"

"Long Chen." Long Chen faintly guessed what Zhao Danchen was planning to do. Having successfully led Lei Zhen out of danger, half of his mission was complete. The next step depended on him.

Xiaolang clenched his fists. He was not an idiot, so he knew what Long Chen intended to do.

Everyone was close to each other, but their minds were all occupied with their own thoughts.

"Your name is Long Chen?" Zhao Danchen thought of the other person, who was one of the two well-known prodigies. His brows were furrowed, knowing that this Long Chen was not him. However, there was another Long Chen in recent news that had

caused a huge commotion. Although he was also quite famous, he was just a clown in Zhao Danchen's eyes.

Zhao Danchen lifted his chin up to ask, "Are you the one who killed the Void Martial Saint?"

Long Chen nodded without a word.

Zhao Danchen smiled and said, "You and Lei Zhen are both at the First Earthly Martial Stage. Since Lei Zhen is participating in the duel, then you won't need to, right? I can't kill Lei Zhen, but why would I let you live?"

Lei Zhen's face changed and he quickly put Long Chen behind him without hesitation. He cried angrily, "Zhao Danchen, you shameless bastard!"

Zhao Danchen gave an impatient expression and said, "What do you mean, shameless? I came here from very far away; do you think I'm going to go back empty-handed? It's your fault that you're both at the First Earthly Martial Stage. Between the two of you, only one of you gets to live. Lei Zhen, who do you want to keep alive?"

Then Zhao Danchen chuckled in a very annoying manner.

Lei Zhen was so mad that his face turned red. He took a deep breath and said coldly without even thinking, "You bastard! If you want to kill someone, kill me! Long Chen will fight at the First Earthly Martial Stage duel!"

Even in the face of death, he did not want to burden his brother. This was Lei Zhen's core belief!

"Seventh Brother, please go back and tell our brothers that I'll hand the Battle clan over to them. Let Old Vulture take the position of clan leader for the moment. He is very experienced, so I feel assured letting him take the position!"

As he spoke, Lei Zhen looked like he was ready to die!

"How touching! I'm going to dig in, then! Lei Zhen, you're the one who wanted this."

Zhao Danchen was indeed waiting for Lei Zhen to say this. Lei Zhen's strong personality was going to be a major obstacle in the Martial Alliance's attempt to subdue the Battle clan. That was why he had to come alone in the middle of the night to kill him!

Now that he was presented with the opportunity, he did not even wait for Long Chen to speak and attacked Lei Zhen!

"Xiaolang!"

At that moment, Long Chen and Xiaolang moved!

Long Chen had long known that Zhao Danchen would do this, so he was ready. When Zhao Danchen was speaking, he quietly activated his Dragon Soul Transformation. The moment Zhao Danchen moved, Long Chen suddenly pulled Lei Zhen's arm!

He was much stronger than Lei Zhen, who was prepared to attack Zhao Danchen. He had not expected Long Chen to suddenly move too. After the Dragon Soul Transformation, Long Chen was

very strong and tossed Lei Zhen behind him. He was ten times stronger than Lei Zhen in this form, plus Lei Zhen was caught completely off guard, so he was instantly thrown more than two hundred meters away!

When Lei Zhen realized what had happened, Long Chen had replaced him to face Zhao Danchen and started to fight him. More accurately, Long Chen was the one attacking Zhao Danchen!

He had the first-move advantage because of his speed!

“Awoo!”

A cold but regal howl rang from Long Chen’s side. There was a sudden flash of black fire, and Xiaolang, who had been standing quietly, suddenly grew bigger! In a very short time, Xiaolang returned to his Sun Devouring Wolf form!

At the same time, his cold howl pierced through the clouds. Every Battle clan member in the forest had surely heard his howl!

“Second Brother! Old Vulture!” After Xiaolang’s howl, Lei Zhen realized that it would be useless to rush forward. Chiding himself for being careless, he roared as loud as he could to call the two strongest people here!

When there were more people present, it would not be easy for Zhao Danchen to do anything!

They were not far from the place where Jiang Wuya and the rest were. At this point, it all depended on how long Long Chen could survive while facing Zhao Danchen.

While Lei Zhen shouted for Jiang Wuya and Old Vulture, he did not forget to rescue Long Chen!

He had intended to fight Zhao Danchen; how could he have guessed that Long Chen would do this!

Furthermore, how was Seventh Brother so strong just now? I could not even fight back!

This was the most confusing part to Lei Zhen.

Long Chen had long figured out that Zhao Danchen had snuck in here to kill Lei Zhen quietly. If there were more people present, not only would it make his task more difficult, but his reputation would be affected if this got out.

This was why Zhao Danchen wanted to slap Yang Ningfeng. Yang Ningfeng had chosen a route that did not involve military force, but to Zhao Danchen, having such a powerful military and not using it was the same as shooting themselves in the foot.

Long Chen knew what to expect. He only had to hold on until other people arrived. That was why he launched a storm of attacks from the beginning so Zhao Danchen could not react in time!

“Blood Devouring Domain!”

Chapter 592 – Golden Eye of Annihilation

Long Chen had not used this technique in a long time. He didn’t need to use it in his fight against Huangfu Fengyun. Huangfu Fengchen had said that in his current state, no one at the Second Earthly Martial Stage was a match for him. His actual strength was very close to the Third Earthly Martial Stage, so it was not an issue to hold on for a period of time when fighting Zhao Danchen!

“Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw, Five Piercing Dragons!”

When the Blood Devouring Domain spread out, the air was filled with blood-red mist. As Long Chen had grown stronger, the effects of the Blood Devouring Domain had gotten stronger too. At this moment, his Blood Devouring Domain turned the area completely blood-red. From Lei Zhen’s perspective, Long Chen and Zhao Danchen were wrapped in a blood-red cocoon that he could not see through!

Only half of Xiaolang’s body was outside.

Long Chen had absolute control over the Blood Devouring Domain, so it did not affect Xiaolang at all.

After Long Chen used the Blood Devouring Domain, he suppressed Zhao Danchen’s strength while catching him off guard. At the same time, he used his most powerful attack, which was the Five Piercing Dragons. With the boost of the Golden Crow Flames, blood-red flames burned brightly on his claws, complimenting his essence. With the combination of these two types of forces, the projection of his claw turned into five blood-red dragon images that flew towards Zhao Danchen in the Blood Devouring Domain!

Rumble!

The moment his Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw touched down, all the nearby rocks shattered. Zhao Danchen and Long Chen were not far apart, so his attack instantly arrived in front of Zhao Danchen!

Zhao Danchen was completely stunned that a First Earthly Martial Stage cultivator could launch an attack like that. As far as he was aware, not even Second Earthly Martial Stage cultivators could launch attacks as powerful as this. Even he could not reach this level if he did not focus on the attack!

This is such a terrifying attack! And this domain suppresses my Qi; it really is powerful! It’s no wonder they said he killed the Void Martial Saint! I initially thought that was a joke, but it’s true! From this one attack, Zhao Danchen’s impression of Long Chen completely changed.

Previously, Long Chen was an insignificant character, but now Zhao Danchen ranked him above Lei Zhen!

Zhao Danchen only took experts seriously. Although Lei Zhen held a key position, Zhao Danchen looked down on him for being weaker!

“Such a powerful attack!” Zhao Danchen quickly retreated, but from his tone, it was clear that this had not disrupted his mind!

The Five Piercing Dragons arrived in front of him!

“I’ll give you a taste of my very own special attack!” Zhao Danchen smirked coldly. When Long Chen’s attack approached, his golden eyes lit up like two suns, and blinding rays shot out!

“Golden Eye of Annihilation!”

Whoosh! Whoosh!

Two golden rays of light shot out of his eyes, aimed at Long Chen. The two rays were powerful; even Long Chen's Five Piercing Dragons looked like they were starting to shatter when the rays shone on them!

From this alone, it was clear that Zhao Danchen was using all his strength to fight Long Chen!

Boom!

There was an explosion. Long Chen's Five Piercing Dragons dispersed on the spot, and the Golden Eye of Annihilation was also used up in the process.

Long Chen was privately traumatized. Under normal circumstances, Zhao Danchen's Golden Eye of Annihilation would be enough to kill him. Long Chen was only able to suppress him because he had caught him off guard.

The Five Piercing Dragons attack had ended.

When Zhao Danchen saw that Long Chen had nothing else to pull from his bag of tricks, he smiled. He stopped retreating and shot forward, instantly appearing in front of Long Chen with a *whoosh*. He threw a punch at the exhausted Long Chen. Zhao Danchen knew that he had to kill the prodigy before him, or he would be done for if Long Chen truly grew and became stronger.

But he did not see the fear of death in Long Chen's eyes!

"Xiaolang!" Long Chen shouted.

Whoosh!

A fierce wave of flames poured out of Xiaolang's mouth and engulfed Long Chen. The fiery tide quickly swarmed towards Zhao Danchen, turning everything in its path into hard ice, resulting in the soil and rocks shattering!

Zhao Danchen watched as Long Chen was swallowed by the flames.

In reality, the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire was only passing around Long Chen. Thanks to Xiaolang's extremely masterful control, Long Chen was safe as there was an empty space among the flames. They flowed past Long Chen and crashed into the nearby Zhao Danchen like a tsunami!

What the hell is that?!

Zhao Danchen threw a punch, but to his astonishment, the power that came with his punch was completely sucked by the black flames. Seeing as the flames were about to reach his body, he hesitated for a moment and decided to retreat!

Xiaolang had used a huge quantity of the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire for this. The roaring flames forced Zhao Danchen back a hundred meters!

"What?!" At this point, Zhao Danchen was very frustrated. He could only wait for the black flames to die down before he could attack Long Chen. However, he felt another powerful attack quietly heading towards him from his back!

Boom!

Zhao Danchen had only just turned around when he saw the pitch-black silhouette of a wolf slamming into his body. And the shadow was solid! This caused Zhao Danchen to recall a special technique from the Ancient Demon Domain.

The Demonic Illusion!

Is this clone from the wolf?

Is this a joke?!

Zhao Danchen had no time to think. All he knew was that while he was retreating, the wolf's attack had knocked him into the flames!

Sizzle sizzle sizzle!

A terrifying sound came from Zhao Danchen's body, and he felt as if a layer of his skin had been shaved off. He shouted in horror and quickly wrapped himself in his essence, extracting himself from the flames before he was injured.

However, that terrifying feeling invoked true fear in him.

It had been many years since he last felt like he was in mortal danger.

When he emerged from the range of the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire, the Nine Devils Ancestral Fire disappeared. The gigantic Sun Devouring Wolf quickly turned back to human form. Long Chen led him to Lei Zhen's side, and they were now two hundred meters away from Zhao Danchen.

On the other side, more sounds were coming from the forest. The moment Zhao Danchen hesitated, more figures appeared by Lei Zhen and Long Chen's side. They were Jiang Wuya, Jian Chen, Lan Ling'er, the eight Battle Kings, and more.

Of course, there were also countless other Battle clan warriors who stood there fiercely with their own demonic beasts like Thunder Tigers and Lightning Panthers. Following their masters' intentions, the fierce demonic beasts roared furiously at Zhao Danchen after looking at Xiaolang with reverence.

The powerful warriors of the Battle clan had gathered.

There were hundreds of Nine Fang Warriors, who wore nine sharp beast fangs around their necks. This was a symbol of their glory, and all of them were at least at the Ninth Passage Stage. They had killed a certain number of enemies and made huge contributions to the clan!

Hundreds of Nine Fang Warriors mounted their lightning beasts surrounded Lei Zhen. The Eight Kings were also guarding Lei Zhen as they glared furiously at Zhao Danchen!

Jiang Wuya's expression was the darkest, as he was the most well-traveled person there. He was standing at the front of the army, glaring at Zhao Danchen coldly as he said, "I was just wondering who would dare act so boldly on the Battle clan's land! So it's Martial Emperor Zhao! Is this how low the Martial Alliance is willing to go? I've learned something new today!"

Zhao Danchen glared at them coldly. Now that all the Battle clan members were here, if Zhao Danchen continued attacking, he would be breaking the conditions of the bet and declaring an early war.

Zhao Danchen did not look at Jiang Wuya. He glared coldly at Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang, who were the greatest threats to him. Those two teenagers were hiding in the crowd, so he could not harm them at the moment.

“Long Chen, since you survived today, I’ll let you live for a few more days. I’ll surely kill you! We shall meet again in ten days!”

Then Zhao Danchen turned into a golden gust of wind and disappeared!

“That Martial Alliance bastard!”

“Bastard! The bastard that killed the old clan leader!”

The people of the Battle clan recognized Zhao Danchen as he was the one who suddenly came one day to challenge the old clan leader, leading them to their current situation. Zhao Danchen was the archnemesis of Lei Zhen.

After he left, the Battle clan members were left disgruntled.

Lei Zhen’s gaze was dark when he said, “Eight Kings, stay. Everyone else, you may leave.”

Under Lei Zhen’s instructions, the Nine Fang Warriors had to leave. The only ones who remained were the warriors at the Earthly Martial Realm. Lei Zhen looked around and said, “Why isn’t Old Vulture here?”

Lei Zhen had called for Old Vulture and Jiang Wuya. Theoretically, they should’ve arrived first. Jiang Wuya had long arrived, but not Old Vulture.

“I’m here.” The small, thin Old Vulture parted the crowd and stepped forward. Perhaps because he was too small, the crowd did not notice him at first.

Long Chen and Xiaolang’s eyes met, seeing the question in the other’s eyes. This was a Second Earthly Martial Stage cultivator! When Jiang Wuya arrived, his aura had suppressed the whole battlefield. How was it possible that no one had noticed Old Vulture?

Lei Zhen and the others did not notice this problem. At this moment, everyone surrounded Lei Zhen with sullen expressions.

Chapter 593 – Bathe in the Blood of Our Enemies

“What happened?” Jiang Wuya asked.

When he arrived, Zhao Danchen had been forced a hundred meters back due to the Sun Devouring Wolf’s Nine Devils Ancestral Fire.

The rest were even more confused.

Lei Zhen looked around and smiled bitterly. “I was chatting with Seventh Brother here, but Zhao Danchen suddenly appeared. He wanted to kill me, but Seventh Brother said I was going to participate in one of the three duels, so he would be breaking the conditions of the bet if he killed me. So, since Zhao Danchen couldn’t kill me, he shifted his focus to Seventh Brother.”

“Does that mean Zhao Danchen was attacking Long Chen just now?” Everyone looked at Long Chen. They had seen part of the battle, and it seemed like Long Chen and Xiaolang had worked together to force Zhao Danchen back.

What did that mean?

He was only at the First Earthly Martial Stage, while Xiaolang was a Category One King-tier demonic beast. Yet they had forced the Third Earthly Martial Stage Zhao Danchen back?

How strong was he?

Everyone looked at Long Chen awkwardly.

The eight Battle Kings naturally did not know how strong Long Chen was. As for the Dragon clan, they knew that Long Chen was extraordinary, as he could defeat an Earthly Martial Realm opponent when he was at the Ninth Passage Stage. This was not surprising!

“If I saw correctly, although I was blocked by the red mist, I think I saw that Zhao Danchen even used his unique attack, the Golden Eye of Annihilation!”

Lei Zhen looked at Long Chen in shock.

“Golden Eye of Annihilation? Only other Third Earthly Martial Stage cultivators can withstand that attack. Long Chen, how are you still unharmed?” Even Jiang Wuya’s jaw dropped in disbelief.

Long Chen did not know what to say as everyone’s attention was on him. “I was lucky that I was able to survive. I knew that he would leave when you all arrived, so I used all my strength to hold him off for a while. Actually, it was Xiaolang’s flames that forced Zhao Danchen back.”

Everyone turned their gazes to Mo Xiaolang, who looked like he could harm no one. They could not understand how a mere Category One King-tier beast could produce such terrifying flames.

“Second Brother, Fourth Brother, shall we start planning our next step?” asked Long Chen, changing the topic.

All of them were walking back, and the ones who were present were trustworthy, so Lei Zhen said, “The three duels are coming soon, and I cannot wait any longer. Tomorrow, at dawn, I will go to the forbidden area and enter the Lightning Pool to comprehend the Thunder Knife Technique. It’s an intermediate King-tier combat technique. Even with the help of the Lightning Pool, I’m not sure if nine days will be enough for me to complete it!”

Everyone nodded!

Tonight’s ordeal had passed without incident due to Long Chen’s quick wits. When the eight Battle Kings and Old Vulture left, Lei Zhen looked at his own siblings. Suddenly, he fell to his knees.

“Fourth Brother, what are you doing?! Get up!” Jiang Wuya said sternly as he helped Lei Zhen up. He was strong, so Lei Zhen could not fight back.

“My brothers and sister! I beg you to do one thing!” Lei Zhen said through gritted teeth.

“We are brothers! Why would you need to *beg* us? Fourth Brother, if you say that word again, it will mean you don’t see me, Jian Chen, as a brother!” said the white-haired Jian Chen.

Lei Zhen nodded. He looked at them solemnly and said, “Everyone, you saw just now that Zhao Danchen has recovered from his injuries. With Zhao Danchen and Yang Ningfeng together, we are no match for them! The Battle clan is already fated to die! I’m sincerely requesting you all to leave! Don’t die because of me! I don’t care if I die, but if I burden my siblings, it’ll be even more painful than death!”

Tears poured out of his eyes.

Everyone looked at each other. In the end, Jiang Wuya gently patted Lei Zhen’s shoulder and said, “Fourth Brother, you still don’t understand that all men must die. If we’re all going to die one day, we might as well die for a noble cause! If I have to die for a brother, I, Jiang Wuya, will die with no regrets!”

“That’s right! My life was given to me by Big Sister. Without her, I would have been in the ground by now. I should have died a long time ago, so if I die now, I won’t be losing anything. Just like Second Brother said, I have no regrets.”

Chi Ying smiled and said, “Fourth Brother, don’t fight us on this. We’re all people who should have died a long time ago. Sheer luck allowed us to live this long. Do you think any of us fear death? It’s just like going to sleep, right?”

Lan Ling’er smiled. “Fourth Brother is crying! That’s embarrassing!”

Long Chen did not say anything, but from what he had done earlier, Lei Zhen knew what his intentions were. He knew that the youngest brother was actually the most stubborn one present. If Long Chen put his mind to something, he would never change it!

Lei Zhen wiped away his tears. Looking at his brothers and sister, he saw the stubbornness and fire in their eyes. This is the moment that he knew that his life had been worth living.

“You’re all good brothers!” He held out his hand, and everyone stacked their hands on his. Six hands stacked on top of each other.

“Let’s all fuck the Martial Alliance up!” Lan Ling’er cried out excitedly. Everyone pressed their palms down with bright grins.

Looking at them, Long Chen suddenly felt moved. No matter how many achievements a person had, it did not mean that he was successful. But if he had a loved one who loved him back, and a group of siblings who were willing to live and die together, he could die with no regrets.

The Dragon clan was a name that would forever sit in the deepest part of Long Chen’s memory.

Although they could not compare to Ling Xi or Mo Xiaolang, their spirit moved Long Chen.

“We shall bathe in the blood of our enemies!”

Everyone’s eyes were filled with passion. They viewed death as coming home.

“My brothers, the great war cannot be avoided. I won’t waste my time on more nonsense. This time, the odds are against the Battle clan, so I must keep the Battle clan’s roots alive. A few days ago, I personally picked a hundred talented Battle clan children. I hope that when the great war starts, you all will get them out of here! They are the roots of the Battle clan, and I hope you all will not refuse this request.”

Lei Zhen looked at everyone. Who would lead these children out of the Martial Alliance’s grasp safely?

Jiang Wuya looked around, and his gaze fell on Long Chen and Lan Ling’er. “Long Chen’s talent runs deeper than we can see. He and Lan Ling’er are still young. There’s no need for them to risk their lives with us. We will have Long Chen and Ling’er escort the children. Remember, the future of the Battle clan is in your hands. Do not let your guard down, especially you, Long Chen. You are extraordinarily talented. If we all die at the hands of the Martial Alliance, you’re in charge of avenging us when you get stronger!”

Long Chen did not know what to do when he saw their hopeful gazes. His initial plan was to choose a suitable time to tell them about changing the candidates for the duels. Now they had given him a task that would most likely ensure that he would survive. He did not know what to say, so he had to agree for now. “Alright, leave it to me.”

He could put the children in the Primordial Realm if needed, and they would be absolutely safe. Long Chen also had another idea where war was not inevitable. As long as they won the bet, the war would not need to happen.

“Alright, in that case, you may all return to your cultivation. There’s not much time left. Use this time wisely. Tomorrow, Fourth Brother is going into the Lightning Pool. We’ll send him off,” said Jiang Wuya.

Then, after a few words from them, they dispersed. After Long Chen and Xiaolang returned to their quarters, they suddenly recalled Old Vulture. While everyone was focusing on Long Chen, he noticed something off with Old Vulture.

When Lei Zhen was in danger, he had been the slowest to arrive. His response did not fit the reputation of being the strongest master of the Battle clan. He should not have arrived that slowly, so it must have been on purpose.

“Lei Zhen clearly respects him greatly. It’s probably nothing. I’m overthinking it.” Long Chen tossed it to the back of his mind and started to focus on studying the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw and the Willow Step. At the same time, he was also quickly improving in the second part of the Earthly Martial Realm Punching Technique.

An old figure was standing by the window of a dark stone house, looking at the stars in the sky. The door suddenly burst open, and a similarly thin but handsome man walked in. He was the Second Prince, Old Vulture’s son. The old man by the window was Old Vulture himself.

“Father.” Lei Ming entered and closed the door gently, then he stood respectfully behind Old Vulture.

Old Vulture’s low voice rang across the dark room. “You must have guessed what happened today, right?”

Lei Ming nodded and said, “I have. You arrived much later than Jiang Wuya. I’m sure that was on purpose.”

“Unfortunately, Lei Zhen did not die! I thought he was surely going to die this time. I knew Zhao Danchen would never be comfortable with Yang Ningfeng’s bet, so I was sure he would come looking for Lei Zhen. I can’t believe even Zhao Danchen failed to kill him. I was slow on purpose, but it seems like that did not work.” Old Vulture sighed.

Lei Ming’s brows were furrowed. Puzzled, he asked, “Father, I still don’t understand. Lei Zhen is being protected by almost everyone, and he has help from his Dragon clan friends. It’s hard for us to knock him off his seat as clan leader. Why must we kill him?”

Chapter 594 – Soul of the Battle Clan

Old Vulture was quiet for a moment, then he shook his head and said, “Ming’er, you don’t understand my intentions. I know Lei Zhen’s temper well. He is forcing the whole Battle clan towards death. I must stop him so that the Battle clan has a chance to live! Lei Zhen is no longer suitable to be the clan leader. I have already spoken to Zhao Danchen—the next clan leader will be you, Lei Ming!”

Lei Ming trembled. Being made clan leader was a huge temptation to him.

“Father, please elaborate on your plan,” Lei Ming said respectfully, bowing.

“Our side must win two rounds to win the bet. However, Zhao Danchen has told me that the Battle clan will never win. And if the Battle clan loses, with Lei Zhen’s personality, he will surely lead the whole clan to fight to their deaths. But take a look at the Martial Alliance! The Battle clan is not fit even to carry the shoes of the Martial Alliance. When that happens, the entire clan will surely die. Not just Lei Zhen, but even we will become the criminals who wronged generations of clan members!”

Lei Ming nodded and said, “I understand, Father. This means that as long as Lei Zhen dies the Battle clan loses the bet, with me as the new clan leader and you being the only Second Earthly Martial Stage cultivator here, we will submit to the Martial Alliance. That way, you, me, and the Battle clan will continue to exist perpetually!”

Old Vulture’s gaze traveled from outside the window to Lei Ming, whom he studied for a while, then he said, “Little brat, you’ve become much smarter. You’re right. When Lei Zhen dies, his friends will likely leave, and we’ll have fewer people causing problems. Then our mission to keep the clan alive will succeed. You must remember that because we are protecting the clan, we are in the right. Lei Zhen and the others are the criminals!”

Was that really the case? Lei Ming's heart was confused too. He knew that he and his father were the only ones in the Battle clan who didn't see death as coming home. The others could not wait to die and bring the Martial Alliance down with them.

"Father, if we do this, will the clan members think that we are cowards? That we are being spineless, and we would have embarrassed our ancestors?" Lei Ming asked carefully.

Old Vulture chuckled coldly and said, "They're idiots, so let them say what they want. We were the ones who kept them alive. One or two years down the line, they will eventually fall to their knees in front of us, praising our noble act! Therefore, Lei Zhen is an obstacle to the livelihood of the clan. He must die!"

When he said the word "die," cracking sounds came from Old Vulture's fist.

"Father, Zhao Danchen didn't get to kill Lei Zhen today. What do we do now?" Lei Ming asked anxiously.

Old Vulture let out chilling laugh that even sent chills down Lei Ming's spine.

"Tomorrow. Tomorrow, Lei Zhen will enter the Lightning Pool, which is in the forbidden area. No one else will be able to enter, and the only person nearby will be the escort who led him to the entrance. I will not accompany him tomorrow, and when they ask about it, you will tell them that I am cultivating to prepare for the final fight. Then I will slip into the forbidden area on my own. When Lei Zhen passes by, I will kill him! Afterwards, you and the rest of the people will rush in, and you will put the blame on Zhao Danchen!" Old Vulture explained slowly, though he grew more emotional towards the end.

Lei Ming took a deep breath and nodded. "Father, this is the perfect plan! When Lei Zhen dies, the clan will have to choose a new clan leader. With you present, I will surely be the most suitable candidate. And when Lei Zhen's friends see that Lei Zhen has died, they will surely leave the Battle clan to fight the Martial Alliance! Then we will swoop in! The Dragon clan will never be a match for the Martial Alliance. And when the three duels happen and the Battle clan loses to the Martial Alliance, we will fulfill the promise and pledge our loyalty to the Martial Alliance. When that happens, the Martial Alliance will surely reward us generously!"

Lei Ming burst into laughter.

"You fool!" Old Vulture suddenly slapped him across the face.

"Father, why?" Lei Ming was stunned.

"What do you mean by 'the Martial Alliance will surely reward us generously?' You must remember that we are not doing this for our own selfish benefit! We're doing this because we don't want to see Lei Zhen destroy the accumulated effort the clan has put in over thousands of years! Our ancestors will cheer us on!" cried Old Vulture with a wild look in his eyes.

“Yes ... Yes ...” Lei Ming nodded quickly.

Will the ancestors really cheer us on? He wanted to ask this question very badly

If all the Battle clan’s warriors become servants to the Martial Alliance, would that really be better than death? If that happened, the Battle clan would end up like the Wind God Sect or worse, because they did not have a Third Earthly Martial Stage master protecting them.

These questions were buried in Lei Ming’s heart.

Looking at the excited old man, Lei Ming clenched his fists tightly and told himself, *He’s my father and he has lived a longer life than me! He surely knows a lot more than I do, so doing as he says must be right!*

Dawn came quickly.

Long Chen had spent the entire night cultivating. After many rounds of practice, Long Chen was much more familiar with the Soul Dispersing Claw and the Willow Step. After familiarizing himself with them, he started to continue cultivating the Second Earthly Martial Stage.

He practiced according to the Earthly Martial Fist Manual, trying to comprehend the punching technique of the Second Earthly Martial Stage. After Long Yue and Huangfu Fengchen helped him enter the Earthly Martial Realm, progressing further was much easier. Due to the heaven meridian point and his other qualities, cultivation was easier for Long Chen in the Martial Realm.

“The pulse of the earth comes in one wave after another. Reaching the Second Earthly Martial Stage requires one to fit two pulses of the earth in an attack. In that case, one attack would actually contain two attacks, making it much stronger ...”

Long Chen still could not break through this last obstacle.

As for the cultivation of essence, Long Chen had consumed the beast blood of the Black Water Viper right after his breakthrough. After using Blood Transmutation, the blood had turned into his essence and was being stored in his Martial Veins and Martial Meridians.

He had enough essence to break through to the Second Earthly Martial Stage, but he lacked comprehension of the theory.

This was not something easily achieved overnight, so Long Chen was not impatient. He slowly halted his punches and then opened the door. Xiaolang rarely entered the Primordial Realm these days, and when Long Chen was cultivating, he also studied his own attack techniques. He was much more hardworking than before.

Long Chen opened the door because Lei Zhen and the rest had passed the front of his room. Everyone else had arrived too, and when they saw Long Chen come out, they quickly called him over.

“The Lightning Pool is in the forbidden area, which you guys can’t enter. If you all really want to send me off, you can send me off at the entrance,” said Lei Zhen.

The Running Thunder Blade was a blade technique only the clan leader could cultivate, and it had to be done in the Lightning Pool. However, the Lightning Pool was dangerous, and someone had to stand guard outside the entrance. If the cultivator inside was in trouble, at least someone would be alerted.

“The lightning also has a paralyzing effect. If I am unable to withstand it and cannot get myself out, it doesn’t matter whether you’re allowed inside or not— just carry me out of there! If I’m left in there for too long, I’ll die, haha ...” Lei Zhen said with a grin.

Everyone gave a rare chuckle. Jian Chen then said, “Second Brother Jiang also needs to cultivate for the coming battle. Let me guard the entrance, then. If you can’t withstand the lightning, just call for me.”

“Thank you, Third Brother,” Lei Zhen said gratefully.

Everyone soon arrived in front of the forbidden area. It was actually a deep valley surrounded by a dense forest. There was strict security around this area. Long Chen even discovered naturally formed seals that could not be broken unless the cultivator was past a certain level.

Entering the Lightning Pool was a solemn ritual to the Battle clan. Lei Zhen had long prepared the altar and incense to pray to the ancestors before entering.

All the significant clan members had to attend this important ritual, so the other seven Battle Kings had arrived to kneel and pray to the ancestors. When it all ended, Lei Zhen asked Lei Ming, “Brother Lei Ming, why isn’t Old Vulture here today?”

Lei Ming took half a step back, unable to hide the strange look on his face. But he quickly hid it, took a deep breath, and said, “My Father is worried about the bet and is focused on cultivation now, hoping to help the clan when the time comes. That’s why he’s not here.”

Lei Zhen froze and said, “This is an urgent time, so I’m not going to press further regarding Old Vulture’s absence. However, remember to tell him that all cultivators at the Earthly Martial Realm must be present during the next ancestral prayer.”

Lei Ming nodded and said, “Alright, I understand.”

Lei Zhen did not think much about it and turned to the Dragon clan. “Everyone other than Third Brother may leave. I’m going in.”

Jiang Wuya nodded. “We’ll head back after you enter.”

Lei Zhen smiled. Everyone watched as he entered the deep valley. When he completely disappeared, the Dragon clan members and the Battle Kings prepared to leave.

Long Chen noticed a small detail. He had been watching Lei Ming while they watched Lei Zhen leave. When Lei Zhen disappeared, there was a malicious look on his face.

Yesterday, Long Chen had sensed that Old Vulture’s reaction had been strange. Today, when Lei Ming talked about Old Vulture, Long Chen had paid attention too. Due to yesterday’s suspicions, he naturally felt that Lei Ming’s response was strange. When he saw Lei Ming’s expression plus his explanation that Old Vulture was absent because he was cultivating, Long Chen felt like there was something wrong.

Chapter 595 – Exposing The Plot

The group was about to separate and head out into two directions when Long Chen suddenly said, “Prince Lei Ming, please wait a moment.”

Lei Ming halted, and so did the other Battle Kings.

Long Chen and Lei Ming did not really know each other, so it was a bit strange when Long Chen stopped him. Even Jiang Wuya and the others did not know what Long Chen was up to.

Lei Ming furrowed his brows and turned to look at Long Chen. “What’s the matter?”

“I’d like to ask Old Vulture for some guidance on something; may I ask if you could take me to him?” Long Chen asked after some thought.

The moment Long Chen mentioned Old Vulture, Lei Ming’s expression stiffened. He shook his head instinctively and said, “You can’t. My father is deeply focused on his cultivation, so no one is allowed to disturb him!”

His tone was quite harsh, and he gave Long Chen no chance to reply. After that, he immediately turned and left.

Not only did Long Chen grow suspicious from his reaction, Jiang Wuya and the others did too. Lei Ming wanted to leave as quickly as possible to avoid more questions that would affect his father’s plans. However, he had not expected his reaction to cause even more suspicion.

Whoosh! The Dragon clan members surrounded him, and Jiang Wuya asked with confusion, “Brother Lei Ming, is there some problem with Old Vulture? Is there any way we can help?”

“Is that a joke? My father is a great Second Earthly Martial Stage cultivator—of course there’s no problem with him,” said Lei Ming, his face turning slightly green. His gaze swept across the group and he said, “Why are you guys blocking me? Don’t you think you can disrespect me just because you guys are close with our clan leader!”

Lei Ming was willing to say anything to leave.

“Lei Ming, how could you say that? The Dragon clan members are the Battle clan’s brothers!”

“Yeah! They are willing to risk their lives to help the Battle clan! How could you speak to them with that tone?!”

The other Battle clan members disapproved of Lei Ming’s unfriendly tone. Every Battle clan member had endless gratitude for Jiang Wuya and his team. Without the Dragon clan helping them, the Battle clan would likely be in ruins by now.

In the face of such pressure, Lei Ming’s face slowly turned pale. He knew that this was a very critical moment for his father, and he could not ruin the plan now!

That was why he chose to remain silent.

This brat is behaving very strangely; there must be something going on if he won't let me meet Old Vulture. Yesterday, Old Vulture arrived late to the scene. Was it because he wanted to let Zhao Danchen kill Fourth Brother? And Old Vulture isn't here now, which means ...

Long Chen's face changed!

"Oh no, Second Brother!"

Long Chen was not sure if he was right, but in case he was, he had to act as quickly as he could. He disregarded the rules of the forbidden area and used the Dragon Soul Transformation, then he dashed towards the depths of the forbidden area like a gust of red wind.

"Long Chen, you can't enter the Battle clan's forbidden area!" shouted a Battle King in panic, but he could not stop Long Chen in time. Looking at the red gust of wind, he sighed at Long Chen's speed.

Every Dragon clan member trusted Long Chen's abilities. Long Chen had rushed into the forbidden area and called for Jiang Wuya ... Jiang Wuya was no idiot, so he quickly guessed what was going through Long Chen's mind and followed him into the forbidden area. At the same time, he instructed, "Third Brother, you guys stop Lei Ming!"

From the Battle clan's point of view, the Dragon clan was being too rash, especially when they heard the order to stop Lei Ming. The Battle Kings were very confused, but they trusted Long Chen and the others. Lei Ming had indeed been acting strangely today, so they did not move when Jian Chen and the others surrounded him.

When Lei Ming saw Long Chen and Jiang Wuya rush into the forbidden area, his face paled and he became very anxious. When they saw his expressions, everyone drew the same conclusion.

Lan Ling'er was always first to speak. "Is Seventh Brother thinking that Old Vulture is planning to ambush Fourth Brother in there?"

Jian Chen and Chi Ying's faces changed, then they replied coldly, "Yes!"

They had no time to worry about anything else, so they immediately trapped Lei Ming. Since there was little space to work with, Lei Ming could not retaliate at all. Jian Chen's Cloud Sword rested on his neck.

"What?" The other Battle Kings gasped and looked at the pale Lei Ming in disbelief. Lei Ming did not argue, which meant that what Lan Ling'er had said was likely true!

"Bastard!"

"Animals!"

"Did you and your father get kicked in the head?!"

The Battle Kings roared with anger and ran into the forbidden area. Jian Chen and the others also entered the forbidden area while holding Lei Ming hostage. No one had expected something like this to happen today. Until now, no one knew why Old Vulture would do such a thing.

The Battle clan members held out a ray of hope. They hoped that this was not true. The Battle clan had always been united and never killed each other. If a plot like this was truly unfolding, it would be a major blow to all of them.

Even Long Chen did not know why Old Vulture would want to do this.

All he knew was that it was strange for Old Vulture to arrive late yesterday, plus Lei Ming's reactions had been strange. That was why he could not help but probe. Lei Ming's mind was torn, and the moment Long Chen asked him a question, his expression gave him away.

Sensing the severity of the situation, Long Chen ran as fast as he could, disappearing from Jiang Wuya's sight. Jiang Wuya initially thought he could catch up, but to his shock, not only could he not catch up, the gap between them was increasing!

Jiang Wuya soon caught up to Xiaolang, who was still in human form. He did not say much and immediately passed Xiaolang, feeling anxious and shocked. He was anxious about Lei Zhen's safety and shocked by Long Chen's speed.

Gusts of wind blew past Long Chen!

Boom!

Rumble!

When Long Chen was still feeling uncertain about his guess, he heard the sounds of collisions up ahead. They were definitely the sounds of a fight between Earthly Martial Realm experts, as they were deep and dull, but very powerful!

Just as I expected! They're fighting! If Long Chen was right, Old Vulture had been hiding here for a long time. This was a Second Earthly Martial Stage cultivator ambushing a First Earthly Martial Stage target; there was no way Lei Zhen would be able to hold him off for long if he was caught by surprise!

"Third Brother!" At this moment, Lei Zhen could only call for Jian Chen, who was outside the forbidden area. Since sound traveled quickly, both Long Chen and the others heard him at the same time.

Lei Zhen's voice was filled with rage and even sounded a bit hoarse. He was likely injured, and severely too!

"It's true!" Every Battle King was in disbelief. When they heard his shout for help, everyone was certain that Old Vulture and his son had plotted to harm Lei Zhen. Fortunately, Long Chen had discovered their plot. They could only pray that Long Chen and Jiang Wuya would arrive in time to save Lei Zhen. If Lei Zhen died, the Battle clan would be done for!

"Those bastards! Why would Old Vulture do this? Even though he has done so much for the Battle clan, he is looking for death this time! The warriors of the Battle clan will never forgive him!"

“Yeah! If Clan Leader really dies, how will we ever face our old clan leader in the afterlife?”

Everyone roared with rage, and their eyes turned red as they dashed through the forbidden area.

When Long Chen heard the voice, he was able to pinpoint Lei Zhen’s location. He sped up and zoomed through the dense forest. Every dull thud and furious roar coming from up ahead felt like direct blows to his heart!

Boom!

A powerful bolt of lightning exploded. Relying on the power of his Dragon Soul Transformation, Long Chen forced himself through and entered a col. He saw a large figure flying towards him!

Blood sprayed out of the person’s mouth, almost landing on Long Chen. When Long Chen looked closer, he realized that it was Lei Zhen. Lei Zhen’s face was pale, and several deep gashes ran across his chest, bleeding profusely. He was severely injured!

“Die!” A thin and small person was running after Lei Zhen. It was Old Vulture, whose features were twisted into a sneer. He had successfully injured Lei Zhen, leaving him incapacitated. Now he was launching a powerful talon attack in order to kill Lei Zhen once and for all!

That was when Long Chen showed up!

A blood-red figure suddenly appeared in front of Lei Zhen. He quickly caught Lei Zhen and then laid him flat on the ground. Then the red figure pounced on Old Vulture, and blood-red claws collided with his talons, which were crackling with electricity, causing a shrill screech from the collision.

“Who are you?!” Old Vulture never expected another person to show up. No one could find out that he was the one who had killed Lei Zhen. Now that Long Chen was here, he had to kill Long Chen too!

Long Chen’s claws carried as much force as Old Vulture’s attack. Old Vulture had used his favorite attack, which brought harm through lightning. However, he discovered that the blood-red flames were burning his skin, and they were more powerful than his talons!

Old Vulture was thrown back in the air!

Chapter 596 – Lightning Vulture Talons

“Who are you?! Who are you?! Who are you?!” Old Vulture panicked when he felt the immense force of the attack. His opponent was clearly at the Second Earthly Martial Stage and was much stronger than Lei Zhen. Old Vulture had only managed to cause such large harm to Lei Zhen mainly because he had caught the latter off guard.

Old Vulture knew his own abilities well. When he exchanged blows with the intruder, he knew that he wouldn’t be able to kill this person in a short time!

He was privately panicking too because now Long Chen knew that he had attacked Lei Zhen, meaning his crime would be exposed. The key to his plan was to make sure the killer was unknown

so that he could pin the blame on Zhao Danchen. Then he would take the opportunity to let his son, Lei Ming, become clan leader. However, if everyone knew that he had killed Lei Zhen, the whole Battle clan would see both him and his son as enemies!

The Battle clan had always refused to surrender. The clan was very united, so every clan member hated killing between clan members the most!

Long Chen's appearance had completely disrupted Old Vulture's plan!

After Long Chen knocked him up into the air, another dark figure rushed out—Jiang Wuya. Jiang Wuya's face was green, especially when he saw Lei Zhen's condition!

Everyone quickly arrived too.

“Old Vulture, there must be something wrong with your head! The Martial Alliance is the enemy, and yet you want to kill Lei Zhen!” Jiang Wuya cried through gritted teeth. His voice was thick with killing intent!

“Second Brother! I'll deal with him! You take care of Fourth Brother!” Long Chen said with a cold voice.

When Jiang Wuya looked at Long Chen and sensed his killing intent, he felt like he had fallen into a freezer!

Long Chen's heart filled with rage when he saw Lei Zhen's wounds. He considered every member of the Dragon clan a person that he needed to protect. He had prioritized coming to the Battle clan instead of leaving to search for more information about the Ancient Graveyard because he took this brotherhood seriously!

Although Lei Zhen's injuries were not fatal, Long Chen's blood boiled. He knew that if he had discovered the plot just a little later and taken just a few seconds longer to arrive, Lei Zhen would likely have been killed by Old Vulture!

And if Lei Zhen died, Long Chen would not be able to fully vent his anger even if Old Vulture died a hundred times!

Long Chen shot a venomous glare at him!

“You bastard! How dare you hurt my Fourth Brother! You have a death wish!” Long Chen roared. He looked terrifying in his dragon form. Violent dragon aura erupted from his body and radiated toward Old Vulture.

Then blood-red mist enveloped Long Chen and flowed towards Old Vulture.

It's that teenager! Old Vulture was utterly shocked. He recognized Long Chen from his voice!

Long Chen was only at the First Earthly Martial Stage, so how was his attack powerful? And how could there be such immense power radiating from his body?!

It would be difficult for a cultivator to radiate this level of power without reaching the Second Earthly Martial Stage.

But when Jiang Wuya appeared, Old Vulture lost all hope. He knew that his plan had failed completely. What rose within him next was not fear, but madness! All the emotions erupted within him!

“So you figured out my plan? Great! Everyone must die! Everyone must die!” Old Vulture laughed like a madman.

Long Chen took a few steps forward, locked in a stalemate with Old Vulture. Jiang Wuya initially wanted to tell Long Chen that he would deal with Old Vulture, but he swallowed his words. At the final moment, he realized that he trusted Long Chen.

When he was at the Ninth Passage Stage, he defeated an Earthly Martial Realm master. Now that he is at the Earthly Martial Realm, he might actually be able to defeat Old Vulture.

Ever since they saved Long Chen from the Ancient Demon Domain, he had shown them miracle after miracle.

Before Long Chen attacked, the Battle Kings and everyone else started to arrive.

When more people gathered, Old Vulture’s eyes turned blood-red.

Long Chen studied Old Vulture, who had undergone the Beast Soul Transformation. He was covered in blue feathers that looked like steel blades. Terrifying blue lightning flowed all over them, providing him with a powerful defense. At the same time, like Long Chen, his fingers turned into sharp talons with crackles of blue electricity flowing on them.

Clearly, he had a vulture-type Beast Soul, and it was a strong one too.

“Everyone is here! That’s fine! Everyone must die! Might as well let the Martial Alliance kill off the whole Battle clan—that would be for the best!” Old Vulture roared manically. When he saw that his son was being held hostage by Jian Chen, he let out a furious roar and charged towards them.

Whoosh!

Long Chen stood in his way.

Old Vulture was likely as strong as Huangfu Fengchen, so Long Chen was confident in defeating him. His claws burned with Golden Crow Flames, and he rushed in front of Old Vulture, immediately waving them to unleash the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw!

“Seventh Brother!”

Everyone cried out anxiously when they saw Long Chen attack. They were naturally worried for his safety, but then they saw that his attack was forcing Old Vulture back!

“Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw!” They watched Long Chen with joyful surprise, especially Jiang Wuya and the others. They recognized the attack as it was the technique that Long Yue was best at!

It was magnificent! Cool! Violent!

This battle surpassed everyone’s expectations!

Old Vulture felt immense pressure from battling Long Chen!

The brat knows the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw, and his cultivation level isn't low! Old Vulture immediately sensed that Long Chen was quite a terrifying opponent. Slashes of blood-red Claw Seals flew towards him, and every Claw Seal contained a blood-red dragon whose jaws were open, making them look terrifying. He could already sense the bloodlust within them before they even approached him!

Old Vulture roared. His face changed and he waved his talons very quickly, creating Talon Seals that formed a web of lightning that flew toward Long Chen!

Sizzle!

Both seals collided, and everyone saw two silhouettes quickly moving within the countless ever-changing seals. It was impossible to tell them apart. Blood-red flames and blue lightning collided constantly!

“Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw!” Old Vulture was an old man after all, and Long Chen knew that Old Vulture was no match for himself. His Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw was much more powerful than Old Vulture’s attack, especially with the boost from the Golden Crow Flames. Every time Old Vulture was hit once, the blood-red flames quickly wrapped around his body. Old Vulture spent a huge amount of essence to block off the flames!

Beneath the Battle Emperor, the second strongest member of the Battle clan was Old Vulture, who was the only Battle Saint. Long Chen’s storm of attacks left the Battle Saint shouting with pain while constantly forcing him back!

This fight had left everyone stunned, not just Old Vulture.

When the Battle clan’s Battle Kings witnessed this, they had mixed feelings. What they wanted most was to question Old Vulture and ask why he would do such a thing. However, when they arrived, Old Vulture’s crazed declarations made them swallow their words. Right now, they could only watch to see what would happen!

Thankfully, Lei Zhen was no longer in mortal danger. If he took some time to rest, he would heal from his injuries!

Jiang Wuya should have been the one to deal with masters like the Old Vulture. However, Long Chen had stepped up, and he looked even more fierce than Jiang Wuya. Old Vulture was no match for him at all!

Does this mean that the second strongest member of the Dragon clan isn't the Second Earthly Martial Stage Jiang Wuya, but Long Chen?! Everyone was privately shocked!

His Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw has directly suppressed Old Vulture’s Lightning Vulture Talons! Long Chen isn’t just intelligent enough to expose Old Vulture and Lei Ming’s plot, he is also a strong fighter. Is he also stronger than Jiang Wuya?

The Battle Kings started to analyze the situation.

How would today’s events end?

At the end of the day, the Battle clan considered the act of hurting a fellow clan member to be a great tragedy. At first, they were stunned by Long Chen's strength, but then they looked at each other with heavy hearts, as they had to face the threat of the Martial Alliance.

"Your name is Long Chen, right? I must admit, you're strong! No First Earthly Martial Stage cultivator is your match!" There was a hint of panic in Old Vulture's voice. Due to the Golden Crow Flames in Long Chen's Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw, his arm was almost crippled at this point!

"It's good that you know that! How dare you hurt my Fourth Brother?! Your life is mine today!" It was impossible to fend Long Chen off when he intended to kill.

Old Vulture was going mad as the threat of Long Chen killing him loomed. His son was still with Jian Chen! If he did not fight as hard as he could today, neither of them would survive today!

"Everyone, die! Lightning Vulture Talons! Nine Soul Chasing Bolts!" He was cornered, and Old Vulture finally used his most powerful technique. A total of nine lightning Talon Seals shot at Long Chen from all directions.

"Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw, Five Piercing Dragons!"

Five dragons exploded from Long Chen's claws. Old Vulture was no match for his Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw, let alone the Five Piercing Dragons. The mighty Five Piercing Dragons flew at him menacingly.

Chapter 597 - Pride

The terrifying attack directly shattered Old Vulture's attack, and the Claw Seals with five dragons quickly wrapped around him. Long Chen's next move would surely be able to tear Old Vulture to shreds!

Long Chen had absolutely won this battle, defeating Old Vulture! Everyone understood that if Jiang Wuya was the one who had dealt with him, he would not have achieved this result without being harmed himself. This meant that Long Chen was likely the strongest person present!

No one would have thought that this teenager would be able to achieve this!

They recalled that yesterday, Long Chen had managed to escape from Zhao Danchen not due to luck, but because he was powerful!

Jiang Wuya and Old Vulture were no longer the strongest in the Battle clan—Long Chen was!

The members of the Dragon clan looked at each other. They had not expected their youngest brother to become the strongest among them!

When Long Chen was about to kill Old Vulture, Lei Zhen, who had regained consciousness, suddenly shouted, "Seventh Brother, have mercy!"

Although Long Chen had an endless desire to kill him, Lei Zhen was the victim and Long Chen had to listen to him. Though this did not mean that he had to let Old Vulture go lightly. When Lei Zhen shouted, Long Chen held back slightly, though his Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw directly severed several Martial Veins within Old Vulture's abdomen!

If they were not treated as soon as possible, he would become a cripple. This also meant that he was temporarily incapacitated right now!

Old Vulture cried out in pain and crashed into the ground, his blood dyeing the earth red. Of course, as a resilient Earthly Martial Realm cultivator, he would not die so easily.

“Father!” screamed Lei Ming, but Jian Chen hit him to knock him out. He knew that Lei Zhen had many questions for Old Vulture.

When the bloody Old Vulture landed on the ground, everyone was completely quiet. They all looked at the blood-red figure standing in the middle, and their mouths ran dry. He had defeated Old Vulture at such a young age! If he continued to grow, he would be on the same level as ultimate prodigies like Zhao Danchen!

This was hard to believe!

Everyone looked at him with added reverence. After a long time, they woke up from the shock of his power and drew in sharp breaths as they watched Lei Zhen’s next move.

With Jiang Wuya’s support, Lei Zhen walked up to Old Vulture’s side, and everyone followed. At this moment, Old Vulture’s eyes were glazed over, his face was pale, and he was barely breathing. He struggled to flip his body over, then he stared at everyone with a bleak look in his eyes.

“Uncle Vulture, could you explain to your nephew why you did this?” Lei Zhen asked hoarsely. His eyes were fixed on Old Vulture and his expression was unreadable, but everyone could see that he was in great pain. This was a crucial moment that would determine the Battle clan’s survival, yet as the strongest member of the clan, Old Vulture had decided to assassinate the clan leader!

“Why?” Old Vulture started to chuckle, wincing from the pain. He looked at Lei Zhen coldly and said, “You want to know why? I’ll tell you, Lei Zhen! It’s because you will cause the downfall of the whole clan! You will destroy the whole clan! You will become the great criminal that destroys generations of hard work!”

“I don’t understand what you mean,” said Lei Zhen, shaking his head with confusion.

“You don’t? Don’t you act stupid!” Old Vulture spat on the ground.

Lei Zhen sighed and stood up straight. “Uncle, I get it now. You’re upset that I’m leading the Battle clan to war against the Martial Alliance, right?”

Old Vulture smirked with contempt and said, “At least you’re smart. The Martial Alliance will follow the conditions of the three duels, but only to uphold their reputation. However, I know that you will never follow the conditions. The moment we lose, you will lead the whole clan to war against them. I think that will be the day our whole clan goes extinct!”

Lei Zhen looked at him wistfully. “Uncle, don’t you understand that the Battle clan lives to die in battle? Do you mean that you want the Battle clan to submit to the Martial Alliance, becoming their slaves forever?”

Old Vulture said coldly, “What do you mean, slave? Being a slave is better than being dead, right? Why did I want to kill you? Because if you don’t die, you will lead the whole clan to their deaths. If you had died, I would’ve been able to lead the whole clan to join the Martial Alliance, thus giving us all a chance to live!”

“No!” Lei Zhen roared. His face was pulled tight and the tendons on his neck popped up. He clenched his fists tight and roared at Old Vulture, “A chance to live!? What would that mean!? Becoming the Martial Alliance’s slaves!? Or their dogs!? The Battle clan is a wolf in the wilderness! We are proud and we never submit! If a wolf turns into a dog just to live, what right does he have to call himself a wolf?”

He panted heavily, glaring at Old Vulture as he continued yelling, “Uncle, you don’t understand that while our bodies would be alive if we submitted to the Martial Alliance, our spirits would be dead! We are the Battle clan! We live to fight, and we will never submit! Death is not scary; the scary part is losing our souls to become walking corpses!”

Lei Zhen pointed at his chest and said, “Our ancestors have given us a strong backbone because they wanted us to live as free people who can stand up straight! Not because they wanted us to bend over and become dogs! If every warrior of the Battle clan needs to give their lives to preserve our pride, all I can say is that I, Lei Zhen, will not regret it!”

When Lei Zhen finished, the other six Battle Kings surrounded him, and everyone’s eyes were blood-red. They gazed at Lei Zhen with determination and respect, saying, “Broken jade is better than whole clay! If the Battle clan becomes the Martial Alliance’s dogs, we won’t be able to call ourselves the Battle clan—we will be the Dog clan! Our ancestors gave us this life because they wanted us to conquer the lands with glory, not for us to submit to other people! Old Vulture, I have always respected you, but if you want to become a dog of the Martial Alliance just because you’re afraid of death, I will never forgive you!”

“We will never submit! If the enemy is powerful, they can destroy our bodies, but they will never break our spirit! If we die, we will go to hell and tell our ancestors with our heads held high that we died in battle!”

“A clan that has lost its spirit cannot call itself a clan. We are guarding our spirit! We will die with pride!”

Every person’s declaration was a blow to Old Vulture.

He had not felt much when Lei Zhen spoke alone, but when everyone told him the same thing, he slowly became more and more dejected.

“No! That’s not right ... This is not the way ...” Old Vulture shook his head fervently and glared at everyone venomously. “You will cause the downfall of the Battle clan! You are all criminals!”

Lei Zhen shook his head tiredly. “Uncle, if you want the Battle clan to become the Martial Alliance’s slaves, you are the true criminal. We are all proud people. If we are lucky enough to produce descendants, we want them to live dignified lives, not be someone else’s dog the moment they are born. If that happens, I’d rather they not be born at all!”

Old Vulture's eyes widened as he looked at Lei Zhen and every Battle King. When he saw the determination and passion in their eyes, his heart went cold. As his gaze swept across each person, it ultimately fell on Long Chen, the one who had defeated him.

Long Chen shook his head, looking at the defected old man. He had watched the whole argument, and as a whole, Long Chen respected Lei Zhen and the others. The idiom "broken jade is better than whole clay" was very fitting here.

Long Chen stretched and said to the Old Vulture, "Who said that the Battle clan is sure to lose to the Martial Alliance? Even if we lose, we will make sure they end up in a worse state than us! They are strong, but how will we know who is stronger without a proper fight? Old Vulture, if we had not fought today, would you have known that I'm stronger than you?"

His words successfully lifted the mood.

Lei Zhen nodded. It was time for him to end today's matters. He hesitated for a while, as he did not really want to kill Old Vulture.

"Uncle, you tried to kill me and almost succeeded. I will need to lock you up before the Battle clan's major day. Once we survive this ordeal, I will decide what to do with you."

This was indeed a very generous sentence for him, but everyone knew that it was a little inappropriate to sentence Old Vulture to death when they were facing such a huge threat as a clan.

"You're locking me up? How will I face anyone after what I've done?" Old Vulture looked down and smiled like a madman. "I did not succeed today, so I must admit that you have won. However, Lei Zhen, even though I'll die today, you all will still be criminals!"

Then Old Vulture pierced his own heart with his sharp talons.

No one stopped him from killing himself. When Lei Zhen caught him, he had already stopped breathing.

Everyone looked at each other.

After a long time, Lei Zhen finally stood up and said tiredly, "Old Vulture did not grow up in the Battle clan, so he does not know what 'spirit' means to us."

"He has always been the strongest member of the clan. This is a huge pity." The other Battle Kings shook their heads. They were all passionate men who respected Lei Zhen. Lei Zhen's courageous personality was the reason why they supported his becoming the clan leader.

The matters of the day had finally come to an end.

"Clan Leader, are you still going to the Lightning Pool?" asked one of the Battle Kings.

Lei Zhen shook his head and said, "I'm badly injured. I need ten days of rest to heal."

“What will happen to the duel, then?” Lei Zhen was supposed to participate in the First Earthly Martial Stage duel.

Lei Zhen grinned. Everyone followed his gaze and looked at Long Chen. Then everyone gave proud smiles too.

Chapter 598 - The Showdown

Jiang Wuya said, “If we let Long Chen participate in the First Earthly Martial Stage duel, we will win for sure. Long Chen is currently even stronger than I am, so it would be great if he could participate in the Second Earthly Martial Stage duel. It’s too bad he’s not at the Second Earthly Martial Stage.”

Everyone had decided to hand over the First Earthly Martial Stage duel to Long Chen.

Long Chen suddenly cut him off and said, “Everyone, I have another idea for the duel.”

The crowd froze and Lei Zhen asked, “What is it?”

Long Chen pulled Xiaolang over and said, “The bet is between experts of both sides. Although Xiaolang is a demonic beast, he is also considered an expert from our side. He is currently a Category One King-tier demonic beast. If he participates, I am confident that he will win!”

Jian Chen and Lei Zhen were the only members of the group who had witnessed Xiaolang in battle before. When they were battling the Void Martial Saint, the most important component was actually his Nine Devils Ancestral Fire. It was also what chased Zhao Danchen away last night.

On top of that, Long Chen was endorsing him. That was why they did not doubt Xiaolang’s strength. However, they did not understand why Long Chen did not want to participate in the duel.

“Seventh Brother, why can’t you participate in the duel? Although Xiaolang is very strong, and we believe you, we feel that it will be an even more solid win if you go,” said Jiang Wuya.

“Didn’t Yang Ningfeng say we can send anyone for the third match because we have no Third Earthly Martial Stage people? I would like to participate in that duel. If Xiaolang or Second Brother don’t succeed, I would like to go for the final round!”

Long Chen did not beat around the bush and directly told them his intentions.

When he finished, everyone was impressed by his courage. They looked at each other and in the end, Jiang Wuya said, “Seventh Brother, do you know how big the gap is between us and someone at the Third Earthly Martial Stage? Yang Ningfeng, the person who made the bet, will be the one fighting. He is Martial Emperor Yang Ningfeng, and you witnessed his capabilities at the Cloud Dream Swamp, right?”

“I have, and that is why I would like to go for the final match!” Long Chen said with determination. There was endless confidence in his tone.

Everyone could see his determination when he answered.

“If you are confident Xiaolang can win the first match, I think this is worth trying,” said Jiang Wuya.

Everyone agreed.

“Don’t worry, everyone. It will be a simple matter for Xiaolang to win. Please believe me,” said Long Chen.

He was not exaggerating. Not only did Xiaolang have the super-powerful Nine Devils Ancestral Fire, he had also cultivated divine combat techniques. No human or beast in his tier was his match!

With Long Chen’s insistence, it had been decided. The three people who would participate would be Mo Xiaolang, Jiang Wuya, and Long Chen!

Long Chen would face Yang Ningfeng, a Martial Emperor-level master who was the former Great Priest of the Wind God Sect!

When everything was arranged, Lei Zhen buried Old Vulture in secret. This matter could not get out before the duel. As for Lei Ming, Lei Zhen could only lock him up for the moment.

The battle had yet to begin, but the Battle clan had already lost two great contributors. However, they had gained something new with the discovery of Long Chen’s terrifying combat abilities.

The insignificant Seventh Brother had suddenly become the center of attention!

Initially, Long Chen was supposed to escort the Battle clan’s children, but because he was going to participate in the duel, the task was assigned to Chi Ying.

The Battle clan gradually completed their preparations for the day of the duels.

During these few days, Long Chen fully immersed himself in cultivation to reach the Second Earthly Martial Stage. He let go of everything else and fully focused on progressing. Initially, he had planned to reach the Second Earthly Martial Stage before the duel.

However, the difficulty of his goal far surpassed his expectations. It felt like a mountain in front of him, so close that he could almost touch it, but no matter how close he got, it felt so far away.

What will the pulse of the second stage feel like? Within his room, Long Chen stepped on the ground with bare feet as he performed the Second Earthly Martial Stage’s fist technique. He had long grown familiar with the fist technique, and he had prepared his mind. The last step was comprehension.

On the last day, Long Chen still had yet to comprehend the Second Earthly Martial Stage.

I thought I could reach the Second Earthly Martial Stage before the duel with Yang Ningfeng, but I failed ... Long Chen was slightly anxious and sad.

He still did not understand how inhuman he was. He had only been attempting to reach the Second Earthly Martial Stage for a few weeks, yet he felt like his progress was too slow. Would the people stuck at the First Earthly Martial Stage for several years balk at his thoughts?

Long Chen possessed mysterious treasures and he had seen more than most of the people in the Divine Martial Empire. That was why he did not feel like it was important. In reality, his cultivation speed was unheard of in the Divine Martial Empire!

How would he complete the last step?

Long Chen still could not grasp the essence of it.

But the time of the duels had arrived.

I'll let this go for the moment. If Xiaolang and Second Brother win their duels, I won't even need to fight, he thought in an attempt to comfort himself.

There was half a day left, so there was not enough time for him to cultivate more. Long Chen led Xiaolang to the ancestral mausoleum of the Battle clan. Today, the masters of the Martial Alliance would come to this place to begin the duels!

Before that, Lei Zhen had completed all the preparations for the clan to fight the Martial Alliance in the ultimate war. They were in a dense forest, which was an advantageous battlefield for the Battle clan. Although they had fewer fighters, the Martial Alliance would have to pay a hefty price to kill them all when they were spread out in the forest!

The Battle clan was both courageous and vicious, and it was made up of warriors. This was why Yang Ningfeng wanted them to submit in a manner that did not require military force. Of course, he had no idea that Lei Zhen was prepared to fight to the death if they lost.

Since Lei Zhen was no longer worried about cultivating, he was able to make sure everything was in order. Every Battle clan member was filled with courage and passion. The only thing left to do was wait for the final battle.

Just as Lei Zhen had said, they were born to fight. Death was not suffering—death was glory to them!

When Long Chen arrived in front of the ancestral mausoleum, the rest were already prepared. Only experts at the Earthly Martial Realm were qualified to be here today. The Nine Fang Warriors, who were the elites of the clan, were all proficient in battle and were very familiar with the terrain, so Lei Zhen did not want them to die here.

The ancient mausoleum was located in a mountain, and it was also a forbidden area to them.

In front of it was a large, empty patch of land. The Battle clan members stood in front of their ancestors as they awaited the arrival of the Martial Alliance. This was the final battle for glory; the livelihood of the clan depended on this!

Even Long Chen felt a weight on his shoulders when he saw the hope in everyone's eyes, let alone Mo Xiaolang and Jiang Wuya, who would be fighting the main duels. In fact, their battles were the most crucial part. Long Chen's part was only the final struggle for life!

There was not much of a problem with Xiaolang, but Long Chen was worried about Jiang Wuya. There were indeed Second Earthly Martial Stage cultivators who were even scarier than Jiang Wuya in the Martial Alliance. It was difficult to say who had the absolute advantage; Jiang Wuya's victory was not certain!

"How have your preparations gone?" asked Lei Zhen when he saw Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang.

"Don't worry. We'll do our best," Long Chen answered with a nod.

“Just do your best. Whether we live or die depends on the heavens ...” Lei Zhen chuckled bitterly. It was the key moment that would determine the fate of the clan, so the mood was heavy and tinged with anxiety.

However, when everyone noticed that they were surrounded by brothers who would fight side-by-side with them, passion filled their hearts!

“Let’s not sulk so much! The Martial Alliance will look down on us! Brothers, if we die today, we will drag a few of them down with us!” Jiang Wuya laughed loudly.

Everyone smiled, in full agreement.

The Battle clan members smiled gratefully at Jiang Wuya and the others.

They all stood together, and time passed slowly. It was almost the agreed time.

They had agreed to duel at noon!

Long Chen looked up and saw that the sun was already at the center of the sky.

Blood rushed through every warrior’s heart!

“The time has come! They’re here!” someone said. Everyone looked up and saw that beneath the blinding sunlight, a group of golden-robed men were flying above the dense forest. Their clothes fluttered loudly in the wind as they flew towards them!

The two people leading them were Zhao Danchen, the one Long Chen had previously encountered, and Yang Ningfeng!

Behind them were at least four Martial Saints and around ten Martial Kings. In terms of strength, they were superior to Long Chen’s side, especially with two Martial Emperors! And one of them was the legendary Zhao Danchen!

Previously, although Zhao Danchen had only casually used his Golden Eye of Annihilation, Long Chen knew exactly how terrifying his abilities were!

As for Yang Ningfeng, he was a person who could compete with Long Yue and was the former Great Priest of the Wind God Sect. How simple could a person like that be?

And the four Martial Saints and ten-plus Martial Kings ...

If they fought here, the Battle clan would not end up on top.

The Battle clan members felt immense pressure.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

A cloud of dust flew in all directions when the Martial Alliance group landed on the yellow soil fifty meters away.

Beneath the sunlight, every Martial Alliance cultivator had a smile on his face. Zhao Danchen was in front, and he walked past Yang Ningfeng to the very front of the group, studying the Battle clan members. He said with a grin, “Cowards of the Battle clan! I can’t believe you guys actually dared to fight us!”

Chapter 599 - Golden Combat Body

The stand-off between both sides began.

After Zhao Danchen spoke in a contemptuous tone, the tension in the air rose. The Martial Alliance clearly did not take the Battle clan seriously. That was why their icy expressions quickly turned into mocking sneers the moment they arrived.

When Zhao Danchen called the Battle clan cowards, they all burst out in laughter, pointing at Lei Zhen and the others.

“Does the Martial Alliance need to resort to childish insults? The Martial Alliance is the number one faction of the Divine Martial Empire, yet your behavior is nothing but embarrassing. It really is difficult to believe,” Lei Zhen said after a cold chuckle.

“What?” Zhao Danchen had a personality similar to Long Chen’s; he was more talkative and never lost a verbal fight. He continued, “What do you mean, number one faction? There is only one faction in the whole Divine Martial Empire, and that is the Martial Alliance! The other factions are just our dogs! As for the laughable Battle clan, it will also soon be one of them.”

The term “dog” cut deep into the warriors’ hearts. Every Battle clan warrior’s expression grew icy. There was a deep enmity between them!

The Martial Alliance was the archnemesis of the Battle clan!

“The duel has not begun; the results have not been set yet. Don’t you celebrate too early,” said Jiang Wuya, who was standing next to Lei Zhen.

Zhao Danchen’s gaze fell on Jiang Wuya. He suddenly thought of something and laughed. “Dragon clan! You guys are clowns who think too highly of yourselves! If you weren’t all cowards that did nothing but hide, you would have been dead by now! You guys are being very nosy here.”

“The Martial Alliance has always been arrogant; you have never taken anyone seriously. You, Zhao Danchen, are even more violent than the rest of the lot! We’re here for no reason other than helping the heavens enforce justice!” Jiang Wuya said proudly.

“Helping the heavens enforce justice? Hahaha! Alright, Dragon clan! It seems you’re unaware, but your dragon has lost its head!” Zhao Danchen broke into the grin of a madman.

The moment he said that, the whole Dragon clan shuddered, including Long Chen. Did Zhao Danchen mean that Long Yue was dead? Everyone paled for a brief moment.

“Don’t believe him! Don’t let him get to you! Long Yue isn’t stupid, how could she be killed?” Jiang Wuya said hurriedly, slowly pulling them out of their grief. They realized he was right; how could they trust what Zhao Danchen had said?

When Zhao Danchen saw that their reactions were mild, he laughed even more with a perverted look in his eyes. “Looks like you don’t believe me. That bitch Long Yue wanted to enter the Nine Spirit Purgatory to save her younger brother, but she didn’t expect that it would alert my master, the Martial Overlord. How could she hope to run from someone as powerful as him? In the sky above Martial Overlord City, my master stripped Long Yue naked and humiliated her for three days and three nights! Then she killed herself! It was a magnificent sight! Just imagine ... Beneath the beautiful moonlight, two naked bodies twisting in the air while ten thousand people watched from below ...”

Zhao Danchen spoke with no restraint, and his words made every Dragon clan member’s eyes turn red. Their breathing grew rugged, especially Jiang Wuya’s, whose eyes had turned blood-red. He was the one who cared most about Long Yue. If this was true, his world had collapsed.

Sky-high killing intent rose from every Dragon clan member, with the strongest intent coming from Jiang Wuya. He seemed to have lost his mind and turned into a crazed wild beast.

There was no question that Jiang Wuya liked Long Yue, or he would not have betrayed the Ancient Demon Domain and become a stray together with her. Usually, he never spoke much with Long Yue, but Long Chen could tell that the look in his eyes resembled the way he looked at Ling Xi.

It was love coming from the depths of the heart.

That was why Zhao Danchen’s words were a huge blow to Jiang Wuya.

Long Chen panicked.

“That’s nonsense! Who would believe your lies? If such a major thing had really happened, we would have learned about it a long time ago! Do you think you’d be the one to tell us? Zhao Danchen, don’t you need to think your lies through before telling them? And my Big Sister is no weakling! If she wanted to kill herself, do you think Martial Overlord Zhao Wuji would be able to stop her?” said Long Chen.

He was the only one whose wits were still intact. He did not believe Zhao Danchen at all since there were simply too many flaws in the story. Plus, it was clear that Zhao Danchen was only trying to affect the Dragon clan’s combat abilities.

Long Chen’s words successfully snapped everyone to their senses. Jiang Wuya and the rest privately thought to themselves that it was close. If Long Chen had not spoken, they would have likely fallen into the trap. Long Yue had taken great care of them; if anything happened to her, they would likely lose their minds and pounce on Zhao Danchen immediately.

And they would then fall into his trap.

Zhao Danchen and Yang Ningfeng were two Martial Emperors of the Martial Alliance. Long Chen’s team wasn’t even close to their level. Zhao Danchen was an utterly shameless person.

When Zhao Danchen saw that his trick had failed to work, he was not disappointed. Instead, he chuckled smugly. He said with a grin, “It looks like at least one of you isn’t an idiot. Not bad, not bad! Your name is Long Chen, right? Probably a descendant of the Long family too. The Long family has three descendants, and two are already in the Nine Spirit Purgatory. They’re probably going to be there for the rest of their lives!”

Long Yue was also locked in the Nine Spirit Purgatory?

That was probably true.

If that was not the case, how would anyone know that Long Yue had gone to Martial Overlord City, considering how skillful she was at hiding? The only way Zhao Danchen could've made up that story was if he knew that Long Yue had gone there.

Jiang Wuya, Jian Chen, Long Chen, and the others looked at each other. Long Chen was more collected than the rest, and he was currently the strongest fighter on their side. Somehow, he had become the rock of the group, so he said, "I don't care if that is true; we will deal with it after the duel! Zhao Danchen is a slippery trickster; we must not let this affect our duel! Big Sister may not be in trouble! We shouldn't worry when we don't know what the truth is!"

Everyone nodded. What Long Chen had said made sense. Worrying now was useless as the Martial Alliance was a gigantic obstacle. Even the strongest among them, Long Chen, was far from their level! If Yang Ningfeng had not set up this bet to avoid using military force, they would not even be able to talk to these people!

"Especially you, Second Brother. You must trust Big Sister." Long Chen was most worried that Jiang Wuya's mental state would affect him during his fight.

"Don't worry, I'm not a child," Jiang Wuya said with a bitter smile, seeing as he was just lectured by Long Chen, who was twenty years younger than he was. He knew what he had to do.

Long Chen did not want to give Zhao Danchen any more opportunities to trick them, so he said to the grinning Zhao Danchen directly, "Since the time has come, let's not waste time talking. Let's begin the duels. I wonder, which First Earthly Martial Stage expert will represent the Martial Alliance?"

Zhao Danchen was nonchalant. He had only come here to hurt the Dragon clan using Long Yue's situation. Now that his objective had been reached, he took several steps back, ignoring Long Chen. Yang Ningfeng was the one who had set this up; it was none of his business.

Snap!

A Martial King took out a luxurious, comfortable chair and placed it behind Zhao Danchen. He then invited Zhao Danchen to sit down. Zhao Danchen lay lazily on this lounge chair-type seat, squinting. He took a glance at Yang Ningfeng and said, "You're the one who made the bet, so you deal with it!"

Although Zhao Danchen's tone was rude, the usually arrogant Yang Ningfeng did not dare rebuke him. He nodded obediently, then he prepared for the start of the duel.

It was clear that although they were both Martial Emperors, the gap between their ranks was huge.

They were at the same cultivation level; however, Zhao Danchen was a prodigy and the Martial Overlord's direct disciple. Was that enough for Zhao Danchen to order Yang Ningfeng around?

Long Chen was puzzled, and when he saw Lan Ling'er next to him, he asked, "Sister Lan, how strong is Zhao Danchen if even Yang Ningfeng obeys him?"

Lan Ling'er put on a look full of disgust. "That brat is famous for being arrogant and violent; people get scared the moment his name is mentioned. He has done many terrifying things and is a very evil guy. However, he does indeed have the right to be arrogant, because he is very powerful. He is definitely number one out of the three Martial Emperors, and the Martial Alliance officially recognizes him as their second strongest member and the second strongest in the whole empire. If he wasn't, how could the old Battle Emperor have been killed by him?"

"Is that so ..." Long Chen and Zhao Danchen had a slight clash previously, but he did not know that this person was this strong.

Lan Ling'er gave a dejected look. "If we lose the bet today, many people are going to be killed by Zhao Danchen, including you and me. Very few people in the whole Divine Martial Empire are a match for that psycho!"

"Why?" Long Chen whispered.

"Zhao Danchen is very talented, and it is rumored that the Martial Emperor has passed down his intermediate King-tier combat technique, the Yellow Martial Divine Seal, to him! He has successfully cultivated it, and what makes it more terrifying is the Golden Combat Body that he was born with! As his cultivation level rises, the Golden Combat Body strengthens. This not only strengthens his physical body to the level of an intermediate King-tier body tempering technique, it also allows him to use many divine techniques such as the Golden Eye of Annihilation!"

Chapter 600 - Yellow River Sword King

This was the first time Long Chen had heard of a natural-born combat body. Based on what Lan Ling'er had said, Long Chen's Constellation Combat Body, Blazing Thunder Combat Body, and True Martial Demon Body were all learned body tempering techniques, while Zhao Danchen was born with the Golden Combat Body?

When Lan Ling'er saw the confusion in his eyes, she continued, "Very few people have natural-born combat bodies. Based on what I know, Zhao Danchen is the only one who has such an impressive quality in the whole Divine Martial Empire. He would not be this strong today without the Golden Combat Body, and the Martial Overlord might not take him in as his only direct disciple."

Long Chen had a rough idea of natural-born combat bodies now. He had not seen anyone with one before. This meant that Zhao Danchen was indeed very strong! Long Chen knew that if he had to fight him, it would be certain death.

However, in the face of such a terrifying enemy, Lei Zhen and the others still chose to fight till the end. This was proof of how courageous the Battle clan was! Now he truly viewed death as coming home!

While Long Chen and Lan Ling'er conversed, the Martial Alliance's representative for the first duel had stepped forward. Wearing yellow robes, he was a very thin, very tall man, and there was an icy glint in his eyes. He looked like a sword, a very sharp sword!

Of course, there was also a sword in his hand.

“Junior Brother ...” On Long Chen’s other side, Jian Chen’s brows were furrowed. He knew this man. He did not expect the representative for the first duel to be him.

When Long Chen heard Jian Chen, he roughly guessed the yellow-robed cultivator’s identity.

Jian Chen said to them, “That is the Void Martial Saint’s disciple, and he is as strong as I am. Other people call him the Yellow River Sword King! The sword in his hand is the Yellow River Sword, which is from the same series as my Cloud Sword! He cultivates the Yellow River Sword Manual!”

Jian Chen was considered strong among First Earthly Martial Stage cultivators, seeing as he was a true Sword Warrior. If he said that the Yellow River Sword King was as strong as he was, then the result would be unpredictable if Lei Zhen went up against him. Victory would not be certain.

However, since they were going to send Mo Xiaolang instead, everything would be different.

The moment the Yellow River Sword King stepped into the space, his sword-like glare fell on Jian Chen and he said coldly, “You, the traitor who betrayed our clan and killed our master! I know you’re here to duel, so you’d better get the fuck over here! It was very difficult for me to get this chance, and it was all to kill you, Jian Chen!”

His voice was hoarse and cold, like a sword piercing through the crowd. Just based on his voice, it was clear that he was not weak.

But did he think that they were sending Jian Chen to fight?

He was very, very wrong. Although Jian Chen was strong, victory would not be guaranteed if he stepped up. “You’re thinking too much. The Dragon clan and the Battle clan have countless masters and experts. They would not send me out there to embarrass myself! We naturally have experts capable of dealing with you! Also, don’t you pin me as a traitor! You people have done nothing for me! In fact, there is enmity between us! Why can’t I kill you too?”

Jian Chen did not feel any guilt at all over the Void Martial Saint’s death!

“You!” Jian Chen’s words stunned the Yellow River Sword King. They all thought Jian Chen would be the one fighting, but there was someone else! Lei Zhen? Lei Zhen seemed to be strong enough, but he was the current clan leader. Would they let him take this risk? What if he died?

They did not state that killing was forbidden in the duel.

The Martial Alliance’s gazes fell on Lei Zhen. To their surprise, Lei Zhen did not move. Instead, an unknown, beautiful teenager next to Long Chen stepped forward.

Long Chen patted Mo Xiaolang’s shoulder and said, “Win as fast as you can!”

Mo Xiaolang nodded and chuckled lightly. “Don’t worry, Big Brother. A mere Martial King is nothing to me.”

When Mo Xiaolang was twenty meters away from the Yellow River Sword King, the Martial Alliance members were finally sure that the Yellow River Sword King’s opponent was going to be this unknown brat.

The Martial Kings and Martial Saints burst into laughter, holding their bellies. Even Yang Ningfeng smirked and said, “Have the Battle clan and the Dragon clan run out of people? Why did you send a random brat to us? It looks like you’re going to admit defeat. You should let Jian Chen do it so you don’t become sore losers.”

The only person who did not laugh was Zhao Danchen.

“We won’t be changing our representative, but if Martial Emperor Yang is not satisfied, he can change his representative,” Lei Zhen said loudly.

Yang Ningfeng froze, unable to figure out what they were plotting.

Zhao Danchen privately cursed Yang Ningfeng for being an idiot and said, “Why has the Battle clan sent a demonic beast? Did we say we can send demonic beasts in the bet?” He was not actually familiar with the conditions that the idiot Yang Ningfeng had set for the battle. All he knew was that when Xiaolang was in his Sun Devouring Wolf form, the flames he had spat out were quite powerful!

Even he was terrified of them!

“He’s a demonic beast?” Everyone was stunned, and upon closer inspection, they realized that the beautifully handsome teenager emitted a faint trace of Demonic Qi.

After taking a human form, demonic beasts often retained a small part of their beastly characteristics. It was rare for them to look like Xiaolang. In terms of handsomeness, Xiaolang was clearly the best-looking person present. When they realized that they were not even as good-looking as a beast, they were in disbelief.

“Demonic beast?” The Yellow River Sword King was also studying Mo Xiaolang. No matter how hard he looked, he felt like Mo Xiaolang would never hurt a soul.

He did not care if this was a beast or not. Since Jian Chen wasn’t coming, he needed to win this battle.

On Long Chen’s side, Lei Zhen refuted Zhao Danchen’s question. “When we set the conditions of the bet, we did not say we could not send demonic beasts. Demonic beasts have always been a huge part of our forces in the Battle clan, so of course our beasts can participate! Unless ... Zhao Danchen, are you afraid of us beating you?”

Lei Zhen’s mocking question forced Zhao Danchen to swallow his words. He eyed Xiaolang, too lazy to care, and said, “Whatever. If you win the first round, does that automatically mean you’ll win the second?”

The Martial Alliance members did not understand why Zhao Danchen would make himself look bad before the duel even began. The Yellow River Sword King thought Zhao Danchen was underestimating him, which made him upset. He pulled the jade-like Yellow River Sword, which was shining a mud-yellow-colored light, out of its sheath and said coldly, “I don’t care if this is a human or beast; it makes no difference to me! I, the Yellow River Sword King, will not show mercy. Since you have chosen to come to this duel, then prepare to be killed by me!”

The corners of Mo Xiaolang's lips curled up. He did not move; he merely looked at his opponent. His calm look made the Yellow River Sword King feel like he was being disrespected, and it was a little shameful to be looked down on by a beast!

"You're looking for death!" With a cry, the Yellow River Sword King turned into a yellow sword shadow and pounced at Mo Xiaolang! The moment he moved, Long Chen could tell that the Yellow River Sword King was on par with Jian Chen in terms of both speed and combat abilities!

Bright sword lights and a cloud of dust flew towards Mo Xiaolang, clouding his vision!

Mo Xiaolang kept Long Chen's reminder in mind—win as fast as he could. He wanted Xiaolang to launch his fatal strike as soon as possible, resulting in a quick win to prevent unexpected situations that could possibly branch out into further problems. The moment the Yellow River Sword King moved, Mo Xiaolang growled. After a bout of black flames, a tall Sun Devouring Wolf was standing in front of the Yellow River Sword King. The Yellow River Sword King looked pitiful and tiny next to the wolf!

"Do you think being huge will work? You'll still die!" The Yellow River Sword King laughed, and his Sword Qi howled like the wind. There was a buzzing sound in the air, then he waved his sword and ran up to Mo Xiaolang's head!

"Yellow River Sword Manual! Nine Turning Rivers!" He turned his sword, which turned into a sharp whirlpool flying towards Xiaolang's head. The pressure was immense!

The Sun Devouring Wolf's eyes were filled with pitch-black flames. He quickly took several steps back, and his gigantic shadow turned into another black wolf, which bared its teeth and attacked the sword king!

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The crazed sword shadow exchanged attacks with Xiaolang's demonic clone at high speeds. Every time they collided, sparks flew!

"What the hell is this?!" The Yellow River Sword King did not recognize the Demonic Illusion, but if he did, he would be even more shocked. Xiaolang's clone was almost as strong as his original body, which was why it could fight him directly!

While his clone was occupying the Yellow River Sword King, the wolf suddenly appeared in the air above him, and a mouthful of Nine Devil Ancestral Fire fell from above like a tidal wave!

Stepping on black flames, Xiaolang stood up in the air, showing that a King-tier demonic beast had the ability to fly.

"What kind of fire is this?!" While fighting the demonic clone, the Yellow River Sword King suddenly felt a cold gust when the wolf suddenly sprayed fire at him!

To his knowledge, fire was supposed to be hot, but this fire was cold! Although it was abnormal, the Yellow River Sword King did not dwell on it, treating it as one of Xiaolang's attacks. He quickly used his sword techniques to force the demonic clone back temporarily!

