

War God 621

Chapter 621 - Man In The Boulder

The attacks from the stone scorpions were indeed strong. One of them dented the carapace of another, causing the black rune to become dim.

While they possessed strength, they were not intelligent and felt no pain, so they ignored each other's attacks as they chased after Long Chen relentlessly. They never stopped even though many of their companions crumbled to dust.

In contrast, the siblings were fighting ferociously. Long Chen finished his opponents faster than the two of them combined. In just fifteen minutes, without even lifting a finger, Long Chen had destroyed five stone scorpions by redirecting their attacks towards each other. The final stone scorpion was on the verge of collapse and its black rune was starting to fade.

Long Chen dodged again as the stone scorpion attacked with its tail once more. This time, the tail hit the boulder behind Long Chen, causing it to shake. A crack appeared on the boulder, though it didn't move much.

He wasn't sure what the boulder was, but he didn't want the stone scorpion to destroy it. He flew up into the air and kicked downwards.

"Wind God Kick, Whirlwind Style." He flew down like a meteor and launched consecutive attacks on the stone scorpion's carapace.

Crack, crack, crack.

The horrifying sounds filled the cavern as the stone scorpion collapsed from his attacks.

The final stone scorpion chasing after Long Chen was finally destroyed.

At the same time, the siblings were also facing off against their final stone scorpion. The two of them only had to fight four scorpions, yet they had taken longer to kill them than Long Chen.

Willow Step was surprisingly effective against the stone scorpions.

"Wind God Kick?" The siblings were already shocked when they saw Long Chen using Willow Step, and seeing the Wind God Kick truly threw them off. They almost got hit by the final scorpion because they were distracted. They quickly used the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw to finish off the final scorpion.

The cavern was quiet once more.

"Seventh Brother, you've cultivated Willow Step and the Wind God Kick?" Long Yue was surprised. She had thought Long Chen was just a child, but now his combat power far surpassed hers. She felt embarrassed.

"The Huangfu family gave me the Willow Step, and I stole the Wind God Kick from Yang Ningfeng. I cultivated them and got some satisfactory results."

Long Yue was still surprised even though Long Chen explained how he had obtained the techniques. Long Chen could somehow both Willow Step and the Wind God Kick to a surprisingly good degree.

“You are the greatest genius I’ve ever seen in both cultivation and martial techniques.” Long Yue smiled bitterly.

The youth was in awe too. “I, Long Chen, have never looked up to anyone in my life. You are the first. I never thought someone could cultivate two intermediate King-tier martial techniques in just a month.”

Long Chen chuckled. “It still feels weird to call me by my name.”

Having the same name was confusing ...

The two of them laughed. The siblings were impressed by Long Chen, and they secretly regarded him as their leader now.

After the stone scorpions were defeated, Long Chen looked at the boulder in the middle.

“The stone scorpions probably used up all of their power, so what is this thing?” The three of them lightly tapped the boulder and saw that it was the same type of stone as the ones that littered on the ground. The only difference was how large and round the boulder was.

“They should all be the same type of rock. I wonder what kind of secret it holds?” the youth said.

Long Chen investigated the boulder for half a day but found nothing. *Is this just the nest of the stone scorpions?* Just then, he heard something from inside the boulder.

He quickly pressed his ear onto it and heard the sound of knocking from the inside.

Long Chen activated Sight and saw something shocking. There was an empty pocket roughly one meter in diameter in the middle of the boulder! And someone was inside!

Long Chen could see the weakened soul of the person.

“What’s wrong?” Long Yue was curious when she saw Long Chen's actions.

“Someone’s inside, and they are not dead.”

“Impossible. How could there be someone in there? Even if it's true, how could they still be alive after being trapped for so long?” The siblings were staring at the boulder with wide eyes.

“Should we open it up?”

Suddenly, the youth shouted at them, “Sister! I know who it is! It must be him!”

Long Yue was puzzled by how excited the youth had gotten. “Who are you referring to?”

“Sister, have you forgotten what our father told us when he was still alive? When we were very young, our grandfather went missing. At that time, he was at the Fourth Earthly Martial Stage and was as strong as the Martial Overlord. Our father couldn’t confirm it, but he thought that the previous Martial Overlord had imprisoned our grandfather!”

Long Yue realized what he was trying to say. “Xiaochen, are you saying that the man inside the boulder could be our grandfather, Long Shan?”

“Yes!”

“Then we need to break the boulder open. Let’s do it slowly so we don’t injure him.” Long Chen never expected to find something like this, but he wasn’t worried. Using Sight, he confirmed that the person inside was on the brink of death. If they rescued them, they wouldn’t be able to bring the trio any harm.

Long Chen had to admit that their grandfather was really strong if he was still alive after being trapped in the boulder for so many years.

The boulder must’ve been made by someone, but who? And why would they imprison someone in a boulder? Long Chen didn’t know the answer to that.

The three of them acted immediately. Even though the boulder was hard, all three of them had a method to break it open. Long Yue and the youth each had an intermediate King-tier Divine Arm that could chip it open. Long Chen, on the other hand, used his claws, which were as strong as their Divine Arms.

“Why are your claws so hard?” The youth was shocked. He had a feeling that other than his cultivation level, Long Chen had them outclassed in every aspect.

Long Chen smiled and said nothing as they worked together to open the boulder.

Time slowly passed.

“Almost there now ...” Long Chen could tell that they were getting closer to the center.

Crack. His claws reached the empty space in the middle, then he pulled out a large chunk of stone. When the dust settled, Long Chen and everyone else saw that there was indeed someone inside the boulder.

Long Chen couldn’t bear to look at the man.

It was an emaciated old man with his skin stuck to his bones. He looked similar to how Jiang Kun looked when he used Corpse Transformation. The old man had long, white hair and his beard covered his entire face. His clothes were almost reduced to nothing too.

Long Chen could barely see a pair of eyes through the messy hair and beard. The old man’s eyes were dim and barely open, a clear indication that he was close to death. But when he saw Long Chen and the other two, a strange vigor filled his eyes.

Long Chen felt a sense of familiarity from the old man due to his bloodline, similar to when he first met Long Yue. He was certain that the old man was Long Yue’s grandfather, Long Shan.

Wasting no time, he took out hundreds of King Crystals from the Primordial Realm and gave them to the elder. The King Crystals could replenish the old man's strength.

After seeing the King Crystals, the old man perked up instantly. A strange suction formed in the center of his stomach as he absorbed all of them. He separated the hundreds of crystals and distributed them evenly on his nine Martial Meridians.

Long Chen sighed in relief.

The old man could still be saved if he had enough vitality to absorb the power of the King Crystals. The King Crystals started to shine, and their light enveloped the old man. Long Chen stepped back and let the old man refine them slowly. That was when he turned around and saw that Long Yue and the youth were crying.

Now he was even more certain that the old man was Long Shan.

“Grandfather ...” Long Yue and the youth never thought they would meet their grandfather here.

To think that their grandfather had been subjected to such torment for so long.

He had been trapped here for thirty years and was barely alive by the time they found him. Long Chen now understood how vile the methods of the Martial Alliance were.

If it wasn't for Long Chen suggesting that they follow the stone scorpions, the old man would've died eventually. But the old man never gave up and used as little energy as possible to live because he had hopes that he would be rescued one day.

Long Chen was impressed by his willpower.

Someone with a weaker will would've died long ago.

Chapter 622 – Return of a Master

Time passed slowly.

Based on the old man's initial cultivation level and his current state of starvation, Long Chen sensed that one hundred King Crystals were nowhere near enough for him to recover. However, he had been trapped for many years, so it was also uncertain if it was even possible for him to fully regain his previous strength.

Long Chen had Blood Transmutation, so he was not worried about needing resources to recover his essence. The purpose of King Crystals to him was just to buy things. At the moment, they were not especially useful to him.

The Long siblings watched the old man anxiously. Before they said anything, Long Chen took out another two hundred King Crystals. He had two thousand in total, and now he had about fifteen hundred left. Most of them had come from Yang Ningfeng, so he had no qualms with giving them away.

The thick martial essence contained within the crystals was absorbed by the old man once more. Half a day later, the light around the old man slowly faded and his body filled out until he was looking much more healthy than his previous, terrifyingly withered state.

Under his control, the extra white hair on his body slowly fell off. When he opened his eyes, two rays of divine light shot out, and Long Chen saw faint dragon images in them.

Whoosh! The old man stood in front of the trio, looking much more normal now. He admired his body with great excitement and disbelief. Tears started to pool in his eyes.

He had waited for many years, and now that he was finally broken out, he was unimaginably emotional.

The feeling was indescribable.

The trio did not interrupt him; tears flowed from his eyes for a long time. After about an hour, the old man finally stopped crying and he looked at the trio. They were in their Dragon Soul Transformation states, so he felt infinitely close to them.

“Is your name Long Shan? Our grandfather?” Long Yue asked cautiously, as she could not completely confirm his identity.

The old man froze and stared at them, stuttering, “Are ... are you all Yang’er’s children?”

Long Yue and the gray-robed teenager nodded hurriedly. Their father was Yang’er.

“Good! Good!” The old man’s eyes were filled with emotion. He looked around and said, “I didn’t expect this—that you would come here to rescue me! After Chen Xiong trapped me here, I long thought that I would die for sure. I can’t believe I’m still alive!”

When he mentioned the name, Long Shan’s eyes filled with rage!

“Chen Xiong? The former Martial Emperor? I think he received the Ancient Token, then he entered the Ancient Graveyard and never came back. He’s definitely dead,” said the gray-robed teenager.

“Dead?” Long Shan froze, took a few steps back, and finally said with a bitter smile, “So he’s dead? I have long held this grudge and I swore that I would take revenge one day. I didn’t expect that scum to be dead. Yeah, it’s been a long time. Too long ...”

Long Yue nodded and said, “Grandfather, I am my father’s oldest child. My name is Long Yue, and this is my younger brother. His name is ... Long Chen.”

When Long Shan saw that both his grandchildren seemed quite powerful, he felt proud and reassured. He asked, “What about your father?”

“Father is gone too. Only the three of us remain from the Long family,” said Long Yue.

“Yang’er is gone too?” Long Shan repeated. “Yang’er wasn’t good at cultivation, and he didn’t have much talent. Many years have passed; I expected this to happen.”

Silence.

“What is the outside world like now? Is the Divine Martial Empire still being controlled by the Martial Alliance?” Long Shan asked with a sigh after a very long time.

“The current Martial Overlord’s name is Zhao Wuji, and he’s at the Fourth Martial Stage. No one in the whole Divine Martial Empire is his match. That’s why the empire is still under the Martial Alliance’s control,” Long Yue answered with a nod.

“Fourth Martial Stage? Hehe. Martial Alliance, Martial Alliance; Chen Xiong, Chen Xiong. You trapped me in the Nine Spirit Purgatory, but I know the way out. You couldn’t kill me, so you trapped me here, but I bet you never expected me to escape one day. Will the Martial Alliance continue to exist when I get out of here?” A dark smile appeared on his face.

“Grandfather, what is your current cultivation level?” the gray-robed teenager blurted.

Long Chen could tell that the old man used to be a peerless master. He had been trapped for years; who knew how much of his strength remained?

The old man shook his head and said, “My true cultivation level is the Fifth Martial Stage, but due to the extreme lack of essence and many injuries, my combat abilities are roughly the same as yours right now. If I absorb enough King Crystals, I might be able to reach the Fourth Martial Stage. As for the fifth, it will take a long period of healing to recover.”

His true cultivation level was the Fifth Martial Stage?

That was terrifying. Right now, the strongest person in the empire, Martial Overlord Zhao Wuji, was only at the Fourth Martial Stage. Long Shan’s true level was much higher than his.

“How many King Crystals do you need?” Long Chen asked directly.

Long Shan finally noticed him after he spoke, as Long Chen’s silence from the beginning made Long Shan overlook him. Long Shan recalled that Long Yue had not introduced him.

Plus, Long Chen also called him Grandfather.

But what was up with his Dragon Soul Transformation?

When Long Yue noticed his confusion, she quickly explained, “Grandfather, this teenager’s name is also Long Chen. He has the same name as my brother. He has our blood; I’m guessing he’s from a long-lost branch of our family.”

“Branch?” Long Shan’s brows were deeply furrowed. “The whole Long lineage is a direct line. The ten generations before me did not have any branches, so how could he be from a branch family?”

Long Yue and her brother were speechless when they heard him.

Long Shan studied Long Chen carefully and shook his head. “His Dragon Soul Transformation differs from ours, so he is not related to the Long family. However, there must have been one of those legendary Dragon Warriors in his bloodline! Am I right, kid?”

Thankfully, Long Shan did not find out Long Chen’s secret.

Long Chen nodded. “I don’t know much about my ancestors, and I’m the only one in my family with these powers. I don’t know where it came from either.”

Long Chen could not tell them that he was a Dragon Warrior, so he made up a lie.

Long Shan remembered that Long Chen was the one who had given him the King Crystals.

Long Yue said, "Grandfather, we are sworn siblings, so it does not matter if he is related to us by blood. He is my younger brother, and I have passed the Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw to him. He came into the Nine Spirit Purgatory to save us."

Long Yue rushed to explain everything because she was afraid that Long Shan would think Long Chen was an outsider.

Long Chen smiled too. "We have known each other for a long time. I have a lot of King Crystals, so how much do you need to regain your Fourth Martial Stage strength?"

If he could truly reach the Fourth Martial Stage, Long Shan would be of great help to them. And if Long Chen had a good relationship with him, doing anything in the future would become much easier. For example, getting an Ancient Token.

There were many masters in the Divine Martial Empire who would compete for the Ancient Token, so Long Chen was not very confident he would get it himself.

After the short chat, Long Shan quickly accepted Long Chen as another outstanding junior of his. He said, "I think I will need about a thousand King Crystals to regain my Fourth Martial Stage combat abilities. It's too much. Do you have that many King Crystals?"

It would take a thousand King Crystals to produce one Fourth Martial Stage master. After some thought, Long Chen thought it was worth it, so he nodded and said, "Of course I have a thousand King Crystals."

Then he took out exactly one thousand King Crystals from the Primordial Realm and placed it in Long Shan's hand.

"Kid, you're a generous fellow. When I regain my cultivation, I will naturally treat you well. Even though we are not blood-related, I will protect you like my grandchild in the future."

Long Shan broke out into a joyful grin.

Long Chen was a little apprehensive about suddenly becoming someone's grandson, but when he thought about how this old man was almost a hundred and was very powerful, he stopped caring. The King Crystals had come to him quickly because he had gotten them after killing Yang Ningfeng. On the other hand, getting a master like this to protect him was not an easy feat.

The Long siblings shot Long Chen grateful looks.

Long Chen's trip to the Nine Spirit Purgatory was a gigantic act of kindness. Although Long Yue had said that they were sworn siblings, she felt a little embarrassed.

"Big Sister, don't look at me like that! The Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw you gave me is worth at least that many King Crystals," said Long Chen with a grin.

“I was just thinking about how rescuing you from the Ancient Demon Domain was an excellent decision. Hehe. You should thank that Liu Yiyi girl. If she hadn’t begged, Wuya wouldn’t have risked his life to save you,” Long Yue said with a smile.

Liu Yiyi?

He wondered if Jiang Wuya had managed to resolve her problem. Zhao Danchen had said she would be married off in about a month, and almost a month had passed. If Jiang Wuya could not solve it, then Long Chen and the masters with him would have to solve it with force.

Though he did not know if they still had enough time.

The group was not in a hurry to leave. They waited for Long Shan to absorb the power of the thousand King Crystals. Once he succeeded, they would have one Fourth Martial Stage cultivator on their side. Would they still need to fear the Martial Overlord then?

They could do whatever they wanted in Martial Overlord City when they left.

One thousand King Crystals were arranged around Long Shan in an orderly manner, and they were all glowing like the world’s most beautiful pieces of jade. The King Crystals gathered to form a glowing circle, which spun around him slowly and steadily.

Chapter 623 Ancient Demon Corpse

As the King Crystals spun around Long Shan, he quickly absorbed and refined their energy. He was like a bottomless pit, and due to the long period of starvation, he did not hold back at all. Endless amounts of martial essence flowed into his body.

Starting from the Earthly Martial Realm, progressing through each stage required a long time and a great amount of effort as comprehension wasn’t easy. Very few people could progress as quickly as Long Chen, so masters beyond the Third Earthly Martial Stage were rare. Now the trio was about to personally create a Fourth Martial Stage cultivator.

Long Shan’s actual cultivation level was the Fifth Earthly Martial Stage, but he would not reach it without several years of rest and recovery. Long Chen sensed that the old man had great hatred and resentment in his heart, and this resentment wasn’t resolved even after he learned that Chen Xiong was dead. The people who would face his wrath would naturally be the Martial Alliance!

To Long Chen, this was amazing news!

No one knew that an anti-Martial Alliance faction was quickly growing in this tiny place.

Another half a day passed quickly.

The King Crystals spinning around Long Shan had mostly dimmed, and the martial essence within them was slowly disappearing.

“It’s almost time.” Long Chen had only just spoken when the floating King Crystals all turned into regular stones and fell noisily on the ground.

The light in the cave dimmed, though it was pitch-black to normal people.

Long Shan stood up slowly. Long Chen sensed that he was a source of danger; ever since he reached the Second Earthly Martial Stage, very few people had given Long Chen this feeling. He knew that Long Shan was strong enough to kill him!

He was likely on the Martial Overlord Zhao Wuji's level.

Long Shan savored the power running through his body and slowly opened his eyes. He first looked at Long Chen, and his face, which had stiffened over many years, broke into another smile.

"Thank you so much, kid." Genuine gratitude filled Long Shan's eyes.

Long Yue smiled happily. "Grandfather, my brother and I were trapped in the Nine Spirit Purgatory. That Long Chen tricked a Martial Emperor into telling him the way to leave this place, then he came here to save us. It was also his idea to follow the stone scorpions here."

Long Shan laughed and said, "In that case, you are truly my savior. All these King Crystals were yours too. You have done a great act of kindness to my family, so in the future, just tell me if you need my help. I will do anything to help you!"

Long Chen laughed dryly. "You all are taking this too seriously. We're family; this was nothing. Anyway, it's getting late. We should leave as soon as possible."

This was not a good place to stay for long. They all nodded and then headed upwards. Soon, following the path that had brought them here, they returned to the Nine Spirit Purgatory.

Looking around, Long Shan sighed. "The Nine Spirit Purgatory hasn't changed one bit, but the number of people who have died here must have reached millions throughout the centuries."

Then he looked at Long Chen and asked, "You know how to get out of the Nine Spirit Purgatory too?"

"I heard that the Nine Spirit Purgatory has a ten-meter-tall hill, and if you dig a hundred meters down from there, you will find a compass. And if we follow the direction it points to, we will be able to get out," Long Chen answered with a nod.

"Not bad. It's the same way I know," Long Shan said approvingly.

The four of them immediately started to search for the small hill. Due to their discovery of Long Shan, they had delayed their journey by a day.

With a Fourth Earthly Martial Stage master protecting them, Long Chen wasn't worried about his safety after getting out.

The four of them forged on determinedly in search of the small hill the gray-clothed teenager had once seen. They walked for a very long time until they finally found the legendary hill.

During these four days, the four of them traveled with little stress, occasionally chatting, which made them closer.

Long Chen got to learn about Long Shan's life too. Years ago, Long Shan and the then Martial Overlord were both at the Fourth Earthly Martial Stage. They were good friends. After that, Long Shan reached the Fifth Earthly Martial Stage first, but he was tricked by his friend and was later trapped in the Nine Spirit Purgatory.

His misplaced trust had resulted in him being harmed by Martial Overlord Chen Xiong.

Just like that, more than thirty years passed.

Years ago, he was a mighty master, but now he was an old man weathered by time. Long Chen was frightened by his story.

The Yang family patriarch was right. One had to know his own friends well, or he might not even know the cause of his own death.

Long Chen was grateful that the people he met were good people he could trust.

After they found the small hill, Long Chen personally dug a hundred meters deep. Lo and behold, he found an ice-cold compass. After they took it out, they studied it in detail.

It looked very normal, and they did not find anything strange about it. It was made of bronze and looked just like a normal compass. However, when Long Chen held it, he faintly sensed that the compass was connected to the Nine Spirit Purgatory.

Holding it flat, the compass quickly pointed in a particular direction.

Since they had found the compass, they were ready to leave.

“This way.” They left immediately, heading to the direction it was pointing. But to their surprise, after they took about ten steps, the compass pointed in the reverse direction.

“How could this be?!” lamented the gray-clothed teenager. They had just come from that direction!

“Whatever. We’ll just follow it.” Long Chen frowned and turned around, ready to walk back in the direction he came from.

“We can’t get out of this cursed place exactly because the directions here are so strange. Let’s try following it no matter what first,” said Long Chen while they walked.

After they walked for a while, the compass pointed in a different direction again, and the group continued to follow it without question.

The Nine Spirit Purgatory is a bizarre place! We’ve been following this compass along such a random path. In the beginning, I thought we were walking just as blindly as before—I didn’t know that such a random pattern could actually be the true way out! This was what everyone thought after a few days had passed.

During these few days, the four of them became much closer to Long Shan, and he learned about the major events that had taken place over the past decade in the Divine Martial Empire.

Long Shan also learned about the current state of affairs in the empire.

“In that case, it looks like the Martial Overlord’s family monopolizes the whole empire. Have factions like the Ancient Demon Domain submitted to them too?” Long Shan asked, puzzled.

“Yes, the Ancient Demon Domain submitted to the Martial Alliance ten or so years ago. At the time, the Martial Overlord was there personally. In front of countless people, he defeated all the masters of the faction with a few moves,” said Long Yue a little sourly.

The Martial Overlord was widely recognized as the strongest person in the Divine Martial Empire.

“He defeated all the masters of the Ancient Demon Domain?” Long Shan nodded slowly and continued, “Every Martial Overlord gets to cultivate the Martial Alliance’s most advanced secret scripture; it’s the Divine Martial Empire’s only advanced King-tier combat technique called the Martial Overlord Seal! It makes sense that the Ancient Demon Domain’s masters were defeated. The gap between techniques of the same level can be large, and this is especially the case at the King tier. It can defeat all the other combat techniques unless there is an Emperor-tier combat technique, which has never been seen in the Divine Martial Empire before. Until one appears, no one will be a match for the Martial Overlord.”

An advanced King-tier technique would far surpass Long Chen’s current Soul Dispersing Dragon Claw, and it was indeed powerful. Long Chen was privately nervous knowing that he would surely need to fight the Martial Overlord in the future!

“Wait ... Isn’t there an Ancient Demon Corpse sitting in the Ancient Demon Domain’s Seven Layered Demon World? There are rumors that every leader can control the corpse. It possesses powerful combat abilities, and even a Fourth Earthly Martial Stage cultivator might not be able to defeat it. How could it be that the current domain leader didn’t use it?” Long Shan looked confused.

“Ancient Demon Corpse?” The three younger ones looked at each other, as if they had never heard of such a thing.

Looking at their confusion, Long Shan shook his head with a bitter smile. “Maybe the rumors are false. If the Ancient Demon Domain really had the Ancient Demon Corpse, and they could control it, why would they let the Martial Alliance step on their heads?”

Long Yue and the others nodded.

Long Chen had some questions about it because he thought about how barren the Ancient Demon Domain was. While Long Yue and Long Shan chatted, he asked Little Cat in the Primordial Realm, “Fat Cat, could the Ancient Demon Corpse be related to that thing absorbing all the life force from the Ancient Demon Domain? You sensed something at the bottom of the Seven Layered Demon World. Could it be the Ancient Demon Corpse?”

Little Cat said lazily, “Oh, you’re quite smart! You are worthy of my protection ...”

“Enough of that nonsense,” said Long Chen, lowering his voice to scare the cat.

Little Cat laughed drily and said, “If I’m right, the Ancient Demon Corpse is in the seventh layer of the Demon World. As for why it absorbs life force—it’s a corpse, meaning it’s dead. If you want to

use a secret technique to control the dead corpse, you must inject enough life force to make it move. That is why the Ancient Demon Domain is so barren!”

Chapter 624 – Gigantic Wheel of Fire

“So what exactly is the Ancient Demon Corpse?” asked Long Chen.

“Ancient Demon is just a name for the corpse. It’s called ‘demon’ perhaps because the body belonged to an ancient master. After the master died, the corpse was refined in a ritual to be used in battle. Since its strength comes from when the owner was alive, the fact that the Ancient Demon Corpse can reach the Fourth Earthly Martial Stage and above means that he used to be a powerful master at the Heavenly Martial Realm,” explained Little Cat.

There were many masters in the Ten Thousand Nations Territory. A long, long time ago, there were many Heavenly Martial Realm masters too, so it was very normal for the Ancient Demon Domain to have a corpse like that.

Why didn’t the Ancient Demon Domain use the Ancient Demon Corpse then? The answer is simple—it cannot be used right now. It can only be used after it has absorbed a certain amount of life force. It looks like I need to pay more attention to any updates on the Ancient Demon Corpse ... Long Chen made a mental note to himself.

As they walked, their surroundings started to change and the gray mist around them thinned greatly. The gray clouds in the sky parted to reveal a gray sky. This meant that they were far from their initial starting point.

“If we continue like this, we will surely be able to leave this cursed place.” With a master like Long Shan at their side, they did not need to fear the Martial Overlord after they exited.

Long Yue and the gray-clothed teenager were both looking forward to seeing how Long Shan would do after they left.

Long Chen was thinking about something else—Liu Yiyi’s marriage. Liu Yiyi and Long Chen had a friendship, and she was Jiang Wuya’s daughter too. She was a good girl, and when he heard that she was to be married to Zhao Danchen, all he could think was, *Go to hell, Zhao Danchen!*

However, Long Chen did not know how much time was left until the wedding.

He was getting anxious too.

Everything depended on when he would make it out of this place.

Seven days had passed since they first found the compass. They had been following its arrow, and on this day, they suddenly sensed that the temperature was much higher than before.

“Why is it getting hotter the longer we follow the compass? The ground is also slowly turning from gray to faint red. If we continue to walk, will it turn red?” asked the gray-clothed teenager.

Although Long Chen kept changing directions, he had a feeling that he was walking towards a fire source.

When Mo Xiaolang, who was in the Primordial Realm, smelled the aura of fire, he asked with excitement, "Big Brother, could we be walking towards somewhere with fire? If its heat can be felt from so far away, it can't be a simple source of heat."

"I don't know. Let's hurry up and check it out," said Long Chen.

They continued to travel ahead, and the temperatures kept increasing. Soon, Long Chen found that the sky had turned bright red. Walking felt like stepping on a red, burning wok.

Faint wisps of fire combusted in the air, then quickly disappeared.

"Could the exit of the Nine Spirit Purgatory be in a sea of fire?" Long Chen was in the front of the group, and the compass changed directions again. This time, it pointed southward.

"This way." After Long Chen pointed, the compass suddenly shattered in his hand.

"What happened?" Long Shan and the others asked hurriedly.

"Without the compass, doesn't that mean we won't get out of here?" The gray-robed teenager was the first to look crestfallen. After saving Long Shan, the Martial Overlord would no longer be a threat. He was waiting to get out of this place, but the compass had shattered!

"Don't worry just yet." Long Chen was initially shocked too, but he thought for a while and said, "We've already reached this place and the compass even pointed in a specific direction just now. I'm sure we can get out. Let's move southward now, and we should be able to reach it."

"I agree." Long Yue nodded. Although Long Chen was the youngest here, he had always been mature. Much more mature than the other Long Chen.

Hence, they walked southwards. It was already hot here, but the further south they walked, the hotter it felt. Based on this, Long Chen assumed he was going in the right direction.

They walked for another half-day until Long Chen suddenly found himself in a land engulfed in flames. Tiny wisps of fire twinkled in the air and quickly extinguished.

Although it was hot, there was almost zero earthly Qi here, making it a more barren place than the gray area from before. Long Chen even felt a spiraling air current here.

"It was already extremely difficult to get out of the Nine Spirit Purgatory. Now there's fire blocking us from the exit. With such strong flames in the way, how will we escape?" said the gray-clothed teenager when he looked at the fiery patch in front of him, feeling dejected.

Long Yue frowned even more as the temperature rose. Even Long Shan's gaunt face was tightly pulled. Only Long Chen looked carefree.

They were all curious about his reaction, so they asked in disbelief, "Seventh Brother, do you have a solution?"

"Let's talk when we find the exit. I'm not sure," said Long Chen.

Finally, they found themselves before a sea of fire. When he looked up, a magnificent sight welcomed him. Between the red sky and ground was a gigantic wheel of fire, which spun quickly. Countless flames burned on its edges, and like an angel scattering flowers on the ground, balls of fire fell to the red, sandy ground where fire continued to burn fiercely.

The wheel of fire was gigantic in comparison to them. Long Chen was not sure if they could identify south if they walked around the wheel, so he guessed that the exit was in the fire wheel itself.

"Grandfather, what do we do?" asked the gray-clothed teenager.

The elderly Long Shan's brows were deeply furrowed as he stared at the gigantic fire wheel. With a bitter smile, he said, "With my essence, I may be able to make my way to its center and check it out. If there's an exit, it will be possible for me to get out. But with that temperature, it is not certain for you guys. I don't think you can approach it."

Long Shan was actually a Fifth Earthly Martial Stage master. Although he could only use as much essence as someone at the Fourth Earthly Martial Stage, he was a knowledgeable man. If he said that their essence was not enough to help them through the fire, then it had to be true.

"Huh?" Everyone was crestfallen. They had come to this place after great effort, and now they couldn't get out? Were they going to die here?

"Grandfather, think of a way! I don't want to stay here!" With an elder protecting him, the gray-clothed teenager put all his hopes on Long Shan.

Long Shan was trying to come up with an idea, but the more he thought, the deeper his frown became.

"Long Chen, what about you? What ideas do you have?" Long Yue looked at him when she recalled how he did not look worried.

Long Chen was talking to Little Cat.

"The center of the fire wheel must be the exit of the Nine Spirit Purgatory," Little Cat said confidently.

"What makes you say that?" asked Long Chen.

"Haven't you noticed? The earthly Qi in this place is even thinner, but when you get closer to the center, you will find potent earthly Qi. The earthly Qi is being sucked out of the Nine Spirit Purgatory into the outside world via the fire wheel. That is the reason why this place is a hell with no Qi."

“Really?” Long Chen was shocked.

“Of course, you don’t need to worry. The fire won’t be able to stop you at all, because you’ve got that little black dog as your brother. With him here, even ancestral fire could not stop you, let alone this beast fire,” Little Cat said wisely, rubbing his stomach.

“Is this a type of beast fire?” Long Chen and Mo Xiaolang’s eyes lit up.

“Yes. Those flames came from a beast’s corpse and bones. It has been a very long time, so I can’t tell what beast it was. Based on the size of the fire wheel, you can imagine just how large it used to be.”

Mo Xiaolang could not wait any longer, so he said, “Big Brother, since the exit is at the center of the fire wheel, let me swallow the beast fire! I can sense that this fire is much more powerful than the Blue Devil Flame from before!”

Indeed, the Blue Devil Flame was tiny, but the beast fire was vast in terms of quantity. It was tens of thousands of times larger.

The more powerful a fire was, the more nourishing it would be to Xiaolang.

The Sun Devouring Wolf had no limit.

As long as he could continue to grow, he would have a bright future. In fact, he had even greater potential than Long Chen.

Though the heights could reach depended on how much high-level fire existed in the world.

Long Chen nodded.

Long Yue and the others looked at him with a begging look in their eyes.

What now?

“Seventh Brother, do you have a way?” Long Yue asked again anxiously.

Long Chen had told her about Jiang Wuya and Liu Yiyi, so she was probably as anxious as he was too.

“Don’t worry. Leave it all to me. Wait for me here; I’ll go there first,” said Long Chen with a grin.

There was still some distance between them and the fire wheel, so he sprinted straight ahead. It looked as if he intended to run into the fire.

“What is that brat doing?” Long Yue looked puzzled.

She did not know how powerful Xiaolang was.

Chapter 625 - Sixth Layer of the Demon World

After he spoke, Long Chen ran towards the gigantic wheel of fire, ignoring the flames that wrapped around him. Flames like that could not cause him any harm.

When the gigantic wheel was in front of him, Long Chen looked up and said, “Xiaolang, come out. I’ll leave it up to you now.”

Xiaolang had grown very powerful throughout his time with Long Chen, proving that this decision to follow him had been the right one. If he had stayed in Cangyang Kingdom or come out on his own without Long Chen’s luck and protection, he probably would have been killed by some guy who was out hunting demonic beasts.

Even Long Chen himself had killed many demonic beasts.

Demonic beasts and humans killed each other at all times in the Dragon Continent. Very few humans were like the Battle clan, who managed to tame the beasts so they would fight alongside humans, even becoming friends. Both races had been enemies for as long as anyone could remember.

Long Yue and the others watched Long Chen, not knowing what he was doing. Then Long Chen opened his arms, and a black shadow shot out of his chest and instantly expanded into a large, muscular, black wolf, who leaped towards the fiery wheel!

“Xiaolang?” Long Yue squinted. She remembered a demonic beast who always followed Long Chen around. Long Chen had once shown them Xiaolang when they were at Phantom Ravine, so she recognized him.

“That’s a demonic beast! What’s the use of that?” said the gray-robed teenager, speechless. He thought Long Chen would take out some life-changing piece of treasure to part the flames and clear a path for them.

“I don’t know either, but Seventh Brother has always been reliable. When I first met him, he was not even at the Earthly Martial Realm yet, but now he’s stronger than us. Don’t you guys think he’s terrifying?” There was a proud smile on Long Yue’s face.

The teenager was a little unhappy when he sensed that the other Long Chen was ranked higher in his sister’s heart than himself. He pouted and said, “Is he really that strong? We’ll see, then. Even Grandfather can’t do anything about the flames; I don’t believe he can help.”

Xiaolang was almost twenty meters tall. Long Chen stood behind him, though he was only as tall as Xiaolang’s foot.

This was the maximum size a Category One King-tier Sun Devouring Wolf could reach.

As he grew stronger, he would likely grow larger too.

The larger a King tier beast was, the stronger they were.

He’s going to start soon. There was a smile on Long Chen’s face as he watched his brother perform with great satisfaction.

Mo Xiaolang’s strength was also his strength.

“Awooo ...”

Mo Xiaolang unleashed a chilling howl at the skies. His howl was filled with power, blowing the surrounding flames away. It was clear just how excited he was.

Then Xiaolang ran towards the fiery wheel. Everyone watched in shock as the gigantic wolf leaped into it!

Although he was large, he was tiny compared to the wheel.

He was merely a tiny, black dot in front of the gigantic fire wheel, but he was about to trigger a huge change. The wheel, which was spinning at high speed, started to shake, or more specifically, it trembled. It was like a man who had swallowed poison, curling up on the ground.

Whoosh ...

The flames on the wheel stopped shooting out in all directions. The fast-spinning wheel instantly slowed down to almost a stop. The wheel turned into a fireball, and it was quickly shrinking!

Long Chen saw a tiny, black dot at the center of the sky-high fireball.

He knew that it was Xiaolang.

The dot was emitting an immense and terrifying aura!

Long Yue and the others also saw the strange phenomenon. In the beginning, they did not have much hope, but now their jaws were on the ground, especially the gray-clothed teenager's. His lip trembled as he stuttered, "Th-th-that ... that demonic wolf! It's only at Category One King-tier, but why is it so ... strange?"

The Sun Devouring Wolf seemed to control the sky-high flames. Previously, he thought that Long Chen could not do anything with the fire, but now he realized that he had underestimated Long Chen. His face turned red with embarrassment.

Long Shan was shocked too. After studying Xiaolang, he asked, "Yue'er, do you know what the kid's demonic beast is called?"

Long Yue replied, "I think it's called the Sun Devouring Wolf. It's a mutated type, and I think Seventh Brother gave it this name."

"Sun Devouring Wolf ... Sun Devouring Wolf. That's amazing! That beast swallows beast fire! It's no ordinary beast at all! I've never heard of a beast like that in my life!"

There was a solemn look in Long Shan's eyes.

"Is that beast really that powerful?" Long Shan was currently the strongest master in the Divine Martial Empire, and the gray-clothed teenager was shocked at how highly Long Shan spoke of the Sun Devouring Wolf.

He resented Long Chen at first, but when he saw that Long Chen could make such a terrifying beast submit to him, he knew that there was something special about him.

"I don't know either, but it's unheard of for a beast to have the ability to swallow beast fire! Thank goodness for this kid! We'll surely get out of the Nine Spirit Purgatory now!" said Long Shan with a laugh.

Anyone would want to get out of this cursed place.

“Yue’er, this teenager has many extraordinary qualities and even has a demonic beast like that. He is a very lucky person. If you have a good relationship with him and even help him, you’ll surely benefit greatly!” Long Shan said wistfully as he stroked his beard.

“Really?” Long Yue was a little stunned. When she previously saved Long Chen, she never imagined something like this would happen. However, if she had not helped him then, even the other members of the Dragon clan would not be doing as well as they were today.

While they chatted, what was once the fire wheel changed once more. The gigantic fireball that touched the sky was shrinking at a speed visible to the naked eye. As time passed, the fireball shrank more and more, and the surrounding temperature fell. Even the red ground slowly dimmed into a gray color.

“Success.” Long Chen broke into a grin.

The beast fire was the reason why this place was fiery-red. After Xiaolang swallowed it, this land quickly returned to its original look, which was identical to the rest of the Nine Spirit Purgatory.

The gray sky slowly reappeared in front of them.

The fireball on the horizon shrank until it disappeared, and a gigantic, black, demonic wolf appeared. Red flames burned brightly on his body.

The Sun Devouring Wolf had completely replaced the fire wheel.

Although they had expected this outcome, Long Shan and the others were still shaken. They looked at each other with bitter smiles.

Long Chen and his demonic beast were simply extraordinary.

The burning, fiery wolf ran towards Long Chen, turned into a ray of fiery-red light, and dashed into his chest.

Everything returned to its original peace and quiet.

Long Chen knew that due to the unknown beast fire, Xiaolang’s cultivation was about to progress greatly. It would surely prove much more beneficial than the Blue Devil Flame.

After swallowing the beast fire, Xiaolang would fall into a deep slumber. When he woke up, he would be stronger once more. When he progressed to the King tier, it was a metamorphosis, so he had slept for quite a while. It would probably not take as long this time.

Previously, the sound of fire crackling filled the place, but now it was quiet. Long Shan and the others quickly rushed towards Long Chen and soon, they were by his side. Before they could praise Xiaolang’s extraordinary abilities, their eyes were attracted to something in front of them.

A ripple suddenly appeared in the air in front of them, resembling a whirlpool. It was like a ripple forming on a lake.

“This must be the exit. Let’s get out of here.” Long Chen went ahead without hesitation and quickly embedded himself into the ripples.

“That young man has some guts,” Long Shan said approvingly.

“If he didn’t, would he dare come here alone to save me? He’s probably the first person to ever voluntarily enter the Nine Spirit Purgatory!” Long Yue smiled, then she disappeared into the ripples. The other two followed and disappeared from the Nine Spirit Purgatory.

Seven Layered Demon World. Sixth layer. Royal palace of the Ancient Demon Domain.

There were seven pavilions and one royal palace in the Ancient Demon Domain. The seven pavilions were scattered across the mountains while the royal palace was located in the sixth layer of the Seven Layered Demon World. Only people at the ranks of Demon Generals and above could enter the royal palace.

Many Grand Elders lived in the palace. Most importantly, the Demon Emperor’s family was there too.

The royal palace was built more lavishly and magnificently than the pavilions. It was fully black, making it look imposing and serious. Their servants trained inside and would live there for the rest of their lives to serve the other residents. All the servants walked around with their heads hung, stepping cautiously and not daring to make a single mistake.

The royal palace was the core of the Ancient Demon Domain. As a major faction of the Divine Martial Empire, all the wealth and power of the faction was displayed in the palace.

Chapter 626 – Purple Bamboo Court

If this were a couple of months ago, the people in the palace would be ultimate masters to Long Chen. Now, however, they were mere ants to him. The once mysterious and powerful palace was now unimpressive to Long Chen.

One hundred and eight guards in black armor stood in front of the grand entrance. They were all at least at the Eighth Passage Stage, and they had spent their whole lives in the sixth layer. They only had two ways to get out—either they grew too old and were killed, or they broke through to the Ninth Passage Stage and became Grand Elders.

The guards were standing solemnly around a man, their young master, Jiang Wushang. Jiang Wushang stood with a dark expression and his hands behind his back as he stared at a woman with reddened eyes.

She was the Clear Shallows King.

“Prince Wushang, let me in! I want to see my daughter!” Her eyes were covered with blood vessels, and she was clearly upset. She gazed into his eyes, slowly losing patience.

Jiang Wushang smirked and said, “I’ll tell you one more time! My father has forbidden anyone from meeting Liu Yiyi! It doesn’t matter if it’s Jiang Wuya or you!”

The Clear Shallows King's voice turned cold as she stepped forward. "Why can't I see my own daughter? Jiang Wushang, don't twist my arm! You may be marrying her off to Martial Emperor Zhao Danchen, but you cannot take away my right to see her!"

"Twist your arm? Clear Shallows King, as one of the seven Demon Kings, how dare you disobey the Demon Emperor's command? Do you intend to commit treason?" Jiang Wushang wrung his hands nonchalantly.

"You!" The Clear Shallows King raged. She took a deep breath, steeled herself, and said, "I must see Yiyi today. If anyone dares to stop me, don't blame me for hurting you!"

As she spoke, she quickly strode towards his side, planning to walk around him and enter the palace behind him. The only people in the Ancient Demon Domain who could defeat a Demon King were the two elderly Demon Saints and the Demon Emperor.

As for Jiang Wushang, he was just a young Earthly Martial Realm junior to her.

"You're looking for death!" When Jiang Wuya saw that the madwoman dared to enter by force, he became annoyed and attacked before she could make a move. Ever since he lost to Long Chen at the Cloud Dream Swamp, his temperament had changed a lot. He had become much more short-tempered, and this was felt by everyone around him.

News of Long Chen defeating Jiang Wushang had long spread across the whole Ancient Demon Domain. Jiang Wushang had always been a legend in the Ancient Demon Domain, but the legend had fallen tragically. In the beginning, the public mocked him while musing that Long Chen had gotten lucky. Though after Long Chen defeated Martial Emperor Yang Ningfeng, they realized that Long Chen had not relied on luck but on his extraordinary talent!

At the entrance, Jiang Wushang and the Clear Shallows King started to fight. One was young but possessed very powerful techniques, the other had many years of experience. For the moment, it was difficult to determine who would win in this fight between two Earthly Martial Realm masters. It was also a rare opportunity to watch a fight between two masters, so since the guards could not stop them, they watched closely, learning everything they could.

One or two guards went to report the fight.

The only one who could control Jiang Wushang was Demon Emperor Jiang Wuxie, so they were surely going to report to him.

The Clear Shallows King was worried about her daughter, so she fought fervently. When she saw Jiang Wushang's nonchalance, she grew angrier and her attacks intensified.

"You crazy bitch! Do you want to die?" Jiang Wushang cursed as he was forced back. This was when he pulled out his best technique, the Ancient Demon Punch, to fight her. He only intended to stop her at first, but now he was mad.

About seven minutes later, a black whirlwind flew out of the palace. *Slam!* The Clear Shallows King cried in pain and was thrown into the air by the black shadow. The guards cried out in

surprise. The battle stopped, leaving Jiang Wushang panting with a pale face. Standing next to him was a man with a cold expression—Demon Emperor Jiang Wuxie!

Jiang Wuxie had attacked and thrown the Clear Shallows King back. She crashed into the ground and tumbled several times, then she clambered to her feet. When she saw that it was the Demon Emperor, she felt both worry and terror. A trickle of blood remained on the corner of her mouth. His attack had injured her.

Liu Yiyi had been taken to the royal palace about ten days ago, and the Clear Shallows King had not seen her daughter since. The Demon Emperor was about to marry her off to Martial Overlord City, so how could the Clear Shallows King rest easy? She knew her daughter well. Liu Yiyi had a fragile personality, and if she was forced into marriage, she would surely not be able to take it. Perhaps she had run out of tears by now. In fact, the Clear Shallows King was worried her daughter was contemplating suicide.

She knew who Liu Yiyi was actually longing for.

“Clear Shallows, how dare you attack Wushang in front of my palace? Do you want to die?” A chill ran through her bones and her hair stood on end when the Demon Emperor’s voice rang in her ears.

“Your Majesty ... I ... I would like to see my daughter, Yiyi! I hope you will allow me to do so!” she said anxiously, though terrified. She was well aware of how easily he could kill her. The Ancient Demon Domain would not care to lose her.

“You want to see Yiyi?” To her surprise, he did not refuse her directly but repeated her request.

“Yes.” She nodded hurriedly, seeing some hope. She had not seen her daughter in more than ten days and did not know how she was doing. She had been distraught every day.

After some deep thought, the Demon Emperor finally nodded and said, “You are Yiyi’s mother, and she is going to be married off to the Martial Alliance far away. She will be marrying the extraordinary prodigy, Martial Emperor Zhao Danchen. This is amazing news! Yiyi is making the Ancient Demon Domain proud. As her mother, of course you have the right to see her.”

“Really? Thank you, Your Majesty!” The Clear Shallows King was overjoyed and quickly started to kowtow, but the Demon Emperor waved impatiently. She stood up, unable to control her emotions.

“Follow me.” The Demon Emperor turned around, and she quickly followed him into the royal palace. She was not a stranger to this place, and she was soon brought to a courtyard named the Purple Bamboo Court. Many purple bamboo plants grew in the yard, and deep inside was a house. When they arrived at the house, the Demon Emperor turned around and said to the shocked but emotional Clear Shallows King,

“Yiyi is inside. I’m giving you an hour. After your time is up, you will leave on your own.”

“Yes, Your Majesty! I will leave in an hour!” she said, nodding hurriedly. She dared to disobey Jiang Wushang, but not the Demon Emperor. Jiang Wushang could not kill her, but the Demon Emperor could do it easily.

“Mhm. That’s good. There seems to be a problem with Yiyi’s mood in recent days. Talk to her for me. Do you know who Zhao Danchen is? He’s one of the three great Martial Emperors! He’s also the only direct disciple of the Martial Overlord, the most powerful cultivator in the empire. He reached the Third Earthly Martial Stage at the age of twenty-one, and he will surely be the next Martial Overlord. He was also born with a Golden Combat Body. It is tremendous luck for Yiyi to be able to marry him. I hope you guys understand,” the Demon Emperor said mildly.

“Yes, yes, Your Majesty. I understand.” The Clear Shallows King knew that the Demon Emperor had only let her in because he had an objective. Liu Yiyi was likely contemplating suicide now, and the only one who could convince her otherwise was the Clear Shallows King.

“Remember, if her situation does not get better, you will never be allowed to see her again,” he said coldly. His cold voice pierced into her soul like a needle.

She shuddered and quickly nodded obediently.

It was difficult enough to protect oneself in the world, let alone in a hierarchical faction like the Ancient Demon Domain. Here, the Demon Emperor was a god. How could she dare disobey him?

After he left, tears fell from her eyes. She stepped into the house quietly, and the door creaked when she pushed it. There was a white-clothed teenage girl lying flat on the bed, covered in a pink blanket. Her eyes were soulless and blank, as if she was dead.

The sound of the creaking door did not wake her up from her daze.

“Yiyi ...” The Clear Shallows King gave a pained look when she saw her daughter in his state.

Liu Yiyi shuddered and quickly sat up when she heard the familiar voice. When she saw her mother, tears flowed from her eyes. After staying in the palace for so long, she had become much thinner.

Both of them looked at each other with tears in their eyes for a long time. Finally, Liu Yiyi said, “Mother, the Demon Emperor asked you to talk to me, right? Don’t worry, I’m fine. I was only acting for them. I’m not going to kill myself over this.”

The Clear Shallows King was proud to hear that her daughter was holding on. She stroked Liu Yiyi’s hair lovingly and said, “My good daughter, you really have grown up. You’re right. I was worried you would be suffering here, but now that I’ve seen you, I’m much more assured.”

Liu Yiyi nodded, pursing her lips. “Yes, Mother. I heard that ... Jiang Wuya came to the Ancient Demon Domain to cause trouble and was hurt by the Demon Emperor. How is he doing?”

When the Clear Shallows King heard his name, she was left in a daze for a moment, then she shook her head resignedly and said, “I don’t know. I think he’s fine. Yiyi, you know what happened to us. He is indeed your father, but ... but ...”

“But what?” Having grown up without a father, Liu Yiyi cared deeply about this matter.

Chapter 627 – The Long Family Strikes Back

“This matter isn’t fully his fault. I don’t want to talk about the grudges and hatred from years ago. The urgent matter at hand is how you can survive this ordeal,” said the Clear Shallows King with concern, changing the topic.

“Mother, do you think he’ll try to rescue me on the way to the Martial Overlord City?” Liu Yiyi asked.

She was naturally referring to Jiang Wuya.

“Probably. With his personality, he would never leave something unfinished, just like how he left while pursuing that woman,” said the Clear Shallows King.

“He’ll come save me? But I hear that he’s at the Second Earthly Martial Stage. The Demon Emperor will surely escort me to Martial Overlord City, and Zhao Danchen will come too. They’re all at the Third Earthly Martial Stage, and if Jiang Wuya comes, wouldn’t he be killed?” Liu Yiyi asked worriedly.

Although they’d only exchanged a few words, he was her father. She did not want to see him die just like that.

“I don’t know either. I’m not strong enough to do much right now. Forget the Demon Emperor, even Zhao Danchen is too strong. He’s young, yet he is already at the Third Earthly Martial Stage. Even Jiang Wushang is only fit to carry his shoes. They are on whole different levels.”

A cloud hung over Liu Yiyi. She pursed her lips and thought of another person. “Mother, I heard that Long Chen killed Yang Ningfeng, one of the three Martial Emperors, at the Battle clan. Long Chen is definitely younger than Zhao Danchen, but their cultivation levels are almost the same. He’s much more talented!”

Her heart raced when she thought of that person.

She had spent a lot of time with him. At the time, she never would have expected that that teenager, who looked lonely but was very annoying, would achieve such heights after he left the Ancient Demon Domain.

“Yeah. The whole Divine Martial Empire is shaken by his progress. He’s now as famous as the two other prodigies. If he can save you, this matter will be resolved. But ...”

“But what?” Liu Yiyi asked anxiously.

“Long Chen is not with the Battle clan and hasn’t been seen in a long time. With his personality, I think he would have come here if he were still in the Divine Martial Empire. That is why I think he left the Divine Martial Empire. There is another possibility—I heard that Long Yue was captured and locked up in the Nine Spirit Purgatory. Jiang Wuya didn’t go to the Martial Overlord City, so someone must have gone instead. I think that person is Long Chen.”

“The Nine Spirit Purgatory?” Liu Yiyi gasped and her face paled. “Mother, no one can get out of that place after going in, right? Could he be ...?”

“It’s hard to say. Although he’s powerful, he’s far from being the Martial Overlord’s match ...” The Clear Shallows King sighed.

Liu Yiyi took two steps back.

“Silly girl, worry about yourself. If nothing works, you’ll just have to accept your fate. Your mother is useless; I can’t help you ...” The Clear Shallows King pulled her daughter into her arms with tears in her eyes.

“Must I accept my fate?” Liu Yiyi muttered woodenly.

Martial Overlord City was bustling.

The busy crowd rushed through the main street of the outer city.

It was much quieter in the inner city as few people were walking around. Martial Overlord Palace sat at the center of the inner city, tall enough to touch the clouds. The most powerful man in the empire, Martial Overlord Zhao Wuji, lived in Martial Overlord Palace.

The palace was completely sealed so no outsider could see what was inside. To the normal person, Martial Overlord Palace was a tall tower that stretched into the clouds, and the leader of the empire was living at the top.

Occasionally, people would gaze towards the top of the tower with reverence in their eyes.

Everything was peaceful in the inner city.

Suddenly, ripples appeared in the sky above the inner city. They looked like ripples on the surface of a lake. Many people looked up to see this strange phenomenon and started to discuss.

“A phenomenon like that must have been created by His Majesty the Martial Overlord!” This was what everyone thought.

Martial Overlord Zhao Wuji was like a god in the Divine Martial Empire.

Suddenly, four silhouettes appeared at the center of the ripples, and their features quickly became clear.

The four people floated in the air, meaning they were masters at the Ninth Passage Stage or above who had opened their heavenly meridian points.

They were too high up, so the crowd could not see Long Chen and the others' faces. Only highly ranked people could fly above Martial Overlord City. That was why people looked at the four of them with reverence in their eyes. Only the most powerful people in the inner city noticed the strangeness of this commotion!

It was daytime, so anyone who was outdoors could see the people in the air.

Long Chen and the others had ended up here after exiting the Nine Spirit Purgatory. They had not expected to appear in the air. If they were below the Ninth Passage Stage, they would have fallen to their deaths.

After stabilizing himself, Long Chen smiled bitterly. He looked down and realized that the vast Martial Overlord City was right beneath him!

Also, not far away was the magnificent Martial Overlord Palace. If the Martial Overlord was there now, then he would be very close to them.

Long Chen was shocked and also privately relieved. Coming out this close to Martial Overlord Palace after rescuing Long Yue would've spelled misfortune. However, he had rescued Long Shan too! Long Shan was once Zhao Wuji's master's rival! Although he had been trapped for many years and only had the combat abilities of a Fourth Earthly Martial Stage cultivator, he was powerful enough to fight Zhao Wuji!

With him protecting them, there was nothing to worry about!

So what if they were above Martial Overlord City?

Long Chen savored the outside world, feeling the thick earthly Qi in the air. Long Shan felt the same but with much more intensity. He had been trapped in a barren and obscure place for a long time, so when he felt the outside world once again, hot tears filled his eyes.

Boom!

Long Shan punched gently, and a gigantic ripple radiated far away, dispersing the clouds!

"I never thought ... I never thought that I would get out of there alive! I can't believe it!" Long Shan looked at his hands in disbelief with emotional tears.

Long Chen recalled how he looked when they pulled him from the large rock. Even he felt his heart clench. This man had been trapped inside for many years. It was clear just how resilient the old man was, and just how intense the hatred in his heart was!

Unfortunately, his archnemesis, Chen Xiong, was no longer alive.

"Grandfather, what should we do now? I'll follow you!" After seeing Long Shan's reddened eyes and Martial Overlord City, the gray-clothed teenager knew what he intended. Long Shan's appearance represented the rise of the Long family in the Divine Martial Empire! The strongest members of their family had surpassed the Martial Overlord's faction!

Long Shan took a deep breath and the rage in his face disappeared, replaced by calmness. He said slowly, "We're not in a hurry. We'll leave the Divine Martial Empire in the Martial Overlord's hands for a while. The Divine Martial Empire was saved because of the Long family's ancestors. In fact, the Long family has gone to battle for this nation for countless years. In the end, our ancestors lost this nation, but we must take it back one day. That day will come soon."

Long Chen knew what they were going to do.

Destroy the Martial Overlord's faction and take control of the whole Divine Martial Empire.

The people of the Divine Martial Empire did not have much freedom under the control of the Martial Overlord; many lived suppressed lives. Long Chen was on Long Shan's side, so he would support them. With Long Yue there, Long Chen trusted them.

Since they were going to destroy the Martial Overlord's faction, he could not support them more.

Of course, now was not the time.

Long Shan had only just recovered and would take a long time to regain his strength. Also, the Martial Overlord had controlled the Divine Martial Empire for many years, so his roots were very deep. Removing a cancerous tumor like this one could not be done overnight. It was not something that could be completed by merely killing the Martial Overlord.

The most important thing to do was leave.

Long Chen was still thinking about Liu Yiyi; he wondered how Jiang Wuya was doing.

"Grandfather, we cannot stay here for long. Let's go," said Long Yue.

"Leave? Hehe, there's no way those arrogant bastards let us leave so easily." Long Shan chuckled.

After he spoke, people shot into the air from the inner city, surrounding them. Perhaps they sensed that they were all at least at the Earthly Martial Realm, so these people were at least Martial Kings. There were ten Martial Saints in the Martial Alliance, and Jiang Kun and the Void Martial Saint had died. Five out of the eight remaining Martial Saints were here now.

The leader of the group was Xiao Lin, the Martial Emperor ruling over the Nine Spirit Purgatory!

Xiao Lin was only ranked beneath Zhao Wuji and Zhao Danchen in the Martial Alliance. However, he was nothing in front of them because three of them were as strong as he was, and they had one person stronger than him!

Escorted by the Martial Kings, Xiao Lin flew at the very front. His expression was extremely dark, and this was the most anxious he had been in many years. He knew where these four people had emerged from. If they appeared in the air above the Martial Overlord City, it could only mean that they had come from the Nine Spirit Purgatory!

Chapter 628 – Martial Overlord Zhao Wuji

Long Chen recognized Xiao Lin, but Xiao Lin did not know that they had met before. The Hundred-War Martial King had suddenly gone missing recently. Everyone had searched for him, but they failed to find him. He had suddenly disappeared while guarding the Nine Spirit Purgatory's

entrance. No one saw him come out, so they concluded that he had entered the Nine Spirit Purgatory, though no one knew why.

Although Chen Guangjun was a Martial King, he was a minor figure in Martial Overlord City.

Xiao Lin was smart, but he did not connect Long Chen and the Hundred-War Martial King. He recognized two of the four, namely Long Yue and the gray-clothed teenager. Xiao Lin had seen them many times, and he knew Long Chen too, as his looks were recorded by the Martial Alliance. The teenager was an unimaginable figure who had killed one of the three Martial Emperors, so Xiao Lin remembered his face clearly. He assumed Long Chen would come to Martial Overlord City eventually, but he did not expect him to appear here.

Xiao Lin did not recognize the old man, but his aura made Xiao Lin apprehensive.

How did these people get out of the Nine Spirit Purgatory?

Xiao Lin could not figure it out. He knew that there were two obstacles to getting out. First, they had to find the compass and follow where it pointed. Only Martial Overlord Zhao Wuji and himself knew about this; even Zhao Danchen did not know. The second obstacle was the vast sea of beast fire blocking the Nine Spirit Purgatory's exit. How could anyone get out without reaching the Martial Overlord's level?

Unless these people were at the Fourth Earthly Martial Stage?

That was clearly impossible.

That was why Xiao Lin was half fearful, half confused.

Very soon, the Martial Kings and Martial Saints surrounded Long Chen and his group.

The people on the ground initially thought Long Chen and the others were major figures of the Martial Alliance, but when the actual major figures made an appearance, they sensed that something was wrong. The crowd started to discuss, and because Long Yue and the gray-clothed teenager were famous in the Divine Martial Empire, people quickly guessed who they were. As for Long Chen, due to his appearance, they soon figured out who he was too.

"It's the two Long Chens and the head of the Dragon clan, Long Yue!"

The people who lived in Martial Overlord City were mostly powerful figures with their own connections and informants.

Everyone watched nervously as they wondered what would happen.

Xiao Lin had a dark expression. He stared at them solemnly, floating twenty meters away from Long Chen. Looking at them, he moved his lips gently as he asked, "Did the four of you come out of the Nine Spirit Purgatory?"

The city was silent, so the crowd below could hear his voice. The crowd looked at each other. They heard that one could enter the Nine Spirit Purgatory but not get out. Did that mean that the legend was broken?

"Isn't it obvious?" Long Chen said with a grin, standing in front of his group.

Very few people in the Divine Martial Empire dared talk to Xiao Lin like that.

“I don’t care how you guys left the Nine Spirit Purgatory, but you are in Martial Overlord City! Don’t you think you’ll get to leave.” Xiao Lin’s hair floated behind him as he glared at them with his eagle-like eyes.

“Are you strong enough to stop us? Or do you want to become the second Yang Ningfeng?” Long Chen asked arrogantly.

Everyone was now certain that he was the Long Chen who had killed Yang Ningfeng!

He was the most outstanding rising star in the Divine Martial Empire. He had come out of nowhere and reached his current level in just a few short months, shocking everyone.

He was crazy, but he had the strength to back it up!

“You’re also called Long Chen ...” Xiao Lin squinted at Long Chen. He felt like Long Chen was familiar, as if they had met before. But where?

“Why? Do you think I look familiar?” Long Chen asked teasingly.

Xiao Lin froze.

“Old man, you must know that I have an older sister called the Ever-Changing Demon Girl, Lan Ling’er, right? Have you met anyone strange recently?” Long Chen did not mind telling him about it.

He also had another objective. He had used Control on Lady Mo before this so that she wouldn’t suspect that Long Chen was an imposter. Now that he had told the truth, Lady Mo would likely wake up from the Control if the news spread.

Xiao Lin was no idiot.

“The Hundred-War Martial King was you! He was you!” There was shock in his eyes as he studied Long Chen’s gaze. The gaze was the most difficult to imitate. Right now, Long Chen’s gaze was exactly the same as that of the Hundred-War Martial King, but the Hundred-War Martial King had a humble gaze at the time. Right now, he had an arrogant gaze!

“It’s good that you know.” Long Chen stepped aside, as his job was done. As for what he would do next, it was up to Long Shan.

“Let’s go.” Long Shan nodded when he saw that Long Chen was done speaking. He led the three youths away.

“Wait!” Xiao Lin’s face changed and he quickly blocked Long Shan. He could tell that Long Shan was the most powerful person among them, but he did not know how strong he was.

Xiao Lin could not figure out who this person was.

“Xiao Lin, do you remember me?” When Long Shan saw that Xiao Lin had stopped him, he looked up and stared coolly at the white-haired but muscular old man.

“You are...?” Xiao Lin froze once more. He knew which masters had been locked up in the Nine Spirit Purgatory, but he thought that Long Shan had long died, and the man before was as thin as a stick. He was far too different from what he used to look like.

“Move aside. Don’t make me vent my anger for Chen Xiong on you,” said Long Shan.

“Chen Xiong?” The name triggered many memories in Xiao Lin because Chen Xiong was his previous master. When he heard that name, Xiao Lin instantly thought about Long Shan. Long Chen impersonating the Hundred-War Martial King had already made him speechless, but now he was in complete disbelief over Long Shan’s identity.

“Long Shan ...?” Xiao Lin was in shock and took several steps back in the air. He stared at the elderly Long Shan with wide eyes.

“That’s right. It’s me,” said Long Shan.

“It’s been so many years! How is it possible that you’re not dead? This is impossible! Impossible!” muttered Xiao Lin.

Long Shan ignored him. He waved at the others and prepared to fly around Xiao Lin and leave Martial Overlord City to rest. When he regained his Fifth Earthly Martial Stage strength, he would be able to easily destroy the whole Martial Alliance.

And if their master came out now, it would be very inconvenient.

The Martial Overlord had not arrived, so how could Xiao Lin let them leave? Therefore, he quickly blocked their way again. Without another word, Long Shan waved, and a powerful gust flew at Xiao Lin!

Xiao Lin’s face changed and he quickly used both hands to block. Long Shan had only waved his hand, but it was enough to produce such a powerful attack. Xiao Lin knew that only the Martial Overlord could do the same.

This old man has been trapped until now, yet he’s still as strong as a Fourth Earthly Martial Stage cultivator at least! That’s terrifying! Xiao Lin thought nervously to himself. He did not want to get hurt, so he quickly retreated. Although the others did not know who Long Shan was, when they saw Xiao Lin’s expression, the Martial Kings and Martial Saints behind him also retreated!

The highest-ranked figures of the great Martial Alliance were being forced to retreat by a mysterious old man. Who was the old man?

Everyone was curious about Long Shan’s identity.

One wave was enough to push back the Martial Alliance.

He was beyond powerful.

Everyone was shocked when he forced Xiao Lin back in one move, because it meant that he was on the Martial Overlord's level!

If another master on the Martial Overlord's level appeared in the Divine Martial Empire, then it would surely shake the whole empire up. Those who were more forward-thinking felt like the tides would change in the Divine Martial Empire with Long Shan's appearance.

Now that Long Shan was back, he would never let the Martial Overlord rule over the Divine Martial Empire.

Everyone knew that Xiao Lin could not stop him from leaving, but if he let Long Shan go, this would become a major problem to the Martial Alliance. Letting a tiger go back to its mountain would lead to future problems.

Long Chen guessed that if the Martial Overlord was currently in Martial Overlord City, he would surely show up.

He's probably seen enough. Long Chen looked towards Martial Overlord Palace. He knew that Zhao Wuji had been watching for a long time, and as expected, after Long Shan attacked, the legendary Zhao Wuji finally appeared.

A man was standing at the very top of the golden Martial Overlord Palace. He was a middle-aged man in long, white robes, and his hair fluttered in the wind. Although there was some distance between them, Long Chen could tell that he was handsome. No one who saw his face would think that this sophisticated middle-aged scholar was actually Martial Overlord Zhao Wuji, the man who controlled the whole Divine Martial Empire!

The moment he appeared, the whole city erupted. The Martial Overlord had not appeared in public in a very long time. Many people had never even caught a glimpse of him before.

Long Shan and the others ignored Xiao Lin and looked at the Martial Overlord. Long Shan was slightly apprehensive about his past rival's disciple. If he could control the whole Divine Martial Empire, he was surely no simple man.

Chapter 629 – One Punch Between Peak Masters

This was a battle between Zhao Wuji and Long Shan, so Long Chen temporarily fell back from the frontlines and observed.

When Zhao Wuji arrived, he did not attack immediately. He looked calm, as if he was admiring his own garden, while studying Long Shan carefully without any visible emotion on his face.

Long Shan had been trapped for more than thirty years, and he had suddenly emerged on this day. This was very unexpected, yet Zhao Wuji looked very calm. This showed how resilient his mind was. The more mature an opponent was, the harder they were to defeat.

“Wuji, it's been many years since we last saw each other,” Long Shan said mildly.

Zhao Wuji was silent for a while, then he finally gave a resigned, bitter smile. “Yes. It's been many years.”

“You never expected me to be alive, right?” The longer Long Shan looked at Zhao Wuji, the worse his expression became. Zhao Wuji was Chen Xiong's disciple, and

hatred burned in his heart as he stared at the disciple of the enemy who had brought him the worst suffering of his life.

Zhao Wuji did not say anything. He only nodded.

He indeed thought Long Shan had died a long time ago, unaware that the latter had been in the Nine Spirit Purgatory all along.

Although Zhao Wuji knew how to get out of that place, he would never enter it.

Long Shan managed to suppress his desire to kill. He looked at Zhao Wuji for a while and said, "It's been many years, and you've achieved great heights. Now that I'm back, you must understand that the Martial Alliance's days are numbered. Although Chen Xiong is dead, I must take my revenge. The next time we meet, it will likely be war!"

Then he turned to leave.

"Wait." Zhao Wuji held up one hand to stop Long Shan.

"You want to fight now?" Long Shan turned around with a flash of coldness on his face.

Zhao Wuji did not reply, but he suddenly dashed towards Long Shan. There was finally a flash of coldness in his clear gaze.

"Everyone, fall back!" shouted Long Shan. Long Chen and the others nodded and quickly backed away. Long Chen knew that Zhao Wuji would not let Long Shan go easily because if he could not kill Long Shan today, it would be worse the next time they met.

The two ultimate masters of the Divine Martial Empire met in the air, before the gazes of countless people. Both of them looked calm, and they did not use any fancy techniques. All they did was throw one punch each!

The punches looked very normal, and when they collided, there was no sound, as if they had merely bumped fists.

But the whole city shook gently from their mere punches!

Only cultivators at the Earthly Martial Realm could sense the faint vibration. Although it was faint, the way it had spread across the whole city made it clear how powerful the attacks were.

Even Long Chen felt scared.

The punches looked simple, but it showed how much control they had over their energy. Long Chen was unable to launch an attack where not a single drop of energy was leaked out. All energy was focused on one point, making it much stronger than most combat techniques.

Whoosh!

After the fists collided, both men were thrown back. It was clear that both of them were affected by the force, especially the Martial Overlord, who almost collided with Martial Overlord Palace before he stabilized himself.

He supported himself on the golden wall of the palace and looked up at Long Shan, panting slightly. On the other end, Long Shan had already stabilized himself. He looked at Zhao Wuji with a smile on his face and said, “Wuji, how do you feel after taking my punch?”

There was a tiny change on Zhao Wuji’s face.

He did not seem talkative today, and he did not reply.

The whole city saw that this mysterious old man seemed to be slightly stronger than Zhao Wuji!

Everyone was shocked.

Had someone more terrifying than Zhao Wuji appeared in the Divine Martial Empire?

Zhao Wuji did not speak. Did that mean that he had admitted defeat?

This was a huge blow to the Martial Alliance. The Martial Kings all surrounded Zhao Wuji and peered nervously. If Zhao Wuji fell, then the whole Martial Alliance would fall too.

“Remember this! The Long family will take back the Divine Martial Empire one day! Not just you, Zhao Wuji—every member of the Martial Alliance must remember this!” Long Shan laughed coldly, having won the fight with just one move.

Long Shan turned and left happily, leading Long Chen and the others.

This time, Zhao Wuji did not speak and no one stopped him.

“Who was that old man? Long family?”

“My goodness, he defeated the Martial Overlord ...”

“Don’t jump to conclusions! They only exchanged one strike! It’s not clear who would win in a serious fight yet!”

“But why did the Martial Overlord not make him stay and fight him? Is he afraid?”

“What do you know? This is Martial Overlord City. The Martial Overlord is concerned about our safety. If they fought here, wouldn’t it flatten the whole city?”

Similar discussions erupted below.

The Martial Overlord had not been injured by the strike, but he had figured out Long Shan’s capabilities. Long Chen knew that Zhao Wuji was concerned about the city, and that was why he had decided not to fight Long Shan today. He was aware that the whole city would be destroyed if they went all out.

That was why Long Chen could leave smoothly.

“Grandfather, even the Martial Overlord couldn’t beat you! You’re amazing!” The gray-clothed teenager followed closely behind the icy Long Shan with admiration in his eyes. Long Shan was already powerful; how strong would he be if he regained his Fifth Earthly Martial Stage strength?

“It’s all thanks to the kid’s King Crystals, and he got us out of the Nine Spirit Purgatory. If not him, we would just be one of the many corpses in the Nine Spirit Purgatory,” said Long Shan, looking at Long Chen.

They all looked at Long Chen gratefully.

Long Chen said with a small smile, “Eldest Sister and I are close; I merely fulfilled my duty. It’s nothing.”

The four of them left the inner city nonchalantly, heading towards the outer city. After the huge commotion, almost everyone in Martial Overlord City had come out, including the people in the outer city.

This was the first time anyone had left Martial Overlord City so effortlessly.

Saving Long Yue was an almost impossible task, yet Long Chen managed to do it. The Dragon clan members who had stayed back at the Battle clan had probably lost all hope by now.

Long Chen and Long Yue locked eyes. They had decided where to go after leaving Martial Overlord City.

Suddenly, Long Chen saw a familiar figure looking up from the crowd. Long Chen had once memorized the location where this person was standing.

I almost forgot about the Blue Devil Flame! But it has delivered itself to my doorstep. Beneath him, a lady was watching the four of them fearfully. Long Chen had seen her at the Martial Merchant Alliance, and she had been with Zhao Danchen at the time. She had snatched Xiaolang’s Blue Devil Flame, and although it was likely useless to Xiaolang now, the lady was rude, vicious, and clearly not a good person. If Long Chen hadn’t been quick on his feet, she would have also asked Zhao Danchen to kill him.

“Please wait a moment.” With a *whoosh*, Long Chen rushed downwards. They were about to leave, but Long Chen had suddenly dove down, causing the crowd to erupt again.

Long Chen was quick. He was instantly above the residents and stopped ten meters away from the lady. When she realized that he was looking at her, her face changed.

“Give me the Blue Devil Flame, or I’ll kill you.” The corners of his lips curled up into a smile.

“Ah ...” The lady fell several steps back. She was confused at first, but once his gaze started to turn cold, she quickly fished out a Universe Pouch from her clothing and tossed it to him with trembling hands. It still had a lingering smell.

She had no idea how Long Chen knew that she had the Blue Devil Flame.

After Long Chen took the Universe Pouch and confirmed that the Blue Devil Flame was inside, he flew back to her and said in her ear coldly, “Is Zhao Danchen not here?”

The lady became even more afraid when he came close. She was most afraid of that mysterious old man, and he was clearly one of his people. She was just the princess of a small faction, so how could she afford to offend Long Chen?

“He ... he has gone to marry someone from the Ancient Demon Domain ...” said the lady, her teeth chattering.

“How long has he been gone?” asked Long Chen.

“About f-f-five days ...” she stuttered.

“Very good.” Long Chen laughed, then he slapped her. She was sent flying and knocked down several walls before landing in a yard.

Long Chen did not care if she lived or died. He then flew up into the air and returned to Long Shan’s side. “We can leave now.”

The three of them had seen what he had done, but it was just a minor interruption, so they did not ask questions.

Long Chen had publicly attacked someone in Martial Overlord City, but the people of the Martial Alliance had not moved because Zhao Wuji had not given any commands. All they could do was watch indignantly.

After the four of them completely disappeared, Zhao Wuji asked Xiao Lin with a mild expression, “That teenager who attacked her just now—he must be the guy they’re recently talking about, the Long Chen who killed that idiot Yang Ningfeng, right?”

Chapter 630 – Responsibility

“That’s him. When he impersonated the Hundred-War Martial King, even I was fooled, and he was able to enter the Nine Spirit Purgatory to rescue them. What I’m puzzled about is, how did Long Chen know the way out of the Nine Spirit Purgatory?” Xiao Lin was confused.

“He even knew that Long Shan was in the Nine Spirit Purgatory. I’m afraid that teenager knows many of the Martial Alliance’s secrets. He is an even bigger threat to us than the other Long Chen. We must eliminate him as soon as possible ...” said Zhao Wuji, shaking his head.

“Your Majesty, do we let them go just like that? The fact that they dared attack a Martial Alliance member in front of you ... It grinds my gears ...” said one of the old Martial Saints next to him.

Zhao Wuji thought deeply for a while, then he said, “We will cross that bridge when we reach it. It’s just some old guy; don’t worry too much about it. It doesn’t matter how strong he is, because how much longer can he live? The Divine Martial Empire will forever be the Martial Alliance’s domain. You’ll see ...” Zhao Wuji did not look worried at all. He then walked directly into Martial Overlord Palace.

This is all in spite of him losing in the standoff just now.

Everyone looked at each other.

Xiao Lin was the only one who looked confident.

“Martial Emperor Xiao, does His Majesty mean that we don’t need to worry?” asked one of the Martial Saints worriedly.

Xiao Lin nodded and said, “His Majesty has never made a wrong judgment before, so you do not need to worry. What does the Long family know?”

Then Xiao Lin left to deal with other matters.

Through the informants of various factions, news of the incident at Martial Overlord City spread across the whole Divine Martial Empire.

After leaving Martial Overlord City, the four of them stopped in a valley to discuss their next step.

Long Shan had only just exited the Nine Spirit Purgatory, so Long Yue had to make arrangements for him. Long Chen and Long Yue’s eyes met, and Long Yue said, “Grandfather, we have a brother whose daughter is being forced to marry Zhao Wuji’s disciple. Our progress has been delayed greatly, so we must leave to settle that matter first, then we will head to the Battle clan. We’ll treat that as our base. What do you think?”

Long Shan smiled and said, “I’m old; this is the youth’s world now. It’s up to you guys to decide. Other than enjoying life, all this bag of old bones can do is help you block off a strong enemy during critical moments. The harsh words I said at Martial Overlord City were only to help you guys let the matter go.”

His intentions were clear. He had only just gotten his freedom, and he was old. Long Yue and the rest still had to take matters into their own hands. He was only in charge of dealing with the Martial Overlord.

“Why do you say that? Grandfather, you managed to strike the Martial Overlord back with just one punch just now,” said the gray-clothed teenager.

The moment after the teenager spoke, Long Shan gave a bitter smile and a bit of blood trickled out of the corner of his mouth. Even Long Chen froze when he saw the blood.

This meant that Long Shan had actually lost to the Martial Overlord in the battle just now. He had only forced himself to hold on until now.

“Now you see it, right? Zhao Wuji is quite extraordinary. Very few people are a match for him at the Fourth Earthly Martial Stage. My injuries have not healed completely yet; in a serious battle, I am definitely no match for him,” Long Shan said bitterly.

The gray-clothed teenager was shocked.

Long Chen initially thought that Long Shan was stronger. He had not expected the Martial Overlord to actually be the more terrifying one. Youth was strength. In Long Shan’s current state, he was no match for the Martial Overlord.

Long Yue said, "In that case, we'll rest so that Grandfather's injuries can heal."

Long Shan nodded. "To me, recovery is the most important thing now. However, you have a brother who needs your help, so I'll go with you. Years ago, I had a good relationship with the Battle clan. I didn't expect my grandchildren to fight alongside the Battle clan too; this is fate."

Long Chen and the others decided to settle matters at the Ancient Demon Domain first, then they would return to the Battle clan.

Long Chen's main goal was the Ancient Token, then the two Emperor Seals, which were with the Martial Overlord. This meant that he would have to fight the Martial Overlord one day. Joining Long Yue's team was the best decision he had made.

He was worried for Liu Yiyi's safety too.

"Zhao Danchen has had five days; I think he should be arriving at the Ancient Demon Domain soon. We must go now. If Wuya isn't able to hold himself back and decides to attack, I'm afraid something will happen to him because he is no match for Zhao Danchen and Jiang Wuxie. We must hurry." There was a hint of worry in Long Yue's eyes.

Jiang Wuya had followed her around for many years, and to tell the truth, she had long accepted him. However, she was unable to accept that he had a wife and child. Now that Jiang Wuya had gone to the Ancient Demon Domain to save his daughter, her heart was torn.

She kept feeling like she was destroying someone else's happiness, so she felt a bit guilty.

"Eldest Sister, don't overthink it," said Long Chen while they hurried along, knowing what she was thinking.

Time was running out and they had to focus on their travels.

Yellow Martial City, in the outer regions of the Ancient Demon Domain.

Yellow Martial City was the first city Long Chen had visited after he entered the Divine Martial Empire. This was where he had killed the Demon Emperor's son, leading to him being pursued by the Demon Emperor. In the end, he was saved by the Dragon clan, leading to the many events afterwards.

In a corner of Yellow Martial City, on the first floor of the city's tower, Jiang Wuya and Jian Chen were looking in the direction of the Ancient Demon Domain with furrowed brows.

The Ancient Demon Domain was barren, as always.

"Zhao Danchen has gone to the Ancient Demon Domain. His entourage will likely come out with Yiyi in a day's time." Jiang Wuya looked pale. He had slipped into the Ancient Demon Domain more than once in the past few days, but he kept getting beaten out by Jiang Wuxie. If he were not smart enough, his older brother might have actually killed him.

“Second Brother, Jiang Wuxie and Zhao Danchen will both be present when that moment comes. Won’t that make it more difficult for us?” Jian Chen watched the Ancient Demon Domain with a sword-like glare.

“That may be the case, but we cannot back down. Even if I die, I cannot let her suffer. I haven’t been a good father, and I owe her too much. All I have left to give is my life, and I will risk it for her. It’s up to the heavens to decide whether I succeed or not.” Jiang Wuya’s abyss-like eyes started to moisten.

“You don’t just have your life, you still have a squad of siblings who are willing to live and die alongside you,” reminded Jian Chen.

Jiang Wuya froze.

Indeed, he had a squad of siblings too.

Jian Chen had stubbornly insisted on following him, and despite Jiang Wuya advising him to head back more than once, it did not work. That was why Jiang Wuya had stopped trying to convince him.

Both of them were quiet for a while, then Jian Chen broke the silence. “After Seventh Brother went to Martial Overlord City, we received no more news. I’m afraid ...”

“Afraid of what?” Jiang Wuya said.

“I’m afraid that he and Eldest Sister are both trapped in the Nine Spirit Purgatory, unable to get out,” Jian Chen said directly.

Jiang Wuya squinted.

Jian Chen was right. He thought the same too, but he had never said it out loud.

“Seventh Brother is still young, but he is extremely talented. It is truly a pity. As for Yue’er, if she dies there, I’ll go to the Nine Spirit Purgatory to keep her company after I save Yiyi and make sufficient arrangements for her,” said Jiang Wuya with great resolution.

“Second Brother, there’s something I want to say, but I don’t know if I should,” Jian Chen said suddenly.

“What is it?” Jiang Wuya asked.

Jian Chen was quiet for a long time, then he said, “I think the most important thing for a man to do is take responsibility. You have followed Eldest Sister for too long, and you’ve had your freedom for too long. You have lived a life you liked, but you rarely think about other matters aside from Eldest Sister and our little group. We’re all not young anymore. At our age, we should give up on certain things we chase after. Then again ...”

“Then again what?” Jiang Wuya pursed his lips with a bitter smile.

Jian Chen thought for a moment, then he decided to speak honestly. "Have you ever thought about how Eldest Sister feels? I believe the reason she hasn't gotten together with you is because she isn't willing to rob someone else of their happiness. Some people need you more than she does."

Jiang Wuya was silent for a long time.

"Perhaps it's true that too much time has passed. Must I really give up now? Take responsibility?" Jiang Wuya was in a daze when he spoke.

He thought about the Clear Shallows King and Liu Yiyi.

What kind of lives had the mother and daughter been living during the many years that he was away?

That girl named Liu Yiyi had his blood flowing in her veins. How did she grow up?

Thinking about the girl who once cried in front of him, Jiang Wuya suddenly felt his heart ache. He clenched his fists, gritted his teeth, then let go.

When he looked up once more, his eyes were filled with determination.

"Third Brother, I've got it. This time, I will put my life on the line for her! She is my daughter! No one can stop me from providing her with a happy life!"

He leaped from the city wall and strode towards the Ancient Demon Domain.

"I'll wait here for them to come out. There's a very low chance of Yue'er and the others surviving that place. I think if I do this, Clear Shallows won't resent me anymore ..." Killing intent appeared in Jiang Wuya's eyes.

"I'm only living now because I got lucky. Since Eldest Sister isn't here, then there is no need for me to live. Tomorrow, anyone who tries to stop me will face my sword. I refuse to believe that I won't be able to reach the Third Earthly Martial Stage! If Seventh Brother can achieve a breakthrough in battle, why can't I, Jian Chen, do the same?" The two men were ready to risk their lives. They stood proudly like stone pillars.

One day later, the huge doors of the Ancient Demon Domain opened, and a large group of people emerged. The Enforcers of the Martial Alliance and the Demon Generals of the Ancient Demon Domain were all escorting Zhao Danchen, Jiang Wuxie, and the others out of the Ancient Demon Domain. This marriage would join the Martial Alliance and the Ancient Demon Domain, deepening their relationship. That was why Jiang Wuxie took this very seriously. In addition, knowing that someone was trying to stop them, he was personally present to escort Liu Yiyi to Martial Overlord City!