

Worth 601

Chapter 601: The Strongest Divine King!

Little Missy seemed shaken by Wang Baole's words. Wang Baole could hear her breathing quicken in his head.

He immediately felt pleased with himself. He was the most handsome guy in the entire Federation, after all. A simple snap of his fingers would bring tens of thousands of young women swooning at his feet. Charming Little Missy was a piece of cake. He took a deep breath, intending to continue his passionate declarations of his undying love with greater gusto and use that to create a window of opportunity to persuade her to leave.

"Cut it out, fatty. Stop the act and get to work, quickly!"

Wang Baole blinked, stunned that this tactic of his was no longer effective. But he had a thick skin. Rather than feeling embarrassed at having his act seen through, he seemed to have perked up instead. He crouched slightly and dashed ahead for a few steps before suddenly remembering that his appearance was that of an Never-Ending Clan member. He straightened his back and swaggered in the direction Little Missy had pointed. He approached their destination steadily.

It wasn't long before three combat vehicles zoomed past in the skies overhead. They paused above Wang Baole. The passengers glanced at Wang Baole and left without bothering too much about him.

Wang Baole watched and wanted a combat vehicle for himself too. He knew the chances of getting his hands on one were slim though. He sighed and continued forward. He passed a stretch of ruins, then suddenly stopped in his tracks.

"Little Missy, if there's no rush, can I pick up a few things for myself along the way?"

Little Missy's first thought was to refuse Wang Baole's request, but she knew that reason wasn't on her side this time. Her silence conveyed her consent.

Wang Baole's eyes lit up when Little Missy remained silent. He looked around before approaching the ruins. He inspected the area in detail, conducting one round of search before locating a few damaged Dharmic treasures, storing them away.

It was impossible to discern what the Dharmic treasures had looked like originally. However, Wang Baole's proficiency in Dharmic Armaments meant he could tell that they had been crafted from exceptional materials. He intended to dismantle them into their individual components and reuse the latter.

Wang Baole advanced amidst Little Missy's silence and continued scavenging. He took any items that he felt could be of use without hesitation.

He bumped into a few Never-Ending Clan patrols along the way, but the disguise he had on him had been woven into being by Little Missy, through her application of Vast Expanse Laws. As a result, those encounters ended up being harmless scares. His haul grew ever more bountiful as he continued to evade capture.

It didn't matter if they were damaged Dharmic treasures, ridiculous and obscure-seeming parts, shriveled plants, or the occasional dried seeds, he left nothing behind and took everything. With Little Missy's guidance, he approached the Vast Expanse Dao Palace's mountain gates steadily.

Wang Baole had been hearing a loud rumbling coming from the mountain gates from a distance away. Now that he was nearer the gates, he immediately caught sight of an enormous jackhammer-shaped Dharmic Artifact piercing the mountain peak. It exuded tremendous power as it continued to draw unknown energy from deep underground. The process of this extraction was so overpowering that it resulted in continuous rumbling ringing in the air.

Compared to the Dharmic Artifact, Wang Baole was but an ant, small and insignificant. His insignificance magnified the awe that was inspired by the artifact.

"What exactly is this gigantic Dharmic Artifact? What's it doing?" Wang Baole gulped as he muttered in his head.

"This is the Essence Draining Leech that belongs to the Never-Ending Clan's second Divine King. It's used to drain a star system's essence, which will then be used as energy to power the Divine King's advancement. There are nine such star systems under the second Divine King's rule. He intends to use them to build a foundation for his breakthrough from the King realm into the Emperor realm... There are thirty-seven Divine Kings in the Never-Ending Clan, and five great Divine Emperors above them!" Little Missy said coolly after a moment's silence.

Thirty-seven Divine Kings? Five Divine Emperors? Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. He had found out that the Never-Ending Clan had emperors during his time in his Dark Dream. There had been nine of them though, not five. The one who had appeared in the Dark Sect had been Emperor Tuo Mu. He alone had six Divine Kings under his command. In fact, he could be considered one of the more powerful ones amongst all the Divine Emperors and ranked in the top three!

It was clear, however, that both Divine Kings and Divine Emperors had dwindled in numbers. There were at least four fewer Divine Emperors!

That had Wang Baole shaken. He had his guesses, though. They must have fallen in battle during the time that had gone by. Wang Baole could also sense what was hidden beneath Little Missy's words. The complicated feelings and melancholy. However, he couldn't help but ask.

"To be so powerful even though he's only the second Divine King. What's his level of cultivation? The Star Domain realm? What kind of cultivation realm is the King realm anyway? And how powerful is the first Divine King exactly?"

If they weren't where they were at the moment, Little Missy might not have answered his questions. However, they had returned to a place of familiarity for her. She might appear to be calm, but emotions surged within her. After a moment of silence, she said softly.

"The Never-Ending Clan's King realm is the equivalent of the Star Domain realm. As the second Divine King, he's reached the perfected stage of the Star Domain realm and is but half a step away from the Emperor realm. Is that powerful enough for you..."

“As for the first Divine King...” Little Missy sounded lost at that point. She seemed vaguely uncertain as she pondered, before continuing her words.

“The first Divine King is an extremely mysterious entity in the Never-Ending Clan. Few know his name. There are two rumors that sufficiently prove how terrifying he is, though. It was rumored that he challenged the fifth Divine Emperor. Make a guess how that ended?” Little Missy threw a question back at Wang Baole.

Wang Baole froze. He replied after some thought, “He lost but survived the fight?”

“He won!” Little Missy’s answer was like a bolt of lightning exploding inside Wang Baole’s head. It might not have been as bad if he hadn’t experienced the Dark Dream, but he had, and as a result, he knew better than the ordinary person the difference in power between a cultivator at the Star Domain realm and one at the Universe realm. That was why his first reaction to Little Missy’s reply was—that’s not possible.

It was clear that many others had shared his reaction. That was why Little Missy had called it a rumor.

“How about the second rumor?” Even though this first Divine King was way beyond his league, Wang Baole couldn’t help but probe further.

“There were fewer people who believed in the second rumor. At least I don’t... Rumor has it that the Never-Ending Clan once had nine Divine Emperors. He killed four of them. The remaining Divine Emperors didn’t give him any trouble for it though. That seems illogical. That’s why this remains pure rumor. You should treat it as such too.”

Wang Baole’s eyes widened as he experienced a flurry of emotions. Little Missy might not believe the rumor, but Wang Baole knew the Never-Ending Clan had once had nine Divine Emperors...

Is the rumor true then? If it’s indeed the truth, this first Divine King must be powerful beyond measure! Wang Baole had half a mind to question Little Missy more on more private details, but he could see the gloom that she was slowly sinking into. He could only set aside his suspicions as well as shock and keep his questions to himself. As they neared the mountain gates, Little Missy spoke again.

“Don’t enter the mountain gates. Make your way to the back of the mountain. I’ll point out a secret pathway once you’re there.”

Wang Baole didn’t say a word, switching the direction he was headed smoothly and making his way to the back of the mountain. As he drew nearer, he would occasionally tilt his head and eye the enormous Dharmic Artifact in the middle of the mountain peak. He was slightly dispirited. When he had been in the Dark Dream, his knowledge of the Never-Ending Clan had been limited to that one time when the Divine Emperor had come demanding his child’s soul and what had been found in some records.

The Never-Ending Clan isn’t a singular clan but a vast alliance centered around the Never-Ending Clan. It comprises many civilizations... They established an alliance to fight the Dark Sect and transcend life and death. They wanted to stop the Dark Sect from ferrying their souls on behalf of the Heavenly Dao...

As for what happened after... as the sect lords of the Dark Sect fell and the Heavenly Dao collapsed, the Never-Ending Clan Federation... rose to dominance! Wang Baole’s spirits sank. His knowledge of the

Never-Ending Clan, while incomplete, was still significant. As he sighed inwardly, his thoughts drifted to the Federation.

In the face of the Never-Ending Clan's Dao Domain and the Never-Ending Clan's vast universe, the future of the Federation—one changed by the ancient greenish-bronze sword that was from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace and that had steered the Federation from a technology-based civilization to that of a cultivation-based civilization—might not be a bright and hopeful one.

In his silence, Wang Baole had made his way to the back of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace and was about to draw near. It was then that Little Missy's voice rang out frantically.

"Watch out, incoming Never-Ending Clan members!"

As soon as she said that, seven to eight combat vehicles approached speedily from the skies. Besides the three vehicles in the lead, which sat one person each, the other vehicles each had three to five people in them. As they sped past, one vehicle stopped in its tracks. One of the three Never-Ending Clan members standing in the vehicle lowered his head and glanced at Wang Baole, who was standing in the ruins below. He spoke suddenly and said something that Wang Baole could understand!

Chapter 602: A Stellar Spark!

"I am Nan Zhou, third-grade Never-Ending Clan cultivator, third branch, under the second Divine King's command. I hereby order you to join our team and support the extermination effort. Board the vehicle and give us your name!" The Never-Ending Clan member's Soul Conduit realm-level cultivation surged out in powerful waves, sweeping outwards and carrying his voice into the distance. It rumbled like thunder.

Little Missy grew nervous suddenly. She said hastily, "He's ordering you to board the vehicle. He's asking you..."

Wang Baole didn't wait for Little Missy to finish what she was saying. He appeared unfazed. He knew how dangerous his current predicament was. However, there was no point in being nervous. He shifted his feet calmly and flew into the air instantly, dashing straight for the combat vehicle hovering in mid-air. He landed in an instant and stood together with the other Never-Ending Clan members. His eyes swept past them quickly. Their armor was different from that of the Soul Conduit realm cultivator.

He recalled that the combat vehicles he had seen the previous few times had all had only one person onboard. He was fairly confident that these two had also just been recruited at a moment's notice. There didn't seem to be much mutual respect displayed between the two newly recruited and the Soul Conduit realm cultivator. The gears in Wang Baole's head started spinning furiously. Just as Little Missy was done talking, Wang Baole, instead of saluting or bowing, lowered his head and spoke in the language of the Dark Sect.

"Baole!"

Little Missy fell silent as soon as he spoke.

The Soul Conduit realm cultivator didn't seem bothered by Wang Baole's attitude and simply nodded. The combat vehicle sped forward once more, dashing into the distance. It was then that Wang Baole secretly released a sigh of relief.

He wasn't sure how Never-Ending Clan members greeted one another with their six arms. After observing the absence of deferential behavior between the other two new recruits and the Soul Conduit realm cultivator, he had decided not to extend any deferential greeting and to merely lower his head.

He had made the right call. The Never-Ending Clan was an alliance, and its members shared a complicated network of relationships with one another. The internal politics of the alliance were complex and messy. That was why, while it was the norm for the weak to extend a deferential greeting to the strong, Wang Baole could get away with a simple nod of his head.

The combat vehicle sped away from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace's mountain gates. Wang Baole was silent throughout the journey. After an hour of speeding across the battlefield, the ruins of a vast city appeared ahead of them.

The ruins covered an expansive area. Many buildings within seemed to be fairly well-preserved and intact. They weren't the only combat vehicles to have arrived. There were dozens of combat vehicles in the sky surrounding the city ruins.

"Your mission is to exterminate all survivors!" the Soul Conduit realm cultivator said coolly. Then, with a single step, he flew out of the combat vehicle and charged straight into the city ruins. The cultivators onboard their cluster of combat vehicles, including Wang Baole, did the same.

The Never-Ending Clan cultivators arriving from elsewhere did the same thing too. Wang Baole observed that the cultivation levels of the Never-Ending Clan members around him varied greatly. The strongest ones were at the Soul Conduit realm and the weakest at the Core Formation realm. There were also quite a few Nascent Soul realm cultivators.

Wang Baole landed soundlessly amidst his observation. As he advanced, he contemplated how he could leave these Never-Ending Clan members and return to the mountain gates.

He continued onward as vast hordes of Never-Ending Clan cultivators surged forward and attacked. A series of thundering booms erupted in the ruins. The howls of people fighting back, and the sounds of others blowing themselves up rang out without stopping.

It was clear that this ruined city was one of the assembly grounds where surviving cultivators of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace had gathered. They had not yielded to the Never-Ending Clan. After the Vast Expanse Dao Palace's core faction had carried hope with them as they left, these cultivators had chosen to stay behind and bind their fates with that of the Vast Expanse Dao Planet.

With the passing of time, they had seen new births. Even though the future seemed bleak, even though they saw traitors in their midst, a great majority of them had still chosen to fight to their last breath.

Deafening booms continued to echo in the air as Wang Baole advanced silently. There were two Never-Ending Clan cultivators around him, approximately a thousand feet apart from each other. One of them was at the Core Formation realm and the other at the Nascent Soul realm.

Just as Wang Baole was pondering how he might get away from the two and leave the city ruins, spirit waves at the Nascent Soul realm erupted from within a pavilion in their path. The waves of energy were tremendously powerful, and their eruption caused the pavilion to cave in. Someone dashed out from within and charged... towards the Never-Ending Clan cultivator at the Nascent Soul realm!

It was a woman that looked like she was in her forties. Her cultivation seemed unstable. Even though she was at the Nascent Soul realm, she was also injured. As she dashed out, she headed straight for the Never-Ending Clan cultivator at the Nascent Soul realm and collided with him.

The collision sparked a loud sound. The woman spat out a mouthful of blood, and her face was drained of color. She shifted and sped into the distance in an attempt to escape. The Never-Ending Clan cultivator, despite being forced back, had sustained only minor injuries from the earlier attack. A violent gleam flashed across his eyes as he went after her.

The entire series of events happened before Wang Baole's eyes. He revealed nothing of his emotions on his face. He simply glanced, then turned and scanned the caved-in pavilion discreetly. He intentionally avoided walking towards the pavilion and instead headed in another direction.

However, besides Wang Baole, there was another Core Formation realm cultivator present. After some thought, the Never-Ending Clan cultivator dashed towards the pavilion. He approached instantly. It was then that another series of energy waves erupted from within the pavilion.

There was a loud explosion, followed by fragments of shattered rock spewing in the air. Someone flew out of the pavilion. This time, the aura was clearly weaker and at the Core Formation realm. The figure charged towards the Never-Ending Clan cultivator!

He looked to be in his twenties. To have achieved a Core Formation realm cultivation at such an age was an exceptional feat. Even though he was also clearly injured, his attacks remained vicious and brutal. However, the Never-Ending Clan cultivator was also equally powerful. It seemed that it would be difficult to identify a clear victor as they continued to battle it out.

The Never-Ending Clan cultivator immediately barked at Wang Baole and summoned the latter to lend a hand. The youth clearly saw that. Despair flashed across his eyes. He seemed like he was about to turn and look at the pavilion behind him but stopped himself at the last moment.

There was no need for him to look. A short distance away, Wang Baole had already seen what he had been looking for. In the pavilion was a girl—squatting under broken stone, hugging her knees, and trembling.

Her clothes were dirty and dusty, like a beggar's. She stared at the youth who was currently engaged in battle with tears streaming down her cheeks. Then, she saw Wang Baole. Her trembling intensified.

Wang Baole observed the sight silently, then stared at the surrounding area. After making sure that there were no other Never-Ending Clan members around, he began to make his way forward with a straight face. His speed picked up. Then, with a sudden burst of speed, he approached the two cultivators engaged in battle.

The Never-Ending Clan cultivator was galvanized by his approach while the youth howled in despair. Just as the latter prepared to blow himself up, Wang Baole sped up again, transforming into an afterimage that swept past the Never-Ending Clan cultivator!

The Never-Ending Clan cultivator didn't even have time to react before his three heads fell off his body. Blood spurted out from the cut as his headless body fell to the ground.

The sight stunned the youth. He retreated hastily, staring at Wang Baole with a bewildered and wary look in his eyes.

Wang Baole didn't look at them. He turned and was about to leave. As he turned, Little Missy, who had been silent since he had spoken in the Never-Ending Clan's language, sighed softly. He had no idea how she managed to do it, but a Stellar Source's light suddenly enveloped the bodies of the confused, wary youth and the young girl. Their bodies transformed instantaneously and right before Wang Baole's eyes into that of Never-Ending Clan members!

"Help me tell them. The illusion will only last for half an hour. They have to... hurry up and escape."

There was a faint crease in his brow. Little Missy's actions were irrational. In addition, should the two be discovered by the Never-Ending Clan, even he would be implicated and placed in danger.

Little Missy seemed to realize the rashness of her actions. After a moment of silence, she lowered her head and uttered, for the very first time.

"I'm sorry."

Wang Baole sighed. He turned and looked at the youth, who had recovered swiftly from his shock at witnessing Wang Baole's transformation. Wang Baole was pleased with his speedy recovery. He said, in a low voice and in the language of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace.

"The illusion will disappear after half an hour. Leave quickly!"

The youth trembled when he heard that. He gave Wang Baole an unfathomable look before tugging at the quivering young girl. They were about to leave when the young girl, who now appeared as one of the Never-Ending Clan, turned her head as she was dragged away and looked at Wang Baole. She asked suddenly, "Senior, what's your name?"

Wang Baole frowned slightly. He stared at the girl whose appearance had transformed into that of an Never-Ending Clan member and whose eyes remained clear and bright. He thought of the Federation's future and said in a low voice.

"Baole!"

Having said that, Wang Baole turned and sped into the distance without looking back.

Chapter 603: Stone Tablet!

The mission, which hundreds of Never-Ending Clan members participated in, didn't take long to complete. It ended six hours later. Wang Baole didn't know the exact number of fatalities from the Dao Palace, however, based on what he had witnessed, it was definitely more than forty.

In the end, under the joint forces of multiple Soul Conduit realm cultivators, the city ruins were forcibly wiped off the face of the star, never to be seen again.

As for the cultivators who had been recruited to participate in the mission, they were permitted to leave with the mission's completion. They left separately, and a dispirited Wang Baole dashed off towards the rear of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace's mountain gates.

Having participated in the mission and witnessed the Never-Ending Clan fighting firsthand, there were no longer as many flaws in Wang Baole's imitation of an Never-Ending Clan cultivator. Wang Baole no longer hid his tracks as he traveled, speeding through the air boldly instead.

He encountered quite a few Never-Ending Clan members along the way. He didn't wait for them to spare him a glance, though. Instead, Wang Baole actively threw an assessing look at them. Their eyes would meet, and they would exchange nods before going their separate ways.

His journey was undisturbed by danger. Wang Baole returned once again to the back of the mountain gates of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. Upon arrival, he stood and stared at the jackhammer-shaped Dharmic Artifact, listening to the thunderous rumblings it made. Little Missy's voice rang out in his head.

"Where did you learn it... the Never-Ending Clan's language!"

"This is the language of the Dark Sect. Don't you know, Little Missy?" Wang Baole replied calmly.

Little Missy sank into a long bout of silence after hearing Wang Baole's reply. She recalled the temporary void that she had experienced when Wang Baole had been in the Dark Artifact. She had her suspicions. At the same time, she couldn't help experiencing a sense of helplessness once again—one caused by the incredulous Wang Baole. It seemed that no matter how impossible a task was, as long as she spoke it and got him to try it, he would, after some time, manage to succeed at the task.

Her head began to throb even harder at that thought. Despite realizing that Wang Baole had probably seen through her bluff regarding the Dark Sect, she still believed that whatever she had said remained true as long as she didn't admit otherwise. She snorted.

"Of course I do. I'm just testing you!"

"Oh? What's the point of this test? You're not planning to get me to play the hero, are you? I'm really not cut out for that, Little Missy." Wang Baole stretched lazily. He set aside the mixed feelings he felt towards the massacre on the Vast Expanse Dao Planet. His logic was simple. He was no saint. He only had the Federation in his heart and would only be responsible for the Federation.

The Federation, and the Dark Sect.

Even though his heart went out to the Vast Expanse Dao Planet, he could only give it his sympathy. That was why he had asked Little Missy that question—to stop her from talking and getting him to take on the restoration of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace as his duty.

“The truth is, while the Dark Sect has fallen, its foundations remain. Within the Never-Ending Clan is a mysterious and powerful entity who is a spy from the Dark Sect. This is information of utmost secrecy and confidentiality. The Dark Art that I’ve learned was originally passed down by this person. That’s why you can even consider me one of his extended disciples!” The gears spun furiously in Little Missy’s head, and she whipped up a tale in a matter of seconds. Once done with her tale, she couldn’t help but feel pleased with how quick she was on her feet.

“I tested you because I wanted to know if you had any chance of gaining my master’s approval. With his help, the possibilities in your future would be limitless!”

Little Missy grew even more pleased with herself as she continued. If she could conjure an image of her actual body, one would see her with her arms half-raised and fists pumping in the air, as if in a show of encouragement.

There was an increasingly odd expression on Wang Baole’s face. He hadn’t believed what Little Missy had said earlier. However, her current tale seemed reasonable. Wang Baole began to doubt himself. In the end though, he still decided not to believe her.

Wang Baole took into consideration his still being in the middle of a mission and decided not to express his disbelief. He nodded his head and went along with Little Missy. She grew more pleased and finally shared the location of the secret passage with Wang Baole.

Wang Baole was tickled by Little Missy as she gained peace of mind. She was rather adorable this way. After all, girls whose favor could be easily gained were all adorable creatures.

Having located the secret passage, Wang Baole continued to tease Little Missy while he sped down the pathway, deep into the Vast Expanse Dao Palace’s mountain gates.

The secret passage was extremely well-hidden. It was filled with dust and dirt, and some segments had caved in. That didn’t pose a problem to Wang Baole, though. He advanced steadily. Two hours later, Wang Baole appeared inside the Vast Expanse Dao Palace’s mountain gates, within the mountain itself!

The mountain had been sliced into two, and an enormous Dharmic Artifact continuously extracted its galactic source. That resulted in multiple cracks and crevices in the mountain body—obstacles in Wang Baole’s path.

This wasn’t something that was completely insurmountable. It was merely time-consuming. Several hours later, with Little Missy’s guidance, Wang Baole finally made his way deep into the mountain and arrived outside a secret chamber!

The walls surrounding the chamber were lined with cracks, and there were remnant energies from a hex in place. The cracks in the walls might have damaged the hex and weakened the latter’s power, but it was still powerful enough that Wang Baole’s spirit was almost torn apart when he first experienced it. His spirit quaked, and his mind turned blank. His body swayed unsteadily and was on the verge of collapse.

Fortunately, at that critical moment, the disguise cloaking Wang Baole’s actual form began to exude a gentle force that brought Wang Baole’s back to his senses. Face pale and spirit shaken, he retreated

hastily. Even with the protection of the Vast Expanse Laws, he could still sense the immense danger before him.

“Little Missy, are you trying to get me killed...” Wang Baole grimaced. The alarming sense of danger he could feel now was far greater than that given off by a Soul Conduit realm cultivator. His experience in the Dark Dream allowed him to conclude, with some measure of certainty, that this hex had been set up by someone who was as powerful as his master in the Dark Sect.

Besides, it was incomplete and damaged. If it had been kept intact, he might not even have been able to enter these grounds. His soul would have been ripped apart while he was still a distance away.

“The hex’s core function is to hide this place... Don’t worry, the fact that the hex is still here means that the Never-Ending Clan hasn’t yet discovered this place. Get in, quick. The stone tablet I’m looking for is inside!” Little Missy coughed to hide her embarrassment, then spoke hastily.

Wang Baole hesitated for a long moment before approaching cautiously. Little Missy did her best to wield the Vast Expanse Laws around Wang Baole and fight the hex. As Wang Baole shuffled his feet forward, he finally reached the chamber’s stone doors. He gave them a push, and the doors opened slowly. Wang Baole took a deep breath, gritted his teeth, and stepped in.

As soon as he entered the chamber, the hex began to give off a blinding light. Strands of light appeared before Wang Baole. Any single one of those strands of light would have sent Wang Baole leaping out of his skin. Fortunately, he had the protection of the Vast Expanse Laws, so the light couldn’t cause him any harm.

The approach of each strand of light brought with it the shrieking sound of sharp slicing, which sent shivers traveling down Wang Baole’s spine. He could see the nexus of these strands of light in the room. Within the nexus floated something palm-sized, halved... the stone tablet!

It seemed as if it wasn’t real at all. It was translucent and covered with lines of inscriptions incomprehensible to Wang Baole. It seemed to be pulsating slowly with light, in accordance to some kind of rhythm. An indescribable, ancient aura surrounded the stone tablet.

As Wang Baole’s eyes fell on it, they seem to see the deaths of many, the destruction of stars, the collapse of the sun, and the withering away of the entire universe. At the same time... they also saw the source of everything, new life, new stars, a new sun, and the birth of a new universe!

It was as if the entire universe was housed inside the stone tablet. It wasn’t whole and appeared incomplete...

“What... is this...” Wang Baole’s breathing paused as he murmured.

“I have no idea either. But when I was a kid, my father once told me that this is the Dao that the supreme cultivator in another Dao Domain had discerned in six steps!” Little Missy muttered. Wang Baole’s bewilderment grew. After a long moment, as piercing shrills continued to attack his eardrums, Wang Baole finally came to his senses.

“How do we grab it? Let’s make a move soon. I have a feeling my clothes aren’t going to stay in one piece for much longer!”

“Don’t panic. I wasn’t stringing you along. Here, you will be able to draw the surrounding power, the power from the hex as well as that of the stone tablet. It’ll not only ensure your success in refining your scabbard, but your scabbard will also be able to absorb a sliver of power from this land, creating a foundation for it to evolve and transform into a supreme artifact!”

Chapter 604: A Seventh-Grade Dharmic Armament That Defies All Laws of Nature

Wang Baole’s breathing quickened instantly when Little Missy said that. He didn’t think too much. This wasn’t the place or the time for him to do any detailed assessment. He made up his mind almost instantaneously.

Let’s wing it! Decisiveness brightened Wang Baole’s eyes. Without hesitation, he slammed his right palm on his chest. There was a tremor inside him. He raised his right hand, pulling out a blinding, shining scabbard from his body.

The scabbard began to shake as soon as it appeared. It had held its ground firmly against Dugu Lin’s Four Beast Punch, but now, as soon as it had appeared, it began to show signs of cracking and breaking up into pieces under the surrounding force exuded by the strands of light. There was crackling in the air, and a slight crack appeared on the scabbard!

Wang Baole had no idea what Little Missy did, but at that very critical moment, the disguise cloaking Wang Baole, formed from Vast Expanse Laws, exploded with a boom. The shock waves surged outwards and collided with the strands of light. An image of Little Missy appeared, her hands forming a series of hand seals deftly. The blinding strands of light surrounding them stilled suddenly.

It was as if everything had come to a standstill. Wang Baole released a sigh of relief. He could see that Little Missy was struggling to keep the light at bay though. He steadied his breathing, brought his hands together to form a series of hand seals, and, without any delay, began the refinement of his scabbard!

Wang Baole had already mapped out how to go about upgrading the scabbard from a sixth-grade artifact to a seventh-grade artifact. He had run through the process many times in his head. Through the continuous gathering of materials, his current inventory of materials was also sufficient for the refinement!

What he lacked was confidence in his success. On the one hand, he was worried that failure might result in the destruction of his scabbard. On the other, the materials required for the refinement were rare and precious. If he failed, he would need to gather them anew. It wasn’t an impossible feat, but the effort required was simply too tremendous.

That was why he had been stuck improving his skills at refinement. His original intentions were to proceed with refining the scabbard after he was fully certain of his success. However, the opportunity presented to him at this moment was simply too rare to resist. There was also something important that Little Missy had said earlier, at the end...

My scabbard will be able to absorb a sliver of power from this land, creating a foundation for it to evolve and transform into a supreme artifact! Intense anticipation shone in Wang Baole’s eyes. With a wave of

his hand, great quantities of materials flew out. He formed a series of hand seals swiftly. Within a matter of moments, the materials began to melt as Wang Baole extracted their essences.

There was still the matter of finding a cauldron for the actual refinement. Wang Baole might know fire-based divine power, which might have sufficed for ordinary Dharmic Armaments, but for this particular case... Wang Baole's eyes flashed. He spoke suddenly.

"Little Missy, are you able to release one strand of light?"

Little Missy turned towards Wang Baole violently and stared. She was about to say something before she spotted the determined and resolute look in Wang Baole's eyes. She didn't try to dissuade him, only formed a series of hand seals and wielded the power of the Vast Expanse Laws to free a single strand of light. It charged towards Wang Baole, albeit at a much slower pace with the Vast Expanse Laws slowing it down.

Its slowness presented Wang Baole an opportunity. Just as the strand of light approached, Wang Baole flung his materials in the right sequence at it, making use of the light to cut the materials up into his desired shapes and sizes!

It was like dancing on the tip of a blade. Wang Baole concentrated his full attention on the task, afraid to allow himself even a moment of distraction. He no longer paid attention to danger or even realized where he was!

He saw only the refinement of his scabbard. It was the only thing that existed in his world. He didn't permit himself to fail. Even though Little Missy had said that he would definitely succeed, he continued to remain cautious and on high alert. His obsession had reached the heights of madness!

The sounds of rumbling rang in the air. Vast quantities of materials continued to be sliced up and melted down before Little Missy drew back the strand of light. Wang Baole continued to form hand seals and fused the materials with his scabbard. Everything went smoothly, without a hitch. Half an hour later, Wang Baole had readied all the materials and placed them on the scabbard. He lifted his head suddenly, and there was an intense light in his eyes.

Wang Baole knew that the true refinement was just about to begin!

He took a deep breath, grabbed enough Armament Sand from out of his storage bracelet, then, without any hesitation, fused the sand with the scabbard. With another series of hand seals and a wave of his hand, a fire-based spell erupted from his person. Flames enveloped the entire scabbard, and the scabbard's aura began to intensify exponentially!

It advanced from that of a sixth-grade artifact, creeping upward towards the seventh grade. The aura grew more and more terrifying. However... it was still one step from advancing from a sixth-grade artifact to a seventh-grade one.

Wang Baole didn't know what he was missing. He began to grow anxious. It was clear that based on his calculations, he should have successfully refined the scabbard into a seventh-grade artifact at this point. What remained should be the infusion of a god with the scabbard so that it could become a true seventh-grade artifact.

Where did I go wrong... A frantic Wang Baole watched as his scabbard reached the peak of its refinement and could no longer be refined. However, without any breakthrough in its grade, it began to show signs of breaking apart!

Based on his understanding of Dharmic Armaments, if he didn't resolve this matter immediately, the scabbard would continue to break apart. It would begin to devour itself as if it were setting itself on fire. Once all the materials had been consumed, the artifact itself would disintegrate completely.

The cracks... is it because it's not sufficiently malleable? At that critical moment, as Wang Baole remained shaken, Little Missy suddenly formed a series of hand seals. The stone tablet began to rise in the air, then dash towards the scabbard. It appeared above the scabbard and sank downwards!

The scabbard immediately shook. The surrounding force seemed to have suppressed earlier signs of cracking, preventing the artifact from breaking apart!

"Repair it quickly. I didn't expect this to happen. This scabbard of yours... it's no longer the same as the one described in the recipe I remembered... I can only help with the repairs and prevent it from breaking apart..." Little Missy said with great difficulty. Wang Baole quickly formed a series of hand seals and pulled out huge quantities of materials. As he began repairs, he started to think about the problem of malleability. He could hear the apologetic tone in Little Missy's voice, but he wasn't ready to accept failure just yet.

In fact, if the refinement truly failed this time, Wang Baole had a feeling that it would no longer be possible for him to upgrade his scabbard to a seventh-grade artifact.

If that's truly the case, then I have to try, even if it means failure. It lacks in malleability? I've almost used up all the materials I have with me. But... there's something right here that fits the bill! Wang Baole's eyes had turned slightly red as he stared at the strand of light that Little Missy had pulled back earlier!

"Little Missy, release the strand of light!" Wang Baole shouted. Shock flashed across Little Missy's face. She knew what Wang Baole was trying to do.

"Is it worth all that effort?" Little Missy couldn't help but ask.

"We're already at this stage. If we don't succeed, we might as well kill all hope now!" Wang Baole clenched his jaw, and a fierce light flickered in his eyes. Little Missy gave him a long, unfathomable look. She stopped trying to dissuade him and immediately formed a series of hand seals. The strand of light that she had drawn back was instantly released, and it sped towards Wang Baole.

As soon as the strand of light approached, Wang Baole decided to give it all that he had. He yelled and formed a series of hand seals. He steered his scabbard forward, racing towards the strand of light, not to collide with it, but... to devour and meld with it!

He planned to fuse the hexed strand of light with his scabbard!

The strand of light fused instantly with the scabbard. However, it had the power to slice through all things, and the scabbard appeared unable to withstand its power. It was akin to an ordinary man swallowing a sharp blade. The blade was going to skewer him at any moment. However, the power of the stone tablet was an immense force that enveloped the scabbard tightly. Thunderous booms erupted in the air, and the strand of light couldn't pass through the scabbard!

Madness colored Wang Baole's eyes as he witnessed that, and he shouted.

"Another one!"

Little Missy was stunned at the sight before her as well. She formed a series of hand seals deftly, and a second strand of light flew into the air and was similarly devoured by the scabbard. It was followed by a third strand, then a fourth, and a fifth...

Within the span of thirty breaths, Wang Baole had fused more than a hundred strands of light with his scabbard. The scabbard was riddled with holes at this point. If not for the stone tablet holding it together, it would have shattered into countless pieces and turned into dust a long while ago.

However, currently... it still retained its form. This meant a chance for Wang Baole. His hands continued to form hand seals, to refine the artifact and to repair it. When he used up all his materials, he pulled out a Stellar Source and flung it into the scabbard.

At that moment, he was no longer thinking about the recipe for refinement. The only thought on his mind was to repair the scabbard!

It was impossible to tell how much time had passed. Little Missy's mind had grown fuzzy. All the strands of light in the area had been devoured by the scabbard, and Wang Baole had used up almost all his Stellar Source. The scabbard had been undergoing continuous repair without showing signs of reaching its peak. It was then that suddenly, within it erupted... an overpowering aura!

Chapter 605: My Dear Junior Brother!

Breaking through from a sixth-grade Dharmic Armament to become a seventh-grade Dharmic Armament!

The scabbard's appearance had transformed drastically. It looked like it had been formed from crystal. One could even see thin golden strands seemingly swimming in it!

Besides Wang Baole, any other person would sense that the aura exuding from the scabbard far surpassed that of an ordinary seventh-grade Dharmic Armament. It could even rival a Divine Armament!

Only Wang Baole, its creator, knew that his scabbard was only at the seventh grade. In fact, it was just a germinal form that required the fusion of a soul to be complete.

There would be no oversight for that last step. He could even carry it out when he returned. Wang Baole needed to carefully consider his choice of soul. What he had decided earlier was no longer suitable, what with the scabbard's unique refinement process.

Wang Baole's eyes flashed at that thought. He raised his right hand and made a grab through the air. His scabbard came whistling by, landing right in his palm!

Wang Baole shivered when he closed his fist around the handle. It was as if he had in his hand a terrifying artifact that had the power to destroy the world. It was an intense feeling, one that terrified Wang Baole. He was about to examine the scabbard in closer detail when... suddenly, an aura—weaker

than the scabbard's and nowhere near as powerful as the stone tablet, but one still strong enough to overwhelm Wang Baole—descended from the heavens!

Little Missy spoke hastily as soon as the aura appeared.

"We've been discovered!" She said, then, with a step forward, cast a shadow over the stone tablet. The stone tablet seemed to melt instantaneously, fusing together with Little Missy's form. She dashed towards Wang Baole, and as she disappeared into thin air, her voice rang out frantically in Wang Baole's head.

"Quick, run!"

Wang Baole hardly needed Little Missy to tell him what to do. As soon as the aura appeared, his head began to ring, and he spat out a mouthful of blood. It felt as if his body might explode at any time.

He had no time to think. He immediately stored the scabbard and tried to escape the secret chamber. It was then that an icy snort rang out from the heavens outside the mountain, traveling in all directions. In the sky above the mountain gates of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, a gigantic vortex appeared suddenly.

An enormous hand—made from something other than flesh and blood and larger than the entire mountain peak—reached out from the vortex and made a grab at the mountain gates!

The mountain was like tofu, smashed into bits wherever it came into contact with the hand. The enormous hand avoided the jackhammer-shaped Dharmic Artifact, heading instead for the secret chamber. It was a blur, breaking open the chamber's roof in a split second. Amidst the rumbling and explosions of shattering rock and stone, it appeared right before Wang Baole's eyes. The entire sky seemed to be blocked out by this gigantic hand!

Wang Baole was shaken to the core. The cultivation inside his body seemed to have frozen instantly. It was as if his body had been drained dry of everything at that instant. He lost the ability to run away and could only watch as the enormous hand came slamming downwards!

It was then that the scabbard, which Wang Baole had no time to inspect, suddenly emitted a crystalline light. The light shot out from Wang Baole's body and raced towards the gigantic hand. The collision sparked a deafening, thunderous boom.

Blood spilled from Wang Baole's lips. His mind cleared up immediately, but there was no time to be shocked. He drew back immediately, with great haste. A soft snort rang out above him in the sky. The enormous hand picked up speed, smashing through stone walls with ease. With a single grab, it enclosed half the mountain peak within its palm and yanked upwards. Inside the mountain, Wang Baole's balance wavered as he, alongside the mountain he was in, was pulled into the sky!

It was life or death for them right now. Little Missy threw all caution to the wind. She appeared behind Wang Baole, her hands a blur as she formed a series of hand seals. Instantly, energy waves of a teleportation surged from her person and enveloped Wang Baole. It was clear that the risk of making an escape like that was too high. The chances of them being stopped were too great. It was a risky gamble.

Little Missy gritted her teeth. She released a breath of precious Soul Qi and pointed her finger at the gigantic hand. The entire Vast Expanse Dao Palace ruins began to quake. Strands of starlight shot out from the lands around them, drawn to the surface by Little Missy!

The starlight was the power of the Vast Expanse Laws. Now, they gathered and transformed into a huge sword woven from starlight. The sword swung at the gigantic hand. It was extremely fast. It was as if the will of this star had suddenly transformed into the sword. It slashed, separating the hand from the vortex!

The mountain, caught in the hand's grip and held in mid-air, began to fall. A huge chunk of it disintegrated when it landed on the ground. Wang Baole spat out a mouthful of blood. He had sustained injuries previously and was in a worse state now. Fortunately, the teleportation had already been activated. Amidst the rumbling of the spell, a furious howl erupted from the skies above him. This time, three muscular arms shot out from the vortex, smashing the ground with the intention of destroying everything. Wang Baole's body was crushed instantly.

One of the last things he heard was a loud explosion that seemed to signal the destruction of the star. Then, a third voice, from someone other than the owner of the three arms. He didn't have time to catch what was being said before everything came to an abrupt standstill. The next moment... when his vision cleared again, he was back in the Worship Palace Pavilion on the ancient greenish-bronze sword!

He wasn't in front of the fifth palace but before the grand halls of the sixth palace. Once he reappeared, Wang Baole spat out another mouthful of blood as he staggered, then fell to the ground.

It was a long while before he struggled to sit up again. His face was pale as he gulped in huge mouthfuls of air, and his organs appeared to be crushed. The extreme agony was torture. Even though his body was knitting everything back together and healing itself quickly, this did nothing to lessen the pain. It only made the pain worse.

Wang Baole was a vicious character though. Despite the agonizing pain, he pulled himself into a cross-legged position, pulled out some pills, and began to treat his injuries. The entire process took three days. His pain gradually faded as he slowly recovered. On the fourth day, Wang Baole opened his eyes and released a long sigh.

After making sure that he was indeed safe now, he began to recall everything that had happened on the Vast Expanse Dao Planet. Everything felt so surreal, as if it had all been a dream. It had been real though, frighteningly so. He was still recovering from the fright. An image of the enormous hand surfaced in his mind...

"The last guy. What's his level of cultivation?" After a bout of silence, Wang Baole asked Little Missy.

"It's all your fault, draining away the full power of the hex just to refine a scabbard... If not for that, we wouldn't have been found out so quickly... So be it, I'm at fault too. We were unlucky as well. Who could've known that an Eternal Star realm cultivator was passing by right at that moment... We wouldn't have fared so badly if it had been a Planet realm cultivator. Fortunately, the Eternal Star realm cultivator wasn't that powerful. My mystic art triumphed and managed to create a distraction, which prevented him from pursuing us after we teleported away..." Little Missy sighed. She had been muttering all the way until the end when her tone became slightly pleased.

The Eternal Star realm... Wang Baole ignored the parts of Little Missy's statements which weren't to be trusted. He took in a deep breath. Then, he remembered his scabbard. Excitement overcame him as he slammed his right palm on his chest and tried to extract his scabbard. He froze. He couldn't do it.

Wang Baole grew anxious, but he could still sense the strong connection with his scabbard, which eased his anxieties slightly. Then, an idea came to him. He infused his spiritual senses into the scabbard and inspected it. The mosquitoes in the scabbard had all vanished, leaving behind only the black and purple mosquitoes.

There were hundreds of golden lights in the scabbard—as many as the strands of light he had fused with the scabbard. They seemed as if they were gestating. The sight gave Wang Baole quite a few ideas. He wondered if they might transform into hundreds of golden mosquitoes...

While Wang Baole remained deep in thought, somewhere far away from the Solar System, in the Vast Expanse Star Domain, on the Vast Expanse Dao Planet, a middle-aged man was pinned to the ground. He had lost one arm and had his remaining five nailed to the ground with five blades of leaves. He was trembling, his eyes bright with terror and resentment. He stared ahead of him. Before him was an enormous rock. Leaning against it was a youth, drinking from a gourd in his hand, a green wooden sword beside him.

The middle-aged man was the powerful Eternal Star realm cultivator from the Never-Ending Clan who had attacked Wang Baole!

He didn't know exactly who the youth was, but he could make an educated guess. The answer sent terror surging through him like a tsunami, and he opened his mouth hurriedly.

"My Lord, I'm under the command of the second Divine King..."

Before he could finish his words, a sword's gleaming blade flew past, and his three heads flew into the air. A black, icy fire spread from the wounds, setting the heads on fire as well as burning the headless body. Within a flash, an Eternal Star realm cultivator was destroyed—in both body and soul!

"Dare hurt my junior brother? Who cares who you are. You can bite me," the youth muttered. He raised his gourd and took another gulp. Turning his head, he gazed into the heavens. It was as if his eyes could pierce through space, and he could see the Solar System. His lips twitched into a smile.

My dear junior brother, I've finally found you.

Chapter 606: Cough, Cough

Presently, in the Worship Palace Pavilion on the sword body of the ancient greenish-bronze sword, Wang Baole was immersed in the examination of his scabbard. After a great deal of thought, he decided to ask Little Missy about the scabbard's transformation.

"Don't look at me. There's no one in the entire universe who knows what's going on with your scabbard. You should just treat it as a complete mutation and work things out yourself," Little Missy said hurriedly.

Wang Baole grimaced as he shook his head. He studied the scabbard for a while longer, but to no avail. He finally surrendered. Wang Baole knew that he had gotten himself a great treasure this time though. This lifted his spirits significantly.

It's probably because my cultivation is still inadequate. Just wait until I reach the Nascent Soul realm. Maybe, when I whip out my scabbard then, a single slash from it would send gods and demons crying for

mercy! Wang Baole imagined the heroic figure he would cut then. Spirits high, he got to his feet and stared at the sixth palace ahead of him.

He was willing to give it a shot. However, the terrifying experience he had in the fifth palace told him that the sixth palace would be even more dangerous. The likelihood of him failing was great. Even trying to survive the allocated period of time inside might prove to be challenging.

Without any prior experience in the fourth and fifth palaces, Wang Baole might have just given up trying to survive the sixth. After all, the chances of success were slim. Negligible, even. However... he had managed to scavenge many treasures while in the fourth palace. In the fifth, besides refining his scabbard, he had also dug up quite a few rare materials.

Even though most had been expended during the refinement of his scabbard, the fact that there had been tremendous gains couldn't be disputed. Wang Baole was caught in a dilemma. He wanted to accept the mission in the sixth palace and continue his hunt for treasures, but he was also worried that he might not make it out alive.

After some thought, Wang Baole coughed. He first gained Little Missy's favor with passionate declarations, buttering her up with a round of a** kissing, then seized the moment for a few questions.

"Little Missy, is there any way for me to not complete the mission in the sixth palace but be able to teleport back any time I wish, just like what happened earlier?"

"You're planning to go scavenging for treasures, aren't you..." Little Missy asked coolly, her tone of voice clearly indicating that she knew exactly what he was thinking. Then, she spoke again, with a voice of great experience.

"So be it. Considering how hard you worked earlier, I'll help you. Just this once, though," Little Missy said proudly, like a little princess.

Wang Baole blinked. He knew the underlying message behind Little Missy's words. Based on his understanding of her, she was probably only capable of performing one last teleportation. That was why she had said what she had said.

"That's enough!" Wang Baole was overcome with excitement. Out of habit, he showered her with flattery again, continuing until Little Missy was basking in increasing comfort and praise. Then, he took a deep breath and marched towards the grand halls of the sixth palace.

Wang Baole stopped in his tracks just before he was about to enter the sixth palace. He turned and saw Kong Dao before the third palace. He had just been teleported over!

That meant that Kong Dao had successfully passed the test for outer sect disciples in the second palace. What lay before him was the test for inner sect disciples in the third palace!

Should he pass that too, he'd share the same rank and status as Zhao Yameng. Kong Dao lifted his head then as well. He saw Wang Baole standing before the sixth palace in the distance and smiled. He raised his hand in a wave, then sat down and began the healing process.

Wang Baole stared at Kong Dao and at Zhao Yameng, who was in the midst of her cultivation in the fourth palace. Then, he turned and eyed the sixth palace before him. His eyes shone brightly with a strange and intense light. Soon, he sighed.

It's impossible to pass. I bet no one in the entire history of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace has ever tried going through the sixth palace while at the Core Formation realm. I mean, look at the increasing levels of difficulty. The fourth palace is at the Nascent Soul realm level and the fifth palace, while unique, is also probably at the Soul Conduit realm level. Based on such deduction, the sixth palace should minimally be at the Spirit Immortal realm level. In fact, it might even be at the level of the Planet realm, Wang Baole thought, regret filling his heart. He might have already achieved the status and rank of a personal disciple, but he would have his name listed down in history if he could pass the final palace.

He was also really interested in the higher disciple ranks, including the Vast Expanse Dao disciple rank.

Whatever, we'll see where this takes us. There's no harm in trying since we're already here. Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. After some thought, he took a step forward and entered the halls of the sixth palace.

Darkness surrounded him. It was as if he had stepped into the abyss. Wang Baole had already gotten used to this though, as it had been the same for the fourth and fifth palaces. He stood calmly in the pitch-black darkness while he waited for a cold voice devoid of emotions to announce his mission details.

He didn't have to wait long. The voice appeared, as expected, and echoed in the emptiness of the sixth palace.

"The adopted disciple trial at the sixth palace shall commence after the span of a hundred breaths.

"Please prepare yourself. You shall be teleported to one of the civilizations in the Never-Ending Clan alliance... the fifth planet on the ninth orbit belonging to the Twilight Cyperus Clan. You have to destroy the Tower of Sudden Rage. Your mission is complete when you destroy the tower and return. The mission is extremely difficult. Please practice caution!"

"If no explicit refusal is provided during the span of a hundred breaths, the mission shall be deemed as accepted. Please note that..." The cold, emotionless voice was completely flat as it went on. However, this time, just as it reached a certain juncture, it suddenly paused without completing the rest of the statement!

Wang Baole thought he heard an indistinct cough, or perhaps he hadn't. It might be his ears playing tricks on him. But the entire sixth palace, the entire Worship Palace Pavilion, in fact, suddenly trembled at that moment—without Wang Baole even realizing it.

It was as if a force originating from the deepest recesses of this universe had suddenly flexed its muscle in front of the Worship Palace Pavilion. Thus, the pavilion trembled, and inside the sixth palace, the cold, emotionless voice paused, and then it went off-script.

"The adopted disciple trial at the sixth palace shall commence after the span of a hundred breaths.

"Please prepare yourself. You shall be teleported to the Skandha Dao Planet, where you have to gain enlightenment marks. You may activate the teleportation spell after gaining one enlightenment mark! The level of difficulty for this mission is unknown. It is a reward-based mission. Please practice..."

Wang Baole was stunned when he heard what the voice said. The two missions were miles apart in terms of difficulty. Wang Baole felt incredulous. However, just like the last round, before the voice could finish speaking, a cough—which seemed like a trick played on his ears—echoed in the air once again!

Wang Baole's eyes widened. He was sure he wasn't hearing things. He turned his head and stared at the surrounding emptiness. He said, with a solemn expression on his face.

"Who is it!"

Wang Baole received no reply to his question. The voice announcing the missions for the sixth palace reappeared after a span of a dozen breaths. This time, it seemed less cold and more sullen...

"Please prepare yourself. You shall be teleported to the Queen Beetle Planet, where you have to marry..."

"Cough!"

"Please prepare yourself. You shall be teleported to the Celestial Entity Planet, where your physical form shall be transformed into that of a Celestial Entity Warrior..."

"Cough!"

...

Wang Baole stood there, terrified, as the coughing continued incessantly. He was of the mind to give up. This was simply too bizarre. But the voice grew sour, and the missions it spoke sent Wang Baole's heart racing even faster. The temptation was irresistible.

Regardless, no matter how tempting the mission details seemed, Wang Baole managed to shove down those greedy thoughts. He caught a window of opportunity, when the voice was once again interrupted by a cough, to yell out hurriedly.

"I give up! I made the wrong move. I give up!"

The rules dictated that Wang Baole be teleported out of the sixth palace as soon as he gave up accepting the mission. However, what happened next... was the sulking voice ignored him blatantly. To be more precise—it didn't dare not ignore him.

Wang Baole stood bewildered and terrified, calling out to Little Missy to no avail as the sullen voice announced a dozen or so missions before a mission was finally declared without being interrupted by a cough!

"Great and esteemed contender, please prepare yourself. You shall be teleported to Mi Luo Forest, where your mission is to slay a Star Fang Beast cub and extract its core. Great contender, please exercise caution and take extreme care, so that your precious person won't be placed in too much danger. A newly born Star Fang Beast cub can rival a cultivator at the Soul Conduit realm, while its adult form can hold its own against a perfected Planet realm cultivator. Its Beast King can triumph over one at the Planet realm and reach the level of the Eternal Star realm.

"In view of your highly esteemed status, regardless of your success in slaying the beast, you will be deemed as having passed the trial. You may choose to return any time after entering the trial!"

The voice no longer sounded sullen. It seemed as if it was trying to gain someone's favor. That didn't comfort Wang Baole at all. His hair stood on end, and he began to sweat profusely. Shivering inwardly, he was about to turn down the mission when his vision suddenly blurred. The teleportation had begun.

Wang Baole vanished from the sixth palace amidst the rumbling...

Chapter 607: There's Nothing Here...

The Mi Luo Forest wasn't an actual name. It got its name because of its star system's unique appearance. Should one stand at the highest point in the star system, they would be able to view the star system in its entirety. It was in the shape of an enormous tree.

Its planets weren't exactly spherical in shape. Under the rules governing this star system, they had evolved to become tree-shaped entities, big and small. They even had branches and leaves. If one were to extend their spiritual senses outward and do a quick sweep, they might end up with the wrong idea—that there was a patch of forest in the middle of space.

That was how Mi Luo Forest came to be known by that name.

There were two reasons for its renown in the Never-Ending Clan's Dao Domain. The first reason was that thousands of species of beasts lived in the Mi Luo Forest. Nearly all these species had extremely powerful kings. There were even five species with their own, even more powerful, Ancestral Beasts!

That was why Mi Luo Forest's name had spread far and wide in the Dao Domain run by the Never-Ending Clan. No one dared offend the civilization. Arising from the second reason, the Never-Ending Clan didn't dare do so either. The second reason being... the Mi Luo Forest was one of the few galaxies that the Never-Ending Clan was wary of and granted self-governance to!

Presently, on one of the many tree-shaped planets in the Mi Luo Forest, one of the habitats where the Star Fang Beasts roamed, a terrified and bewildered Wang Baole descended with the blinding flash of a teleportation.

The Star Fang Beast was one of the thousands of species in the Mi Luo Forest. It wasn't ranked as one of the top five hundred beasts, and its reproductive ability and power were both ordinary. However, it possessed an ability that allowed it to refashion a planet. It was like a craftsman that could reshape a planet's environment to better suit a species' characteristics.

To do so though, it would not only need a planet but also the flesh and blood of vast quantities of cultivators as well as numerous souls. These were easily attainable in the Mi Luo Forest. In their eyes, a great many civilizations were merely prey.

The Star Fang Beasts' unique ability led to its acceptance into the Mi Luo Forest, and it became a member of the Beast Clan Alliance. Its unique ability allowed it to thrive in this galaxy.

The group of craftsmen had put in great efforts in reshaping their own planet. Its temperature was extremely high, and flames could be seen escaping from the ground and rising to the air everywhere on the planet. The entire place was like an enormous tree caught on fire.

Wang Baole appeared on a plain on this fiery tree. He yelped as soon as he popped into existence. The temperature was simply scorching. His hair and eyebrows caught on fire as soon as he appeared. He hurriedly activated his cultivation. With his resilient physical body and his understanding of fire-based spells, he barely managed to withstand the heat.

Wang Baole knew that he couldn't keep this up for long, though. If he didn't leave soon, he might end up as literal toast.

"Heavens, who did I offend exactly? Why did they shuffle through dozens of missions to throw me into this place? Little Missy, Little Missy, I haven't done anything to you!" Wang Baole cried out furiously as he moved swiftly, desperate to find somewhere that wasn't as scorching hot.

"Shut up!" Little Missy's tone was nasty. It seemed like she was on the verge of going crazy.

"This wasn't me. I don't know who the hell it is. Maybe the Artifact Spirit in the Worship Palace Pavilion has gone crazy. You think I would willingly come to someplace like this? It's no biggie, though. I can do something about it. In fact, we can simply teleport back..." Little Missy snorted. Before she was done speaking though, a dozen incredible auras erupted in the distant space above the planet!

The aura's power was enough to move stars. It filled the heavens and sent the planet shaking. Flames burst from the ground and transformed the land into an ocean of fire. As fire rose to the skies, Little Missy fell silent. Wang Baole quaked in his boots. Any of these auras was a match for the enormous hand on the Vast Expanse Dao Planet. In fact, every one of these auras was slightly more powerful than the hand!

This... dear heavens, what exactly is this hellish place? Wang Baole was on the verge of tears. The thought of a dozen Eternal Star realm cultivators on this planet made his scalp prickle with numbness. What made it worse were the numerous auras at the Soul Conduit, Spirit Immortal, and Planet realms erupting on the planet.

The ocean of fire erupting on the planet seemed to be a joyous event. Wang Baole could see in the distance, the dancing shadows of beasts filling the space between sky and land. The sight terrified Wang Baole. He couldn't breathe. He was about to call for Little Missy to teleport him away. It was then that a thunderous rumbling erupted from the skies.

The explosions in the ocean of fire intensified, and the entire planet quaked. The excited howls of beasts echoed in the air as an enormous fire appeared in the distant sky!

The fire was hundreds of thousands of feet tall. It smashed into the planet like a meteor. Despite it being far away, Wang Baole could still see an enormous beast in the ocean of fire!

The beast was shaped like an enormous, round meatball. It was covered in sharp, blade-like thorns and had four eyes. Its open maw looked vicious. The aura exploding from the beast as it landed surpassed that of the dozen auras that shook the planet. It was like a king had just returned.

Wang Baole only got a glance before his head started ringing from Little Missy's horrified shriek.

"A Beast King! Get down to your feet, fatty! I'm going to cast a spell. D*mn that wretched Worship Palace Pavilion, teleporting us to this d*mned place. I'm going to tear the whole place down when I get back!" Wang Baole trembled and fell to the ground. He couldn't care less about the scorching ground or

the burning pain as he hurriedly crawled over to a large rock nearby. Little Missy's shaky voice echoed in his head.

"There's nothing here, there's nothing here..."

Perhaps Little Missy did have some tricks up her sleeve, or perhaps it was pure good luck. Regardless, the Star Fang Beast King didn't notice Wang Baole as it landed. The Star Fang Beasts continued to cheer while fires continued to erupt from the ground without stopping.

A long time passed, and Wang Baole felt he was about to be cooked alive. His mouth was dry and his eyes about to spew fire. He said desperately.

"Little Missy, quick, teleport us away!"

"You think I don't want to? I've tried a dozen times! There's a hex in place, I can't perform a teleportation!" Answering Wang Baole was a yell from Little Missy, which wasn't aligned with her image at all.

It was clear that she had no energy for keeping up appearances in such a critical situation. If she were to show herself now, one might see her pulling at her hair in frustration and anxiety.

Wang Baole began to feel anxious. He sighed. While simmering with frustration, he saw something next to the rock. The fires burning the ground left shining crystalline objects behind.

He blinked, then crawled over and dug them out. After a detailed inspection, his eyes widened, and his breathing quickened. He almost shouted in surprise.

Is this Supreme Fire Ore? Emotions rushed through Wang Baole in waves. There were no records of such materials on Earth. He had first found one in the list of materials required for repairing the Dark Sampan, then in records found in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. It was an extremely rare and valuable refinement material. Using it on an ordinary Dharmic Armament would greatly boost the latter's power.

It was also an essential material for refining Divine Armaments as well as one of the core materials for repairing a Dark Artifact!

Wang Baole became extremely excited after some careful examination and final confirmation. His eyes sparkled, and he stopped caring about Little Missy's teleportation. Wang Baole looked around hurriedly and saw another Supreme Fire Crystal. He bore the pain as he crawled over hastily and grabbed it. He put it away immediately and began hunting around again.

While Wang Baole continued his hunt for Supreme Fire Ores, Little Missy kept trying to activate the teleportation. On the same planet, on a mountain peak not particularly far away from Wang Baole, the drinking youth from the Vast Expanse Dao Planet once again made his appearance. He was lying on a huge rock, drinking, with his wooden sword lying haphazardly next to him. He had a smile on his face as he stared in the direction where Wang Baole was. Hidden deep in his eyes were wisps of nostalgia and remembrance.

After a long moment, the youth suddenly laughed.

"You like Supreme Fire Stones so much?" He said softly. He lifted his right hand and waved it casually at the ground. The entire star began to tremble instantly, and underground streams of Supreme Fire Stone

vein caved in. It was as if an invisible force was moving them—from all directions deep underground—rapidly, towards... Wang Baole!

Chapter 608: A Complete Suite of Premium Services!

At present, Wang Baole was crawling over to another Supreme Fire Stone more than a hundred feet away. He obviously viewed these stones as precious items. There were so few of them around that he hunted for a long time and only managed to find three such pieces. They were all rather small.

These are all extremely rare treasures. Wang Baole crawled over happily and picked up the Supreme Fire Stone. He examined the stone and became rather pleased.

Even though the environment was horrid, and Little Missy wouldn't let him stand up at all—it seemed like her abilities required him to stick close to the ground to reduce the likelihood of being discovered, which meant he was being roasted alive and felt miserable—the hardships were worth it if he were able to pick up a Supreme Fire Stone.

Little Missy noticed the expression on Wang Baole's face. She had been trying multiple times to teleport them out of this place and had failed just as many times. Frustrated, she couldn't control the snort that escaped from her.

"Overjoyed over a few stupid stones? You should be better than this!"

"You don't understand. This is a Supreme Fire Stone. Do you know what that is?" Wang Baole grew unhappy when he heard what she said. It was an insult to the Supreme Fire Stones. It was as offensive as calling him a fatty.

"Supreme Fire Stones can only be formed from the destruction of an entire star system. Its creation requires the most stringent of conditions. A single piece of it, no matter how tiny, is incredibly rare and valuable. This star system must have undergone some major destruction or catastrophe, followed by rebirth or reconstruction, for there to be so many pieces of it here!" Wang Baole said coolly as he shared his knowledge with Little Missy.

Little Missy might pretend to know everything, but Wang Baole had long seen through her disguise. It was all an act. She might pretend to know it all, but in actual fact, she only knew a bit of everything.

Little Missy was dazed by what Wang Baole had said. She was about to say something when Wang Baole interrupted her.

"I bet that there's a limited quantity of Supreme Fire Stones on this planet. They've been scattered across the planet. It's unfortunate that we can't harvest them all. To be able to pick up these few is already an unexpected windfall." Wang Baole sighed and stored the Supreme Fire Stone into his storage bracelet. He had checked the surrounding area while grabbing this particular Supreme Fire Stone, and there were no other stones in the area. It was regrettable but also entirely understandable.

He raised his head and was about to ask Little Missy how she was handling the teleportation. It was then that suddenly, Little Missy's voice echoed in his head. There was a strange quality to her voice.

"You sure this stupid stone is extremely rare and precious?"

"Of course, it's..." Wang Baole raised his eyebrow. He spoke, but he didn't manage to get all his words out before Little Missy coughed.

"Lift your head and look towards your right. A thousand feet away. There's one there."

Wang Baole froze. He immediately lifted his head and took a look. There was indeed a Supreme Fire Stone in the distance. He was shocked. He recalled searching the area earlier, but there hadn't been anything there. He crawled over. His body shook, and his eyes widened. His eyes almost popped out of his skull as he stared at the area a thousand feet away.

There... had been only a single Supreme Fire Stone a while ago. However, in the blink of an eye, a second, third, then fourth... piece appeared. That wasn't the end of it. Within a span of a few breaths, Supreme Fire Stones seemed to have dug their way out from the ground and piled up crazily. It took but a moment... for a small mountain of stones to form!

There were so many of them that it was likely they numbered in the thousands. More Supreme Fire Stones continued to surface... A second mountain of Supreme Fire Stones was formed, followed by a third, then a fourth... Stones continued to make their way out from the ground and gather into a pile.

The entire process took an estimated half an hour. Wang Baole sprawled on his belly. It was as if he had just been struck by a bolt of lightning. He was in a daze and had almost stopped breathing. He watched, stunned, as eight small mountains of Supreme Fire Stones formed around him!

"This... this..." Wang Baole opened his mouth and stuttered. His head was buzzing. He had this feeling of incredulity overcome him. It made his hair stand. He began to sweat profusely, and his scalp prickled.

Even Little Missy was at a loss for words. In fact, reading too much into what was going on around them only terrified her further. After a long bout of silence, she took a breath in, then whispered.

"Baole, is this... is this your home? I mean, as soon as you mentioned Supreme Fire Stones, these stupid stones started appearing and gathering themselves in front of you... I had a quick look. They seemed to have come from a quarry. They've even been cut up nicely... Every piece is approximately the same size as the rest."

Wang Baole looked around him in bewilderment. Little Missy's words confused him. Perhaps he wasn't only the child of Earth, Mars, and the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, but that of the Mi Luo Forest as well?

Wang Baole shook his head vehemently at that thought. He must have been misled by Little Missy. Whatever was going on was simply too bizarre and creepy. Wang Baole immediately recalled the multiple changes to his mission details in the sixth palace.

Someone wants me to be here! Wang Baole's eyes flashed, and his breathing quickened. He tried to gather as many Supreme Fire Stones as he could take with him. After filling his storage bracelet to the brim, he finally took a deep breath. Then, he thought for a bit and shouted suddenly, "I still need a Star Fang Beast's core!"

Little Missy immediately went on high alert after Wang Baole said that. As her anxiety reached its peak, the youth drinking on the distant volcano laughed out loud.

“Little junior brother, you’re not shy at all when asking for things from your senior brother. So be it, I’ll let you have what you want!”

Having said that, the youth raised his right hand and pointed. This time, his finger pointed towards the Star Fang Beast Clan’s abode. Within the abode, amidst the cheering Star Fang Beasts, two gigantic Star Fang Beasts at the Spirit Immortal realm suddenly trembled. They took a few steps back and raced into the distance.

The rest of the clan didn’t notice their departure. There seemed to be some form of power that was playing interference and preventing the beasts, including the Beast King, from realizing what was going on. As for the two Star Fang Beasts, even though they came from different directions, they were racing towards the same destination.

It was... located ten thousand feet away, where Wang Baole was!

Both beasts had attained phenomenal success in the Spirit Immortal realm. As a result, they were frighteningly swift. As soon as Wang Baole had uttered his request, he felt two incredible auras, each approaching from opposite directions swiftly. His heart began to race, and he fell to the ground immediately... It was then he saw two gigantic Star Fang Beasts appear, one to his left and the other to his right.

They had a fearsome expression on their faces and rotund bodies. The blades covering their entire bodies gave them a terrifying, vicious appearance. Their eyes were red as if they had gone mad. They raced towards his location!

“They really came...” Wang Baole trembled nervously. The beasts’ auras were too overpowering. He frantically called out to Little Missy, asking her to teleport them out of this place immediately.

“Wang Baole, you jinx! The teleportation can’t be activated. What else do you want me to do?” Little Missy yelled at him. Sorrow flashed across Wang Baole’s face. He knew there was no way for him to escape the beasts. He was about to say something when something out of this world happened!

The two Star Fang Beasts approached the area where Wang Baole was located, but they didn’t spare him a single glance. Instead, they stared at each other, then charged headfirst into the other!

It seemed that they wanted to savor the battle, as they had suppressed their cultivation. Their cultivation was literally sealed at the moment of collision, transforming them into ordinary beasts. They raced speedily towards each other, approaching in a blur, then smashed into each other violently!

There was a thunderous boom. There was no collateral damage since both Star Fang Beasts had sealed their cultivation. Blood dripped down their faces as they spat out mouthfuls of blood. Heavily injured from the collision, they fell to the ground with a thud. Their round bodies rolled over and stopped before Wang Baole, who was frozen in fear.

Wang Baole looked completely lost. Little Missy was in a daze as well. Something even more terrifying happened next... The grievously injured Star Fang Beasts began to claw out their own cores right before Wang Baole’s eyes. They placed their cores before Wang Baole, then their bodies twitched, and they finally breathed their last breath!

Even dead, their corpses continued to exude a terrifying aura. Wang Baole couldn't breathe. The series of bizarre events that had happened was beyond his wildest imagination.

What was truly horrifying... wasn't the beasts' suicidal collision. It was the fact that they had thought to spare an ounce of their energy after that, as if they were worried he might not be able to slice their skin open. To circumvent that, they had thoughtfully dug out their own cores. They had offered a complete suite of premium services. It made Wang Baole break out in a cold sweat.

Chapter 609: Call Me Senior Brother

This is too royal a treatment... Wang Baole wiped the cold sweat off his forehead. The premium services were almost tailor-made. He was overwhelmed and freaked out. He might lack shame and think himself blessed by Lady Fortune on Earth, Mars, the ancient greenish-bronze sword, and even the Black Spirit Dwarf Planet. But believing that Lady Fortune herself had followed him all the way to this planet of the Star Fang Beasts was a step too far.

Little Missy was equally shocked. She had witnessed the entire series of events—from stones automatically piling up before Wang Baole, to his casual statement, followed by two Star Fang Beasts, which had attained phenomenal success at the Spirit Immortal realm, charging into each other and suffering massive injuries, and finally these beasts digging out their own cores right before they died...

Little Missy was completely bewildered by everything that had happened. For a long moment, she was at a loss for words.

Wang Baole's shamelessness proved to be of some use at this juncture. He recovered quickly from his confusion. He suppressed his shivers, coughed, then said coolly, "See that, Little Missy? Meeting me is the best thing you've done in your life," Wang Baole said. He raised his right hand and waved. The two beast cores flew into his hand instantly. He could feel the terrifying auras as well as indescribable waves of Spirit Qi emanating from the cores. His body began to tremble as if it were struggling to withstand the power of the Spirit Qi.

Wang Baole fought to look calm though, in order to keep up appearances. He flung the cores into his storage bracelet. Then, he stared at the two corpses with bright eyes.

The corpse of a beast that had attained phenomenal success at the Spirit Immortal realm was a treasure trove. Its skin, blood, flesh—even its organs and bones—were considered top-tier materials for refining artifacts or pills in the Federation.

If news of his bounty were to reach the Federation, it would shock everyone. It would shock the whole world.

Wang Baole contemplated if he should stuff the two corpses into his storage bracelet, which was already almost filled to the brim and lacking space. It was then that multiple auras suddenly erupted on the planet!

Perhaps someone had discovered that something was amiss, or perhaps they had discovered the auras of two Spirit Immortal realm Star Fang Beasts had vanished. An incredible aura, one that belonged to a

Star Fang Beast King, erupted at that very moment. It seemed colored with slight suspicion as well as anger as it swept across the entire planet.

It immediately discovered Wang Baole's presence. The powerful aura shook with intense waves of emotions when it discovered the two corpses!

"Die!" A voice that seemed to originate from the depths of one's soul blasted Wang Baole's spiritual senses. It shook the heavens and earth, affecting the entire land. The planet shook violently in that instant, and fires burst from the ground. It was as if a force rivaling that of the apocalypse was threatening to wipe Wang Baole off the face of this world!

Everything happened in a blur. Wang Baole had no time to react as fires rose to the sky around him. They formed a gigantic hand that seemed as if it intended to wipe Wang Baole out in a single swipe.

An impending sense of doom overcame him. Wang Baole heard Little Missy scream. His vision turned dark the next moment. He was like a lone raft adrift on a stormy sea, tossed about by violent waves and on the verge of utter annihilation.

An arrogant snort coming from somewhere on the planet rang out at that moment. The instant that happened, the gigantic hand formed from fire froze. It disintegrated soundlessly. The earlier, overpowering aura dissipated simultaneously.

The world before Wang Baole's eyes finally returned to its original state. A shocked and pale Wang Baole fell back hurriedly. His right hand rose and yanked—the two corpses flew into his storage bracelet instantly. To accommodate both corpses, Wang Baole even suffered the pains of discarding numerous puppets and other items.

He barely fit the corpses in his stuffed storage bracelet. Having survived the sudden turn of events, a trembling Little Missy tried to activate the teleportation again. There were no interference this time, and she managed to succeed without a hitch!

The energy waves of a teleportation rumbled around Wang Baole. Just as the teleportation was fully activated, a furious howl rang out from the distant abode of the Star Fang Beasts.

"This is the Hundred Clan Alliance's Mi Luo Forest. No matter who you are, you will regret having harmed the Star Fang Beast Clan!"

Numerous auras belonging to Star Fang Beasts rose to the skies following the furious howl. The heavens trembled as dozens of silhouettes belonging to enormous Star Fang Beasts appeared in the sky. They looked like gigantic meatballs from afar. Each one of them exuded a powerful aura that distorted space. The Star Fang Beast King seemed to stand for the star itself. The immense power exuding from it warped Wang Baole's teleportation, destabilizing it. The teleportation might be disrupted at any moment.

The army of Star Fang Beasts rushed towards Wang Baole as soon as it appeared. The lands quaked, and fires erupted from the ground and rose into the sky. An incredible power, strong enough to destroy everything in its path, swept forward with the charging army!

Wang Baole grew pale. It was as if that incredible power was crushing both his cultivation and his physical body. He couldn't move, and he could hardly breathe at all. Little Missy grew increasingly

frantic. The teleportation spell wavered like a candle's flame in the wind, a flame that was shrinking rapidly.

Everything happened within a single moment. Death approached. It was then that Wang Baole heard a gentle, soothing voice in his head. It belonged to a man and sounded vaguely familiar.

"Come, Baole, call for your senior brother. I'll help you deal with this."

The voice didn't sound serious at all. In fact, it had a teasing lilt to it. It echoed in Wang Baole's head. Wang Baole didn't even blink and immediately shouted, "Senior Brother, save me!"

As soon as Wang Baole said that, laughter erupted in the heavens. An enormous, illusory hand filled the entire sky. It seemed infinitely big. It swept across the sky nonchalantly, like smacking balls out of the sky. The Star Fang Beast King and its army of powerful beasts, which had stood strong and powerful a moment ago, shook violently. They were no match at all for the illusory hand as it batted them away and flung them into the distance.

A few failed to withstand the casual blow and were crushed instantly. Those that didn't perish were grievously injured. Even the Beast King spat out a mouthful of blood. Its silhouette warped in the air. Shock flickered in its eyes as it stared at the sky, its voice shaking as it howled.

"Who the hell are you!"

The hand in the sky faded away amidst the Beast King's roar, and an enormous face appeared in its place. It floated in the sky. The face seemed to belong to a young man. He had a fair complexion, long narrow eyes, and freckles sprinkled across his face. It was a rather handsome face that gave an impression of its owner being gentle and mild-mannered. In reality though, the overpowering aura that it exuded made the planet tremble. It was as if he could destroy the planet with a single thought!

The Star Fang Beast King wasn't the only one shaking, Wang Baole was too. His wasn't out of fear though. He shook because he knew that face!

"You... you..." Wang Baole's eyes widened. Waves of emotions threatened to pull him under. He instantly realized the cause of the bizarre events on this planet!

Little Missy's breathing quickened as well. She sneaked a look at the enormous face in the sky. The longer she stared at it, the more handsome she found it...

"A moment ago, you just begged me to help you. Now that I've saved you, you're saying you don't recognize me?" The face in the sky stared at Wang Baole's shocked face as he spoke mildly. He smiled faintly, then spoke again.

"So be it. I suppose this is our first true meeting. Let this senior brother of yours do a self-introduction. I'm... your senior brother, Chen Qing!" the face said, then glanced over at the trembling Star Fang Beast King. He continued in a casual tone, "...and the first Divine King of the Never-Ending Clan!"

Chapter 610: Return and Breakthrough

Chen Qing's voice wasn't overbearing or authoritative. Regardless, the entire world fell silent as soon as his words rang out... The Star Fang Beast King trembled. Incredulity and shock—rare emotions for a creature as powerful as it was—flickered in its eyes. It seemed to have lost the power of speech.

The remaining Star Fang Beasts fared no better. Chen Qing's casual words formed an overpowering force that weighed down on all living creatures. The ability to think fled the creatures.

It was the same for Wang Baole. His mind seemed to be suffering from a relentless assault of deafening thunder. He might have lived through a Dark Dream, and his master in the dream might have cautioned him about Chen Qing. He might even have wondered about the true relationship between himself and his senior brother, Chen Qing.

Nevertheless, he had only thought about it. He wasn't prepared at all for this meeting. In fact, he had never thought that he would meet this person, who had been in his dreams, so soon!

His memories of the Dark Dream merged with reality at that instant. The image of his senior brother, who had smiled at him in his dream and told him he had found his Dao partner in his next life, gradually merged with the face hovering in the sky before him. Everything seemed clearer now. Wang Baole could only feel a complex myriad of emotions growing inside him. He wanted to speak but was at a loss for words. The familiar and the foreign had crossed paths, and that only made him silent.

Chen Qing's appearance stabilized the teleportation's energy waves. The spell grew stronger amidst Wang Baole's silence until it reached its peak and erupted. Wang Baole began to fade from view.

The Star Fang Beasts watched Wang Baole leave. None of them dared to stop him. They trembled and gazed at their Beast King, but the Beast King could only pretend that it hadn't seen their stares. Shaking with anxiety and fear, it tried waiting for reinforcements from other Beast Clans.

Wang Baole's silhouette grew blurrier amidst his growing silence. He didn't notice how Little Missy had also fallen silent after Chen Qing revealed his identity. She seemed to have been shocked severely by the declaration.

The teleportation was almost complete. It was then that Chen Qing smiled faintly. He seemed to understand what Wang Baole was thinking. He said gently, "Junior Brother Baole, the Dao awaits you. You don't have much time left. Settle your affairs after you return... After I'm done with mine, I'll make for your galaxy and bring you away!"

Wang Baole's heart trembled when he heard what Chen Qing said. He was about to question him when the teleportation became fully activated. Wang Baole vanished from the planet amidst deafening rumbling. When he reappeared again, he was back on the ancient greenish-bronze sword. He had returned to the Worship Palace Pavilion and stood before the grand halls of the seventh palace!

The residual energies of the teleportation surged outwards, whipping up a storm around him. Strong winds swept out in all directions. Wang Baole stumbled. His face had turned pale due to the distance he had teleported, and his breathing had quickened significantly. The expression on his face showed the mixed feelings he was experiencing as Chen Qing's last words echoed in his head.

“The Dao awaits me? What does that mean? He said... he’ll be taking me away?” Wang Baole was confused. Their meeting had been too sudden and their parting too abrupt. There were too many unknowns.

The only thing that he knew was that Chen Qing had clearly been pulling the strings behind this trial. There was also Chen Qing’s identity as an Divine King of the Never-Ending Clan—one of the main reasons for his earlier silence.

“The first Divine King...” Wang Baole muttered. He recalled what Little Missy had said earlier, about a mysterious and powerful figure in the Never-Ending Clan who was, in fact, a member of the Dark Sect. He hadn’t believed her words then and had thought she had been spinning wild tales. It seemed that she had spoken the truth.

Wang Baole couldn’t help but feel doubtful though. He still felt that something wasn’t right. Little Missy had claimed that she had been this person’s disciple. After analyzing the facts, Wang Baole concluded that while Little Missy might have somewhat exaggerated the truth, she clearly knew part of what had truly happened.

“Little Missy, you... knew a long time ago that the first Divine King was Chen Qing, who had been from the Dark Sect, didn’t you?” Wang Baole sighed, then said softly.

“...” Little Missy opened her mouth, but she couldn’t find the right words. Earlier, on the planet where the Star Fang Beasts resided, countless ancient curse words had flashed across her mind when Chen Qing had revealed his identity. They would be the equivalent of “what the hell” in the Federation.

She was in a complete daze now. It was partly because of Chen Qing’s identity, and partly because of what she had said to Wang Baole. Her words seemed imbued with a strange, miraculous power. Whatever she said would come true. It was incredulous.

The second reason was the greater shock to her. She had a feeling that her cultivation must have advanced yet again, as there was no other explanation for her earlier bluff coming true in such a short period of time. She never knew she had such great power—to transform mere words into reality...

Fortunately, Little Missy had mastered the art of shamelessness during her time with Wang Baole. She took a deep breath, then, with a tinge of arrogance in her voice, said coolly, “Due to certain reasons, which I couldn’t explain to you, I could only hide the truth in between the lines. If you know it... you know it. If you don’t, then you’ll likely never know in this lifetime.” Little Missy spoke with the voice of experience, her tone vaguely bragging. She was secretly pleased with her quick mind. She wasn’t lying to him. She had her reasons, and she hadn’t known how to spell them out to him. Her reason was... she herself hadn’t known how to spin a plausible tale then.

Wang Baole grew solemn. Little Missy’s words seemed deep with meaning. He calmed down and pushed aside the shock he had felt from meeting his senior brother, Chen Qing, on the Star Fang Beasts’ home planet. Then, he lifted his head and stared at the seventh palace before him. After some thought, he pulled out the two beast cores in his storage bracelet.

Heavy waves of Spirit Qi exuded from the cores instantly, flooding the area and sending Wang Baole’s heart racing. He knew that his standing here meant that he had successfully completed the trial in the sixth palace. However, he wasn’t missing any beast cores.

The thought flashed across Wang Baole's mind momentarily. He didn't think too much about the matter though. Even an idiot could have guessed that his powerful senior brother must have been the cause of this. Presently, he was considering how best to use the beast core for his maximum benefit.

"Little Missy, can this be eaten?" Wang Baole asked after some thought.

"Of course. You'll just go 'boom' after that... Your body will just blow up, and your spirit will be utterly destroyed. If you don't want to die young, you'll have to slowly absorb its nutrients with your devouring seed. You and I aren't the same. I ate a God's Body Fruit when I was a kid, which gave me an indestructible physical body. I had these Spirit Immortal grade beast cores as candy when I was three years old. They're the tiniest of all the sweets I ate!" Little Missy said casually, stressing heavily on the word "boom".

Wang Baole blinked and immediately abandoned the idea of eating both beast cores. He sat down and placed the cores before him. Then, after some thought, he activated the devouring seed inside his body. An immense suction force erupted from his body suddenly and enveloped the beast cores.

Within the blink of an eye, incredible Spirit Qi began to emanate from the beast cores. Wang Baole's devouring seed was like a black hole, sucking every bit of the Spirit Qi into his body. As it churned, Wang Baole's cultivation began to advance rapidly. He broke through the late-stage Core Formation realm and attained the perfected stage in an instant.

That wasn't the end of it. As the devouring seed continued its absorption, Wang Baole's cultivation grew, like an expanding balloon. Time passed in a blur. Wang Baole could feel himself filled to the brim. It was as if his body was being pushed to its limits. He opened his eyes then and assessed his cultivation. Excitement filled him.

"The perfected Core Formation realm!"

He had a breakthrough in cultivation in such a short span of time. Even Little Missy grew slightly envious of his good fortune. The two beast cores hadn't even been drained of many nutrients. They were like Spirit Stones filled with infinite energy and would be able to provide him with the Spirit Qi he needed on his path of cultivation.

It was clear that this was half of the gift Wang Baole's senior brother had left him after their first meeting!

The other half would be the two Star Fang Beasts' corpses. Wang Baole knew that the body of a beast at the Spirit Immortal realm—down to its skin and bones—was a treasure trove. He had other plans for the corpses though. He planned to find a way to use the bodies in their entirety, refining them and turning them into puppets!

Should he succeed, Wang Baole had a feeling he would be able to have his way in the Solar System.

"That should take quite a bit of time. I'll study how to get it done when I return. If there's really no way of doing it, it's still not too late to strip the bodies down to their skin and bones!" Wang Baole perked up at the thought. It was great to have such a powerful senior brother.