

Dragon King 191

### **Chapter 191: Elevation! Elevation!**

“Cul... cultivation?” Hao Ren’s heart raced, and he almost dropped the phone.

“Hehe, nothing. I happened to see it on TV. It has gotten cold recently; remember to dress warm,” Xie Yujia continued.

“Ok. You take care as well,” Hao Ren said. He suddenly felt like they were quite intimate expressing such concerns for each other.

“When Grandma is back, I’ll go visit her,” Xie Yujia said gently before hanging up.

With the cell phone in his hand, Hao Ren felt warm inside. At least, Zhao Yanzi would never be considerate enough to remind him to dress warmly in the cold weather.

Heaving a sigh of relief, Hao Ren sat back down cross-legged and continued to cultivate. With a happy mind, the knot in his heart was gone.

Beams of five-colored light flashed around him, which was the result of the combination of the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll and the Spirit Concentration Scroll.

The weak sword energies traveled through and around his body. Gradually, although still at Kan-level, Hao Ren felt like he was becoming one with the swords.

The seven openings in the Dragon Core were absorbing and releasing Nature Essence, transmitting five elements into his meridians and blood.

Only three more openings were needed before he could reach Li-level; it would be another significant milestone for him.

He cultivated until midnight, and he felt a bit lonesome when he opened his eyes. Life was a lonely journey.

Pitter, patter. It was drizzling.

The raindrops slipped down from the eaves of his room, dripping on his windows and creating rhythmic sounds.

He tossed and turned on his bed and couldn’t sleep.

Finally, the morning came, but he didn’t want to get up in the coldness even though he was starving.

The lazy atmosphere on this rainy day permeated the whole house. Bored, he picked up a book but found it uninteresting.

If Zhao Yanzi’s Third Uncle’s Heavenly Tribulation wasn’t close, Hao Ren should have been in Zhao Hongyu’s studio helping her.

He was debating with himself if he should get up when he suddenly heard a gentle voice.

“Gongzi!”

He was so startled that he almost jumped out of his bed.

In pale blue casual clothing, the grinning Lu Linlin and Lu Lili pushed open his door and walked in.

“Why... Are you here?” Hao Ren pulled the quilt tightly around him and rolled to the corner of the bed.

“We are here to take care of you, Gongzi.” Lu Linlin walked closer with a grin. She pulled the quilt off him before handing him a change of clothes. “Gongzi, get up and change.”

“And your breakfast is in the living room,” with long pigtales on her back, Lu Lili said softly.

Seeing Hao Ren not moving, Lu Linlin asked again, “Do you want us to help you change?”

“No! No!” Hao Ren waved his hand immediately. “You can go out now.”

Lu Linlin lifted her hand to cover her snickering, and Lu Lili lowered her head and smiled.

They exchanged a look before backing out of his room with satisfaction. Hao Ren heaved a sigh of relief. Hurriedly, he took off his pajamas and changed into the clothes they gave him.

An ordinary guy would feel extremely happy to be followed by two beauties all day long. However, Hao Ren was alarmed by their sudden appearance.

Moreover, the Lu sisters were Kun-level Masters and thus couldn't be driven away by force. Their 'services' were happy tortures.

After walking out of his room, Hao Ren went downstairs and saw a big breakfast on the dining table. He knew that their cooking skills were tolerable. Last time when Zhao Jiayi and the others got the runs after eating the cake the sisters made, the sisters attributed it to the elixir they added in the cake, but Hao Ren was skeptical.

Looking at the big breakfast, Hao Ren didn't want to hurt their feelings by refusing to eat it. Yawning, he sat down with a frown before eating tentatively.

“Huh? This sandwich is delicious. This piece of bread is quite good. And this salad, too.” Seeing the surprise on Hao Ren's face, Lu Linlin and Lu Lili looked at each other and smiled. “Gongzi, how are our cooking skills?”

Hao Ren looked up at them with surprise. “Excellent!”

Lu Linlin and Lu Lili gave him beautiful and content smile before saying in unison, “We are glad you like it!”

Then, they each grabbed a white apron and began to clean the house. The cold and quiet place suddenly became lively.

“Gongzi, we went and visited Taijun yesterday,” Lu Linlin said while handling the vacuum proficiently.

“Oh?” Hao Ren finished the breakfast and stood up.

“We are glad to report that Taijun is in good health, Gongzi,” Lu Lili added.

“Grandma must have been very pleased to see them. The sisters know how to make Grandma happy,” Hao Ren thought to himself.

They were indeed considerate since they spent a whole day visiting Grandma and keeping her company.

“Why do you want to come and do the cleaning for me?” Watching them in aprons like two maids, Hao Ren asked as he began to clear the table.

Today, they still had their hair up, but the difference was that they were wearing the decorative glasses they had once worn.

Combined with their beautiful faces and gorgeous figures, they looked as cute as buttons!

“Gongzi, we are here to apologize.” Lu Lili said, wiping the lamp with a cloth.

“Apologize?”

“Yeah, we shouldn’t have quarreled with your Class President that day,” Lu Lili continued.

Thinking of his mean attitude toward them, Hao Ren felt a bit guilty. “Don’t worry. I hope you won’t quarrel with people in the future.”

“We won’t!” Lu Lili promised with a smile. However, Lu Linlin didn’t speak, obviously still angry at Xie Yujia. Lu Lili must have dragged her here to apologize.

“And we have good news!” Lu Lili’s tone suddenly became joyous.

“What good news?” Her happiness lifted Hao Ren’s mood. The house had become lively with these two girls moving around.

“My sister and I have broken through!” Lu Lili’s eyes sparkled like twinkling stars.

“To... Low-tier Qian-level?” Hao Ren asked cautiously. He remembered Su Han had once told him that Lu Linlin and Lu Lili had possessed powers equivalent to top-tier Kun-level when they were released from the Dragon Palace.

“Our cultivation power is not calculated with that system, but it’s equivalent to the level you just said!” Lu Lili’s face was full of joy.

By her side, Lu Linlin nodded as well.

Low-tier Qian-level!

Two Qian-level Masters! What was more? They were two Qian-level Masters who could coordinate with each other seamlessly.

Su Han was only at middle-tier Qian-level, and Zhao Kuo, who was preparing to the Heavenly Tribulation, was only at top-tier Qian-level!

“Anyway, we didn’t disappoint you and recovered some of our cultivation power,” Lu Linlin looked at Hao Ren and said.

“Well, keep up your good work!” Hao Ren nodded. In fact, he didn’t know what to say.

He wouldn't be surprised if they elevated to middle-tier Qian-level in a short time. No wonder Su Han was concerned about them.

"From what I see, your cultivation strength has also increased," Lu Lili said as she looked at Hao Ren closely.

"Yeah. I have unlocked seven openings. I guess I will reach Li-level soon," Hao Ren said.

"Gongzi, you are awesome!" They complimented him.

Ugh... Hao Ren was embarrassed, knowing that his progress was tiny compared with their leap from Kun-level to Qian-level.

"And you seem to have joined the Inspector System?" Lu Linlin gazed at Hao Ren and said.

"How do you know?" Hao Ren looked at her in surprise.

"There is a faint golden flame mark on your forehead. It's the symbol of Inspector," Lu Linlin poke his forehead with a finger and said.

Hao Ren couldn't see his forehead, but he guessed that there must be a mark that could only be seen by cultivators. Although as an Assisting Inspector, he didn't have much power, the mark was a protection to him.

Although he had never thought of asking Su Han for protection, he was grateful toward her.

Seeing the doubt on Lu Linlin's face, Hao Ren explained, "I'm not an Official Inspector but just an assistant who runs errands for Su Han."

"Assisting Inspector?" Lu Linlin pursed her lips in consideration. "As far as I know, Assisting Inspectors are usually not involved in the business of Dragon God Shrine and are only responsible to their Official Inspectors. But..."

She paused, and Hao Ren felt like something was not right.

"But what?" he asked.

"But the Assisting Inspectors have to be tested each year. If they don't pass it, the consequence is huge..." Lu Linlin said.

"Damn!" Hao Ren almost yelled.

"Su Han, the sly woman! She played me again!" Hao Ren thought that Su Han was only doing a favor to him, but he was tricked into a corner by her.

"Well, according to what we know about it, the Assisting Inspectors are candidates for the positions of Official Inspectors. They are chosen and eliminated each year. Only those with true powers can work with the Official Inspectors. When their strengths grow strong enough, and they have passed the final test, they can become Official Inspectors," Lu Lili added.

Hao Ren was incensed, knowing that he was tricked by Su Han.

“Beside the relationship of superior and subordinate, Assisting Inspectors and Official Inspectors are also partners. The Official Inspectors would tutor the Assisting Inspectors on cultivation while the Assisting Inspectors would help the Official Inspectors accomplish some tasks,” Lu Lili said.

“Stop! Stop!” Hao Ren raised his hand to stop them, feeling a huge headache. He asked the most important question, “Can I quit?”

“Once you become an Assisting Inspector, your name is registered in their headquarters. You have to pass the tests and become an Official Inspector before you can quit. If you quit without permission, you would be eliminated,” Lu Lili answered him.

“Eliminated...” Hao Ren heard the cruel word again.

Life was as cold as snow.

### **Chapter 192: The Heavenly Tribulation Activated!**

After seeing Hao Ren’s astonished expression, Lu Lili continued, “Inspector System is too huge for us to fight against.”

Hao Ren waved his hand and said, “You don’t have to worry about it.”

Inspector System was a mysterious existence, and Hao Ren didn’t think that it was such a bad thing for him to be partly involved in it.

Lu Linlin and Lu Lili stood beside him for further instructions.

“Oh, you haven’t told me your opinions on Natal Dharma Treasures,” Hao Ren said.

“Basically, every cultivator would have a Natal Dharma Treasure, and some techniques would allow for two Natal Dharma Treasures, one for the defense and one for the offense. However, you are cultivating the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll which will eventually enable you to kill enemies with the sword energies alone. I don’t think you need to obtain a Natal Dharma Treasure right now.” Lu Linlin’s opinion was surprisingly similar to that of the little Daoist Zhen.

“What are your Natal Dharma Treasures?” Hao Ren asked.

Lu Linlin and Lu Lili waved their wrists, revealing two exquisite bracelets.

“Qian-Kun Bracelets can be used for defense and attack. Also, they could trap and tie down enemies. They come in a pair, and my sister and I each have one. Their powers would be maximized when both the Qian Bracelet and the Kun Bracelet are used together,” Lu Lili explained.

“Are they mighty?” Hao Ren asked curiously.

“Gongzi, look!” Lu Lili took off her bracelet and tossed it out.

It flew to the sky above the ocean, turning into the size of a small mountain instantly!

Boom!

The bracelet released a golden light, blowing a massive hole in the surface of the sea. Since the water near the beach isn't deep, even the seabed was revealed!

A huge whirlpool was created instantly as water flowed back into the hole.

The seawater surged up as high as about a dozen meters, and the violent air current it caused rushed up and pierced a hole in the dark clouds above!

Hao Ren was dumbfounded. With a smile, Lu Lili waved her hand, and the bracelet resumed its original form before flying back onto her delicate wrist.

Fortunately, they were at a tourist beach instead of a harbor, and it was a rainy morning so that no tourists or boats were out. Otherwise...

Seeing Hao Ren's astonishment, Lu Lili stuck out her tongue and poked his shoulder. "Gongzi, I just used one-tenth of its power."

"One-tenth!" Hao Ren gasped.

"It was only one-tenth of the power! If she unleashed the full power of the Qian-Kun Bracelets, it would be powerful enough to wipe out East Ocean City!"

Now he understood why Su Han was nervous about them.

Seeing Hao Ren's expression turning from astonished to alarmed, Lu Linlin covered her mouth as she smiled and said, "Don't worry, Gongzi. We won't abuse our power!"

"However, I think you can still get a Natal Dharma Treasure for defense. After all, you can use the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll for attacking," Lu Linlin continued.

"In my opinion, you don't need a defensive Natal Dharma Treasure as well! The sword energies would be enough to defend you and attack your enemies. If you don't have top-tier materials to make a Natal Dharma Treasure, it would be a waste of time and efforts," Lu Lili said.

"Ok." Hao Ren nodded. After listening to their explanations, he had lost a lot of interest in the Natal Dharma Treasures.

"When I cultivate the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll to an advanced level, I can release thousands of sword energies. By then, I could use 500 of them to attack my enemies and use another 500 to form a sword energy wall around me!" Hao Ren thought to himself.

Imagining having thousands of sword energies under his command, Hao Ren became excited and felt like he would very dashing.

"Gongzi! Gongzi!" Lu Lili waved her hand before his eyes, pulling him back to reality.

"Oh. Take a break when you're done," Hao Ren said.

Lu Lili pouted with disapproval at Hao Ren's words. "Gongzi, you don't care about us..."

Hao Ren froze at Lu Lili's complaint, realizing that while he bombarded them with questions, he didn't show any concerns for them.

“Ok, ok! You two can watch TV, and I’ll read a book with you.”

Hao Ren was planning to go back to his room upstairs to cultivate, but he changed his mind. He went up and grabbed two architectural books before going downstairs to keep them company.

Lu Linlin and Lu Lili nodded happily. Hand in hand, they sat on the sofa to watch TV while Hao Ren read his books beside them.

It was still drizzling outside, but the atmosphere was warm inside with the twin beauties in the house.

The humid air carried a sweet fragrance.

Lu Linlin and Lu Lili discussed the leading actor of the drama they were watching and also made comments about the leading actress like two ordinary girls.

After lunch, the Lu sisters showed no intention of leaving, and Hao Ren was ok with them staying. Since it was still raining, he spent the afternoon reading.

In the evening, Lu Linlin and Lu Lili told him that they couldn’t go back due to the rain and wanted to stay the night here. Knowing that it was just an excuse for them to stay here and keep him company, Hao Ren didn’t object to their plan.

Since it was their first time staying the night in Hao Ren’s home, they were excited and messed with each other in their room. However, they didn’t go to Hao Ren’s room to bother him.

The drizzle continued to Monday morning. Hao Ren didn’t want to drive, so the sisters followed him to the bus stop each holding a small flower-patterned umbrella.

While they were waiting for the bus at the bus stop, the handful of people who were also waiting for the bus kept glancing at Lu Linlin and Lu Lili who looked cute holding small umbrellas in the rain.

On the bus, they sat on each side of Hao Ren.

Life was simple and warm, and Hao Ren felt like he was back in middle school.

The bus drove slowly, and they arrived at East Ocean University one hour later.

High spirited, Lu Linlin and Lu Lili skipped and hopped to class hand in hand. Hao Ren also went to his classroom.

Due to the rain, the floor of the classroom was damp.

Xie Yujia walked in with an umbrella in her hand, and the edges of her pants and shoes were damp as well.

She leaned her umbrella against the wall in a corner, and she smiled at Hao Ren after seeing that he was already there.

They were the only people in the classroom. Hao Ren was early today since he came directly from home, and Xie Yujia came early to the classroom so she could take one of the seats in the front row before others took them.

Pitter-patter! The drizzle continued. Hao Ren looked out through the window and saw Su Han passed by elegantly while holding an umbrella.

A black Mercedes-Benz drove from a distance and stopped in front of the Administration Building. The short Elder Sun got off the car as two bodyguards in black suits followed him.

Then, the passenger door opened, and another man got out of the car. In a suit and a pair of sunglasses, a man walked out elegantly, though his back was a little bent.

On a second look, Hao Ren almost choked! It was Premier Xia!

He had only been on land several times, but he looked entirely different now! A bodyguard in a black suit walked to him and held up a black umbrella for him.

Premier Xia only nodded slightly.

“Damn, he looks like a boss now!” Hao Ren thought.

The group walked into the Administration Building while the black Mercedes-Benz waited outside. Meanwhile, in the classroom, Xie Yujia already sat down and was flicking off the water droplets from her shoes and the edge of her pants. Then, she looked back at Hao Ren and opened her mouth; she was about to say something.

Buzz... Hao Ren’s cell phone suddenly vibrated.

It showed Lu Qing’s phone number.

Hao Ren answered it.

“Gongzi Hao, Elder Zhao’s Heavenly Tribulation got activated earlier than we expected. We must go to the Dragon Palace right now!” Lu Qing told him over the phone.

### **Chapter 193: Grand Array Formation, Activate!**

After hearing this news, Hao Ren stood up immediately with his cell phone in his hand.

Xie Yujia was about to talk to him but blinked instead when she saw the expression on his face.

Through the window, Hao Ren saw the Mercedes-Benz driving toward the Academic Building he was in and rushed out of the classroom without hesitation.

Xie Yujia wanted to call out to him, but it was too late.

Dashing out of the Academic Building, Hao Ren saw that the black Mercedes-Benz had already stopped at the entrance.

Without thinking, he pulled open the door and got in.

Lu Qing, Elder Sun and Premier Xia were already in this car while the bodyguards sat in the car that was following them.

Their expressions were not as grim as Hao Ren had expected, but they didn’t seem relaxed, either.



The car drove out of the school steadily and headed toward the direction of the sea.

“Zi and the others are already there, right?” Hao Ren asked.

“Right.” Lu Qing nodded.

This Mercedes-Benz was spacious inside. Light music resonated in the car while the drizzle continued outside.

Buzz... Hao Ren’s cell phone vibrated.

He picked up the phone and saw a text message from Xie Yujia. “Hao Ren, why did you run out of the class? It is about to begin. Where are you going?”

After a moment of consideration, Hao Ren answered back. “Something happened, and I will probably come back quite late.”

Then, he turned off the cell phone to avoid further interruptions.

“How about Linlin and Lili? Are they coming?” Hao Ren asked Lu Qing.

“No. They are not a part of East Ocean,” Lu Qing answered him simply.

Probably due to the presence of Fuma, Lu Qing and the others didn’t talk. The only sound in the car was the light music.

They arrived at the seaside and got to the huge black rock. Lu Qing and others took Hao Ren into the undersea tunnel.

When they came to the main gate of the Dragon Palace, Hao Ren felt like it was quite different.

All kinds of array formations were activated, and the number of patrolling soldiers had doubled!

As Zhao Kuo’s Heavenly Tribulation drew near, the whole East Ocean Dragon Palace looked as if they were preparing for a war. All array formations were being used, and even the patrolling soldiers had all changed into armors.

After passing the heavily guarded main gate, Lu Qing, Hao Ren, and the others entered the Dragon Palace.

The altar for Zhao Kuo’s Heavenly Tribulation was situated in the northwest corner of the Dragon Palace. Since they couldn’t fly in the Dragon Palace, they had to walk there. On the way, they passed through several checks points. Even though the soldiers recognized Lu Qing and Premier Xia, they still checked their identifications.

Hao Ren looked around and saw that the number of soldiers protecting key places such as the Profound Cultivation Palace and Godly Treasure Palace had doubled as well.

They were impenetrable.

If anyone wanted to take the opportunity to break into the East Ocean Dragon Palace, they would be killed on the spot.

Lu Qing, Hao Ren, and others finally arrived at a huge white altar where more than 10,000 soldiers were guarding on its edge

Each gold-armored general led 1,000 silver-armored soldiers as they stood at one out of the 12 Earthly Branches<sup>1</sup>. There were 12 Earthly Branches, so there were 12 gold-armored generals and 12,000 silver-armored soldiers.

Standing in uniform intervals beside the altar, it looked like a large compass from above.

The altar that was made with one massive piece of white jade was even more majestic than last time Hao Ren saw it.

All kinds of complicated patterns and engravings were put on the altar, glittering brightly. All sorts of complex array formations could be activated at any time.

All the elders in the Dagon Palace were present. The ten Purple-Robed Elders who had the highest cultivation powers stood in the inner circle according to the positions of the ten Heavenly Stems<sup>2</sup>.

Even Hao Ren, who knew nothing about array formations, could tell that it was a very powerful array formation.

At the center of the hill-sized white jade altar, Zhao Kuo, who was in a simple cyan robe, was sitting on the ground cross-legged with his eyes closed.

Except for a black belt, he had no other decorations on him.

On his right, there stood a black tri-point double-edge sword<sup>3</sup> that had a handle of more than three meters long.

Made from Ten-thousand-year Blue-Water Mystic Iron, the tri-point double-edge sword weighed 6,500 pounds. It had a similar shape as a trident, but it was 100 times more powerful than a trident. This was Zhao Kuo's weapon that contributed to his reputation. It was called 'Killing Tribulation'!

Black hair, black beard, and black face!

Zhao Kuo was resting peacefully, and Hao Ren found that this man was extremely magnificent for the first time.

Over ten thousand people stood grim-faced around the altar while Zhao Kuo was alone in the center.

He was ready to embrace the Tribulation of Life and Death with calmness! He deserved the name of the No. 1 Cultivator of the Mortal World!

"Your Majesty."

Hao Ren was woken from his daze by Lu Qing's greeting.

He turned and saw Zhao Guang walking toward them with Zhao Hongyu and Zhao Yanzi.

Zhao Guang nodded. The tension on his face showed his anxiety.

Zhao Hongyu lightly smiled at him, and Zhao Yanzi's big eyes glanced at Hao Ren while she remained silent.

She had a deep bond with her Third Uncle and was very nervous about his Heavenly Tribulation.

“Elder Zhao estimated that the Heavenly Tribulation would come in six hours,” Premier Xia stepped forward and told Zhao Guang.

“Ok. Get everyone prepared.” Zhao Guang waved his hand.

“Six hours? The East Ocean put so much importance on Zhao Kuo’s Heavenly Tribulation that the whole Dragon Palace is getting ready six hours beforehand,” Hao Ren thought.

Time ticked away, and everyone was tensed up. Although the Heavenly Tribulation was estimated to come in six hours, no one was sure if it would come earlier than that.

Zhao Yanzi was tired after standing for so long. She wanted to rest for a while but couldn’t find anywhere to lean on. Unless she sat on the ground, she couldn’t really rest.

However, as the Princess, she would never do such an inappropriate thing. Seeing Zhao Hongyu and Zhao Guang staring at Zhao Kuo in the center of the altar, she silently moved to Hao Ren, clutching onto his clothes as she leaned onto his arm.

Hao Ren had been cultivating the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll, and he stopped and held her when he sensed her movements.

Since Hao Ren had swallowed her Dragon Core, Zhao Yanzi was now like an ordinary girl. It was too much for her to stand for several hours.

However, Zhao Guang ordered everyone to stand ready for the upcoming event, and no one could rest. Even he himself was standing, so Zhao Yanzi couldn’t be an exception.

At this moment, the entire East Ocean Dragon Palace had to unite and face the Heavenly Tribulation together. Zhao Guang wouldn’t let anything distract them!

Zhao Yanzi sighed in relief when Hao Ren held her; her feet were less sore. However, her glances at him still weren’t so friendly.

Boom... Thunder could be heard in the sky.

“Your Majesty, the Heavenly Tribulation will come in half an hour at most!” Premier Xia walked over and bowed as he reported.

“Array Formation, activate!” Zhao Guang ordered.

The altar made of one piece of unique white jade began to move upward slowly.

Zhao Yanzi clutched Hao Ren’s arm to steady herself.

Shortly, the altar that was as big as several soccer fields rose above the sea. It was dark all around!

In the boundless darkness of the night, thunder resonated in the sky while lightning flashed.

## **Chapter 194: The Power of Heavenly Tribulation**

Surrounded by the dark sea, Hao Ren didn't know where this altar was in the vast ocean.

But he guessed this location was selected beforehand by the East Ocean Dragon Palace and had been kept as a top secret to prevent their enemies from attacking them at this vital moment.

In the sky, the thunder sounded, and the lightning rolled in the dark clouds that were now very close to the surface of the sea. The occasional flashes turned the sea surface silver white.

There was no trace of land in sight, and the frightening scene would have scared an average person.

A platform slowly rose from the altar, and Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu stood it. Today, the Dragon King Zhao Guang would personally command the Heavenly Tribulation Array Formation.

Instantly, the wind picked up, and the sea waves surged up high.

Zhao Yanzi staggered slightly, and she immediately clutched onto Hao Ren's arm. Afraid that she would fall into the sea from the edge of the altar, Hao Ren firmly held her hand.

Her palm was warm, but her fingertips were cold.

Boom!

A lightning bolt arced across the sky.

Even Hao Ren who had never experienced such event knew that the Heavenly Tribulation was coming.

Zhao Yanzi was nervous. Her grip on Hao Ren's hand tightened.

The lightning bolts traveled in the clouds, and the atmosphere on the huge altar, where more than 10,000 Dragon Cultivators gathered, was getting grimmer.

Bang!

The first lightning bolt crashed down from the clouds.

It was as thick as an arm and looked like a purple jade!

"Ninth Heaven Eighteen Lightning Tribulation!" Premier Xia who was standing beside Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi murmured.

"Is it very powerful?" Zhao Yanzi asked him anxiously.

"Extremely powerful, more powerful than the Wind Fire Lightning Tribulation we expected," Premier Xia furrowed his brows and said.

"Can Third Uncle withstand it?" Zhao Yanzi asked again immediately.

Premier Xia turned his attention to the center of the altar and didn't answer. He acted as if he did not hear Zhao Yanzi's question.

The purple lightning bolt crashed down from the sky and landed on the top of Zhao Kuo's head.

Zhao Kuo remained in the same place and didn't move a muscle. With a grunt, he withstood the first round of Heavenly Tribulation with his body!

Since he had reached top-tier Qian-level, his body was almost unbreakable!

The moment the first Heavenly Lightning Bolt crashed, the rain poured down from the dark clouds in the sky.

The huge white jade altar released a pale blue light shield, blocking the rainwater.

“The first lightning bolt is not difficult to withstand, but the latter ones get more and more powerful,” Premier Xia said, “Each of them would double in power compared with the previous one, and there are altogether 18 of them!”

Hao Ren made the calculations silently. “If each lightning bolt is going to be twice as powerful as the last one, then the last lightning bolt would be almost 100,000 times more powerful than the first one!”

“100,000 times! It is terrifying just to think about it.”

Zhao Yanzi’s math was not as good as Hao Ren’s, but she was worried when she heard that each of the 18 lightning bolts was stronger than the one before it. She bit her lower lip, and her breathing became uneven.

While they were talking, the second Heaven Lightning Bolt crashed down!

It was twice as loud as the first one, and it was thicker and brighter!

Zhao Kuo still sat there motionlessly, letting the lightning bolt crash into his body. His body lit up for a few seconds before returning to normal.

“Elder Zhao is indeed the No. 1 Cultivator in the Mortal World. He didn’t resist the Heavenly Tribulation. On the contrary, he absorbed the power of the Heavenly Tribulation and saved it to withstand the later lightning bolts,” Premier Xia said in a low voice.

Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi held each other’s hand tightly while their eyes were locked on Zhao Kuo who was in the center of the altar. It was their first time witnessing a Heavenly Tribulation, and it was very important to East Ocean!

Boom!

The third Heavenly Lightning Bolt came with the booming sound!

It lit up half the sky.

Hao Ren had toyed with the idea of helping Zhao Yanzi’s Third Uncle absorb the power of lightning bolts with his technique. Now seeing the great power of the Heavenly Lightning bolts, he knew how naive his idea had been!

They were not only Heavenly Lightning bolt; they represented the power of the Heaven!

Cultivation itself was against the natural law. It was ok if the cultivators just wanted to chill in the mortal world. But if they wanted to challenge the natural law and gain the same privileges and powers of the Heaven and the Earth such as immortality, they must pass the tests of the Heavenly Tribulation!

Still sitting, Zhao Kuo quietly waited for the third Heavenly Lightning Bolt to crash into him.

But this time, his body shook slightly.

Premier Xia's frown got tighter. "18 Heavenly Lightning Bolts, not easy..." he thought.

Boom!

The sound of the fourth Heavenly Lightning Bolt shook the sky. As thick as a pillar, it crashed down from the clouds.

This time, Zhao Kuo finally opened his eyes!

The Heavenly Lightning Bolt crashed into the Baihui Acupoint in the top of his head and traveled through his spine before going into the altar!

The remaining power of the Heavenly Lightning Bolt lit up the engravings and arrays on the altar for a second.

Zhao Kuo stretched his arms and raised his head as he shouted, "Hahaha! Awesome! Again!"

As if it was an answer to Zhao Kuo's challenge, the Heaven didn't give him any break when the fifth Heavenly Lightning Bolt crashed down!

Zhao Kuo still withstood it with his body.

The lightning bolt crashed into his body, and his cyan robe remained intact. However, his eyes suddenly lit up, and a dash of light shot out into the distance.

Bang!

A wave as high as dozens of meters surged up in the distance when the light struck the surface of the ocean.

"Excellent! Again!" Zhao Kuo yelled, his arrogance returned.

As thick as a skyscraper, the sixth Heavenly Lightning Bolt crashed from the sky toward him!

The bright lightning engulfed Zhao Kuo in it!

From a distance, Zhao Yanzi's breath quickened while she stared at the center of the altar. She clutched onto Hao Ren's palm tightly, and her fingertips began to sweat.

When the lightning disappeared, Zhao Kuo, who was sitting in the center of the altar, was still intact!

"He is indeed the No.1 Cultivator!" Hao Ren couldn't help admiring him!

If it had been the simplest Four-Nine Heavenly Tribulation, Zhao Kuo would have passed it already. However, Zhao Kuo was ambitious! Even if he could get into Heaven, he didn't want to be in the lowest rank!

The most powerful Ninth Heaven Eighteen Lightning Tribulation was the ultimate test for him.

Faced with such a Heavenly Tribulation, even an immortal would be killed if he or she was not careful.

Clang! Zhao Kuo reached out and picked up the black tri-point double-edge sword. Standing up, he looked up at the sky and shouted, "Again! Again!"

The seventh Heavenly Lightning Bolt transformed into seven flashes, crashing toward him from seven directions!

Zhao Kuo waved his weapon, Killing Tribulation. With a black flash, he shattered all seven Heaven Lightning bolts!

He was so proud that he was determined to fight with the Heavenly Tribulation!

Standing in the wind in his fluttering robe while some lightning flashed on his long-handled black tri-point double-edge sword, Zhao Yanzi's Third Uncle looked like a god who descended into the mortal world.

The eighth Heavenly Lightning Bolt struck down quickly from the clouds. It transformed into thousands of lightning balls, attacking Zhao Kuo from all directions!

Hao Ren calculated silently and knew that the eighth Heavenly Lightning Bolt was 128 times as powerful as the first one!

Each of the lightning balls looked weak, but in fact, they held the same power as the first Heavenly Lightning Bolt. Zhao Kuo looked at ease, but it was really a challenge for him.

Standing in the center of the altar, he waved the 6,500-pound black tri-point double-edge sword so fast that it turned into an impenetrable light shield. The lightning balls crashed onto the 'Killing Tribulation' with loud muffled banging noises, deafening Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi.

Despite the situation, Zhao Yanzi didn't cover her ears. She watched the situation on the altar more anxiously.

Tens of thousands of soldiers stood on the edge of the altar. They dared not to move without orders. Therefore, the altar that was as big as several soccer fields was a one-man stage for Zhao Kuo.

The ninth Heavenly Lightning Bolt shot down! It split into nine parts and whistled toward him with the power of wind and fire on top of lightning.

They were extremely sharp as if they could pierce everything in the world!

The hundun lightning could break everything comprised of the five elements. Although Zhao Kuo was top-tier Qian-level with a powerful weapon, he didn't dare to be careless with it.

With the 6,500-pound weapon, Zhao Kuo was still agile. He broke eight of the nine lightning bolts one by one.

Whoosh!

The last lightning bolt as wide as a river was cleaved into two parts by Zhao Kuo's the 6,500-pound black tri-point double-edge sword.

Tri-point double-edge sword was the legendary weapon of the ancient Water God. Zhao Kuo's moves were so powerful that they even broke the Heaven Lightning Bolts!

Seeing the excitement in the people around him, Hao Ren was about to cheer when Zhao Kuo supported himself with the black tri-point double-edge sword and raised his left hand to hold his chest, spitting out a mouthful of blood!

“Third Uncle!” Zhao Yanzi yelled anxiously.

At this moment, a light flashed in the clouds, and the tenth Heavenly Lightning Bolt was ready to strike!

“The tenth Heavenly Lightning Bolt is 512 times as powerful as the first one!” Hao Ren calculated.

Including this one, there were still nine Heavenly Lightning Bolts left. However, it seemed like Zhao Kuo couldn’t pass them. Hao Ren clenched his fists and began to worry for Zhao Kuo.

Zhao Kuo was fierce and rude, but he was not a bad guy. To the contrary, he was straight-forward and manly!

Boom! The tenth Heavenly Lightning Bolt, 512 times as powerful as the first one, crashed down!

Zhao Kuo forced himself to lift the tri-point double-edge sword and got ready for the battle!

Once the Heavenly Tribulation was activated, it couldn’t be stopped. Just like cultivation, the cultivators wouldn’t back out once they start despite all the difficulties ahead of them.

Clang! Zhao Kuo’s tri-point double-edge sword knocked the ground of the altar and made a huge noise.

With blood on his lips, he looked calmly at the sky.

The Heavenly Lightning Bolt with its ultimate power crashed onto Zhao Kuo’s head in the form of a pure white light beam!

Waving his tri-point double-edge sword, Zhao Kuo faced it squarely! No one could back off from the Heavenly Tribulation!

Standing straight with his head held high, Zhao Kuo was instantly swallowed by the flash of lightning.

Zhao Yanzi clutched Hao Ren’s hand tight, and her fingernails cutting into his palm. Also, deep dents were forming on her lower lip as she bit on it forcefully.

When the flash disappeared, Zhao Kuo kneeled in the center of the altar on one knee. His tri-point double-edge sword was shattered into pieces, and his arms were bloody!

In the sky, the eleventh Heavenly Lightning Bolt was ready to strike!

Knowing that Zhao Kuo couldn’t make it, Zhao Guang shouted, “Heaven and Earth Array Formation, activate!”

His resonant order spread to the edge of the altar.

“Yes!” The tens of thousands of soldiers who were waiting around the altar answered loudly.

“Sneaky Heaven! Broken Heaven! I will get you!” At this moment, Zhao Kuo flew up abruptly in his torn robe!

With a roar, he suddenly turned into a black dragon and flew high into the sky!



## Chapter 195: Black Dragon!!

A black dragon with black claws, black scales, a black beard, and black eyes!

In the pitch-dark sky, Zhao Kuo turned into a black dragon and soared in the air!

A lightning bolt flashed in the clouds and illuminated the black dragon in the sky.

It was Hao Ren's first time seeing a real dragon. He was stunned!

According to Su Han, after dragon cultivators reached Dui-level, they could transform into dragons. While the Spirit Concentration Scroll cultivated the acupoints in the human body, the cultivation after Kan-level would unblock the acupoints in the dragon body by unlocking the openings on the Dragon Core.

"Brother!" Zhao Guang shouted into the sky.

However, Zhao Kuo, doing his utmost with all he had, had flown up high in the sky!

Bang!

A lightning flash crashed into the black dragon!

The eleventh Heavenly Lightning Bolt!

The lightning bolt with the enormous power hit the body of the black dragon, turning it silver!

Zhao Kuo fell hundreds of meters before flying back up!

"Brother! Come back!" Zhao Guang raised his voice and yelled again! This time, he used his Nature Essence in the shout, and his voice could be clearly heard 100 kilometers away.

However, Zhao Kuo was stubborn and wouldn't come back. He wouldn't admit defeat in the battle against Heaven!

When the black dragon flew close to the clouds, the twelfth Heavenly Lightning Bolt crashed down!

The blinding lightning lit up the whole space between the sky and the sea!

The violent Heavenly Lightning Bolt crashed directly onto the waist of the black dragon, almost cutting him into halves! To pass the Heavenly Tribulation, Zhao Kuo was giving it all and even used his true dragon form!

Tumbling and falling from the sky, Zhao Kuo almost fell into the sea. But the moment his claws touched the sea surface, he immediately turned around and flew back up!

The dark clouds gathered from all directions, signaling that the Heaven was brewing the last few Heavenly Lightning Bolts!

"Brother!" Concerned, Zhao Guang wanted to fly up, but Zhao Hongyu held him back.

Zhao Yanzi's eyes were full of tears. Sobbing, she bit onto her fist while watching her Third Uncle being struck down again and again.

Holding her other hand, Hao Ren was completely stunned.

Before Zhao Kuo could get close to the clouds, the thirteenth Heavenly Lightning Bolt crashed down!

The enormous energy in it boiled up the seawater beside the altar!

Flapping in the rain, Zhao Kuo swayed in his dragon form. Suddenly, he spat out a red bead!

"Essence Core! He's risking his life!" On the high platform, Zhao Guang yelled in astonishment.

The Dragon Core was also called the Essence Core, the life source of a dragon. As a master of top-tier Qian-level, Zhao Kuo used the tri-point double-edge sword as his weapon and hadn't obtained a Natal Dharma Treasure. His Dragon Core was his ultimate weapon and last resort.

The full energy of top-tier Qian-level was unleashed from the Dragon Core!

Instantly, the space between the sky and the sea was brightly illuminated as if it was daytime!

The thirteenth Heavenly Lightning Bolt shot toward Zhao Kuo!

The red bead blocked the lightning bolt.

The lightning bolt and the Dragon Core were battling with each other, but everyone including Hao Ren knew that using the Dragon Core as a weapon would cause considerable damage to its owner.

Boom!

The thirteenth Heavenly Lightning Bolt turned into sparks of white light before vanishing. Meanwhile, the dazzling red Dragon Core dimmed and revealed its original its water elemental nature.

Almost instantly, the fourteenth Heavenly Lightning Bolt slashed toward Zhao Kuo!

"It is about 8,000 times as powerful as the first one!" Hao Ren calculated in his mind as sweat appeared in his palms.

Obviously, Zhao Kuo couldn't make it, but he wouldn't admit defeat!

If he returned to the altar, the strength of more than ten thousand cultivators and the power of the array formation would probably manage to block the last few Heavenly Lightning Bolts and keep him alive, even though his cultivation progress would likely be wiped out.

Suddenly, it dawned on Hao Ren that Zhao Kuo would rather die than let the soldiers block Heavenly Lightning Bolts for him. This man was trying to reserve the soldiers and the strength of the East Ocean!

The fourteenth Heavenly Lightning Bolt consisted of countless lightning flashes. With the huge sound of explosions, they shot toward Zhao Kuo who was high in the sky!

Zhao Kuo could no longer block them. Although he was in his dragon form, he was only an Earthly Dragon before reaching the Heavenly Dragon Realm. The Heavenly Lightning Bolt that was 8,000 times more powerful than the first one was too much for him to withstand!

Bang!

The fourteenth Heavenly Lightning Bolt exploded on Zhao Kuo. Since it was a dark night and Zhao Kuo was a black dragon, it was hard to determine the severity of his injuries.

However, everyone knew that he was now in a severe condition.

“Sneaky Heaven! Broken Heaven! In my whole life, I, Zhao Kuo, have been impulsive and fierce, but I’ve never taken any innocent life! I’m just rash with words, and you put such a punishment on me!?”

Swaying in the sky, Zhao Kuo cursed in his resonant voice.

Crash!

As if it was a response to Zhao Kuo’s words, the fifteenth Heavenly Lightning Bolt struck toward Zhao Kuo’s black dragon head!

Zhao Kuo put the Dragon Core back into his body and created a light shield in front of him with his last bit of essence.

But in the face of a Heavenly Lightning Bolt that was 16,000 times as powerful as the first one, any five-elemental essence was as weak as a piece of paper! The lightning bolt crashed through the light shield immediately.

Zhao Kuo had to withstand it with his body!

He was struck down from the sky by the fierce Heavenly Lightning Bolt. He tumbled and fell into the sea, creating waves that were as high as mountains!

“Brother!” Zhao Guang yelled, and the elders guarding the altar were all dumbfounded.

Zhao Yanzi’s face was covered in tears. Her legs weakened, and she would have fallen to the ground crying if it wasn’t for Hao Ren’s support.

Hua!

Zhao Kuo’s flew out of the sea in his bloody dragon form.

“I’m still here! I’m not defeated!” He shouted and flew into the sky.

Bang!

The sixteenth Heavenly Lightning Bolt crashed down.

It was 30,000 times as powerful as the first one!

If it struck Zhao Kuo, it would be hard for him not to die.

After being struck by fifteen Heavenly Lightning Bolts, Zhao Kuo was fearless. He flew right toward it!

Bang! The lightning bolt collided with Zhao Kuo, and he was bounced hundreds of meters away before falling into the sea!

On the high platform, Zhao Hongyu furrowed her brows tightly. It was obvious that Zhao Kuo couldn't survive the Heavenly Tribulation.

"I'm not defeated!" Shaking violently, Zhao Kuo shot out from the sea again!

"I, Zhao Kuo, will poke a hole in the Heaven!" he shouted, soaring to the clouds in the sky!

"Brother!" Zhao Guang knew his brother could never survive the last two lightning bolts.

Regardless of the risks, he turned into a white dragon and flew into the sky.

"Zhao Guang!" Zhao Hongyu yelled, but she couldn't stop him.

Almost as big as the black dragon, the white dragon flew in the air and block the fierce black dragon.

At this moment, the seventeenth Heavenly Lightning Bolt struck down!

Zhao Guang tried to block the lightning bolt and was sent flying hundreds of meters away!

"Dad!" Zhao Yanzi screamed. Alarmed, Hao Ren held her to him.

"Dragon King!" everyone shouted in surprise, but none of them dared to leave their positions on the altar without permission.

Held up for a moment by Zhao Guang, the Heavenly Lightning Bolt continued crashing toward Zhao Kuo.

Zhao Guang dropped hundreds of meters before flying up and catching Zhao Kuo who was falling like a rock.

"Heaven and Earth Array Formation, activate!" Zhao Guang shouted, and his white dragon form flew toward the array formation before turning back to his human form. He carried Zhao Kuo's human body and entered the altar.

Hao Ren noticed that blood was gushing out of Zhao Guang's shoulder. Obviously, he was severely wounded while trying to rescue Zhao Kuo.

Regardless of his wound, he stood up immediately. "Unleash full force to block the eighteenth Heavenly Lightning Bolt!"

"Yes!" All the elders, generals and soldiers answered as one!

In the sky, lightning flashed in the clouds. The last Heavenly Lightning Bolt was the most powerful one.

Zhao Kuo was not able to pass the Heavenly Tribulation, but he could live if the last Heavenly Lightning Bolt were blocked.

Boom!

The Heavenly Lightning Bolt was more like a huge laser beam!

Dozens of colorful defense shields above the altar were activated, but like pieces of paper, they were instantly broken by the Heavenly Lightning Bolt!

It was 130,000 times as powerful as the first lightning bolt which could kill an ordinary cultivator.

Holding his chest and spewing blood, Zhao Guang ordered, “Earthly Branches! First, third, fifth, seventh, ninth, and eleventh general, block the first wave! Heavenly Stems! First, third, fifth, seventh and ninth elder, assist!”

“Yes!” The generals and elders took the order.

The Heavenly Lightning Bolt arrived at the core defense array formation above the altar. Five elders, six generals, and 6,000 soldiers took their positions and unleashed their Natural Essence.

The entire white jade altar was lit up instantly, and a surge of terrifying energy was activated. The abundant Nature Essence proved that the white jade was indeed a piece of advanced Nature Treasure.

The core defense array formation had five layers. The outmost layer began to bend and shatter under the force of the lightning bolt.

Bang! The outer layer broke with a crisp banging noise.

Five purple-robed elders, six generals, and 6,000 soldiers were all bounced back.

“Block the second wave!” Pale-faced, Zhao Guang held his hand to his chest and continued to order.

Six generals in the positions of second, fourth, sixth, eighth, tenth and twelfth Earthly Branch positions took half a step forward with 6,000 soldiers while the five purple-robed elders at the second, fourth, sixth, eighth and tenth Heavenly Stem positions unleashed their energy.

Their efforts paused the advancement of the lightning bolt for only six seconds before the second defense layer was shattered.

It seemed that the Heavenly Lightning Bolt with 130,000 times the power of the first was unstoppable!

If it crashed down, no one could escape without a scratch! Everyone would be severely wounded while those with weak cultivation strength would die on the spot!

That was why Zhao Kuo refused to return to the altar when he saw the great power of the Heavenly Tribulation.

He knew that he couldn't pass it and the Ninth Heaven Eighteen Lightning Tribulation was more powerful than the altar could withstand. He would rather die than enlisting help from the East Ocean Dragon Clan and harm the member!

“Everyone! Together!” Zhao Guang knew no strategy would work in the face of the ultimate power. He ordered everyone to get ready for the final blow.

The ten purple-robed elders, 12 golden-armored generals, and 12,000 silver-armored soldiers stood in their positions, and the others stood on the engravings and arrays of the altar while injecting their Nature Essence into them.

Both Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu squatted down, ready to unleash their full energy to fight with the Heavenly Tribulation!

Hao Ren didn't back off. Although his cultivation strength was low, he kneeled and placed his hand onto the altar.

Boom! The Heavenly Lightning Bolt broke another core defense layer, and the surface of the altar began to crack!

Meanwhile, all the intricate engravings on the altar began to hum. Instantly, the warm and white light illuminated the whole sky.

With a booming noise, the Heavenly Lightning Bolt that was about 130,000 times more powerful than the first one destroyed the second last defense layer.

The final moment had come!

### **Chapter 196: 10,000-Cultivators Array Formation**

The Heavenly Lightning Bolt with 13,000 times the power of the first one had broken the second last core defense layer of the array formation and was crashing toward the people on the altar.

Wood, fire, earth, metal, and water!

The Heavenly Lightning Bolt had broken the layers of wood, fire, earth, and metal. Only the last and most crucial water-elemental defense array formation was left.

The five elements created each other. Since the Heavenly Lightning Bolt had broken four of them, the core of the array formation was damaged.

Seeing the blue light shield beginning to shake, everyone gritted their teeth and transferred all their energy into the altar!

Hao Ren had thought that the power of the lightning would be cold in the pouring storm. However, when the Heavenly Lightning Bolt was above his head, he sensed the burning pressure from it through the last layer of the array formation.

Its temperature was as high as ten thousand degrees, hot enough to burn people into ashes instantly!

If it had not been for the protection of the water elemental defense array formation, all of them would have been burned into ashes!

Even the purple-robed elders couldn't open their eyes at this dazzling Heavenly Lightning Bolt.

Zhao Yanzi squatted next to Hao Ren, tightly holding his arm.

Life or death, they were in it together!

The blue defense array formation shook violently; it could collapse at any moment!

Crack! Crack... The altar that was as big as several soccer fields began to crack all over and started to shake violently!

The Heavenly Lightning Bolt was crashing against the altar with tens of thousands of pounds of force!

If it weren't for the Nature Essences that tens of thousands of cultivators injected into the altar, it would have been shattered into debris by the first wave of the strike.

Hao Ren put all of his Nature Essence into the altar and felt his arms go numb.

This was the power of the Heavenly Lightning Bolt!

It was not an ordinary Heavenly Lightning Bolt, but the Heavenly Tribulation from the Ninth Heaven!

Under the support of the Nature Essence from everyone present, the last layer of the blue defense array formation was humming and blinking, managing to withstand the 18th Heavenly Lightning Bolt.

Bang! Bang!

Occasionally, some soldiers were bounced off the altar by the power of the Heaven Tribulation as its power was spread onto the people on the altar.

The power of this final Heavenly Lightning Bolt was 13,000 times more powerful than the first Heavenly Lightning Bolt. If it were distributed evenly to each person, each of them would have to withstand the full power of the first Heavenly Lightning Bolt!

It was natural that the weaker cultivators couldn't bear the pressure.

More importantly, not everyone could withstand the power of the lightning bolt that could break all five elements.

Pale-faced, the elders could barely manage it, but the soldiers were bounced off one by one!

The power of the final Heavenly Lightning Bolt above the blue array formation didn't disappear. The power of this Heavenly Tribulation was awe-inspiring!

"Premier Xia, take Zi and Ren out of here!" Zhao Guang turned his head and shouted!

In this critical moment, the Heavenly Lightning Bolt could crash down at any moment, and everyone under it would probably die!

After all, it was against the natural law for them to help Zhao Kuo withstand the Heavenly Tribulation.

"Yes! Your Majesty!" Pale-faced and exhausted, Premier Xia stood up and hurried toward Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi.

"Dad! I won't go!" Zhao Yanzi yelled.

"Behave!" Zhao Guang raised his hand and pushed her aside without touching her.

Premier Xia hurried over and helped Zhao Yanzi up. "Princess, please go with me!"

He looked at Hao Ren who was still injecting his Nature Essence into the altar and said, "Fuma, please go with me. Leave it to His Majesty!"

Seeing all the generals and elders who were still supporting the altar with pale faces and the soldiers who kept coming back onto the altar after being bounced off, Hao Ren shook his head and said, "No, I won't go! You take Zi with you!"

"Your Majesty, please retreat!" Suddenly, Lu Qing raised his head and shouted at Zhao Guang on the high platform.

Others seconded his plea, shouting, “Your Majesty! Please retreat! Your Majesty! Please retreat!”

“No, I won’t!” Zhao Guang placed his hands that were covered by the green energy back on the altar. “I will fight with you!”

Zhao Kuo, with blood all over him, took several deep breaths before struggling to stand on his feet.

“Brother! Let me go out and die with the Heaven Tribulation!”

If Zhao Kuo were wiped out by the Heavenly Lightning Bolt, the entire Heavenly Tribulation would end, and the other people wouldn’t die with him.

His brother was on one side, and tens of thousands of the elite cultivators of East Ocean were on the other. Zhao Guang was in a dilemma.

“We are willing to block the Heavenly Tribulation for Third Lord!” the twelve generals in golden armors suddenly shouted together.

“We are willing to block the Heavenly Tribulation for Third Lord!” the 12,000 soldiers also shouted, and their voices repeatedly echoed in the altar!

The stunning scene set everyone’s heart on fire!

Zhao Kuo was the Supreme Commander in the East Ocean Dragon Palace. The generals and the soldiers had been fighting alongside!

“Ok! We will face life and death together!” pressing against the bloody wounds on his chest with one of his hands, Zhao Kuo stood up and placed his other bloody hand on the altar.

The blue array formation was instantly covered in a red mist!

He was putting his dragon blood and vital essences into the array formation!

Even after being struck by 17 Heavenly Lightning Bolts, Zhao Kuo still possessed some Nature Essence.

The array formation that was on the verge of collapsing was strengthened by what he did, and it began to push back against the last Heavenly Lightning Bolt!

The morale was greatly boosted!

With blood-red eyes, Zhao Kuo continued to inject his blood into the altar!

The engravings on the milky white altar began to turn pink!

The array formation above the altar hummed louder, releasing dazzling blue light and blocking the white Heavenly Lightning Bolt.

Zhao Yanzi took the opportunity to run back to Hao Ren before placing her small hands onto the altar.

Without her Dragon Core, she still possessed a tiny bit of Nature Essence. Moved by what he saw, Hao Ren circulated his Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll to its limit, feeling like his weak remaining power was being absorbed bit by bit by the engravings of the altar.



This Heavenly Lightning Bolt with 13,000 times the power of the first one was in a tough battle against the array formation consisted of the power of more than ten thousand cultivators!

It was a long and hard moment!

Everyone gritted their teeth, not daring to relax a little bit!

Boom!

The deadlock lasted for a long while before the Heavenly Lightning Bolt exploded in the air abruptly!

Seconds later, the blue array formation also shattered into pieces!

A huge crack also appeared in the middle of the altar, turning it into two parts!

Only the elders and generals were able to stand; the 12,000 soldiers all fell to the ground.

This battle exhausted all of their Nature Essence. If their enemies launched a sudden attack, they would all die!

Of course, they had chosen a spot in the deep sea and kept the location a secret; no enemy would come and attack them!

Boom! As if the Heaven was resentful of the defeat, after the 18 Heavenly Lightning Bolts, another small lightning bolt was released by the clouds!

Everyone was astonished since this small lightning bolt struck directly toward Zhao Guang, Zhao Kuo, and Zhao Hongyu!

The Heaven was punishing them for blocking and interfering with the Heavenly Tribulation!

“Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll, absorb!” Hao Ren who stood near them suddenly lifted his hands subconsciously.

### **Chapter 197: Seven-Colored Snow Lotus**

As if it heard Hao Ren’s summon, the Heavenly Lightning Bolt flew toward his palm!

Five-elemental sword energies could be combined into hundun sword energies that possessed hundun lightning power. The ultimate form of hundun lightning power was Tiangang!

The Heavenly Lightning Bolt in the Heavenly Tribulation was Tiangang!

This small Heavenly Lightning Bolt entered Hao Ren’s body and traveled through his 108 acupoints before settling down in his Dragon Core.

Hao Ren exhaled deeply, and even the air he just exhaled was mingled with some lightning power.

Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu gasped while Zhao Yanzi who was by his side also widened her eyes, forgetting to cry.

Pu... Under the stimulation of the Heavenly Lightning Bolt, six openings in his Dragon Core were unlocked!

Colorful lights engulfed Hao Ren's body as he jumped from Kan-level to Li-level! Li-level needed ten openings, and Hao Ren had 13 now!

The Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll was Lightning Cultivation. Hao Ren's theory of absorbing the lightning power of the Heavenly Tribulation with his technique was proved right!

For cultivators, the Lightning Tribulation was dangerous and painful. But to Hao Ren, it was a piece of cake! He was even spared from the pain caused by the level up when he advanced using the lightning power.

"Aw..." Suddenly, Zhao Kuo spat out a big mouthful of blood!

"Third Uncle!" Zhao Yanzi, who had been staring at Hao Ren in astonishment, turned around and rushed toward Zhao Kuo.

The almighty Zhao Kuo finally lost his balance and fell to the ground.

By now, the altar was ruined, and the cold wind blew onto them. Zhao Kuo in his torn robe was covered in blood.

Regardless of his blood and sweat, Zhao Yanzi threw herself into his arms and burst into tears.

"Third Uncle can't make it this time. I'm content with the fact that I will die in one piece." Zhao Kuo, an unrivaled cultivator in the mortal world for hundreds of years, now looked defeated. He touched Zhao Yanzi's head gently and said, "Zi, you must take care of yourself."

"Third Uncle, you won't die!" Zhao Yanzi cried in his arms.

"Kid, come here!" Zhao Kuo glared at Hao Ren with his bloody eyes and shouted at him.

Hao Ren walked over and stood before him.

"From now on, you have to take care of Zi for me. I know that you are not a bad guy; the only problem you have is that you are hanging around too many girls. Well, I have only one-twentieth of my power left. I'll transfer it to you." He reached out to grab Hao Ren's arm.

Slap! Before Hao Ren could react, Zhao Guang slapped off Zhao Kuo's arm. "Brother, what are you doing?"

"With my remaining strength, I can only live for several hours. I will transfer it to him and help him get stronger!" Zhao Kuo lifted his head and said.

Zhao Hongyu sighed and pinched her nose to hold back her tears. She had always scolded him for being rude, but she knew that he was just quick-tempered and was not malicious at all.

"My meridians are broken, my Dragon Core is damaged, and my reputation as the No.1 Cultivator is gone. I will transfer my remaining power to this kid so that he could protect Zi better. It's my final gift to Zi as her uncle!" Zhao Kuo continued after seeing Zhao Guang still standing between him and Hao Ren.

“Save your breath!” With a cold face, Zhao Guang turned to look at Premier Xia and said, “Don’t stand there in a daze! Go and ask little Daoist Zhen to come here!”

“Yes, Your Majesty!” Premier Xia turned immediately and dived into the sea after forming an energy sphere around him.

“Where is Xingyue?” Zhao Kuo looked around and asked. Although Zhao Kuo was still sitting down, he looked a lot better than a few seconds ago; perhaps it was due to terminal lucidity.

A beautiful female cultivator in her thirties walked over and looked at Zhao Kuo with a frown. Out of the ten purple-robed elders on the altar, she was the only female.

“I promised that I would pass the Heavenly Tribulation, but I failed,” Zhao Kuo said to her softly.

“Don’t talk now. You need your rest,” this female cultivator named Xingyue said gently.

“You’ve always been fierce towards me, but I know that you are thinking for me. I can’t control my big mouth, and my Heavenly Tribulation got this powerful. It is a punishment for neglecting the cultivation of personality and temperament,” Zhao Kuo said with a bitter smile.

The smile didn’t look good on his ugly face, but Hao Ren’s heart ached, especially after he saw Zhao Yanzi’s heart-wrenching sob.

Xingyue was silent. Zhao Kuo was the No.1 Cultivator of East Ocean, and she was the No.1 Female Cultivator of East Ocean. Although Zhao Kuo was more powerful than her, he was very obedient in front of her; he would immediately shut up after she glanced at him.

After bickering with him for 200 years, she expected that Zhao Kuo would ascend into the enviable Heaven Dragon Realm. She had never imagined that it would end like this.

No one had expected that the Heavenly Tribulation would be the mighty Ninth Heaven 18 Lightning Tribulation. When the first lightning bolt struck, her heart sank.

Faced with such a powerful Heavenly Tribulation, Zhao Kuo had a clearer understanding of the situation than her. However, no one could stop the Heavenly Tribulation once it was activated. The only thing that he could do was to fight to his death!

Under Xingyue’s watch, he didn’t want to lose like a coward; he wanted to die a hero!

Everyone was silent.

The only sound was Zhao Yanzi’s sobbing.

Hao Ren didn’t know that this No.1 Female Cultivator of East Ocean was, in fact, Su Han’s master.

Hua! The sound of water splashing broke the silence.

Premier Xia and little Daoist Zhen arrived at Zhao Guang’s side.

“Little Daoist Zhen, my brother failed the Heavenly Tribulation. I must rely on you to save his life,” Zhao Guang bowed to him respectfully and said.

The haughty little Daoist Zhen glanced at Zhao Kuo who was on the ground and said, "Broken meridians, damaged Dragon Core. I'm afraid that even the Daluo Golden Immortal <sup>1</sup> wouldn't even be able to save him."

Everyone's heart sank at his answer.

As if he had expected it, Zhao Kuo laughed carelessly, "Anyway, I have no regret in my life since I battled with the most powerful Heavenly Tribulation! Hao Ren! Kid! Come over here, and I'll transfer my remaining power to you!"

Hao Ren didn't move since he didn't want Zhao Kuo to die after transferring him his power. However, he didn't dare to refuse him outright, knowing that Zhao Kuo would cuss at him for that.

"What's the hurry?!" Seeing Zhao Kuo's anger, little Daoist Zhen touched his chin, trying to look older and more experienced before continuing, "I'm not finished yet. I can't save him if I don't have Nature Treasures. However, I probably could save his life with the help from one item."

"What's that?" Instead of getting mad at little Daoist Zhen for keeping them in suspense, Zhao Guang was pleased with his words and asked.

"Seven-Colored Snow Lotus from the Sky Mountain in the Northwest," little Daoist Zhen said slowly.

"Seven-Colored Snow Lotus?" Hao Ren's heart lurched since these lotuses were the most fitting Mystic Crystals for his five-elemental cultivation technique according to the Lu sisters.

"Ok. I'll go look for them immediately!" Zhao Guang said.

"Why is your family so rash!" little Daoist Zhen gave him a dirty look and said, "I'm not finished yet!"

"Please go on." Zhao Guang held his temper in check and bowed slightly towards the little Daoist Zhen to show his respect.

"The Seven-Colored Snow Lotus need to be over 1,000 years old, and I need six pieces. However, the older lotuses are mostly located in the depth of the karst caves. The deeper you go into the cave, the stronger the repulsion to the Nature Essence. In other words, only a cultivator who is below Zhen-level could go and pick the Seven-Colored Snow Lotus," little Daoist Zhen said slowly while nodding his head.

"Below Zhen-level..." They looked around, and their gazes rested on Hao Ren.

"However, the process of collecting Seven-Colored Snow Lotus will be quite dangerous. If one is a lot weaker than Zhen-level, it would be difficult to get them. All in all, it's not an easy task to get these 1,000-year Seven-Colored Snow Lotus," little Daoist Zhen continued.

Zhao Guang furrowed his brows and nodded with a grim face.

Little Daoist Zhen glanced around and pointed at Hao Ren. "You seem to be only at Li-level. Well, you can do it. Go get the Seven-Colored Snow Lotus for me, and I will make the elixir for him."

Hao Ren looked at him in skepticism, feeling like there was more to it.

Seeing Hao Ren's gaze, little Daoist Zhen told the truth, "Ok, I'll be frank. I only need three Seven-Colored Snow Lotuses to save him. However, you need to get me three more as payment. To be clear, I want three; I won't save him for anything less."

"Ren, the task is too dangerous for you since you have no experience going on such trips. I'll send someone else," Zhao Guang interrupted.

"It's fine. I'll go!" Hao Ren raised his hand and stopped Zhao Guang. "The Sky Mountain in the Northwest is within Qin Shaoyang's territory, and he will make trouble for people who are from East Ocean."

"You mean..." Zhao Guang was baffled. With Zhao Kuo on the verge of death, as his elder brother, Zhao Guang couldn't keep a clear head.

"I will go. I'm in a better position," Hao Ren said as he pointed at his forehead.

"Oh? Inspector?" Zhao Guang suddenly understood.

In fact, when Hao Ren showed up on the altar with Lu Qing, Zhao Guang had noticed the mark on his forehead. But his mind was centered around the upcoming Heavenly Tribulation and had no time to ask about it. Now seeing the mark, he knew that Hao Ren had joined the Inspector System through Su Han!

Since this was the case, Hao Ren was a better candidate for this mission since Qin Shaoyang was technically one of his 'peers'.

"Dad! I'll go with him!" Zhao Yanzi stood up abruptly with tears on her face.

"Nonsense!" Zhao Guang glared at her. "You have no strength at all! It's not a field trip!"

Zhao Yanzi bit her lip, feeling wronged and sad. After all, she wanted to help her Third Uncle.

"You must bring back the Seven-Colored Snow Lotuses in one day. This means that from now on, you have 24 hours, and I must sustain his life with elixirs. If you are late at all, then I can't promise that I can save him," little Daoist Zhen told Hao Ren.

"Ok! I'll go right now! But I need one person to go with me!" Hao Ren said.

"Who do you need?" Zhao Guang asked.

"Su Han!" Hao Ren answered.

## **Chapter 198: Borrowing the Treasure**

"Okay..." Zhao Guang nodded gloomily. Although he didn't want to owe the Inspector a favor, Su Han was indeed the best person to deal with Qin Shaoyang.

"Please go with Hao Ren, Elder Xingyue." he turned to Xingyue.

"Yes!" this female cultivator bowed without seeming like a girl at all.

“Elder Lu, Elder Xu, please take Zhao Kuo back to the Dragon Palace. General Hu and General Sun, lead your armies...” Zhao Guang recovered from his panic and started to arrange things in an organized manner.

Without wasting any time, Xingyue grabbed Hao Ren and headed somewhere on her sword in a flash.

The speed of the sword was extremely fast, and Hao Ren tried to keep his balance on the narrow sword.

However, since Xingyue grabbed onto his arm like a clamp, it wouldn't be easy to fall even if he wanted to.

Maybe since she was extremely anxious, the sword flew faster and faster. Hao Ren who was in the front found it challenging to stay on.

“Don't worry. This speed is within your limit,” Xingyue said coldly behind him.

Hao Ren thought that her tone sounded the same as Su Han's. It never occurred to him that Su Han was brought up by no one else but Xingyue.

When Hao Ren was still confused, the sword suddenly dropped down to the city. It was so fast that it actually looked like a flash of light, and none of the mortals noticed Hao Ren and Xingyue.

They flew into Su Han's apartment through the window. Su Han was cultivating, and she noticed the change and immediately walked out of her cultivation room with a sword in her hand.

“Who is it!” she shouted.

Her expression changed when she saw Hao Ren and Xingyue. Su Han slightly bowed to Xingyue and said, “Master!”

Hao Ren was surprised to learn that Xingyue was Su Han's master. He took a closer look at their faces and found the resemblance.

“You have already left East Ocean, and you are now more powerful than me. There's no need to bow,” Xingyue looked at her and said, “I'm here today to ask you for one favor. Zhao Kuo failed his Heavenly Tribulation, and his life is in danger now. To save him, one of the main ingredients is the 1,000-year Seven-Colored Snow Lotus. It only grows on the Sky Mountain which is located in the northwest. Since Qin Shaoyang is guarding that region now, we hope that you can make a trip there with Hao Ren.”

“Ok,” Su Han agreed without any hesitation.

“The East Ocean owes you a big one!” Xingyue jumped onto the sword and disappeared by the window.

Su Han turned to Hao Ren in her pajamas. “Let's not waste another minute and get on our way!”

“Ok!” Hao Ren nodded in agreement.

Su Han grabbed a long trench coat and pulled it over herself. Then, she whipped out her white jade sword and made it float in the air.

She grabbed Hao Ren and walked onto the sword.

The white jade sword enlarged in the air, and it was broad enough for Hao Ren and Su Han to stand on.

Boom! It broke through the window and headed northwest at a fast speed.

It felt so cool to fly on a sword!

Hao Ren wished that he had a sword of his own. But since he was cultivating the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll, it could create tens of thousands of sword energies, and he didn't need a sword at all!

Su Han, standing in front, kept her mouth shut. Hao Ren had to lightly grab onto her arm from behind to prevent himself from falling off.

The sword was as fast as lightning. Since they were within the thin clouds high above the ground, the mortals in the city could only see a slight flash in the sky at most. They wouldn't be able to see two people standing on a sword in the sky.

"You must keep Zhao Kuo's failure a secret," after a while, Su Han said abruptly.

"Um," Hao Ren nodded as he circulated the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll to keep the coldness away.

If this information were to get out, West Ocean would have a huge reaction! The East Ocean without Zhao Kuo, the No.1 Cultivator in the mortal world, wouldn't be able to withstand a single blow from the West Ocean.

However, the most important thing right now was to save Zhao Kuo's life. Other things could wait. From the look of it, it seemed like Su Han wouldn't be able to stick her hand into the battle between East Ocean and West Ocean.

The best she could do was to save Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi's lives.

Shoo! Shoo! Shoo! A few more flashes went by them.

These lights suddenly circled back, and shout sounded, "Who is trespassing Kunlun Mountain?"

"Inspector Su Han is passing by due to an emergency!" Su Han raised a small golden banner.

Shoo! Shoo! The flashes backed off from blocking them.

Su Han sped up and passed by the mountains at high speed.

The white Sky Mountain slowly appeared in Hao Ren's view.

Su Han slowed down the sword to land.

Boom!

A white energy sphere appeared in front of their sword.

It was the Protection Array Formation of the Northwest Sky Mountain! It was the Northwest Earth-Elemental Dragons' turf!

Water-Elemental Dragon Clans ruled the areas near the oceans, rivers, and lakes while the inner land was typically Wood-Elemental and Earth-Elemental Dragon Clans' home.

They couldn't exceed the Water-Elemental Dragon Clans in terms of the number of members, but they weren't less powerful!

Su Han took out a piece of paper from her ring. She poured her Nature Essence into it and threw it into the sphere.

The paper turned into a ray of blue light and disappeared.

Without saying anything, Hao Ren stood behind her as he knew that this was her voice transmission notes. If she needed to take care of some matters for herself, she could have barged in as an Inspector. However, she was here for the East Ocean, and doing that could displease the local dragons.

A moment later, a few elders in earthy yellow robes flew over. "Inspector Su Han, welcome! We apologize for not welcoming you sooner!"

"No need for that," Su Han said directly, "I'm here to get some of your local specialties – Seven-Colored Snow Lotus."

The elders looked at each other and asked, "What age do you need? We could prepare some for you if it's not a big amount."

Su Han turned to Hao Ren.

Hao Ren stepped forward on the broad sword and said, "We need six 1,000-year Seven-Colored Snow Lotuses."

The elders gasped at what Hao Ren had said. They looked at each other before saying, "We had three of those, but Inspector Qin Shaoyang was here not long ago and asked for two of them. So, we only have one left."

Su Han sighed coldly as she thought to herself, "Qin Shaoyang started to act as a tyrant as soon as he was assigned here."

Hearing her sigh, the elders thought that she wasn't happy about what they said. They immediately explained, "Inspector Su Han, 1,000-year Seven-Colored Snow Lotuses are indeed very rare, and we do only have one left. But since you and Inspector Qin Shaoyang are colleagues, maybe you can borrow them from him for the emergency?"

Hao Ren thought, "Three 1,000-year Seven-Colored Snow Lotuses should be just about enough to save Zhao Kuo's life. But that little Daoist Zhen probably won't cooperate."

He then said to the elders, "How about this. You guys can show us the way to the karst cave, and I'll go get the lotuses myself."

Hearing this, the elders looked at each other again, not knowing how to respond.

### **Chapter 199: Perfect Team!**

"Hehehe... Little Han, how come you have time to visit me in this remote and poor place?" Qin Shaoyang's voice came from the west.



Su Han furrowed her pretty eyebrows and said to the elders from the Earth-Elemental Dragon Clan, "Tell me where the karst cave is, and you can prepare that 1,000-year Seven-Colored Snow Lotus for me."

"The karst cave is at Luoying Peak of the Sky Mountain, and it's extremely dangerous. Inspector Su Han, please be extra careful." The leader of the elders lightly nodded and took off with the other elders.

The two Inspectors didn't appear to be friendly with each other, and the Earth-Elemental Dragon Clan did not want to get involved.

After all, the lotuses were grown in the dangerous area on the Sky Mountain, so they weren't worried about Su Han taking many lotuses.

As soon as they left, Qin Shaoyang appeared right in front of Su Han and Hao Ren.

Su Han looked at him coldly, and she put away her sword and landed with Hao Ren.

Qin Shaoyang also put away the light around him and stared at Su Han who was incredibly charming. He said, "Little Han, you are in such a good mood; you are on a trip to Sky Mountain with your little assistant."

Obviously, he had noticed the light mark on Hao Ren's forehead. He was surprised and jealous of the fact that Hao Ren became Su Han's Assisting Inspector.

"I don't have time to chat with you," Su Han said to him, "You may go back as soon as you hand over two 1,000-year Seven-Colored Snow Lotuses."

"I should do it just because you told me to? I was letting you win when we were in East Ocean, but we are on my turf, the Sky Mountain, now!" Qin Shaoyang looked at Su Han arrogantly as his tone got impatient as well.

Shoo! The white sword reappeared in Su Han's hand!

Su Han's personality was like this; she would choose to solve the problem physically without bullsh\*tting.

The golden weaving shuttle appeared in Qin Shaoyang's hand as well. He looked serious as he never dared to underestimate Su Han's strength.

Boom!

The white sword smashed into the golden weaving shuttle, and the ice and snow on the Sky Mountain slightly shivered!

Million Phantoms! Qin Shaoyang's golden weaving shuttle spun, shining golden light all around as golden weaving shuttles were everywhere!

However, different from Hao Ren's Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll where it could potentially generate millions of sword energies, all these golden weaving shuttles in the air were illusions to cover up the location of the real weapon.

"Piece of cake!" Su Han murmured and whipped out her white sword. Millions of swords also appeared in the air.

“Your realm is high, but your sword technique sucks as usual!” as Qin Shaoyang said that, the golden weaving shuttle shot straight at Su Han at the same time.

Millions of swords and shuttles crashed into each other in the air! As soon as one got destroyed, another would be created.

“What are you waiting for, Hao Ren? This is not a 1v1 battle! Come on!” Su Hao shouted at Hao Ren who was just watching from the side.

Hao Ren realized that he was too focused on watching and forgot to help. He immediately created a grey hundun sword energy and shot it at Qin Shaoyang.

He was only able to throw it like a grenade before. However, since he had broken through to Li-level, he was able to control the sword energy much better!

Qin Shaoyang was mad, but he couldn't help but panicked; he didn't expect to be in a 1v2 situation. Then, he realized that Su Han never played by the rules. Plus, the hostility between them was already obvious.

For the battles between Inspectors, as long as there was no death and no interference with the Inspectors' job, the Dragon God Shrine wouldn't get involved at all!

If Hao Ren were just a cultivator who attacked the Inspector, he would have been punished by the Dragon God Shrine. However, there was no need to worry about it since he was an assistant to Su Han now.

His hundun sword energy shot at Qin Shaoyang quickly. Qin Shaoyang remembered the fight that happened at Zhao Yanzi's birthday party and didn't dare to underestimate Hao Ren. Therefore, he covered his palm with Nature Essence before trying to block Hao Ren's attack.

Pa... The sword energy exploded in Qin Shaoyang's palm and made his arm numb!

Five-Elemental Lightning!

Qin Shaoyang covered his arm in surprise. Meanwhile, Su Han's white sword slashed toward his shoulder with no mercy!

Su Han's sword shouldn't be able to harm him at all if she were alone, but the situation was completely different since there were two of them!

Without saying anything, Hao Ren created another hundun sword energy and threw it at Qin Shaoyang!  
Pa!

It exploded on Qin Shaoyang's chest and burned a hole in his shirt!

Qin Shaoyang took five steps back, and Su Han went forward with her sword and created another wound on his arm.

“Lightning Grenade! You allowed him to use such a powerful Dharma Treasure!” Qin Shaoyang backed up and shouted in surprise.

He didn't think that Hao Ren who was very weak could harm him, so he assumed that Hao Ren had thrown out the extremely powerful explosive Dharma Treasure, 'Lightning Grenade'!

Although Qin Shaoyang had always kept his temper under control as an 'elegant gentleman', he finally lost it. He jumped away from Su Han's sword with one hand covering the wound and the other pointing at Hao Ren. "Let's him battle me one-on-one if you dare!" he shouted.

Su Han suddenly stopped attacking and said, "Ok, but you need to hand over those two 1,000-year Seven-Colored Snow Lotuses if you lose."

Qin Shaoyang took a deep breath, and the wound quickly healed. He looked at Hao Ren and then at Su Han, knowing that she didn't really put all her force in that attack just now.

Shoo!

A white sword energy shot directly at Qin Shaoyang!

Hao Ren was worried about Zhao Kuo, so he didn't want to waste any time. He went straight at it since he heard that Qin Shaoyang wanted to fight him one-on-one.

Qin Shaoyang blocked this sword energy with his golden weaving shuttle. Then, another yellow earth-elemental sword energy shot toward his face.

Hao Ren learned something from the fight with Su Han last time: if it weren't possible to win by force, then he got to win by quantity!

Shoo! Shoo! Shoo! There went another three sword energies!

As soon as Qin Shaoyang blocked them with his golden weaving shuttle, there came another five!

Su Han returned to Hao Ren's side and whispered as she put away her sword, "Beat his spirit so he won't be bothering us when we pick the lotuses!"

"Ok!" Hao Ren shot ten more sword energies of different elements at Qin Shaoyang with all his fingers.

When he leveled up from Kan to Li, the amount of Nature Essence he was able to absorb and use was several times more than before! The sword energies were shot in all directions and hit some of the stones and trees around them.

Bom! Bom! Bom! Bom! The sound of explosions resonated in the sky.

Qin Shaoyang was surprised at the improvement in Hao Ren's strength. In just a short period, Hao Ren has grown so much. If he had a year or two...

Hao Ren got more impatient when he thought of Zhao Kuo's critical status. He didn't have much time left, so he released all of the Nature Essence in his body!

Su Han walked to Hao Ren and grabbed onto his wrist lightly.

Hao Ren was just feeling exhausted, but a wave of Nature Essence poured into his body all of a sudden!

It felt just like when he did the landscape painting with Su Han!

Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll, absorb! Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll, release!

The sword energies that were only the thickness of a little finger suddenly enlarged into the thickness of a fist!

Waves of sword energies of Xun-level, which were close to Kun-level, dashed towards Qin Shaoyang like waves of the ocean!

They were guided perfectly in regard to which direction to go!

Every time Hao Ren swung his hands, ten sword energies would shoot out.

It felt like Qin Shaoyang was dealing with thousands of arrows that were flying at him!

Qin Shaoyang was busy defending. When he turned to Su Han and saw her arm touching Hao Ren's arm, he was even more triggered!

Bom! The golden weaving shuttle was knocked away by a blue sword energy all of a sudden!

Another sword energy went over his head and messed up his hairstyle, leaving him in a complete mess.

Although he was a Kun-level Master, he couldn't handle the attacks from a dozen Xun-level Masters at the same time! At the moment, Hao Ren was playing the role of several masters!

Su Han supplied the ammo, and Hao Ren made the shots; the two of them were a perfect team! Su Han knew that her sword technique wasn't excellent and couldn't get them the victory quickly. Therefore, she had decided to borrow Hao Ren's hands to deal with Qin Shaoyang!

Bom! Another sword energy went by Qin Shaoyang's neck and ran into the hill behind him, and the top of the hill immediately broke into pieces.

Qin Shaoyang began to sweat at the scene, imagining what could have happened if the sword energy went through his neck...

Hao Ren took back the rest of the sword energies in excitement. It was easy to learn the techniques recorded on the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll, but it was tough to cultivate and advance in realms with it.

However, as long as he could reach a high realm, the endless amount of sword energies could definitely challenge someone who was more powerful than him.

Su Han slowly let go of Hao Ren's arms and asked Qin Shaoyang, whose hair was a complete mess, "Who is the winner?"

Qin Shaoyang sneered without saying anything.

It was obvious that he was no match. Even though Su Han gave Hao Ren the Nature Essence, she wasn't involved in the actual fight.

"Hand over the Seven-Colored Snow Lotuses," Su Han said lightly.

The fact that Su Han came to cause trouble on his turf and her little assistant put him into such a mess made Qin Shaoyang furious.

Although he didn't know what kind of secret elixir Su Han gave Hao Ren to improve his strength so quickly, he knew that he had completely failed today.

There was nothing that Qin Shaoyang could do to Hao Ren since he had backing from Su Han! However, since Hao Ren was already halfway in the Inspector System, Qin Shaoyang could always find an excuse to cause trouble for him!

Su Han looked very gentle, but she could be vicious and violent if she wanted to. Qin Shaoyang was drawn by her charm although he knew that she was dangerous.

At the moment, he couldn't defeat Hao Ren and Su Han, so he gritted his teeth and took out two lotuses from his Xumi Ring before throwing them to Su Han.

Su Han caught them and handed them to Hao Ren after some examination.

The petals of these two lotuses were completely white, but there weren't black fruits in the middle! Instead, there were seven-colored crystals inside of these lotuses!

"Mystic Crystal, Mystic Crystal! So, this is what it looks like!" Hao Ren felt the strong Nature Essence inside the 1000-year Seven-Colored Snow Lotus in his hands.

"Put them in the storage space to prevent Nature Essence leakage," Su Han reminded Hao Ren.

"Ok," Hao Ren immediately put them in the space inside his necklace without hesitation.

Su Han didn't pay attention as she thought that the space inside the necklace was about the same as the storage space inside an ordinary Xumi Ring. She would be very surprised if she found out that the space was as large as a room!

Qin Shaoyang didn't stick around after the defeat and left sneakily. He had lost to Hao Ren twice in a row now, and he blamed it all on his bad luck.

"Seven-Colored Snow Lotus is one of the ten best ingredients for making elixirs, and the 1,000-year lotuses are even rarer," Su Han said as she took out her white sword again and stepped on it.

Hao Ren followed her up the sword after it expanded in size. He knew that their next destination was Luoying Peak. They would go ask the Earth-Elemental Dragon Clan for the last lotus if they couldn't find enough on the peak. The Northwest Earth-Elemental Dragon Clan only had one left since Qin Shaoyang took the other two. Su Han didn't want to push too hard if it weren't necessary.

Su Han didn't mention anything about Mystic Crystal when she explained the value of the Seven-Colored Snow Lotus. It seemed like she wasn't aware that these lotuses could be used as Mystic Crystals for cultivators who were cultivating Five-Elemental Cultivation Techniques.

Hao Ren thought about it and realized that almost no one in the Dragon Tribe would choose to cultivate Five-elemental Cultivation Techniques. The Lu sisters were well experienced, so they knew such a thing. Su Han would never pay attention to such niche information.

The Mystic Crystals that couldn't be used as Mystic Crystals would naturally become excellent ingredients for making elixirs. Although the Nature Essence was strong on them, their prices and strategic values couldn't even be compared to West Ocean Mystic Ice.

“How many 1,000-year Seven-Color Snow Lotuses are there in the cave...” Hao Ren wondered.

## **Chapter 200: The Top-Tier Herb**

The Luoying Peak was not the highest peak on the Sky Mountain. It was on the west side of the highest peak and got its name for its shape which resembled a soaring eagle.

Looking toward the east from the perspective of the Luoying Peak, Hao Ren saw some towers and pavilions. They looked magnificent and beautiful, not inferior to the East Ocean Dragon Palace.

“Those were left behind hundreds of years ago by the cultivation sects when they ascended as a group. Those buildings are just empty since all the Dharma Treasures and Cultivation Techniques were taken with the sects,” Su Han said casually while looking at those buildings.

Hao Ren nodded and looked more attentively at the large palaces and towers; he could imagine the lively scenes when the cultivation sects lived there.

The human cultivators had been prospering on the land with their advantages in everything. After a meaningless war in the cultivation world, their strengths were greatly reduced, and they had to hand over their control of the land to the Dragon Tribe. During that time, the dragon cultivators were scattered all over the place except the Four Ocean Dragon Clans.

Su Han seemed reluctant to talk about such things. After all, the human cultivators used to prey on the weak and killed for treasures. It was no accident that they got into major conflicts with each other and then fell together.

The Inspector System was established to avoid similar misfortunes, and it had helped the Dragon Tribe to settle down for hundreds of years without significant conflicts. They followed the rules about territories and resources and had gradually merged into the mortal world.

Clang!

When Su Han and Hao Ren landed on the Luoying Peak, two long spears crossed each other, blocking their way.

“The back mountain is a forbidden area. You are not allowed in here,” two Dui-level guards in blue robes said to them.

“I’m here to pick some snow lotuses. I’ve got permission from your elders,” Su Han said.

“I need to confirm...” one of the guards said.

Slap!

Su Han reached out and slapped this guard unconscious. Before the other guard could utter a word, Su Han made him unconscious as well.

“We don’t have time to wait for their confirmation. You hurry up and go in. Only cultivators below Zhen-level or the Core Formation Realm can enter the depth of the cave, so I’ll wait for you outside,” Su Han sat down cross-legged on a clean rock and said lightly.

Looking at the two unconscious guards at the entrance of the cave, Hao Ren began to understand Su Han's way of doing things.

He stepped over the guards and entered the karst cave with a sign that said "Forbidden" above the entrance.

A strong Nature Essence greeted him and almost toppled him. Seeming to have sensed his weak cultivation strength, this Nature Essence didn't attack him.

It was probably a complicated array formation established by the Sky Mountain Sect that used to occupy this area. It was here to protect the snow lotuses from being stolen by petty thieves. A master couldn't pass the array formation while a low-leveled cultivator couldn't go through the dangers hidden in the cave.

At first glance, the cave was nothing special. Like any ordinary karst cave, the hidden river made a series of water noises. Also, the inside of the cave was not pitch-black since there were some natural lights.

Hao Ren ventured inside carefully. It was his first time being inside the territory of a cultivation sect, so he was more cautious than curious.

The cave was deep. The deeper he went, the more disoriented he became. The things he could use now were the Water Repellent Bead, the hidden space in the necklace, and the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll.

He released a sword energy to illuminate the path, and he ventured deeper into the cave by hopping on the huge rocks.

It was fortunate that Zhao Yanzi didn't come with him. Hao Ren suspected that she would have been too afraid to follow him inside.

In the black-and-white cave, Hao Ren began to see some small colorful flowers. He took a closer look and found that they were nail-sized immature Seven-Colored Snow Lotuses.

These snow lotuses were top-tier herbs to the mortals, but they were useless to cultivators.

Since he wasn't a greedy guy, Hao Ren didn't want to damage these precious snow lotuses. He glanced at them before going further into the cave.

The deeper he went, the bigger snow lotuses he saw. However, they were still in buds and not mature.

After seeing the snow lotuses that they got from Qin Shaoyang, Hao Ren knew what a 1,000-year Seven-Colored Snow Lotus looked like.

If Zhao Yanzi had been here with him, she probably would have plucked two of them for her collection. Like every little girl, she wouldn't have been able to resist the temptation of treasures.

Hao Ren didn't know that his resistance to the temptation had helped him avoid great troubles.

All the snow lotuses were guarded by Spirit Beasts. The moment he picked any immature snow lotus, they would be alerted.

The Sky Mountain Sect had raised these Spirit Beasts. Hundreds of years ago when they ascended, they couldn't bring the cave with them. Therefore, they took some mature snow lotuses and seeds and left the immature snow lotuses and the Spirit Beasts behind.

In the past hundreds of years, the number of the Spirit Beasts grew, and their powers got stronger since they ate the snow lotuses for food. Although they couldn't pass through the array formation and get out of the cave, they had become wild after years of living on their own.

Due to his weak cultivation realm, Hao Ren hadn't attracted their attention yet. But if he picked a snow lotus, he would alert the sensitive Spirit Beasts!

As he went deeper, he found more snow lotuses that were more mature. Hao Ren had no time to ponder about the reason, thinking that the snow lotuses here were of higher quality because the dense Nature Essence better nurtured them in the depth of the cave. He didn't know that the earth-elemental dragons would be attacked by the Spirit Beasts when they came in to pluck the snow lotuses.

That was why they usually picked the ones near the entrance. If they tried to venture too far into the cave, they couldn't withstand the fierce attacks of the Spirit Beasts.

Su Han sat outside of the cave and cultivated; she didn't know how dangerous it was for Hao Ren right now. She thought the cave was just a snow lotus garden left by the previous cultivation sect; how dangerous could that be?

Hao Ren's footsteps finally woke up some Spirit Beasts, and their eyes opened in darkness.

Oblivious to the dangers around him, Hao Ren focused all his attention on lighting up the path in front of him with his sword energy. He was not aware that a group of Spirit Beasts was following him.

After a long-time, Hao Ren finally made some discovery.

"1,000-year Seven-Colored Snow Lotuses!" he looked up, moved his sword energy upward, and saw three 1,000-year Seven-Colored Snow Lotuses dangling on the ceiling of the cave.

He was now at the end of the cave, and it looked like a huge round room. Hao Ren couldn't help but admire the magical work of nature!

Without thinking, he raised his arm excitedly, aiming at the herbs.

Whoosh!

His right index finger shot out a sword energy.

The sword energy struck the place next to the snow lotus in the middle, and several small rocks fell but not the snow lotus.

Holding his breath, Hao Ren aimed again. He knew that Zhao Yanzi's Third Uncle was waiting for these three snow lotuses to save his life, but he must take his time and be cautious.

If he missed his aim and damaged the 1,000-year Seven-Colored Snow Lotus, it would be disastrous! If he used too much force, he could collapse this small cave, and it would be a bigger disaster!



After making a small adjustment of the angle, he released a weaker sword energy. This time, it cut right into the root of the snow lotus that was in the middle.

As it fell off, Hao Ren took several steps forward and caught it in a hurry.

The freshly picked snow lotus had more Nature Essence than the two he got earlier. Not wanting to waste its Nature Essence, he immediately put it into the space in his necklace.

He raised his head and aimed at the second snow lotus carefully.

There were only three 1,000-year Seven-Colored Snow Lotuses in the whole cave. Together with the one from the Northwest Earth-Elemental Dragon Clan and those two he had gotten, there were only six 1,000-year Seven-Colored Snow Lotuses in the whole world. They were indeed precious!

The 1,000-year Seven-Colored Snow Lotuses would mature in about 500 years, and the herbal essence would reach its peak when the lotuses were 1,000 years old. After that, they would fall and decompose.

Hao Ren supported his right hand with his left, forming the shape of a crossbow. Then, he shot out a sword energy from one of his fingers.

While the sword energy shot up toward the top of the cave, Hao Ren suddenly saw many lurked white creatures on the ceiling with the light of his sword energy.

When this sword energy cut off the second snow lotus, Hao Ren had a clear view of the creatures. They were white furry lions!

Snow Lions!

Together with the falling snow lotus, down came the countless Snow Lions!

Alarmed, Hao Ren rushed up and caught the snow lotus before putting it into the necklace. Then, he shot out ten Li-level five-elemental sword energies from his ten fingers.

The sword energies shot onto the Snow Lions, and they only made the white creatures turn slightly in the air. As soon as the Snow Lions landed on the ground, they rushed at Hao Ren.

“Whatever!” Hao Ren’s fighting instinct was triggered. Thinking back to Zhao Kuo’s courage during the Heavenly Tribulation, Hao Ren activated all his Nature Essence and shot out ten sword energies!

When he battled with Qin Shaoyang, he had used Su Han’s Nature Essence, and his own Nature Essence was untouched. Faced with many Snow Lions, Hao Ren felt no fear. Instead, he was a little battle-hungry.

The Snow Lions revealed their white fangs and charged at him.

Hao Ren backed off for half a step and turned his palms before shooting out another ten sword energies!

They hit the heads of the Snow Lions at the front of the pack, causing them to howl. It seemed like the sword energies were strong enough to inflict pain!

However, that also made them fiercer, and their black eyes became blood-shot!

In this dark cave, their red eyes looked like lanterns! Under the illumination of his sword energy, Hao Ren could see their now red eyes and sharp fangs.

When he turned around, he saw that a dozen larger Snow Lions blocked the exit path!

It seemed like the big round space at the end of the karst cave was, in fact, the Snow Lions' nursery.

Hao Ren had broken into a forbidden place!