

The Gods 181

Chapter 181 - Desperate Straits

Yun Che's words stabbed into one of Jasmine's many nerves, and she no longer said anything.

Within this period of time, the fifth wave of Stone Dragon Warriors were summoned. A total of thirty-two Stone Dragon Warriors appeared in a circling formation and surrounded Yun Che.

"Don't... care about me..." Little Fairy had always been awake and she clearly understood the current predicament. She, who was pressed against on Yun Che's shoulder, slightly struggled.

Yun Che turned a deaf ear on her, and wielding his sword with a single hand, he engaged the incoming Stone Dragon Warriors. His sword swinging speed naturally decreased, as he was wielding a one thousand nine hundred and fifty kilo heavy sword with a single hand; however, it was still as ferocious and tyrannical as before. Each one of his swings were huge and wide, bringing about the whistling of the wind as the sword sliced through the air, causing the destruction of the Stone Dragon Warriors one after another before they could even approach him.

The sounds of exploding stone continued without rest. Although he was wielding the heavy sword with a single hand, although he was hugging onto and protecting someone with his left arm, these thirty-two Stone Dragon Warriors still did not threaten Yun Che. In less than two minutes, under Yun Che's dozens of continuous swings with his heavy sword, they all turned into shattered rocks on the ground.

But, the fifth wave, was still not the end. Immediately after, the sixth wave of Stone Dragon Warriors appeared before Yun Che, and this time, there were sixty-four of them!

Looking at the sixty-four Stone Dragon Warriors encircling him, Yun Che took a deep breath as the hand he was using to wield the sword unconsciously tightened. The Prison God Sirius' Tome was able to give him complete mastery over the control of heavy swords, but it definitely did not mean it could allow him to ignore the weight of the heavy swords themselves. Holding a heavy sword with a single hand was unwise to begin with, and after eliminating the fifth wave of Stone Dragon Warriors, his right hand had already begun to feel numb.

Boom... Boom...

The sixty-four Stone Dragon Warriors started running together and the ground they ran on shook with every step they take. Yun Che growled, raised his sword and plunged into the crowd of Stone Dragon Warriors which just doubled in numbers. He charged. He clashed. His heavy sword was swung to the left. And then, it was swept to the right. Over and over again. The enemies were swept away one after another, and their bodies shattered one after another... Right here and now, he who had Little Fairy in his embrace, was extremely glad that he chose a heavy sword as his weapon back then. Because, when heavily surrounded, the only weapon that would allow one to fearlessly sweep in all directions like now, was only the heavy sword! The only weapon that could allow one to embrace a person, and protect her from the slightest bit of harm, was only the heavy sword! The only weapon that could easily shatter these Stone Dragon Warriors, whose hard and sturdy bodies could hardly be harmed by any other weapons, was also only the heavy sword!

The advantages of a heavy sword, in a battle like this, were thoroughly displayed. Yun Che absolutely believed that if he was currently wielding a light sword in his hand, he would not be able to move effortlessly in this encirclement of many Stone Dragon Warriors, and he would not be able to protect Little Fairy this perfectly.

But at the same time these advantages were being displayed, the disadvantages were slowly revealing themselves as well.

Boom...

Bang...

Boom... Boom....

With another set of tyrannical brandishing with the heavy sword, the sixth wave of Stone Dragon Warriors had turned into rubble as well. And the time taken, was exactly four times the time he had taken to finish the fifth wave.

Yun Che stabbed his heavy sword into the ground as he finally began to pant. Under Jasmine's "command", Yun Che had never kept his heavy sword in the Sky Poison Pearl, and had always carried it behind his back, so as to get used to its weight. However, no matter how one gets used to it, it definitely did not mean that it could be completely ignored. Because that weight of a thousand nine hundred and fifty kilos, will always be there. It will neither decrease, nor will it disappear.

The sixth wave, was still not the end.

Ziiing... Ziiing...

A large number of yellow rays of light flashed around Yun Che, and the figures of an exact total of a hundred and twenty-eight Stone Dragon Warriors appeared. And these Stone Dragon Warriors had undergone changes as well. Their weapons were no longer just longswords; at the back, there were Stone Dragon Warriors who decided to discard their shields, and were wielding two longswords and two longblades.

More than a hundred of them... Facing more than a hundred enemies of the same level at the same time, and even after a large consumption of energy, how the hell could this be a trial? It's basically abuse! This should probably be the last wave, I guess.

Yun Che thought as such. His initial ragged breathing had already calmed down after he regulated it. He threw an Intermediate Profound Recovering Pellet into his mouth, and adjusted his left shoulder so he could tighten his hold on Little Fairy by a little bit. He then pulled out the heavy sword from the ground with a single hand, and pointed it to the front.

The fierce battle between a one-handed person and a hundred warriors, thus began.

The Stone Dragon Warriors wielding longswords and longblades were not only different weapon-wise; even their movement speed was evidently faster than the Stone Dragon Warriors wielding spears. They rushed towards the front, and silhouettes of swords and blades enveloped Yun Che... Until now, what Yun Che was really consoled about, was that these Stone Dragon Warriors did not possess any long-ranged profound skills. Under the swings of his heavy sword, they were not able to approach him, which

also meant that basically, they were not able to harm him and Little Fairy. Otherwise, their predicament would undoubtedly be several times more difficult.

However, the condition for this situation to persist was for him to maintain the frequency of his swings. But with the combination of his increasing energy consumption and increasing sense of fatigue in his arm, the speed of his heavy sword swings, and their level of ferociousness, were evidently falling. This also led to even bigger openings and flaws after his every swing.

Bang bang bang...

In a series of explosions, five Stone Dragon Warriors that came to attack together were sent flying with a crescent swing of the heavy sword. But because of the gradually piling exhaustion from exerting his strength, when Yun Che was withdrawing his sword, his posture suddenly became unbalanced for a moment, so the long spear of a Stone Dragon Warrior came thrusting from his side and ruthlessly pierced into Yun Che's waist.

Blood splattered out, and the Stone Dragon Warrior's spear-tip was instantly broken as well. With a protective veil of profound energy on the exterior, and adding the hardness brought about by the Great Way of the Buddha, although this thrust did cause a bit of blood to spill, it did not bring about any serious damage. However, it was enough to allow Yun Che to feel a heavier sense of danger.

"Haah!!"

The nearby Stone Dragon Warriors were smashed with a single swing of Yun Che's sword. He then suddenly flung his right arm and threw the heavy sword in the air. Right after, he quickly and gently moved Little Fairy to the right and held her tightly with her right arm. His left hand grabbed onto the descending heavy sword, and with a single swing, it brought about a howl that was similar to the roar of a furious dragon...

With the swapping of arms, the numbness in his right arm finally eased up by a little. Although he could not wield the heavy sword as freely with his left arm, the frequency of his swings and the power behind them slightly increased. However, the energy exhausting rate, was also evidently faster than when he wielded it with his right arm.

The Stone Dragon Warriors swarmed together towards Yun Che, and they shattered together by him as well. If these were not Stone Dragon Warriors, but actual living human beings, Yun Che's entire body definitely would have already been dyed in fresh blood.

His left arm then began to feel heavier, gradually reaching the point of unsustainability. He once again returned the heavy sword to his right hand, which had eased up slightly from the numbness, and continued the close quarter combat.

The amount of time he took to clear this wave, to him, was very much longer than the previous wave, to the point where he did not even know the total amount of time he used. When the final Stone Dragon Warrior was destroyed, only heavy panting came out from his mouth. When he finally stabbed his heavy sword into the ground, and when his right hand left its handle, that sense of relief, was basically as if he was soaring into the heavens.

"Hu... hu... hu..."

Yun Che's entire face was flushed red; he was panting extremely severely, and the hot beads of sweat on his forehead were so fine that they looked like raindrops. Little Fairy, who was hooped before his chest, could clearly feel the shivering arm hugging onto her.

Ziiing~~~

Not even three breaths' time after Yun Che let go of his heavy sword did an even larger number of yellow light flash around him. These rays of light caused Yun Che's ragged breathing to abruptly stop. He forcefully raised his head, abruptly stopped the shuddering of his right arm, and firmly gripped onto the hilt of the heavy sword.

The eighth wave... two hundred and fifty-six Stone Dragon Warriors!

This trial could no longer be described as "difficult", but extremely brutal, and as brutal as hell. Within this brutality, not only did one have to face enemies with the same profound level, and not only did one have to face twice as many enemies after exhausting a large amount of energy, the most frightening thing was that the time between the clearing of a wave and the appearance of the next wave, did not even reach five breaths of time...

It completely did not give the person taking the trial any time for a breather and recover... or even the chance to heal his injuries!

With the appearance of these Stone Dragon Warriors, Yun Che's hand had returned to the heavy sword's handle. His expression was calm, but his pupils had evidently shrank a little.

There was actually... another wave!

The crowd of Stone Dragon Warriors that appeared charged towards Yun Che with uniform movements. Yun Che looked beyond the group, and at the back of the group, he was shocked to see Stone Dragon Warriors whose bodies were entangled with long metal chains, in which ball-shaped stone hammers were suspended at both ends of each metal chain.

Those are... meteor hammers!!!

The Stone Dragon Warriors swarmed over with their overwhelming numbers like a huge wave that tried to drown Yun Che within it. Yun Che's heavy sword was swept back and forth across the crowd of Stone Dragon Warriors but currently, his heavy sword felt particularly heavy. Every single time he swung, he was seemingly required to use his full strength. The Stone Dragon Warriors at the front of the crowd were falling one after another, while the Stone Dragon Warriors carrying the meteor hammers at the back were also quickly approaching.

Swish... Swish... Swish...

Five to six meteor hammers flew towards Yun Che and Little Fairy, who was in his embrace, from different directions.

Every single time Yun Che swung his heavy sword, he would always be able to tyrannically blast away the surrounding enemies, and prevent them from approaching too close. But attacks with the meteor hammers basically did not need the users to approach their enemies. These Stone Dragon Warriors were standing about six meters away, but the thrown meteor hammers were enough to accurately crash

towards Yun Che. And, these meteor hammers also came from above, so when he was attacking the Stone Dragon Warriors, he basically could not sweep his sword towards the meteor hammers. If he were to sweep his swords towards these meteor hammers, he would be unable to sweep towards the surrounding Stone Dragon Warriors in time, which would cause them to approach too close...

To Yun Che, the addition of these meteor hammer warriors were undoubtedly a nightmare within a nightmare. He could not help but use the Star God's Broken Shadow to move and cut through the crowd of Stone Dragon Warriors. But, because of this, no matter his energy consumption, attacking efficiency, or the number of dangerous elements, all of them had greatly increased.

Swish... Swish... Swish... Swish... Swish... Swish...

More and more Stone Dragon hammer wielders were charging over, and the meteor hammers flying towards Yun Che were becoming more concentrated, to the point where, in every moment, there were at least dozens of meteor hammers pounding towards him from different directions. He continuously moved and dodged, and once again, moved and dodged. He basically did not have the chance to retaliate...

Bang!

A good number of meteor hammers smashed together, creating dazzling sparks. Yun Che leaped high into the air, and when he was the highest point, dozens of meteor hammers came flying over. Yun Che took a deep breath, and used Star God's Broken Shadow to descend instantly, but when he landed, his right leg stepped on a fist-sized rock... In these type of situations, it usually would not have affected Yun Che in the slightest, but currently, because of the heavy consumption of energy, and with his mind strained, it was enough to influence his balance... His body leaned towards the left as he landed, and he staggered a distance of two steps... And this opening, was easily caught by Stone Dragon Warriors on his left, for three longblades came cleaving down ferociously at Little Fairy's position.

The approaching blade waves caused Yun Che to forcefully raise his head. But currently, he already had no time left to retreat, nor did he have the time to use his heavy sword to block them. Watching the trajectory of the three incoming longblades, Yun Che straightened his left arm, which was holding onto Little Fairy, at lightning speed, and took the three stone blades head on...

Sss...

Three stone blades cut onto Yun Che's left arm at the same time. The sounds of the impact allowed Yun Che to know that, not only did the three blades cut into his flesh, they even cut into his bones. Yun Che's eyes widened. With a loud roar, he used his profound energy to push out the stone blades cutting into his bones. He wildly swung his heavy sword, smashing away all of the Stone Dragon Warriors that approached him. This sweep was exceptionally ferocious; although he was able to sweep away all of the surrounding Stone Dragon Warriors, it also revealed a large enough opening. A meteor hammer suddenly flew over, and with a loud bonk, it smashed into Yun Che's head.

Yun Che's mind was currently shaking as his vision became a field of white. He quickly bit the tip of his tongue to recover his calm... But this split second of dizziness in this heavy encirclement, was enough to cause him his life.

Swish...Swish... Swish... Swish... Swish...

The moment his vision cleared up, he heard piercing sounds come from close proximity; a total of seven meteor hammers were currently flying over... Without even thinking about it, Yun Che instantly took a lowered body stance, and at the same time, used his two hands to firmly embrace Little Fairy.

BANG BANG BANG...

Seven meteor hammers struck Yun Che's back at the same time, immediately smashing Yun Che onto the ground. Yun Che's complexion paled as a large mouthful of blood welled up and gushed out of his mouth. He did not stand up. While releasing a roar similar to that of a wild beast's, a scarlet fire started to wildly blaze from his body; it even shot up to a height of a few dozen meters in an instant...

"Star Scorching Demon Lotus!!"

Like a blooming lotus, layers of flame waves were released layer after layer and in a blink of an eye, they spread to a circumference of a hundred meters. These more than two hundred Stone Dragon Warriors were packed closely as they surrounded Yun Che, and thus, were all drawn into the Star Scorching Demon Lotus. Under the hot flames that were mixed with the flames of a phoenix, all of the Stone Dragon Warriors quickly turned into ash.

He had never used Star Scorching Demon Lotus, which had a large radius, because the consumption of this move was enormous. Within a short period of time, he could only use this ability once, and once used, he would definitely be close to total burnout. Hence, this was his final trump card. In the predicament earlier, he had no choice but to use it... Right now, he could only pray that the eighth wave was the last wave.

Since the eighth wave was already terrifying to this degree, it's impossible for a ninth wave to appear, right...

Unless, this Primordial Azure Dragon was simply just a crazed beast that liked to toy and deliberately murder the challengers taking its trial!!

Chapter 182 - Phoenix Break

As the Star Scorching Demon Lotus' flame slowly extinguished, more than two hundred Stone Dragon Warriors were charred as they broke and fell into pieces along with their weapons. Peace returned to the area once again as only Yun Che's heavy gasps for breath and the "drip" sounds from the fall of his sweat and blood could be heard.

With a "boom", the heavy sword fell onto the ground. With great effort, Yun Che straightened his back to allow Little Fairy to lean on his shoulder. "Are you alright? Are you injured?"

Little Fairy was unharmed. Let alone injured, those creatures couldn't even touch her. Looking at Yun Che's pale face, she knew clearly that if it hadn't been for Yun Che protecting her, he wouldn't have been injured at all, and the two hundred or more Stone Dragon Warriors from before wouldn't have almost pushed him to the edge.

"Your... hands..." Little Fairy mumbled with difficulty.

Yun Che's left hand was in unbearable pain. Although he could barely embrace Little Fairy, wielding the heavy sword was already impossible. He shook his head and laughed effortlessly, "I'm fine, their blades are made of stones and are blunt. I'd only received some superficial injuries."

"Let me go... or else... you will die!" Little Fairy's voice was cold and weak. Although her body was crippled and her aura was weak, her five senses were fine. The sound of the three swords cutting into bone had rang by her ears just now, so how could she not have heard it clearly?

After popping an Intermediate Profound Recovering Pellet into his mouth, he reached for some ointment and spread it across his wounds on his left arm. Without the body strengthening from the Great Way of the Buddha, his left arm would've definitely been chopped into pieces. Upon hearing what Little Fairy had said, he shook his head. "Unless I'm dead, I will never abandon you. Don't think yourself as a burden. In this situation, the will to protect you is my greatest motivation to move on. Besides, haven't we already managed to pass? This trial's first stage, we should have already....."

Before he finish his sentenced, a large wave of Stone Dragon Warriors.... larger than the one previously, appeared after a bright flash of yellow light.

Dragon God Trial's first stage, ninth wave..... five hundred and twelve Stone Dragon Warriors!!

Yun Che's voice stopped there, as he was unable to continue saying a single word. His hand pointing downwards, he grabbed at the heavy sword's hilt, pulling the heavy sword that had sunk in from the ground again.

Within his line of sight, there were twice the number of Stone Dragon Warriors as before, and there were even more than the total of the previous eight waves..... If this wasn't a delusion, then it was a nightmare; a well and true nightmare.

Amongst these Stone Dragon Warriors, the ones in front held broadswords, swords, and spears, while those at the back no longer wielded meteor hammers. What they held in their hands were obviously especially massive longbows!

Stone Dragon Archers!

Bows and arrows that could shoot further and were a bigger menace than the meteor hammer!

".....Little Fairy, can you tell me..... your name, now?" Yun Che asked as he embraced Little Fairy, supported himself up with the heavy sword, and watched the streaming group of Stone Dragon Warriors closed in.

The surrounding noises informed Little Fairy of the unfavourable situation they were currently in. She had already lost track of how many years it had been, but she had never revealed her name to outsiders, let alone to a junior. But at that moment, when hearing Yun Che's voice, she couldn't muster the strength to reject him no matter what. Within the footsteps that cause the ground to shudder, her weak voice slowly spread:

"Chu..... Yue..... Chan....."

"Chu Yuechan...." Yun Che recited softly. Then, he started smiling, "Chu —— Lovely and moving, Yue — — The beautiful and bright moon in the sky, Chan — — A beautiful woman, a beauty that resides in the

moon, lovely and touching. In this world, there is no other name that suits you more. I've always been calling you Little Fairy, and I have not been calling you wrongly at all..... So in future, I shall still continue to call you Little Fairy."

Chu Yuechan: "..."

"Now that it has reached to this point, I'm already unable to tell if this is a trial or a completely unsurpassable trap." Yun Che lifted the heavy sword, and pointed it at the Stone Dragon Warriors that had reached a distance within fifteen meters from them, "But, whether it's me or you, we can't die for nothing here..... I won't die, nor will I let you die..... So, you'll have to use your strength to... give me strength!!"

"Haah!!!!"

With a loud roar, Yun Che's aura went berserk in a split second; his gaze grew extremely blood-thirsty and the blood in his body frantically boiled. His spirit, willpower, conviction, and soul also seemed to come ablaze all at once..... In these two lives, the number of dangerous situations he'd encountered had been too many to count; the number of impossible situations, had also been far too many. But the formation in front of his eyes that made men despair, made his heart palpitate..... But the reason for this throbbing was all because of Little Fairy; throwing away the need to protect Little Fairy, a flame ignited in his heart with unexpected slivers of excitement.

A sort of twisted excitement rose in his soul after encountering countless thrilling impasses...

"Come as much as you want... No matter how many that come, I'll kill them all!!"

Yun Che gave a low growl, and after releasing the "Star Scorching Demon Lotus", a berserk energy that came from somewhere unknown, was produced once again from his originally exhausted body. He didn't retreat. Rather, he hugged Little Fairy tight and rushed into the massive procession of Stone Dragon Warriors.

Bang!!

In a swoop, an entire four Stone Dragon Warriors were sent flying.

Boom!!

Another strike, and five more Stone Dragon Warriors were chopped into ten segments, and even a section of Stone Dragon Warriors in the rear were knocked down.

He, who should clearly have been exhausted, was currently actually wielding his sword even faster than before, and his strength had actually grown more ferocious. His heavy sword was like the Death God's scythe that did not stop rotating as it crazily reaped the lives of many Stone Dragon Warriors.

Jasmine, who was within the Sky Poison Pearl, felt a burst of shock. She was the clearest on Yun Che's body state. How could he, who previously could not even hold the heavy sword steadily, suddenly explode with this force that far outmatched his previous output. Her eyebrows furrowed, and she delicately perceived Yun Che's current condition. Her small face revealed shock, and her shock also expanded subsequently.

This wave of energy was actually from his willpower; it was actually squeezed out forcefully from his vitality!!

Jasmine had no way of knowing how exactly he managed this; to have extracted strength from his life force. It was unknown what a gigantic amount of willpower and perseverance it would take to achieve this, but she was clear that this would have incomparably severe consequences..... Because Yun Che's current actions, was clearly using up his life crazily!! The most direct consequence would be that his lifespan would reduce greatly, and after today, he would fall gravely ill and if lucky, he would even be completely powerless for as long as months without being able to leave the bed. But if he was unlucky, all his bodily functions and organs would fail and never recover.

The current Yun Che, was just like an enraged lion rushing into a flock of sheep. Wherever he rushed to, large piles of carcasses would be left behind.

The skies were filled with piercing sounds and a large volley of arrows spread through the skies as a large range of arrows rained down.

Swoosh.....

Yun Che's right arm was shot by three arrows.

Swoosh swoosh swoosh.....

Yun Che's back was hit by another three arrows, and amongst them, one of these arrows dangerously hit the vital center of his back.

Reaching this sort of impossible situation and facing more than five hundred Stone Dragon Warriors, Yun Che made the most correct, as well as the most crazy decision; that was to concentrate mostly on his attack, and as for defense, it basically stopped at Little Fairy. Because the faster he killed, the less pressure there would be. Traveling through the enemy ranks, he crazily chopped and cleared the Stone Dragon Warriors like a hurricane rushing through fallen leaves. The sounds of roars, crashes and explosions were ear-splitting, yet they never ceased.

Before two minutes had even passed, Yun Che had already been hit by twelve arrows, pierced by twelve spears, and hacked at by nine swords and thirteen blades at his back, shoulder and chest. More and more wounds opened up, and following his violent actions, these wounds no longer just bled, but were continually gushing blood. Horrifyingly, his shirt had long been completely dyed red by his blood.

The greatest threat to Yun Che was undoubtedly the Stone Dragon Archers in the rear. The wounds on Yun Che's body were mostly the outcome of trying to escape lethal attacks from the arrows. These Stone Dragon Archers were also the most critical targets to be killed. However, there were layers after layers of Stone Dragon Warriors, and he was inhibited from directly rushing to the Stone Dragon Archers. Out of all the profound skills he had, the one that could attack the furthest, was the Sky Wolf Slash... but the Sky Wolf Slash's consumption was far too large. If he really used it, he would be completely spent through and through.

He had to dispose of these Stone Dragon Archers. If he didn't, and continued to get injured this way, he would die before killing all the Stone Dragon Warriors here.....

Fixating his gaze on the Stone Dragon Warriors outside, Yun Che's gaze grew more and more solemn. On the surface of his body, a ring of fire began to rise and burn. Suddenly, his eyes flashed, and the flames on his body all rushed towards his heavy sword. Following which, along with the brandishing of his heavy sword, the fire was flung out far away.

Scree~~

In its wake, a resonant phoenix cry sounded and an enormous blazing phoenix flew from Yun Che's heavy sword. Passing through the Stone Dragon Warriors' carcasses, it fell sixty five meters away in the middle of the pack of Stone Dragon Archers, and then exploded; in the rocketing blaze, a dozen or so Stone Dragon Archers were sent exploding into the sky as their bodies smashed into powder in midair.

"He..... He went as far as to merge the World Ode of the Phoenix's residual formula into the Prison God Sirius' Tome's fundamental formula... to give rise to a profound skill that combines the heavy sword with phoenix fire!" Jasmine blurted out in surprise from within the Sky Poison Pearl, and then mumbled, "To actually combine the two divine arts that normal people might never be able to fully grasp in their lifetimes, and to do so in under this nearly impossible situation, and to be successful on the first try... How much of a monstrous perception does he possess!!"

This was Yun Che's first self-made profound skill. Watching the dozen or so Stone Dragon Archers that had exploded, he mumbled this profound skill's name quietly...

"Phoenix Break!"

The Phoenix Break was a large-scale burning attack that was no different than the Star Scorching Demon Lotus. Although it had a much smaller range, it could attack from a long distance and its consumption was much less in comparison. The corners of Yun Che's mouth lifted. A wave of energy that came from who knows where, yet again welled up throughout his body and ignited the brandished heavy sword. He flung out a blazing phoenix that gave off a low cry one after another. These blazing phoenixes rushed close to the Stone Dragon Warrior's body and flew to the Stone Dragon Archers far away, exterminating wave after wave of Stone Dragon Archers that were originally already not many in number.

As the injuries on his body grew more and more severe, the blood that had flowed out from his body had unknowingly become a third of the total amount of blood in his body. His clothes had been completely dyed and a large portion of Little Fairy's clothes were also dyed red, yet his expression was terrifyingly calm. His movements were still fierce and it was as if he completely did not feel any pain, let alone know that his body had already sustained so many horrifying injuries.

Him squeezing out his life, was also squeezing at his limits. Where his limit was located... perhaps even he himself did not know.

Chapter 183 - Stone Dragon General

This almost miraculous profound skill that was self-made by fusion, became a light of hope to the Yun Che who was in despair. His focus of attack switched to the far away Stone Dragon Archers; following the brandishing of the heavy sword, the close by Stone Dragon Warriors were blown away. What's more, the phoenix shaped flames that were shot flying out also blew up the Stone Dragon Archers one by one.

Yun Che's resounding roars, the heavy sword's howling, the rumbling collisions, and phoenix's low cries weaved into a dreadful sonata in this isolated valley. Yun Che's vision gradually grew hazy. His body almost became entirely numb, to the extent that he almost could not feel the existence of his arm. But his right arm that tightly gripped the heavy sword, still continued to swing mechanically. After a few tens of phoenix cries, all of the Stone Dragon Archers fell, and more than half of the Stone Dragon Warriors that had numbered over five hundred also fell at this time. Nevertheless, the dancing of the heavy sword still did not stop, and made the numbers of fallen Stone Dragon Warriors higher and higher... Three hundred.... Four hundred.... Five hundred....

Boom!!!

Following the sounds of an explosion, the earth broke apart. Mustering up the last of his strength, Yun Che attacked. All the Stone Dragon Warriors were blown far away, and a fifteen meter radius void of nothingness instantly appeared around Yun Che. After this blow, Yun Che was finally going to black out as he knelt down... If it weren't for the heavy sword's support, he would have already collapsed to the ground. However, in his left arm, he still tightly held onto Little Fairy... His entire arm was covered in more than twenty blade, sword, spear and arrow injuries. His arm was blood red and there was essentially no area that was left unscathed. Little Fairy, who was under the protection of this arm, did not suffer any injuries although her clothes had been stained red with fresh blood.

Under the Yun Che's last strike, the group of the Stone Dragon Warriors that was likewise the last, fell. The breath he had held on to with all his might, also exhausted along with the falling motion of his body. Let alone standing up, he couldn't even heavily pant. Even though his eyes were open, he could only see a field of white...

Even he himself could not believe that he actually trudged through this ninth wave of Stone Dragon Warriors. However, he was already incapable of remembering how he did it.

Crunch...

A burst of heavy sounds came from his front and made him subconsciously raise his head. In the midst of his blurry vision, he saw one Stone Dragon Warrior that fell down from his last attack, actually slowly stood up. It then wielded its spear, and pierced toward him at a running pace.

There was... one more...

Yun Che's teeth viciously bit onto the tip of his tongue as he abruptly lifted his body.... However, his current body felt as if it weighed millions of kilos; under all his strength, not only did he fail to stand up, it also instigated an acute and heart-drilling pain in his entire body instead. It was simply impossible for him to lift the heavy sword; even nudging it was an impossibility.

The Stone Dragon Warrior was already a foot away as it came piercing in a straight line.... He had already killed an entire nine waves of Stone Dragon Warriors, which amounted to over a thousand. But this last one, instead, became a turbulent river that was seemingly impossible to cross.

If this spear strike was pierced toward Yun Che, it was quite possible for it to directly take Yun Che's life. However, it aligned the head of its spear, at Little Fairy.

The stone spear that stabbed toward Little Fairy, heavily touched a certain very sensitive nerve of Yun Che's. With strength that he mustered from who knows where, his left hand shot out like a bolt of lightning, and firmly gripped onto the spear's tip. His right hand grasped into a fist, and violently smashed out. With a heavy sound, it directly smashed through the Stone Dragon Warrior's chest.

With a 'bam' sound, the Stone Dragon Warrior heavily crashed down onto the ground. Yun Che's vision also went black once again, and he couldn't even keep his kneeling posture. After letting out a wheeze, he fell onto the ground facing upwards.

His entire being had already turned into a bloodied person through and through. Countless wounds and bloody holes dispersed throughout his entire body. Even he himself didn't expect that after receiving so many injuries, losing so much blood, and even exhausting his life on top of that, he was actually still alive.

No wonder all the previous challengers had died here... Yun Che closed his eyes and let out a powerlessly bitter laugh. This was only the trial's first stage and it had not even ended yet. Even though Yun Che had the aid of several divine skills and god's secret arts, he was already in such a predicament. If it were anyone else, he might not even pass the fourth wave or even just the third wave. The later stages were definitely a nightmare or abyss that became scarier and scarier.

Is this really just a trial? How could there be such a scary trial in this world..... This trial, compared to the Phoenix Trial, was not just ten times more difficult. It was at least a hundred or even a thousand times more difficult...

"Yun Che... Yun Che!" Little Fairy shouted gently, but did not get a response from Yun Che.

Suddenly, the voice of the Primordial Azure Dragon rang from above.

"Very good, young human. The fact that you were able to reach this stage is already an unimaginable miracle. If it weren't for the lady by your side, this trial would be several times simpler; at least you would not be in such a desperate situation. However, the first stage of the trial has not yet been completed. The last wave, which is also the most difficult challenge, is going to start soon. But before that, I will give you sixty breaths of time of rest..... No, with your injuries, this sixty breaths might not help you rest properly, and might instead even worsen your injuries, causing you to lose more life force..... Everything, will be decided by your own fortune."

Yun Che laid down on the floor motionless. Even though his eyes were open, they were lifeless, as though he had not heard the Primordial Azure Dragon's voice. Just as his consciousness was about to fade into stillness, Jasmine's voice seemed like a wake-up call, shocking him back to life.

"If you do not want to die, hurry up and use the Great Way of the Buddha to stabilize your injuries!"

Yun Che's eyes sprang back to life as his body slightly moved. The Great Way of the Buddha soundlessly activated. In just less than ten breaths of time, all the bleeding on his body had stopped.

"Little Fairy, don't worry. I'm fine..." While stabilizing his own breathing, Yun Che turned around and revealed a smile to Little Fairy to comfort her: "You also heard it just now... There's only one wave left... Victory, is just before our eyes. W... We, will definitely endure through this together!"

“If... it weren't for me, you... at least... would only suffer some slight injuries... At least, you would still have thirty percent of your strength left... to deal with the next trial... You're... really... stupid....”

“Haha....” Yun Che started to laugh. This laugh, instantly affected the countless wounds on his body, and made the muscles on his face intensely cramp from pain: “Since I've already been stupid for so long, then let me be stupid till the end. But you definitely cannot say such words like leaving you behind anymore. Otherwise, wouldn't I have suffered all these wounds on my body for nothing.”

Sixty breaths of time silently passed.

At this time, a rumbling sound suddenly came from the mountain cliffs directly in front of him. Along with the sound, a gate that was near ten meters in height suddenly opened in the mountain cliff. Within the mountain gate, a towering silhouette slowly walked out with heavy steps. As it fully walked out, the stone gate behind him also closed amidst the rumbling sound.

This silhouette's outer shape was very similar to the Stone Dragon Warriors, however, it was much bigger than an ordinary Stone Dragon Warrior. Its body was over three meters, and its entire body was covered in thick and heavy golden colored armor; the weapon in its hands was more so extraordinarily eye-catching... That was a colossal sword with a completely grey body, and was even a size larger than the Overlord's Colossal Sword in Yun Che's hands. The sword's shape was twisted, as if it was an oddly shaped dragon bone. As for the sword's tip, it impressively displayed the shape of a ferocious roaring dragon.

Whether it was this enormous Stone Dragon Warrior, or the sword in its hand, both emitted an extremely terrifying aura... An aura that was even more terrifying than the five hundred Stone Dragon Warriors that appeared altogether at the same time.

The last trial of the first stage of the Dragon God Trial, only had one opponent —— Stone Dragon General!

Yun Che laid Little Fairy down delicately, then stood upright, both hands grasping onto the hilt of the heavy sword. If there was only one opponent, all he had to do was pull it away a little, so he wouldn't need to hold Little Fairy anymore, and he would be able to fight with both his hands and all his strength.

Every part of his entire body, every ounce of energy from his cells was forced out with all his might. With a low growl, he stood up once again, and grasped the heavy sword horizontally in front of him with both hands.

“You are not its match... Fifth level of the Spirit Profound Realm, even if you were in peak condition, there is simply no chance that you would be able to defeat it, let alone the you in your current state.” Jasmine said with a gloomy voice: “And... Do you see the sword in its hands? That sword is even more frightening than the enormous Stone Dragon General itself because it is a heavy sword, and a genuine... Sky Profound Weapon!”

Yun Che: “...”

“Even if I can't defeat it... I still have to fight! I've already gotten to this point, I don't have any reason to give up and resign!” Yun Che growled in a low voice. In order to have the fight as far away as possible from Little Fairy, he took the initiative to face the Stone Dragon General. In order to save a bit of energy,

he dragged the heavy sword as he moved forward, and the heavy sword's body plowed a deep indentation through the ground.

The Stone Dragon General did not show any emotion and did not speak; it only attacked. When Yun Che entered its range of perception, its eyes suddenly lit up under the golden-yellow helmet. Its footsteps abruptly sped up and it swung the heavy sword out, smashing straight at Yun Che.

This was the first time in Yun Che's life against an opponent that also used a heavy sword. But he firmly believed that this Stone Dragon General's ability to control a heavy sword definitely could not compare to him, because he possessed the Prison God Sirius' Tome. And because he was proficient in the fundamental stage of the Prison God Sirius' Tome, Yun Che was well-acquainted with all the advantages of the heavy sword, as well as all the disadvantages of the heavy sword. He must not forcibly clash with the Stone Dragon General's heavy sword; the only chance of him defeating it relied on speed and guerrilla warfare, attacking whenever there is an opening.

When the Stone Dragon General's heavy sword came swinging by, his eyes flashed as he swiftly retreated with a Star God's Broken Shadow and completely dodged that strike. Although he managed to dodge it, he was completely spent and weakened. The wind wave brought about by the sword strike made him lose his balance and narrowly missed the floor.

The Stone Dragon General stepped forward and brandished the heavy sword in a chain of four or five successive strikes that were all dodged by Yun Che's use of the Star God's Broken Shadow... However, the only thing he could do was evade, because his weakened body had become slow and it was fundamentally impossible to find any opening for a chance to counterattack.

Its body was too heavy, the sword was too heavy, and the Stone Dragon General's speed was not fast. In the few times it attacked, it didn't touch Yun Che at all. Thus, it seemed to have been enraged. It suddenly raised the heavy sword in its hands high in the air, and emitted an extremely harsh screeching sound.

In the wake of the screeching sound, several chaotically flashing yellow lights appeared at random places of the area. In the midst of the yellow lights, around thirty or so Stone Dragon Warriors wielding all sorts of weapons appeared in different locations... A few that were near Little Fairy's location immediately charged straight at her.

No matter what, Yun Che would never have expected that this Stone Dragon General could actually summon Stone Dragon Warriors. Looking at the Stone Dragon Warriors that rushed toward Little Fairy, he maniacally roared; energy surged from his entire body as he dashed over with his fastest speed. He then swung out his heavy sword and blew away all of the nearby Stone Dragon Warriors. While quickly passing ahead, he once again held up Little Fairy to his chest.

At this time, a terrifying whirlwind suddenly pressed toward him from his backside. As he rushed backwards, the Stone Dragon General also closely followed behind him. When he lifted up Little Fairy, the Stone Dragon General's terrifying heavy sword also violently smashed toward Yun Che's back. The Yun Che in this current situation could not evade, and it was impossible for him to even fully turn his body around. He could only firmly hold Little Fairy with his left arm, turn his body halfway and tightly clench his teeth; carrying all of his strength, his right hand that gripped the heavy sword greeted the Stone Dragon General's heavy sword.

Chapter 184 - Between Life and Death (1)

BOOM!!!

Before today, Yun Che had never encountered a weapon more powerful than the heavy sword he wielded. However, the moment the heavy sword slammed into the Stone Dragon General, he felt as if an enormous mountain had fallen from the heavens to slam into him.... He suddenly lost all feeling in his arm, and the heavy sword flew up into the air. He himself smashed down into the earth, shooting like an arrow across the surface of the ground, leaving behind a nearly sixty meter mark in the dirt.

Bang! The heavy sword descended, miraculously slamming down next to his feet, penetrating the hard-packed earth. Shockingly, a two inch nick had appeared on the blade of the sword.

After Yun Che slid to a stop, everything was still. His arm was bent backward at a horrifying angle. It was hard to tell if it was just severely dislocated, or simply broken.

“Yun Che... Yun Che!!” Little Fairy cried at the top of her lungs as her heart filled with anxiousness. Just now, when Yun Che had been thrown backwards across the ground, he had held her tightly up against his chest. She hadn’t been hurt even the slightest bit. However, Yun Che had clearly suffered a severe injury. Such a blow would have been fatal to anyone other than him.

Little Fairy knew that she was the reason Yun Che had been injured. If he hadn’t been attempting to protect her, he could deal with the Stone Dragon General with speed. Perhaps he wouldn’t have achieved victory, but at least he wouldn’t have been so quickly put into such a miserable situation.

“I’m... okay....”

Yun Che struggled to sit up. His voice was hoarse and a bit muffled as he spoke. By the time he sat up, the Stone Dragon General was roughly thirty paces away. His right arm was still twisted back, and he couldn’t feel it anymore. The only thing he could feel was a sharp pain in his shoulder.

“Let me go... If you don’t wish to die, hurry up and let me go!” Yun Che’s miserable condition caused Chu Yuechan’s vision to swim. She just couldn’t understand why he would risk his life to protect her... risk his life and not hold anything back! People were selfish by nature. Cherishing life was an instinct. She really didn’t understand why this mysterious young man could hold such disregard for his own life and his own benefit just to protect her.

“No... no way!” said Yun Che gravely, gritting his teeth.

“If you don’t let me go... I’ll bite off my tongue and kill myself!”

Chu Yuechan’s words caused Yun Che’s pupils to constrict. He tilted his head to look at her. Seeing her determined face, his mouth twitched, and then suddenly he roared at the top of his voice: “Shut the hell up!”

The furious roar knocked Chu Yuechan virtually senseless. When had anyone ever dared to speak thusly to her; she, who stood so arrogantly at the apex of the profound strength pyramid, who looked down at all creation?

Yun Che’s entire body trembled. While staring at Chu Yuechan, he grated, “Little Fairy, you need to listen to me carefully. At the moment, you are not a revered practitioner half a step away from the

Emperor Profound Realm. You are not set above the masses, nor are you a Frozen Asgard Fairy who can look down on everyone. You're just a weak little girl who can't even protect herself! As a weak little girl, there's only one thing you can do. And that is, to let a man protect you!

"Now I get it. You kick men away, you basically hate them down to your bones, disdain them.... Well, there probably aren't any men your age in the Blue Wind Empire who can measure up to you. One day you might well become the most powerful person in all of Blue Wind Empire, but that doesn't mean you can despise all men! Even the most powerful of women must have a man to rely on sometimes. That's obviously why women and men both exist in the world! If throughout her life, a woman rejects all the men who wished to protect her, then she'll end up with no one! If that happens, then even if she stands on top of the entire world, she's still nothing but a failed woman. She doesn't even deserve to be called a complete woman....

"In terms of strength, I may be thousands of times weaker than you, but here you are, relying on me! You can seek death, you can try to kill yourself, or even give up. But I won't. Because I'm a man. When a man must protect someone, only death can stop him!"

Yun Che slowly stood up. Without his arm to support him, it was a bit difficult. "You want to die, but I don't... I selected the heavy sword so that I could take care of the people I chose to protect. The first person to fall under the protection of my heavy sword is not a family member, or a loved one, or even a friend. It's you.... If I'm not capable of defending the very first person to come under my protection, then how can I continue to use the heavy sword?"

"Today, I'll bet my life and my dignity to show you, you who hates men... what is... a true man!!"

"UAHHHHHHH!!!"

Yun Che opened his eyes to its extreme limit as he let out his hoarse cry. He jerked the right side of his body, causing the dislocated arm to snap forward. It clicked back into place with a popping sound.... It only took a moment, but the pain was unimaginable. However, Yun Che didn't so much as frown. His arm was now back in its original position, but couldn't be moved forward. He gripped the hilt of the heavy sword and looked at the approaching Stone Dragon General. He laughed, a laughter grim and shrill.

"Burning... Heart!!"

As the two words erupted from his mouth, his eyes suddenly filled with a light red color. Evil God's Profound Veins' second gate — Burning Heart, a gate that he would never dare to open under any circumstances, was forcibly opened by him in his most weakened state.

Inside the Sky Poison Pearl, Yun Che's action caused Jasmine to turn pale in shock. She opened her mouth, but then immediately bit down the words that nearly left her mouth. While accessing Yun Che's current condition, she went into a daze; her vision became hazy as an indistinct figure that she always yearned for appeared before her eyes. Then, it slowly overlapped with Yun Che's current form...

His personality seemed very, very much like that of her older brother...

In order to protect those he must protect, in order to protect his own pride and honor...

He knew what he had to do, and he knew what would happen if he did... However, he would never hesitate. Furthermore, there wasn't anyone who could stop him...

When "Burning Heart", the Evil God's second gate, opened, the previously exhausted body was suddenly filled with an incomparable vigor. But at the same time, it also gave rise to unstable energy ripples. Yun Che gripped the heavy sword and let out a roar of rage. He hurled the heavy sword toward the incoming Stone Dragon General.... The blade of the sword danced with scarlet Phoenix Flames.

"Phoenix Break!!"

This Phoenix Break did not send forth a blazing phoenix. but rather, a flaming heavy sword!

Flames danced madly upon the surface of the heavy sword's blade as it transformed into an enormous steel phoenix. It shot forward toward the Stone Dragon General as flames filled with unstoppable power rippled. Yun Che flew along behind it. As he did, phoenix flames burst out around him, as a pair of resplendent illusory phoenix wings sprouted from his back.

"Empyrean Dance of the Phoenix Wing!!"

They flew through the air, sword and man!

Bang!!!!

The heavy sword stabbed into the chest of the Stone Dragon General, sending flames bursting out. Massive tongues of fire engulfed the Stone Dragon General, shoving its torso backward. The force of the explosion caused Yun Che's torso to also bend backwards. Thrown off balance, he lost control and spun down towards the ground.

He spun in midair, while keeping one arm encircled protectively around Chu Yuechan. His other hand reached out to grab the heavy sword as it flew back toward him. Vicious violence glittered in his eyes as he raised the heavy sword high into the air...

"Sky... Wolf... Slash!!"

"Haah!!!"

A massive wind chaotically sprung up, and a blue wolf howling at the sky flashed behind Yun Che. As Yun Che brandished the heavy sword, the wolf shot forward, carrying with it power seemingly sufficient to collapse the heavens and crush the earth.

BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM.....

The wolf charged, leaving a deep gully in its wake as it shot forward. It reached the fallen Stone Dragon General in the blink of an eye, slamming into it and sent the Stone Dragon General flying up into the air. The immense power of the attack knocked the Stone Dragon General a full one hundred meters away. It slammed into the side of the mountain, then slowly slid down toward the ground. Crumbling rocks and debris rained down onto it, burying it completely. Only its heavy sword remained on the outside.

Chu Yuechan watched mutely as all of this happened, seemingly having lost the ability to even think.

“Did... did it... work?” she said. She felt as if she were in some sort of dream. Despite such a serious injury, despite being drained of energy, Yun Che had suddenly erupted with a shocking amount of power.... He was like some sort of monster. It was as if his body didn't have any bottom line.

The only answer she received was the ear-splitting drone of the heavy sword.

Chu Yuechan forced her tiny head to look up. When she caught sight of Yun Che's face, her eyes instantly grew wide.

Yun Che's eyes were closed, and two thin streams of blood seeped out from their corners. Blood also oozed out of his mouth, nose and ears.

Drip... drip....

Faint but intense cracking sounds could be heard, emanating from Yun Che's skin, blood vessels and bones. The skin on his face, arms, and body... were slowly being filled with cracks. Blood oozed out of the cracks. Over a few breaths of time, his face began to fill with similar narrow cracks. It looked like parched, dry earth... beneath his clothes, cracks covered the rest of his body. Beneath his skin, his blood vessels and bones also seemed to be splitting apart.

Using the Burning Heart in a normal situation was dangerous enough. But to use it in a weakened state was even worse. Yun Che had predicted that something like this would happen. The three moves he had made after using Burning Heart had completely sapped him of all energy and will. Perhaps it would turn out to be his final blaze of glory before dying.

Ba-thump....

Yun Che's left arm went limp and Little Fairy dropped to the ground. Then, Yun Che fell flat onto the ground, unmoving. He didn't even have a chance to utter a single word to Little Fairy.

“Yun Che... Yun Che... Yun Che!!”

Chu Yuechan's cried out as loud as she could and reached out to touch him with her right arm, the only arm she could move. However, she was simply too weak. The half pace that existed between them was a gap too far to cross. She looked at Yun Che, who laid there motionless, hemorrhaging blood, and her heart began to throb with pain.... It was a pain she had never felt before, mixed with a deep dread —— dread that Yun Che might die.

Before she realized what was happening, her vision began to grown blurry. This fact filled her mind with numbness and confusion, because... she was crying. Dozens of years had passed in which she never imagined that she would cry, especially not for a man so beneath her. What was unfamiliar, were not only her uncontrollable tears, nor the unbearable pain which stabbed into her heart like an arrow, but also deep fear.

Here she was, crying. She didn't know why she was crying, or why she felt pain, or why she was scared.... She began to weep; great billowing waves of weeping that she couldn't prevent, and couldn't stop.

“Yun Che... Yun Che!” she cried with a voice filled with helplessness and sorrow.

Boom!!

Her shouts did not provoke any response from Yun Che. However, over at the base of the mountain, the sounds of crumbling rocks suddenly sounded out. The Stone Dragon General suddenly emerged from the pile of rubble. Debris showered off its body as it stood up once more.

Chapter 185 - Between Life and Death (2)

The Stone Dragon General lifted its heavy sword and walked forward step by step; each step was like the approaching footsteps of a Death God.

Chu Yuechan motionlessly stared blankly. In this certain death situation, the Yun Che who was completely covered in blood, made her, who had been wholeheartedly seeking death, suddenly possess an intense will to live. Because her current life was desperately protected by Yun Che's own life and conviction. If she died, all of Yun Che's efforts and injuries would have all been for naught. Whether it was for herself, or for everything he had done for her, she did not want to die anymore... and even more so, did not want Yun Che to die.

If it was the her before today, eliminating this Stone Dragon General would only take a split second. But at this moment, this enemy that she would've never taken a glance at previously, had become a Death God that she was incapable of opposing. Every step the Stone Dragon General took to draw near, her expression became all the more ice-cold and unwilling... At this moment, her eyes suddenly flashed and she remembered something that she had long forgotten for many years.

She struggled to open her right hand and took out an extremely small glass bead from her spatial ring. Then, she used every inch of her strength to pinch it into pieces. Immediately, the shattered bead released an expanse of an ice-blue brilliant aurora. After that, the blue radiance flashed and formed a flowing ice-aurora barrier around Chu Yuechan and Yun Che.

The Stone Dragon General currently within five steps away. Its body rammed against the barrier and was bounced back by the tough barrier. The Stone Dragon General took a step back, raised the gigantic sword in its hands, and heavy smashed at the barrier.

Boom!!

The Stone Dragon General exploded with power yet the ice-blue barrier only rippled faintly and did not show any signs of being damaged. However, the Stone Dragon General's body was repelled by the tremor and was knocked two steps back. Unresigned, it continued onwards and repeatedly attacked the barrier with its heavy sword but it was never able to make any sort of crack on the barrier.

The bead that Chu Yuechan had shattered was called the "Frozen Soul Bead". After breaking it into pieces, a "Frozen Soul Barrier" would be released. The longest duration a Frozen Soul Barrier could last was ten hours. Not only that, any profound practitioner lower than the Sky Profound Realm was incapable of damaging it.

This Frozen Soul Bead was given to her by her master when she was around the age of twenty to use during a life-threatening situation. But only a few years after that, she had already broken through into the Sky Profound Realm, so there weren't any situations in which she had to use it. Ten or so years had passed so she simply had already forgotten about the Frozen Soul Bead's existence. However, just a moment ago, when her passion to live ignited once more, she suddenly remembered it.

Although the Stone Dragon General wielded a Sky Profound heavy sword, its own profound strength was merely at the Spirit Profound Realm; it was fundamentally impossible for it to split open this Frozen Soul Barrier. The surrounding Stone Dragon Warriors that were summoned by the Stone Dragon General all charged forward and all sorts of weaponry bombarded the barrier. But even if these Stone Dragon Warriors came again a hundred times, or a thousand times, there was no way of making even a sliver of an dent on the barrier.

Inside the Frozen Soul Barrier, they were safe for the time being. Although Yun Che was motionless, bleed from all seven apertures on his head, and was riddled with scars, Chu Yuechan still faintly sensed his extremely weak life force. Under the temporary protection of the Frozen Soul Barrier, she silently watched Yun Che and waited for a miracle to happen... Which was Yun Che standing up again. Since he was able to stand up so many times before, he was definitely able to stand up once more.

Yun Che indeed had not died yet, and he was actually completely conscious the entire time. He just could not feel his body, couldn't see anything, and could not hear anything. His completely awake consciousness was also especially fuzzy. If it weren't for the support of his unwavering willpower, this wisp of consciousness would have long since dissipated.

The three drops of Phoenix blood actively circulated near his heart and protected the last of his life force within its flames.

I can't... die yet...

How can... I die... here...

Little aunt's waiting for me... Senior sister's also waiting for me... Jasmine gave me a new lease in life, and I haven't even fulfilled a single one of my promises to her...

I absolutely... cannot... die!!

His barely remaining consciousness had completely transformed into a will to live. He knew clearly, that in order to live, he had to forcibly suppress the rupturing of his body brought about by Burning Heart right away. It was just that the current him was incapable of mobilizing his internal energy. The opening of Burning Heart, had also completely paralyzed his profound veins. The only thing he could arouse was the Great Way of the Buddha that was within his consciousness.

He was incapable of sensing anything from the outside world, so he was naturally unable to be disturbed. Under this sort of state, his mind reached a sort of concentrated peak. Inside his mind, the profound formula for the Great Way of the Buddha clearly surfaced...

I, am the master of everything in this world. Buddha exists in my heart, so I am worthy of the Great Way...

The Great Way of the Buddha slowly began to activate. Using his consciousness as the starting point, it slowly spread toward his broken body and gradually began to absorb in nature's essence.

The Great Way of the Buddha's fundamentals just happened to use the essence of nature to temper one's own body. It would bestow the body with an enormous strength that was extremely resilient and could also rapidly quicken an injury's recovery. At the lowest of levels, the Great Way of the Buddha could absorb the essence of nature. At the intermediate level, it could then take in the origin of nature's

essence. And at the later stages, legend has it that it could absorb the original essence of Primordial Gods.

Yun Che's current injuries were too severe and was a fine line away from death. The activated Great Way of the Buddha was no more than a cup of water on a flaming cart of firewood; the speed at which it recovered his injuries was completely incapable of catching up to the speed of his injuries worsening. His body's vitality left him at a quicker rate than it absorbing the essence of nature. However, Yun Che was completely unaware of everything that was happening; he merely clung onto his will to live. While tenaciously refusing to allow the last of his consciousness to fade, he desperately channeled the Great Way of the Buddha.

The Great Way of the Buddha's profound formula slowly drifted in Yun Che's consciousness. Yun Che's entire consciousness concentrated upon it... Suddenly, these profound words became indistinct and then rapidly scattered about. Then, a slowly rotating silver colored pagoda appeared in its place... Afterwards, the slowly rotating pagoda enlarged, and then enlarged again, until it filled his entire consciousness...

Ping...

This silver colored pagoda in his consciousness shattered into pieces after slightly trembling, and became brilliant silver rays of light that filled the sky... At the same time, a faint layer of silvery radiance also surfaced upon Yun Che's body that was riddled with scars.

The Great Way of the Buddha's circulation suddenly became quicker; as if pulled in by an immense force, the essence of nature in the surroundings was quickly absorbed by Yun Che's body. At the moment, his body that was currently riddled with ghastly cracks suddenly became the most optimal state in which he could take in the world's elements.

The operation of the Great Way of the Buddha became faster and faster, and the absorption of nature's essence also hastened with it. Gradually, it reached the extreme limit of the Great Way of the Buddha's first stage, yet it still did not stop and operated at an even faster rate than Yun Che at peak condition.

The different aura was sensed by Chu Yuechan. She tilted her head and stared blankly at Yun Che... Currently, his entire body was covered in a thick layer of silver light, and this layer of silver light still continued to faintly expand as every crack that could be distinguished by the naked eye, slowly healed. Those minute cracks from before had now completely disappeared without a trace.

Chu Yuechan's gaze shook as she silently watched this inconceivable scene. Even with her knowledge of the world at her level and several tens of years of extensive observation, she still did not understand what was happening to Yun Che's body.

The silver colored radiance grew even more brighter than before. A current of air chaotically swirled round and round in his surroundings, as if something was wildly entering his body.

Yun Che's consciousness became clearer and clearer. He gradually started to sense the existence of his body, head, chest, and limbs... What came to him was not acute pain, but was rather a sort of wild joyfulness; it was because this signified that after the opening of Burning Heart, these places in his body had not been destroyed.

Immediately, he silently concentrated and calmly continued to operate the Great Way of the Buddha, letting it circulate within his body over and over again... Once, twice... ten cycles... a hundred cycles... three hundred cycles...

After thirty complete cycles of the Great Way of the Buddha, he was finally able to feel all of his body parts. Pain and their existence were felt clearly, and a continuously sort of striking sound was heard beside his ears. After a hundred cycles, his profound veins awakened from their paralysis. He felt an external force from the outside world quickly enter his fifty four profound entrances via his profound veins, and rapidly restore his profound strength at an extremely shocking rate. The feeling of having a powerless and stiff body, slowly faded away.

After two hundred cycles, the pain in his entire body completely disappeared.

After three hundred cycles, Yun Che slowly opened his eyes that radiated a penetrating brilliance similar to the cold edge of a blade.

The second stage of the Great Way of the Buddha was miraculously attained during a near-death experience in which he was clinging to life!

The Great Way of the Buddha was a profound art that belonged to the Rage God; every stage's breakthrough required an extremely long period of mental and physical comprehension, as well as lucky opportunities that could only be discovered by chance. It took Yun Che not even a month's time to perfectly master the first stage of the Great Way of the Buddha. In Jasmine's eyes, this feat was already a miracle. To her, even if Yun Che's comprehension was shocking, in order to reach the second stage, he would at least need a year's worth of time. Never would she have thought, and never would Yun Che have thought that being on the brink of death, while in extreme concentration, while not hesitating to do anything to live... Under these dangerous key circumstances of when Yun Che could not even sense a single thing, the Great Way of the Buddha had actually broken through to the second stage.

And every time a stage had been stepped across, it was also accompanied by the shedding of one's body and bones.

Yun Che's every injury, whether they be internal or external, were all completely healed that not even a single sliver of a scar remained. His hair grew longer by half a foot, his eyes became even brighter, and his hearing became even more acute. His organs, bones, skin and flesh, all brimmed with an incomparable toughness. Even his blood became a bit more thicker as the throbbing of his heart's pulse became even more robust. The previously weakened body that could not even lift a single finger was now brimming with incredibly powerful strength... This powerful sensation was actually felt under a state in which he had not used the slightest amount of profound strength!

Jasmine had told him before that the second stage of the Great Way of the Buddha would give the body strength that totaled four thousand kilograms!

Chapter 186 - Dragon Fault

Yun Che hopped up from the ground like a carp flipping out of the water. Looking at his hands, he felt power bubbling throughout his entire body, as if he was in a dream.

Yun Che's sudden leap up undoubtedly startled Chu Yuechan. She watched Yun Che, and said weakly: "Yun Che... you..."

At this time, from the time Yun Che lost consciousness and the opening of the Frozen Soul Barrier, six hours had already elapsed. With Chu Yuechan's current state, she had unyieldingly resisted falling asleep, and painfully waited for Yun Che to wake up and stand up again. Only, she never would've thought that not only did Yun Che stand up once again, his entire person, in the short span of six hours' time, had completely recovered from all its injuries, replenished all its strength, and had been completely reformed.

"I'm alright now." Yun Che put both hands down, then said with a slight smile. He looked at the Stone Dragon General outside, which was firmly isolated from the Frozen Soul Barrier, and said in a low voice: "Was it this barrier that protected us?"

"Hmph, you don't say! If it wasn't for this barrier, don't mention breaking through, you would've died a hundred times already!" Jasmine said snappily.

"This is a Frozen Soul Barrier; it can still sustain for four more hours. You... are you really alright?" Chu Yuechan looked at Yun Che, and said with a voice still filled with disbelief.

Yun Che smiled lightly, and did not speak. Profound energy spread outwards, dispersing all the bloodstains on the exterior of his body. In an instant, not even a trace of bloodstains could be seen on his face, hands, and skin revealed through the holes of his clothing. His skin was as bright and clean as jade, with absolutely no sign of scarring.

This scene caused Chu Yuechan's eyes to reveal some uncertainty. Yun Che bent down, and sent a gust of profound energy into Chu Yuechan's body to protect her heart veins, and said with a gentle expression: "Wait for me here. We'll leave this place immediately."

After speaking, Yun Che grabbed the heavy sword on the floor, and charged out of the Frozen Soul Barrier... The Frozen Soul Barrier was a protective ward, and also an isolation ward. One could not enter, but one could leave.

Breaking through to the second stage of the Great Way of the Buddha had allowed the strength of Yun Che's body to increase greatly. The one thousand nine hundred fifty kilogram heavy sword in his hands felt so light that it was almost as if it didn't exist. It also felt much lighter than an ordinary profound practitioner holding a light sword. Once he exited the Frozen Soul Barrier, he swept the heavy sword horizontally outwards. With a string of explosions, those Stone Dragon Warriors were smashed to bits and pieces like pulverized beans... Crushed with incomparable thoroughness.

At this time, the strength contained in one strike was completely incomparable to before. More than twenty Stone Dragon Warriors were completely destroyed in just one sweep. Then, his body turned and jumped high in the air. With a low growl, he struck straight at the Stone Dragon General.

Before, he had been beaten half to death by one strike from the Stone Dragon General... And this time, he wanted to verify if his current reformed self could compare to the power of this Stone Dragon General head-on.

Boom!!

The two heavy swords collided ferociously. With an enormous sound, two intertwining gorges formed in the ground underneath their feet. The Stone Dragon General moved backwards while Yun Che shot outwards. After landing, he slid a distance before stopping with great effort, and his hands felt numb for a while.

On the body of the Overlord's Colossal Sword, another nick around an inch long appeared.

The Overlord's Colossal Sword had clashed with the enormous sword in the Stone Dragon General's hands twice, and both times, a huge nick had been smashed into it. This was the disparity between two levels.

Yun Che's eyebrows sunk slightly. Although his strength had increased greatly, the Stone Dragon General had attained the fifth level of the Spirit Profound Realm, and it wielded an extremely rare Sky Profound heavy sword. His thoughts of facing it head-on was still a little naive.

However, Yun Che's expression didn't reveal any unease. Possessing the Prison God Sirius' Tome, he was least afraid of opponents that wielded heavy swords, because he was simply too familiar with every facet of the heavy sword. His gaze landed on the oddly-shaped heavy sword in the Stone Dragon General's hands, and an unusual expression flashed repeatedly in his eyes.

Sky Profound Weapons; there were probably only ten in the entire Blue Wind Empire! As for Sky Profound level heavy swords, they simply did not exist.

But today, there was actually one right in front of him!

Although the current setting was the realm of the trials, since one could die or break through the realm, this meant that everything in this place was real, unlike the dream world of the secret Phoenix Trials. This also meant that the Sky Profound weapon in front of him was real as well!

With this thought, Yun Che raised his head and lifted the heavy sword up. He charged at the Stone Dragon General like lightning, but this time, he didn't continue attacking the Stone Dragon General head-on. Rather, as its heavy sword came forward to receive his strike, he shifted his position using Star God's Broken Shadow. He flashed to its left side, and smashed down with all his strength using the heavy sword.

The physical strength and power of the Stone Dragon General's body, as well as its weapon, were both incredibly frightening. But it had one great flaw, which was its speed. Yun Che had clearly figured this out in his half-dead state before his breakthrough.

Along with a "boom", the heavy sword smashed heavily onto the Stone Dragon General's right shoulder. The golden-yellow armor on its shoulders fell off in an instant, but its body only stood askew to the left for a moment; it didn't even lose its balance. The sword in its hands chopped horizontally, sweeping towards him.

Yun Che fled far away, escaping the Stone Dragon General's counterattack. Then, he bared his teeth... This fellow's body is too sturdy, even this heavy sword can't injure it... It's no wonder it didn't die after receiving the combined strike of Phoenix Break, Empyrean Dance of the Phoenix Wing, and Sky Wolf Slash under the effect of Burning Heart.

I just don't believe you'll be able to continue resisting so steadily!

Yun Che's eyes flashed, and he charged forward once again. He flashed around the Stone Dragon General's surroundings with Star God's Broken Shadow, leaving behind several afterimages. Every attack from the Stone Dragon General was extremely frightening, but all of them struck the afterimages Yun Che left behind, while every one of Yun Che's strikes landed accurately on its body.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom...

After being pounded heavily by Yun Che several tens of times, the golden-yellow armor on the Stone Dragon General's body became riddled with holes, but its body was still basically uninjured. The Stone Dragon General turned its body half-way, and swept its heavy sword horizontally towards Yun Che. But this time, Yun Che didn't jump backwards to escape.

"Empyrean Dance of the Phoenix Wing!"

BOOM!!!

For this strike, Yun Che selected the Stone Dragon General's head as the point of attack. Following the sound of an explosion, a lump of flame exploded from the center of the Stone Dragon General's head. The Stone Dragon General's helmet directly shattered, and it emitted a painful howl. Its body finally lost its balance for the first time, and it stumbled backwards for a while. Under its body's current condition, its left hand unconsciously let go of the heavy sword in order to maintain balance.

And what Yun Che was waiting for, was precisely the moment when one of its hands left the heavy sword; when it was only holding onto the sword with one hand.

Another weakness of the heavy sword was the wrist! Because the heavy sword was too heavy, when brandishing it, one must use both hands to grasp it. Only with both hands grasping could one exhibit the maximum strength of the heavy sword. But it also due to its immense weight that when the wrist receives a heavy strike, it was very easy for the heavy sword to leave the hand... especially when only one hand was grasping the sword!

While focusing tightly on the location of the Stone Dragon General's right wrist, the moment Yun Che landed, he shot forwards like lightning, and the aura of profound energy surrounding him abruptly became incomparably chaotic.

"Falling Moon Sinking Star!!"

Just as the Stone Dragon General's body stabilized, Yun Che's heavy sword that frantically brought about ten times its usual strength, struck heavily and accurately upon the Stone Dragon General's wrist which was holding the heavy sword.

Bang!!

Within a deafening collision sound, the Stone Dragon General emitted a painful howl once again. Its entire arm was lifted up, and the armor covering it was also completely shattered. The oddly-shaped heavy sword flew out of its hands, just as Yun Che expected. After flying for several tens of meters, it landed heavily... Right before it landed, accompanying a sound akin to a landslide, a ravine several meters long appeared in the ground.

Yun Che dashed over, arriving in front of the heavy sword which had flown out of the Stone Dragon General's hands. With both hands, he grabbed at the dragonbone-like sword hilt, gripping it within his own hands.

Although he had expected this heavy sword to be heavier than the Overlord's Colossal Sword, once it entered his hands, he became shocked for a long while. This was because its weight was at least one-fold heavier than the Overlord's Colossal Sword, which meant it weighed at least four thousand kilograms! If he hadn't broken through the Great Way of the Buddha, even if he could pick it up, he shouldn't even fancy the thought of wielding it freely like the Overlord's Colossal Sword.

Although they were both heavy swords, the feeling Yun Che had when holding this sword could be said to be as different as the heavens and the earth compared to when he held the Overlord's Colossal Sword. The aura of his entire person also underwent a complete change, and became a fierce tiger with claws and teeth open waiting to pounce, ready to burst out with earthshaking strength.

His profound energy flowed into the heavy sword, and the name of the sword appeared within his mind...

"Dragon... Fault... What a good sword, what a good name!" Yun Che said in a low voice, and a slight smile appeared in the corner of his mouth. Although there was only one great realm of difference between a Sky Profound Weapon and an Earth Profound Weapon, the difference in its weight, power, and aura was like the difference between the heavens and earth. The Stone Dragon General's aura decreased more than one-fold after losing the Dragon Fault, just like a fierce tiger that had its talons and teeth pulled out. This made it so that Yun Che couldn't feel any threat from it at all.

His gaze turned to the Stone Dragon General, and said with a cold laugh: "Using this sword you've given me, I'll send you back to the West!"

Just as his voice landed, he charged towards the Stone Dragon General. Following a screaming gust of wind, within Yun Che's hands, the heavy sword Dragon Fault displayed its cutting edge for the first time. In the midst of a rumbling sound, Dragon Fault slashed across the Stone Dragon General's body. Only an incomparably ear-piercing "rip" sound could be heard, and the layer of golden-yellow armor disintegrated like a layer of thin paper. The Stone Dragon General emitted a low roar, and its body took many steps backward. A scar that was over an inch deep and over two feet long remained on its solid body.

The result of this one strike caused Yun Che to smile in delight. Without waiting for the Stone Dragon General to recover its balance, he jumped high in the air as his entire body lit with the phoenix flame. His gaze locked onto the head of the Stone Dragon General, and he said with an ice-cold voice: "Let's see if your head can withstand the power of this Sky Profound Weapon!"

"Empyrean Dance of the Phoenix Wing!"

RIP!

Yun Che's flame-covered body tore through the air, striking the head of the Stone Dragon General from high up in the sky. With a "boom", the flames exploded, and the power of the phoenix flame, in conjunction with Dragon Fault, erupted. Along with the Stone Dragon General's thick and heavy helmet, its solid head also shattered in an instant, filling the sky with fragments of stone.

Yun Che flew downwards and steadily landed on the ground. Both hands held Dragon Fault horizontally in front of him, and his eyes revealed an incomparably excited light. Behind him, the Stone Dragon General, with its head completely shattered, slowly fell backwards. Then, with a muffled “bang” sound, it fell on the ground, throwing up a cloud of dust in the sky.

Chapter 187 - An Endless Plain

RRRumble...

Along with the collapse of the Stone Dragon General, the enormous stone gate in which it came from slowly opened. Subsequently, the Primordial Azure Dragon’s pleased voice came from overhead:

“Very good. Young human, you have allowed me to see a shocking result. In these ten thousand years that I’ve stayed on this continent, you are the first person to pass this stage of the trial. During these ten thousand years of wait, I have regretted multiple times about leaving a trace of my soul and strength on this piece of land, because the level of strength within this continent is just too low; it made me gradually realize that the trial I had left behind was something that humans on this continent could never pass... Fortunately, I met you.”

“You have already passed the first stage of the trial. Not only did you pass with a two-fold difficulty level, you also accomplished this while being tied down; you have allowed me to see the greatest of hope. The second stage’s trial ground gate has already opened. After making sufficient preparations, go in the opened stone gate and you will enter the second stage’s trial ground. I wish you good fortune.”

The opened stone gate was the second trial’s gate.

The first stage of the trial was so terrifying that the second and the third stage were bound to be even more challenging... It was unknown as to what degree of brutality awaited.

The Frozen Soul Barrier was still in place because Yun Che had eliminated the Stone Dragon General in a span of fifteen minutes.

“It’s finally alright now.” Yun Che went back to Chu Yuechan’s side and helped her adjust to a more comfortable laying position. He extended his hand, slowly guided his profound energy into her body, and helped her circulate her internal energy and blood.

Chu Yuechan’s half opened eyes blankly stared at him for a long while. Then, she softly asked: “How did you recover from your injuries and regain your strength so fast?”

Yun Che did not want to lie to her, so he replied immediately: “The profound art I cultivate is capable of speeding up the recovery of my injuries and can restore my strength.”

“Can you tell me the name of this profound art?” Chu Yuechan asked softly. At her level, profound arts that piqued her interest were indeed not many. She knew many profound arts that could speed up the recovery of injuries and restore strength like Recovery Arts, Nine Cycle Recovery Arts, the Divine Art of the Fleeting Flowers and Snowy Moon, and so on. But the injuries Yun Che had received were severe. It was extremely clear to her that he had used up too much power, so much that it had been critically overused to the point that it affected his lifespan... Yet it only took six hours to fully recover. Even added together, all the powerful recovery profound arts that she knew of were incapable of displaying such a shocking result.

Yun Che slightly hesitated but still said it out loud: "You probably have never heard of this profound art's name. It is called the Great Way of the Buddha."

"Great Way of the Buddha..." Chu Yuechan pondered lightly as her eyes flashed with confusion. She indeed had never heard of this art before.

"A profound strength at the middle of the True Profound Realm... in such a short period of time... slaughtered a thousand opponents of the same level... And even easily executed an enemy whose level far surpassed his own by a whole great realm... Even though your profound strength matches your age and you can only be considered an ordinary genius, your innate talent in using your profound strength... Perhaps even Xia Qingyue... is inferior... Your master must be... a very extraordinary person."

It was the first time she said that many words, and Chu Yuechan was already out of breath. For her, who treasured words more than gold, to suddenly say so much, also revealed how much Yun Che had shocked her.

"Mn, I have two masters and they're both very extraordinary." Yun Che nodded as he smiled: "One of my masters taught me medical arts and how to be human. The other master taught me all kinds of profound arts. Both of them gave me a new lease in life; without them, the current me would not exist."

Chu Yuechan closed her eyes and spoke no more. She relaxed and then the feeling of weakness and exhaustion came at the same time. Not long after, she fell fast asleep.

With completely destroyed profound veins and meridians that were almost all broken, it undoubtedly took an enormous amount of perseverance to have remained conscious for so long. And what made Yun Che exceptionally happy, was the fact that he no longer felt the desire to die from her body.

Yun Che did not immediately enter the second stage's gate. Instead, he calmly watched over Chu Yuechan at her side. Dragon Fault was still in his hands, and had not disappeared along with the Stone Dragon General when it died.

When Chu Yuechan awoke, it was already the morning of the second day. Although her body was still weak after being treated by a night of Yun Che's profound energy flow and warmth, her complexion had already improved greatly.

"Here, drink some water first." Yun Che lifted Chu Yuechan's upper body and allowed her to lean against his chest. After passing the water over her lips, he watched her take small little sips. Perhaps he had never thought that there would come a day in which he would be holding this Little Fairy, who was at summit of the Blue Wind Empire, and helping her drink water in the same way one would carefully feed an infant. Chu Yuechan herself would never have thought of this happening either... And at this moment, even Chu Yuechan herself was not aware that she had not strongly rejected Yun Che's intimate touch, but instead had a very strange sense of security. But all of this was summed up to be because of her completely crippled body; it was fundamentally impossible for her to take care of herself, and she didn't even have the ability to resist.

In her current state, Chu Yuechan could only eat plain watery food. Fortunately, Yun Che had purchased a few grains at an inn before entering the Wasteland of Death. He boiled a little pot of porridge using the phoenix flame and then helped her drink it. After all preparations were in order, he lifted Chu Yuechan and headed toward the gate of the trial's second stage.

After slowly entering the stone gate, his vision became pitch-black. Then, he took two more steps forward and it suddenly lightened up; it was as if it only took two steps to completely step over from one world into another.

What appeared before his eyes was a vast expanse of an endless plain. Grass covered the ground and there were also trees that gave shade; even the faint sound of running water could be heard. There were short hills in the distance that rose and fell. Occasionally, the cries of all kinds of birds and animals could be heard.

This place's refreshingly delightful atmosphere and smells were also completely different than the previous location's. Yun Che turned around and still saw the endless plain; there were simply no signs of any mountain walls or stone gates. He immediately understood then, that he did not walk through some stone gate, but rather a transportation formation.

"This is... the next trial ground? It doesn't seem... to have any hint of danger." Chu Yuechang said softly.

It was also at this time that the Primordial Azure Dragon's voice sounded.

"Young human, welcome. This place, is the Dragon God Trial's second trial ground. This trial ground has no limit, and also has no exit. You can only leave this place after you have successfully completed the trial. Or perhaps you would be buried here before completing the trial."

"There are an innumerable amount of profound beasts here in this endless plain. The level of the profound beasts here have all been adjusted with your strength as the benchmark. Also, as a result of the two-fold difficulty level you have to bear, every single profound beast here is not lower than the Spirit Profound Realm. As for some of the more powerful profound beasts, their strength far surpasses the Stone Dragon General that you had killed."

"To these profound beasts, this place is an endless paradise. But to you, this place is extremely dangerous; it is an abyss filled with countless shadows of death. This is because once the profound beasts here sense your aura, they would all immediately unleash an endless barrage of attacks. At the same time, under my soul's guidance, profound beasts near you would all be led in your direction. You would be hunted at all times by profound beasts and would never be able to sleep soundly or eat in peace."

Yun Che: "..."

Yun Che did not have any obvious reactions to all of that, but the Primordial Azure Dragon's following words almost made Yun Che spit out a mouthful of blood.

"And your objective in clearing this second stage of the trial is also very easy. It is to kill ninety-nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine profound beasts, within one year!"

Chapter 188 - Burning Heaven's Young Master

While being hunted by countless profound beasts, he had to kill ninety-nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine profound beasts, and these profound beasts' levels were all higher than his. This trial's difficulty and troll level wasn't even just cruel. It was practically at a crazy and unreasonable stage.

What made Yun Che the most angry was..... You might as well add one more to it to make it a round number, okay?! What's the meaning of insisting on 99999!

The Primordial Azure Dragon's voice fell, and the surrounding atmosphere suddenly turned from fresh to gloomy.

The howls of innumerable profound beasts sounded from far away. Surrounding Yun Che, the shadows of a dozen or so profound beasts also started to move. Their aura kept Yun Che firmly fixed, and then they all rushed towards where he was.

Out of all the profound auras these profound beasts were releasing, none of them were below the Spirit Profound Realm.

In the blink of an eye, Yun Che was already surrounded by a large number of profound beasts. The Primordial Azure Dragon's voice said that the profound beasts here would actively move towards Yun Che under the guidance of its aura. When they discover him, they would then commence a do or die hunt. These words were obviously not said in jest!

Yun Che quickly drew out Dragon Fault with one hand and rushed towards these profound beasts. As Dragon Fault danced, it brought about waves of surging phoenix fire, causing the surrounding profound beasts to back away again and again. However, the strength of these profound beasts far outmatched the Stone Dragon Warriors he had defeated in the first stage of the trial. When ten of them charged over, the pressure far exceeded the attack from a few hundred Stone Dragon Warriors. Also, following Yun Che's kills, the number of profound beasts did not decrease. Rather, they quickly increased. At every moment, there were large amounts of profound beasts rushing over from the surroundings.

In a few dozen breaths of time, the pressure on Yun Che was already enough to nearly cause him to suffocate. In another dozen breaths, he was already surrounded all around by peril. He firmly protected Chu Yuechan and beseeched Jasmine for help, "Jasmine, what do we do now!"

"There's only one way." Jasmine said calmly.

Yun Che's spirit was roused, "What way?"

"Of course it's to escape!" Jasmine got angry, "If you don't want to escape, do you want to wait to die here! Did this princess teach you the Star God's Broken Shadow just to set you up to fail!"

"..."

"Haah!!"

The flames on Yun Che's body exploded and a scaled down version of the Star Scorching Demon Lotus blossomed layer by layer, forcing back the formidable crowd of profound beasts around him. Taking advantage of the flame's cover, he leapt up high. Dashing for a distance with the Empyrean Dance of the Phoenix Wing, he then used the Star God's Broken Shadow for a few times consecutively, and finally broke away from being encircled within the profound beasts. He withdrew Dragon Fault into the Sky Poison Pearl, and suddenly, his body became extremely light. Following which, he concentrated his profound energy into the bottom of his legs and rushed away madly; all while holding Chu Yuechan.

“The trial this time, be it the strength of the opponents, the level of danger, or the amount of time needed, it will all be far greater than the first stage of the trial.” Jasmine said with a heavy voice, “Even though you have to kill 99999 profound beasts to pass the trial this time, with the degree of scariness here, the moment you touch a single profound beast, it will alarm the rest of the profound beasts nearby. Then, you will fall into dangerous circumstances — Besides, you’re also bringing a useless woman around! Therefore, most of the time you spend in here will not be on killing, but on escaping!”

“These few months, all your training has been concentrated on your heavy sword and the Great Way of the Buddha, but you haven’t attended to the Star God’s Broken Shadow I’d taught you! If you want to get past his trial, you’ll first have to ensure that you have the ability to survive. If you want to preserve your life in this dangerous place that’s filled with profound beasts, you’ll have to train your Star God’s Broken Shadow to the second stage, ‘Twin Shadows’, in the shortest amount of time possible!”

“I’ll give you a month’s time. Within this month, you have to stop at the safest place, and unless it’s absolutely necessary, do not attack any profound beasts. This way, you’ll at least, be much safer. Within this period of time, you have to train your Star God’s Broken Shadow to at least the second stage.”

“Since it was possible for you to reach the second stage for the Great Way of the Buddha in such a short time with your perception, it shouldn’t be too difficult for you! When you can fluctuate to form the second shadow, and be more capable of escaping and saving your own life, you can then begin to kill these profound beasts..... Do you understand!”

“...Understood.” Yun Che wasn’t opposed to Jasmine’s words in the least. After being surrounded by a dozen profound beasts, and feeling the immense pressure and danger he was in, it made him still have lingering fears even until now.

There was one line that Jasmine had spoken that wasn’t wrong at all..... If he wanted to pass this stage of the trial, the first thing he had to do was to protect his own life!

Blue Wind Imperial City, Moon Embracing Palace.

Dressed in her finest clothes, Princess Cang Yue stood beside the Lotus Pond and stared at her own incomparably beautiful reflection. Her eyes were fixated, and nobody knew what she was thinking of.

A palace maid walked in quickly, bowing slightly while saying respectfully, “Princess, Blue Moon Profound Palace’s Palace Master Qin requests an audience.”

Cang Yue’s gaze moved from the water’s surface, “Bring him in.”

Not long after, Qin Wushang walked in by himself and bowed to Cang Yue, “Qin Wushang pays his respects to Your Highness.”

“Qin Wushang may spare the formalities.... Palace Chief Qin, did you come this time because you have information on Yun Che?” Cang Yue’s, who was also Lan Xueruo, voice was clearly urgent.

Qin Wushang shook his head slowly and then sighed, “Ashamedly, until today, I still have yet to find the least bit of information on him..... Sigh, Princess, please forgive my bluntness. The Wasteland of Death is a place even I would not casually step into. Five months ago, many people saw him enter, but since

then, nobody has seen him come out. The number of geniuses who have died there is simply too many. Five whole months..... Sigh, princess, you should stop being so attached to him.”

“No..... Absolutely not! I believe that he’ll definitely be fine!” Cang Yue’s voice began to tremble slightly. Even though she had always been striving to repress them, she still lost control of her emotions and her eyes began to grow misty, “He promised me before..... He’s definitely be safe and sound..... He’ll definitely return within half a year..... He’ll definitely be fine..... It’s definitely because he doesn’t want to be found.... It must be.....”

Continuously, she said “definitely” six times with an additional “absolutely”. It wasn’t known if she was saying it to convince Qin Wushang, or to convince herself.

Not long after Yun Che had left, she became unable to contain her thoughts, and began to send Sound Transmissions to Yun Che. But whether it was from the Thousand Mile Sound Transmission Talisman, or the incomparably precious Ten Thousand Mile Sound Transmission Talisman, there was no reply. Later on, she finally scouted out Yun Che’s whereabouts.... In front of the Wasteland of Death, many saw a man of around sixteen to seventeen years old wander into the Wasteland of Death alone, carrying a large, pitch-black sword on his back. The shopkeeper at the inn he stayed at further affirmed this.

Yet nobody had seen him come out.

If she had known back then that Yun Che was going to the Wasteland of Death, she would never have let him leave no matter what. This was because that place was a place of nightmares which stank of death in all respects. Every year, the number of people who die in there was innumerable, including many talents who had reached their pinnacles and had absolute faith in their abilities.

This sort of news caused Cang Yue’s expression to be on the brink of crumbling apart..... Up until now, five months had already passed, but still, nobody had seen him walk out of there and even those expert teams that went deep into the Spirit Profound Beast territory had never seen him before.

To enter the Wasteland of Death for five months and not come out without a single trace, the only possibility was that his corpse had been buried within, or that his corpse had been destroyed, or was eaten by a profound beast.

Qin Wushang sighed silently in his heart. As for Yun Che’s death, he also felt extremely regretful. He immediately changed the topic, “Your Highness, I saw the emperor just now and I consulted with him about issues regarding the coming Blue Wind Ranking Tournament. The emperor has allowed me to discuss it directly with Your Highness. There’s only a month of time left to the start of the ranking tournament. We need to choose the practitioner who will represent the Blue Wind Imperial Family. May I know if Your Highness has already chosen a person, or will it be through choosing an inner palace disciple from a competition like what had been done in previous years?”

Cang Yue looked to the side. After she had finally calmed down somewhat, her eyes flashed and she said, “Palace Chief Qin, wait a little.... wait for half a month more. If.... If there is still no news of him, then we will choose from within the inner palace just like we had in former years.”

“But, if it’s that way, the timing would be.....” Speaking halfway, Qin Wushang saw the distressed expression on Cang Yue’s face and his heart lamented and he swallowed back the two words “too rushed”, respectfully saying instead, “I understand. Everything will be as Your Highness wishes. As for

Yun Che, I hope Your Highness will be able to cheer up. Nowadays, the crown prince and the third prince are becoming more and more rampant. You are the emperor's last pillar of support, so you must definitely take care of yourself.... Sigh, if I may be excused."

As the Vice Palace Chief of Blue Wind Profound Palace, Qin Wushang was naturally not a fool. When Yun Che had just joined the Blue Wind Profound Palace, he could still see Cang Yue's special care towards Yun Che as a respect to allow him to represent the imperial family to participate in the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament. However, later on, she would specially visit him in the inner palace every few days. Nobody else knew of these things, but as Palace Chief, he naturally could not have not known. Her reactions after finding out that Yun Che had died in the Wasteland of Death let Qin Wushang understand more and more that she had obviously fallen in love with Yun Che, and this wasn't just a simply "valuing him".

"...Take care, Palace Chief Qin."

After watching Palace Chief Qin leave, Cang Yue turned around and slowly closed her eyes...

Junior brother Yun, why must you go to such a dangerous place... Are you really staying in that Wasteland of Death forever and never coming back...

The Blue Wind Ranking Tournament is about to begin. You once said that you wanted to directly participate in this round's Blue Wind Ranking Tournament... But now, where are you... You've made me become used to your presence, made my originally undisturbed spirit depend on, have someone to return to and hate leaving. So why would you disappear from my world so hurriedly...

If you don't appear in the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament this time.... Then, after my father's wake, I will personally go into the Wasteland of Death to find you... If I can't find you, then I'll accompany you... and stay there forever... I won't let you feel lonely...

Two delicate hands clenched quietly under the luxurious phoenix gown and coronet, as slivers of melancholy overflowed from her aura.

At this, a young man's impudent voice floated over:

"Hahahaha, my imperial sister, you're here indeed. Your imperial brother has come to see you. Quick, look. See who I've brought you from the palace."

This voice made Cang Yue's brows furrow slightly, and in a flash, the expression on her face changed from frigid to calm. She turned over and looked toward the person speaking, as well as those standing beside him. Her expression was steady, and her voice was all the more calm, "Third imperial brother, Young Master Fen, long time no see."

The four words, "long time no see", were as mild as a light breeze, and there wasn't any surprise or happy mood that usually came with "reunion after a long separation".

Third prince Cang Shuo looked to be about twenty seven or eight years old. The person beside him looked to be slightly younger and only looked twenty two or three. However, while standing abreast this imperial prince, he had an inherently grandiose and lofty bearing, so he did not lose to Cang Shuo in the least. Rather, he even surpassed him.

He took a step forward and bowed slightly. Adoration burned like a blaze within his eyes that looked towards Cang Yue and it was not concealed in the least, "Fen Juecheng of the Burning Heaven Clan pays his respects to the beautiful and elegant Princess Cang Yue. I'd heard that Your Highness had returned to the palace eight months ago, but during this period of time, Juecheng has been continually training within the Fierce Sunfire Region, and had only been released two days ago. I hope Your Highness will not blame me."

"Hahahaha," Cang Shuo laughed, "The moment Young Master Fen comes out, he eagerly travels day and night just to rush to meet my imperial sister. This great relationship is really touching and makes one envious."

Chapter 189 - An Endless Hunt

Cang Yue smiled lightly, and said: "I thank Young Master Fen for your kindness. All is well with Cang Yue, Young Master Fen need not worry. I'm not sure why Young Master Fen is visiting this time?"

Although she had just heard Cang Shuo say that the sole purpose for Fen Juecheng's visit this time was to meet her, Cang Yue seemed as if she hadn't heard at all.

Fen Juecheng also smiled faintly, and said in a gentle and straightforward manner: "I've heard that Your Highness has been continuously training in multiple profound palace branches. Juecheng was worried about you, and also deeply respects that. Although I wished to see Your Highness a few more times even in my dreams, I thought it would frighten Your Highness so I've always been suppressing it in my heart. Now that I've finally seen Your Highness, Juecheng is unceasingly happy. In these two years, Your Highness has become even more beautiful and elegant than the legendary goddesses turned mortal can not even compare. In Juecheng's point of view, Your Highness' beauty is Blue Wind Imperial Family, no, the entire Blue Wind Empire's heaven blessed treasure."

As he spoke, Fen Juecheng's adoration and infatuation was revealed completely, not masking it in the slightest. Yet Princess Cang Yue seemed as if she didn't notice this at all, and still returned a weak smile: "Young Master Fen is mistaken, Cang Yue is not worthy."

"I thank Young Master Fen for his compliments in place of my imperial sister. I also deeply believe that what you said about my imperial sister being our Imperial Family's treasure is true." Cang Shuo said with a beaming smile. His eyes lit up as they turned and hinted at the attendant behind him. The attendant immediately understood and stepped forward right after. Then, he pretended to whisper in his ear.

"Oh?" Cang Shuo's eyes revealed some shock, then said apologetically to Fen Juecheng: "Young Master Fen, this prince suddenly remembered something that must be taken care of immediately, so you'll have to excuse me... Imperial sister, Young Master Fen hasn't visited the Imperial Palace for quite a while, why don't you accompany Young Master Fen on a walk through the palace."

"Please forgive Cang Yue's refusal." Right after Cang Shuo had just finished speaking, Cang Yue immediately declined. "It is not because Cang Yue is not willing, but Imperial Father has ordered me to go meet him in his chambers at this time to discuss an important matter. Cang Yue does not dare to go against Imperial Father's orders, and wishes that imperial brother and Young Master Fen does not take offense. Cang Yue will take her leave first."

After she finished speaking, Cang Yue nodded slightly and unhesitatingly walked out of the Moon Embracing Palace.

Cang Shuo greatly furrowed his eyebrows yet Juecheng only smiled calmly. As soon as Cang Yue left his side, he suddenly turned around. "Your Highness, when Juecheng came to the Imperial Palace, he unintentionally heard that Your Highness seems to have been searching for a strange flower called the 'Burning Soul Flower' with all her might. I wonder if Your Highness has found this flower yet? If it has not been found yet, Juecheng just happens to know where to find a Burning Soul Flower."

Not only did Fen Juecheng's arrival cause Cang Yue to become disturbed, it also made her completely uneasy and want to leave as soon as possible. But Juecheng's words stiffened her entire body as her departing footsteps rigidly stopped in place. She turned around and said in the calmest voice possible. "Is Young Master Fen serious? Cang Yue is indeed looking for the Burning Soul Flower. If Young Master Fen knows where to find it and is generous enough to tell me, Cang Yue would be sure to be forever thankful."

Fen Juecheng smiled: "Juecheng naturally will not refuse Princess Cang Yue's request. Juecheng knows that this Burning Soul Flower just happens to be in our Burning Heaven Clan's training grounds — within the Fierce Sunsky Region."

Cang Yue's heart surged as she suppressed her excitement: "Then that's just wonderful. May I ask if your honorable clan can give our Imperial Family this Burning Soul Flower? No matter the price or conditions, your honorable clan can speak at will."

Fen Juecheng narrowed his eyes as they greedily closed in on Cang Yue's peerless beauty, extremely noble complexion, and figure. He answered lightly: "Juecheng does not have a say in this matter. In the Fierce Sunsky Region, only one Burning Soul Flower matures once in a millennia. The entire clan all regards it as their most valuable treasure. It is absolutely impossible for it to be given to another, but..."

Fen Juecheng paused, and then smiled even more casually: "If the person who wants the Burning Soul Flower is my clan's inner member who urgently needs this Burning Soul Flower, with the addition of me, the future Clan Master's personal plea, I believe that my father and elders would not be that stubborn and inflexible; they would most certainly be accommodating."

While Fen Juecheng's words sounded gentle and reserved, they actually contained a trace of open coercion. To let an outsider become an inner clan member would either mean that they have to become a disciple or possibly marry into the Burning Heaven Clan.

Cang Yue's erect chest slightly rose and fell. However, she slowly shook her head afterwards: "Since the Burning Soul Flower is that precious to your honorable clan, then Cang Yue shall not make such an unreasonable request. I thank Young Master Fen for his information, farewell."

Cang Yue's straightforward and firm reaction was outside of Fen Juecheng's expectations. His expression stiffened, and he watched Cang Yue's departing figure as his brows also slowly sunk.

"My sister's temperament is still as tough as ever." Cang Shuo said as he faced Fen Juecheng. His words and action actually carried a hint of respect.

"It's tougher than before. When she previously declined, at least she was being tactful, but now, she's so unyielding that it seems as if she's telling me to stop having any delusions." Fen Juecheng appeared to mock himself as he laughed resentfully.

"Young Master Fen does not need to be so pessimistic," promptly consoled Cang Shuo, "With Young Master Fen's strength, appearance, and identity, how could any of Blue Wind Empire's young talents compare to you? Cang Yue is still young right now, so she does not notice some things. I believe that it won't be long before she takes the initiative to throw herself at Young Master Fen without you even needing to woo her." After speaking to here, Cang Shuo hesitated, but then continued: "I might know a bit behind the reason why Cang Yue has suddenly become this resolute."

"Oh?" Fen Juecheng shifted his gaze.

Cang Shuo continued: "From the information that I've obtained, not only has Cang Yue been searching everywhere for the Burning Soul Flower these days, she is also searching for a person as well; a person she had personally come back with from New Moon Profound Palace. It has been reported that she and the person were extremely close those couple of months before she brought him here... But rest assured Young Master Fen, this person has already disappeared five months ago; he seems to have overestimated himself, entered the Wasteland of Death, and never came back out. After his disappearance, I've heard from the palace maids by Cang Yue's side that she countlessly wept and could not eat in peace..."

"What is that person's name!"

"Yun Che... he's still young, and is only seventeen this year. However, his innate talent was out of the ordinary so both Cang Lin and I attempted to pull him into our factions."

"Hmph!" Fen Juecheng's eyebrows firmly tightened as an astonishingly heavy baleful aura surged in body. "There actually is another person who intends to dip his finger in the woman that this young master fancies... It's best if he's dead, otherwise, I'll drive him into utter misery that even if he begs for life, he won't live, and even if he begs for death, he can't die!"

Fen Juechen's body suddenly released the baleful aura and caused Cang Shuo to shake all over. The eyes of the bodyguards on Cang Shuo's side were even more round as they shivered in fear. Because the profound aura that came from Fen Juecheng's body... was clearly already at the Earth Profound Realm!

Realm of the Dragon God Trial, an endless plain.

Five months have passed since Yun Che entered this place.

Up ahead, was the sound of a little creek. The creek's water was so clear that one could see its bottom. Inside the creek's clear water, were schools all different kinds of little fish that cheerfully moved about.

Yun Che laid Chu Yuechan on the grass next to the creek delicately, then crouched at the edge of the creek. Watching the fish swimming in the middle of the creek, he said while beaming: "Little Fairy, we can drink fish soup again... Hmm, what flavor should the fish soup be today?"

Just as his voice landed, Yun Che's left hand penetrated the surface of the water like lightning, catching a large fish nearly a foot long. And at this time, a river boulder to his right suddenly tumbled, and a huge crab, its body half the size of Yun Che's body, shot over. The pitch-black huge crab's pincers opened, and it snapped fiercely at Yun Che's neck... The barbs on this crab's pincers glistened coldly, even steel would be snapped instantly, let alone a person's neck.

Yun Che threw the fish in his hands onto the grass. Without even raising his hand, his right hand extended like lightning, and grabbed onto the edge of the crab's pincers. He forcibly clutched onto the Murderous Kingcrab and suddenly flung it into a river boulder.

Yun Che's arm strength was not just terrifying. With a loud "bang" the river boulder smashed into pieces and the Murderous Kingcrab was smashed into unconsciousness. This sound was like alerting a hornet's nest. Tens of Murderous Kingcrabs simultaneously scuttled out. Their humongous pincers were opened guillotine style as they sliced out along with a glittering cold radiance. Lightning quick, Yun Che took out Dragon Fault. He shifted his body once and three indistinguishable illusory silhouettes appear in three different positions. The four thousand kilogram Dragon Fault was as light as a large feather. In a few breaths of time, a dozen or so strikes were made, and each strike heavily attacked each Murderous Kingcrab's back.

The Murderous Kingcrab was a dangerous profound beast at the second level of the Spirit Profound Realm that possessed two terrifying pincers, and its shell was even more incomparably hard. Even for ordinary Spirit Profound practitioners, it was hard for them to injure it. However, under one of Yun Che's heavy smashes, after the bursting of thirteen consecutive sounds, the backs of thirteen Murderous Kingcrabs were completely split open as a berserk profound strength immediately charged straight through and powerfully snapped their life veins in a flash.

With a flick of his wrist, Dragon Fault returned onto Yun Che's back. In order to completely adapt to Dragon Fault's weight, after cultivating Star God's Broken Shadow to the second stage, he constantly carried Dragon Fault on his back.

"Eighty-three thousand nine hundred and forty-seven." After exterminating the thirteen Murderous Kingcrabs, the numbers in Yun Che's mind also refreshed. After seeing the ground covered dead crabs whose legs lifted into the air, Yun Che pinched his chin and muttered: "I wonder if I could make these huge crabs into soup..."

Yun Che finally gave up this tempting thought and returned to Chu Yuechan's side with the fish in hand. Then, he set up a pot rack and put in the creek's water along with the fish before boiling it with fire... If the divine beast, the Phoenix, knew that Yun Che had used phoenix fire to mostly cook food after obtaining its blood, it was not known if it would be angry enough to torch Yun Che into burnt slag.

Once the fire was raised, trouble followed shortly after. The grassland beneath his foot abnormally shifted. Not waiting for the underground thing to surface, Yun Che suddenly thrust his hands into the ground and forcibly clutched at the Spirit Profound Armor Plated Earthworm that was about to attack. After two or three strikes that had beaten it into tight knots, it was then thrown away into the distance... It was sad that this Armor Plated Earthworm was only a low level Spirit Profound Beast. Although its body was as hard as fine steel, in Yun Che's hands, it was no different than an ordinary

hemp rope. Even though Yun Che's profound strength was inferior, his arm strength was something that not even a high level Spirit Profound practitioner could match.

The Armor Plated Earthworm that had been coiled into tight knots chaotically twitched about on the grass. But after losing too much blood for a long while, it was no longer capable of movement.

"Eighty-three thousand nine hundred and forty-eight." Yun Che said aloud in a low voice. Right after he finished counting out loud, his arm suddenly swung up and Phoenix Flame shot outwards at the two Fierce Storm Hawks overhead that were about to dive down, making them fall after an explosion.

After these five months of comprehensive mastery, he no longer needed the heavy sword to unleash Phoenix Break, and could also activate it with a wave of his arm, because even his arm, could be treated as a heavy sword.

With the scorching heat of the phoenix flame, it didn't even take sixty breaths of time for the fish soup to be ready.

After ladling the fish soup, Yun Che carefully blew at it to keep it cool and arrived at Little Fairy's side. Supporting her upper body, he lifted the little bowl against her lips: "Here, it's not hot anymore."

Chu Yuechan opened her beautiful eyes and parted her soft lips. Using what little strength she had, she lightly sipped and drank the fish soup. Right as she swallowed her first mouthful of soup, an unearthly cry came from up above. Six extremely long tailed dark green monstrously large birds dove down from six different directions at Yun Che.

Without raising his head, Yun Che swung his left hand upwards and clutched Dragon Fault between his fingers. After locking onto the positions of the six Verdure Great Birds, Yun Che continuously swung Dragon Fault six times in two breaths of time. On the third breath, he had already withdrawn Dragon Fault and placed it back on his back.

Scree Scree Scree Scree...

Amongst the chaotic Phoenix cries, six Phoenix Breaks soared into the sky, accurately blasting onto the Verdure Great Birds that were in the midst of their attack, and exploded on them one by one. During this entire process, not a single drop of the fish soup in the little bowl spilled out. Chu Yuechan was also not startled, and her snowy lips never left the little bowl. When all six of the Great Birds dropped down, half of the fish soup in the little bowl had already been devoured.

Since they had encountered this type of situation everyday for the past five months, she had long become accustomed to it, and was even more certain that Yun Che could perfectly hold them off.

In this five month period, they were subject to all kinds of profound beast attacks at nearly every moment. The period in-between varied, but it never stopped. The "never be able to sleep soundly or eat in peace" that the Primordial Azure Dragon had said was not the least bit exaggerated or made up in order to scare them.

The difficulty level of this stage of the trial was more than ten times harder than the first. What was scary, was not that the level of profound beasts were too high, nor was it the shockingly quantity of the profound beasts. It was rather the unceasingly barrage of assaults! They came from the ground, underground, in the water, from the skies, and any profound beast could attack at anytime. If one

relaxed his mind for even a second, it was possible for him to lose his life. In this sort of situation, it was perhaps likely to persevere through two days. Even three or four days could be endured, but when the period of time continued to lengthen, even if one's body could handle the pressure, the collapse of one's mind was also possible... If another person with profound strength that was stronger than Yun Che's by one-fold was swapped in, it was still nearly impossible for them to continue on.

Yet just for Yun Che, this trial's difficulty level wasn't that much higher than the first stage's.

Because in his past life, he precisely spent his time being hunted down. Being hunted down by this endless plain's profound beasts was undoubtedly terrifying, but in his past life, he had actually been subjected to being hunted down by the most supreme of sects, clans, and strongest experts! Moreover, that persisted for an entire seven years. Within those seven years, his alertness, perception, reaction speed, and counter attack abilities were also refined to an extremely frightening level.

After reincarnating, there was no chance for those abilities to surface. But being hunted by this endless plain's endless amount of profound beasts, his abilities were aroused once more.

Chapter 190 - Killed by Poison

Under Yun Che's recuperation, although Chu Yuechan's meridians were still not recovered, the state of her body was already much better. Her face, which was originally as white as a sheet of paper, had already recovered some of its original color. However, her entire body was still paralyzed, and only her right arm and right hand could move a little. In this extremely dangerous place, for Yun Che to protect her well, he had to stay right by her side.

For each meal, Chu Yuechan could not eat much and a small bowl of fish soup would already suffice. Chu Yuechan, who had finished drinking the fish soup, closed her eyes gently and lay on Yun Che's chest with a peaceful expression..... Even she herself did not realize, that this ease she felt, surpassed what she had felt when she was meditating in seclusion in her sect.

In these five months, a large part of her time was spent in slumber. The only thing she spent more time in other than sleeping, was in Yun Che's arms. From the first rejection, to gradual acceptance, and finally completely accustomed. After she was used to it, she would unknowingly come to hate to leave him..... But this concept of "wanting to stay near" was completely foreign to Chu Yuechan, because before Yun Che, she had never lived alone with any man before, let alone come into contact intimately. But this time, they had actually lived inseparably and close to each other for almost five months. To Chu Yuechan, this was absolutely unimaginable.

Nobody knew what frame of mind she had in interacting with Yun Che, and even she herself did not know.

"Sleep peacefully for a while. Soon, we'll be able to leave this place. And by then, all your strength will be recovered." Yun Che patted Chu Yuechan's pale back lightly, his voice soft, like he was coaxing a baby to sleep.

Not too long after, Chu Yuechan's breathing became light and even, and she had fallen asleep.

Yun Che kept the thing by his hand, and stood up while carrying Chu Yuechan. Looking forward, he spoke, "Jasmine, how long have we been here?"

“Today is the hundred and forty first day.” Jasmine answered precisely.

“...That means, it’s less than a month away from the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament.” Yun Che furrowed his eyebrows as his heart grew slightly impatient. He had promised Lan Xueruo that he would return within half a year. By now, more than five months had already passed, but he was still trapped in this trial area. After five months had passed, he had already become accustomed to this place. To complete this trial, what he needed was merely time. But to leave this place, he still had to kill ten thousand more profound beasts. These profound beasts could not be killed as he pleased, because any one of them were all genuine Spirit Profound Beasts.

Also, after the second stage of the trial, there was still the third stage.

After exiting the trial grounds, it would still take a long time to walk out of the Wasteland of Death, and after walking out of the Wasteland of Death, even if he traveled day and night, it would still take at least five days’ worth of time to return to Blue Wind Imperial City...

If he didn’t leave this place as soon as possible, he would be unable to make it to the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament, and he would be unable to fulfill his promise towards Xueruo.

“It looks like I’ll have to speed up. Even if I die, I still have to finish killing the profound beasts here within ten days!” Yun Che frowned and said.

“Ten days? Hmph, what joke are you cracking! To complete this trial, you still have to kill sixteen thousand profound beasts. If you want to finish it in ten days, you’ll need to kill at least a thousand and six hundred of them every day! In these five months, you’ve only killed an average of six hundred profound beasts each day, and this is already your maximum speed after you’d gone all out. Killing sixteen thousand profound beasts in ten days is absolutely impossible..... If you get ahead of yourself in your impatience and lose your cool, you might get reverse killed by profound beasts instead.” Jasmine warned.

Yun Che had no way of countering that.

“ROAR!!”

Suddenly, an ear-splitting growl came from far behind him. This sound made Yun Che frown, and then mutter darkly, “Damn! Why is it this guy again, it’s practically like a lingering spirit that won’t leave!”

At that, without even thinking, Yun Che ran. Not long after, a gigantic single horned profound beast rampaged past the spot he had been at, bringing a berserk aura as it rushed towards him.

Even though he had stayed here for the past five months, and had been surviving by killing profound beasts which far surpassed him in levels every day, Yun Che’s profound strength had still stayed at the fourth level of the True Profound Realm. It wasn’t that his profound energy had not shown any signs of breaking through, but rather that he kept pushing it down forcefully, not allowing it to break through. This was because, when profound strength made a breakthrough, he would be incapable of moving for a short period of time, and could not be disturbed by anything, or else his meridians would be easily damaged. In this endless wilderness that was fraught with dangers, not only could he not be guarded by anyone when he was breaking through, but Chu Yuechan would also be exposed to the same dangerous

environment. Therefore, the breakthrough in his profound strength had forcibly been suppressed all this time.

Otherwise, with how he was killing far above his level every day and night, and how all fifty four of his profound veins were open, in five months, it wouldn't be an exaggeration if his profound strength could rise to the eighth level of the True Profound Realm.

Although he had not broken through all this while, his profound energy grew progressively, and even if he did not have the power of four great gods, his profound strength far surpassed the average practitioner in the fourth level of the True Profound Realm.

This profound beast that was chasing him was named Overlord Single-Horned Beast, and it was a profound beast of the sixth level of the Spirit Profound Realm. It had great strength and an extremely tough body. That, in addition to its strong and solid profound defense made it difficult for Yun Che to harm it even with Dragon Fault. If Chu Yuechan hadn't been at Yun Che's side, he could still deal with it, but with one arm around Chu Yuechan, he could only hold the sword with one hand and it was impossible for him to even be a match for the Overlord Single-Horned Beast.

That was why Yun Che would run every time he met this guy.

Star God's Broken Shadow was a single instance profound movement skill and not a long term speed increase type of profound skill, so it would not cause Yun Che's speed to increase by much. However, Yun Che would usually be carrying a sword that weighed four thousand kilos. Therefore, when he needed to escape, all he had to do was to throw the sword into the Sky Poison Pearl, and his body would feel as if it were floating. Escaping would also be as fast as lightning, and shaking off this Overlord Single-Horned Beast would only be a matter of minutes.

Yun Che ran forward with all his might and the dirt underneath his feet were sent flying back as he increased the distance between him and the Overlord Single-Horned Beast. At this time, Jasmine's warning suddenly came from his mind, "Careful, there's a cliff up front!"

Just as Jasmine's voice fell, a cliff appeared in front of Yun Che's line of sight. His brows furrowed and his speed suddenly decreased as both his feet planted onto the ground firmly. After sliding for a short distance, he finally stopped dangerously at the edge of the cliff. But instantly, he let out a silent breath of relief.

Because looking down, the cliff was actually not high and it wasn't even one hundred fifty meters tall, so he could easily leap down. There wasn't any place dangerous below the cliff either, it was only extremely dense woods... Perhaps forest would be a better term for it, because before his eyes, each tree was joined to the next, and even though he was standing at a high vantage point, he still couldn't completely see the edge of it.

"It's a field area, why would there be forests." Yun Che muttered and was about to jump down, when suddenly, a sliver of dangerous, strong wind came from his right side.

Yun Che glanced to the side and his right arm stretched out like lightning as two fingers pinching forcefully onto a thin, cold and slippery thing.

It was a Black Thread Snake that wasn't very long and was only as thick as half of his finger. Seven inches of it was grabbed onto tightly by Yun Che and it struggled in pain, spitting blackness.

"Emperor Black Thread Snake!" Yun Che, who was proficient in all poisons that existed in the world, recognized the poisonous snake in an instant.

The Emperor Black Thread Snake was very thin and short, and its body was very weak. Even if a normal child were to accidentally step on it, it would also be stomped to death. But such a small and weak snake like this was crowned an "Emperor", and was actually an expensive Spirit Profound Beast! This was because it had an extremely frightening toxicity and speed despite its size. All that come into contact with its poisonous fangs, as long as they were below the Spirit Profound Realm, would undoubtedly die within ten breaths of time. Even if those in the Spirit Profound Realm were to be bitten by it, they would not be able to live for longer than an hour without the antidote. Also, because of its small size, it was very hard to discover. When it moved, it resembled a streak of black lightning, so people had no chance of guarding against it. All Spirit Profound Beasts, and even Earth Profound Beasts that encounter it would have to take a detour, lest they're too late.

With the Sky Poison Pearl in him, even if Yun Che were to be bitten by it, he would still not be affected in the least. Staring at this Emperor Black Thread Snake, he suddenly turned around to face the Overlord Single-Horned Beast that was already chasing towards him. Shifting the Emperor Black Thread Snake from his right hand to his left, he used the Sky Poison Pearl to instantly suck out all its poison, and then, throwing it away, he took out the Tiger Soul Sword he had not used in a long while and wiped the poison onto the blade of the Tiger Soul Sword.

"...It seems to be the first time you're using poison after the Sky Poison Pearl's poison had vanished." Looking at the tip of the Tiger Soul Sword, the tragic scene of the massive area of corpses that had been resulted from releasing the poison onto the entire city that year flashed across his mind. His gaze quietly darkened by a tad, and he subsequently rushed toward the Overlord Single-Horned Beast like a gale.

Seeing that this human who normally ran away the moment he saw it unexpectedly rush up to it this time, the Overlord Single-Horned Beast paused in confusion for a bit, and then, with a roar, it exposed its fangs and pounced towards Yun Che

Whoosh!

The Overlord Single-Horned Beast's claws streaked across one of Yun Che's illusory shadows, while Yun Che's moved horizontally from where it had been. Rushing up to it from its right side, he gathered his profound strength onto the Tiger Soul Sword and ruthlessly slashed at its right side, leaving a streak of two inches of so, leaving an injury that was enough to draw blood.

Yun Che stopped and the Tiger Soul Sword in his hands had already been kept, and swapped for Dragon Fault.

With the Overlord Single-Horned Beast's large size, this small injury didn't even count as an injury at all. The Overlord Single-Horned Beast, which had leapt into the sky, turned around and opened its large mouth as its body pounced towards Yun Che again. But midway, its front leg suddenly twisted, and its entire body fell onto the ground firmly. After that, it began to twitch, and its four limbs began to stamp

on the ground, yet it was able to stand back up no matter what. Gradually, waves of pained yells came from its mouth... From that tiny wound, drops of pitch-black blood flowed out slowly.

Yun Che rushed up, and with a single blow, crushed its profound defense that had already been weakened under the extremely poisonous corrosion. After which, he continually rained seven to eight blows on its head, until it no longer made a sound.

“We don’t know either when the Sky Poison Pearl’s toxicity will recover.” Yun Che couldn’t help but sigh. Relying on just a little poison, he had practically finished off this Overlord Single-Horned Beast that he could only escape from previously without sparing much effort. On how formidable poison was, he was clearer than anyone else. That year, he hadn’t even been thirty yet, but he lived for a full seven years in the midst of all the chasing and killing throughout the entire continent. What he relied on, was the Sky Poison Pearl’s toxicity. Under the Sky Poison Pearl’s heavenly poison, countless of experts whose strength far surpassed Yun Che’s by many times over, and even the exceptionally strong all died under his hands.

“If the Sky Poison Pearl still had its poisonous strength, then within this trial ground, as the heavenly poison spreads, let alone ninety-nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine profound beasts, even if it was ten times that number, they would all still be poisoned to death by dusk.” Yun Che said with extreme emotion.

As a Heavenly Profound Treasure, the overpowered aspects of the Sky Poison Pearl laid in more than just its tempering and refining.

Wait... heavenly poison spreading?

Yun Che’s mind suddenly turned, and he looked towards the boundless forests beneath the cliff. In a while, he slowly began to smile.

“Jasmine, do you believe that we’ll be able to leave this place today if we’re lucky.”