"Oh? Is someone doubting me?"

Master Chen couldn't help but glare at Chen Hao.

At the same time, a number of people in the hall glanced at Chen Hao in surprise.

In the eyes of the crowd, it was a deadly mistake to say those words in a situation like this.

Chen Hao smiled bitterly. Looking at the current state of affairs, it seemed pointless for him to hold back anymore.

He decided that it would be better to express himself in a straightforward manner.

"I'm sorry for being straightforward, Master Chen, but your mysterious techniques are merely tactics. They're useless!" said Chen Hao.

Boom!

His words sparked an uproar amongst the crowd.

Who would have dared to question the

master like he did?

He was obviously courting death!

Master Chen's eyelids twitched fiercely.

How could he afford to be embarrassed in front of the crowd?

Especially at a time where he was recruiting new disciples.

At that moment, he stood up slowly.

"Look, Master Chen is about to show off his powers!"

Shen Piaopiao watched excitedly from the side.

Although the young man was evil, he was evidently much stronger than her. Even though they were peers, Shen Piaopiao was not happy with Chen Hao.

At the same time, she wanted to prove to her grandfather that this person, who he had high regard for, was not worthy of his respect at all.

Master Chen's actions captivated the

crowd.

"Who's this guy? Is he insane? How dare he question Master Chen?"

"Exactly! This young man is so arrogant. I bet he has no idea how dead he'd be!"

Several of the elderly stood out from the crowd and reprimanded Chen Hao for humiliating Master Chen.

A string of voices scolding Chen Hao could be heard.

"I'm not going to embarrass you, young man. As long as you kneel down and kowtow to me as an apology, you can leave the mountain without being harmed!" Master Chen squinted his eyes and shook his head.

"You're such a forgiving man, master. However, this young man should learn his lesson!" yelled someone from the crowd.

"I'm just being honest. The master that preceded you in this Taoist Temple is the true master. As for you, I'm afraid that your presence is only an insult to the word Dragon!" said Chen Hao casually.

"You're so brazen! It seems like you're going to continue being arrogant if I don't teach you a lesson! Very well then. From this moment onward, you're going to have a hard time leaving this mountain. I'll make sure that you will be rolling down the mountain instead of walking!" Master Chen was furious.

He lifted his hands and a compass with a golden dragon engraved on it appeared in his hands.

He could be seen uttering a spell, and it was a warning!

Suddenly, there were distinct movements in the hall without anyone moving.

The tables and chairs started shaking intensely.

Goshl

A few of the elders at the scene started to feel the sides of their lips twitching, and their eyes turned red immediately out of pure shock.

"You're such an ignorant young man! You have deeply offended the master, so hurry

up and get on your knees!" A few of the elders couldn't help but yell in fear.

Shen Tiangang and the others, who were watching from the sidelines, were shocked when they witnessed Master Chen's tactics.

They were drenched in cold sweat on behalf of Chen Hao.

Chen Hao only smiled bitterly and shook his head when he watched the entire situation unfold. "What's next, Master Chen?" he asked with a smirk.

Beads of sweat started appearing on Master Chen's forehead.

He wanted to cause a bigger scene, but he had already reached his limit. No matter how much he utilized all the skills that he had, he couldn't make the scene any grander.

"Is this all you've got?" Chen Hao shook his head.

He lifted his hands slightly, and the compass in Master Chen's hands landed in Chen Hao's palms instead.

Thereafter, Chen Hao uttered a spell in silence.

Boom!

The compass shone brightly all of a sudden, and the entire hall was filled with rays of bright and golden light.

Roar!

The faint image of a huge golden dragon could be seen within the beams of light as it roared.

A hurricane ensued and the atmosphere had taken a different turn.

"Ahh!"

Everyone in the hall screamed in panic.

A few of the elders widened their eyes in fear. It looked as if their eyes could fall out any moment.

Shen Piaopiao covered her mouth with her hands in shock. Everything that was happening before her eyes seemed unbelievable.

"F-F**k!"

Master Chen could not help but limp to the ground, as beads of cold sweat dripped down from his forehead.

The golden light disappeared as Chen Hao's wrists trembled, and everything went back to normal in an instant.

Chen Hao could sense that the compass was merely a simple magic tool with predetermined commands. When triggered, it could set off several terrifying situations.

Master Chen's Dao-heart was unstable; he could not fully utilize this compass' abilities.

Because of that, he made a fool out of himself.

Chen Hao smiled apathetically as he tossed the compass to the side, glaring at the master indifferently.

"Who gave you the courage to swindle around here?"

Although he was yelling at Master Chen, everyone in the hall trembled when they

heard Chen Hao.

"Please don't get mad, master. I-I was instructed to wait for a young man here. Besides, I only did the spell because I was asked to protect the Feng Shui and the incense of the Dragon Mountain!"

The master knelt on the ground instantly with a thud.

"Hiss!"

Everyone on the scene took a sharp breath.

"Who are you waiting for?"

Chen Hao had already figured out what was going on.

"Chen Hao. I'm waiting for a young man named Chen Hao!" said Master Chen.

"Who asked you to wait for him?"

"It was Young Miss!"

"What's your name?"

"Li Goudan!" said Master Chen without

holding back.

Upon hearing this, everyone was in shock. They glared at Master Chen in anger; at the same time, they looked at Chen Hao admirably, like a God who descended from heaven.

"Get these people off this mountain now!" Chen Hao instructed.

"Yes!" replied Li Goudan. He proceeded to chase the crowd away.

Soon, the only people left in the hall were Shen Tiangang and the rest.

"I have a request from you, master!"

Shen Tiangang was extremely respectful at this moment. He was a dying old man, but he went on his knees with a thud. The middle-aged man followed suit.

Chen Hao looked at him. He didn't hate this old man.

"What's the matter?" he asked.

"My granddaughter might be a little stubborn, but she always had the heart to

practice Buddhism. We have been trying to find a master for her, but to no avail. Today, we have witnessed your power, master. If you don't mind, please take my granddaughter with you. She can be by your side and serve you with anything you need, master!" said Shen Tiangang as tears welled up in his eyes.

"Her?"

Chen Hao frowned.

Gone was the stubborn Shen Piaopiao moments ago. All she had right now was respect and adoration toward Chen Hao.

She went red in her face as soon as she saw Chen Hao frowning.

"No, she's not fit to follow me!"

Chen Hao shook his head.

Shen Piaopiao almost cried out in tears.

"Why not, master?" asked Shen Tiangang agitatedly.

"She has a bad temper. Therefore, I shall not take her in as my disciple!"

Chen Hao waved his hands nonchalantly.

"I can turn over a new leaf! I can let go of my bad temper anytime!" said Shen Piaopiao anxiously.

"You can? Alright, sure. You look like someone who loves to make things difficult for others. Since you're willing to humble yourself down, head to the square and bark like a dog three times," said Chen Hao. "If you can do it well, I'll take you in as my disciple! But if you're not willing to do so, please leave the mountain as soon as possible!"

Chen Hao had a lot on his plate right now, and had no intention to recruit a disciple.

If it wasn't because of the old man kneeling down before him at such an old age, Chen Hao would have never continued the conversation with them.

Hence, he could only persuade this girl to retreat on her own.

Shen Piaopiao considered his request for a moment. Little did anyone know, she got up and ran toward the square in the next minute...



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To everyone's surprise, Shen Piaopiao started howling like a dog.

The people going down the mountain caught sight of the act. With tears in her eyes, Shen Piaopiao imitated the barking of a dog to a T.

This was not what Chen Hao had anticipated.

He thought that Shen Piaopiao was a spoiled, wealthy girl who cared greatly about her own reputation. He did not expect her to be so willing to humble herself.

Truth be told, it was an absolutely humiliating act. Even Chen Hao himself could not be able to stoop that low, which was exactly why he challenged Shen Piaopiao to do so in order to get her off his back.

"I've imitated the barking of a dog. Are you going to fulfil your promise of accepting me as your disciple?"

Shen Piaopiao stood in front of Chen Hao once again.

"[..."

Chen Hao hesitated for a bit.

Shen Tiangang held his breath as well, waiting for Chen Hao's decision.

"Fine!"

Chen Hao nodded his head reluctantly.

"Quick, Piaopiao, get down on your knees and pay your respects to Master Chen!" exclaimed Shen Tiangang.

His granddaughter was all grown up. After hearing Master Chen's outrageous proposal which made things difficult for her, Shen Tiangang thought that his granddaughter would get into a fit of rage and offend Master Chen.

Unexpectedly, his granddaughter was quick-witted and did exactly what was instructed.

Thus, Master Chen had no choice but to take her in as his disciple.

It was only a small price to pay for the Shen Family to be acquainted with an

expert like him.

It was certainly their greatest blessing.

"Master Chen, please accept my utmost respects for you!"

Shen Piaopiao knelt on the ground, kowtowing respectfully. She even served Chen Hao a cup of scented tea.

Am I really fated to be with this girl?

Chen Hao lamented inside his heart.

Meanwhile, Li Tiedan stood at the side, not daring to utter a single word.

After asking him about the incident involving that Young Miss, Li Tiedan explained everything to Chen Hao, who only chuckled after hearing his explanation.

As it turned out, Li Tiedan stumbled across a ghost when he went hiking in the mountains a few months earlier. Ever since then, the ghost ordered him around; to be specific, it had instructed him to wait for the arrival of a person, who happened to be Chen Hao.

Chen Hao was absolutely certain that Gunainai was Zhu, the puppet who had been giving him a lot of instructions after Master Ghost left.

It seemed like she was fine after all.

As he explained the entire situation, Li Tiedan led Chen Hao to a yard.

From there, Chen Hao caught sight of Zhu.

"Chen Hao, I did not expect us to meet again so soon!"

Zhu, the puppet made from verdant bamboos, fixed her gaze on Chen Hao from inside the house.

"I thought something bad happened to you when the Dragon Mountain caught fire," said Chen Hao.

He recalled the night when he was stalked by Yunqing.

"You are right, my body was burned to ashes. Haha, but I am a puppet. I have no specific needs for my body, because I will continue to exist as long as my consciousness recovers after a period of

time!" Zhu explained.

"Master Ghost must have an uncanny ability to be able to create you. Did he predict that I would return?" asked Chen Hao.

"Yes, he did. He was the one who instructed me to wait for you here. After that, he wants us to go and look for him; to be more precise, we need to rescue him," said Zhu.

"Rescue him?"

"Yes, Master Ghost had foreseen that he would be facing a big crisis in the coming future. Yunqing's visit was only the beginning of the crisis; the real disaster might already be underway. Also, he mentioned that his life is in your hands!" said Zhu.

"Alright, do you have any idea where Master Ghost is right now? It would be great if I can help out with anything," said Chen Hao. "The reason I came here is because there is something I wish to discuss with Master Ghost as well!"

"All I know is that Master Ghost has gone

to the Ji Province. If we want to look for him, that should be the best place to start! It is my master's hometown. He did not tell you where he was back then because he was afraid that your presence would disrupt the initial timeline!" explained Zhu.

"Alright, there's no time to lose. Let's head to the Ji Province as soon as possible!"

Chen Hao nodded.

Now, every single one of his family members was missing.

His grandfather's identity was uncertain; Ziyan's whereabouts were unknown—even crossing worlds to locate Tongxin was not an easy feat.

Since Uncle Chen was here now, he had to seize this opportunity to resolve all of his worries.

Chen Hao had to find Master Ghost without wasting any more time. For now, he was the only one who could help solve some of these mysteries.

"So, are you going to follow me?" Chen Hao asked Zhu.

"Of course! My mission can only be accomplished after I've helped you locate the Master Ghost. For you to conveniently bring me around, there is a pearl concealed within my body. You can store me inside a dainty doll and bring me along with you like an accessory." Zhu suggested.

"Alright!" replied Chen Hao.

.....

"You're heading to the Ji Province, Master Chen?"

Shen Tiangang was visibly taken aback when Chen Hao let him in on his plan.

"Yes, is there a problem?"

"Hehe, not at all, Master Chen! Our Shen Family lives in the Ji Province. If you don't mind, we can provide shelter for you!" said Shen Tiangang delightfully.

If Master Chen agreed, his relationship with him would surely get closer by leaps and bounds.

This would be a blessing to the Shen

Family!

"Why don't you stay at our family home, Master. This way, I can show my respects to you as well." Shen Piaopiao pleaded.

Master Ghost's Taoist Temple was located at the Dragon Mountain. Unfortunately, it seemed like Shen Tiangang, who lived in Ji Province, did not know where Master Ghost was at.

Staying at the Shen Family's residence was not a bad idea anyway. After all, Chen Hao would have to find a place to rest before he could continue locating Master Ghost's whereabouts.

What was more, the Shen Family was a force to be reckoned with over there. With their presence, he could save tons of his energy as well.

At this moment, Ziyan's whereabouts were unknown and his family was missing as well. Thus, he was desperate to meet Master Ghost as soon as possible.

"Fine, I'll stay at your place then!"

Chen Hao nodded.

However, when he looked over at Shen Tiangang, it seemed like he wanted to say something.

Shen Tiangang looked very emotional. All of a sudden, there was a surge in his Qi and blood. He vomited a mouthful of blood before collapsing on the floor, his entire body convulsing.

"Huh? Grandpa!"

Shen Piaopiao yelled out in a panic.

The middle-aged man swiftly rummaged through his pockets to look for some medication.

"Master, what is happening to my grandfather?" Shen Piaopiao glanced at Chen Hao with a pleading look.

"He has suffered internal injuries before, which are now affecting his organs. That is why his Qi is not flowing. There was a sudden surge in his blood and Qi, causing his organs to implode," Chen Hao explained calmly.

He had actually noticed this problem earlier, and was planning on asking Shen

Tiangang the reason for such severe injuries in his organs after they had finished their task.

Chen Hao did not expect that by agreeing to stay with them, he had made Shen Tiangang so emotional that it triggered his illness.

"Master Chen, you are really superb indeed. I have sustained some heavy injuries before!" Shen Tiangang confessed, still coughing up blood.

Chen Hao lifted a finger, enveloping Shen Tiangang's acupoints.

It was strange indeed. Shen Tiangang could sense the feeling of his body tearing apart vanishing in an instant!

"Master Chen."

He was amazed. As he looked into Chen Hao's eyes, the respect he had for Chen Hao could not be described with words.

Master Chen was so young, yet he had such amazing cultivation ...

"Your injuries were caused by some sort of

vital energy. It does not seem like the work of an Inner Energy or a secret technique, but simply pure vital energy. However, there are only a handful of people in this world who possess such energy. Who did you stumble across?" Chen Hao asked, a frown appearing on his face.



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