

A Sword 311

Chapter 311: Return My Money!

The young woman in a cloud-patterned embroidered skirt was kind enough to warn him of the dangers of the place earlier, so Ye Guan didn't ignore her plight. However, the puppet was far stronger than Ye Guan had expected, astonishing him.

At the same time, he was thrilled. Since his recent breakthrough, he had been wanting to have a good fight to measure his own strength. The puppet before him was the perfect sparring partner.

Ye Guan thrust his sword toward the puppet, and it reached the puppet in the blink of an eye. The puppet didn't retreat in the face of the sword thrust. It retaliated with the same sword move, aiming for Ye Guan's throat.

It seemed willing to give up its life to take Ye Guan's life, but Ye Guan wasn't going to fall for the puppet's antics. Ye Guan was aware that the puppet's body was as hard as iron and impervious to conventional weapons.

Ye Guan didn't dare to play right into the puppet's cards. He leaped to the side and dodged the attack, but the puppet's sword thrust turned into a sword slash, slashing fiercely toward Ye Guan in a beautiful arc.

Astonished, Ye Guan lifted his sword up to his chest to block.

Clang!

The sound of metal clashing against metal echoed, and Ye Guan flew at least a few kilometers away. Blood dripped down Ye Guan's slips when he finally recovered his balance and came to a halt.

The young woman was alarmed. She rushed over to Ye Guan's side and asked, "Are you okay?"

Ye Guan wiped the blood from the corners of his lips as he looked at his right shoulder.

His right shoulder had split open, and blood was flowing haphazardly out of his wound, creating a horrifying sight. The puppet was truly a frightening opponent. It excelled at both offense and defense, making it seem as though it had no openings to exploit.

Just then, the puppet held its sword vertically and placed the blade a few inches away from its glabella. It raised its left hand and created a sword finger before pointing at the ground.

Seeing that, Ye Guan grabbed the young woman and said, "Miss, this puppet is too strong for us to fight! We have to retreat.

Ye Guan's voice had yet to finish echoing through the air, but the puppet was already charging toward them. Ye Guan held the young woman's hand and dragged her away in a bid to escape.

The young woman blushed at Ye Guan's firm grip on her hand. When had a man been so close to her? Instinctively, she struggled, but Ye Guan's grip on her hand was too firm and strong. In addition, they were in a dangerous situation, so she decided to ignore her instinct in the meantime.

It's not that I want him to hold my hand. I even tried to shake him off, but he's holding my hand so firmly that I can't even move it. She thought to herself.

"Sis! I'm still here!" A young man's voice reverberated from behind. "Don't leave me behind!"

The young woman came to her senses upon hearing the young man's voice, and she couldn't believe that she was just about to abandon her younger brother. She looked back and was surprised to find that there was already a gap of about a kilometer between them. Fortunately, the puppet didn't continue on chasing both Ye Guan and the young man but had instead retreated to a distant hall.

The three breathed a sigh of relief upon seeing the puppet's retreat.

Ye Guan took an Immortal-grade spiritual pill and swallowed it.

He offered one to the young woman and said, "Miss, take this!"

The young woman didn't reject his kind gesture and said, "Thank you!"

However, she put it away rather than consuming it. The white-robed young man saw that and chimed in, "What about me? Where's mine?"

Ye Guan merely glanced at the white-robed young man before saying, "My apologies, but I have a limited number of spiritual pills.."

Ye Guan was lying, but the white-robed young man's lips twitched slightly upon hearing Ye Guan's excuse. He then glared at Ye Guan, but the latter decisively ignored him before sitting down cross-legged and closing his eyes to recover from his injuries.

The young woman took out a white jade bottle and handed it over to Ye Guan.

"Here!" she said. To Ye Guan's surprise, the white jade bottle contained five Supreme Divine-grade spiritual pills! Ye Guan knew that resources were scarce here, which meant spiritual pills of such grade were incredibly rare.

The black-robed old man earlier didn't even have such a pill, but the young woman before him had generously produced five such pills for him. Ye Guan quickly deduced that she definitely had a special status.

Ye Guan didn't stand on ceremony and said, "Thank you!"

The young woman smiled and said, "My name's Nangong Xue. What's your name?"

Ye Guan responded, "Ye Guan!"

The white-robed young man suddenly asked, "Are you from that Ye Clan located in the Southernmost Divine Continent?"

Ye Guan shook his head.

The white-robed young man asked, "Are you a rogue cultivator?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes."

The white-robed young man went silent as he stared deeply at Ye Guan.

However, Nangong Xue was shocked. "You are a rogue cultivator?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes."

Nangong Xue smiled, "Wow, you're so impressive in spite of your status as a rogue cultivator. You managed to reach such a high level of strength without relying on your family members or parents. You've done something really impressive."

Ye Guan laughed sheepishly and said, "Thank you."

Nangong Xue pursed her lips and smiled. The gleam in her eyes brightened as she examined Ye Guan from top to bottom. Ye Guan was wearing a white robe, but Nangong Xue also caught a glimpse of blue clothing beyond his white robe.

Ye Guan's posture was fine; his eyebrows were sharp, and his eyes were shining brightly like stars. His facial features combined to form a harmonious relationship that made Ye Guan incredibly handsome. In addition to his courteousness and easygoing demeanor, he truly seemed like a graceful gentleman.

Nangong Xue got so engrossed in her examination that the white-robed young man tugged at her sleeves and shook her back to reality.

"You shouldn't stare at others like that, Sis! It's impolite!"

Nangong Xue's face flushed red.

The white-robed young man was dumbfounded.

He wasn't dimwitted, so he could see that his sister had a great impression of the young swordsman. The white-robed young man pulled Nangong Xue aside and said, "Sis, he's a rogue cultivator!"

Nangong Xue calmly responded, "So what if he's a rogue cultivator?"

The white-robed young man sounded serious as he spoke in a deep voice, "Don't play dumb. We're members of the prestigious Nangong Clan, and our marriages aren't up to us to decide. Your feelings for him are only going to hurt you and him!"

Nangong Xue was both ashamed and furious as she retorted, "What are you talking about? What nonsense are you talking about, Nangong Yun?!"

She raised her hand and delivered a juicy knuckle sandwich to Nangong Yun's face.

Bam!

Caught off guard, Nangong Yun was blasted a hundred meters away.

Nangong Yun went numb and despondent. Meanwhile, Ye Guan finally stood up. He was on the cusp of completely recovering from his injuries, but he judged that he would fully recover once they had escaped.

Ye Guan looked at Nangong Xue beside him and asked with a smile, "Lady Nangong Xue, what are your plans?"

Nangong Xue asked back, "What about you?"

Ye Guan's gaze landed on the summit of the mountain.

He smiled and said, "I want to keep trying."

Nangong Xue looked at Ye Guan and asked, "Are you confident?"

Ye Guan shook his head and said, "Not a hundred percent, but I still want to try."

Nangong Xue immediately said, "I'll go with you, then!"

Ye Guan hesitated.

Nangong Xue stared deeply at Ye Guan and asked, "Are you afraid that I'll drag you down?"

Ye Guan smiled and replied, "How could that be? Lady Nangong Xue, you're extremely powerful. If I were to fight you, I wouldn't have the confidence to win."

He wasn't lying. The young woman in front of him was a Time Immortal Realm cultivator, which meant that she was a formidable cultivator. If he were to engage in a one-on-one battle with her, he wouldn't be confident of his victory.

Nangong Xue laughed. "Let's go together, then!"

Ye Guan thought about it before nodding. "Alright!"

Ye Guan then looked at Nangong Yun.

Nangong Yun said before Ye Guan could say anything, "I will go with you two, of course."

"You should go back to the clan," said Nangong Xue.

Nangong Yun was stunned.

Nangong Xue used a stern voice to explain, "You're too weak. You'll only be in danger if you stay here."

Nangong Yun couldn't block even a single sword move from the puppet.

In other words, he would just be a burden if he were to stay with them.

Nangong Yun was a bit displeased, but Nangong Xue narrowed her eyes at him, making Nangong Yun inadvertently take a few steps backward. Clearly, Nangong Yun was afraid of his sister.

Nangong Yun made a sidelong glance at the summit and sighed in his heart before saying, "You should be careful, then, Sis! I'll go back to the clan first!"

Nangong Yun glanced deeply at Ye Guan before walking away.

Ye Guan turned to Nangong Xue and said, "Let's go!"

Ye Guan turned around and started walking toward the summit, eager to confront the puppet. In no time, the two arrived at the summit and found the puppet standing at the entrance of a hall.

Ye Guan didn't bother talking. He disappeared, and the puppet vanished as well!

Swoosh!

The air let out two ear-splitting shrill cries at practically the same time as two dazzling sword lights flew through the air and rushed toward their respective targets.

Ye Guan didn't dare to confront the puppet head-on. When his sword was only half a meter away from the puppet, Ye Guan abruptly unleashed his Sword Domain, and a domineering oppressive force instantly suppressed the puppet.

Nangong Xue's beautiful eyes lit up, and she exclaimed, "A Sword Domain!"

The puppet's speeding sword was abruptly slowed down, while Ye Guan's sword reached the puppet's neck in the blink of an eye.

The sword light shattered, and Ye Guan was forced to retreat hundreds of meters away.

Ye Guan was shaken upon coming to a stop. The puppet's strength and defense had exceeded his expectations, but he didn't dwell on it any further as the puppet was already closing in toward him.

Ye Guan abruptly thrust his sword.

Sword Dao Attack—a sword move emblazoned with the sword dao!

Nangong Xue's eyes widened into saucers as she muttered blankly, "That sword move..."

Boom!

The puppet staggered backward upon taking the brunt of Ye Guan's attack.

Ye Guan chased after it and slashed out with his sword. Shockingly, his singular sword move contained the power of thirty instances of Beheading Heavens Sword Art!

Bam!

A massive sword light descended upon the puppet like a waterfall, and its immense power sent it flying toward a stone wall. However, the stone wall merely shook slightly without taking even the slightest damage.

Ye Guan grew even more solemn. He had noticed that the puppet was completely unscathed despite taking two mighty blows from him

Nangong Xue stood next to Ye Guan with a grave expression. However, it seemed that the puppet had no intention of letting them stew in their shock for a while longer as it stood up and charged forward. It raised its sword and slashed out multiple times, creating a seemingly endless amount of sword lights in the blink of an eye.

Ye Guan was stunned. He didn't expect that the puppet also had a sword art in its arsenal.

Left without even the luxury of thinking, Ye Guan stepped out and thrust his sword toward the oncoming puppet, performing yet another attack emblazoned with the sword dao.

Crackle!

The myriad of sword lights were extinguished, and Ye Guan was sent flying away.

However, the puppet suffered the same fate, and if it hadn't been for the stone wall behind it, it would have flown much farther. As soon as Ye Guan stopped, he felt as if his intestine was torn apart; blood flowed out incessantly from his mouth.

Nangong Xue suddenly appeared next to Ye Guan.

She bent down before taking out a Supreme-Divine grade spiritual pill.

Ye Guan accepted the pill, and his injuries healed rapidly.

Nangong Xue muttered, "Young Lord Ye, the puppet is too strong, we should—"

Ye Guan interrupted, "Don't worry!"

With that, he jumped right back into the fray.

Nangong Xue was taken by surprise. Was he really going to continue fighting?

Nangong Xue was right. Ye Guan kept on challenging the puppet. At first, the puppet would always win by a landslide, but Ye Guan didn't mind as he knew that he would improve significantly over the next few days.

Ye Guan was right. It only took him a few days to improve drastically.

Boom!

As usual, Ye Guan cut a sorry figure as the puppet sent him flying away. However, there was something different with Ye Guan's defeat today. As soon as Ye Guan recovered his balance and stood up, a powerful aura burst out of him.

It was the aura of a True Immortal Realm cultivator!

Nangong Xue's eyes flashed in astonishment upon witnessing Ye Guan's breakthrough, and it was all because she truly didn't expect that Ye Guan was capable of making breakthroughs during battle.

Ye Guan's breakthrough into the True Immortal Realm had significantly boosted his overall prowess significantly.

Swoosh!

Ye Guan vanished, and a radiant sword light erupted. The stance was depicted in the Beheading Heavens Sword Art, but Ye Guan had emblazoned this sword move with thirty-five layers of the sword dao, increasing its overall power by several folds.

In fact, the attack had become so powerful that the world seemed to split open.

Boom!

A deafening explosion echoed, and the puppet flew toward the stone wall as if it were a kite with its string cut. The stone wall shook violently upon impact, and Ye Guan's eyes lit up in excitement upon seeing a deep gash in the puppet's sturdy body.

I did it! Ye Guan was thrilled. Indeed, fighting was the best way to become stronger! His fight against the puppet demanded his full attention the whole time, as a single instance of destruction could mean suffering severe injuries.

Ye Guan's heightened senses allowed him to unleash his potential, which allowed him to make a breakthrough.

Ye Guan struggled for quite a while against the puppet until he found the opportunity to send another fully concentrated strike. The sword move remained the same—thirty-nine Beheading Heavens Sword Art emblazoned with thirty-nine layers of the sword dao!

The puppet cut a sorry figure in mid-air. It failed to withstand Ye Guan's sword attack, and it struck the stone wall once more. However, Ye Guan clearly had no intentions of letting the puppet rest as he charged toward it once more.

Yet another sword strike! The puppet instinctively raised its sword to protect itself.

Boom!

The sword light shattered, and the puppet was sent flying, crashing heavily into the stone wall. It had just come to its senses, but a sword had already pierced its head. The puppet stiffened and went rigid.

Thud!

Ye Guan collapsed to the ground with a dull thud; he was completely devoid of energy.

It was just too exhausting! Ye Guan had just confirmed that emotionless, terrifying puppets unafraid of death were more challenging compared to fighting human opponents.

Meanwhile, Nangong Xue still couldn't move on from what she had witnessed. She truly couldn't quite believe that the swordsman before her could defeat a half-step Great Sovereign puppet. What a formidable young man!

It was no wonder that the most powerful cultivators were once rogue cultivators.

After a brief rest, Ye Guan put away the motionless puppet. He started talking to Nangong Xue before proceeding toward the gate. The two were extremely vigilant, and they didn't dare to be careless.

Creak!

A creaking sound echoed, and the two walked past it.

However, Ye Guan and Nangong Xue abruptly froze upon seeing someone walking in their direction. Someone's here?

The other party also froze upon seeing both Ye Guan and Nangong Xue. They definitely didn't expect to see anyone here. However, the other party's eyes widened the moment they clapped his eyes on Ye Guan.

"Y-y-you... it's actually you!" exclaimed the other party. They grabbed Ye Guan's arm and shouted, "Damn it, give me back my money! Hurry up and return my money!"

Ye Guan was both flustered and confused.

He truly couldn't remember having borrowed money from anyone.

Chapter 312: Is This How Your Family Acts?

Ye Guan was confused. What money do I have to return?

He tried to pull his arm away, but the man had a death grip on his wrist.

Ye Guan couldn't move his right hand at all. What an insane amount of strength!

The man glared at Ye Guan and exclaimed, "Return my money! Return it!"

Ye Guan set his thoughts aside and said, "Senior, I think you got the wrong person."

"Is your surname Ye?" asked the man.

Ye Guan was visibly surprised. "How did you know?"

"Is your father the Sword Master, Ye Xuan?"

Ye Guan was stupefied. He knows my father?

Clearly, Ye Guan's shocked expression was enough of an answer for the man as he laughed and said, "It seems that I didn't get the wrong person. Return my money!"

Ye Guan laughed sheepishly and said, "Senior, we don't even know each other, but you're asking me to return your money. How am I supposed to return your money when I don't even have it in the first place?"

In response, the man opened his palm, and a sheet of paper floated over to Ye Guan. Ye Guan glanced at it and was stunned to see what was written on the piece of paper—I borrowed countless treasures here today, and my son will return what I owe.'

My son will return what I owe?! Ye Guan made a sidelong glance at the man and asked doubtfully, "My father wrote this?"

"Yes, and he even left a bloody fingerprint."

Ye Guan's face darkened upon seeing the fingerprint. What kind of father makes his son pay for what he owes? Is there even anyone else like that out there aside from my father?

Ye Guan suddenly felt that his grandfather hadn't made his father suffer enough hardships.

"Return my money," said the man in a calm and composed tone of voice, but his hand was holding Ye Guan's wrist tightly, refusing to let go. He seemed afraid that Ye Guan would run away.

After a few moments of hesitation, Ye Guan said, "Senior, I don't think what you said makes sense."

The man glared at him and said, "You aren't thinking of running away, are you?"

Ye Guan replied, "My dad owes you, not me!"

"But he said that you'll pay for what he owes! You're his son, aren't you? There's a saying that it's only natural for a son to repay his father's debts, so what's the problem here?" said the man.

Ye Guan went quiet before eventually asking, "How much?"

Ye Guan didn't mind paying his father's debt if he could afford it. He was his father, after all.

The man grinned at Ye Guan's question. Clearly, Ye Guan had acknowledged that he indeed had to pay for his father's debt.

"It's not that big of an amount... it's just tens of billions of spiritual cores!"

"What?!" Ye Guan exclaimed in shock with wide eyes, "Tens of billions of spiritual cores?!"

Nangong Xue's eyes widened as well and her face was filled with disbelief. Tens of billions of spiritual cores?! How is that even possible?

The man nodded and said, "Yes, and he also borrowed countless divine treasures."

Ye Guan immediately shook his head, refusing to pay.

He didn't need a father like Ye Xuan anyway.

The man's face darkened. "Are you going to run away?"

He had no way to deal with the young man's father. The young man's father was the king of relying on others, but the young man himself was different. He was still young, so the man had ten thousand ways to deal with him.

In the worst-case scenario, he could just rob the young man. Wait, I don't think it's robbery for me to demand money from someone who owes me. It's only right for someone to pay their debts, after all.

Ye Guan stared deeply at the man before inwardly asking, "If I give it my all, what are my chances of beating him?"

Little Pagoda replied, "It's guaranteed."

Ye Guan was overjoyed.

"Guaranteed that you'll lose to him, that is," Little Pagoda added.

Ye Guan's froze.

"Anyway, just a friendly reminder, but he can hear what you're saying to me." Little Pagoda pointed out.

Ye Guan went silent out of embarrassment.

"I'm being reasonable here compared to your father," the man stared at Ye Guan and explained, "Your father robbed—I mean, he borrowed divine treasures and a ton of spiritual cores from me. He then wrote down an IOU saying that his son would repay his debt. You're his son, right? In other words, you're paying."

"A debt has to be repaid, isn't that so?"

Ye Guan thought about it for a while before asking, "Senior, why don't you just go to my father?"

If I could just get everything back from your father, would I even be talking to you right now? The man inwardly lampooned. Of course, he kept his thoughts to himself. He was still the Yu[1] Spirit, after all, and he had a reputation to maintain!

"The IOU says that his son would repay his debt, so why would I go to him?" asked the man.

Ye Guan suddenly laughed out loud and replied, "Senior, you're right. It is only natural for one to repay their debts. Since it is my Yang Family that owes this debt, my Yang Family will pay it back!"

A puzzled look flashed past the man's eyes when he saw Ye Guan's change in attitude. He felt slightly wary, and he knew that he had to be careful when dealing with the Sword Master's descendant.

Ye Guan then said, "I don't have any money at the moment!"

The man instantly frowned.

Ye Guan continued, "Of course, our Yang Family does not renege on our debts. What about this? I'll sign another IOU, and if I can't pay off my father's debts, I'll have my son pay it for me!"

Little Pagoda was utterly speechless.

"Do you have a son?" The man glared at him and asked, "Where is he?"

Ye Guan hesitated briefly before saying, "He's not born yet."

"How impudent!" The man was furious. He recalled what had transpired many years ago, and the script was exactly the same. The man was so infuriated that he shouted, "Like father, like son indeed. You and your father are using the same methods to con me. He pushed the debt to you, and you're trying to push it to your son. Do you really think I'm that dumb?"

The man's fury made him inadvertently release a tinge of his aura, and the world became illusory as it trembled incessantly. Clearly, it couldn't withstand the man's power.

Ye Guan was stupefied. He could tell that the man was beyond Great Sovereigns. My father's too much; how can he borrow money from someone and then push the debt to his son? I can't believe he can do something so cruel. It's simply outrageous!

The man said, "Let's not waste any more time. I know that your Yang Family runs a huge business, so you must be very rich. Return my money, and I'll leave immediately. What do you think? It sounds good, right?"

Ye Guan was a bit helpless as he replied, "Senior, I really can't afford to pay you at the moment."

The man sounded cold as he asked, "Aren't you the owner of the Immortal Treasures Pavilion?"

Ye Guan was silent. It seemed the man was well aware of how the Immortal Treasures Pavilion was operating, considering how he had chosen to visit Ye Guan to ask for repayment.

The man continued, "The Immortal Treasures Pavilion's riches can rival the Guanyuan Universe's wealth, so how come you can't pay me back?"

Ye Guan sighed and said, "If you really want me to pay you, Senior, it's not like it's impossible. I'm also willing to pay, but my assets are sealed at the moment. If you can help me break the seal on my assets, I will gladly give you everything I have on me."

Little Pagoda chuckled upon hearing that. This brat is playing dirty again!

If the seal in Ye Guan wasn't made by the plain-skirt lady, the man before Ye Guan could definitely shatter it. After all, the man was a legendary figure whose existence spanned tens of millions of years.

Unfortunately, the seal in Ye Guan was made by the plain-skirt lady. Asking someone to even attempt to break the seal that she had left behind was equivalent to sending them to their deaths.

The man frowned and asked, "A seal? Is it in your body?"

Ye Guan quickly nodded and said, "Yes!"

The man placed his right hand on Ye Guan's shoulder and was stunned moments later. He didn't expect that Ye Guan was telling the truth. However, it was true; a seal had truly been placed in Ye Guan.

Ye Guan explained, "Senior, the one who sealed me is extremely strong, so—"

The man interrupted with a dry laugh and asked, "They're extremely strong?"

Ye Guan nodded. He sounded serious as he said, "Yes!"

“Do you know how powerful I am?”

“How powerful are you?”

“Back then, I could destroy your father with one hand!”

Ye Guan didn't reply. Of course, he didn't believe the man's words. Otherwise, his father would have been unable to borrow such a huge amount of money and treasures.

The man seemed to have seen through Ye Guan's thoughts.

“You don't believe me?” he asked.

Ye Guan nodded without saying anything.

The man calmly explained, “Your father was strong at the time, but his strength didn't belong to him. Instead—”

The man paused midsentence before shaking his head and continuing. “Forget it! It's pointless to talk about these things today. I'll help you break the seal, and you can return my money afterward. Then, we will no longer owe each other anything.”

Ye Guan agreed and said, “All right, but this seal is really strong. Senior, you...”

“You know nothing about my strength!” exclaimed the man with a burst of boisterous laughter before placing He placed his right hand on Ye Guan's shoulder again

Swoosh!

A terrifying power surged into Ye Guan—the man was going to break the seal!

The man didn't think much of the seal in the young swordsman. Objectively speaking, there weren't that many people capable of defeating him—the Yu Spirit. In fact, the number of individuals enough to defeat him could only be counted on one hand. In other words, the Yu Spirit was virtually invincible so long as those people refrained from making a move.

The Yu Spirit's hand had just landed on Ye Guan's shoulder when a burst of sword light erupted from Ye Guan. The Yu Spirit's face immediately changed, and he stared wide agape at Ye Guan before cursing, "Fuck, fuck, fuck, you—"

He tried to retract his hand to no avail.

Squelch!

The ray of sword light pierced the Yu Spirit and pinned him to the ground. The Yu Spirit wanted to move, but he was horrified to find that he had been completely immobilized.

Ye Guan heaved a sigh of relief. The man was incredibly powerful, and Ye Guan knew that he had to make use of his aunt's power to come out on top against the man.

How about the IOU? The Sword Master had signed it himself, so what did it have to do with him?

The Yu Spirit gasped in shock and muttered, "That woman is following you?"

Ye Guan looked at him with a smile and asked, "Are you referring to my aunt?"

The Yu Spirit nodded.

Ye Guan replied, "Yes, my aunt brought me here to become even stronger by experiencing many perils."

The Yu Spirit was seething fury as he said, "Did you just try to scheme against me earlier? Huh? Is this how your family acts?"

Ye Guan was confused. Why is he so agitated?

The Yu Spirit continued. "After protecting her brother, she's now protecting her nephew... If your family keeps this up, how can anyone do anything against you guys? Huh? Don't you feel like you guys are crossing the line here? Goodness..."

Ye Guan made a sidelong glance at the Yu Spirit before walking up to the latter.

The Yu Spirit went still at the bizarre sight.

"W-What are you trying to do?"

Ye Guan grabbed the Yu Spirit's hand. In one deft, fluid movement, Ye Guan removed the Yu Spirit's storage ring before grabbing Nangong Xue and running away.

The Yu Spirit stood completely rooted in shock. I just got robbed!! That little bastard actually dared to steal my storage ring! What the fuck?!

Chapter 313: The Yang Family Is Despicable

The Yu Spirit was caught off guard. In addition to failing to recover what he was owed, he also got robbed.

What was the meaning of this?

He quickly calmed down, but his expression was ugly. The Sword Master had borrowed money from him, but the little bastard just now had straight up robbed him!

The current generation has truly gotten better compared to the previous one!

Of course, he wasn't in the right state of mind to even care about his stolen storage ring. Right now, his priority was to try and escape.

A ray of sword light was still pinning him down. He couldn't move, and he wouldn't dare to do so, even if he could move. The sword light belonged to that woman, so if he dared to move recklessly, she might snuff out his soul with a snap of her fingers.

She had decided to protect two generations of the Yang Family! The Yu Spirit sighed to himself. He reminisced about the time the Sword Master had threatened him, and he thought about what had just happened to him. He smiled bitterly.

The Yang Family was truly despicable. First, they lied to him, and now, they had just robbed him! To make matters worse, the Yu Spirit had no idea where to go to seek justice for himself.

After a long, long time, he looked up and said, "Your Excellency, I'm good friends with your brother..."

...

Meanwhile, Ye Guan was running as fast as he could with Nangong Xue. He was excited and nervous at the same time. How could he not when the storage ring he had just stolen contained three billion spiritual cores?

To be exact, it was almost three billion spiritual cores! It was a massive sum, and he truly didn't expect that the man just now would turn out to be such a rich individual. In addition to spiritual cores, there were more than a hundred bottles of precious elixirs, the lowest grade among them were Divine-grade elixirs.

There were also more than ten divine treasures. Of course, they couldn't be compared to unranked divine treasures such as the Sword Master's Dao Imprint and the Time Mirror, but they were still extremely valuable.

What a rich man! Ye Guan couldn't help but sigh. There was indeed a huge gap between the rich and the poor in this world. The rich were super rich, and the poor were super poor.

Meanwhile, Nangong Xue was allowing Ye Guan to lead her away by the hand. She cast a curious gaze upon Ye Guan. She was truly convinced that he was a rogue cultivator, but Ye Guan clearly wasn't a rogue cultivator. In fact, his origins had to be extraordinary.

The mysteries around Ye Guan made Nangong Xue feel like uncovering them.

Ye Guan soon arrived before a great hall. He looked up and saw a plaque that said—Shangqing Sect. The great hall looked old, and the effects of the ruthless passage of time on the great hall could be seen even from the outside.

Ye Guan and Nangong Xue started walking toward the great hall, but Nangong Xue suddenly said, “Young Lord Ye...”

Ye Guan looked at her with a confused look. She lowered her head slightly, and her ears turned red as she muttered, “Can you let go of my hand now?”

Startled, Ye Guan quickly let go of her hand. He had been in a hurry to escape, so he had inadvertently grabbed her hand. He was thrilled to have discovered the Shangqing Sect's great hall, and he got so excited that he had forgotten the fact that he was still holding Nangong Xue's hand.

He felt embarrassed, and he hurriedly apologized, “Sorry, I didn’t mean to...”

Nangong Xue laughed and said, “It’s fine. Anyway, shall we head inside and take a look?”

Ye Guan sighed in relief and said, “Sure.”

The two walked into the great hall, and they were immediately struck by a musty smell along with a cloud of dust. Ye Guan waved his sleeve lightly, and the dust in the great hall was swept away.

He looked around and found that the great hall was desolate and empty. The great hall didn't have anything at all aside from the statue of an old man. The old man was wearing a Daoist robe, and he had a head full of white hair with a stern expression. A horsetail whisk was in his hand, and his gaze was fixed on something.

Ye Guan approached the statue and bowed deeply. One had to be respectful toward elders in secret realms. Miracles could happen so long as one showed respect and a great example of this unfolded before Ye Guan.

The statue before them trembled slightly, and an old man walked out of it.

Nangong Xue approached Ye Guan with a cautious look.

Ye Guan was wary as well. Respect was one thing, but he still had to be cautious.

The old man's gaze landed on Ye Guan. He frowned and said, "You..."

"You've been obfuscated from Heaven's Will. Your fate has become unpredictable and unreadable," said the old man with narrowed eyes.

Ye Guan was silent. The perpetrator was probably his father or his aunt.

The old man's eyes gleamed sharply as he said, "Your origins are not ordinary."

"Senior, are you perhaps the Sect Master of the Shangqing Sect?"

"Indeed."

"To be honest, we've come here for an opportunity from you. If you feel that we're not too bad, why don't you give us some good—why don't you give us an opportunity?"

The old man was slightly taken aback. He soon laughed heartily and said, "You're so straightforward that I don't even know what to say."

Nangong Xue looked at Ye Guan and smiled dryly. Young Lord Ye is so amusing.

Ye Guan chuckled. He felt that it was better to be honest and straightforward rather than beat around the bush. He was here to ask for something, and he thought that beating around the bush would just be a waste of time.

The old man examined Ye Guan from top to bottom before saying, "You're so young, but you've already established your own Sword Dao, and it is quite resolute as well, which is rare. My Shangqing Sect's inheritance won't be of much use to you."

Ye Guan felt like he was about to have a headache, but he had no plans of giving up just like that, so he said, "Senior, I encountered a puppet before I entered this place. That puppet was really strong. Was it refined by the Shangqing Sect?"

The old man smiled and said, "You must be talking about the Ancient Divine Puppet. It was indeed created by the Shangqing Sect. Why? Are you interested in the methods to refine one?"

Ye Guan hurriedly nodded and said, "Yes!"

However, the old man shook his head and explained, "I can indeed give you the refinement method, but you won't be able to refine an Ancient Divine Puppet of that grade."

"Why?"

"Do you know how much money is needed to refine such an Ancient Divine Puppet?"

Money? Ye Guan blinked and asked, "Are they expensive?"

The old man nodded and answered, "Yes. The puppet you've encountered is at the peak of the Divine Sovereign Realm, but its actual prowess is closer to the Great Sovereign Realm, which makes it a Half-step Great Sovereign. A certain array is necessary to refine such a puppet, and it's an array that requires billions of spiritual cores. The necessary precious spiritual materials are expensive as well, and you might need to fork out at least three billion spiritual cores for them.

"In total, I estimate that five billion spiritual cores are required to refine an Ancient Divine Puppet of that grade.

Five billion spiritual cores? Ye Guan was shocked. He was rich, but he didn't think it was a good idea to spend that much money to refine something.

Nangong Xue was shocked as well. Their Nangong Clan was a great clan in the Chaotic Star World, but five billion spiritual cores was an amount that their clan still couldn't readily muster.

The old man added, "If you want to refine a Great Sovereign Realm puppet, you would have to spend at least ten billion spiritual cores. Even during our glory days, we only managed to refine two Great Sovereign, and we had to ask for every sect member's contribution.

"Of course, even though we paid a huge price for it, it was really strong. An Ancient Divine Puppet in the Great Sovereign Realm is at the same level as a Great Time Sovereign, but its true prowess far exceeds that of a Great Time Sovereign."

Ye Guan asked, "Senior, can you teach me how to refine a Divine Puppet?"

The refinement method would be useless in someone else's hands, but it was a different story in Ye Guan's hands. Yes, it was expensive, but he was rich! Of course, he wasn't rich enough to refine such puppets in bulk, but he believed he could make a few of them at the very least.

His reasoning for insisting on learning the refinement method was that he had to be prepared for the upcoming full-blown war between the Guanxuan Universe and the True Universe. If he made ample preparations today, fewer people in the Guanxuan Universe's camp would die in the future.

Where was he going to find money? Well, his mother had plenty!

However, the old man was puzzled. "As I said, refining an Ancient Divine Puppet is going to be expensive. Are you sure you still want to learn it?"

"Yes, Senior!" Ye Guan nodded and said, "I would really appreciate it if you taught me how to refine an Ancient Divine Puppet."

The old man pondered briefly before saying, "Well, I can teach you, but you have to promise me something."

"Please tell me what it is," Ye Guan replied. He knew that there was no free lunch in this world.

The old man stared at him and said sternly, "Well, it's nothing too complicated. I just want you to find the Shangqing Sect a worthy successor. I only require two prerequisites from the successor candidates.

"First of all, they must be extremely talented. Of course, their character has to be great as well, and they must also be willing to revive the Shangqing Sect. Anyway, the second prerequisite is that they must be close to you—they must be extremely close to you!"

Ye Guan was baffled. "Why must they be close to me?"

The old man laughed, but he didn't say anything in response.

The second he laid his eyes on Ye Guan, he instantly discovered that he was a young man with extraordinary origins. Someone had obfuscated him from Heaven's Will for him, and throughout history, he knew of only two people capable of such a thing—the Great Daoist Brush Master and the one who had created an entire civilization of their own.

However, the young man had not even a trace of destiny aura on him, so he couldn't possibly be the Chosen One. The second individual was the one who had created the Eternal Civilization, the Eternal Sovereign. He was known as the First Sovereign, and he was also the most powerful Great Sovereign who had ever existed.

However, those two had nothing to do with the young man, which scared him since it meant that there was another extremely powerful existence even stronger than the Eternal Sovereign and the Great Daoist Brush Master.

Most importantly, they had a special relationship with the young man.

His plans were simple. The Shangqing Sect's revival would only succeed if it had a powerful enough backer. The young swordsman was the perfect backer he could ever ask for.

There were two reasons he didn't tell Ye Guan to become the successor of the Shangqing Sect—Ye Guan's beliefs and faiths had already been established, which was evidenced by his Sword Dao. In other words, the Shangqing Sect's inheritance wouldn't be that useful to him.

Secondly, he was afraid that the Shangqing Sect's inheritance wouldn't be able to keep up with Ye Guan. If Ye Guan received the inheritance and ended up forgetting about it, it would be too much of a waste. Thus, the old man had no choice but to settle for less. He decided to make Ye Guan pick someone extremely close to him.

Ye Guan stared deeply at the old man and saw that the latter had no intention of explaining. He didn't bother to pry any further and merely answered, "Sure."

The Shangqing Sect has to be a really powerful sect, anyway. Their inheritance wouldn't be that useful to Ye Guan, but it might be useful to Ye Qing and the others.

With that in mind, he decided to make Ye Qing revive the Shangqing Sect. Ye Guan thought about it and came to the conclusion that it wouldn't be bad to become a Sect Master for fun.

"Perfect!" said the old man with a smile. He opened his hand, and two storage rings flew toward Ye Guan. The old man explained, "One of them contains the refinement method of an Ancient Divine Puppet, while the other contains the Shangqing Sect's inheritance as well as all of the resources needed to revive it..."

The old man's gaze was laced with worry as he stared at Ye Guan. This little bastard won't just take all these for himself, right?

Chapter 314: Do You Like Her?

The storage ring contained a vast amount of resources enough to tempt just about anyone out there, which made the old man worried about the possibility that Ye Guan might run away with it.

Ye Guan seemed to have seen through the old man's thoughts as he laughed and said, "Senior, rest assured. I'm not that greedy. The Ancient Divine Puppet Refinement is good enough for me, and won't I become worse than a beast if I were to lay my hands on more? Especially without your permission?"

The old man's worries were assuaged by Ye Guan's earnest look. At the same time, he couldn't help but sigh to himself. He was indeed a fine young man for a swordsman, and the old man felt that it was a pity that the Shangqing Sect's inheritance wasn't suitable for him at all.

Just then, Ye Guan asked, "Senior, what about this young lady next to me?"

The old man's gaze landed on Nangong Xue, and he asked, "Do you like her?"

Nangong Xue blushed at those words.

Ye Guan felt as if he was stuck between a rock and a hard place.

"Senior, you've misunderstood. We're just friends. I mean, fate has allowed us to meet, so why don't you give her a thing or two as well?" Ye Guan explained.

Nangong Xue froze. She didn't expect that Ye Guan would proactively advocate for her. A strange feeling rose in her heart as she stared deeply at Ye Guan.

The old man smiled. He examined Nangong Xue from top to bottom before saying, "You're already a Time Immortal in spite of your young age, which means that you must be a heaven-defying talent."

The old man paused to ponder before flipping over his palm.

A big, pitch-black imprint floated over toward Nangong Xue.

"That's an imprint known as the Binding Heaven Divine Imprint and the legendary Binding Heaven Array is inside of it. Once activated, you'll be able to trap even a Great Sovereign."

Trap a Great Sovereign! Nangong Xue was thrilled. She bowed deeply and exclaimed, "Thank you for the gift, Senior!!"

The old man smiled. His gaze turned to Ye Guan, and he said, "I hope you won't forget what I asked you to do. I mean, I hope you'll find the Shangqing Sect a worthy successor."

Ye Guan nodded and replied, "I'll do my best."

The old man nodded.

Ye Guan suddenly asked, "Senior, what exactly happened back then?"

The old man shook his head and said, "It's all water under the bridge."

"Was the Divine Dao Bloodline involved?" Ye Guan asked, but his words caused the light in the old man's eyes to turn icy cold. An invisible force abruptly pervaded the great hall.

Ye Guan and Nangong Xue were stunned, and their expressions turned grim. The old man was but a mere strand of a soul, but he was still capable of exuding such power. If he were complete and was at his peak... Ye Guan and Nangong Xue didn't dare to even imagine just how powerful the old man had been during his glory days.

The old man shook his head, and the oppressive force vanished. The old man looked at Ye Guan and asked, "Young Lord Ye, you're aware of the Divine Dao Bloodline?"

Ye Guan nodded and replied, "Yes, a little."

“The victor becomes king while the defeated become outlaws. Our Shangqing Sect lost, so there's nothing much for me to say anymore. Young Lord Ye, I'll entrust the revival of the Shangqing Sect to you.”

The old man's figure blurred as he slowly faded away. He looked up and stared at the clouds outside of the great hall. His eyes were full of longing and regret. He had cultivated for so long that he was unwilling to let go of everything and return to dust just like that.

The old man sighed before disappearing completely.

Ye Guan felt a little emotional at the scene that had just unfolded before him. He could only imagine how glorious the Shangqing Sect had to have been, and he thought if the Guanxuan Academy would meet the same fate as the Shangqing Sect.

He sighed to himself and decided not to think about it anymore. He could only do what he could do; it was no use to worry about the future of the Guanxuan Universe when they had priorities to tackle.

Ye Guan looked at Nangong Xue and said, “Lady Nangong Xue, let's go!”

Nangong Xue nodded and said, “All right, let's go.”

With that, the two departed the great hall with smiles. They were all smiles as they had profited tremendously after succeeding in their endeavors.

Nangong Xue glanced sideways at Ye Guan with a light smile, and no one could tell what she was thinking. On the other hand, Ye Guan could not wait to refine an Ancient Divine Puppet. His current goal was to create a Great Sovereign puppet!

Ye Guan and Nangong Xue walked for quite a while until Ye Guan reached the place where the bizarre man from earlier had been pinned to the ground. The man was missing, puzzling Ye Guan. Where did he go? Is he dead?

Ye Guan reached a conclusion and soon left with Nangong Xue.

Ye Guan and Nangong Xue soon found themselves near the lightning region. Ye Guan was astonished to find that some people were still maintaining the array before them.

They revealed hopeful looks upon seeing Ye Guan and Nangong Xue. One of them hurriedly said, "Please lend us a hand. We will never forget such a favor if you lend us a hand."

Ye Guan swept his gaze across them and judged that they would die in just fifteen minutes if he were to leave them to their own devices. Ye Guan thought about it briefly before saying, "I'll draw the lightning to me, and all of you should escape while the lightning bolts are busy with me."

Ye Guan was in a good mood today, so he decided to make friends today.

The people behind the array were overjoyed upon hearing Ye Guan's words.

Swoosh!

Ye Guan wasted no time and transformed into a ray of sword light that rushed toward the lightning bolts. The lightning bolts converged and became a beam of lightning that rushed toward him. Meanwhile, the cultivators beneath him started fleeing.

Ye Guan's face turned heavy at the oncoming beam of lightning.

The calamitous bolt of lightning was indeed terrifying. It could easily kill a Divine Sovereign!

Ye Guan had no plans of facing it head-on. He was getting ready to turn back and run away, but the lightning seemed to have sensed something, and it changed trajectory, avoiding him.

The onlookers were shocked by the astonishing turn of events. Ye Guan was surprised as well, but he quickly realized that it had to have been because of the Tribulation Avoiding Stone in his possession.

Speaking of the Tribulation Avoiding Stone... Ye Guan glanced at the people beneath him and saw that they were staring at him. He could sort of guess what they were thinking from the expressions on their faces, but whatever!

Ye Guan's figure flashed, and he reappeared in front of the people he had saved.

He swept his gaze across them without saying anything.

One of them smiled and said, "Greetings, my name is Chen He. What's your name?"

Ye Guan replied, "Ye Guan."

"Ye?" Chen He asked, "Are you from that massive Ye Clan in the Southernmost Divine Continent?"

Ye Guan shook his head and said, "Nope."

Chen He fell into deep contemplation while staring at Ye Guan.

Not wanting to waste any more time here, Ye Guan looked at Nangong Xue and said, "Let's go."

Nangong Xue nodded and replied, "Okay."

With that, the two turned around and left.

Chen He's gaze turned cold as he stared at their departing figures.

"Brother Chen He!" a young man called out to him and said, "He has a Tribulation Avoiding Stone! I also saw them walking out from there earlier."

Hearing that, everyone's expression turned grim.

The light in Chen He's eyes turned sinister as he said, "They were all smiles when they came out of that place. They must have obtained something while they were in there."

The rest of them nodded, and their eyes started shining in a fiery light.

Chen He said, "Tend to your wounds, and we'll chase after them once we're all healed up."

With that, he sat down cross-legged and started tending to his wounds.

A young man sounded worried as he said, "Brother Chen He, I don't think that young man is simple..."

Chen He replied, "I examined him and saw that he's just a paltry True Immortal Realm cultivator. My father, Chen Quan, is a peak Divine Sovereign Realm cultivator. Is there any reason for us to be afraid of him?"

Chen He's words reassured everyone.

...

Ye Guan and Nangong Xue were walking in the clouds, and Nangong Xue looked upset as she said, "You saved them, but they didn't even say thank you. How absurd."

Ye Guan replied, "I don't really need any thank you, but what's worse is that they harbor ill intentions toward me."

Nangong Xue frowned and said, "Even though you saved them? They're worse than beasts!"

Ye Guan shook his head with a smile and said, "Lady Nangong Xue, what are your plans?"

Nangong Xue asked back, "What about you?"

Ye Guan looked around and said, "I'm going to find a quiet place where I can focus on cultivating."

His aunt had made it clear that she wanted to leave him to his own devices, so Ye Guan decided that he would just find a quiet place for him to focus on cultivating for the time being.

Nangong Xue suddenly said, "Would you like to come to my Nangong Clan?"

Ye Guan was astonished.

Nangong Xue explained, "My Nangong Clan is located in a rural corner of the Westernmost Divine Continent where lightning tribulations are very rare. I can give you a good place to cultivate; the region's attributes are also favorable to cultivators."

Ye Guan seemed a bit hesitant despite that.

Nangong Xue noticed it, so she continued. "You will definitely need a ton of resources to refine the puppet we saw earlier. I'm sure you'll find it troublesome and difficult to gather the resources that you need for your puppet refinement. With that in mind, I suggest you come to the Nangong Clan.

"We'll help you, which means you won't be inconvenienced as often as you would have been if you were to remain a lone wolf."

Ye Guan smiled upon hearing that and said, "I'll have to take you up on that offer, then."

Nangong Xue broke out into a smile, and she exclaimed, "Let's go, then!"

Ye Guan nodded. The two were about to leave when white lights came shooting toward them from the distant horizon. The lights tore across the clouds, and they landed in front of them.

The light soon dimmed, revealing the figures of a few people. They were none other than Chen He and his crew.

Ye Guan remained calm, while Chen He's gaze turned cold.

Chen He grinned and said, "Young Lord Ye, correct me if I'm wrong, but you have a Tribulation Avoiding Stone, right?"

"Yes, I have one," said Ye Guan.

"Wow, you're honest," Chen He remarked.

Ye Guan went quiet.

Chen He continued. "Young Lord Ye, you're too young to stand up against us, but since you saved us earlier, I'll leave you a path to life. You're just a True Immortal Realm cultivator, after all, so it'd be best if you take me up on my offer.

"Hand over the Tribulation Avoiding Stone, and we'll let you go."

Furious, Nangong Xue roared, "Have you got no shame?! If it weren't for Young Lord Ye, all of you would have died beneath the lightning bolts. I didn't hear any of you say thank you to him, but in addition to failing to express your gratitude to your benefactor, you're even trying to rob him now!

"You people are worse than beasts! Ptoeey!"

Chen He chuckled and said, "So what? I would have expressed my gratitude if he didn't have a Tribulation Avoiding Stone. It is a shame, but it is necessary. If I were to refrain from doing this, this world would annihilate me sooner rather than later."

Nangong Xue glared at him and taunted, "Are you not afraid of us turning the tables around and killing you all?"

“Haha! Why would I be afraid when I have such a strong father?” Chen He guffawed and said, “Well, it’s not my fault that my father is so strong! Hahaha...”

Chapter 315: Tian Ye?

Nangong Xue was furious when she heard Chen He. She clenched her fists tightly, and the disgust on her face intensified. She had never met someone as shameless as Chen He.

Chen He ignored her and looked at Ye Guan. He was about to say something when Ye Guan suddenly disappeared.

A ray of sword light rushed toward him.

Chen He did not think that Ye Guan would attack without even saying anything. His face changed drastically, and he wanted to retaliate, but a mysterious force wrapped and immobilized him.

A Sword Domain!

Chen He felt as though thousands of mountains were weighing down on him.

He felt heavy, and he couldn't move an inch.

Shwik!

A sword pierced his forehead, and his eyes widened in disbelief.

The people behind him went pale when they saw that Chen He was suppressed in the blink of an eye. They immediately tried to escape, but Ye Guan rushed toward them and slashed out.

Heads went flying in all directions—the riffraff was killed in an instant!

Ye Guan had made it look so easy, but it had to be known that they weren't weak under any circumstances. Of course, Ye Guan could still kill them, but it would have been a bit difficult if they had fully recovered and hadn't suffered a mental shock upon witnessing Chen He's swift death.

The shock had paralyzed their minds, and they lost their heads as a result.

Nangong Xue's heart was gripped by extreme shock as she watched Ye Guan behead their enemies one after another. She knew that even though Ye Guan's cultivation base was low, he wasn't someone to be trifled with. However, Ye Guan's display of prowess at the moment had exceeded Nangong Xue's expectations.

Has he been pretending to be weak so that he can kill those stronger than him?

Ye Guan walked slowly toward Chen He, who was still breathing. He cast a fearful gaze upon Ye Guan, and he was trembling like an aspen tree as he said, “My dad is a peak Divine Sovereign! He's not going to let you go if you kill me!”

He opened his hand, revealing a scorched transmission talisman. He had decided to ask his father for help.

Ye Guan frowned and was about to kill Chen He, but Chen He was abruptly overcome by fear.

“Why can't I contact him? How can this be...”

Nangong Xue calmly asked, “Maybe because he's dead?”

“Nonsense!” Chen He yelled, “My dad is a peak Divine Sovereign Realm cultivator. Even if a few Great Sovereigns were to besiege him, they still wouldn't be able to kill him. How could he be dead?”

Nangong Xue asked, “But what if he's actually dead?”

“There's no way he's dead!” Chen He shouted.

Nangong Xue said, “Do it again, then.”

Chen He crushed another transmission talisman, but there was still no reply.

Blood drained from Chen He's face as his heart was gripped by fear.

Now, he was truly afraid. He had been fearless because he knew that his father was there to help him even if the sky were to collapse upon him. However, he couldn't contact his father anymore, which meant he no longer had a backer!

"You poor thing," Nangong Xue sounded as if she pitied Chen He as she muttered, “You've lost your father at such a young age...”

Ye Guan was stunned as she stared at Nangong Xue.

Nangong Xue's cheeks flushed in embarrassment, thinking that she might have gone a bit too far.

Chen He wanted to say something, but Nangong Xue punched him.

Boom!

Chen He exploded into a bloody mist—both his body and soul were obliterated.

Nangong Xue clapped her hands to dust them off. Her eyes were filled with disgust and scorn as she said, “I feel like my hands have gotten dirty by killing such a disgusting person.”

She then looked at Ye Guan and broke out into a grin. “We should go, Young Lord Ye!”

Ye Guan nodded. "All right."

He proceeded to retrieve Chen He and his crew's storage rings, and they all contained a total of ten million spiritual cores. It wasn't a huge amount to him, but it was better than zero. In addition, who would complain that they had too much money?

Ye Guan didn't keep it all for himself. He gave half of it to Nangong Xue. At first, she declined, but Ye Guan insisted. In the end, she could only smile and accept the five million spiritual cores he had offered to her.

About an hour later, Ye Guan and Nangong Xue arrived at the Westernmost Divine Continent. Ye Guan looked around and noticed a myriad of calamities blotting out the skies.

Each and every one of them was a terrifying sight to behold, and they were unpredictable. A calamity could even appear right above anyone's head, which would be terrifying.

Nangong Xue suddenly grabbed Ye Guan's arm and said, "Follow me."

With that, she dragged Ye Guan with him as they flew away together.

Any other cultivator would have any issues traversing such a dangerous region, but Ye Guan was astonished to discover that Nangong Xue seemed capable of clairvoyance. The path she had taken was devoid of any calamities, and even when they appeared, Nangong Xue would always find the path to dodge them perfectly.

Ye Guan wanted to ask about it, but it seemed Nangong Xue had seen the surprise on his face as she explained, "We've been researching these calamities for a long time, and we already know how they work, and it allows us to coexist with them. Of course, there are exceptions. Sometimes, they are born unstable."

Ye Guan smiled and said, "It must have been difficult living in a place like this."

Nangong Xue was about to respond when the spacetime in front of them was abruptly torn apart.

An old man walked out of the rift.

Nangong Xue exclaimed, "Third Uncle!"

The old man glanced at Ye Guan before focusing his gaze on Nangong Xue.

"Welcome back," the old man said with a smile.

Nangong Xue nodded and explained, "Third Uncle, let me introduce you to Young Lord Ye. He's a friend whom I just met."

The old man looked at Ye Guan and asked, "Are you from the Ye Clan in the Southernmost Divine Continent?"

Ye Guan shook his head and said, "No."

"Oh." The old man looked away and stared at Nangong Xue. "Your father told me to fetch you, so let's go."

Nangong Xue nodded. She then glanced at Ye Guan and said, "Let's go."

Ye Guan nodded and replied, "Sre."

The old man glanced at Ye Guan, but he didn't say anything about it.

Soon, they all arrived at the Nangong Clan. The Nangong Clan was located deep within a mountain range, and Ye Guan could see countless mysterious arrays enveloping the skies above the mountain range.

They soon made their way to the Nangong Residence. Nangong Xue gave Ye Guan a residence with a courtyard where he could stay temporarily. Ye Guan entered the courtyard, went into his room, and closed the door before making his way into the world inside the tiny pagoda.

Thankfully, his aunt didn't seal the tiny pagoda.

Ye Guan sat down cross-legged and took out the Ancient Divine Puppet Refinement Method to study. He studied it for nearly a day before he got a good grasp of it, and he quickly realized that refining an ancient puppet was more difficult than he thought.

An Ancient Divine Puppet demanded a ton of resources for its refinement. It would have been fine if it only needed a ton of resources. The issue was that those resources were rare, and each of them would cost anyone an arm and a leg.

Ye Guan found himself in a difficult situation.

If he were in the Guanxuan Universe, he wouldn't have to worry about this issue, but it was exceedingly difficult to try and gather such precious materials here. Still, Ye Guan had no plans to give up his plan just like that.

Ancient Divine Puppets were just too strong for him to ignore. Ye Guan had even decided to refine a Great Sovereign puppet rather than just a Half-step Great Sovereign puppet.

In the end, Ye Guan had to put away the Ancient Divine Puppet Refinement Method.

"It seems that I'll still have to ask for Lady Nangong Xue's help," he muttered.

He stood up and left the world inside the tiny pagoda.

Ye Guan left his room and closed the door behind him, but he was startled to find Nangong Xue standing in front of him the moment he turned around to leave.

The long white dress she was wearing was as white as snow, and her gorgeous figure was made even more breathtaking by the white dress. The light in her eyes was rather cold, which matched perfectly with her outfit.

Ye Guan walked up to her and asked, "Lady Nangong Xue, what's wrong?"

Nangong Xue lowered her head. She looked upset, but she remained silent.

Ye Guan was a little puzzled. "Lady Nangong Xue, you..."

"We shouldn't have come back here."

"What happened?"

"The members of the Xue Clan in the Northernmost Divine Continent had visited us just now. They're hoping to establish an alliance between our clans through marriage between our members. My father and big sister have already agreed to their offer."

An alliance through marriage? Ye Guan fell silent. He was more familiar than anyone with the fact that clans loved to form alliances through marriage. It was also the expansion weapon of choice as it created a strong relationship between clans.

Ye Guan was just an outsider, so he had no right to say anything about the matter.

Nangong Xue suddenly asked, "What do you think?"

Ye Guan smiled, and he sounded polite as he said, "Hmm, I still think that it's better to get married to someone you love. A loveless marriage would just be painful for both parties."

Nangong Xue grinned brightly and nodded. "I think so, too."

"What a joke!" a cold voice boomed from the side.

Ye Guan turned and found a young man dressed in a pristine white robe. He was handsome, and the handheld fan in his hand made him emit a graceful air, but he still couldn't compare to Ye Guan in the looks department. Regardless, he wasn't that far off and was handsome in his own right.

Nangong Xue's expression darkened, and her smile vanished in an instant.

The white-robed young man walked up to Ye Guan and glared at him.

"Do you know why clans form alliances through marriage?" he asked.

Ye Guan nodded and replied, "Because it's a win-win for both parties."

The white-robed young man scoffed and said, "It seems you know the logic behind it, so how come you still dared to say something so absurd?"

He chuckled before Ye Guan could reply and continued. "Well, I guess it's not strange. I heard from Nangong Yun that you're a paltry rogue cultivator. How can a rogue cultivator understand the importance of marriage alliances between clans and families?"

"I don't understand it because my family doesn't need to create alliances through marriages," Ye Guan retorted.

"Oh?" the white-robed young man replied sarcastically, "It must be because no one wants to marry the members of your family."

Ye Guan made a sidelong glance at the white-robed young man before turning to look at Nangong Xue. "You're too good for him, and you deserve better than a dumbass for your husband."

Nangong Xue froze, but a chuckle soon emerged from her lips. Her demeanor brightened up as she broke out into a grin.

Meanwhile, the white-robed young man was enraged.

"Fuck you! How dare you insult me!"

"Xue Chen, where have your manners gone? Nangong Xue chimed in, "Can you speak in a more civilized manner like Young Lord Ye?"

Xue Chen was rendered speechless. He then glared at Nangong Xue and said, "Nangong Xue, your parents have already agreed to our marriage. Both sides have reviewed and signed the relevant documents, so you're already my fiancée—"

"No, I didn't say that I'd agree to it," Nangong Xue interrupted him and said, "I still haven't reviewed the relevant documents, so the so-called marriage contract between us is non-existent.

"And even if the documents have been reviewed and signed, I still won't acknowledge you as my fiancé."

Xue Chen pointed angrily at Ye Guan and roared, "Is it because of this man?!"

Nangong Xue wanted to say yes, but it meant redirecting Xue Chen's anger upon Ye Guan. Xue Chen wasn't that much of a threat, but it was unwise to provoke the Xue Clan.

Nangong Xue's voice sounded similar to a mosquito's droning as she muttered, "I-It has nothing to do with him."

"Nothing to do with him?" Xue Chen roared, "Nangong Xue, do you really think that I'm a fool?!"

He then looked at Ye Guan and threatened, "If you're still here after ten seconds have passed, I'll kill you and annihilate your family!"

Little Pagoda heard that, and he couldn't help but say, "There was once someone as bold as him."

The mysterious lady asked, "Who?"

Little Pagoda replied, "Tian Ye!"

The mysterious lady was at a loss for words.

Chapter 316: Invincibility Is an Understatement

Upon hearing Xue Chen's words, Ye Guan couldn't help but feel a bit frustrated. Why do people nowadays like to annihilate clans? Do they think that it makes them look impressive?

Ye Guan shook his head. Xue Chen saw that, and a surge of anger rose in his heart.

He's ignoring my warning? He's ignoring the warning of my Xue Clan?

His blood boiled, and he lifted his hand to point a finger at Ye Guan.

However, Ye Guan vanished before he could say anything.

Smack!

A crisp noise echoed as Xue Chen flew away. He cut a sorry figure in the air as he flew like a cut that had lost its string. A loud noise echoed as he crashed into a nearby wall. The impact was so strong that the wall crumbled, burying Xue Chen beneath the rubble.

Ye Guan calmly said, "I've given you enough face by listening to your tirade."

Just then, Nangong Xue grabbed Ye Guan's hand and dragged him away.

Confused, Ye Guan asked, "What's going on, Lady Nangong?"

Nangong Xue's expression was grave as she explained, "Xue Chen is from the Xue Clan of the Northernmost Divine Continent. You basically kicked a hornet's nest by slapping him. The Xue Clan won't let you go; they'll come at you with all their might.

"It's all my fault; I really shouldn't have visited you today. If I hadn't, he wouldn't have vented his anger on you. I really messed up."

Ye Guan chuckled.

Little Pagoda suddenly asked, "Do you regret it?"

Ye Guan laughed. "Regret? I wasn't looking to get involved, but it is what it is."

The mysterious lady burst into laughter and said, "Good! Men should be more assertive. So what if you want to get involved?"

Ye Guan's mouth fluttered open to respond to Nangong Xue when a powerful aura descended to surround him and Nangong Xue from all sides.

Ye Guan frowned at the encirclement from a few dozen cultivators. Nangong Xue went pale at the sight. She gripped Ye Guan's hand tightly and said, "Don't worry, I won't let them harm you."

Ye Guan glanced at her, but he remained silent.

A woman emerged from the crowd and walked over to them.

She appeared to be in her twenties; her facial features were exquisite, and her figure was slender. She was dressed in a light-green long dress; the hem of her dress was adorned with embroidered flowers.

Overall, her outfit and demeanor made her look elegant to behold.

Ye Guan examined the woman, and she bore a striking resemblance to Nangong Xue. However, the woman's vibe radiated extreme cold, which was in contrast to Nangong Xue's warmth.

Nangong Xue hurriedly jumped in front of Ye Guan. She looked slightly nervous as she muttered, "Sister."

The woman was none other than her older sister, Nangong Han.

Nangong Han stared deeply at Ye Guan and said, "I want to talk to him."

"No way!" Nangong Xue immediately refused. She stared intently at Nangong Han and said, "Sister, this has nothing to do with him. I'm the one who slapped Xue Chen. If you want to blame someone, blame me. Don't get him involved in our affairs!"

Nangong Han made a sidelong glance at Nangong Xue and asked, "Do you want to save him?"

Nangong Xue's expression fell, and she sounded annoyed as she asked, "What do you mean?"

Nangong Han didn't answer. Her gaze was fixed on Ye Guan as she said, "I want you to come with me by yourself."

With that, she turned around and walked toward a nearby building.

Nangong Xue held Ye Guan's arm and refused to let go of him.

Ye Guan had no plans of getting involved in the affairs of the Nangong Clan, but Nangong Xue had been defending him; they had also overcome a life-and-death situation together, so Ye Guan felt like protecting Nangong Xue.

He made a sidelong glance at Nangong Xue and grinned. "I'll go talk to her."

Nangong Xue looked guilty as she muttered, "I shouldn't have brought you to the Nangong Clan... you wouldn't have gotten involved in all this if I hadn't brought you here. It's my fault..."

Ye Guan reassured her with a laugh. "No worries. Anyway, I'll go talk to your sister."

Shaking her head, Nangong Xue said, "It won't work. My sister is a tough nut to crack. If you go in, she'll make things difficult for you. How about... we run away together?"

As the words slipped out of her lips, her face flushed red. What am I saying?

She felt indescribably ashamed of herself, and she wanted the ground to open up and swallow her so that she could hide from Ye Guan.

Ye Guan was stunned. Run away? Why are we going to run away?

Nangong Xue summoned the courage to meet Ye Guan's gaze and said, "I know that you're a rogue cultivator, but I'm not going to look down on you. We can go anywhere with just the two of us. Trust me, I can endure hardships. We can work together and earn a living. I'm cool with that."

It was practically a confession. Under normal circumstances, she wouldn't have uttered such embarrassing words even if someone were to threaten her, but things had gone over to the extreme end. If she stayed here, she would just become a pawn in the Nangong Clan's politics.

She didn't want to become a political tool.

She was incredibly embarrassed, and her hands were trembling uncontrollably, but she gathered the courage every bit of courage in her heart to look directly into Ye Guan's eyes.

Upon hearing Nangong Xue's words, Ye Guan fell silent. He could feel that she had some feelings for him. However, he truly didn't expect that—in such a short time together—she had ended up developing feelings for him. Perhaps it might just be a tiny bit of affection, but who could say for sure?

Putting those thoughts aside, Ye Guan smiled and said, "Don't worry. I'll go talk to your sister first. Trust me, my family has an academy, and we're scholars, so we know how to talk to people in a reasonable way."

Nangong Xue shook her head repeatedly and said, "You don't understand. My sister once had feelings for a man, but our parents separated them. She has become an entirely different person since then. If you go in, she'll make things difficult for you."

Ye Guan pondered for a moment before saying, "How about this? I'll go talk to her first. If things don't work out, we can consider eloping—leaving..."

Ye Guan broke out into a cold sweat. He barely managed to catch himself in time and avoided saying the word eloping.

Nangong Xue's cheeks flushed red. She lowered her head slightly as her heart filled with overflowing joy. Eventually, she composed herself and muttered, "Then... go talk to my sister! I'll be waiting for you!"

Ye Guan nodded. "Alright."

With that, he turned around and started walking toward a particular building.

Meanwhile, Little Pagoda couldn't help but say, "Why do girls like this little guy so much? I really don't understand it."

The mysterious lady said, "Is he not handsome in your eyes?"

Little Pagoda replied, "I don't think he's that handsome."

The mysterious lady said, "Are you blind?"

Little Pagoda went silent at that.

The mysterious lady continued, "My big sister's books are full of handsome men, but I think none of them are as handsome as Ye Guan. If he weren't from the Guanyuan Universe, he might get along with my big sister!"

Just then, Little Pagoda asked, "Do you think there's a possibility that something might happen between him and your big sister?"

The mysterious lady questioned, "What? What's with that train of thought?"

After a moment of silence, Little Pagoda explained, "I've followed the Yang Family for three generations, and something similar happened with the first two generations. I'm not too sure if the plot will remain the same because the third generation's character is drastically different to the first two generations.."

The mysterious lady answered, "I think it's unlikely. My big sister is more of a solo player, and she doesn't like to do it with men—"

The mysterious lady stopped mid-sentence and said, "My apologies; it seems that you've influenced me the wrong way. It appears that I've inadvertently picked up your coarse vocabulary. Perhaps it's because we've been together for so long."

Little Pagoda was at a loss for words.

The mysterious lady continued. "Anyway..."

Little Pagoda asked, "What's wrong?"

The mysterious lady replied, "Us four sisters have vowed to live and die together. We also vowed that if one of us were to get married to someone, we'd all get married to the same person."

"A-are you guys mad?!" Little Pagoda exclaimed in disbelief.

The mysterious lady said, "That's probably why Cijing [1] resents Ye Guan so much. I think it's related to that vow."

The mysterious lady sighed softly and said, "I really didn't expect Ba Wan to make such a decisive move while I wasn't paying attention. She enjoyed the act but left the clean-up to us. Ye Guan is handsome, but...

"You're just a pagoda, right? What's the point of telling you such details?"

Little Pagoda had no idea what to say to that.

...

Upon entering the building, Ye Guan immediately saw Nangong Han and Nangong Yun staring at him.

Ye Guan pondered briefly before deciding to settle things diplomatically. Just as he was about to speak, Nangong Han suddenly said, "My brother told me that you're a rogue cultivator. Is that right?"

Ye Guan replied, "Well, not exactly."

Nangong Han stared at Ye Guan and frowned. "Not exactly?"

Ye Guan nodded and explained, "My family runs an academy and a merchant guild. They're not bad."

Nangong Han suddenly stood up.

She walked up to Ye Guan and looked down at him.

"Honestly, I really don't like you," she said.

Ye Guan frowned deeply at that.

Nangong Han said, "You are both naive and idealistic. You also don't know your place. Just who do you think you are? Do you really think that the likes of you can stay with my sister? Just think about your identity and my sister's identity, and you'll find the answer to that question.

"It sounds harsh, right?" Nangong Han shook her head lightly and said, "But it's the truth. You'd harm her and yourself if you were to insist on staying with her."

Ye Guan briefly pondered about it before saying, "I believe that background and status are important, but we shouldn't measure a person's worth solely based on those two things.

"One's wealth and status do not determine whether one is good or bad. I think hard work is more important than anything else. Becoming outstanding on your own terms and through your own hard work is the mark of true excellence. One shouldn't become arrogant just because their ancestors had achieved something great.

"After all, that glory belongs to one's ancestor rather than to oneself."

Nangong Han sneered and said, "How naive."

Ye Guan didn't say anything in response.

Nangong Han continued. "Forgive me for being straightforward, but someone like you is at the bottom of society. You'll never understand the importance of having a powerful background. You're naive enough to believe that individuals can overcome everything by hard work, but it is such a foolish notion that it's laughable.

"I don't want to waste my breath telling you what I think. Society is a good enough teacher, and it's going to teach you just how harsh the reality is. Let's get straight to the point. I want you to name your price!"

Ye Guan was a bit surprised. "Name my price?"

Nangong Han opened her palm, and a storage ring flew over to Ye Guan.

"Leave my sister, and the three million spiritual cores inside that storage ring are yours. Is that enough?"

Ye Guan went quiet; he felt quite insulted.

"Not enough?" Nangong Han sneered and said, "You have quite the appetite. Five million spiritual cores it is, then!"

Another storage ring flew toward Ye Guan, and Nangong Han added. "If you feel think that it's humiliating, then just suck it up. We're talking about five million spiritual cores here!"

Ye Guan was somewhat surprised as he swept his gaze across the two storage rings.

Nangong Han added, "Surprised? Haven't seen this much money before? Or... have you never been humiliated like this?"

Ye Guan stared deeply at Nangong Han and said, "I understand what you're trying to do here. You want to tell me that the difference between our family backgrounds is too great and that I'm not worthy of becoming related to the Nangong Clan."

"Bingo," Nangong Han said while staring at Ye Guan. With that, she tossed another storage ring and said, "Ten million spiritual cores. I think that should be enough."

Ye Guan shook his head with a smile, but he didn't say anything in response.

A cold light flashed in Nangong Han's eyes as she said fiercely, "I can make you disappear without a trace, but I don't want a mere rogue cultivator to ruin my relationship with my sister. I also don't want to hurt her.

"However, I still have a bottom line, and it's ten million spiritual cores.

"Take it or leave your life behind."

Ye Guan thought over his response before saying, "I wanted to settle this matter diplomatically as an ordinary person, but it seems that an ordinary person's words do not hold much weight in your eyes. In that case, we should change roles. That way, we can finally have a proper conversation."

Ye Guan took out a storage ring and handed it over to Nangong Han.

"Take a look," he said calmly.

Nangong Han's brows furrowed slightly, but her expression changed drastically once she saw what was inside the storage ring. She was so shocked that she unknowingly took a few steps backward.

The storage ring contained billions of spiritual cores.

Nangong Han cast a stupefied gaze upon Ye Guan and stammered, "Y-y-you..."

Ye Guan walked toward a chair and sat down. He poured tea for himself and took a sip before saying, "Nangong Xue is my friend, and our friendship isn't based on her family background. Forgive me for being straightforward, but whenever I make friends, I never really consider their family background.

"And when it comes to family backgrounds, I can say with confidence that I'm invincible among my peers. In fact, even invincibility might be an understatement."

Chapter 317: It Is Nice To Die Together

Nangong Han felt as if her world had turned upside down as she stared at the calm and composed young man before her.

She truly didn't expect to see billions of spiritual cores in a storage ring! Even the Nangong Clan couldn't produce such an amount, but this young man not only had such a huge amount, but he was also daring enough to show his wealth to them.

It meant that he wasn't afraid of the Nangong Clan.

Nangong Han's brows furrowed slightly, and her heart filled with confusion. Could he be related to those two forces? It was possible since he was daring enough to hit Xue Chen. He was also so calm that it was uncanny.

Nangong Han's expression turned serious. She looked at Ye Guan and bowed at the waist before saying, "I was impolite just now. Please don't hold it against me, Young Master Ye."

Ye Guan was somewhat surprised at the decisive move. It meant Nangong Han was a difficult opponent to handle because she was capable of adapting to her situation in the proverbial blink of an eye.

Nangong Han continued. "Young Master Ye, are you from the Martial Sect or the Holy Sect?"

Ye Guan chuckled and said, "If I say that I'm not from either of them, will you change your attitude toward me?"

Nangong Han knew that Ye Guan was mocking her, but she remained composed as she said earnestly, "Young Master Ye, you hit Xue Chen, and the Xue Clan will not let you off so easily. Their cultivators are on their way here, and they've also memorized what you look like."

Ye Guan frowned. It seemed like he would soon have to fight against the Xue Clan's cultivators.

Nangong Han asked, "What are your plans, Young Master Ye?"

Ye Guan smiled and said, "I understand your concerns. Don't worry, I won't implicate your Nangong Clan. I'm taking my leave, then."

He stood up and walked away, but Nangong Han said, "If you're from either the Martial Sect or the Holy Sect, my Nangong Clan will face the Xue Clan together with you, and we won't interfere with the matter between you and my sister—"

Swoosh!

Nangong Han's words had yet to finish echoing through the air, but a sword had already arrived a few inches away from her throat.

Ye Guan stared deeply at the gorgeous woman before him and said, "Your sister seems like a mere commodity to you. You seem willing to give her to anyone with a powerful background, am I right?"

Nangong Han met Ye Guan's gaze, but she remained silent.

Ye Guan continued. "Lady Han, I want you to keep in mind that Lady Nangong Xue isn't a commodity to be sold to those with power and wealth. From now on, her affairs are my affairs. If your Nangong Clan pressures her again, I hope you won't blame me for being impolite."

With that, he turned around and walked away.

Just as he reached the doorway, a young woman emerged from the side of the door. It was Nangong Xue. She had heard the conversation between Ye Guan and Nangong Han. She stared quietly at Ye Guan as tears dripped down her cheeks.

Ye Guan muttered, "Come with me."

He had decided to see her matter to the end with her.

If he allowed Nangong Xue to stay here, she would suffer a tragic and horrible fate.

Nangong Xue nodded. "Okay."

Ye Guan led Nangong Xue away.

Just then, dozens of powerful auras surrounded them. Ye Guan's eyes narrowed, but the auras vanished before he could even make a move.

Ye Guan turned to glance at Nangong Han behind him before disappearing into the distant horizon with Nangong Xue in tow.

Meanwhile, a black-robed old man suddenly appeared next to Nangong Han. The old man sounded grim as he said, "Do you really think that he's from either the Martial Sect or the Holy Sect?"

Nangong Han remained expressionless as she said, "Even if he's not from either of those two, his origins are definitely extraordinary."

The black-robed old man nodded and said, "He's unafraid of Xue Chen despite his family background. He has also managed to remain calm and composed before the Nangong Clan. His background must be quite impressive."

Nangong Han shook her head at the remark and said, "You overlooked something."

The black-robed old man asked, "What is it?"

"Shanbo," Nangong Han said, "What do you think of his sword move earlier?"

Shanbo was silent for quite a while before he responded, "It seemed like a casual move on his part, but it contained a terrifying might. He's an exceptional talent."

Nangong Han nodded at that and said, "I just heard that he and Xue Chen had entered the Shangqing Sect's secret realm. The spiritual cores and spiritual treasures he has in his possession might be from the Shangqing Sect.

"Of course, it's also possible that they truly belong to him. His composure, despite his paltry cultivation base, means that he has an extremely powerful backer."

Shanbo's face darkened. "What should we do?"

It would be a lie to say that he didn't get tempted at the sight of billions of spiritual cores. If a clan were to obtain that much wealth, they would be able to nurture countless top-tier talents in the future.

Nonetheless, Nangong Han still had her reservations.

Nangong Han whispered, "It's simple. He hit Xue Chen, right? The Xue Clan will definitely look for him, so we just have to watch from the sidelines. It'll soon become clear whether he's from either the Martial Sect or the Holy Sect."

"How clever!" Shanbo praised with a chuckle before saying, "Then, Nangong Xue..."

Nangong Han closed her eyes and said, "She made her bed, so she has to lie in it."

Shanbo nodded slightly at the remark and went silent. The major clans of any world out there would look tight-knit in the eyes of outsiders, but the truth was that it was a cold place mostly devoid of familial bonds.

...

Ye Guan and Nangong Xue were speeding across the skies. Surprisingly, Nangong Xue didn't look sad. She looked happy, and she would even surreptitiously glance at Ye Guan whenever possible.

"Your sister is pretty remarkable, isn't she?" Ye Guan asked, breaking the ice.

"Yes," Nangong Xue agreed and said, "She handles most of the clan's affairs. In fact, she's my father's secretary."

Ye Guan turned to Nangong Xue and asked, "Do you regret leaving the clan?"

Nangong Xue smiled. "Regret? What's there to regret? The clan was a nice place to live when I was still young. My sister doted on me as well, but she became extremely cold after that incident. Everyone is a chess piece in her eyes, and it includes me and our brother."

Nangong Xue's head drooped as her expression turned gloomy.

Ye Guan said, "Your sister is not that good of a person."

Nangong Xue went silent at that, but she abruptly turned to look at Ye Guan upon seemingly recalling something. Her gloomy expression vanished, replaced by solemnity as she said, "My sister wanted your storage ring, but she still decided to let you leave along with me. I think she has her own doubts regarding your identity, so she decided to refrain from attacking until her questions are answered."

"She's definitely planning on using the Xue Clan to test you. The Xue Clan will definitely not let you go, and they'll send powerful elites to take care of us. I'm sure that's the reason my sister decided to let us leave."

Ye Guan was somewhat surprised as he stared at Nangong Xue.

He didn't expect that Nangong Xue had already thought that far.

"From now on, the Xue Clan will keep on chasing us until they've captured us. Even if we somehow manage to evade capture, my sister will eventually make a move once she has confirmed that you lack a powerful background," Nangong Xue added.

Ye Guan chuckled and asked, "Why do you sound like you don't think that I have a powerful background?"

Nangong Xue sighed and explained, "You didn't know about the Xue Clan nor the Nangong Clan, so you must not be from either the Martial Sect or the Holy Sect. The Xue and Nangong Clans aren't afraid of any other powers out there aside from the Martial Sect and the Holy Sect.

"In other words, The Xue Clan and the Nangong Clan will soon be chasing after us, but it's fine. I'm not afraid to die, and I think it's nice that I'm going to die with you."

Ye Guan laughed. "We're not going to die."

Nangong Xue cast a puzzled gaze at Ye Guan. "Why not?"

"Because I have Master Pagoda!" exclaimed Ye Guan with a grin.

"Don't use me to brag!" Little Pagoda snapped.

Ye Guan was at a loss for words.

Nangong Xue asked, "Master Pagoda?"

Ye Guan snapped back to reality and nodded earnestly. "Yes, Master Pagoda is the one who raised me, and he is an extremely powerful existence. He's unparalleled throughout history, and—"

"Stop!" Little Pagoda interrupted, "What do you want from me?"

Ye Guan smiled awkwardly and said, "Master Pagoda, I only have one request. Can you please bring out the Path Sword for me? I promise not to use it recklessly; I'll use it only against groups!"

After a moment of silence, Little Pagoda said, "First of all, I appreciate that you hold me in such high regard. I truly didn't expect that you'd think I'm capable of breaking your aunt's seal. Really—I really appreciate it. Thank you for believing in me!"

Ye Guan froze and went silent. Master Pagoda can't break Aunt's seal? I have to find another way, then.

"Master Pagoda, can you help me conceal my aura?" Ye Guan asked.

Little Pagoda replied, "I can't help you with that."

"I'll put in a good word for you and ask Aunt to help you upgrade," said Ye Guan.

Little Pagoda laughed and said, "It's no use. If you were your father, I may have believed you, but your words are ineffective on me."

"Then, I'll speak ill of you," said Ye Guan.

"What the fuck?!" Little Pagoda exclaimed, "Why are you so wicked?"

Ye Guan smiled wryly and said, "Master Pagoda, I'll really appreciate it if you help me to the best of your abilities. I mean, just take a look at my situation. Can you reconsider?"

Little Pagoda said in a deep voice, "It's not that I don't want to help you, but your aunt specifically told me not to assist you, so you'll have to rely on yourself this time."

Ye Guan had no idea what to say to that. Moments later, Ye Guan heard multiple shrill cries from the distant horizon. Soon, dozens of powerful auras swept over, causing the space to distort and creating a terrifying sight.

They're here! Nangong Xue walked up to Ye Guan's side and grabbed his hand.

"Are you afraid?" she asked.

Ye Guan shook his head and said, "No."

Nangong Xue smiled lightly and said, "You can be afraid. I'm with you, after all."

Ye Guan smiled but remained silent.

Nangong Xue stared deeply at the calm and composed Ye Guan, and her feelings for him grew at a rapid pace. Her face suddenly turned red for some reason, and she looked down, afraid to meet Ye Guan's gaze while holding his hand tightly.

Nangong Xue suddenly felt that it wouldn't be so bad to die today so long as they would die together.

Ye Guan remained calm as he stared at the oncoming Xue Clan cultivators. He already had a plan in mind

If one couldn't defeat one's foes with force, one had to rely on one's wit to win.

Dozens of powerhouses soon landed in front of Ye Guan and Nangong Xue. A Great Sovereign stood at the helm of the group, while the rest of the group were all elites at the Divine Sovereign Realm.

The line-up was so strong that Ye Guan immediately realized that there was no way he could beat them.

Meanwhile, Little Pagoda turned to the mysterious lady in the tiny pagoda and asked, "He can't call for help, and he also doesn't have the Path Sword. How do you think he's going to deal with all this?"

The mysterious lady replied, "I don't know."

Little Pagoda laughed boisterously and said, "I think this brat is about to get beaten up! I'm sure it's going to be fun to see him getting beaten up. Ah, I really want to see that, hahaha!"

Chapter 318: He Has Inherited the Art of Bluffing

As they faced the dozens of elites before them, Nangong Xue's expression became extremely solemn. She held Ye Guan's hand tightly, knowing that they weren't a match for the people before them.

However, she wasn't afraid. It was just death, nothing serious.

Ye Guan remained calm as well. He had no backers, but he had a plan in mind.

His experience had told him that there were three ways to go about a battle: beat them up, talk to them and fight once negotiations had broken down, and bluff one's way out of a pinch.

The Grand Elder of the Xue Clan stood at the helm of the elites. He and the other Xue Clan members looked extremely gloomy; their eyes were filled with killing intent as they stared intently at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan had slapped the Xue Clan's heir and had even stolen the latter's bride. It was the biggest and worst humiliation possible.

Xue Feng glared at Ye Guan and was just about to speak when Ye Guan suddenly stepped forward.

"How dare you!" Ye Guan bellowed, and his voice echoed like thunder.

Xue Feng and the others were stunned.

Nangong Xue was stunned as well, and she cast a shocked gaze at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan stared at Xue Feng and sneered, "The tiny Xue Clan actually dared to chase after me to kill me. Who gave you the courage to do such a thing, you bunch of filthy insects?!"

Xue Feng's face turned ugly at the remark. The people behind him were about to make a move, but he stopped them by raising his hand. Xue Feng stared deeply at Ye Guan and asked, "Who are you?"

Xue Feng sounded calm and composed, but he was stupefied deep inside.

Ye Guan was too arrogant—he was arrogant to the extent that Xue Feng started doubting the intel that they had gathered on Ye Guan. Perhaps he had a great background?

Ye Guan didn't bother to speak and unleashed his powerful martial force.

Boom!

The aura of a Martial God filled the air between Ye Guan and the Xue Clan forces.

The faces of Xue Feng and the others changed drastically.

Xue Feng looked horrified, and he started trembling like an aspen tree. "You... Are you from the Martial Sect?"

Ye Guan snapped, "Get lost!"

The Xue Clan members were both angry and fearful.

Xue Feng immediately said, "I apologize for the inconvenience. It's a misunderstanding. I didn't mean to stop you."

With that, he turned around and decisively left with the Xue Clan members.

"Wait!" Ye Guan cried out.

Xue Feng stopped in his tracks and turned to look at Ye Guan, seemingly puzzled.

Ye Guan stared intently at Xue Feng and asked, "You're leaving just like that?"

Xue Feng asked in a deep voice, "What do you want, Young Master Ye?"

Ye Guan said, "I want you to leave your storage rings behind!"

The elite cultivators behind Xue Feng were furious.

Their auras surged crazily and blotted out the skies.

Xue Feng clenched his fists as he stared at Ye Guan, but he didn't say anything in response.

Ye Guan fearlessly met Xue Feng's gaze as he said, "The Xue Clan will be annihilated if you guys don't leave your storage rings. Are you willing to test my patience?"

The Xue Clan had never suffered such a humiliation. The owners of the powerful auras behind Xue Feng were so furious that they seemed like they were about to erupt in fury any time soon, but Xue Feng stopped them in time.

Xue Feng looked at Ye Guan and smiled. "My Xue Clan has made a mistake, so it's only right for us to apologize and make amends."

Xue Feng took off his own storage ring, but the powerful elites of the Xue Clan behind Xue Feng remained unmoving as they glared at Ye Guan with incensed eyes.

Xue Feng turned around and swept his gaze across the clan members behind him.

The clan members were unwilling, but they had to leave their storage rings behind.

Xue Feng turned around and took one final glance at Ye Guan before leaving with the Xue Clan members in tow.

Ye Guan collected the storage rings. The combined value of the storage rings was more than thirty million spiritual cores.

Ye Guan shook his head and sighed. "The Xue Clan is too poor. I truly didn't expect to see a Great Sovereign carrying only ten million spiritual cores in their storage ring. I wonder how they've been surviving."

Meanwhile, Nangong Xue shook her head in disbelief. The amount Ye Guan had just mentioned was considered a huge fortune in the Chaotic Star World.

"Let's go!" Ye Guan said. He held Nangong Xue's and pulled her away.

As they left, Nangong Xue couldn't help but ask, "Are you really from the Martial Sect?"

Ye Guan smiled. "Guess!"

Nangong Xue shook her head, "No, I don't think so."

Ye Guan was a bit surprised. "Why?"

Nangong Xue chuckled and said, "I don't even think that you're a denizen of the Chaotic Star World, so I don't think you're from the Martial World. Where are you from? Are you from outside?"

Ye Guan stopped in his tracks and turned to look at Nangong Xue.

Nangong Xue whispered, "If you were from the Chaotic Star World, you wouldn't have pretended that you're from the Martial Sect."

Ye Guan asked, "How strong is the Martial Sect?"

"They're strong," Nangong Xue replied, "Extremely strong..."

She squeezed Ye Guan's hand and said, "Let's leave."

Ye Guan was unaware of the Martial Sect's terrifying might, but Nangong Xue knew that pretending to be a sect member of the Martial Sect was a worse crime than slapping Xue Chen in the face.

The Martial Sect's ruthlessness was the reason Xue Feng didn't dare to make a move.

Anyone in the Chaotic Star World wouldn't dare to offend the Martial Sect, so there couldn't be a denizen out there daring enough to pretend as though they were a sect member.

Ye Guan noticed Nangong Xue's unease and chuckled. "I can't leave."

Nangong Xue was puzzled. "Why?"

"I have to become a Great Sovereign here," Ye Guan responded.

Nangong Xue asked, "Are you a young master who only came here to train?"

Ye Guan laughed and said, "I guess it's something like that."

Nangong Xue looked down and asked, "How powerful is your family?"

Ye Guan blinked and replied, "My family isn't bad."

Nangong Xue rolled her eyes at him and stayed silent.

Ye Guan sounded serious as he said, "The old man earlier isn't stupid. He might notice that there's something wrong and turn back to kill us. We should find a secluded place for us to stay and cultivate!"

"You have a Tribulation Avoiding Stone." Nangong Xue pointed out and said, "We should go to a secret realm so that we can take full advantage of the Tribulation Avoiding Stone."

She pulled Ye Guan with her and said, "Follow me!"

With that, the two disappeared into the horizon once more.

Meanwhile, the mysterious lady suddenly laughed and asked, "Little Pagoda, are you disappointed?"

Little Pagoda said, "He has truly inherited the art of bluffing from his father!"

The mysterious lady laughed and said, "I also wanted to see him getting beaten up, haha..."

...

Xue Feng and the elites of the Martial Sect were in the clouds. Their expressions were grim, and a clan elder spoke, "Grand Elder, I don't think he's from the Martial Sect."

"What if he is?" asked Xue Feng.

The clan elder went silent.

Xue Feng said, "I'm not daring enough to gamble. The stakes are just too high. If we were to make any mistakes, our Xue Clan would face an unprecedented calamity!"

The clan elder asked, "What should we do now?"

Xue Feng opened his palm, and an image of Ye Guan appeared in his hand.

He looked indifferent as he said, "I'll personally visit the Martial Sect myself. If he's truly a sect member of the Martial Sect, I'll represent our clan to apologize. This matter will come to a close then, but if he's not a sect member."

A flash of killing intent fled across Xue Feng's eyes as he continued. "No one will be able to save him, even if the Eternal Sovereign was still alive!"

He turned around and turned into a beam of light that disappeared into the clouds.

Meanwhile, Nangong Han was sitting in a huge hall while hearing Shanbo's reports.

Nangong Han squinted and asked, "You're saying that he's not just a Great Sword Sovereign, but he is also a Martial God?"

Shanbo nodded and said, "Yes."

Nangong Han clenched her right hand.

Shanbo hesitated briefly before asking, "What if he's really from the Martial Sect?"

Nangong Han shook her head and said, "No way."

Curious, Shanbo asked, "How can you be so sure?"

Nangong Han explained quietly, "If he were from the Martial Sect, why had he departed our clan residence? Of course, even if he's not from the Martial Sect, we can already say that he has a remarkable background."

"Should we get involved?" Shanbo asked.

Nangong Han closed her eyes, and a glimmer of determination flashed across her eyes as she muttered, "Tens of billions of spiritual cores..."

Nangong Han created simulations in her head and soon reached a conclusion.

"Once we've confirmed that he has no ties to either the Martial Sect or the Holy Sect, then..."

...

Meanwhile, an old man stuck to Xue Feng like glue, which annoyed him. Xue Feng looked around and eventually found a middle-aged man standing not too far away from him.

The middle-aged man's name was Chen Wu, and he was one of the Martial Sect's elders.

Xue Feng saluted and said, "Elder Chen Wu."

Chen Wu glanced at Xue Feng and asked, "What does the Xue Clan want from me?"

Xue Feng handed over Ye Guan's portrait to Chen Wu and asked, "I'm just here to ask a question, Elder Chen Wu. Is he a sect member of the Martial Sect?"

Chen Wu stared deeply at the portrait before shaking his head. "No."

Xue Feng's face darkened.

"What's wrong?" asked Chen Wu.

Xue Feng's expression was grim as he explained, "He attacked our clan's heir, and then he pretended that he's a sect member of the Martial Sect."

Chen Wu squinted, "He really did that? Are you sure?"

"Yes, I'm absolutely sure!" Xue Feng hurriedly said, "I wouldn't have come here to ask for permission if he hadn't done that."

"How bold!" Chen Wu chuckled and said, "He's daring enough to pretend like he's one of our sect members. It was a bold and interesting move in my opinion. He's got my curiosity earlier, but now, he's got my attention."

Xue Feng stared deeply at Chen Wu and declared, "I'm taking my leave, then, Elder Chen Wu. We've already confirmed that he's not a sect member of the Martial Sect, after all."

Chen Wu nodded and said, "Go ahead and leave."

Xue Feng bowed lightly and walked out of the hall. Once he was outside, his expression twisted into an ugly grimace. Damn it, he had been had! He was so furious that he felt like exploding.

Boom!

Xue Feng stomped and reappeared in the air before transforming into a streak of light that rushed somewhere else. A monstrous and brutal aura seeped out of him; everything between heaven and earth seemed to tremble beneath his aura alone.

...

A purple-robed young man entered the great hall of the Martial Sect after Xue Feng's departure. He bowed toward Chen Wu and greeted, "Master."

Chen Wu said, "A representative of the Xue Clan claimed that someone has pretended that they're a member of our Martial Sect."

The purple-robed young man froze and muttered, "They pretended like they're a sect member?"

"Yes." Chen Wu smiled and asked, "What do you think?"

The purple-robed young man's reply came a bit late as he said, "The Xue Clan is not daring enough to deceive us, so they must be telling the truth. However, those bold enough to pretend like they're a sect member all had extraordinary backgrounds.

"It must be the same for our pretender this time."

"You got it right." Chen Wu nodded and said, "I think so, too."

The purple-robed young man looked at Chen Wu and asked, "Do you want me to go and take a look?"

Chen Wu nodded.

"All right." The purple-robed young man bowed and turned around to leave, but Chen Wu called out to him.

"Tian He! What are you going to do once you've found him?" asked Chen Wu.

Tian He pondered briefly before saying, "First of all, I'll investigate the truth behind the surface. Why did he pretend like he's a member of our sect? I'm also going to check if he had committed evil while using us as their backer.

"Lastly, if he was forced to pretend like he was a sect member of the Martial Sect or risk dying, then it's fine. I'll take a look at him, and if he is talented enough, I'll invite him to become a sect member of the Martial Sect."

Chapter 319: My Family Is Mean To Me

Upon hearing Tian He's words, Chen Wu broke out into a grin. "Well said! If he hasn't committed any wrongdoing and has decent talent, why not let him become a part of the Martial Sect? The Martial Sect is open to it! Go ahead!"

Tian He bowed slightly and turned around to leave. Chen Wu gazed at his departing figure with a light smile and eyes filled with a subtle appreciation.

...

Nangong Xue guided Ye Guan through the starry sky. Thanks to the Tribulation Avoiding Stone, the two of them were able to ward off the tribulations and navigate through them unscathed.

Ye Guan and Nangong Xue strolled toward the distant horizon.

Just then, Ye Guan asked, "Where are we going?"

Nangong Xue replied, "We're going to the Starry Sea Secret Realm!"

Ye Guan stared at Nangong Xue and repeated, "The Starry Sea Secret Realm?"

Nangong Xue smiled and explained, "The sacred grounds of the ancient sects and powers that had perished after the battle during that era became forbidden zones, all thanks to the tribulations and calamities that had settled there.

"Even Great Sovereigns won't dare to enter them unless absolutely necessary. In addition, they're long gone, but no one can guarantee that they didn't manage to leave behind any traps or experts to protect their precious inheritance."

Ye Guan pondered for a moment before asking, "Are we going to cultivate there?"

Nangong Xue nodded and said, "Yes, we'll find a safe spot to cultivate once we enter the secret realm. I'm sure the Xue Clan will hesitate at the idea of entering a secret realm just to pursue us."

Ye Guan chuckled and replied, "All right, then."

However, he recalled something and asked, "The Martial Sect and the Holy Sect..."

Nangong Xue explained, "The Martial Sect and the Holy Sect were established during the Eternal Civilization, and they're the only forces from that era that are still alive. A myriad of ancient powers and sects perished in that fateful battle, but they somehow survived, so their heritage is incomparable to any other forces."

Ye Guan nodded slightly. "I see."

Nangong Xue made a sidelong glance at Ye Guan and asked, "From what I know, the True Universe is the current ruler of the outside world. Are you... from the True Universe?"

Ye Guan shook his head and said, "I'm from the Guanxuan Universe."

Nangong Xue nodded slightly, not saying anything more.

Ye Guan then asked, "You know the True Universe?"

Nangong Xue's expression became solemn as she said, "Of course, I know. The True Universe had once attacked the Chaotic Star World. The Martial Sect and the Holy Sect joined forces to fight a common enemy, even though they're archenemies.

"Thankfully, the True Universe's troops faltered in the face of the Chaotic Star World's tribulations. Otherwise, we would have suffered defeat at the time."

Nangong Xue's expression became even more solemn as she continued. "The Expedition Army is truly formidable. Great Sovereigns went one-on-one against their troops. We lost thirty-six Great Sovereigns while they only lost twenty-two!"

The Expedition Army! Ye Guan went silent.

The Guanyuan Universe had yet to encounter the True Universe's Expedition Army, so they still didn't have an exact idea of their strength. However, Nangong Xue's words just now made him realize that the Expedition Army's strength was far beyond what he had imagined. Great Sovereigns were held in high regard almost everywhere, but they seemed weak compared to the Expedition Army.

The two continued talking about a variety of topics until they found themselves standing in front of a ruin. There was an expansive dark cloud hanging above the ruins, and lightning flashed incessantly within the cloud, which made the entire stretch of the sky above the ruins feel eerie at sight.

Ye Guan and Nangong Xue were struck by a wave of something ominous as they walked into the ruins. Ye Guan gazed at the dark clouds with a grim look. The tribulations here were extremely terrifying. The tribulations in the Guanyuan Universe and the True Universe were mere child's play in comparison to it.

Pointing into the distance, Nangong Xue said, "That's the Starry Sea Secret Realm, and I have no idea what dangers are inside of it."

"I guess we'll find out once we get there," said Ye Guan with a smile.

The two walked away. The closer they got to the lightning region, the stronger the lightning became. In fact, the lightning had become so strong that Ye Guan found it difficult to breathe just staring at them.

Ye Guan felt uneasy.

The lightning here was much stronger than the lightning at the Shangqing Sect. Ye Guan reckoned that if every single lightning bolt within the expansive dark clouds were to strike down at once, even Master Pagoda would die.

They had a Tribulation Avoiding Stone, but they still felt uneasy at the terrifying sight.

Just then, dozens of powerful auras appeared behind them.

Ye Guan turned and saw Xue Feng along with his group.

Xue Feng's gaze was as sharp as a sword as he glared at Ye Guan.

The Xue Clan members behind him were furious as well. Their eyes were filled with killing intent that was so thick it made Ye Guan feel like these people would eat his flesh and consume his blood just to assuage their fury.

However, their fury was justified. After all, a brat had deceived them into voluntarily giving up their storage rings. It was a disgrace that couldn't be overwritten by a simple, run-off-the-mill revenge.

Ye Guan's eyelids twitched. He grabbed Nangong Xue's hand and ran into the secret realm.

Upon entering the lightning region, dozens of lightning bolts plummeted toward them. Ye Guan and Nangong Xue's expressions changed. Xue Feng and his group came to a halt right in front of the lightning region.

Evidently, they didn't dare to enter the lightning region.

Xue Feng stared intently at the falling lightning bolt, but shockingly, the lightning bolts avoided Ye Guan and Nangong Xue when they were just a few meters away from the latter's heads.

Ye Guan and Nangong Xue sighed in relief, and they ran as fast as they could away from Xue Feng and his group.

Xue Feng and his group members were stunned.

An old man exclaimed, "He has a Tribulation Avoiding Stone!"

Xue Feng and the others exchanged shocked looks.

They didn't expect that Ye Guan would have such a rare spiritual treasure.

Another old man spoke with a heavy tone of voice, "He entered the Starry Sea Secret Realm. Are we going to follow them?"

Xue Feng looked into the distance and said, "Let's wait."

The Xue Clan members were solemn. Ye Guan was just right in front of them, but they weren't daring enough to chase after him. Xue Feng glared at the secret realm, and he growled through gnashed teeth. "They'll eventually come out!"

...

Ye Guan and Nangong Xue finally found themselves inside the ruins they had seen earlier. A solemn atmosphere hung in the air around the ruins, and judging from the marred walls, a great battle had to have unfolded here.

Nangong Xue walked briskly to a stone stele. With a wave of her sleeve, the dust on the stone stele vanished, revealing three emboldened words—Starry Sea Sect!

Nangong Xue turned to Ye Guan and muttered, "The Starry Sea Sect must have been annihilated..."

Ye Guan nodded. He looked around until his gaze finally settled on a dilapidated hall hundreds of meters away. Half of the hall was missing, and it looked like it had been ripped apart.

"Let's go there and take a look," Ye Guan suggested.

Nangong Xue nodded, and the two started walking to the grand hall. Along the way, Ye Guan discovered quite a few corpses strewn across the ruins. Ye Guan was awestruck upon discovering that the corpses were preserved impeccably, making them appear as though they were alive, even though they had died long ago.

Nangong Xue remarked, "They must have been Great Sovereigns when they were still alive."

Ye Guan's curiosity was piqued, and he asked, "Why do you say so?"

"The fleshly bodies of Great Sovereigns will last for an eternity," Nangong Xue explained.

Ye Guan nodded thoughtfully. The two continued talking until they arrived at the dilapidated grand hall.

The grand hall had retained only half of its former glory, and they only found a statue of a woman in white. An ancient book covered in celestial stardust glimmered in multiple colors in the woman's right hand.

All of a sudden, Nangong Xue bowed deeply toward the statue.

Ye Guan was astonished.

Nangong Xue smiled at him and said, "You told me to be respectful in places like this!"

Ye Guan chuckled upon hearing that.

Just then, the statue quivered, and a woman dressed in white emerged gracefully from the statue. Ye Guan's expression stiffened, and Nangong Xue quickly moved even closer to Ye Guan before directing a wary gaze upon the woman.

The woman in white's gaze was on Ye Guan, and she frowned in confusion upon seeing him.

Ye Guan recovered his wits and bowed. "Greetings, Senior!"

The woman in white examined Ye Guan and chuckled. "You're an interesting young man.

Ye Guan couldn't understand her cryptic words.

The woman in white leisurely stepped out of the grand hall.

Sweeping her gaze across the ruins before her, a fleeting light of bewilderment shone in her eyes. After a while, she asked, "What happened to the Divine Dao Civilization of the Great Daoist Brush Master?"

Ye Guan replied, "It's gone."

The woman in white turned to Ye Guan and asked, "It's gone?"

Ye Guan nodded and said, "The True Universe destroyed it."

The woman in white squinted her eyes. "The True Universe?"

Ye Guan nodded and explained what happened between the True Universe and the Divine Dao Civilization.

The woman in white laughed boisterously and exclaimed, "So even the Great Daoist Brush Master has met his end!"

Ye Guan was silent as he stared at the woman in white. The woman in white obviously harbored deep resentment toward the Great Daoist Brush Master.

The woman in white laughed for quite a while before she composed herself and muttered, "It's a shame that I couldn't witness the collapse of the Divine Dao Civilization."

Ye Guan remained quiet. The Great Daoist Brush Master was a peerless supreme elite, so he didn't dare to disparage the latter.

The woman in white suddenly looked at Ye Guan and examined him intently. After a while, she shook her head slightly and said, "You already have your own path. It is meaningless for you to take someone else's legacy. It's meaningless!"

Ye Guan quickly pulled Nangong Xue over to him and said, "She's the right fit!"

The woman in white stared at Nangong Xue, but she remained quiet.

Honestly, she wasn't particularly fond of Nangong Xue. Nangong Xue's talent was inferior when compared to Ye Guan. Moreover, Ye Guan possessed a Great Dao Destiny, so he was perfect—the perfect inheritor of legacies.

Nangong Xue grew rejected upon seeing the woman in white's silence. It wasn't that difficult to deduce the latter's thoughts after seeing her go silent the moment her eyes landed on Nangong Xue.

Nangong Xue held Ye Guan's hand and lowered her head.

The woman in white's expression changed drastically upon seeing Nangong Xue holding Ye Guan's hand. She chuckled and exclaimed, "I guess that works as well!"

Nangong Xue raised her head in confusion.

The woman in white asked, "Are you willing to become the Sect Master of the Starry Sea Sect?"

Nangong Xue didn't immediately reply. She glanced at Ye Guan, and the latter nodded instantly.

Nangong Xue grinned and said, "I'm willing."

The woman in white stared at Ye Guan and said, "Protect us."

Ye Guan was confused. "Protect you two?"

The woman in white nodded and explained, "I'm going to give her the Starry Sea Sect's remaining Starry Sea energy, and she'll instantly become a Great Sovereign once I'm done!"

She's going to instantly become a Great Sovereign? Ye Guan froze and went silent at the remark. Eventually, he asked carefully, "There's a way to instantly become a Great Sovereign?"

The woman in white nodded and said, "Of course."

Ye Guan was stupefied. What the woman in white was about to do was similar to a supreme elite handing over their cultivation base to their disciples. Ye Guan hesitated for quite a while before asking, "Can you give me some, too? My family is mean to me, and they even left me to fend for myself at such a young age. I had to gather and eat leftovers just to survive."

Chapter 320: That Place Too?

Ye Guan had to admit that he was truly tempted.

It couldn't be helped as it was a chance to immediately become a Great Sovereign!

If someone were to hand over such an opportunity to him, he would accept it with relish, as it meant instantly completing his aunt's task for him. In addition, what could their enemies outside do to them once he became a Great Sovereign?

The Great Sovereigns outside would become mere ants before him. No, it wouldn't be just Great Sovereigns. Ye Guan reckoned that he might become strong enough to stand a chance against his aunt.

Hearing Ye Guan's words, the woman in white shook her head. "No."

Perplexed, Ye Guan asked, "Why?"

The woman in white smiled and said frankly, "I don't want the inheritance of my Starry Sea Sect to become someone else's dowry."

The Starry Sea Sect's inheritance would be valuable to just about anyone out there aside from the young swordsman in front of him.

The Starry Sea Sect's inheritance would be easily overshadowed by the young man's Dao. In fact, Ye Guan would eventually forget that it even existed. To put it simply, Ye Guan was too exceptional for the Starry Sea Sect's inheritance.

However, Nangong Xue was different. With the help of the young swordsman, Nangong Xue would be able to bring out the full potential of the Starry Sea Sect's inheritance. She might even succeed in reviving the sect.

Ye Guan was rendered speechless by the woman in white's words.

The woman in white's smile deepened as she added, "Well, she's your woman, so is there even any difference if I give her the inheritance?"

Nangong Xue blushed and lowered her head slightly.

"Master, I'm not his woman..." she muttered.

The woman in white chuckled. Her gaze remained on Ye Guan as she instructed, "Go and stand guard for us, will you?"

Ye Guan asked, "Senior, how long will it take?"

"At least two hours," she replied calmly.

Ye Guan smiled and nodded. "Alright."

With that, he turned around and left.

The woman in white shifted her attention to Nangong Xue.

Her eyes were filled with curiosity as she asked, "Do you know his background?"

Nangong Xue shook her head. There was a veil of mystery surrounding Ye Guan's origins.

The woman in white sighed softly, and a complex look suffused her face.

Nangong Xue clenched her hands as she muttered, "His background..."

The woman in white said in a low voice, "He has an extraordinary background. His destiny has been obfuscated by someone, and I only know of two people capable of doing such a thing. One of them is the Eternal Sovereign, the Great Sovereign who was invincible among his peers. The second one is the Great Daoist Brush Master."

Nangong Xue quietly absorbed the revelation, but her trembling hands revealed her emotions.

The woman in white said, "He's destined for greatness. If you want to stand next to him and be of help to him, you must become much stronger than you are at the moment. Otherwise, you'll just become an ornament. You'll fade into obscurity once he becomes even stronger."

Nangong Xue sighed deeply, and she confessed with a tinge of bitterness. "I can feel that he... he doesn't harbor a deep affection for me, or perhaps, none at all. It seems more like he's reluctant to reject me. I think that's why he still keeps me by his side."

The woman in white walked up to Nangong Xue and said, "Silly girl. I want you to remember that when it comes to dealing with men, you shouldn't be too passionate. Haven't you heard the saying about how what's easily acquired is often undervalued?"

"You should focus on becoming even stronger at the moment and building your own tower of independence. Don't be too attached to him. Strive not just for self-reliance but for the ability to support him!"

Nangong Xue's gaze was filled with uncertainty as she asked. "What if he ends up not liking me at all?"

The woman in white shook her head and smiled gently. "Silly girl, whether he likes you or not is his business. Your feelings for him are your own feelings. He's not obligated to reciprocate your feelings. The world doesn't move according to your whims and desires."

Nangong Xue went silent at that remark and nodded after a long while. "I see..."

"And that's why you have to focus on becoming even stronger right now!" The woman in white exclaimed and chuckled, "Women shouldn't lose what makes them unique once they develop deep feelings for a man. We must not lose ourselves, our independence, and our personality. Otherwise, we'd only be inviting the mocking of others, and they'd look down on us."

Nangong Xue nodded. "I understand."

The woman in white smiled and said, "Once you've become a Great Sovereign, you should spar with him and give him a good beating."

Nangong Xue was puzzled. "Why?"

The woman in white explained, "A female Great Sovereign is incredibly attractive. The majority of men have this certain, twisted fixation about conquering women who are stronger than them. You have to ignite that kind of desire in him, do you understand?"

Nangong Xue blinked and exclaimed, "Master, you really know a lot!"

The woman in white laughed heartily and said, "I know quite a few techniques as well, and I'll teach you some of them later!"

Nangong Xue's curiosity was piqued. "What techniques?"

The woman in white blinked mischievously.

She leaned in to whisper a few words into Nangong Xue's ear.

"Ah!" Nangong Xue's face flushed a deep crimson. She immediately covered her face with both her hands and stammered, "T-that place can be used, too? T-t-that's..."

The woman in white let out a peal of boisterous laughter. "Of course, it can be done using that place as well..."

She whispered a few more words into Nangong Xue's ear.

Nangong Xue quivered incessantly out of embarrassment. She grabbed the woman in white's hand and stopped her from talking.

"Master, I-I-It's too much for me. Can we just start?"

The woman in white laughed heartily and exclaimed, "Sure!"

The woman in white waved her sleeve, and the spacetime inside the great hall shattered. The woman in white opened her palm and shouted, "Go!"

Boom!

A divine mirror soared into the sky and hovered in the starry sky.

The woman in white opened her palm once more and shouted, "Come!"

Boom!

The divine mirror trembled violently, causing the starry sky to quake. A powerful stellar force burst out of the divine mirror and transformed into a pillar of stellar light that descended and converged on Nangong Xue's head.

Boom!

Nangong Xue quivered vigorously as a powerful aura burst out of her.

The woman in white suddenly leaned and placed a finger on Nangong Xue's glabella. A stellar imprint appeared on Nangong Xue's glabella, and the stellar energy from the pillar of stellar light surged toward her glabella.

Nangong Xue's eyes widened.

Her aura surged crazily—she was about to become a Great Sovereign.

Ye Guan's expression was grim as he stared at the unfolding sight. It was his first time witnessing an inheritance that included a cultivation base increase. Ye Guan was sure that it would have drawbacks, but it didn't mean that it was all bad.

Ye Guan turned toward the distant horizon upon seemingly sensing something. The dark clouds in the distance were trembling, and thunderous booms echoed incessantly from within the expansive clouds.

Ye Guan's expression changed drastically. The lightning calamities and tribulations were being stirred into action?

Dozens of lightning bolts burst out of the dark clouds and made a beeline for the woman in white and Nangong Xue.

Ye Guan didn't hesitate to charge at the oncoming lightning bolts, but the woman in white interrupted him by saying, "These lightning bolts are beyond what you can handle. Allow me to take care of them."

The woman in white waved her left hand. Stellar energy surged from her palm and created a wall in front of her.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The lightning bolts struck the wall, and it trembled violently. The woman in white's gaze turned to the group of Xue Clan members in the distance, and she shouted at Ye Guan, "I want you to hold them back for two hours!"

Ye Guan turned toward Xue Feng and the Xue Clan members. Xue Feng and his group were staring at the woman in white and Nangong Xue.

They instantly understood what was happening—Nangong Xue was in the middle of receiving an inheritance.

An old man next to Xue Feng spoke solemnly, "What should we do?"

The woman in white was definitely a supreme elite, so they didn't dare to make any rash movements. Xue Feng stared deeply at the woman in white and said, "She's too busy transmitting her inheritance to Nangong Xue and defending the two of them against the lightning calamities and tribulation."

The old man next to Xue Feng made a sidelong glance at Ye Guan and asked, "Are we going to eliminate him first, then?"

Xue Feng shook his head and said, "We're going to kill Nangong Xue and the woman in white before anything else. We can't let Nangong Xue receive that inheritance!"

With that, he stomped and rushed toward the woman in white.

The elites behind Xue Feng followed closely behind Xue Feng.

They also understood that Nangong Xue's strength would soar once she had received the complete inheritance of the woman in white, and they also stood no chance against the woman in white.

Of course, there was another reason behind their decision.

They wanted the divine mirror above the woman in white. In other words, killing the woman in white meant obtaining a divine item from a secret realm!

However, Ye Guan suddenly appeared in front of Xue Feng.

Xue Feng's expression turned ugly.

"Get lost!" he roared and flicked his sleeve.

A powerful wave of energy rushed toward Ye Guan.

Ye Guan was but a paltry True Immortal Realm ant in Xue Feng's eyes, and he was unwilling to take an ant seriously.

Ye Guan responded by thrusting his sword toward Xue Feng; it was an attack emblazoned with the Sword Dao! However, Ye Guan wasn't done just yet. He changed his grip on the sword and slashed out—Heavenrend!

Boom!

A deafening explosion echoed as Xue Feng flew hundreds of meters away from Ye Guan after taking the latter's attack. He was left dumbfounded when he finally landed on the ground. He wasn't the only one—every Xue Clan elite was shocked.

Xue Feng was a Great Sovereign, and Ye Guan was just a True Immortal Realm cultivator. However, he actually managed to send Xue Feng flying with his attacks?! What was going on here?

The Xue Clan elites were struck with unparalleled astonishment.

Xue Feng stared at Ye Guan and muttered in disbelief, "That move—"

Boom!

A loud explosion echoed from afar. Everyone turned and found that Nangong Xue was emitting a terrifying aura.

The Divine Sovereign Realm! Nangong Xue had just made a breakthrough into the Divine Sovereign Realm from the Time Immortal Realm, but her aura was still surging crazily with seemingly no signs of abating.

Xue Feng's expression darkened. At this rate, Nangong Xue would soon become a Great Sovereign!

A horrifying killing intent blossomed in Xue Feng's eyes.

He glared at Ye Guan and roared, "Kill him first! Let's attack him together!"

Xue Feng and the Xue Clan elites wasted no time and rushed toward Ye Guan.

Ye Guan smiled sinisterly in the face of so many elites.

He took a step forward, and—

Boom!

His fleshly body erupted in a terrifying conflagration!