

A Sword 471

Chapter 471: No Need to Unleash A Second Sword Attack

Ye Guan smiled and said, "Of course!"

The Great Daoist Brush Master smiled and was about to leave when Ye Guan added, "Let me accompany you on your way out."

The Great Daoist Brush Master nodded in agreement.

Song Zhiyan watched them leave and pondered silently in the main hall.

Outside the hall, Ye Guan suddenly said, "Senior, I have an idea."

"Go on," the Great Daoist Brush Master replied.

Ye Guan whispered a few words.

The Great Daoist Brush Master laughed out loud and said, "I was right about you. Your mind is just as sharp as your father's mind. Unlike him, however, you appear honest on the surface, but you have many tricks up your sleeve. I'll have to be careful of you in the future."

"It seems that we're on the same page," said Ye Guan with a chuckle. The two looked at each other with a knowing smile, resembling two cunning foxes.

The Great Daoist Brush Master recalled something and said, "However, you can still go and meet those two candidates. What if both of them have considerable influence over the outcome?"

"I hope that's the case," Ye Guan said with a nod.

The Great Daoist Brush Master smiled and disappeared into the horizon.

Left all alone, Ye Guan pondered for a little while before he turned and returned to the main hall. Song Zhiyan examined Ye Guan from top to bottom with eyes filled with curiosity.

Ye Guan smiled and asked, "Lady Zhiyan, why are you looking at me like that?"

Song Zhiyan smiled and changed the topic, asking, "Young Lord Ye, are you a swordsman?" fr(e)e

Ye Guan nodded. "Yes."

Song Zhiyan said, "You have the highest sword dao cultivation realm out of all the people I've ever met."

Ye Guan was shocked. Song Zhiyan could actually sense his sword dao cultivation realm? Ye Guan's sword dao cultivation realm was half-step Divine Realm, but he had been concealing it.

However, Song Zhiyan managed to sense it.

Song Zhiyan asked, "Young Lord Ye, you seem unwilling to enter a marriage alliance."

"Yes, I am unwilling," Ye Guan said, nodding.

Song Zhiyan was puzzled. "Why the contrast?"

Ye Guan smiled. "Lady Zhiyan, do you like marriages that are based on mutual benefits and interests?"

Song Zhiyan thought about it for a while before saying, "Everyone wishes to marry someone they truly love, and I am no exception."

"However, Young Lord Ye, you should understand that people like us don't usually have a choice, especially when it comes to important matters like marriage. We often have to compromise for the greater good rather than follow our hearts."

Ye Guan laughed and asked, "Lady Zhiyan, which of the two is more approachable? The Eternal Night Clan or the Eternal Clan?"

"Well, it depends."

"Does it depend on my prowess?"

"Yes. They can be persuaded with enough strength. Without it, however..."

Ye Guan fell silent. Major clans truly cared more about what they stood to gain than anything else. In other words, Ye Guan had to show them what he could offer if he wanted to establish an alliance with them. Moreover, it had to be something that they wanted to obtain as well.

This is going to be a challenge... Ye Guan sighed to himself.

Song Zhiyan suddenly said, "Young Lord Ye, there's something else you can do if you don't want to enter a marriage alliance."

Ye Guan looked at her and asked, "Lady Zhiyan, are you suggesting that I pick a side and help them ascend to the throne?"

Song Zhiyan was shocked. Clearly, Ye Guan was more clever than she initially expected. With that in mind, Song Zhiyan no longer dared to underestimate Ye Guan.

"I heard that the emperor is chosen through an election, though," Ye Guan added.

Song Zhiyan smiled. "That's correct. However, it is necessary for one to have powerful enough backers if they want to qualify for the elections. In other words, every candidate has the backing of numerous influential and wealthy clans!"

Ye Guan fell silent, and he felt like he finally understood how things worked here. The people would elect the emperor, but without enough power and influence, there was no way someone could even become a candidate in the first place.

Even if such people somehow managed to become candidates, it would be a waste of time, as they were guaranteed to lose without enough power and influence.

In other words, the election was a game of power and influence.

Ye Guan smiled wryly and shook his head. Then, he looked at Song Zhiyan and asked, "Lady Zhiyan, who do you suggest I support?"

"Ye Shurou from the Eternal Clan."

"Why?"

"Because I'm supporting her, too..."

"Lady Zhiyan, you are quite straightforward."

"Young Lord Ye, we can start negotiating if you're willing to help her ascend to the throne."

"Does that mean Lady Ye Shurou has a low chance of winning the elections?"

Song Zhiyan was slightly surprised, and she was about to say something when Ye Guan added, "You wouldn't have told me all these things if it were otherwise, right?"

Song Zhiyan sighed. "Young Lord Ye, you are indeed smart. You're right. Ye Shurou's chances of winning are low."

"The percentages are?"

"Thirty percent."

"Why would I help a candidate with a low chance of winning? The Eternal Night Clan is more attractive to me."

"The Eternal Night Clan knows that their chances of winning are high, so they're not going to bother even talking to you. However, we can negotiate anything if you help Shurou turn the tables and win the election."

Ye Guan went silent upon hearing Song Zhiyan's remark.

Song Zhiyan added, "Young Lord Ye, I believe that Shurou will have a pretty high chance of winning with your help."

The True Universe was a superpower with boundless resources. The Eternal Clan could certainly turn the tables around with the True Universe's help—unless it was too late and the Eternal Night Clan's candidate had already ascended to the throne.

Ye Guan said, "I'd like to meet those two candidates first."

"Of course," Song Zhiyan said, nodding. It wasn't strange that Ye Guan would want to meet the candidates first before making a decision.

Ye Guan added, "Lady Zhiyan, don't reveal my identity to the Eternal Clan, okay?"

Song Zhiyan nodded. "Okay."

"Thank you," Ye Guan said.

Song Zhiyan smiled and said, "The Eternal Clan is holding a banquet tonight. The prominent clans and sects that are supporting them will all be present. You can come with me and take a look."

"All right," Ye Guan said.

"As for your identity..." Song Zhiyan trailed off and pondered briefly before continuing, "We'll just say that you're my cousin. Is that all right?"

"Sure," Ye Guan replied.

Song Zhiyan got up and said, "Then, please relax until then, Young Lord Ye. I'll send someone to escort you over when it's time."

Song Zhiyan turned around and left.

"Lady Zhiyan," Ye Guan called out.

Song Zhiyan came to a halt and turned around to look at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan smiled and said, "Can you let me borrow books about the history of the Eternal Night Empire? The more books, the better."

"Sure, no problem," Song Zhiyan said before turning around and leaving.

Ye Guan got up and returned to his room.

Soon, a clean-looking servant girl walked into Ye Guan's room. She handed a storage ring to Ye Guan and said respectfully, "Young Lord Ye, the books about history that you've requested are all in the storage ring, and there are also other books covering a variety of topics."

"If you find them insufficient, please do tell me. I can go and look for more."

Ye Guan accepted the storage ring and smiled. "Thank you."

The servant girl hurriedly replied, "Young Lord Ye, you're too polite. I'll be right outside the door, so please feel free to summon me if there's anything you need."

Ye Guan nodded. "All right."

The servant girl bowed and left the room.

Ye Guan took out the books from the storage ring and read them eagerly. Ye Guan wanted to have a thorough understanding of the Eternal Night Empire before anything else.

There were tens of thousands of books inside the storage ring. Ye Guan had no plans of reading them all. He used his divine sense to glance through all of them and only memorized useful information, discarding the irrelevant ones.

It didn't take long for Ye Guan to obtain a rough understanding of the Eternal Night Empire. The Eternal Night Empire's history spanned billions of years, and its founder was known as the Eternal Night Sovereign. Back then, he had single-handedly dominated hundreds of nations in the Eternal Night Empire and suppressed countless the supreme elites of the powerful clans and families at the time.

Eventually, the Eternal Night Sovereign established the Eternal Night Empire. The Eternal Night Sovereign was also the one who had decided to seal the Eternal Night Empire, preventing its denizens from leaving and outsiders from entering so easily.

The Great Daoist Brush Master had told Ye Guan that it was all for the sake of safeguarding the Eternal Night Empire's eternal power, which was the source of their abilities.

The Eternal Night Empire developed steadily and grew even stronger over the years, but it soon faced a major crisis. Millions of years ago, an extraordinary woman appeared, and she was unhappy that only

males could ascend to the throne. In the end, she broke ties with the Eternal Night Clan and left to start a new lineage.

She was so strong that the Eternal Night Clan couldn't do anything to her. She was so formidable that the Eternal Night Empire decided to summon the souls of their ancestors to deal with her, but she ended up suppressing her ancestors instead.

She suppressed the souls of her ancestors? Ye Guan was shocked. She's too strong, and she actually managed to start a new lineage.

Ye Guan felt slightly envious. The extraordinary woman didn't eradicate the Eternal Night Clan, but since then, the woman's lineage, the Eternal Clan, could now compete for the throne against the Eternal Night Clan.

It had been many years since then, but the system was still in place, as the extraordinary woman's soul was still in the Eternal Night City. Moreover, she had also nurtured an incredibly powerful army that obeyed only the Eternal Night Laws that the extraordinary woman had left behind back then.

They would swear allegiance only to the individual who had ascended to the throne through the elections, and their allegiance was never permanent as well, lasting only three hundred years.

The extraordinary woman's army was known as the Eternal Night Army, and the Eternal Night Army played a crucial role in maintaining the equilibrium of powers in the empire. The Eternal Night Army's existence was also the reason the two clans—the Eternal Clan and the Eternal Night Clan—had been abiding by the rules all this time.

Unfortunately, the Eternal Clan remained inferior to the Eternal Night Clan in terms of strength. After all, the strength of a clan wasn't decided based on the depths of their foundation alone but on their talents as well.

The clan with more talents would have a brighter future than others.

The Eternal Night Clan had managed to cultivate more talents than the Eternal Clan.

The history books allowed Ye Guan to grasp the Eternal Night Empire's current situation.

The Eternal Clan's condition was worsening, as every single emperor over the past three reigns had all come from the Eternal Night Clan. At this rate, the Eternal Clan would eventually find itself in a pinch.

If the emperor were from the Eternal Night Clan, they would certainly be biased toward the Eternal Night Clan, which meant that the Eternal Night Clan would have access to a ton of eternal power.

In other words, the Eternal Clan had to win the next elections; otherwise, they might no longer be able to turn the tables forever.

Ye Guan opened his eyes slowly. Song Zhiyan was right. Helping the Eternal Clan ascend to the throne meant that the Eternal Clan would most likely agree to his demands.

However, he had to consider the Eternal Night Clan as well, especially the fact that their chances of winning were higher than the Eternal Clan.

Ye Guan thought hard and long, but he still decided to meet the two candidates first before making any decisions. He had to assess them thoroughly, as making the wrong decision meant he wouldn't get the Eternal Night Empire's support.

Ye Guan shook his head and revealed a wry smile. He realized that things were getting more and more challenging for him. In addition to using his fleshly body to fight, he even had to use his brain!

Just then, Ye Guan heard knocking on the door.

Ye Guan emptied his mind and looked at the door. "Come in."

The door swung open, and Song Zhiyan walked into his room.

Song Zhiyan looked at Ye Guan with a smile. "Young Lord Ye, it's time."

Ye Guan looked outside and saw that it was already nighttime.

"All right, let's go," said Ye Guan with a nod. Then, Ye Guan stood up and left with Song Zhiyan.

The two boarded a luxurious carriage. The powerful arrays throughout the city prohibited flight, so they had no choice but to rely on a carriage to get to their destination.

The carriage was extremely spacious; it was so spacious that it resembled a palace.

Song Zhiyan poured a cup of tea for Ye Guan. "Young Lord Ye, may I know just how strong you are?"

Ye Guan looked at Song Zhiyan and smiled. "I'm decent."

Song Zhiyan blinked. "You're decent?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Against someone in the younger generation, there's no need for me to attack twice; against someone in the older generation, there's also no need for me to attack twice!"

Chapter 472: A Trap

There's no need for him to attack twice? Song Zhiyan was surprised. Moments later, she smiled and said, "Young Lord Ye, let's spar with each other one day, then."

Ye Guan stared at Song Zhiyan.

Song Zhiyan hurriedly added, "I don't mean anything else by it. I just want to see for myself what a true swordsman is like."

Ye Guan's curiosity was piqued. "Are there very few swordsmen in the Eternal Night Empire?"

"There are extremely few swordsmen here," Song Zhiyan said with a nod.

Ye Guan was puzzled. "How come?"

"When that extraordinary woman from the Eternal Clan became the empress, the Eternal Night Clan and a few sects were unhappy. A war broke out soon afterward, and the most powerful sect of the Eternal Night Empire, the Sword Sect, ended up getting involved."

"Were they annihilated?"

"Yes. The majority of the Sword Sect's swordsmen were killed, while the remaining disciples of the Sword Sect were exiled to the Bitter Cold Realm; they were never seen nor heard from again."

"Does that mean that swordsmen became exceedingly rare here? What happened to the sword inheritances? Was everyone prohibited from becoming a swordsman?"

"Yes, and even if someone were a swordsman, they wouldn't dare to reveal it for fear of being branded as a rebel. Once branded as a rebel, the Eternal Night Army would come and kill them immediately, even without the emperor's permission."

"Does this mean that I shouldn't reveal my identity as a swordsman?"

"Young Lord Ye, you're definitely not a rebel nor a remnant of the Sword Sect. You're from the outside world, and you have the support of the Great Daoist Brush as well."

"However, it'd be better for you to err on the side of caution and hide your true identity to avoid unnecessary trouble."

"I understand," Ye Guan replied with a nod. He was a little surprised. He had no idea that the Eternal Night Realm had outlawed swordsmanship and with such harsh punishment, too. Who would dare to become a swordsman?

Of course, Ye Guan had no interest in the Eternal Night Realm's grudge against swordsmen. He wasn't here to promote swordsmanship, anyway.

Song Zhiyan asked, "Young Lord Ye, do you know the True God personally?"

"Yes," Ye Guan replied.

Song Zhiyan immediately became interested. "Just how strong is she?"

Ye Guan smiled. "Lady Zhiyan, do you want to know more about her?"

Song Zhiyan nodded and explained, "The last time she came to the Eternal Night Empire, she challenged three of our strongest supreme elites, and she defeated them all in just one move. Afterward, she just left without any explanation."

Ye Guan's curiosity was piqued. "She came here just for that fight and then left?"

Song Zhiyan nodded.

Ye Guan smiled wryly and shook his head. Sister Zhen is truly something else...

Song Zhiyan asked, "Are you very close to her?"

"Yes," Ye Guan said.

"How close?"

Ye Guan glanced at Song Zhiyan. This lady seems to be quite the gossipmonger!

Song Zhiyan noticed the peculiar light in Ye Guan's gaze, and she realized that she had asked too many questions, so she immediately apologized, "S-sorry! Senior Great Daoist Brush Master said that you're the True Universe's representative."

"The True Universe's name is quite impactful here, as we all know that the True God is from the True Universe. That's why I asked so many questions."

Cizhen... Ye Guan smiled unknowingly upon recalling their memories together.

"She's my big sister," Ye Guan replied.

Song Zhiyan frowned briefly upon seeing the affectionate smile tugging at Ye Guan's lips.

"Is she your big sister, or is she more than just a big sister?"

"What?" Ye Guan asked, sounding confused.

Song Zhiyan immediately realized that her tongue had slipped, so she hurriedly muttered, "Ah, I see. So, she's your big sister..."

Ye Guan couldn't help but do a double take at Song Zhiyan. Something's weird with this lady...

The carriage stopped just then, and Song Zhiyan said, "We're here."

Song Zhiyan alighted from the carriage, and Ye Guan followed closely behind her.

Ye Guan looked up and saw that they were standing in front of a clan's residence. It was a much bigger and more lavish residence than the Song Residence.

Ye Guan saw a plaque hanging on the entrance that said—Ye[1] Residence.

There was a bustling crowd at the entrance, and many people were making their way into the residence.

Song Zhiyan said, "Young Lord Ye, this way, please."

Ye Guan nodded and followed Song Zhiyan into the residence.

"From this moment on, I will have to refer to you as my cousin, Young Lord Ye," Song Zhiyan said.

"Sure," Ye Guan replied. He had to play along if he wanted to conceal his identity.

The two of them walked up to the entrance, and an old man quickly came forward to greet them. He bowed slightly to Song Zhiyan and said, "Clan Leader Song, the Young Mistress has invited you into the inner hall."

Song Zhiyan nodded.

The old man turned around and led the way, but he turned around and looked at Ye Guan after taking just two steps. The old man looked hesitant, but it seemed like he had something to say.

Song Zhiyan calmly urged, "Lead the way."

The old man dared not speak; he simply turned around to lead the way.

They walked for about half an hour before they finally reached the inner hall. Ye Guan couldn't help but feel annoyed at how inconvenient their journey had been. It wasn't a good thing to have a vast residence, especially if flight was prohibited.

The old man brought the two of them to a great hall. Then, he bowed before leaving.

Song Zhiyan led Ye Guan into the hall, and Ye Guan felt a sharp gaze reminiscent of a sword the moment he walked into the hall. Ye Guan turned toward where the gaze had come from and saw an old man curled up in a corner, looking both frail and eerie.

The old man's eyes flashed in surprise upon realizing that Ye Guan was looking back at him.

Ye Guan retracted his gaze and looked around. There were two men in the hall, and they were staring at him and Song Zhiyan. The two men soon got up and cupped their fists in greeting. "Clan Leader Song."

Song Zhiyan smiled. "Brother Gu, Brother Li."

The two men nodded slightly, and then they looked at Ye Guan.

Song Zhiyan transmitted her voice to Ye Guan. "There are eight major clans in the Eternal Night City. These two men are the heirs from two of those eight major clans: Gu Chen from the Gu Clan and Li Ming from the Li Clan."

So they're a part of the eight major clans? Ye Guan glanced sideways at Song Zhiyan, but he didn't say anything in response. Since there were eight major clans, but only three of them were here, the remaining five major clans had to be on the Eternal Night Clan's side.

Song Zhiyan decisively sat down somewhere, and Ye Guan sat next to her.

Seeing Gu Chen and Li Ming's puzzled expressions, Song Zhiyan smiled and explained, "His name is Ye Guan, and he's a distant cousin of mine."

A cousin? Li Ming and Gu Chen stared at Ye Guan with eyes full of doubt. The inner hall of the Ye Residence wasn't a place that anyone could enter casually.

Song Zhiyan didn't bother explaining even further; she transmitted her voice to Ye Guan, saying, "Shurou is at the outer hall at the moment, and she's entertaining the clans that are slightly weaker than the major clans but are supporting her. She'll join us soon. The people here are her core supporters, and each and every one of her core supporters is already here."

Ye Guan revealed a mysterious smile and replied, "They're all here? I don't think so."

Song Zhiyan was surprised, but she didn't say anything and merely glanced at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan swept his gaze across everyone in the room, thinking that the Eternal Clan definitely had trump cards hidden up their sleeves. They were competing for the throne, after all, so there was no way they only had one or even two tricks up their sleeves.

"I apologize for keeping everyone waiting," a voice echoed from outside. The voice was as gentle and as soft as water.

Li Ming and Gu Chen immediately stood up upon hearing the voice.

Song Zhiyan stood up slowly, and Ye Guan knew that he couldn't remain seated, so he stood up as well and turned to where the voice had come from.

A young woman was walking toward them. The young woman looked to be in her twenties, and she was wearing a light green long dress. Her hair cascaded freely down her shoulders; she wasn't exceptionally beautiful, but she was still beautiful.

Her overall demeanor was sophisticated and elegant, which was further accentuated by her clean and neat fashion style.

Ye Guan believed that she had to be Ye Shurou. Her name fits^[2] her!

Of course, Ye Guan reckoned that Ye Shurou was more than what he could see at the moment. After all, the candidates for the throne couldn't possibly be ordinary.

Ye Shurou's gaze immediately landed on Ye Guan, as he was a new face. Ye Shurou sounded surprised as she asked, "Who is he?"

Song Zhiyan smiled. "He's a distant cousin of mine."

Cousin? Ye Shurou walked up to Song Zhiyan and asked, "How come you haven't mentioned him to me before?"

Song Zhiyan replied, "We didn't really have any interactions until recently."

Ye Shurou nodded and sat down. "Please, everyone, have a seat."

Everyone obliged and sat down.

"Everyone, our chances of winning this election are extremely slim," Ye Shurou said, getting straight to the point.

Silence fell over the group, and their expressions turned gloomy.

Ye Shurou continued, "The Eternal Night Empire has seventeen states, and the Eternal Night Clan has the support of seven. If they gain the support of two more states, we're definitely going to lose."

"What about the Ancient World?" Song Zhiyan asked in a low voice, "What is their stance?"

Ye Shurou shook her head slightly.

Song Zhiyan's face darkened. "The fact that they didn't immediately stand on Ye Anjun's side means that they must be biding their time as well. They're probably going to stand on the side of the winner once everything is decided."

Song Zhiyan turned to Ye Shurou and asked, "What are they asking for?"

Ye Shurou replied, "I don't know what they proposed to Ye Anjun, but they wanted a marriage alliance with me."

Song Zhiyan's expression instantly turned ice cold. "They're bold. If they manage to get into a marriage alliance with you, they will immediately become part of the imperial family once you ascend to the throne."

Li Ming and Gu Chen's expressions turned grim at the remark.

If Ye Shurou were to agree to the Ancient Clan's demand, she would become a mere political tool for the Ancient Clan, even if she managed to become the empress.

Ye Shurou didn't seem to be angry, and she smiled lightly, saying, "It's not strange for them to seek profits. After all, there's no guarantee that I'll win even if they help me. If I lose, the Eternal Night Clan will suppress them in the future."

Song Zhiyan looked at her and asked, "So, what are your plans?"

"Plans?" Ye Shurou shook her head and replied, "We'll do what we can and leave the rest to fate."

Song Zhiyan laughed bitterly. "You're not going to give up that easily, are you?"

"They've given me a deadline. If I do not give them a reply in three days, they'll stand on Ye Anjun's side," Ye Shurou replied.

Ye Guan chimed in, "So, the Ancient Clan is the key to winning the election?"

"Yes," An Shurou said with a nod.

Ye Guan was slightly puzzled. "Isn't the election based on the vote of the people? Why would the Ancient Clan be a deciding factor?"

Ye Shurou explained, "The seventeen states are under the jurisdiction of the empire, but they operate independently. The Ancient Clan has been ruling over their state for a long time, and they have significant influence over there."

"My situation will improve drastically if they choose to stand on my side. The remaining two states that are still on the fence will support me, too."

Ye Guan nodded slightly. "So, if the Ancient Clan supports you, you will have a good chance of winning the elections?"

Ye Shurou shook her head. "Not necessarily. There is another important stage apart from the elections, which is the tournament."

Ye Guan frowned. "Tournament?"

"A candidate for the throne must be proficient in literary and martial arts. Losing in the tournament means disqualification."

"What's the point of this election, then?"

"The winner of the election will receive thirty percent of the King Dao Destiny Aura, which will strengthen them by at least three times."

"Really?"

Ye Shurou nodded.

Ye Guan was silent for a few moments before asking, "Lady Shurou, can we talk privately?"

Everyone in the hall was stunned by Ye Guan's remark.

Ye Shurou looked at Song Zhiyan for a while before saying, "Sure."

Song Zhiyan stood up and smiled at Ye Guan. "You two can talk."

Song Zhiyan then turned around and left. Li Ming and Gu Chen hesitated for a while, but they also left after glancing at Ye Guan.

Soon, only Ye Shurou and Ye Guan were left in the hall.

Ye Shurou smiled. "Young Lord Ye, you're not Zhiyan's cousin, are you?"

Ye Guan nodded. "You have a discerning eye."

"Are you from the outside world?" Ye Shurou asked.

Ye Guan nodded once again.

Ye Shurou was silent for a few moments before saying, "You're willing to help me ascend to the throne in exchange for conditions that are incredibly difficult to fulfill. Is that correct?"

What? She's smarter than I thought... Ye Guan was astonished. Eventually, he decided to tell her everything about the Universe Tribulation and the Time Reversers.

Ye Guan was running out of time, so he decided to be straightforward. After all, there were only two options: cooperate or not. Ye Guan didn't want to waste too much time here.

Ye Shurou paced back and forth across the hall for half an hour before she finally shook her head and said, "Young Lord Ye, even if I do ascend the throne, I won't be able to send troops to assist the True Universe."

Ye Guan stared quietly at Ye Shurou.

Ye Shurou explained, "It's not the Eternal Night Empire's war to fight. The supreme elites here are strong, but they're still no match for the Time Reversers. They're just going to die if I send them out to fight. Hence, I cannot agree to your request, even if you help me become the empress."

Ye Guan argued, "The eruption of the Universe Tribulation affects every living being."

Ye Shurou remained silent.

"The Time Reversers' goal is to annihilate the myriad beings. If the True Universe falls, the Eternal Night Empire will not be spared as well."

Ye Shurou sighed and said, "Young Lord Ye, the Eternal Night Empire is not going to believe you. The Eternal Night Empire will not get involved as long as they're not under any direct threat. People are selfish, after all, and..."

Ye Shurou shook her head and continued, "Young Lord Ye, you're too late."

Ye Guan narrowed his eyes and asked, "The Time Reversers have been here?"

"Yes," Ye Shurou said with a nod.

"They must have promised that if the Eternal Night Empire does not interfere, they will not target you guys. Am I right?"

"They offered more than that," Ye Shurou replied.

Ye Guan stared deeply at Ye Shurou and said, "Let me guess, they offered the True Universe and the Guanyuan Universe to the Eternal Night Empire?"

Ye Shurou nodded and exclaimed, "Brother Anjun, come here!"

A young man clad in an intricate robe walked out. The young man's eyebrows were sharp, and he exuded a domineering aura as a faint smile tugged at his lips

Ye Anjun—the other candidate for the throne!

Little Pagoda spoke for the first time in a while, "Careful."

Rumble!

Thirty terrifying auras abruptly came to life around Ye Guan, and each aura was as strong as a Great Destiny Sovereign.

So this was all a trap!

1. A different "Ye" from Ye Guan's "Ye." The Ye here is "夜" while Ye Guan's Ye is "叶" ?

2. Shurou is 书柔 and 柔 means soft and gentle ?

Chapter 473: You Are Not Worthy

In the hall, a large number of powerful auras converged on Ye Guan. Despite the intense pressure, Ye Guan remained as calm as a tranquil lake. Ye Guan casually lifted a teacup from the nearby table and took a sip before smiling. "Lady Zhiyan truly has a forthright nature."

Ye Anjun chuckled. "Young Master Ye, the King of the Guanxuan Universe, You are truly remarkable for maintaining your composure even in such a dire situation."

Ye Guan stared alternately at Ye Anjun and Ye Shurou. "I presume you two have already reached some kind of arrangement. Am I correct?"

"Indeed," Ye Anjun nodded and took a seat across from Ye Guan. Then, he smiled lightly and said, "Young Master Ye, care to make a guess?"

Ye Guan stated, "A marriage union."

Ye Anjun's eyes narrowed, and Ye Shurou was astonished.

"You two will get married. You'll become the emperor, and she'll become the empress. The vested interests of both factions will be satisfied that way."

The two of them were from the same clan, but Ye Shurou's family bloodline had been diluted to the extent that they could hardly be considered close relatives.

Ye Anjun acknowledged. "Young Master Ye, you're indeed astute."

Moving on, Ye Guan asked, "Do you trust the words of the Time Reversers?"

"Absolutely not," Ye Anjun replied.

"Why choose to help them, then?"

Ye Anjun stared at Ye Guan and said, "Young Master Ye, you're smart, so why don't you guess?"

Ye Guan chuckled. "I believe they presented you with a condition. They will help you become supreme elites capable of entering the Time River. That way, even if the Universe Tribulation erupts, all of you will be completely fine."

The smile tugging at Ye Anjun's lips vanished slowly as he stared deeply at Ye Guan. Ye Shurou, observing Ye Guan from the side, also revealed a hint of anxiety in her expression.

"You want to have your cake and eat it, too," Ye Guan explained, "It'd be great if you could save the Eternal Night Realm, but even if the Eternal Night Realm ended up falling, your safety is still ensured."

"The Time Reversers will help you become even stronger, after all, and you will eventually become strong enough to enter the Time River."

"Your intelligence is remarkable, Young Master Ye," Ye Anjun praised, "As you've pointed out, the throne is appealing, but it pales in comparison to the supremacy of the Great Dao. I am not too concerned about the myriad beings as well, as they are mere pawns."

"If they are useful, we can make use of them. Otherwise, we can just discard them."

Ye Guan chuckled and shook his head. Then, he stood gracefully and turned around to leave.

Ye Anjun glared coldly at Ye Guan and asked, "Do you really think that you can leave just like that, Young Master Ye?"

Ye Guan came to a halt and swept his gaze across Ye Anjun and Ye Shurou.

Ye Anjun smiled, "Young Master Ye, I must admit that you're smart. Ye Shurou would have accepted your offer if it hadn't been for the unfortunate fact that I had already reached an agreement with her."

"We'll have a marriage alliance, and our descendants will ascend to the throne till the end of time."

"Do you really believe that I was choosing between the two of you?" Ye Guan asked.

Ye Anjun was caught off guard.

Ye Shurou's delicate brows furrowed.

Ye Guan faced them with a smile, saying, "Forgive my frankness, but neither of you is worthy enough to work with me."

Ye Shurou's pupils quivered as she exclaimed, "You chose His Majesty!"

Ye Anjun's expression changed drastically, and he roared, "Kill him!"

Rumble!

The nearby elites prepared to take action, but the old man who had been hiding in the corner of the hall suddenly transformed into a streak of light and appeared before Ye Guan.

The old man produced a golden dragon token and yelled, "Ye Anjun and Ye Shurou colluded with the Time Reversers, and they are planning a rebellion! Subdue them immediately by His Majesty's decree, and if they resist, execute them on the spot!"

Dozens of auras flooded the hall, and Ye Anjun froze in horror as he cried out, "The Eternal Night Army!"

Ye Shurou stared at the old man with a grave expression, and her eyes trembled as she muttered, "Elder Mu, why did you betray me?"

Elder Mu calmly explained, "My allegiance has always been with His Majesty."

Ye Shurou trembled like an aspen tree. Elder Mu had been serving their clan for a few hundred years now, and Elder Mu had even watched her grow up. Elder Mu raised her and taught her martial arts; he was like a father figure to her.

Ye Shurou had infinite trust in him, but it turned out that Elder Mu had been serving the emperor all this while.

Elder Mu's expression turned complicated as he said, "Shurou, I've recorded everything, and I've just transmitted everything to His Majesty. Sorry, but... you've lost."

Ye Shurou slumped into a chair, and she looked like she had just lost her soul.

Elder Mu turned toward Ye Guan and bowed, "Young Master Ye, His Majesty the Emperor wants to meet you."

Ye Guan turned around and walked away. Just as Ye Guan reached the door, he came to a halt and turned to face Ye Shurou and Ye Anjun. "You two seemed to have forgotten the reigning emperor while you were busy with your power struggles."

Ye Shurou's face was pallid as she asked. "So you had no intentions of working with me? You just wanted to talk to me? Was that it?"

"No, I wanted to work with you. I wasn't sure about His Majesty's stance, after all." Ye Guan replied, "However, I realized that you two fall short compared to His Majesty, and forgive me for the blunt words, but Lady Shurou... your status is too low. You're not qualified to get involved in my affairs against the Time Reverses."

Ye Guan turned around and left.

Ye Shurou smiled bitterly—years of planning had collapsed in an instant.

Ye Anjun's face was dark as he muttered, "We still have the Time Reversers..."

Ye Shurou turned to Ye Anjun, and her eyes were filled with disappointment as she muttered, "They're not going to spare us another glance, as we've already lost the qualifications to compete for the throne."

Ye Shurou was right, as the powerful auras outside suddenly receded like a tide.

Ye Anjun slumped into a chair. The Time Reversers had abandoned them.

Meanwhile, over a dozen figures in black battle armor appeared on both sides of Ye Guan. They were members of the Eternal Night Army.

Every single one of them exuded an extremely terrifying aura. They were Great Destiny Sovereigns, but Ye Guan could feel that they were far stronger than the average Great Destiny Sovereigns.

Ye Guan walked away under the escort of the Eternal Night Army. Ye Guan was about to walk out of the main hall when his gaze landed on a tall building to his right.

A young man in white was standing on the roof of the tall building, and he was smiling as he said, "Young Master Ye, I really didn't expect you to choose the emperor. You've truly surprised me."

Ye Guan ignored the young man in white and walked away.

The young man in white frowned and asked, "Young Master Ye, do you really think that you can win?"

Ye Guan stopped in his tracks and turned to the young man in white.

"Wanna duel?"

The young man in white's eyes narrowed.

"Let's duel right here, and I'm not going to ask for help. Let's decide life and death in one duel."

The young man in white didn't respond and stared at Ye Guan in silence.

Ye Guan smirked and suggested, "Tell the Clan Leader of the Past Clan to find another opponent for me. You're not worthy to be my enemy."

Ye Guan turned around and walked away.

Elder Mu cast an admiring gaze upon Ye Guan. What a ruthless young man!

Elder Mu recalled something, and he sighed softly. Shurou and Ye Anjun were indeed no match for the young man in terms of intelligence and strength.

Ye Guan found Song Zhiyan outside the hall.

"It's nice to see you again, Lady Zhiyan," Ye Guan said with a smile. Then, he turned around and left.

Song Zhiyan stared at Ye Guan's departing figure in silence.

Ye Guan had to admit that he was surprised by the fact that Song Zhiyan had obeyed his instructions about hiding his identity from Ye Shurou. Song Zhiyan was indeed an upright young woman.

Song Zhiyan's expression was complicated as she stared at Ye Guan. She was thankful that Ye Guan had uncovered Ye Shurou's scheme before Song Zhiyan could declare her stance to stand on Ye Shurou's side.

Otherwise, the entire Song Clan would have been annihilated.

Ye Guan had just indirectly saved the Song Clan. After all, the losers would always get annihilated, while the winners would survive.

Soon, Ye Guan was escorted to the Imperial Palace of the Eternal Night Realm. Ye Guan looked around and found that it was indeed worthy of its status as the imperial palace, as it was both exceedingly magnificent and grand.

Naturally, security was incredibly tight, and there were multiple arrays in place. Quite a few imperial guards examined the palace nonstop with their divine senses, creating a massive net that enveloped everything.

It soon became clear to Ye Guan that the emperor was afraid of the Time Reversers.

Elder Mu led Ye Guan to a grand hall.

Elder Mu bowed at the hall and retreated while bowing all throughout.

Ye Guan entered the hall and was surprised by its vastness. There was a large golden dragon throne in the distance, and a middle-aged man wearing a dragon robe was sitting on the throne. The middle-aged man had long hair, well-defined facial features, and an imposing aura.

Someone else was in the hall, and they were none other than the Great Daoist Brush Master! It turned out that the true goal behind their journey here was the emperor's help rather than the help of either of the two candidates for the throne.

The Great Daoist Brush Master smiled upon seeing Ye Guan. "This is Emperor Ye Jun, and you can simply address him as Senior."

Ye Guan nodded and turned to Ye Jun. "Greetings, Senior!"

Ye Jun stared deeply at Ye Guan. After a brief moment of silence, Ye Jun chuckled and said, "As expected of the True God's chosen one, you're not only smart, but you're also invincible among your peers."

Ye Guan smiled and replied, "Unfortunately, my opponents aren't my peers."

"Indeed, but the enemies of a true genius are always opponents who are stronger than them!" Ye Jun said.

Ye Guan fell silent. Easy for you to say when you're not in my shoes!

Ye Jun suddenly said, "I've been talking with the Great Daoist Brush Master for quite a while now, and he wants my Eternal Night Realm to assist the True Universe. I agree, but I have a one and only condition."

Ye Guan asked, "What is it?"

Ye Jun stared at Ye Guan and replied, "Marriage!"

Ye Guan went silent.

Chapter 474: Find Someone Else

Marriage!

After a thoughtful pause, Ye Guan turned to the Great Daoist Brush Master. He nonchalantly shrugged and remarked, "I never agreed to his terms, and he didn't promise an alliance either. He just wanted to check you out. Seems like he's impressed with you. Well, blame it on your excessive brilliance!"

Ye Guan's face was filled with frustration. As if I'd believe your nonsense.

The Great Daoist Brush Master chuckled, knowing that it was futile to further persuade Ye Guan.

Ye Guan shifted his gaze to Ye Jun and was about to speak when Ye Jun beat him to the chase, saying, "Young Master Ye, I understand your aversion to marriage alliances, but I need justification to aid the True Universe and the Guanxuan Universe.

"The Time Reversers aren't actively targeting us, so if I aid you, I'll definitely face opposition. However, everything will change with a marriage alliance, especially if it's going to bring us a ton of profits."

Ye Guan remained contemplative.

Ye Jun stared into Ye Guan's eyes and said, "Take your time. However, time is of the essence, so you should decide as soon as possible."

Ye Guan glanced at the Great Daoist Brush Master.

The Great Daoist Brush Master shrugged and said, "The ball's in your court."

Ye Guan finally responded, "Who's the bride?"

Ye Jun answered, "My daughter."

Ye Guan said, "Mind if I meet her before sealing the deal?"

Ye Jun's gaze changed slightly as he nodded. "Certainly."

Then, Ye Jun turned around and called out, "Summon Princess Nanfeng here."

A mysterious figure bowed and walked out of the hall.

Soon, a young woman entered the hall.

Ye Guan turned around and saw a young woman in her twenties. She was in a black gown that added an air of maturity to her young demeanor. Her movements were graceful, but she exuded an air of aloofness worthy of her status.

Ye Nanfeng acknowledged Ye Jun with a bow and went silent. She didn't even glance at Ye Guan. Ye Jun stared alternately between the two before saying, "Sort this out yourselves."

Ye Jun then stood up and left

The Great Daoist Brush Master walked up to Ye Guan. "I know you're not comfortable, but—"

"Hurry up and leave," Ye Guan interrupted, "We're going to talk privately."

The Great Daoist Brush Master's expression stiffened, and he stared at Ye Guan with a frown. Did I overestimate him? I think this bastard only wants to marry those who are beautiful enough while he ignores the rest who can't meet his standards.

The Great Daoist Brush Master shook his head and cursed inwardly before turning around to leave.

Soon, Ye Guan and Ye Nanfeng were the only ones in the hall.

There was silence in the air between them, which made the atmosphere feel tense.

Ye Guan found Ye Nanfeng to be quite beautiful. Ye Guan approached her carefully, while Ye Nanfeng still didn't want to meet Ye Guan's gaze.

"Lady Nanfeng," Ye Guan said, "I can see that you don't like the idea of getting married to me, and I understand. If you can't say no to Senior Ye Jun, I'll go and speak to him."

Ye Guan turned around and walked away.

"No need!" Ye Nanfeng exclaimed, "There's no need for you to say anything."

Ye Guan turned around to stare at Ye Nanfeng.

Ye Nanfeng calmly explained. "They know you possess three formidable bloodlines, and every single one of them is stronger than our bloodline. They're not going to let the chance to enhance our bloodline slip away."

"What I'm trying to say is that if you don't want to get married, we can simply find someone else," Ye Guan said.

Ye Nanfeng was surprised.

Ye Guan smiled and explained, "Truth be told, I'm also not exactly thrilled about this marriage. The idea of two strangers being forced together doesn't sit well with me."

"However, you're right. The Eternal Night Empire wants my help to enhance your bloodline. If I decline, the Eternal Night Empire might even stand on the Time Reversers' side, much less help us."

"I heard that you're a swordsman. Is it true?" Ye Nanfeng asked.

Ye Guan nodded.

Ye Nanfeng's voice was tinged with sarcasm as she said, "A swordsman's moral integrity is crucial to their Dao. Are you not afraid of hurting your Dao by agreeing to this marriage, even though you're not exactly willing to do it?"

Ye Guan locked eyes with her and said, "I can sense that your resistance to the idea of getting married to me is beyond mere reluctance, Princess Nanfeng. I assume you can't resist your father, so you're being rude to me..."

Ye Guan shook his head and chuckled. Then, he walked away.

Ye Nanfeng frowned. "What are you doing?"

"I'm going to look for someone else," replied Ye Guan.

Ye Nanfeng's expression shifted, and she hurriedly exclaimed, "Wait!"

Ye Guan didn't stop.

Ye Nanfeng panicked and cried out, "Young Master Ye! I already told my father that I agree to this marriage..."

Ye Guan finally stopped, and he turned around to look at Ye Nanfeng.

"You agree? Well, I don't," said Ye Guan before walking away.

Ye Nanfeng froze, but she immediately came to her senses and rushed toward Ye Guan, catching up to him in the proverbial blink of an eye. Taking a deep breath, Ye Nanfeng composed herself and said, "I apologize for my attitude, Young Master Ye!"

"Why apologize?" Ye Guan stared at Ye Nanfeng and said, "I appreciate your defiance."

With that, Ye Guan sidestepped and continued walking away.

Frustrated, Ye Nanfeng clenched her fists and exclaimed, "What more do you want from me?!"

Ye Guan faced Ye Nanfeng once more and smirked, "Do you really think that I'm desperate to get married to you? Who do you think is more desperate here?"

Ye Nanfeng stared at Ye Guan and said, "The Eternal Night Clan's status is the highest among every other clan in the Eternal Night Empire. If we end up getting married, your status in your clan will shoot through the roof."

Ye Guan frowned. "So you're saying that I stand to gain a ton if I were to get married into your Eternal Night Clan? Are you implying that's the reason I'm here for a marriage alliance?"

"Isn't that the case?" Ye Nanfeng asked.

Ye Guan shook his head and chided, "You're such a naïve woman."

The word "naïve" was a word Ye Guan had learned from Blue Planet, and he finally managed to use it.

Ye Nanfeng's face flushed red; Ye Guan's remark had infuriated her. She couldn't understand the word "naïve," but Ye Guan's expression made it clear that it wasn't a compliment.

Ye Guan shrugged and stared calmly at Ye Nanfeng. "Personally, I'm not one to flaunt my family's status, but let me be frank, Miss Nanfeng—no family, clan, sect, or organization has ever managed to rival the might of my Yang Family. This holds true even throughout the vast expanse."

Ye Guan turned around and left.

Left standing by herself, Ye Nanfeng's expression was of extreme displeasure, but her expression changed greatly upon realizing that Ye Guan was about to leave. Ye Nanfeng hurriedly chased after him.

Ye Nanfeng couldn't allow Ye Guan to leave just like that, as her father had told her that she would become the next empress as long as she married Ye Guan. The marriage would also elevate the Ye Family's bloodline through her. In other words, her destiny would change; she would no longer be a pawn of her relatives.

Most importantly, she would have the backing of her husband's powerful family.

Ye Nanfeng's sharp remarks and cold attitude earlier were the result of her displeasure upon finding herself thrust into an arranged marriage.

However, she didn't expect Ye Guan to be so unyielding and sensitive.

Ye Nanfeng walked up to Ye Guan, but she found herself unable to move even an inch upon getting immobilized by a powerful sword intent. Ye Nanfeng's expression changed drastically, but the sword intent disappeared moments later, as Ye Guan had already stepped out of the hall.

Ye Jun sighed upon seeing Ye Guan's dark expression. The Great Daoist Brush Master glanced at Ye Nanfeng rushing out of the hall, but he didn't say anything.

Ye Guan grinned. "Senior, we should look for someone else."

Ye Jun looked at Ye Guan and asked, "You sure about that?"

Ye Guan nodded.

Ye Jun glanced at Ye Nanfeng before saying, "She's the most beautiful of my daughters. She's also the most talented, and her King Dao Bloodline is pure—"

"Let's look for someone else!" Ye Guan interrupted.

Ye Jun went silent and sighed. "Fine."

Ye Nanfeng's face instantly turned pale. "Father..."

Ye Jun waved his hand. "You may leave."

A glance was enough for Ye Jun to deduce what had transpired inside the hall, and his eyes filled with disappointment as he stared at Ye Nanfeng.

Ye Jun had talked to her about this before Ye Guan's arrival, so he was truly disappointed that Ye Nanfeng had still ended up being so reckless.

Ye Jun was the Emperor of the Eternal Night Empire, but he had to be respectful to Ye Guan, so how could Ye Nanfeng afford to disrespect Ye Guan? The Great Daoist Brush Master was also a peak supreme elite that the Eternal Night Empire couldn't afford to offend, but he was actually standing on Ye Guan's side.

To make matters worse, Ye Guan had the True God's backing as well. Ye Jun's probing also allowed him to reach the conclusion that Ye Guan's identity was far more complex than it appeared.

Once Ye Nanfeng was married to Ye Guan, her position in the Eternal Night Empire would solidify. No one would be able to challenge her authority by then. Once Ye Guan's three bloodlines enhanced her bloodline, she'd inevitably become a terrifying powerhouse.

Unfortunately, Ye Nanfeng had failed to meet every single one of Ye Jun's expectations. Ye Nanfeng wanted to say something, but Ye Jun gestured for her to leave once again and even exclaimed, "Stand down!"

Ye Nanfeng went beyond pallid. Ye Jun's remark meant that she no longer had any chance of becoming the empress. Ye Nanfeng felt like she was at the summit just a few moments ago, but she plummeted to the bottom in the blink of an eye.

Ye Jun ignored Ye Nanfeng and calmly said, "Bring Ye Nanqing here."

Ye Nanqing?! Ye Nanfeng glanced at her father in shock. She wasn't shocked that her sister had been summoned to replace her; rather, she was shocked that her father had readily agreed to Ye Guan's request.

Ye Nanfeng realized something horrifying just then.

Soon, a young woman appeared, and she had a striking resemblance to Ye Nanfeng; the only difference was that Ye Nanfeng exuded a cold, frigid air, while Ye Nanqing exuded an amiable, approachable air, which was accentuated by her light ink-colored long dress.

Ye Nanqing's cultivation base was low; she was just a paltry Time Immortal Realm.

In addition, her cultivation base seemed unstable as well, which meant she had definitely raised her cultivation base using external means.

Ye Nanfeng was a Great Sovereign, so Ye Nanqing's cultivation base was definitely inferior to the former.

Ye Nanqing bowed respectfully to Ye Jun and greeted, "Father!"

Ye Jun nodded slightly. "Go and have a talk with Young Master Ye."

Ye Nanqing was a bit surprised to hear that. She turned her gaze to Ye Guan and bowed gracefully.
"Young Master Ye!"

Ye Guan smiled. "Lady Nanqing, let's talk inside the hall!"

Ye Guan turned around and walked away.

Ye Nanqing hesitated briefly, but she still followed him into the hall.

Upon arriving inside the hall, Ye Guan immediately looked at Ye Nanqing and asked, "Do you know why your father asked you to come here?"

Ye Nanqing nodded slightly.

Ye Guan asked, "What do you think?"

"I think you should choose my sister, Ye Nanfeng, Young Master Ye," Ye Nanqing replied with a smile.
"Her talent is exceptional, and my father has always considered her his heir."

"What if I choose you?" Ye Guan asked.

Ye Nanqing was silent for quite a while before saying, "Young Master Ye, forgive me for my blunt words, but I dislike arranged marriages. Unfortunately, I know that I can't refuse this arrangement. My father is just going to marry me away someday in exchange for profits."

"You didn't answer my question." Ye Guan pointed out.

"Marry me, and I'll fulfill my duties as your wife," Ye Nanqing replied, observing Ye Guan's expression. The implication was that they could get married, and Ye Nanqing would still fulfill her duties as a wife, even though she had no feelings for Ye Guan.

"I understand what you're trying to say, Lady Nanqing. How about this? We can announce our marriage to the public, but there's no need for us to behave like real couples. I'll enhance your family's bloodline, and I'll help you become the Empress of the Eternal Night Empire. Once the dust has settled, we can part ways and announce our divorce to the public.

"You'll be emancipated by then!" Ye Guan suggested.

Ye Nanqing froze and stared at Ye Guan in disbelief.

Chapter 475: One Hundred Percent!

Ye Guan wasn't thrilled about the idea of arranged marriages, but he needed the support of the Eternal Night Empire, so he decided to compromise.

They decided to have a marriage of convenience—a bond wherein they wouldn't have to fulfill their marriage vows. It would be a win-win situation.

Ye Nanqing appeared surprised by Ye Guan's proposal. She couldn't help but doubt whether Ye Guan was serious or not, so she decided to ask, "Is this really okay for you, Young Master Ye?"

Ye Guan nodded with a confident smile. "We just have to work together, and it's all going to work out in the end."

Ye Nanqing was silent.

"Why do you look like you're hesitating?" Ye Guan asked.

Ye Nanqing met Ye Guan's gaze and suggested, "Why don't you approach my sister? She's powerful, and she should be a better partner."

"I did consider her," Ye Guan replied, "However, I didn't like her personality at all."

Ye Nanqing nodded. "Okay, I understand what I have to do, Young Master Ye."

Ye Guan grinned. "It's settled, then. We'll have a marriage of convenience, and we'll go our separate ways once everything has been sorted."

Ye Nanqing nodded.

"Let's go outside," Ye Guan suggested and led Ye Nanqing out of the grand hall.

Ye Nanqing nodded at Ye Jun.

Ye Jun smiled instantly. The marriage alliance was established, and they stood to gain a ton, as Ye Guan's backers were the True Universe and the Guanyuan Universe.

"The wedding will be in three days! Ye Jun announced decisively.

The sudden announcement astonished both Ye Guan and Ye Nanqing.

Noticing Ye Guan's surprise, Ye Jun explained, "Young Master Ye, don't be surprised. I want Nanqing to get married to you as soon as possible because I want her to contend for the throne!"

Confused, Ye Guan asked, "Aren't you interested in continuing your term, Senior?"

Ye Jun smiled and explained, "It is unnecessary. I've reached a bottleneck, and the King Dao Destiny Aura is no longer that useful to me. I'd stand to gain more if I were to step back and focus on my cultivation.

Ye Guan nodded and went silent.

Meanwhile, Ye Nanqing hesitated briefly before saying, "Father, I..."

Ye Jun chuckled. "Don't worry. Now that Ye Anjun and Ye Shurou have both fallen from grace, you no longer have any competitors. And even if there were, I believe Young Master Ye here would help you navigate through any challenges!"

Ye Nanqing glanced at Ye Guan but chose to remain silent.

Ye Guan glanced at the Great Daoist Brush Master, and the latter nodded.

Ye Guan smiled wryly. Getting married in three days is just... it's so soon!

Ye Jun laughed and said, "Young Master Ye, let's keep the marriage simple given the circumstances. Don't worry, we will handle everything!"

Ye Guan nodded. "Sounds great."

"I suggest you stay here in the palace, Young Master Ye. I've heard reports from the imperial guards that a few Time Reversers are still in the Eternal Night Empire. I don't think they're going to give up that easily."

Ye Guan acknowledged. "Understood."

And you two are going to stay together," Ye Jun added.

Both Ye Guan and Ye Nanqing looked at Ye Jun in surprise.

Ye Jun explained solemnly, "Don't overthink it. I'm just concerned that the Time Reversers will target Nanqing. If something were to happen to her, our plan would be ruined."

Ye Guan chose not to say anything in response.

"That's a great idea," the Great Daoist Brush Master chimed in, "It might also help foster a deeper connection."

Ye Guan turned to face Ye Nanqing, who lowered her head without uttering a word.

Ye Jun said, "Nanqing, take Young Master Ye downstairs to rest!"

Ye Nanqing nodded and looked at Ye Guan. "Young Master Ye, please."

Ye Guan nodded and followed Ye Nanqing away.

"Senior..." Ye Jun muttered, "I've put everything on the line for this."

The Great Daoist Brush Master remained composed as he replied, "I did the same, so what's there to fear?"

Ye Jun sighed. Truth be told, if it hadn't been for the Great Daoist Brush Master, he wouldn't have dared to collaborate with Ye Guan. The Time Reversers were truly powerful, and Ye Jun knew that there were even more powerful Time Reversers.

The Time Reversers were beings capable of reversing the flow of time, which was a feat that Ye Jun found difficult to accomplish himself.

If it hadn't been for Eternal Night City's powerful arrays and the King Dao Destiny Aura on him, those Time Reversers would have killed him last night.

In other words, Ye Jun was gambling here, and the stakes were the entire Eternal Night Empire.

"Everyone's going to die if he fails," the Great Daoist Brush Master said, "If he succeeds, countless beings will lose their cultivation base due to the Universe Tribulation, but you will undoubtedly be safe as one of his relatives."

"You will be grateful for the choice you made today."

Ye Jun nodded. "I hope so."

The Great Daoist Brush Master nodded and turned around to leave. He still had other matters to handle.

Just then, Ye Jun's countenance changed, and his voice changed as well as he shouted, "Guards!"

A figure in black appeared before him and knelt down. "Your Majesty!"

Ye Jun calmly said, "Pass down my decree: henceforth, the imperial palace is under strict lockdown. All cultivators in seclusion must come out; defensive arrays are to be set and be ready to be activated at any moment.

"Furthermore, dispatch all scouts and notify the leaders of the seventeen states to bring their elites to the imperial city. Those who defy this order will have to bear the consequences."

The figure clad in black acknowledged the command with a bow and disappeared.

Ye Jun looked up at the vast sky with an expression tinged with concern. The Great Daoist Brush Master had been a crucial figure in the founding of the Eternal Night Clan's Eternal Night Empire. In addition, the Great Daoist Brush Master could be considered the individual closest to the Great Dao.

Ye Jun had willingly decided to stand on the Great Daoist Brush Master's side.

Ye Jun turned around and left.

...

Meanwhile, Ye Nanqing led Ye Guan to her room.

Ye Nanqing's room was cozy rather than spacious, and the subtle fragrance of sandalwood lingered in the air.

Ye Nanqing felt a bit uneasy, as this was the first time she brought someone into her personal space. However, she steeled her resolve and poured a cup of tea for Ye Guan.

"Young Master Ye, please," Ye Nanqing said.

Ye Guan smiled at Ye Nanqing. "Lady Nanqing, please take a seat as well."

Ye Nanqing hesitated briefly before sitting across from Ye Guan.

Ye Guan revealed a friendly smile and asked, "Lady Nanqing, do I give off a villainous vibe?"

Ye Nanqing shook her head.

"Then, why do you seem a little apprehensive around me?" Ye Guan asked.

"I'm just a bit... uncomfortable."

Ye Guan remarked, "You don't like this, do you?"

Ye Nanqing met Ye Guan's gaze and nodded.

"Your father seems like he's in a hurry to marry you off, and he even instructed you to bring me to your room. You feel as if he's treating you as if you're a commodity, and he's so eager about marrying you off to the point of disregarding your feelings."

Ye Nanqing revealed a thoughtful look at Ye Guan's words, but she chose not to say anything.

Ye Guan pondered briefly over the situation and suggested, "Lady Nanqing, how about you look at this from a different perspective?"

Perplexed, Ye Nanqing asked, "A different perspective?"

Ye Guan nodded. "Indeed. Isn't this an opportunity to change your destiny? You can choose not to marry me, but do you really think that you can avoid marriage completely?"

"Your father is probably going to arrange another marriage for you in the future. If you want to avoid being treated as a mere pawn, you have to become a player."

Ye Nanqing pondered silently over Ye Guan's words.

"If everything goes according to plan, you'll ascend to the throne and become the Empress of the Eternal Night Empire. By then, the entire Eternal Night Empire is in your hands. However, you're too weak, so you have to become even stronger before then so that you won't get manipulated by others."

"I can assist you in that regard. I'll elevate your bloodline and take it to a whole new level. This way, not only will your strength experience a significant upgrade, but your status in the Eternal Night Clan will become rock solid as well," Ye Guan said.

Then, he took a sip of the tea in his teacup and grinned before continuing, "Everything seems brighter now that you're looking at it from a different perspective, right?"

Ye Guan glanced at the quiet Ye Nanqing and said, "I understand your concerns. Rest assured, I won't take advantage of you nor even attempt to control you. Once everything is settled, I'll make a public statement, and we can part ways amicably. I'll also bid farewell to this place."

"You're a good person, Young Master Ye."

Ye Guan laughed heartily.

Ye Nanqing frowned in confusion and asked, "What's funny, Young Master Ye?"

Ye Guan chuckled. "I once visited a place called the Milky Way. Being a good person in that place has a unique connotation."

Ye Nanqing was intrigued. "A unique connotation?"

Ye Guan nodded. "In that place, if a woman isn't interested in a man, she might say, 'you're a good person... but we're not suitable for each other.'"

Ye Nanqing was stunned, and then she smiled. Of course, she quickly composed herself.

Ye Guan felt the urge to offer a compliment upon witnessing Ye Nanqing's smile, but he remembered Little Jia's advice about how he had to avoid complimenting women in case they might misunderstand him. Ye Guan didn't dare to compliment Ye Nanqing. In the end, Ye Guan said, "Lady Nanqing, I have to cultivate."

"Sure," said Ye Nanqing with a nod.

Ye Guan walked away and entered the world inside the tiny pagoda. Ye Guan remained silent for a long time as she stared at where she last saw Ye Guan before the latter disappeared into thin air.

Eventually, Ye Nanqing stood up and left.

Ye Nanqing's face became exceedingly calm, and her submissive demeanor from earlier had vanished.

Ye Nanqing soon arrived at a hall and found the one and only figure inside the room—Ye Jun.

Ye Jun stared at Ye Nanqing and asked, "What do you think of him?"

Ye Nanqing responded, "He doesn't seem to have many ulterior motives."

"He has ulterior motives, but it's not many?" Ye Jun frowned.

Ye Nanqing nodded.

"What are your chances of defeating him in a confrontation?"

Ye Nanqing calmly responded, "My chances are a hundred percent."

Ye Jun's eyes flashed sharply. "Even a Great Destiny Sovereign is an ant before him."

Ye Nanqing calmly repeated, "My chances are a hundred percent."

Ye Jun smiled. "If you can take advantage of his three bloodlines to shatter the constraints of that woman's bloodline, then your power will soar to new heights. Perhaps you may even become as strong as her."

Ye Nanqing remained composed, but she didn't say anything in response.

"Nanqing, the reason I want you to marry him is to prevent the Eternal Night Empire from becoming someone else's lackey. He's a remarkably astute young man, but your sister couldn't get along with him. If you can..." Ye Jun trailed off.

Staring into Ye Nanqing's eyes, Ye Jun continued, "Do you understand?"

Once a woman fell for a man, it would be game over. The same was true for once a man fell for a woman. By then, true cooperation was impossible. However, the Eternal Night Clan wanted more than cooperation; they wanted to dominate and prosper!

Chapter 476: Am I Ugly?

Ye Jun was worried that the Eternal Night Clan would simply provide a dowry for Ye Guan. Ye Guan was a heaven-defying monstrous talent, and he was pretty smart as well. Ye Jun was afraid of sustaining heavy losses if things went wrong once he had sent his men to help Ye Guan.

Ye Nanqing glanced at Ye Jun, but she didn't say anything before leaving.

Ye Jun smiled wryly. He felt helpless when it came to Ye Nanqing.

Ye Nanqing had always been a terrifying, monstrous talent, but unlike Ye Nanfeng, she was low-key and rarely interacted with outsiders. She was focused solely on cultivation.

Furthermore, she showed no courtesy to anyone aside from her mother.

Her mother was also the reason she decided to step forward and marry Ye Guan. If it hadn't been for her mother, Ye Jun wouldn't have been able to make her move at all.

Fortunately, she definitely wouldn't be at a disadvantage once she married Ye Guan.

...

Ye Guan walked up to Ao Qianqian in the world inside the tiny pagoda. Ao Qianqian had made a breakthrough to become a Great Time Sovereign. Her aura was still surging as well, and the aura of her bloodline had become significantly stronger.

So this is the power of the Ancestral Dragon's inheritance... Ye Guan Guan smiled, knowing that Ao Qianqian would emerge as a Great Destiny Sovereign from the tiny pagoda.

This was all thanks to the plain-skirt lady. Ye Guan had to admit that his plain-skirt aunt was truly generous.

Ye Guan called out, "Master Pagoda?"

"What?" Little Pagoda asked.

Ye Guan asked, "Do you know anything about my third bloodline?"

Little Pagoda replied, "Nope."

Ye Guan frowned. "Really?"

After a moment of silence, Little Pagoda replied, "It's a really unique bloodline, and it's going to be a bit more challenging to awaken it compared to your Mad Demon Bloodline."

Ye Guan questioned, "How strong is it?"

Little Pagoda asserted, "It's extremely strong."

Ye Guan nodded. "I see."

"Awaken that bloodline, and you'll become extremely formidable."

Ye Guan chuckled and pointed. "There must be a catch, right?"

Little Pagoda answered, "Of course."

Ye Guan pondered, "What if I activated all three bloodlines simultaneously?"

"Then it'd depend on whether you're strong enough to subdue them."

Ye Guan became more and more curious about his third bloodline. However, he didn't ask more questions and left the world inside the tiny pagoda. Ye Guan found Ye Nanqing when he reappeared in the room.

Ye Nanqing saw Ye Guan, but she didn't ask any questions.

Ye Guan looked outside and remarked, "Lady Nanqing, do you want to rest?"

"Rest?" Ye Nanqing asked in surprise.

Ye Guan nodded.

Ye Nanqing was quiet.

Ye Guan smiled at that and said, "I'll go ahead and rest, then!"

Then, Ye Guan pointed at the nearby bed and asked, "You don't mind, do you?"

Ye Nanqing shook her head. Cultivators could survive without sleep, and it had been years since Ye Nanqing slept.

Ye Guan walked up to the bed and lay down, closing his eyes slowly.

Ye Guan had developed the habit of sleeping every time since his sojourn in Blue Planet. Ye Guan no longer favored the fast-paced lifestyle of cultivators. He believed that life was full of routines, and Ye Guan no longer wanted to cultivate all the time.

Ye Guan immediately fell asleep, astonishing Ye Nanqing.

Ye Nanqing checked and discovered that Ye Guan had truly fallen asleep.

Eventually, Ye Nanqing turned around and sat on a nearby chair. She closed her eyes and started cultivating. If Ye Guan were awake, he would be astonished, as Ye Nanqing was absorbing spiritual

energy from other spacetime dimensions. As far as Ye Guan knew, only a Spirit Progenitor like Little White could do such a thing.

The night passed, and Ye Guan opened his eyes slowly upon getting hit by the first rays of sunlight. He yawned and stretched lazily before casting his gaze upon Ye Nanqing not too far away from him in a chair.

Ye Nanqing had to have finished cultivating not too long ago, as she was staring at Ye Guan. Ye Guan stood up and ambled over to the nearby table, where he produced two bowls before taking out two packets of instant noodles that he had purchased from Blue Planet.

Ye Guan cooked the noodles and turned to Ye Nanqing.

"Lady Nanqing, do you want some?" Ye Guan offered with a smile.

Ye Nanqing shook her head instinctively.

However, Ye Guan urged, "Just give it a shot; it's surprisingly tasty."

Ye Nanqing remained reluctant.

Seeing that, Ye Guan simply handed her a bowl of noodles and said, "Just a taste."

Ye Nanqing glanced at Ye Guan and gave in. She accepted the chopsticks and took a bite of the noodles. The umami and flavors of the noodles instantly pervaded her mouth, stupefying her.

Ye Guan asked, "How is it?"

Ye Nanqing nodded. "Not bad!"

Then, Ye Nanqing turned to Ye Guan with curious eyes and asked, "What kind of noodles are these? It's pretty tasty!"

Ye Guan chuckled. "Instant noodles—I made it myself!"

Ye Nanqing gazed at Ye Guan without uttering a word. Ye Guan smiled and started eating, but the smile on his face faded away. If only Sister Zhen were here...

Ye Guan shook his head and made quick work of the noodles.

Ye Nanqing had annihilated the noodles as well, and she inwardly admitted that she liked it.

Ye Guan put away the utensils and bowls before walking out of the room.

Ye Guan was astonished to see that the palace had been decorated with festive decorations featuring red banners and red lights; they were all necessary for a wedding's jubilant atmosphere.

Ye Nanqing walked up to Ye Guan from behind.

Ye Guan remarked, "So it'll happen the day after tomorrow..."

Ye Nanqing nodded.

Ye Guan turned to look at Ye Nanqing and saw that she was as calm as a placid lake.

Ye Guan pondered briefly over something before saying, "Lady Nanqing, rest assured. I will definitely keep my word. This marriage is just for convenience's sake."

"Am I ugly?" Ye Nanqing asked.

Ye Guan was taken aback.

"Are you that afraid of becoming my husband?" Ye Nanqing asked.

Ye Guan was bewildered. What is she even thinking?

Ye Nanqing's gaze settled on Ye Guan, seemingly waiting for his response.

"I thought you disliked arranged marriages?" Ye Guan asked back.

Ye Nanqing nodded. "Yes, I dislike them. However, you've emphasized multiple times that our marriage is just for convenience's sake. Why is that? Is it because I'm ugly?"

Ye Guan stared deeply at Ye Nanqing. "How about we turn it into the real deal?"

Ye Nanqing shook her head. "No way."

Ye Guan rolled his eyes, utterly flabbergasted. A woman's mind was indeed too intricate to unravel. Ye Nanqing could decline without any explanation, while he had to explain his side.

A fleeting smile tugged at Ye Nanqing's lips upon seeing Ye Guan's flabbergasted face.

Just then, Ye Nanqing looked up and frowned. Ye Guan grabbed Ye Nanqing's hand and pulled her away.

A spear descended from the skies and landed on where Ye Guan and Ye Nanqing once stood.

Boom!

Dozens of powerful auras instantly came to life within the imperial palace; every single aura belonged to a Great Destiny Sovereign, and they were all members of the Eternal Night Army.

Ye Guan looked up and saw a young man in white overhead. The young man was holding a spear with a light smile. He was the same young man in white that Ye Guan had encountered back at Ye Shurou's residence.

Ye Nanqing glanced quietly at the two Eternal Night Army troops on her right.

The young man in white grinned and challenged. "A duel, right? Come here, then!"

Swoosh!

Ye Guan held Ye Nanqing's waist and transformed into a streak of sword light that shot to the sky. The two Eternal Night Army troops on Ye Nanqing's right rushed toward Ye Guan and Ye Nanqing.

The abrupt turn of events startled the nearby Eternal Night Army troops. They were about to rush forward, but it was too late. The two Eternal Night Army troops had already reached Ye Guan and Ye Nanqing with their weapons in hand.

Ye Guan pulled Ye Nanqing behind him and slashed out, unleashing three Heavenrends with an ample amount of stacks each!

Boom!

The two Eternal Night Army troops were blasted by at least a few kilometers away!

Ye Guan didn't rush toward the young man in white. He held Ye Nanqing's waist with a wary expression.

Had the enemy breached the imperial palace?

Ye Guan frowned deeply.

Just then, a middle-aged man materialized next to Ye Guan. He was none other than Ye Jun, and he was accompanied by six mysterious figures clad in white robes.

Ye Jun's expression mirrored the gravity of the situation.

The Time Reversers actually dared to make a move in the Eternal Night Empire's Imperial Palace. Ye Guan stared at the young man in white, and the latter was staring at Ye Guan as well.

"How did you know that our men were around you?" asked the young man in white.

Ye Guan calmly replied, "It's because I knew that trash like you wouldn't dare to face me one-on-one. The fact that you offered to fight me in a duel means that you're trying to lure me into fighting you, allowing your men to attack Lady Nanqing.

Ye Nanqing glanced at Ye Guan but remained silent.

The young man in white sneered, "Do you really think you're that strong?"

Ye Guan stared at the young man in white. "Let's have a duel, then. No asking for help. Do you dare?"

The young man in white's eyes narrowed into slits. He dared not fight Ye Guan in a duel, as the latter had just blasted away two Great Destiny Sovereigns with a single move!

Moreover, Ye Guan didn't even go all out.

A duel against Ye Guan without asking for any help? The young man in white had no confidence at all, and why would he be impulsive at this juncture?

The young man in white sneered, "Ye Guan, if you're trying to win the Eternal Night Empire to your side, I can only say that you—"

Swoosh!

Ye Guan transformed into a sword light and took to the sky, interrupting the young man in white.

The young man in white's pupils constricted, and he thrust his spear forward.

Bang!

A deafening noise echoed as the spear shattered, and the young man in white was blasted a few kilometers away. The collision just now was so strong that a massive spacetime rift that led to a void was torn open.

The young man in white stared in shock at Ye Guan in the distance. "You..."

Ye Guan cast a contemptuous gaze at the young man in white. "Did the Past Clan send someone like you because they're short on personnel?"

The young man in white was furious. He was about to speak when a terrifying aura suddenly surged from the depths of the starry sky. The aura was so terrifying that it felt as if the entire starry sky was about to collapse.

A suffocating pressure descended upon everyone as their faces turned grim.

Chapter 477: You Look a Bit Innocent

Ye Guan's eyes narrowed at the terrifying aura. The aura was way more powerful than a Great Destiny Sovereign.

A true supreme elite was here!

Ye Guan retreated to Ye Nanqing's side.

He realized that the goal of these Time Reversers was Ye Nanqing. The entire Eternal Night Empire was aware of their marriage, so they just had to kill Ye Nanqing to destroy Ye Guan's alliance with the Eternal Night Empire.

The spacetime behind the young man in white was torn apart, and a middle-aged man walked out of the spacetime rift. The young man in white's expression immediately changed upon seeing this middle-aged man. He hurriedly bowed toward the middle-aged man and greeted, "Senior Uncle Yue Chen!"

Yue Chen didn't pay any attention to the young man in white, but he looked down at Ye Guan with a smile.

"Ye Guan!"

Ye Guan looked up at Yue Chen without a word. The Past Clan had sent a true supreme elite, and there was more than just one of them. Ye Guan could feel the presence of quite a few terrifying auras lurking in the shadows.

Ye Jun's face turned grim. The Time Reversers' strength had far exceeded his expectations.

Yue Chen's gaze landed on Ye Jun. "Ye Jun, I'm here to ask you if your Eternal Night Clan really intends to cooperate with Ye Guan."

Ye Jun frowned and was about to speak when Yue Chen added, "The Time Reversers have no enmity with the Eternal Night Clan, and we don't want anything unpleasant to happen to the Eternal Night Empire. Hence, as long as you promise us not to join forces with Ye Guan and chase him out of your empire, we promise not to do anything to the Eternal Night Empire."

Ye Jun fell silent. To be honest, the offer was enticing. The Time Reversers were more terrifying than he thought, and the Past Clan's strength had to be even more unfathomable than the Time Reversers here.

Ye Jun also had no idea just how many supreme elites the Past Clan had. A single mistake could lead to irreversible consequences if Ye Jun were to get involved in the conflict between the Guanyuan Universe and the Time Reversers.

Ye Nanqing's voice echoed in Ye Jun's head: "If I were on their side and you chose to do our bidding, I would immediately annihilate the Eternal Night Empire once you've kicked Ye Guan out and offended the Guanxuan Universe. The reason they haven't done anything to us is not because they fear our strength but because they fear the Great Daoist Brush Master."

Ye Jun was enlightened. Oftentimes, those who would die the earliest were the ones sitting on the fence and insisted on staying neutral. Everyone on both sides would also despise people like them.

Ye Jun turned to look at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan smiled. "I'll respect your decision, Your Majesty Ye Jun."

Ye Jun hurriedly said, "Young Lord Ye, don't overthink it. You're going to get married to Nanqing tomorrow, so we'll become a family by then. It's only natural for family members to resist enemies together."

Ye Guan nodded lightly and went silent.

Then, Ye Jun looked at Yue Chen with a cold gaze and said, "My Eternal Night Empire will stand together with Young Lord Ye. If you want to attack us, please go ahead."

Ye Jun had just declared their stance.

Yue Chen smiled faintly. Instead of getting angry, he glanced at Ye Guan before turning around to leave. The powerful lurkers also vanished.

Ye Guan frowned. The Time Reversers would surely not let go of this matter so easily. They had chosen not to make a move, but they would surely go all-out the moment they made their move.

Ye Guan fell into deep contemplation.

"Young Lord Ye," Ye Jun suddenly said, "Do you have any objections to the wedding tomorrow?"

Ye Guan looked at Ye Jun.

Ye Jun lowered his voice and explained, "To be honest, there are many opposing voices even within the imperial palace; they do not wish to get involved in this war, so I'd need a legitimate reason to suppress those voices."

Ye Guan nodded slightly. "I have no objections at all."

Ye Jun nodded and glanced at Ye Nanqing before leaving.

Ye Guan looked at Ye Nanqing and said, "Lady Nanqing, I'll have to be with you all the time for your safety from now on."

Ye Nanqing replied, "Okay."

Ye Guan stared into the depths of the starry sky, seemingly thinking of something.

Ye Nanqing suddenly said, "Young Lord Ye, I heard that the goal of the Time Reversers is to unleash the Evil Dao, which means allowing the Universe Tribulation to erupt and destroy the myriad beings. Is that true?"

"Yes," Ye Guan replied.

Ye Nanqing asked, "The Universe Tribulation is definitely going to erupt, right?"

Ye Guan nodded again.

"So, what's the point of trying to prevent it from happening?" Ye Nanqing asked.

Ye Guan explained softly, "There are still a hundred years before the Universe Tribulation's eruption. If I couldn't find another solution in a hundred years, I'd work together with the Great Daoist Brush Master to suppress the myriad beings.

"The resources that the myriad beings had plundered, which is their cultivation base, will be returned to the vast expanse. From the next generation onward, no one would be able to cultivate. Everyone would become ordinary humans with a lifespan of less than a hundred years."

"You'll become no different from the Evil Dao in the eyes of the myriad beings if you do that."

"That's right."

"I don't think you can do that."

"Why not?"

"Because you're not a ruthless person."

Ye Guan laughed. "Lady Nanqing, you say that I'm not ruthless, but I've killed many people before."

"Killing doesn't mean you're ruthless," Ye Nanqing replied, shaking her head.

Ye Guan chuckled and found Lady Nanqing to be quite an interesting woman.

"Young Lord Ye, I want you to be honest and ask yourself—once that day comes, can you really bring yourself to do it?"

Ye Guan went silent.

He knew that he would have to face resistance in all directions if he were to strip all myriad beings of their cultivation base. After all, the majority of people had been cultivating their own lives, and there was no way anyone would agree to Ye Guan's demands so easily.

The entire vast expanse would most likely rebel against him.

Ye Guan shook his head with a wry smile.

Ye Nanqing asked again, "Can you come up with a better solution?"

Ye Guan did not speak. He had a few ideas, and they were the reason he had dared to make a promise with the Great Daoist Brush Master. However, those ideas were meaningless at the moment, as he was too weak.

Ye Nanqing added, "Young Lord Ye, your talent is extraordinary. Focus on cultivating, and you'll definitely become invincible. By then, nothing can threaten you, much less the Universe Tribulation or the rebellion of the vast expanse.

"In other words, why are you even bothering with such a dangerous task?"

"Actually..." Ye Guan smiled and said, "I don't really want to do this, but I have no choice."

"Why?"

"Lady Nanqing, do you think this world needs order?"

"It doesn't matter to me."

"If the Eternal Night Empire were on the brink of annihilation, what would you do?"

"It doesn't matter to me."

Ye Guan was speechless. Why is she not answering my questions the way I want her to answer me?

Ye Nanqing looked at him and said, "Young Lord Ye, are you doing all this for the myriad beings, or are you doing all this for yourself?"

"For myself!" Ye Guan replied almost immediately.

Ye Nanqing frowned.

"What?" Ye Guan asked, "Are you going to believe me if I say that I'm doing all this for the myriad beings throughout the vast expanse?"

"Lady Nanqing, I have to admit that everyone in this world has their own vested interests. Truly selfless individuals are few and far between, but they exist. Take the True God, for example. The myriad beings would have perished long ago if she hadn't decided to suppress the Universe Tribulation."

"I can't guarantee anything, but I will try my best. If it doesn't work out, then like what the Great Daoist Brush Master said, we'll have to sacrifice everyone's cultivation and establish a new order so that the myriad beings can coexist with the vast expanse.

"Don't you think it's a better outcome than the eruption of the Universe Tribulation?"

Ye Nanqing sighed softly, unable to refute. She also thought that Ye Guan's perspective was acceptable.

Ye Guan smiled. "Well, there's no need to be so pessimistic. There are still a hundred years to go, and I might be able to come up with a solution before that.

"Let me tell you a secret as well. My father, my aunt, my grandfather, and another senior swordsman that I know are extremely powerful. When it comes down to it, I'll gather all of them and brainstorm with them for a solution. Who knows? Perhaps we can figure something out! Haha..."

Ye Guan's demeanor became sunnier as he spoke, seemingly filled with hope. His smile became brighter as well as he said, "Especially my aunt, she's really, really powerful."

Ye Nanqing smiled and said, "I hope it all works out."

Ye Guan nodded and said, "Lady Nanqing, my enemies are the Time Reversers, and I'm definitely going to need the help of the Eternal Night Empire against them. I know that you can be considered a mere pawn in the grand scheme of things—I don't think apologizing is a great idea, as that's just going to make me appear superficial."

"Anyway, I promise that I will try my best, and I'll make sure that you won't be harmed. I'm also going to help you as much as I can."

Ye Nanqing's eyes flashed in a complicated light as she said, "Young Lord Ye, you don't have to overthink it. This marriage alliance will also bring a ton of profit to my Eternal Night Clan, so you don't owe me anything at all."

"Lady Nanqing, I noticed that you don't seem particularly interested in becoming the empress. Why is that?" Ye Guan pointed out.

"I won't be able to live the life that I wish if I were to become the empress."

"That's true."

"However, it doesn't sound like a bad idea at all."

"Of course, you'll have absolute power in the empire once you become the empress, after all."

"If I were to become the empress, you would become my emperor consort. Do you know how that works?"

"How?"

"An emperor consort isn't allowed to live together with the empress. The empress will only invite the emperor consort to her quarters whenever she needs his service, and the empress can have up to 360 male concubines.

"Of course, their status is going to be far below an emperor consort, as an emperor consort is basically the ruler of the harem. In addition, an emperor consort is expected to look for handsome men to serve as male concubines for the empress..."

Ye Guan pondered over Ye Nanqing's remark briefly before saying, "Lady Nanqing, what you just told me is the custom that you have here. I don't have any objections, but can you wait until we part ways before you start looking for male concubines?"

"Why?"

"Our marriage is just a marriage of convenience, but we should still respect each other, don't you think so?"

Ye Nanqing stared quietly at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan asked, "Do you have a man that you like?"

Ye Nanqing blinked. "Yes."

Ye Guan immediately frowned and said, "Lady Nanqing, why didn't you say that earlier? I wouldn't have agreed to this marriage if you had just told me that you had someone you like."

Ye Guan had no intentions of becoming a third party.

"Young Lord Ye, you were raised in a free-range way, right?"

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

"Because you look a bit innocent," Ye Nanqing replied.

Ye Guan had no idea what to say.

Chapter 478: Defeat His Grandfather and Father

Innocent?!

Ye Guan stared at Ye Nanqing and felt that she wasn't as innocent as he thought. Of course, it wasn't strange at all. The imperial palace was a treacherous place, after all, and Ye Guan reckoned that she had witnessed quite a few incidents.

The sky was getting brighter as daybreak arrived.

Ye Guan looked up and smiled. "Lady Nanqing, shall we stroll together?"

Ye Nanqing nodded in agreement, and the two of them walked deeper into the imperial palace. The imperial palace was on high alert due to the Time Reversers' attack, and there were over a dozen Great Destiny Sovereigns lurking in the shadows above the imperial palace.

Ye Guan looked around him and saw that the festive decorations in the imperial palace had become even more lavish; every pillar had decorations with the character for happiness written all over them, and there were also red lanterns hanging from the eaves. There were also large red carpets rolled out at the entrances of the major palaces.

The Eternal Night Empire had decided to go all out for the marriage alliance. Ye Guan also had an esteemed status, so the Eternal Night Empire had to organize a wedding that was befitting of his status.

Ye Guan retracted his gaze and said, "Lady Nanqing, I feel that you should become even stronger."

Ye Nanqing merely smiled.

Ye Guan asked, "What do you think?"

"I thought you would protect me?"

"Yes, but wouldn't it be better if you had the strength to protect yourself?"

"It would be better, yes."

"I'll make you become even stronger."

"All right,"

"Follow me, I'll take you somewhere."

Ye Guan grabbed Ye Nanqing's arm, and they disappeared into thin air.

The two found themselves in the world inside the tiny pagoda. Ye Nanqing looked around in surprise. She had noticed that the passage of time here was markedly different compared to the outside world.

Ye Guan asked, "Lady Nanqing, are you a Time Immortal?"

Ye Nanqing nodded, suppressing the astonishment in her heart.

"Let me give you a cultivation method," Ye Guan said and pointed at Ye Nanqing's forehead. A white light orb floated over to Ye Nanqing and melted into her glabella.

Boom!

Ye Nanqing heard a resounding boom inside of her as information flooded her mind.

"I just gave you the Universe Beholdment Skill that my mother made. I think you can use that cultivation method the rest of your life," Ye Guan explained.

Ye Nanqing nodded. "What an amazing cultivation method!"

Ye Guan smiled and gave Ye Nanqing some spiritual cores before walking away and focusing on his cultivation. His plan was to master Space Overlap.

Ye Guan had encountered a bottleneck when it came to Space Overlap, as it was just incredibly difficult to execute. Entering multiple instances of spacetime in the blink of an eye meant producing fleeting avatars to unleash those attacks.

Ye Guan had been doing just fine by himself, but to reach the limits of Space Overlap, he needed the help of avatars that would only exist during the execution of Heavenrend.

Sister Zhen's Space Overlap was indeed a great idea, but it was too difficult to execute at a higher level. Nonetheless, Ye Guan believed that he would eventually be able to succeed at using more Space Overlap than he could use at the moment.

Ye Guan started a round of intense training by the shores of the world inside the tiny pagoda. Cizhen wasn't around, so Ye Guan could only experiment, which was why his rate of progress was so slow.

Ye Nanqing curiously surveyed her surroundings and was shocked once more. She had just calculated and discovered that staying here for ten years was equivalent to only one day outside.

The Eternal Night Empire had abundant resources and many divine items, but it had nothing on the same level as this place.

Ye Nanqing didn't cultivate. Instead, she decided to watch Ye Guan, curious about Ye Guan's sword techniques. Ye Nanqing sat at the side and observed from afar.

Today, Ye Guan was wearing a black robe, and his upright posture resembled a spear. A dazzling light emitted from his eyes, and he looked both motivated and determined.

So he's a swordsman, Ye Nanqing mused to herself. The Eternal Night Empire absolutely abhorred swordsmen, so this was Ye Nanqing's first time encountering a swordsman.

However, Ye Guan was quite different from what she imagined swordsmen were. Ye Nanqing thought that swordsmen were eccentric, aloof, solitary figures who traveled the world by themselves, unfettered from worldly affairs.

Ye Guan wasn't like the swordsmen she had imagined at all, as Ye Guan gave off the impression of a refined, gentle, and occasionally mischievous scholar.

Ye Guan didn't look like a swordsman at all; his sharpness was completely restrained, and he wasn't eccentric. However, Ye Guan's sharpness was as imposing and awe-inspiring as lightning.

Ye Nanqing didn't harbor any ill intentions toward Ye Guan. In fact, when her father implied that she ought to control Ye Guan, she didn't agree with her father's request.

Ye Nanqing wasn't interested in men, much less interested in controlling them.

Her heart only had one space for one thing—the Great Dao. If it hadn't been for that woman who came to beg her, she wouldn't have bothered to even interact with Ye Guan. Speaking of that woman, it seemed that she still had some feelings for her.

When Ye Nanqing first arrived in the Eternal Night Empire, her physique had issues that didn't allow her to cultivate. An individual incapable of cultivating was useless, especially in a great clan like the Eternal Night Clan, which prioritized cultivation and martial arts more than anything.

As a result, Ye Nanqing received a lot of bullying, and when her father learned that she was essentially a cripple, he never visited her again. The only one who never gave up on her was that woman.

She was also the reason that she decided to stay in the Eternal Night Empire for a bit longer than planned. The woman had told her to enter a marriage alliance out of the kindness of her heart; the woman wanted Ye Nanqing to have powerful in-laws whom she could rely on so that no one would bully her ever again.

Ye Nanqing wanted to refuse, but she couldn't resist the woman's pleading. In the end, she decided to meet Ye Guan and was a bit surprised by the conclusion that she had drawn after interacting with the young man for a while.

Ye Guan was an honest and sincere person!

Ye Nanqing was suddenly reminded of that woman, and she couldn't help but think that her judgment was a bit lacking. If she could get along well with this young man, the throne would be within her reach. She would gain a powerful ally, too.

However, the woman had insisted on doing things her way.

Ye Guan seemed kind and easygoing, but Ye Nanqing could tell that he was prideful. Treat him well, and he'd treat you well. However, if one were to flaunt their arrogance before Ye Guan, the latter wouldn't be merciful at all.

Ye Nanqing shook her head. Why am I even thinking about this?

Once the dust had settled, it would be time for her to leave. The two of them were just passersby in each other's lives. They were powerful cultivators capable of going to closed-door cultivation for hundreds of years, so such fleeting encounters were easily forgotten.

Shwing!

A shrill noise abruptly echoed, and a powerful sword energy landed on the sea, splitting it into two.

Ye Nanqing looked at Ye Guan in the distance and saw that he looked illusory. A hint of surprise flashed in Ye Nanqing's eyes as she muttered, "Producing avatars capable of performing a sword technique in an independent, spacetime instance..."

Ye Guan seemed to have detected Ye Nanqing's gaze, and he turned around to look at her with a smile. "What do you think of that move?"

Ye Nanqing nodded. "It's not bad!"

Not bad? Ye Guan's lips twitched slightly. He wasn't satisfied with her answer, but he didn't mind it and continued on cultivating.

Ye Guan spent the next few days in training, and he eventually managed to prove that his assumption was right. Stacking Heavenrend using Space Overlap was incredibly difficult both technique-wise, consumption-wise, and knowledge-wise.

A profound understanding of spacetime was necessary, as well as intense concentration to perform multiple tasks at once, which consumed a ton of mental energy. It was truly daunting and challenging.

However, Ye Guan had also realized that it wasn't exactly impossible. Ye Guan believed that once he had achieved full mastery of the technique, he might be able to defeat his grandfather and father—he could slaughter whenever he wished!

Ye Guan grinned and inwardly acknowledged. It feels like I'm getting more and more arrogant! This is definitely the Mad Demon Bloodline's fault.

A day in the outside world was equivalent to ten years in the tiny pagoda, so Ye Guan had no worries about training rigorously for half a year.

Finally, he was starting to see some results.

Ye Guan slashed out, and tens of thousands of avatars appeared briefly to slash out in their own spacetime instances. Every avatar only made one move, but when the power of their moves converged

in one single point, it created a terrifying attack that was so terrifying that even Little Pagoda struggled to withstand it.

The True Tree inside of him had allowed Ye Guan to support the spiritual energy consumption of such a move; otherwise, he would have been utterly exhausted after just one sword move.

Ye Guan then realized that it was a move that he couldn't use unless it were an emergency. It was powerful, yes, but he would be exhausted upon executing it. Still, Ye Guan had yet to take full advantage of the move; he was truly looking forward to the day he could maximize Space Overlap.

Ye Guan retracted his thought and turned around. He saw that Ye Nanqing was sitting by the shore, watching him from afar.

Ye Guan walked up to her and smiled. "You've been coming here often to watch me train. What do you think? Am I strong yet?"

Ye Nanqing blinked. "You're strong."

Ye Guan laughed boisterously and said, "Actually, I used only about ten percent of my strength. Twenty percent of my power would be too much for this tiny pagoda to withstand."

Little Pagoda had no idea what to say.

Ye Nanqing smiled wryly and asked, "Is that so?"

Ye Guan nodded and said seriously, "I never joke around."

Ye Nanqing shook her head with a smile. "Are you going to continue cultivating?"

Ye Guan looked around. "I think I've had enough for now. Let's leave."

Ye Nanqing nodded in agreement.

Then, the two disappeared from the world inside the tiny pagoda.

When they reappeared, a lady was standing before them. The elegant lady had a gentle demeanor, and she looked very similar to Ye Nanqing.

Ye Guan instantly realized that she was Ye Nanqing's mother, so he hurriedly bowed and greeted, "Greetings, Mother-in-law!"

The lady stared at Ye Guan with a bright smile. "No need for formalities."

This was the lady's second time seeing Ye Guan, and she was satisfied with him. In addition to the fact that he had a formidable background, he was also a pretty talented individual. Despite that, he was humble and polite, which was quite rare among youngsters these days.

Most importantly, Ye Guan was extremely powerful.

"Can we chat?" the lady asked. Then, she walked out of Ye Nanqing's earshot.

Ye Guan followed after the lady while Ye Nanqing stood quietly by herself.

The two had just walked out of Ye Nanqing's earshot when the lady said, "Have a child with her."

"Huh?" Ye Guan exclaimed in surprise, and she stared wide-eyed at the lady.

Ye Nanqing was silent, but she could hear their conversation. After all, she was much more powerful than the both of them.

Chapter 479: Boundless Master

A child! Ye Guan looked a little surprised by the lady's words. He didn't expect her to say something like that. Ye Guan stared at the lady, waiting for her to continue speaking

"Young Lord Ye, you seem a little surprised." The lady pointed out.

"I am."

"Why are you so surprised?"

"It's natural to have children after getting married, but for you to bring it up all of a sudden"

"Go ahead."

"Do you know something, Mother-in-law?"

A complicated look flashed past the lady's eyes as she said softly, "Young Lord Ye, I don't know much about your personality or your character, but the fact that you can get along with Nanqing means you must be a great and kind person. After all, Nanqing rarely gets along with others."

Ye Guan glanced at Ye Nanqing behind him. She was indeed a bit reserved and taciturn. She seemed rather approachable on the surface, but she was actually quite cold deep inside. People would surely find it difficult to connect with her.

However, it wasn't strange at all. This place was different from Blue Planet. Most people here, whether men or women, spent most of their time in closed-door cultivation. They weren't particularly concerned with socializing. After all, closed-door cultivation could sometimes last for hundreds or even thousands of years.

Cultivation eroded human nature. The higher one's cultivation base, the less humanity they would have. When one could live for thousands or millions of years, one would become indifferent to many things.

The lady added, "Young Lord Ye, Nanqing was a target of bullying when she was young, as she couldn't cultivate back then. However, she never complained and endured everything quietly.

"However, that's exactly what I'm worried about. She's indifferent toward our clan members and those around her; she doesn't even think of them as her family."

Ye Guan frowned as he pondered silently.

The lady stared deeply at Ye Guan and said, "You're the first ever person that Nanqing managed to get along with. I'm happy to see the both of you hanging out like good friends."

Ye Guan contemplated for a moment before saying, "Mother-in-law, even though this is a marriage for mutual benefit, please rest assured. I would never harm her."

"You should have a child with her," the lady said once again.

Ye Guan didn't say anything. His keen intuition was telling him that the lady had discovered something, which was the reason she was insisting on making Ye Guan have a child with Ye Nanqing.

"Nanqing has an alluring physique. If you sleep with her, the sensation you'll experience is definitely going to be out of this world. You know what I'm talking about, right?"

Ye Guan was astonished. What the hell? Mother-in-law, I don't think it's appropriate for us to talk about that here

Ye Nanqing's face flushed red, but she quickly regained her composure. She shook her head and smiled. Ye Nanqing had seen through her mother's intentions; her mother wanted her to have a child with Ye Guan to bind Ye Guan to her.

Otherwise, their relationship would easily crumble once Ye Guan departed. Even if Ye Guan had some affection for her, the quality of that affection would be questionable.

However, it would be a different story if they ended up having a child.

One could choose not to help one's woman, but what about one's child?

Ye Nanqing had accurately deduced the lady's train of thought.

Ye Guan did a double take at the lady. An alluring physique?

Ye Guan thought about it, and a strange feeling rose in his heart. Then, he shook his head to suppress that feeling before cursing inwardly, Damn it, my Mad Demon Bloodline!

Mad Demon Bloodline: ""

The lady asked, "Young Lord Ye, what do you think?"

Ye Guan glanced at Ye Nanqing and saw her standing quietly, resembling a lotus that would bloom even in the muddiest conditions.

Ye Nanqing noticed Ye Guan's gaze, but she remained composed and even smiled at him.

Ye Guan smiled back at her, withdrew his gaze, and turned to the lady. "Mother-in-law, Nanqing appears to be gentle and delicate, but she's actually a very opinionated and decisive individual. Don't be deceived by our seemingly friendly interaction. In her eyes, I am probably just like any other person."

The lady frowned, looking a little puzzled as she asked, "Why do you say that?"

Ye Guan sounded serious as he replied, "A thick sheet of ice does not melt in a day. Lady Nanqing's personality didn't develop overnight, and it will not change just because she just met someone whom she can get along with.

"Furthermore, I've realized something over the past several days. She's actually a very decisive person despite her outward appearance. Moreover, I think you're the reason why she agreed to this marriage alliance in the first place, am I right?"

The lady cast an astonished gaze at Ye Guan. It turned out that he had underestimated the young man. The lady believed that individuals with powerful family backgrounds were often arrogant but dull.

However, Ye Guan's words just now made it clear that he was completely different from what she had imagined. No wonder her daughter could get along with him despite her cold and reserved nature.

Ye Guan added, "Mother-in-law, we should just let things go with the flow."

The lady looked at Ye Guan and sighed before going silent. It seemed that her assumption was right: Ye Nanqing and Ye Guan had reached an agreement with each other, and they were both opinionated individuals.

Regardless, Ye Nanqing had to give birth to Ye Guan's child.

Having made up her mind, the lady spoke once more, "Not only does Nanqing have an alluring physique, but she's also a renowned"

"Mom!" Ye Nanqing interrupted and stared at her with a hint of embarrassment and anger in her eyes.

Ye Nanqing knew that she had to stop her mother. Otherwise, no one would be able to deduce how many embarrassing things her mother would say about her.

"I'll leave you both alone, then," the lady said, sighing.

Then, the lady turned around to leave.

Ye Guan's curiosity was piqued. Aside from her alluring physique, Ye Nanqing is also a renowned what?

Ye Nanqing walked up to Ye Guan, interrupting the latter's train of thought.

"What are you thinking right now?" Ye Nanqing asked.

Ye Guan blinked, but he didn't say anything.

Ye Nanqing shook her head with a smile upon instantly deducing that Ye Guan had to be thinking of something dirty.

Ye Guan sounded serious as he said, "Lady Nanqing, your mother is worried about you."

"I know."

"But you don't seem worried about yourself at all."

"I don't really have any enemies; why would I be worried about myself?"

"Lady Nanqing, I noticed something."

"What is it?"

"You are a little mysterious."

"Is that so?"

"You gave me the impression of a gentle and frail girl when I first saw you. I even pitied you, and I didn't want you to become a pawn in this marriage alliance. I was looking for a solution, but I realized that I must have been mistaken."

"You've been nothing but calm and composed all this while. You remained unfazed, even when the Time Reversers ambushed us here. Your composure either means you have great courage or Ye Guan trailed off with a smile.

Ye Nanqing chuckled. "Or?"

Ye Guan grabbed her hand just then, and Ye Nanqing didn't resist.

Ye Guan stared at her in confusion, as she was really just a Time Immortal.

Was I mistaken? Ye Guan thought, frowning.

Ye Nanqing smiled faintly at Ye Guan.

"Master Pagoda, is she really just a Time Immortal?" Ye Guan asked Little Pagoda.

Little Pagoda calmly replied, "I'm just a pagoda."

Ye Guan's expression y darkened. Now, you're telling me that you're just a pagoda?

"Young Lord Ye, what are you doing?" Ye Nanqing asked.

Ye Guan retracted his hand and looked up. "Lady Nanqing, we're getting married today."

"That's right." Ye Nanqing nodded calmly.

Ye Nanqing's calmness was bewildering to Ye Guan. Is she really just a Time Immortal? Perhaps she's pretending to be weak while planning something bigger.

Ye Nanqing's light smile deepened ever so slightly as she stared at Ye Guan. She could tell that Ye Guan had gotten suspicious of her.

Ye Guan's frown soon loosened, and he chose not to ask any further questions.

A palace maid approached the both of them just then. She bowed respectfully and said, "Your Highness, Young Lord Ye, please proceed to the Dressing Hall and change clothes."

Ye Guan nodded. "Okay."

Then, both of them followed the palace maid into the distance.

Ye Nanqing suddenly said, "Young Lord Ye."

"What is it?" Ye Guan answered.

Ye Nanqing looked at him and glanced at her hand. "Can you please let go of my hand?"

Ye Guan was stunned as he quickly let go of her hand. However, he wasn't embarrassed; he even smiled gently and said, "Lady Nanqing's hand is so smooth and tender; holding your hand feels like I'm not holding anything at all. It is a truly rare sensation."

Little Pagoda was shocked. This little bastard used to be so honest and upright; where did he suddenly learn how to flirt with the ladies? Is it the Mad Demon Bloodline influencing him?

Mad Demon Bloodline: ""

"You're a little slimy, you know that?" Ye Nanqing pointed out with a shake of her head, but she didn't seem annoyed at all. After all, Ye Guan's gaze toward her was always pure, without any lewd intentions.

Ye Guan said, "Lady Nanqing, you're not an ordinary woman. You must view relationships between men and women as nothing special, but I do have a small piece of advice."

Ye Nanqing stared at Ye Guan, waiting quietly for what he had to say.

Ye Guan chuckled and said, "Cultivating the Dao, pursuing the divine, and extinguishing human desires as one progresses in cultivation, it is poignant, but loneliness is inevitable."

"Lady Nanqing, you're still young, so I think you shouldn't focus solely on the Great Dao. You should go experience the mortal world and all its vibrancy. Indulging yourself in worldly pleasures is a wonderful thing."

Ye Guan was speaking from experience after his trip to Blue Planet!

Living solely for the Great Dao and for the sake of longevity was really dull; Ye Guan believed that life ought to be a bit more interesting than that.

Ye Nanqing stared at Ye Guan and said, "If we do not pursue the divine, it'll be a matter of time before we disintegrate into a handful of dust. Don't you think that kind of end is even more poignant?"

"That makes sense," Ye Guan said, nodding. He felt a mixture of shock and confusion deep inside. How does she know about divinity and humanity? Wait, is she really an unparalleled expert like I thought? No way! She's only in her twenties! How can there be someone more extraordinary than me at roughly the same age as me?

Ye Guan shook his head and decided not to dwell on it any further.

Soon, the palace maid led them into a hall. Another palace maid walked up to Ye Nanqing and greeted her respectfully, "Your Highness, please follow me."

Ye Nanqing nodded and followed the palace maid into an inner hall.

A palace maid approached Ye Guan. Then, she bowed slightly and said, "Young Lord Ye, this way, please."

Ye Guan nodded.

Somewhere up above, a man was looking down at the palace below him with a smile. He was none other than the Great Daoist Brush Master.

The Boundless Master from Blue Planet hovered next to the Great Daoist Brush Master.

"What do you think?" asked the Great Daoist Brush Master

"The odds are a bit too tilted to one side," replied the Boundless Master.

The Great Daoist Brush Master's eyes narrowed. "What do you mean?"

"The white-robed woman asked me to pass a message to you. She said that if you dare to make a move, she's going to kill you," the Boundless Master replied.

"Fuck!" the Great Daoist Brush Master roared, "She actually dared to threaten me, I'd rather die than yield!"

The Boundless Master replied, "She's serious."

"Ahem!" The Great Daoist Brush Master cleared his throat and said, "Indeed, I shouldn't get involved in the fights of our juniors."

The Boundless Master immediately cast a contemptuous gaze upon the Great Daoist Brush Master.

Chapter 480: Resist and Be Subdued

The Great Daoist Brush Master's expression was grim. How dare they threaten me! Does justice still exist? Fuck! This bullying is just a bit too much!

The Boundless Master said in a low voice, "Will things work out between that brat and that woman?"

"I don't know."

The Boundless Master frowned.

The Great Daoist Brush Master said, "That woman isn't simple at all, and I'm also not in a good place to intervene too much. I can only create an opportunity for them. If it all works out, then great.

"If not, it's not exactly a bad thing for him. Regardless, I'm just planting some good karma between them. The outcome depends on them."

The Boundless Master looked worried as he asked, "Aren't you afraid that he'll end up reaping bad karma?"

The Great Daoist Brush Master shook his head. "No."

"Why not?"

"Bad karma arises from malicious thoughts. Even though that brat is slightly perverted, he doesn't really have any malicious thoughts toward her. How could he reap bad karma, then?"

"How come that white-robed woman refused to attack him?"

"It's because she knows that she won't be able to kill him. Of course, she could try and force it, but she had to be prepared to die together with that brat.

"Furthermore, there's also no need for her to make a move, as the Universe Tribulation will erupt a hundred years later. The white-robed woman just had to wait a bit longer, that's all.

"Those impatient are the Time Reversers whose lifespan is running out. There's no way they'll wait for another hundred years. The white-robed woman's threat toward me proves that she's supporting those Time Reversers.

"The white-robed woman's goal is simple. If that brat calls for backup, his Dao will shatter. The True God doesn't have the luxury of time to wait for someone else walking on an Invincible Dao.

"In other words, the white-robed woman truly has the higher ground."

"Indeed, the situation is bad," the Boundless Master said softly, "From the information I've received, there are two reasons why they haven't made a move just yet. The first reason is because you're here, but you can no longer intervene."

"The second reason is that they're waiting for something, right?" the Great Daoist Brush Master asked.

The Boundless Master nodded.

"What are they waiting for?" the Great Daoist Brush Master asked.

The Boundless Master answered, "They're waiting for the Diyi Clan!"

The Great Daoist Brush Master's pupils constricted, and he immediately started cursing, "Fuck, fuck, fuck! Quick, make a trip to the True Universe and the Guanxuan Universe. Tell them to send reinforcements here!"

The Boundless Master frowned. "Are they strong?"

The Great Daoist Brush Master glared at the Boundless Master. "Can you not see how my legs are trembling right now?"

The Boundless Master realized that the Great Daoist Brush Master wasn't joking at all upon seeing the latter's grim face. Without hesitation, the Boundless Master disappeared into thin air.

The Great Daoist Brush Master looked up and stared into the depths of the starry sky with a hint of worry in his eyes.

"They're really going all-out..."

Meanwhile, Ye Guan had already changed into a bright red wedding robe embroidered with a nine-clawed golden dragon. The coiling dragon looked as if it were alive as it exuded a majestic and domineering aura, which made Ye Guan appear dignified.

Ye Guan was already extremely handsome, but the wedding robe made him appear even more handsome. Ye Guan even noted a few palace maids blushing and stealing glances at him.

Just then, a female official walked into the hall and rushed over to Ye Guan.

"Young Lord Ye, please head toward the Eternal Night Hall for the ceremony."

"All right," Ye Guan said, nodding.

Both parties had decided to skip many formalities. Otherwise, the wedding preparations alone would take at least three days and three nights. The formalities were skipped, so Ye Guan was going straight to the ceremony.

Ye Guan followed the female official to the Eternal Night Hall, and everyone's gaze landed on Ye Guan the moment he entered the hall.

The important officials of the empire had gathered in the Eternal Night Hall. Of course, the State Masters of the Eternal Night Empire's states had gathered as well. It could be said that every influential person throughout the empire was here, and they were all staring at Ye Guan.

There were curious, astonished, and malicious gazes. After all, the marriage was like a lightning bolt out of the blue, so these people were bound to be curious about it. In addition, there was supposed to be an engagement ceremony, but the wedding actually went straight to the wedding ceremony, skipping all formalities.

Ye Guan ignored everyone and looked straight ahead at Ye Nanqing. She was wearing a phoenix crown, and a red veil obscured her face.

Ye Guan walked up to her side.

A female official exclaimed, "The first bow!"

Ye Guan and Ye Nanqing were about to make the first bow when an old man suddenly walked in from the right and shouted, "Wait!"

Everyone turned to look at the old man.

Ye Jun sitting on the dragon throne frowned.

The old man was the leader of the Eternal Night City's Eternal Clan, Ye Gu. He had decided to intervene, as he didn't wish to see a marriage alliance between the Eternal Night Clan and the Guanyuan Universe.

The alliance between the two powers was bound to be formidable, and if they succeeded, the Eternal Clan's status in the Eternal Night Empire would plummet even more.

Ye Gu had never been the type to make a scene; he wouldn't have dared to make a scene if it hadn't been for the support of many major clans. Those powerful organizations thought the same as Ye Gu; they didn't want the Eternal Night Clan to monopolize the empire.

Ye Gu bowed slightly toward Ye Jun and said, "Your Majesty, I feel that this marriage is not conducted in accordance with proper protocol."

Ye Jun remained calm. "Proper protocol?"

Ye Gu nodded and explained, " Yes. Nanqing is a princess of our Eternal Night Empire, so I don't think it's appropriate for us to treat her marriage so casually. The proper protocol is that the two parties should get engaged first, and then their engagement would be announced to the citizens.

"Afterward, an auspicious day will be selected for their wedding ceremony.

"However, we skipped all of that, and I noticed the spread of rumors about how our Eternal Night Empire is afraid that Princess Nanqing might end up being unable to marry anyone, so Your Majesty hurriedly arranged a marriage for her."

The crowd whispered among themselves, echoing the same sentiment.

Ye Jun stared silently at Ye Gu. Ye Jun knew that the marriage hadn't followed the proper protocol, but he had no choice. Complications would arise if they couldn't settle this marriage as soon as possible.

"Your Majesty, Princess Nanqing's marriage is not just a private affair, as it concerns the reputation of our Eternal Night Empire. I believe it shouldn't have been handled so hastily.

"Furthermore, we haven't seen any sincerity from the Guanxuan Universe. We also know nothing about Young Lord Ye. With such haste, those who are unaware might think that the Princess of our Eternal Night Empire is unwanted" Ye Gu trailed off.

Ye Jun frowned and went silent. He couldn't refute it at all. To make matters worse, Ye Jun also noticed the heads of the major clans and noble families standing behind Ye Gu.

The festive atmosphere in the hall became solemn and suffocating.

Ye Jun looked at Ye Guan, who smiled slightly at him, showing him that he was feeling at ease. Ye Jun felt reassured at the sight.

As expected, a middle-aged man walked into the hall just then. The middle-aged man was none other than the Great Daoist Brush Master, and his appearance elicited frowns from many people; they couldn't recognize him.

The Great Daoist Brush Master walked up to Ye Gu and asked, "Are you Ye Gu?"

Ye Gu frowned and asked, "Who are you?"

The Great Daoist Brush Master raised his hand and pressed it down.

Thud!

A dull thud echoed as Ye Gu fell to his knees.

The faces of the people in the hall changed drastically, and several auras came to life, sweeping toward the Great Daoist Brush Master. The Great Daoist Brush Master waved his sleeve, and those auras vanished into thin air.

The scene stupefied everyone in the hall.

Ye Jun suddenly shouted, "Everyone, calm down! This esteemed senior is the Great Daoist Brush Master!"

The Great Daoist Brush Master! Everyone reeled in shock. The people here were the leaders of their own clans, organizations, or families, so they knew the Great Daoist Brush Master. The Eternal Night Empire was founded, all thanks to the Great Daoist Brush Master.

He was still alive after so many years?

The Great Daoist Brush Master swept his gaze across everyone in the hall. "Does anyone have any issues with this marriage? Come out, and we can discuss it!"

Everyone glanced at Ye Gu kneeling on the ground, and they dared not speak.

Under the veil, Ye Nanqing stared quietly at the Great Daoist Brush Master. Sensing Ye Nanqing's gaze on him, the Great Daoist Brush Master's eyelids twitched, and he felt a bit uneasy. He hurriedly walked to the sidelines and exclaimed, "The ceremony shall continue!"

The female official quickly exclaimed, "The first bow!"

Starting from the first bow, all three bows were completed in the blink of an eye.

The female official finally exclaimed, "To the bridal chambers!"

Everyone watched as Ye Guan led Ye Nanqing into the inner hall. Once they were gone, the Great Daoist Brush Master swept his gaze across everyone once again and said blandly, "If there are any objections here, step forward, and we can talk about it while taking a stroll."

Everyone had no idea what to say.

Ye Jun shook his head and smiled wryly. The Great Daoist Brush Master was the main reason he had agreed to Ye Guan's request to marry Ye Nanqing. The Great Daoist Brush Master was just too strong!

Furthermore, Ye Jun couldn't even call his ancestors for backup, as the founding ancestors were friends with the Great Daoist Brush Master. If he were to summon them, he might get beaten up instead.

The Great Daoist Brush Master stared coldly at everyone without saying anything. Of course, he wasn't going to try and use words to reason with anyone in this hall.

These people were short-sighted and would only fight for their vested interests, but it made sense, as they were the leaders of their own clans, families, and organizations, after all. It was inevitable for them to prioritize immediate interests rather than long-term gain.

However, that was exactly the reason why the Great Daoist Brush Master believed that it was useless to try and reason with them. In the end, he decided to use the stick rather than feed them carrots; he'd resort to force if they refused to comply.

Ye Nanqing sat quietly on a bed inside a room in the inner hall, waiting for Ye Guan to lift her red veil.

Ye Guan walked up to Ye Nanqing and lifted her red veil slowly to reveal her beautiful visage.

Ye Nanqing stared silently at Ye Guan.

Ye Guan smiled and praised, "You're so beautiful."

"Really?" Ye Nanqing asked.

Ye Guan nodded.

"What are we going to do next?"

Ye Guan blinked and said, "We're going to the bridal chambers."

"All right," Ye Nanqing replied casually.

Ye Guan was slightly taken aback.

"What are you waiting for?" Ye Nanqing asked, sounding cheeky as she added, "Let's go."

Are women bolder than men nowadays? Ye Guan was speechless. Then, he shook his head and smiled before grabbing her hand, forcing her to stay in place.

A hint of coldness flashed across Ye Nanqing's eyes.

"Lady Nanqing, my blood is special, and it should be helpful to you. As for whether it can help you break the shackles of your own bloodline or not I can't say for sure, as it all depends on you."

Ye Guan sliced their wrists open, and blood gushed out of Ye Guan's wrist.

Ye Nanqing watched with a stunned gaze as Ye Guan's blood melted into her wound.