

I'm Actually a Cultivation Bigshot

Chapter 121: Intriguing

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Li Nianfan's agile fingers moved as rapidly as the fluttering wings of butterflies, inciting one's viewing pleasure. Soon, the flat paper was folded into a three-dimensional object. It had an arrogant head, wide wings, and a tail that pointed upward. It was a paper crane!

"According to the legend, making a wish when you see a shooting star ensures that the wish will come true. The paper crane symbolizes blessings, so this would work!" Li Nianfan smiled and picked up the paper crane. He faced it to the meteor shower. Instantly, the meteor shower became his backdrop, as if a thousand paper cranes were dancing beautifully in the night sky.

What a stunning sight!

Unfortunately, he did not have a camera with him. This would have been an ideal sight to capture.

"Mr. Li, what's this?" Qin Manyun asked as she looked at the paper crane with curiosity.

To her, the making of this paper crane looked simple. The only material used was a piece of paper and Li Nianfan merely folded it a few times to make this paper crane. It did not look particularly beautiful and the process of making and the paper crane looked ordinary.

Perhaps it was in her head, but when she looked at it closer, she seemed to notice a soft glow surrounding the paper crane. It seemed to be breathing!

Indeed, it was breathing!

The paper crane was...alive?

Qin Manyun's heart skipped a beat.

"It's just a small trick from back home." Li Nianfan saw that Qin Manyun was staring at the paper crane intensely. He smiled and said, "You like it? You may have it."

"Really?" Qin Manyun's eyes sparkled with delight.

The 'home' Li Nianfan mentioned must have been the Immortal Land. So, this paper crane would be an Immortal Item?

Qin Manyun's heart pumped rapidly.

Li Nianfan held the paper crane by its head and handed it to Qin Manyun. "It's just a small trick, it's nothing."

Qin Manyun accepted the paper crane with both hands as she cautiously brought it closer to her, her unblinking eyes still transfixed on it.

The moment the paper crane touched her palm, she had goosebumps all over her body and her scalp started itching. This was because the moment she touched it, she clearly felt the wing of the paper crane move slightly.

A treasure!

She earned a treasure!

After all, this was handmade by the expert!

Although she did not know what use it had, she knew it was definitely something!

It seemed that she had pleased the expert well. He must have liked her performance so he decided to give her a treasure!

Qin Manyun blushed. She wanted to scream out loud in excitement but she knew she had to pretend to be calm on the surface.

Looking at how cautiously she treated the paper crane, Li Nianfan was amused. As expected, all women had no resistance to paper cranes. They always felt protective by instinct.

The Holy Emperor stared at the paper crane so intensely that he might as well have glued his eyeballs on it. This was equivalent to letting a huge opportunity slip away from him. The pain he felt was beyond words.

Qin Manyun was still carrying the paper crane as she said, "Thank you so much, Mr. Li."

Li Nianfan smiled. "As long as you like it. It's getting late, I'm going to sleep."

With that, he yawned and went back into his room.

Once he was out of sight, the rest finally recovered from the shock and felt more relaxed. Facing this kind of bigshot made one super nervous. Every word he said had to be analyzed deeply as they were terrified of making any mistake that could upset the bigshot.

Most importantly, the bigshot had a fetish that they had to constantly remind themselves of—to treat him like an ordinary man. This was super stressful!

However...if the bigshot did not have the fetish of pretending to be an ordinary man, they would not even have the chance to please him and receive great opportunities in return. As expected, his every move had deeper intentions.

How fascinating!

It seemed that they should forget about cultivating for some time and refine their acting skills and psychological endurance instead.

Qin Manyun looked at Daji and asked with respect, “May I ask if Miss Daji knows the use of this paper crane?”

“I don’t.” Daji shook her head and continued, “But everything master does, however nonchalant it may seem, always contain deeper meanings. Since he gave it to you, just keep it.”

“I will.” Qin Manyun cautiously kept the paper crane and murmured in a soft voice, “Miss Daji’s so fortunate to get the chance to be around Mr. Li.”

The Holy Emperor and the rest nodded in agreement. They were already jumping with joy when they got to eat a pear from him. Daji could accompany him and stay by his side. Even the air she breathed had opportunities! How luxurious!

“Being able to stay by my master’s side is indeed my blessing.” Daji smiled happily. After a moment of thought, she said, “My main goal of staying with my master is to help him ease his troubles. I did find some things which I can share with you all.”

Qin Manyun and the rest were delighted. They said hurriedly, “Please, tell us.”

Daji said, “As you know, I was a nine-tailed fox. I have the blood of an ancient sky fox in my veins. Other than myself, the master has a dragon and a basalt. They both have ancient sky blood as well.”

Dragon?

Basalt?

Other than Qin Manyun, the rest turned pale as cold sweat dripped from their foreheads. This was terrifying to know!

Mr. Li had a dragon and basalt by his side? Why did they not know about it?

These were legendary beasts. One was unlikely to come across these creatures in this realm!

“I had the privilege to see Mr. Li’s dragon. It’s a golden dragon!” Qin Manyun nodded with a sparkle of awe in her eyes as she recalled the sight from the other day—the terrifying sight of all the beasts coming alive in his house.

The Holy Emperor repressed his terror and asked, “What Miss Daji is suggesting is that the expert might be collecting ancient beasts?”

Daji said, “This is just my speculation. If you have the chance, please, do help me look around.”

Qin Manyun and the rest felt a little more reassured as if they had finally found a mission. “Thank you so much for your reminder.”

Daji nodded. Just as she was about to go back to her room, Qin Manyun bit her tongue and asked, “Miss Daji, I... May I ask what realm you’re at right now?”

“Realm?” Daji stopped in her footsteps. “As a nine-tailed fox, we’re able to unleash all our Immortal talents once we get our nine tails. By following master around, my talents have been developing rapidly. As of my realm... I should’ve surpassed all of the cultivating realms by now. However, I’m not sure what realm I’m currently at in terms of the Immortals.”

She looked up at her surroundings and gracefully raised her elegant finger to point at the Fiery Nebula flying by. Instantly the Fiery Nebula froze, one after another. The Fiery Nebula had turned into a Frozen Nebula!

Chapter 122: No Money

The burning sight disappeared into a chill, making the rest of them shiver. Not only did they experience physical chills, even their hearts felt chilly along with itching scalps and stiffened joints.

Perhaps only the Mahayala cultivators in this realm could shield themselves from the Fiery Nebula to pass through, but it would not be as easy. Daji not only shielded them from the Fiery Nebula, she froze them with a point of a finger?

What realm was this?

This was definitely the skill of an Immortal!

They viewed Daji differently from before. The four of them instinctively took a step away from her.

Qin Manyun looked at the sight with disbelief. “Wasn’t the bridge to Immortality broken? How...”

The highest cultivating realm in this Immortal Realm was Mahayala—everyone knew that. There had been no known cases of anyone becoming an Immortal for countless years.

And yet, Daji’s ability was definitely an Immortal’s. So...the bridge to Immortality was not broken?

And...why was Daji not immortalized?

Qin Manyun’s thoughts were everywhere. She could not make sense of things.

Seeing how confused she seemed, Daji said, “There’s no difference between an Immortal and an ordinary man to master. It’d be foolish to determine a master’s thinking using ordinary logic.”

Qin Manyun instantly understood and thought she was silly for thinking otherwise.

Indeed. Who was Li Nianfan? To him, the ordinary and Immortal realms were similar places.

With that, everyone left the deck and went into their rooms. However, it was a sleepless night for most of them.

The next day.

It was almost noon when the skyship emerged from the clouds and proceeded to land in a completely new world.

Li Nianfan stood on the deck with the others, looking down from above. He could see a green world below him. Under the shade of countless green trees were ponds and mountains. Some mountains were joined with one another while some proudly stood alone.

Looking down from the deck, one could see countless lights passing by as more and more cultivators appeared. Some were flying in ships while others simply flew in the air. From time to time, some cultivators would turn to look at the skyship in awe—wearing the look of an ordinary man meeting a billionaire. This was especially so when they saw the group of people standing on the deck.

Was there an ordinary man standing in the middle? The cultivators were surrounding an ordinary man? Could this be a lowkey bigshot in disguise?

Chills went down their spines as they recalled rumors about the fetishes of some bigshots. For example, those who would try to conceal their identity and live like ordinary men. This was probably it!

It seemed that they should be wary and treat ordinary men with more respect, just in case it was an expert in disguise!

The skyship continued to fly past countless forests and mountains. Finally, a massive high tower appeared in front of it.

The high tower was built on a mountain that was different from the rest. The bottom half of the mountain was a forest while the upper half was barren and flat as if it was shaved off.

Even so, this mountain was still the tallest among the rest. The flat surface naturally became a high tower—massive and eye-catchingly huge!

Most interesting of all was the valley beside this tall mountain. It was deep and had black soil without a single trace of grass!

The shaved-off mountain and this weird-looking valley created a unique sight. This left Li Nianfan in awe, amazed by this wonderful Immortal Realm. He had seen more of the world during this trip!

Without having to be told, Li Nianfan knew that they had reached their destination. All the traveling lights headed in the direction of the high tower. The skyship slowed down and started to descend. Finally, they landed on the high tower as well.

Qin Manyun said, “Mr. Li, we’re here.”

Li Nianfan nodded and walked off the skyship with the others. Once he stepped off the skyship, he felt a warm breeze blowing at him, making him feel at ease. Looking around, he was standing on the tall mountain. He had a different view from the skyship—it was more down to earth. The sight from above made one feel tiny.

The high tower was flat as a mirror, paved with special tiles. It was like a massive square. It was crowded with cultivators as well as ordinary men for the event. Some even found empty spaces to set up their stalls.

Both the cultivators and ordinary men were selling things from their stalls. Although they were selling different things, Li Nianfan was amused by the sight of it.

Other than the stalls, there were a variety of shops on the tower. Their decorations and designs made it seem like a big city!

“With the support of Azure Ville, this place is developing well!” the Holy Emperor remarked with a look of admiration.

As the emperor of the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty, he hoped for his Dynasty to flourish as well.

Luo Shiyu nodded in agreement. “Yes. I remember a hundred years ago, there was nobody around here. Who’d have thought that in merely a hundred years, it’d look so different!”

“Nobody dared to visit the Azure Villa due to its close proximity to the entrance of the Demon Realm.” Qin Manyun continued, “But now, the Lord of Azure Ville is a powerful man, the man who’s hosting the Azure Demon Lockdown Grand Ceremony. He’s indeed very impressive!”

Li Nianfan nodded beside them. The Lord of Azure Ville was able to turn the tide and develop this once-empty land into a prosperous one. He was indeed a successful man!

As they walked along the street, the blending of cultivators and ordinary men made Li Nianfan feel welcomed.

Meanwhile, he stopped in front of a tall, well-built building. He looked up to see a big signboard that said ‘Immortal Guest House’.

This building was built by the side of the square and was at least ten floors tall in height. None of the other buildings were taller than this which gave this building a very good view from above.

Regardless if one were to dine or stay there, it would be a luxurious experience.

Li Nianfan could not help but remark, “Immortal Guest House. I’m guessing this must be a place for cultivators to rest and dine?”

“Not really. Anyone can stay there as long as they have Spiritual Stones.” Qin Manyun seemed to have understood Li Nianfan’s deeper meanings. She said in excitement, “Actually, I’ve made a reservation there for us. So, please, feel free to go in.”

Li Nianfan frowned slightly before he shook his head. “I bet prices there aren’t cheap. I can’t let you pay for it. Is there a place for ordinary men to stay in?”

He was inconsiderate this time. Of course, one needed money during a vacation!

He had no money. What could he do?

Chapter 123: The Popular Journey to the West

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Qin Manyun panicked. She said hastily, “Mr. Li, the cost of this is nothing to me. Please, don’t feel bad.”

“You’re too kind but I can’t accept your offer.” Li Nianfan continued shaking his head.

The normal gestures they showed him were alright, but this hotel was too fancy. He could not let her pay for the stay. He owed them too much! There was no need for that.

“Mr. Li, I’ve benefited greatly from the music sheet you sent me. You’ve even shown me all kinds of good food. To me, they’re more precious than the Spiritual Stones. Please, let me pay for this.” Qin Manyun looked at Li Nianfan with sincerity.

Li Nianfan was deep in thought. Qin Manyun was obviously a local tyrant. As for local tyrants, money was indeed nothing. To them, happiness and enjoyment were the most important things. She liked music and she tasted his food, so she must have felt good and happy. In return, she did not mind the money spent.

As the saying went, ‘the wealthy would be friends with those who make them happy, no matter how poor they were’. It seemed to be true after all.

Furthermore, one had to admit that his food was indeed delicious. That was something that could not be bought with money!

“Alright, then. I’ll stay,” Li Nianfan sighed.”But I can’t stay here for nothing. I’ll make you some delicious food.”

Qin Manyun was delighted. She cried out in a trembling voice, “Thank you, Mr. Li!”

A test! The expert was testing my sincerity! Luckily, I was smart enough to pass it. To think I almost failed it! How challenging!

Li Nianfan smiled. “It’s no big deal. I’d cook it anyway.”

The Holy Emperor’s face was as dark as the bottom of a pan. His lips were twitching slightly. He hated himself for being such a fool for letting such a big opportunity slip away yet again!

The decoration of the Immortal Guest House was well thought of. In the center was a stage. The first four floors were shaped in a square with a hollow center, allowing guests to dine while watching the performances on stage. Anything past the fourth floor was probably the rooms guests would stay in.

Qin Manyun brought Li Nianfan to a table by the railing on the third floor. The sight of the stage was in clear view. A beautiful spot.

Meanwhile, an educated middle-aged man was telling a story with a paper fan in his hand. What was shocking was that he was reciting 'Journey to the West', along with vivid actions and expressions.

The 'Journey to the West' had become so famous? That annoyingly nerdy scholar had been spreading his story around?

"Oh, Mr. Li." Qin Manyun suddenly turned to Li Nianfan with an apologetic look. "Since we've arrived in Azure Ville, I should pay the Lord a visit. I'm afraid I'll have to excuse myself for a while."

The Holy Emperor and Luo Shiyu exchanged a look and said, "Mr. Li, we have a few old friends to meet up with as well."

"Don't worry, go ahead with your own matters." Li Nianfa smiled nonchalantly. The cultivators must have their own things to attend to. They had been very kind to stay with him until now.

"Oh, right. Miss Manyun, it's just me and Daji here, so don't order too many dishes."

Qin Manyun nodded. "Don't worry, I know."

With that, they parted with Li Nianfan and left the Immortal Guest House. Soon, dish after dish was brought to their table, filling up the space. The dishes were all exquisitely made.

Li Nianfan smiled bitterly as he shook his head. “This woman. She’s such a local tyrant. I told her to order just a few dishes, and yet, she’s ordered us a full table of dishes! And half of them are wild meat. Does she think I love wild meat this much?”

After the dishes were all presented, they started eating. It was indeed a privilege to dine in this fancy restaurant in the Immortal Realm. He was eager to find out how the food tasted in comparison to the food he made.

Meanwhile, a well-dressed young man rushed to the third floor. He glanced around and his gaze finally landed on Li Nianfan’s table in awe. He walked over quickly.

“Sir, Madam, may I take a seat here? I’ll only listen to the teaching without eating. Please, let me pay for your meal.”

“Do feel free to take a seat. Don’t bother about paying for the meal though,” Li Nianfan smiled as he said nonchalantly.

This young man was dressed in silk wear and had gold bangles on both of his hands. He was probably a man of importance. There was no harm in meeting a new friend anyway.

The young man frowned slightly, surprised by Li Nianfan’s generosity. “Thanks,” he said.

This was obviously an ordinary man. It was rare seeing ordinary men in this restaurant, let alone one who ordered all of the most expensive dishes. Most importantly, he even rejected his offer of paying? How rich was this ordinary man?

Unless...he had hidden powers?

The young man secretly used his divine consciousness to size up the both of them.

Indeed, both of them were ordinary people.

However, he was unable to believe it, so he sized them up again. This time, using his treasure to do so. However, the results remained the same.

Unless... Their cultivations were above the Cross Tribulation realm? If not, it was impossible to conceal their identities so perfectly well. But did these two people seem like Cross Tribulation cultivators? Obviously not!

Perhaps they were actual ordinary people.

After sighing in awe, the young man recomposed his thoughts and focused on the man who was teaching downstairs.

So, another fan of ‘Journey to the West’!

Li Nianfan smiled to himself. After all, this was a cultivating realm. ‘Journey to the West’ was a story about the Immortals, so it made sense that it became popular. However, he did not expect it to be so popular that even cultivators were all so caught up with it. Luckily, he did not use his real name, or else he would never live in peace again.

Although the young man was focused on the story, he would throw a few glances at Li Nianfan from time to time. Finally, he could not help but ask, “Brother, I see that you’d frown whenever you take a bite of the food. Are the dishes not to your liking?”

“The taste is fine.” Li Nianfan smiled. “But it’s a shame. If only they can change the sauces and control the heat better. Then, the taste would be even better.”

“Huh?” The young man was shocked. His brows furrowed into a straight line. “This can’t be true! I’ve been to quite a few places and tasted different kinds of delicious dishes. The food here is one of the best, at least in the top three rankings of all! You’re wrong to say so.”

He took a closer look at Li Nianfan. He had a bad impression of him. This ordinary man seemed young. How many places had he traveled to? How many delicious dishes had he tasted?

‘The Immortal Guest House is a restaurant for cultivators. Even the cultivators think highly of the dishes here. It’s already a privilege for you to dine here, yet, you insult the food so badly? Are you trying to insult us cultivators as well?’

Chapter 124: What Do You Mean?

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“I might be wrong.” Li Nianfan was shocked. Then, he smiled without speaking further.

He was too critical. Since Qin Manyun spoke so highly of his cooking, he could not help comparing his cooking to the dishes here in the Immortal Realm. If the dishes here were half as good as his, then it would be a joke to offer his cooking to someone like Qin Manyun! Since the food in this realm did not have as high of a standard as his, he was proud of himself. After all, delicious food was priceless!

This proved that the so-called delicious food in this realm was not even close to the food he made! No wonder the bunch of cultivators were so kind and friendly to him. Besides admiring his artistic side, they probably just want to earn some free meals!

He raised the wine glass and took a sniff before taking a small sip. After that, he placed it down right away.

The young man could not help asking again, “What now? Is it not to your liking as well?”

After a moment of hesitation, he said, “The wine has a faint fragrance. It’s crisp and clear in general. Its making and ingredients are top-grade, too. However, they could pay more attention to the temperature changes of its surrounding, since the changing of seasons affects the texture of the wine. If they could make adjustments accordingly, it would be perfect.”

Hearing that Li Nianfan’s criticism did make sense, the young man was shocked. Though after a while, he challenged him, “If there’s better wine made for ordinary men, they would’ve presented them here. Why would they keep this as the house wine in the Immortal Guest House?”

He directly pointed out that Li Nianfan was merely an ordinary man. How could he criticize the wine served to cultivators?

How could the wine served to cultivators be less impressive than wine for ordinary men? What a joke!

Li Nianfan merely smiled. “I’m just expressing my viewpoint. Nothing’s unchangeable, especially the taste of wine. What I said was just a small part of winemaking. As they say, learning has no boundary, any man can teach. Wouldn’t it be best to gather more knowledge?”

“Learning has no boundary, any man can teach?” The young man’s pupils dilated as if he was shocked by what Li Nianfan said. He sat, mumbling while transfixed in his seat.

By the side, Daji jolted slightly. Her head was ringing loudly, as if Li Nianfan's statement was the key to gain more Insights and that one could learn true Wisdom after deciphering his sentence.

His statement kept repeating in her mind, and the more she thought about it, the more in awe she was. It was as if she was swimming in a boundless sea, in awe of its vastness and unable to decide which direction to go.

Could it be that the reason her master decided to live as an ordinary man was because he had many things to learn from ordinary men?

Any man could teach. A godly man like Li Nianfan was willing to learn from ordinary men? Perhaps he was the only man who would do such a thing!

As for the young man, he could feel that his brain had been completely messed up. The deadliness of this sentence was like a bullet shooting through his worldview, destroying all the things he thought he knew.

As the son of the Lord of Azure Ville, he was born with the top and finest resources in this Immortal Realm. With the finest talents and teachers, everything he had could only be dreamt of by the others. There was nothing else he could learn from the others. Before he met Li Nianfan, he would have answered him by saying 'there's no need to learn' but now, he was speechless!

Everything in Azure Ville was like this wine. He thought it was perfect, but was it really so? If he could 'gather more knowledge', would he stand out from the people in Azure Ville? If he became more successful than his father...

The young man was breathing more rapidly. He had to take a deep breath to calm down his rising heart rate. He was able to learn such wisdom from an ordinary man. It showed that his statement, 'any man can teach' was indeed correct.

He looked at Li Nianfan differently. He stood up and said in a solemn tone, "I understand now. Thank you for your teaching."

Oh, another polite cultivator!

Li Nianfan was impressed by this young man's politeness. He smiled. "It's just some thoughts, not a teaching."

The young man sat down again. Out of the blue, he looked at Li Nianfan and asked awkwardly, "May I ask for a glass of wine?"

He was feeling emotional and needed some wine to calm himself down. However, thinking about how the whole table of food belonged to Li Nianfan, he felt embarrassed.

"Haha! No problem!" Li Nianfan handed him a glass of wine.

The young man was pleased. He raised the glass and said to Li Nianfan, “Thanks, let me make a toast to you!”

With that, he gulped down the glass of wine. He felt that the wine tasted fuller than all the wines he had tasted in the past. He said, “If I have the chance, I’ll do as you say. Re-adjust the making of this wine. I’m sure the taste and texture will greatly improve.”

It seemed that this young man was indeed someone of importance. He had the power to re-adjust the winemaking in this town! It seemed that he had made yet another powerful friend!

Li Nianfan smiled and did not point out that this was just a small problem with the wine. The truth was that this wine had many problems. In fact, there were so many problems that he was unable to point them all out as he might offend this young man and end up making him an enemy.

The young man continued to focus on the telling of ‘Journey to the West’. It was almost reaching the end of the story, and the middle-aged man was analyzing the ending along with the audience.

“They were finally able to reach their destination after going through nine thousand, eight hundred and eighty-one challenges. Senior Wu Cheng’en is trying to tell us that if we want to cultivate to Immortality, there’d be challenges in front of us. Though as long as we remain determined to conquer all the challenges, we’d succeed eventually!”

“Exactly! Through the telling of the ‘Journey to the West’, we can see that the group of four aren’t only facing physical challenges, they’re also mentally challenged as well. They grow from within, which is similar to cultivators like us!”

“Indeed, the journey of our cultivation is just like theirs, filled with different kinds of tests.”

The guests in the Immortal Guest House nodded in agreement. The young man beside Li Nianfan even stood up and called out in excitement, “I agree! Here’s yours!”

With that, he tossed a couple of glowing Spiritual Stones to the man who was telling the story.

After he sat back down, he asked Li Nianfan, “Have you heard of the ‘Journey to the West’?”

“Yes.” Li Nianfan nodded.

“Senior Wu Cheng’en’s indeed an expert. Being able to write such an Immortal-classed story! His experience is definitely beyond our imagination.” The young man sighed in awe. Then, he continued, “They all had extraordinary identities, and yet, they were willing to walk by foot to the destination that they eventually arrived at. They are indeed role models.”

Li Nianfan looked at the young man strangely. After a moment of hesitation, he said, “Actually, we should see it differently. It’s because of their extraordinary identities that they were able to arrive at the destination.”

He was only stating a different point of view, but the meaning of it had changed completely.

The young man frowned. “What do you mean?”

Chapter 125: A Shocking Statement

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Li Nianfan smiled, “From the beginning of ‘Journey to the West’, the ending had been predetermined. The group would gain the Truth eventually. Although there seemed to be challenges everywhere, it was all part of the journey. Don’t you feel that the entire journey seemed to have been planned by someone else all along?”

“The journey had been planned by someone else all along?” The young man was deep in thought. He felt something was off.

Li Nianfan continued, “Let me put it differently. How many challenges can you find in the story that could actually cause them harm?”

“This...” The young man became hesitant.

When he first heard ‘Journey to the West’, he was captivated by the story. Thus, he paid close attention to every word, learning the story by heart. Therefore, when he was questioned by Li Nianfan, nine thousand, nine hundred and eighty-one challenges flashed in his mind, and yet, he realized a shocking problem!

Nobody had told him this before, and he had never realized it himself. Now that it was pointed out by Li Nianfan, he realized that the challenges were nothing—they always had protection from the others.

As a cultivator himself, he knew well enough that even one minor mistake could cost him his life. In comparison to the challenges faced by the group in the story, it was like child’s play!

Could they still be considered as challenges if they did not put one’s life at risk?

Li Nianfan smiled. “To me, ‘Journey to the West’ is just a vacation for the group, where they traveled from East to West. It is a record of their journey, encounters, and sights.”

Vroom!

The young man jolted and sank into his seat. His eyes went blank and his lips twitched slightly. He wanted to refute but did not know where to start.

He recalled all the scenes in his head. The more he thought about it, the itchier his scalp became. It seemed that among all of the challenges the group had faced throughout the journey, the biggest challenge came from the Women Kingdom where they were almost convinced to stay and give up on their mission.

In other words, as long as they remained determined, their arrival at the destination was a definite result. In simpler terms, it meant their paths had been pre-set by the others. As long as they remained determined and did good deeds, they would eventually reach their goal.

Li Nianfan tried to make it as simple as possible. He said, “Although there were always challenges, Buddha had the layout for five hundred years. Apart from arranging for Wukong to protect the monk, different gods were guiding and helping them throughout the journey. Even when they faced powerful demons who tried to take their lives, there were always external forces helping them. The smaller demons were easily killed.”

If he put it this way, it was apparent that it seemed more like a vacation.

However, if this was true, the motivational journey of challenges instantly became a journal of their vacation. The truth sent chills down the spine of the young man, giving him goosebumps all over.

Li Nianfan had the same look of awe in his eyes. Senior Wu Cheng'en was indeed a genius. There were too many details and deeper meanings in this 'Journey to the West' novel, causing one to be stunned.

He sighed. "Look at society today. If one had no relations to the Immortals, the children of the businessmen would become businessmen, the children of the farmers would become farmers, and the children of politicians would become politicians. Since birth, everything has somehow been predetermined, making it hard to change the path's course. It's almost impossible for an ordinary person to become a cultivator—extremely difficult—while it's easy for cultivators' children to do the same thing."

Li Nianfan had always felt this way since he was in the previous realm. The only challenges those rich kids would face were their wealthy parents sending them overseas to study.

The young man's pupils dilated as a look of awe and disbelief appeared on his face. "This...this...this..."

Even though Li Nianfan did not make it too specific, he knew that he was like the monk from the story! As the son of the Lord of Azure Ville, he was the so-called 'rich kid' and his path had been set up for him long ago. The so-called breakthrough, the so-called interrogation of Insights, and the outdoor retreat had all been accomplished under the guidance of others. Even when he went to kill demons as tests, they were all prepared for him by the others. It would be a joke to consider these as challenges.

The young man stood up gradually. "Sir, your words have provoked me deeply. Allow me to insist on paying for your meal today."

With that, he placed a couple of Spiritual Stones on the table. “Goodbye for now.”

His mind was still a mess. He wanted to go home right away to digest what he had learned today. Thus, he left in a hurry.

Watching his retreating back, Li Nianfan could not help but smile to himself. What an impatient man. However, he seemed like a kind person.

Li Nianfan picked up the Spiritual Stones and examined them closely in his palm. It was truly nice befriending local tyrants. Because of that, he earned some stones!

“Daji, we have money now! I’ll bring you around today and see if there’s anything you’d like to buy.”

Azure Ville was located behind the foot of the mountain. It was in a well-hidden spot. Blocked by trees and hills that shielded them from natural disasters, it was a spot only cultivators could find.

Qin Manyun sat in a garden. Her brows were furrowed as if she was worried. Sitting opposite her was a beautiful young lady in a long, green dress. Her beauty was as exquisite as Qin Manyun’s—she had dark hair and fair skin along with beautiful eyes that sparkled with an indescribable charm. Perhaps it was due to her being older than Qin Manyun that she exuded a sense of elegance and decorousness.

The both of them sat in the garden and instantly, they became the most charming flowers, making the rest of the flowers in the garden seem rather dull. The decorous young lady smiled faintly. Her posture was refined. "Sister Manyun, your teacher's a good man. Surely, he'll be able to go through the natural tribulation with no harm."

Qin Manyun sighed. "I thought I could meet with your father and ask him for some tips. What a shame."

The decorous woman comforted her, "Don't hurry. Once the ceremony has ended, I'll personally bring you to him. By then, your teacher will be able to break through to the Cross Tribulation realm with success. It'd be great news."

"Well, thank you in advance, Sister Ziyao," Qin Manyun said. She looked at Gu Ziyao and asked curiously, "Uncle Gu asked all the Cross Tribulation cultivators to leave the valley. Is it due to some changes in the upcoming ceremony?"

Gu Ziyao hesitated for a moment and said, "As you know, the Ceremony's seal has been getting weaker every year, with each ceremony further weakening the seal. After all these years, the power of the seal has...well, as of two days ago, the seal has somehow loosened to its extreme. My father was terrified."

"How could this be? Did anything happen recently?" Qin Manyun frowned.

Gu Ziyao shook her head with a worried look. "I'm not sure, but I overheard my father saying that there have been some changes in the realm. However, he doesn't know if it's for better or worse."

Chapter 126: He Is Not An Ordinary Man!

Chapter 126: He Is Not An Ordinary Man!

Some changes in the realm?

Qin Manyun's heart sank.

Gu Ziyao's father was one of the few Mahayala cultivators in this realm. As the bridge between this realm and the Immortal Land, he was naturally sensitive to the changes in this realm. So, what actually happened in this realm?

If there were changes, it would not be a small matter. It was unlikely that she had not heard anything about it.

Just as she was about to question further, a ball of light rushed over from a short distance away. He seemed rather depressed and empty but he was also smiling and crying—a set of mixed expressions.

After he landed on the ground, he looked at Gu Ziyao and Qin Manyun. Without even greeting them, he retreated blankly to his room.

Gu Ziyao frowned. She said, “Gu Ziyu, what’s wrong with you!?”

Gu Ziyu jolted. It was only then he snapped back to reality. He looked at Gu Ziyao in terror and shrank a little. “Sister.”

Gu Ziyao shook her head. “We have a guest. Why didn’t you greet her?”

Gu Ziyu turned to look at Qin Manyun. He said hastily, “Sister Manyun. What brings you here?”

Qin Manyun smiled. “I’m here to attend the Azure Demon Lockdown Grand Ceremony. I came by to say hello.”

Gu Ziyao looked at Gu Ziyu with suspicion. “What happened? You seem zoned out. Did someone trick you again?”

Her younger brother was indeed gifted in cultivation, but his brain was too simple and he was always impatient. He did things without thinking and would fuss over small matters. He was not the one bringing pride to the family, but he had the potential to bring them shame.

Gu Ziyu said hastily, “No, I’m not a fool. How would I be tricked again? I went to the Immortal Guest House to listen to ‘Journey to the West’. It was the final session today.”

“‘Journey to the West’ has ended? Did the group eventually gain the Truth?” Gu Ziyao could not help asking.

She did not like being seen in public, so she always had her brother retell the story to her so she was caught up to date.

Gu Ziyu shook his head and said with a displeased tone, “Obviously! It was an expected ending anyway.”

“Expected?” Gu Ziyao looked at her brother strangely. She felt that he was acting strange today.

Usually, he would immediately tell her what he had heard from the day’s session. He would usually be utterly impressed by the group and their journey. But now...he seemed rather scornful?

Gradually, a look of excitement appeared on Gu Ziyu’s face as he said in a mysterious tone, “Sister, I met a mysterious man today.”

“You met yet another mysterious man?” Gu Ziyao gasped sarcastically. She was all too familiar with this conversation. Her brother would always speak with this tone and expression whenever he got tricked by another conman.

Her face darkened as she asked, “How did this person trick you this time?”

“I wasn’t tricked! I promise! He’s a mysterious man!” Gu Ziyu’s face was very solemn. He continued, “Although he’s only an ordinary man, the things he said were filled with knowledge and wisdom. So well-put! You’ve no idea how I felt just now. I was completely stunned!”

Ordinary man?

Gu Ziyao’s face darkened further. She could not help covering her face with her hand in shame. Her brother was tricked by an ordinary man again. She was embarrassed on his behalf!

She glanced at Qin Manyun with an awkward look. “Oh, this is embarrassing.”

“Sister, why won’t you believe me? With such wisdom, I don’t think he’s an ordinary man at all!” Gu Ziyu grew more impatient. “Did you know? The whole idea behind ‘Journey to the West’ is such a joke! I finally see it! If you don’t believe me, I’ll tell you.”

Gu Ziyao shook her head. “No need. I don’t think you know what you’re talking about.”

Qin Manyun who was by the side said, “Sister Ziyao, why don’t we hear him out?”

After meeting Li Nianfan, she no longer looked down on ordinary men.

Gu Ziyao sighed. “Whatever, let’s see what you’ve got this time.”

Gu Ziyu’s face lit up. It was finally showtime! He was going to shock and impress the two for them. He shook his head like a drunk man trying to get in the mood. He then imitated Li Nianfan’s tone and repeated the words he used as he began retelling them what Li Nianfan said.

At first, Gu Ziyao did not take it seriously as she did not expect anything from her brother. However, her face turned more and more solemn as time passed. Her beautiful eyes gazed at Gu Ziyu, completely intrigued. She never thought her brother could stun her!

Did he truly meet a mysterious man this time?

Qin Manyun’s pupils dilated. She felt a sense of familiarity listening to this tone and words. Her heart skipped a beat.

By then, Gu Ziyu had already finished speaking. He smoothened his clothes and said with a smile, “What now? Impressed by me?”

Gu Ziyao looked at him with a solemn look. “Who told you this?”

“Damn! I forgot to ask for his name!” Gu Ziyu panicked as he slammed on his chest. “I’m such a fool! How could I forget such an important thing?”

Gu Ziyao rubbed her head as well. She was speechless by her brother.

Qin Manyun took a deep breath. She looked at Gu Ziyu, “Are you sure he’s an ordinary man? Are there any other details?”

Gu Ziyu nonchalantly said, “Yes, I’m sure he’s an ordinary man. However, he ordered a table full of dishes in the Immortal Guest House. And, there was an extremely beautiful woman accompanying him. The woman was also an ordinary person.”

Qin Manyun’s eyes widened as her body jolted. She jumped up in shock and cried out, “So, it’s really him!”

Gu Ziyao asked hastily, “Sister Manyun, you know this man?”

“Not just that. The reason I’m here is to accompany this man!” Qin Manyun smiled bitterly as she said with a solemn tone, “He’s not an ordinary man. He’s a very powerful expert. It was an unimaginably big opportunity for Ziyu for being able to speak to him.”

A powerful expert?

Opportunity?

Gu Ziyao was transfixed in his spot. What Qin Manyun said was too fictional. He could not believe it.

What kind of man was that? To be spoken of so highly by Qin Manyun in the territory of Azure Ville?!

Gu Ziyu was initially transfixed, but he said excitedly, “Sister Manyun knows this person? I knew he wasn’t just another ordinary man. What’s the name of this hero? I want to be friends with him!”

“Be friends with him?” Qin Manyun could not help smiling. She looked at Gu Ziyu with a strange look. “I don’t mean to insult you, but even your father has no right to be friends with him! Even an Immortal would have to look up at him. In fact, the beautiful woman you spoke of is an Immortal!”

Chapter 127: What a Terrifyingly Huge Chess Game

Chapter 127: What a Terrifyingly Huge Chess Game

Gasp—

Gu Ziyu and Gu Ziyao gasped at the same time. They looked at Qin Manyun with a look of terror.

Gu Ziyao could no longer keep calm. She asked solemnly, “Are you kidding?”

She was talking about an Immortal!

An existence that was greater than any other in this realm. There had been no cases of Immortalization in a thousand years in this Immortal Realm. So, what concept was that? More importantly, this Immortal woman was willing to serve this man?

How powerful could he be?

“Do you think I’d joke about this?” Qin Manyun looked at Gu Ziyao. Her beautiful eyes were filled with amazement and awe. “This man...is way above an Immortal. All you have to know is that all his trash is actually the most precious treasures in the entire Immortal Realm.”

“This...this...” Gu Ziyao’s mind was blown away. Though she was shaking her head as her rationale told her this was impossible, somehow, in the deepest part of her heart, she believed Qin Manyun.

She could not help herself from asking, “The both of you aren’t trying to kid me, right?”

“Sister, I swear it’s true!” Gu Ziyu said. “If this ordinary man’s so powerful, getting to speak with him for such a long time would mean that it was the most glorious moment in my life!”

Gu Ziyao took a deep breath and tried to calm himself down. “This is unbelievable! How unbelievable!”

“I wasn’t planning on telling you both about him, but since Ziyu met him, it shows that the expert has a plan involving you. That’s why I told you about him.” Qin Manyun paused for a moment, and said after some hesitation, she said, “Actually...’Journey to the West’ was written by the expert!”

“What?” Gu Ziyu glared at Qin Manyun like a fan who met his idol. He cried with excitement, “He’s Senior Wu Cheng’en?”

“Wu Cheng’en is just his pen name. If you think about it, he gives this opportunity to everyone through the story of ‘Journey to the West’ without even asking for any favors in return. How generous and noble!” Qin Manyun sighed. “I thought ‘Journey to the West’ was a story containing the Wisdom that the expert used to preach to us. But after hearing what you’ve said, I realized that the hidden clues in this story are way beyond that! My understanding was indeed too shallow.”

Confused, Gu Ziyao said, “When I heard what Ziyu said, I was enlightened as well. Who would’ve thought that the story would contain a much deeper meaning!”

Qin Manyun looked at Gu Ziyu and said in a serious tone, “The expert will never say things clearly. He has given you so many clues. All of them must have their deeper meanings. Why don’t you tell us your entire encounter with the expert from beginning to end? Perhaps we could analyze it better.”

With that, Gu Ziyu immediately recounted his entire encounter with Li Nianfan. His expression was more solemn this time as he was now aware of the importance of the matter.

Qin Manyun listened carefully as her mind processed the information rapidly. She could not afford to miss a single word.

When she heard that ‘Journey to the West’ was merely a journal of their vacation, her heart twitched vigorously. At this moment, she felt extremely blessed and took a deep breath.

Phew...

“I think I get it. This is indeed a big, terrifying chess game!” Qin Manyun said with a complex look, her eyes showing a hint of sadness.

“What is it?” Gu Ziyao frowned.

“The expert said that many things of both ordinary men and cultivators were predetermined since birth, but that isn’t the main point. The main point is the metaphor he used,” Qin Manyun said with deep amazement in her eyes. There was a hint of terror and bitterness.

She continued with a trembling voice, “Think about it, Immortals are more powerful than cultivators. Surely there’d be ‘second-generation’ Immortals! We spend our whole lives cultivating for longevity, but the children of Immortals are born as Immortals! So, if everything has been predetermined, what’s the point of working so hard? Do you think he was referring to the bridge to Immortality?”

Qin Manyun was shocked by her own speculation. The moment she heard herself saying that, she felt a cold sweat coming, as if she had just discovered a big secret that would cost her life.

She was overwhelmed with emotions. ‘So, the expert has told everyone the greatest secret of the Immortal Realm. He truly is playing a chess game with another force. I’m so lucky to be a chess piece of his. This is my greatest pleasure!’ Qin Manyun thought to herself.

As for Gu Ziyao and Gu Ziyu, their faces had turned pale. Their heads were about to explode and the thought of impending danger sent chills all over them.

The bridge to Immortality had been broken. This affected them more than anyone else. Their father was a Mahayala cultivator and they would often hear him sighing to himself, as if he could not see any path in front of him.

Gu Ziyu could not help but mumble to himself, “So, what you’re saying is that someone’s stopping us from Immortalizing for the benefit of their children?”

“Enough! That’s enough!” Gu Ziyao’s beautiful eyes glared at Gu Ziyu to stop him. “Ziyu, remember this. Don’t tell anyone about this conversation. Let me speak to father. Pretend you heard nothing.”

She then bowed at Qin Manyun formally. “We’d like to make an ambitious request to meet the expert. I hope Sister Manyun will introduce us to him.”

Qin Manyun said, “I’ll go back to see how the expert feels about this. I’ll let you know the answer tomorrow.”

Gu Ziyao said with gratitude, “Thank you!”

Qin Manyun smiled. “It’s my pleasure. Don’t worry, since the expert was willing to tell all this to Ziyu, I’m sure he wouldn’t mind meeting you both.”

...

Qin Manyun left Azure Ville and rushed to the Immortal Guest House. On the way there, she saw Li Nianfan and Daji shopping among the crowd. Instantly, she found a space to land on and pretended to bump into them.

She smiled. “Oh! Hey, Mr. Li! What a coincidence.”

Li Nianfan smiled at Qin Manyun. “Hello, Miss Manyun. You’re back!”

“Yeah, I just visited a friend of mine,” Qin Manyun nodded. Seeing that Li Nianfan was looking at silk from a shop, she asked, “Mr. Li’s choosing some cloth?”

“That’s right. I’m planning to make Daji some clothes. Unfortunately, the colors are too limited here. I can’t find the one I like.” Li Nianfan sighed. “Never mind.”

Another hint!

How could she forget about the most basic need? What a miss!

Qin Manyun's lips curved up slightly. She was excited. It was yet another opportunity to impress the expert!

Chapter 128: A Pot of Tea Eggs

Chapter 128: A Pot of Tea Eggs

Qin Manyun followed Li Nianfan from behind without speaking. After finding an appropriate excuse, she said, "May I ask if you met a young man in the Immortal Guest House?"

Li Nianfan nodded. "Indeed. Why?"

Qin Manyun said nervously, "To be honest with you, I was visiting this man's sister. They heard your take on 'Journey to the West' and were enlightened. So, they'd like to pay you a visit."

“So, two fans of ‘Journey to the West’.” Li Nianfan smiled. No wonder the young man rushed away hastily. He was rushing home to share the information with his sister.

In fact, he even received some Spiritual Stones from the young man! He said nonchalantly, “Why not? Just bring them over. If you come early, I can prepare breakfast for everyone.”

“Great!” Qin Manyun’s face lit up. “I’ll go tell them now.”

With that, she transformed into light and left hastily.

The next day, at the first ray of sunlight.

Three orbs of light flew from Azure Ville toward the Immortal Guest House.

Gu Ziyao said as they travelled, “Sister Manyun, thank you so much for introducing us to the expert and even giving us a chance to impress him.”

She had a long box in her hands. Inside it was a white tulle dress.

“This is your opportunity. I wouldn’t have been able to find such top quality clothing in such a short period of time,” Qin Manyun said with a calm tone, but internally, she was sighing.

How could the expert wear ordinary clothing? It had to be at least a weapon! Weapon clothing could be used as a defensive item, or even a luxurious item in this Immortal Realm. This was because the materials of such clothing were of top quality and could be used only a limited number of times. One could make powerful weapons out of it, but instead, Immortals used it to make appealing clothing. How wasteful!

Powerful or appealing? Most would choose to be powerful. Furthermore, the clothing was made specifically for men or women which made it less useful! Unless one was extremely wealthy and wasteful, one would not make luxurious clothing out of these defensive materials!

Even the Linxian Palace did not have much of such clothings, and most of them were worn by Qin Manyun. If it was going to be a gift to Daji, of course it had to be new!

Little did she expect that Azure Ville was so wealthy and generous! Gu Ziyao happened to have a few top-grade clothings which were all custom-made!

The three of them walked to the front of the Immortal Guest House. Qin Manyun said with a solemn tone, “I told you about the taboo, right? Please, remember to always keep calm and never offend the expert.”

Gu Ziyao nodded. “Don’t worry, we know.”

Upon entering the Immortal Guest House, they walked up the stairs, one after another. They were approaching Li Nianfan's room. Even though it was not far away, they felt that the climb it took forever. They could even hear their heartbeats over the tension in the air.

The Gu brother and sister thought they had done enough preparation before coming, but the closer they were, the more they realized how much preparation they lacked. They started to get more and more anxious.

At this moment, they were overwhelmed with unknown fear and anticipation. Before they knew it, the three of them had arrived at Li Nianfan's room.

Qin Manyun took a deep breath and knocked on the door.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

"Coming," Li Nianfan called out from inside. Swiftly after, the door swung open.

"Sir, we meet again. Sorry I left in a hurry yesterday and forgot to introduce myself. My name is Gu Ziyu. This is my sister, Gu Ziyao," Gu Ziyu hastily uttered his prepared speech like how his sister instructed him to.

“Hello, I’m Li Nianfan. Please, come in.” Li Nianfan looked at the three of them and instantly smiled.

He knew both Qin Manyun and Gu Ziyu, so the other woman was probably Gu Ziyu’s sister. It was hard to believe that an impatient and straightforward young man would have such a dignified and elegant sister.

The three of them said in unison, “Sorry to bother you.”

Upon entering the room, the three of them were stunned. Fragrance instantly rushed into their noses and up into their brains, touching on nerves that had never been touched before.

Following the source of the fragrance, they saw a small pot by the dining table. The liquid in the pot was boiling and a thick layer of smoke rose into the air, bringing out its unique scent.

Daji was laying out the bowls and cutleries by the side. She nodded at the three of them.

The living room was very spacious. The five of them could sit in the living room without feeling crowded.

“Have a seat,” Li Nianfan invited them to sit at the dining table.

As they got closer, the fragrance thickened, penetrating their noses and throats. The smell soothed their senses and awakened the hunger in their stomachs. Their stomachs started growling.

The three of them stiffened up in unison. They could almost feel their stomach churning. They had to keep transferring their Qi into their stomachs to calm down and repress the growls coming from their stomachs.

All these years, they had never felt hunger once they started cultivating. They did not expect to have this feeling again. One might not even believe them even if they confessed, but they used up all their Spiritual Qi in order to stop their stomachs from growling.

However...it smelt too good...too good!

Although they were warned by Qin Manyun, the fragrance was way beyond Gu Ziyao and Gu Ziyu's expectations.

Especially Gu Ziyu who could not help recalling his first encounter with Li Nianfan. He remembered treating Li Nianfan's criticism of the food as a joke and thought he was just a pretentious frog in a well. Thinking back now, Li Nianfan was indeed an impressive man while he was the actual frog in a well!

The fragrance of the food was able to surpass any dish in the Immortal Guest House. In fact, countless people would fight among each other just to take a whiff of this dish!

The three of them looked at the steaming pot with curiosity. All they could see was a few eggs inside the pot and liquid boiling vigorously.

The eggs had darkened into a dark brown color and their shells were cracked all over. The liquid in the pot was brown in color as well, seeping into the eggs through the cracks.

Other than the eggs and water, there were some condiments in the pot, such as spices and tea leaves.

Were this...tea eggs?

Almost everyone knew what this dish was, but why did it smell so good?

The brother and sister were intrigued, but Qin Manyun's pupils dilated. She could feel her head exploding from the shock rushing into her!

The tea leaves...were they not the ones that gave her Insights?!

Chapter 129: So Delicious...I'm Crying!

Chapter 129: So Delicious...I'm Crying!

Phew...phew...

Even though Qin Manyun was repressing herself with all her will, she could feel her breathing speed up. Her pupils dilated as she gave the pot of tea eggs a deadly stare.

No wonder the fragrance was so captivating. It was an Immortal treasure!

This tea contained Insights! It had to be an Immortal treasure!

He actually used these to boil the eggs? How wasteful!

So wasteful! This gave Qin Manyun a new understanding of the term 'wasteful'. Her heart was twitching in pain!

She quickly averted her gaze, terrified that she might start tearing up the longer she stared at it. What hurt her the most was that these eggs were neither dragon eggs nor phoenix eggs. They were not even demon eggs! They were merely some ordinary chicken

eggs! Even though the tea leaves were the main focus here instead of the eggs, this was still too wasteful!

Luckily, the brother and sister did not know what kind of tea eggs they were about to eat. Had they known, they would have been shocked and screamed instantly.

Gu Ziyao took out the box and handed it to Li Nianfan. “Mr. Li, here’s a small gift for you. I hope you like it.”

“Aw, look at you! You didn’t have to!” Li Nianfan shook his head. They were being too polite. The last time they met, the brother left him a couple of Spiritual Stones. Now, the sister brought him a gift? How polite!

“Mr. Li, this is just normal clothes, it’s nothing much. Sister Manyun mentioned you were picking out a dress for Miss Daji, that’s why I brought this over.” Gu Ziyao smiled.

Li Nianfan accepted the box. “You’re too kind. Thank you.”

The box was half-transparent, allowing the pure white tulle dress inside to be visible. The dress was inlaid with purple yarn while the two straps were inlaid with pearl-like ornaments, exuding a soft glow like a halo. The hem of the dress also had some golden flower prints, exuding an air of elegance, nobility, and glamour.

With just a glance, Li Nianfan knew that this dress was great for Daji, so he had to keep it. Seeing that Li Nianfan was keeping it, the brother and sister let out a sigh of relief. They were delighted! The expert seemed to be pleased. This was a great start!

They sat down uneasily. Then, they caught sight of the other dishes on the table. They realized that other than the tea eggs, there was also a pot of vegetable congee paired with a plate full of big, white steamed buns. There were also some smaller dishes and a fruit dish.

Breakfast was supposed to be the most nutritious meal of the day. Having too many dishes would be unhealthy. This amount was just right. Li Nianfan took out all of the ingredients he brought with him. Since he had guests, he could not give them a bad impression.

Looking at the table full of dishes, Qin Manyun's eyes sparkled as her saliva oozed out.

An opportunity!

This meal was an opportunity!

It seemed that the expert was in a good mood today! What a treat! What a handsome treat!

Daji elegantly picked up a ladle to scoop some congee for each of them.

“Thank...thank you.” Gu Ziyao and her brother accepted the congee cautiously, their voices almost trembling.

She was an Immortal!

‘Father! Your children are making you proud! An Immortal is scooping us congee!’

‘However...I’m terrified! So terrified!’

Gu Ziyao looked at the congee in her hands. Her beautiful eyes admired them with a trace of surprise. She could see that every grain was bloated with congee juice—moist and thick. They sparkled like the stars reflected by the sea.

Furthermore, it was embellished with some green vegetables, making the congee less plain-looking. These green vegetables glittered in emerald green. Every slice was equally cut, looking neat and tidy.

This bowl of green congee exuded a great sense of beauty. Gu Ziyao swore that none of the delicious dishes she had eaten in her life was as good-looking as this bowl of congee!

Gradually, the fragrance of the congee overpowered the fragrance of the tea eggs, rushing into her nose and tempting her taste buds. She jolted slightly as she had goosebumps all over.

‘So tempting! I can’t take it anymore! I need to eat it now! I can’t hold on anymore!’

Gu Ziyao intended to maintain her graceful posture, but at this moment, she was unable to keep it up anymore. Hastily, she raised the bowl to her lips, and instead of taking a small sip, she gulped a big mouthful of it.

“Argh!”

When the congee touched her tongue, she let out a low moan of pleasure. It was like drinking the first sip of water in a desert, nourishing every corner of her body. Even her soul started to tremble. This feeling was too...too good!

Even though the congee seemed pasty, it was very easy to drink. As it was accompanied by fresh vegetables, the taste of the congee was at its best! If Gu Ziyao had not tasted this dish herself, she would never believe that a bowl of green congee could be this delicious!

Was this merely a bowl of green congee?

Gulp!

After she swallowed the mouthful of congee, her stomach seemed satisfied. Just as she was about to take a second mouthful, she froze abruptly. Her eyes went wide in disbelief!

Was...was that an Insight?

This congee contained Insights?!

What kind of Immortal congee was this?

Before she could let out a gasp, she heard her brother gasp as he jumped up from his seat.

“Wow!”

“This...this...this congee...” Gu Ziyu pointed at the pot of congee on the table with his trembling finger, sounding shocked like never before. He had a look of surprise on his face.

Instantly, the temperature of the room dropped to freezing point. Qin Manyun’s face was as pale as paper, while Gu Ziyao’s heart was in her throat. She had a look of pain in her eyes as she considered disowning this brother. Even though Daji’s face remained unchanged, she was ready to make Gu Ziyu vanish in the blink of an eye!

Everyone looked at Gu Ziyu all at once.

Feeling their sharp gazes pointed at him, Gu Ziyu could not help himself from shivering a little. He could feel a chill going down his spine. Instantly, he was reminded!

His mind went blank as he almost peed in his pants. He stuttered, "...too...too...delicious!"

He could feel his scalp itching and his eyes tearing up as he mumbled incoherently, "That... Mr. Li, please, excuse me... I... I've never eaten such a delicious dish... I was too excited. Really! Too delicious! So delicious that I want to cry! I'm crying!"

Li Nianfan laughed. "Don't worry, eat more if you like it."

He thought Gu Ziyu was going to take off his clothes!

This further proved that the food he made was indeed delicious! Even a rich kid like Gu Ziyu was so impressed! Of course, Li Nianfan was very pleased!

Chapter 130: The Scene is Stunning!

Chapter 130: The Scene is Stunning!

Phew...

Seeing that Li Nianfan was not angry, everyone let out a long sigh of relief in unison. They felt like they were walking out from hell.

If a man like him was offended, even a thought from him would trigger heavy rain and thunderstorms! Perhaps the entire realm would not survive it either!

Gu Ziyao glared at her brother. Her back was drenched with sweat. She almost died from terror!

Gu Ziyu laughed it off awkwardly. He sat down and said with a terrified voice, “How embarrassing. How embarrassing!”

Gulp! Gulp! Gulp!

Meanwhile, the tea eggs in the pot were vibrating vigorously. Along with the smoke that was coming out of the pot, the fragrance had reached its peaked!

Li Nianfan smiled. “It’s ready. The tea eggs are ready to be served.”

Everyone was delighted. Their eyes were full of anticipation. With such a thick fragrance, it must be more delicious than the green congee! Perhaps even the Immortals would not get the privilege to taste this! They were all extremely excited!

Daji took out a small plate and placed the tea eggs onto the plate before serving the dish to them.

Qin Manyun looked at the tea eggs in front of her. Although she was hurt from how wasteful it was—the tea eggs were soaked in Immortal tea leaves after all—however wasteful it was, she still had to try it.

Her beautiful eyes focused on the tea eggs in front of her. She could see that the eggs had turned dark brown. In contrast to the white plate at the bottom, the dark brown layer of sauce surrounding the eggs made them seem even rounder as it sparkled, radiating with a faint smell of tea. From taking a close sniff, she found that it did not smell eggy!

As it was boiled over low heat over a long time, the eggshell had cracked equally, looking neat and tidy. They did not look strange. In fact, they looked extremely appetizing, tempting one’s hunger!

She looked at the layer of juicy sauce surrounding the eggs. If it was not for her last trace of rationale, she would have stuck out her tongue to lick it...

‘Even though it’s merely an ordinary egg, after being boiled in the tea, it won’t be ordinary anymore!’ she thought as she reached out with her elegant hand to peel off the shell of the egg. Its shell was surprisingly easy to peel off, and just by tugging at a corner of the shell’s membrane, the entire shell slipped off easily.

At this moment, it was as if an internal restraint was removed as the hidden fragrance of the egg rushed out along with the fragrance of the tea. Qin Manyun could not help herself from taking in a deep breath. Instantly, she felt hungry again.

Even though they had already had some green congee, they still had to give in to this alluring scent. They could feel their stomachs growling again. As the shell of the egg was peeled off, the egg white appeared in sight.

In unison, their eyes sparkled in delight. ‘How can an egg be so beautiful...’

The egg white was perfectly round in shape, snowy white, and almost transparent-looking. It looked like an ice-sculpture. One could even see a trace of the egg yolk through the half-transparent egg white.

The white-colored egg white contrasted the yellow yolk as the two embellished one another, forming an otherworldly beautiful sight just like a piece of artwork!

Other than its look, the most important thing was that the egg exuded an alluring fragrance, arousing one’s appetite.

Be it its looks or its smell, it was perfect! A delicious dish that consisted of the highest perfection in color, scent, and taste.

Before they saw this tea egg, it had never occurred to them that eggs could be so perfectly made. Its color and scent were absolutely perfect!

How would it taste?

Everyone had one desire at this moment—to take a bite of this egg and swallow it.

In fact, that was exactly what Gu Ziyu was doing! At this moment, his mind had gone blank. Without hesitation, he opened his mouth and put the entire egg into it. He closed his mouth and bit down on it.

“Wow! So hot!”

As the crystal-like egg white was bit into, the hot golden yolk exploded from within, making him cry out in shock. Due to the heat, Gu Ziyu stuck out his tongue while simultaneously trying to keep the egg in his mouth, moving it from one side to another. He seemed to be in a panic, but his face lit up with excitement as he mumbled, “So yummy! So yummy!”

He was out of words. Besides yummy and delicious, he had no other words to describe the tea egg. However, since he swallowed too hastily, the egg yolk was stuck in his throat. His eyes opened widely as he stretched his neck to let the egg yolk flow downward, looking cheeky and funny.

Gu Ziyao could not help shaking her head. She was embarrassed. As a woman with elegance and dignity, she forced herself to repress her desire to swallow the egg in one go. She parted her lips slightly and elegantly put the egg into her mouth.

Qin Manyun and Daji did the same thing as well.

The three gorgeous women parted their tiny, juicy red lips at the same time, slowly pressing them on the bouncy egg whites...

This scene was...too beautiful!

A sight to die for!

Upon taking a bite of the tea egg, the thick fragrance of the tea merged perfectly with the scent of the egg itself, wrapping around one's taste bud. The perfect mixture of both ingredients formed distinguished layers, attacking one's senses vigorously. It brought out two different tastes as they merged into one unique texture.

The egg released some heat into one's mouth, like a flower blooming with fragrance.

Phew...

The three ladies had blushed cheeks. Biting into the egg white was like biting into jelly. The egg bounced gently in return, making it hard for one to bite it off properly.

After taking a gentle bite, their eyes widened in shock as their pupils dilated. Even their nostrils widened!

Wow!

The fragrance from within burst out immediately like a sudden tsunami attack.

“Ahh...”

The fragrance was so thick, it made them hallucinate and took their breaths away. The tea eggs started bouncing in their mouths and their bodies could not help moving slightly in return.

How was this even an egg? It was more perfect than the ladies' skin!

‘Yummy...so yummy...’ the three of them cried out internally, including Daji.

She thought Xiao Bai was the best cook in this realm. She never expected her master to be the best all along!

Whatever grace or elegance they tried to maintain had been forgotten long ago! They instantly took a few more bites of the eggs in one go!

One had to be reminded that a man who ate the eggs at such a speed was already disgraceful, let alone beautiful ladies like them?

As the egg whites bounced in their mouths, the yolks exploded everywhere. The three ladies closed their eyes instinctively, enjoying this immense pleasure.

What is happiness? This is happiness!

By then, Qin Manyun had long forgotten about the tea leaves and how wasteful this dish was. This delicious dish was worth every single tea leaf! It was not wasteful at all!