

I'm Actually a Cultivation Bigshot

Chapter 61: What A Luxurious Way To Die

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Gulp!

Qin Manyun and Yao Mengji felt as if their heads were to explode. They could feel their blood flowing frantically in their veins.

Yao Mengji forced a smile that was more painful to watch than a cry. Trembling, he said, “Lord...Lord Dog, I’m a huge dog-lover. We’re a family!”

Blackie did not bother looking at Yao Mengji. He turned to Qin Manyun and said calmly, “I know you’re a guest of my master. You know the rules, I assume?”

Qin Manyun was shocked. She knew this dog looked familiar. Now, she finally recalled Li Nianfan had a black pet dog that looked very much like this!

Her eyes sparkled, and suddenly, she understood what Blackie meant. She said hurriedly, "Yes! I know the rules!"

Blackie nodded. "Remember, my master's experiencing the life of an ordinary man in this realm. Don't disinterest him. I'm just a very normal dog, so is that eagle. It's just an ordinary mountain eagle. Understood?"

"Yes, understood. Lord Dog, please, be assured. I promise I won't spoil his fun," Qin Manyun nodded.

Blackie's aura suddenly disappeared without a trace, appearing like a normal ordinary dog. He turned around coldly and left.

Qin Manyun and Yao Mengji let out a long sigh. In such a short time, their clothes had become wet from the cold sweat. The two of them exchanged a look, feeling lucky to have survived.

Yao Mengji looked at her, feeling perplexed. "Manyun, you know that...the Lord Dog?"

Qin Manyun nodded. She said seriously, "Lord Dog seems to be the pet dog hanging by Mr. Li's side. I've seen him before. I thought it was just an ordinary black dog. I never would've thought that..."

She smiled bitterly and shook her head. She was too ignorant. The dog was hanging by the expert's side. How could that be an ordinary dog?

"No wonder!" Yao Mengji realized. He continued, "Since the expert likes to experience life as an ordinary man, we cannot offend him! Yet, if we leave right now, it'd be rather rude. Why don't we hide and pretend to walk into him when we see him."

"Blackie, where's the prey?"

Li Nianfan finally caught up with Blackie, and he followed Blackie's gaze to see a huge black shadow flying in the air. Its massive wings were flapping majestically.

"Wow! The eagle's huge!"

Li Nianfan's eyes lit up. It seemed that he was in luck! He finally found prey! Once he got hold of the eagle, he could end his expedition today perfectly.

He took out the composite bow, straightened his back, and loaded the arrow. His eyes were calm and sharp—focused on the huge eagle.

He was feeling very excited. He remembered watching a drama series back in the mortal realm where the male lead shot his arrow at a huge eagle. A classic scene!

‘And today’s my turn to shine!’

Handsome posture, aimed at the target, and...

Bam!

The arrow was released, piercing through the body of the mountain eagle instantly.

Puff!

Fresh blood spurted out of it in the air.

“Hahaha! I got it! Let’s go!” Li Nianfan looked at the falling eagle. He smiled as he led Daji to the falling eagle.

Daji looked at the falling eagle. Her expression appeared rather confused and perplexed.

Why did this eagle seem so similar to the Silver Moon Demon King?

When they got closer, the confusion on her face turned into shock! It really was the Silver Moon Demon King!

Tzz...

What was all this about?

What happened to the Silver Moon Demon King's spirit?

Suddenly, a voice rang in her ears, "Don't be alarmed. I did this. You probably understand why."

Daji looked at Blackie in shock. Shortly after, shock turned into a realization.

She finally realized!

'Master wants to live an ordinary life in the shell of an ordinary man. However, there are too many shameless monsters and people who think too highly of themselves. It might end up disturbing the master and spoiling his fun of living as an ordinary man.

‘If the master had to handle these small matters himself, then we’d just be losers! When these things happen, we should clear the hurdles in his way and not allow anyone to disturb his life. Then, our master can live as a trouble-free ordinary man and experience the ordinary life!’

Daji finally found her goal. Her eyes appeared more determined than ever.

Yao Mengji and Qin Manyun cautiously approached them. They tried their best to appear natural and calm, pretending to be talking to each other.

When they walked past them, Qin Manyun said in a surprised tone, “Mr. Li, Miss Daji?”

“Eh? Miss Qin! What a coincidence!” Li Nianfan smiled as he was in a good mood after catching his prey!

Qin Manyun said, “Yeah! My teacher and I happened to pass by. Who would’ve thought that we’d bump into Mr. Li!”

“Haha! I came out to hunt and I found a little prize here,” Li Nianfan smiled while he patted Blackie’s head. “Blackie, well done!”

Woof! Woof!

Qin Manyun looked at that obedient face on Blackie and felt her throat getting dry, as if what she saw earlier was just a hallucination.

This was an Immortal Dog! The finest bigshot around actually barked like a dog, even wagging his tail?

This world was crazy!

She turned her head sideways, afraid to show her emotions.

Yao Mengji was able to calm his emotions. He said respectfully, “Mr. Li, I’m Manyun’s teacher. My name’s Yao Mengji. I’ve heard her speaking of you, and I’m pleased to finally be able to meet you!”

“You’re too polite, Mr. Yao. I’m just an ordinary man. What’s there to meet me for?” Li Nianfan said nonchalantly.

‘Ah! As expected! Mr. Li likes to live as an ordinary man! I have to be cautious not to display any sign of awe or shock! Or else the expert won’t like it!’ Yao Mengji thought to himself

Though, he was not surprised. Most experts had all kinds of ticks. Li Nianfan's ticks were considered less absurd.

He said, "Mr. Li, you're too humble. Your 'Journey to the West' is a masterpiece! And I heard you wrote a couplet! Everyone speaks highly of it. I've been wanting to have a peek of it at some point!"

An art lover! Yet another art lover!

Li Nianfan smiled. It seemed that he was gaining fame in this Immortal Realm. Even this old man wanted to see his works!

"If so, why don't Mr. Yao come over to my place?"

"That'd be my greatest pleasure! Sorry to disturb you!" Yao Mengji smiled as wide as a blossoming flower.

Li Nianfan nodded. He was ready to carry the eagle away.

Who knew that Yao Mengji would be so kind as to insist on helping him carry the eagle. Li Nianfan felt bad for making an old man do such a thing, yet Yao Mengji insisted. Hence, he could not reject his offer.

Whatever! This old man was a cultivator after all! It should not be a problem carrying this eagle. With such a polite teacher, it was no wonder Qin Manyun turned out to be so polite!

Puff!

Li Nianfan plucked out the arrow that was buried in the eagle's body and kept it.

Yao Mengji was stunned. He stared blankly at the arrow, as if he wanted to glue his eyes on it.

Enlightenment Bamboo?

It was Enlightenment Bamboo!

He did not notice it earlier and just realized that all of the arrows in the quiver were made from Enlightenment Bamboo!

Who would make arrows with such material?!

It was Enlightenment Bamboo! If they were made into arrows, then there would be one less bamboo after every shot! What a waste!

Yao Mengji's face twitched into a weird shape in pain. He took another look at the bow and realized it was also made with Enlightenment Bamboo!

Wait!

Yao Mengji turned to look at the quiver closely!

Ah!

It was indeed made with Enlightenment Bamboo as well!

How much Enlightenment Bamboo did he actually use?!

He remembered Qin Manyun said that the Enlightenment Bamboo she brought back was just leftover material used by Li Nianfan. Now, he finally understood what she meant!

The Enlightenment Bamboo he received was the most useless from the lot, a part that the expert would not even take another look at!

He thought of how excited he was when he received the thrown-away Enlightenment Bamboo and his eyes grew wide. He was perplexed.

Was this the reality of a bigshot?

He wanted to follow him around to collect his trash!

Yao Megji took another look at the body of the Silver Moon Demon King and sighed, “Bro, you died a luxurious death! You earned this!”

Chapter 62: A Licking Dog!

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Li Nianfan led Yao Mengji and Qin Manyun back to his four-part architecture.

Outside the door, Yao Mengji stared at the couplet for quite a while, as if he was caught into it. His mouth was letting out sighs and exclamations of awe from time to time which boosted Li Nianfan's superficial ego greatly!

Although this old man seemed sloppy and unruly, he knew what a good piece of art was!

Meanwhile, Xiao Bai had already opened the door. "Master, welcome home."

Yao Mengji jumped in shock, but he covered it up by stroking his white beard. "Mr. Li, I've heard about this from Manyun. This Spiritual Machine is called Xiao Bai?"

'Whatever, call it a Spiritual Machine as you please!'

Li Nianfan was not bothered to explain. He simply nodded. "Yeah, it's called Xiao Bai. He can open the door and do some house chores."

Do some house chores?

Yao Mengji's eyes twitched slightly.

‘If you ever give it to me, I’d worship it like my Grandma!’

Li Nianfan walked into the four-part architecture and smiled. “Please, come on in.”

Yao Mengji took a deep breath, preparing himself before stepping inside. Even so, the moment he stepped into the yard, his breathing grew rapid as his eyes sparkled!

It was just like Qin Manyun had described it—filled with treasure! Most importantly, these treasures were all over the place! It was a painful sight! How painful!

However, he raised one of his brows as a strange feeling grew within him. The Tianxin Zither that was placed in his Space Ring started vibrating as if it felt the existence of something terrifying. The strings started vibrating vigorously, almost like a person trembling!

The Zither was an Immortal item. Although it was not as great as the Spiritual Machine, it had developed some wisdom and it was apparent that it was terrified by one of the items in here.

Yao Mengji quickly comforted the Tianxin Zither. He glanced around and an item caught his sight.

Inside the yard, there was a long stone bench. On top of it was a Guqin.

The body of the Guqin was made of some unknown dried wood, seemingly uneven but twisted like snakes. The effect of time was clear on its body and it had seven different-colored strings on it. It was magical!

Yao Mengji gulped involuntarily. He had played the Zither for thousands of years, so he could tell right away that this instrument was not ordinary!

The entire yard was filled with treasures—even the rubbish! How could a Guqin be ordinary? Perhaps calling it a Spiritual Machine would not even do it justice!

No wonder his Tianxin Zither had such a big reaction. The gap between the two instruments was way too huge! It was like an ordinary man meeting an Immortal—of course, one would be terrified.

Taking a closer look, he could feel a breeze on his face, like a beast trying to engulf his soul!

The Spiritual Item should not be offended!

Yao Mengji looked away at once, unafraid to take another look at it.

He flashed a humble smile on his face. “Mr. Li, my student mentioned you like a snack called jello. I brought you some today.”

Yao Mengji remained cautious of the rules here, so he did not mention that it was called the Thousand-Year Black Ice. And if he said ‘jello’, perhaps he could seem friendlier to the expert.

“Oh?” Li Ninfan was slightly shocked. He said, “You’re all too kind!”

So kind! So very kind!

He mentioned it briefly the other day. Who would have thought that they took it to heart! They even brought it in a few days! So kind! This old cultivator must be a very resourceful man in this realm.

Yao Mengji could see that Li Nianfan was pleased. Excitedly, he waved his hand and a mini rockery appeared in the middle of the yard. Complimented by the flowing river by its side, it was very picturesque—almost like a painting or a poem.

The rockery was emerald. It glowed beautifully under the sunlight.

Li Nianfan asked, “This is...”

Yao Mengji explained, “Mr. Li, the jello is produced by this.”

“Oh, I see!” Li Nianfan exclaimed. He was surprised! He could not believe that they even brought over the machine! This gesture was very touching!

He stared at the rockery. The top of it was in the shape of an inverted cone. Half a jello drop was hanging from the inverted tip but its formation had yet to be completed.

The items in this Immortal Realm were interesting! He wondered what raw material the rockery needed to produce unlimited jello!

After looking at it curiously, Li Nianfan smiled. “This seems interesting! I’ll keep it!”

He had tasted the jello the other day and realized the taste was not bad. He did not notice any reaction in his body either, so he assumed this jelly was nothing special to the cultivators.

After all, he was only an ordinary man. If it was a treasure, his body would surely react to it. On the other hand, he had no way of cultivating, so the cultivators would not be that stupid to bring him treasures, right? He would not be able to use them anyway!

On that note, Li Nianfan did not reject the gift and accepted it. Yao Mengji meant well anyway.

Yao Mengji and Qin Manyun gave each other the ‘I knew it’ look. This exquisite treasure was merely a small toy in the eyes of the expert. If it was not because he liked to eat jello, perhaps he would not have accepted it.

Yao Mengji exclaimed happily, “I’m so glad Mr. Li likes it.”

Li Nianfan nodded. He asked curiously, “But why isn’t the jello dropping? I’d like to taste it.”

Yao Mengji hastily explained, “I’m sure you haven’t heard of it, but it takes ten years...”

However, before he could finish his sentence, the rockery started shaking a little as ten or so jello drops started dripping off its tip.

Yao Mengji and Qin Manyun stared at it blankly. Their lips parted as their heads buzzed loudly.

What just happened?

‘Thousand-Year Black Ice, you’ve changed! You were never like this!’

Li Nianfan’s eyes sparkled as he laughed. “Interesting! Yet another voice-controlled device! Not bad, not bad!”

He thought of the bulb and the lighter. Both of them were voice-controlled devices, too! Very convenient!

He continued instructing the rockery, “Make me ten more!”

Drip! Drip! Drip!

Ten more drops of jello dripped out without hesitation.

Yao Mengji felt as if his head had just been hammered. His eyes reddened as if he had been insulted. He had the urge to break down in tears.

‘How dare you, Thousand-Year Black Ice!

‘I worshipped you for over a thousand years, and you stingily made me a small drop of black ice once every ten years! Look at you now. You’ve just met the expert and now you’re his dog!’

‘Where did your dignity go!?’

Li Nianfan looked at Yao Mengji. “Oh right, what were you saying earlier?”

Yao Mengji smiled awkwardly. “No—nothing! I was just trying to tell you that this toy is voice...voice-controlled!”

Chapter 63: The Past Is In The Past

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Yao Mengji wanted to slap himself in the face!

Who did he think Li Nianfan was? He was like a god! Of course, the Thousand-Year Black Ice would listen to him! While it was bossing Yao Mengji around at home, it had to be as humble as it could be in front of the expert!

Being able to work for Li Nianfan was its biggest pleasure! How could it only let out a drop every ten years? It was not a fool!

Qin Manyun was shocked and did not know what to do. She wanted to stand on the sidelines and remain invisible!

Li Nianfan smiled. “Thank you! But I can’t take your gift for free! Tell me, what do you want?”

Qin Manyun was a friend of Luo Shiyu, and this old man probably knew the Holy Emperor and Bai Wuchen since they lived in the same circle. He must have heard word about something that he wanted. Thus, he came all the way here to be friends with him.

Coming with such enthusiasm, he must have something that he wanted! These men of culture were all after writings or paintings, or perhaps chess or tea.

Although Li Nianfan did not know anything about cultivating, he was a man of culture. After all, he was trained by the System for five whole years!

Having met these friendly cultivators, Li Nianfan thought that if he could secure their friendships through the love of arts, he would be in much safer hands in this Immortal Realm.

He wondered if these cultivators were the big ones in this realm. If he could be lucky enough to be friends with the big ones, how great would it be!

If it were not for his friendship with the cultivators, he would not have a full yard of elixirs or even the protection of the flying cultivators in the sky a few days ago.

It was nice to be friends with bigshots!

On the other hand, Yao Mengji was having a difficult time. He could feel his scalp itching and goosebumps all over his skin. He was anxious!

A test!

This was a test!

‘How should I answer this question?’

‘If I say I have no intention of receiving anything, the expert wouldn’t believe me which would make me seem bogus! But if I ask for something, what would the expert think of me? Also, what can I even ask for? Do I even deserve any of the items here?’

It was a very difficult question to grasp!

If he answered wrongly and offended the expert, he would be done for!

It was merely a few seconds, but to him, it felt longer than a century as droplets of sweat started appearing on his forehead.

‘What an expert! So scary! A word from him can mean so many deeper meanings! I’ve cultivated for a thousand years and yet I have no idea how to answer!’

Finally, he bit the bullet and said, “I...I’d like Mr. Li to...to...give me some pointers.”

Li Nianfan shook his head. This old man spoke with such restraint! Why so nervous!

Perhaps this was the weakness of all the cultured men in this realm.

“You mean to show you the instrument?” Li Nianfan asked directly.

Since he stepped into the house, Li Nianfan noticed that Yao Mengji had been staring at his Guqin without blinking. Even when he spoke, he would take a sneak peek at the Guqin

from time to time. That cautious look on his face made it quite apparent that he had a thing for the stringed instrument! He was likely to be a music-lover!

Yao Mengji exclaimed, “Yes! Exactly!”

An expert he was! Perhaps he could tell right away that I was cultivating with music. If he could give me a pointer, or two, it would be my biggest blessing!

Li Nianfan said, “I can’t teach you, but we could exchange our knowledge.”

“So, Mr. Li, shall we play a duet? Or...” Yao Mengji asked sheepishly.

“No duet!” Li Nianfan shook his head and rejected him without hesitation. He was merely an ordinary man, how could he play a duet with a cultivator? Was he trying to kill himself?

Who would know what would happen when these cultivators played their instrument! What if their Spiritual Qi accidentally harmed him?

“Why don’t you play it? I’ll listen,” Li Nianfan pointed at his Guqin. “My instrument is right there. Why don’t you go give it a try?”

Yao Mengji trembled. His face flushed red as his breathing turned rapid. It was as though he had just heard something absurd and could not believe his ears. “Mr. Li, am I allowed to play on your instrument?”

“It’s just an instrument. Why not?” Li Nianfan found it almost funny! This old man was hilarious!

Breathe in... Breathe out...

Yao Mengji tried to control his breathing and said to himself, ‘Be calm! I have to be calm! I cannot appear frightened in front of Mr. Li.’

He stared at the Guqin, as if walking into a temple. He made his way to the Guqin one step at a time.

‘This is a Spiritual Item! Perhaps even beyond that! And I’m allowed to play on this Immortal treasure?’

He felt as if he was in a dream. His mind blanked and he had tears in his eyes. It was already the greatest blessing in life to be able to have a look at a Guqin like this. He would give away his chance at becoming an Immortal just to play on this instrument!

‘Mr. Li is indeed an expert! He’s willing to let a sloppy man like me touch and play on his instrument!? I have no more regret in life!’

Yao Mengji sat before the Guqin. He reached out with trembling hands, as if he was about to touch his lover but was afraid that he would taint his lover's clothes—extremely hesitant.

At this moment, he felt like a stoic warrior facing his death.

‘Being able to become Mr. Li's chess piece is the greatest blessing in my life!’

With that, he whispered to the Guqin before placing his hands on the instrument and said, “Pardon me.”

A truly Spiritual Item!

Yao Mengji knew that if it was not the expert playing it, the Guqin would have attacked him right away and kicked him out of there.

He calmed his racing heart. His age-washed eyes let out a gaze he had never had before. This was a chance given to him by the expert...as well as a test.

Accompanying the expert was just like accompanying a tiger.

If he was good at it, it would be fine. If he could not play well and tainted the Guqin instead, his life would be over!

He took a deep breath and held it in for ten seconds before letting it all out with a long sigh.

With that, he started plucking at the strings. His movements were smooth and fluent like water flowing down a river.

Ding...

Beautiful music came out of the Guqin—sometimes relaxing, sometimes rapid. Waves flew in the air, drifting far away.

Between the sky and the ground, a cooling breeze came by, blowing on Yao Mengji's white beard and hair. He looked like a wise old man.

Li Nianfan closed his eyes as he listened, sometimes nodding, sometimes shaking his head. It seemed that this old man really liked music. He put in quite some effort into his performance. If graded by the System, he would have reached at least a level eight.

However...

Li Nianfan could not help recalling the time when he was controlled by the system! Back then, he thought playing the instrument at level ten was already hitting its peak, yet the System told him level ten was just the beginning.

In the words of the System, the first ten levels were just the basic foundations. After mastering that, one also needed to take into account the meaning of the music, one's surroundings, feelings, and emotions to pass the test!

Anyway...that was the past!

He did not know how he managed to survive those days!

Chapter 64: Having A Blast!

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Chirp chirp chirp...

Birds were circling in the sky above the four-part architecture. As time passed, more and more birds gathered, forming circle after circle. It looked like layers of a whirlpool—very majestic.

Li Nianfan looked up nostalgically, watching the birds as he thought of his days in the past. He had not seen this for quite some time now, which he realized to have greatly missed.

He remembered that when his skill was within the ten levels, this would always happen whenever he played the instrument. Back then, he was proud of himself. He always imagined what it would look like when he reached the so-called ‘peak’ as referred to by the System.

However, after he had a breakthrough to level ten, this sight was gone. Li Nianfan felt cheated by the System.

As for Qin Manyun, she was just looking up at the sky. Her eyes were relaxed and filled with admiration. When would she ever reach the level of her teacher?

As the last note was played, the air became as calm as before.

Yao Mengji’s eyes were filled with a hint of excitement. He actually played a piece with this Spiritual instrument! He would be able to brag about it for the rest of his life!

He was very thankful to Li Nianfan for giving him such an opportunity.

He stood up and looked at Li Nianfan, hoping for his affirmation as well as some pointers.

Li Nianfan wanted to be like the System and give him some constructive criticism, but looking at his aged face and white hair, he could not do it.

‘This man’s already so old. I’d have to save him from embarrassment.’

Li Nianfan smiled. “Mr. Yao, we won’t give comments today. Let’s communicate through the music directly.”

“Thank you, Mr. Li.” Yao Mengji made way for him.

Li Nianfan faced the front yard and turned his back to the backyard. Upon sitting on the seat, he positioned his hands on top of the strings while his gaze was calm like a lake.

Since the cultivators were here, he could not just play any simple song. He would have to play something more impressive!

‘I’ll play that piece!’

At this moment, Yao Mengji and Qin Manyun could feel a change in Li Nianfan. They watched his back as if they were looking at the door of vicissitudes activating gradually.

As the door was gradually activated, waves of vicissitudes launched at them, suppressing them making them hard to breathe.

Instantly, Blackie who was sleeping inside the room jumped up excitedly and ran out of the room. He then laid down with his ears perked up, ready to listen.

Li Nianfan adjusted his state, he raised his hands and from left to right, plucked on the strings.

Ding...ding...ding...

Suddenly, a sonorous force erupted, strong and powerful. It was as if a huge rock had been dropped into the calm lake, breaking the peace.

Qin Manyun and Yao Mengji jolted vigorously. Their muscles tensed as if facing an enemy. Their pupils dilated as they stared at the shocking waves of Insights flowing out from Li Nianfan like water flowing from a river.

At this instance, Li Nianfan was like a sea of Insights as waves of it poured out of him, filling the world with bottomless Insights!

Too much! Too deep!

They did not know if it was in their minds, but they could feel as if Li Nianfan had stood up from nature, turning into the center of beings and existing like a Saint who was painting the world with Insights.

Independent of the other beings!

The music was already at its climax from the beginning, growing more eager and desperate as the music continued. There was not a trace of slowing down.

Daji stayed transfixed in her spot, engulfed by the overwhelming Insights as if she was just transported into another realm.

A scroll unfolded before them. It was a painting of a war scene. Two opposing armies were fighting one another—there were golden drums, swords, and crossbows. Then, the sound of horses. At first, they were excited, which was followed by fear and lastly, grief.

Camps, blows, commanders, line up, marching, cover, small battles, big battles...

The music kept on changing—its tempo, rising and falling. The emotions deepened as the scene continued to unfold.

Determination, unwillingness, despair, death, wailing, sorrow—countless emotions condensed into one, eventually turning into a monstrous Insight!

This Insight was known as...War!

Vroom!

Yao Mengji and the rest had their minds blown. They felt as if they were tadpoles in the ocean, unable to grasp the vastness of the Insight flowing at them!

Yao Mengji was filled with bitterness. So, the reason Li Nianfan refused to comment was because his playing was too bad! So bad that Li Nianfan did not even want to speak of it!

In this instant, he finally understood the feeling of being a frog at the bottom of the well.

Before this, he knew his skills were not the best but he still thought it was presentable at least. After this, he realized how much of a joke he was!

Perhaps he was not even at the entry-level!

No wonder the expert refused to play a duet with him. He did not want to hurt him!

With his level of skill, a note from the expert could easily kill him due to its immense Insight!

He was helplessly weak. Li Nianfan was trying to protect him!

At this moment, Qin Manyun jolted vigorously. Her face turned pale. “Teacher, this...this...”

Yao Mengji looked up to the sky with dilated pupils and gulped, unable to speak a word.

In the backyard, a gold silhouette shot up to the sky. Its long body was like a golden thread connecting the sky and the ground. It exuded an air of majestic authority that suppressed everyone else, making others unable to move.

“It’s a...dragon?!” Daji always felt that there was something in the backyard, that there was a hidden secret she did not know of. Finally, she was able to get a glimpse of the big secret!

Swiftly after, trees were shooting up rapidly from the backyard, turning into the massive and gigantic dryads touching the sky! Furthermore, they were swaying along to the rhythm of the music as if dancing in joy! The scene was terrifying and shocking!

Tzz...

“These dryads... Any one of them would be able to fight the Silver Moon Demon King!”

Yao Mengji and Qin Manyun felt as if their brains were about to explode. They did not dare take another breath.

At this instance, they finally understood where all these Enlightenment Bamboo came from!

Hwa-la!

Water erupted into the sky, shooting up an old tortoise that landed near the Guqin. It laid by the side of the pond quietly.

Blackie remained in its spot, ears perked up tall like a rabbit's.

The Sword Immortal Jade, Dragon Fire Pearl, Fallen Demon Sword, and the Thousand-Year Black Ice started glowing in different shades. Even the newly planted elixirs and Spiritual Herbs were swaying to the rhythm in unison!

They were all having a blast!

Even Daji felt her scalp itching. She had lived in this yard for so many days. Now, she had no idea what world this was!

Even the Immortal Land would be less terrifying, right?

Qin Manyun and Yao Mengji looked up blankly in fear, staring at the monstrous plants swaying to the music. Their brains had long stopped working. It was good enough that they had not fainted.

As for the flying birds that were hovering around, they had long run away!

Chapter 65: Are You Stupid

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Dong...dong...dong...

The music continued.

Yao Mengji closed his eyes. He took a deep breath and forced himself to calm down. When he opened his eyes again, his gaze was more determined than ever!

He had decided to feel and understand this immense Insight!

‘As a cultivator of instruments, this is what I’ve been doing all my life. How can I miss this opportunity?’

His eyes were red, his white hair on their ends. He turned into a fangirling old man, forgetting himself and only focusing intently on the Insights.

Perhaps this piece was not of this realm!

This was the music of Immortals!

Li Nianfan was willing to play this for him. This was the greatest blessing he would ever get in his entire life! If he missed this opportunity, how would he ever succeed in cultivating?

Under the immense Insights, he was like a thin flatboat that could flip over anytime. However, he was not frightened. He welcomed all the Insights and the emotions that came with them. Not fearing death, he focused all of his divine consciousness on the sound of the music, hoping to get a glimpse or two of the mystery.

The music kept on changing.

Fresh blood started dripping out of the corner of his lips and his reddened eyes. The scene was shocking and terrifying.

He had a vision of fearless warriors, as well endless killing and piles of corpses. No matter who it was, everyone was destined to fight, either against one another or against the gods!

In the end, be it a victory or a defeat, it could still be written into a tragic song.

Haha! To fight against the gods? How fun!

He was overwhelmed with fatigue, but the corner of his lips curled up. His eyes sparkled like never before.

The truth was worth dying for!

Finally, the music stopped.

The dragon's dancing golden body halted for a moment before it silently fell from the sky and returned to the pond. The relaxing old tortoise opened its eyes at the stop of the tune. Then, it slowly made its way back into the pond as well without making a sound!

The gigantic trees and dryads stopped dancing abruptly. They shrank and returned to their ordinary forms while Blackie's listening ears dropped. He even yawned. The Sword Immortal Jade, Dragon Fire Pearl, Fallen Demon Sword, and the Thousand-Year Black Ice stopped glowing.

It was as if everything was just a dream.

Qin Manyun's jaws dropped.

All the items knew that the expert liked to experience life as an ordinary person. Therefore, they concealed themselves as ordinary things to stay by his side and absorb some Insights?

How shameless!

However, she was really jealous of them. No wonder these trees could turn into dryads. If one could listen to the expert's music every day and get blessed by the Insights, it would be hard not to become an Immortal!

Yao Mengji already came out of his previous state. He wiped off the blood on his face instantly, pretending as if nothing happened.

Of course, Li Nianfan had no idea what was happening behind his back. He looked up at the sky with a calm face. He could not help letting out a sigh.

As expected, there was not even a single bird in the sky! This was too embarrassing! This did not do his skills any justice!

He stood up and smiled at Yao Mengji. "Mr. Yao, what do you think?"

As Yao Mengji was about to speak, air came up from his throat and his mouth was filled with fresh blood.

He shivered a little, though his face remained the same. He gulped and swallowed the blood in his mouth. Hastily, he spoke as if nothing happened, "Mr. Li's indeed impressive! Your playing is perfect! I've no right to give you any comments! The tone of the sound and music made me feel so deeply. I've learned a lot!"

He sighed to himself. Had he spurted out a mouthful of blood, it would be like exposing his identity to his face! This would have spoiled all of his fun and interest! If the expert was offended, his life would be over!

So close!

With his every action and word being able to exert immense Insights, he still chose to take on the persona of an ordinary man! To keep up his act, Yao Mengji even had to swallow back his blood!

He exclaimed to himself, ‘Sigh, life’s hard.’

“Thank you, Mr. Yao,” Li Nianfan said as his ego was boosted.

Yao Mengji asked, “May I ask, what’s the name of this piece?”

Li Nianfan said, “The name’s ‘Ambush!’”

Ambush?

Yao Mengji and Qin Manyun's hearts sank a little and they both smiled bitterly.

What they had just experienced was exactly an ambush!

Inside the yard, other than the treasures lying around, every corner had at least a hidden bigshot. One could not afford to provoke any of them!

An expert was indeed an expert! Even the title of the piece had implicit meanings!

"I've never heard of this piece, but I can tell that it's a masterpiece!" Yao Mengji said.

Li Nianfan laughed to himself. The songs in this realm were nothing like the songs he knew from his previous realm. If they found out about those songs, they would instantly become his biggest fans!

Li Nianfan sighed. "I'd give you the sheet music since you like it. Unfortunately, I don't have the sheet music here and I can only give it to you the next time you visit."

Beat! Beat! Beat!

Yao Mengji's breathing became rapid as his whole face flushed red.

Qin Manyun had a similar reaction, too. She almost cried out with excitement!

'Keep calm! Keep calm! Don't alarm him!' they chanted in their hearts as they tried to regain their composure and slow down their racing hearts.

This was an Immortal Song!

To those who cultivate with instruments, a good piece or song would come with the biggest chance one could ever get!

They would not even trade it for an Immortal Machine!

They originally thought that they were very lucky to be able to listen to his performance. Who would have thought that the expert was willing to give them the sheet music as well!

What a surprise!

Yao Mengji said hastily, "Thank you so much, Mr. Li."

Li Nianfan smiled. "As long as you like it. Remember to get it from me next time."

They gave him a jello-maker. Of course, he should give them something in return. This seemed like a good gift.

Yao Mengji did not want to disturb Li Nianfan any further. So, he stood up and said, "Sorry for disturbing you today. Goodbye for now."

"Goodbye. Take care."

...

After walking out of the four-part architecture, Yao Mengji let out a long sigh. He seemed listless.

Qin Manyun asked in doubt, "Teacher, what is it? Are you not happy that the expert agreed to give us the music?"

“Manyun, your understanding is still too shallow,” Yao Mengji said with a hint of regret in his eyes. He shook his head. “You’ll never be able to understand what the expert implies with his words.”

Qin Manyun was confused, “Please, explain it to me.”

“The expert said that he was going to give us the music today. But why didn’t he? That’s because we haven’t completed the mission he gave us,” Yao Mengji said bitterly.

“We went to kill the Silver Moon Demon King. Yet, we let it run away, and even needed the Lord Dog to help us out. Of course, this would upset the expert! Sigh! I’m such a bad chess piece. If I knew better, I would’ve killed that Silver Moon Demon King even if it meant I’d have to diminish all my years of cultivation!”

Qin Manyun asked, still confused, “But didn’t the expert ask us to get it from him the next time we come?”

“Are you stupid? Are you not embarrassed to get it from the expert without having done anything?” Yao Mengji said angrily. “What the expert meant was that it will all depend on our performance next time!”

“Oh, I see! I understand now,” Qin Manyun realized, and she sighed to herself. It seemed that she still had a long way to go.

“After listening to the expert’s Basics of Wisdom, I’ve learned a lot. I’ll have to meditate for some time.” Yao Mengji reminded her with a serious tone, “Since the expert likes to live as an ordinary man, there’re many things that he wouldn’t want to do himself. Therefore, you’ll have to complete any task he gives you. Take into account all the implicit meanings of his words. Remember that!”

Chapter 66: Ten Years!

Chapter 66: Ten Years!

Thousands of miles away, on the west side of the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty, near its border was where the Lingyun Immortal Pavilion was located.

Hidden by the green bushes, the main hall was made of green tiles and blue bricks. Various smaller side halls surrounded the main hall. Inside, the halls were filled with people as well as the sound of preaching.

Be it the main hall or the side halls, they were all cloaked in a faint layer of mist. The mist condensed in between them, just like the clouds in the sky.

Vroom!

Suddenly, the main hall went into an uproar. It was followed by a huge force coming out of it, forming a huge whirlpool, like a shark swallowing the Spiritual Qi around.

The mist in the surroundings were all affected as they dispersed into the air.

“Is the Court Master coming out of the retreat?”

“These are signs of a breakthrough!”

“Hurry up! Let’s all focus on the Spiritual Qi and assist the Court Master to breakthrough!”

Inside the Lingyun Immortal Pavilion, the disciples were filled with joy, as all of them rode on clouds to gather in the main hall from all directions.

Three elderly cultivators came along as well—their bodies floated in the air and landed gracefully on the roof of the main hall. With their serious face on, they made a gesture, “Listen up, all disciples. Focus our mana and condense them all here to help the Court Master breakthrough!”

Vroom!

As he finished speaking, the surroundings of the main hall lit up. The water on the ground formed a unique pattern.

The disciples did not hesitate. They all raised their hands and focused on gathering their mana. The waves of mana flew in from all directions, and finally gathered at the top of the main hall. The Spiritual Qi in the surroundings turned wild as well.

Meanwhile, under the cloudless and clear sky, a gigantic silhouette appeared in the air above the main hall. This figure was dressed in a black robe. His face was like a child's and his eyes were sparkling and glowing with life.

The three elderly people on the roof said in unison, "Greetings to the Court Master!"

Lin Qingyun rose into the sky and landed on the roof. She cried out with surprise, "Dad!"

Smiles of joy appeared on the faces of the disciples. The Court Master had retreated for ten years. Now, he was finally out!

After his breakthrough, he would be in the Distraction realm. With that, the reputation of the Lingyun Immortal Pavilion would rank up as well, becoming one of the highest-ranking sects!

With that, the benefits would increase as well. Of course, everyone was happy!

The elderly man in a black robe looked at the faces of the crowd and he let out a smile. His gaze then fell on his daughter and he ordered, “Qingyun, when I’m at the crucial moment of the breakthrough, you may go to the treasure vault and bring me the Nine Ginseng. Whether I succeed or not would depend on this!”

The smile on Lin Qingyun’s face stiffened. She looked at her father and remained silent.

“Hmph?” The elderly man was shocked. “My good daughter, why are you still here? Why don’t you go and get it?”

Lin Qingyun bit her tongue and said, “Dad, I’ve given the Nine Ginseng to someone.”

“What?” the elderly man was shocked. He asked hurriedly, “It’s okay if the Nine Ginseng is gone. Go get the Neon Grass. Hurry! I don’t have much time.”

The elderly man thought himself lucky to have collected all these Spiritual Herbs. To use them during his breakthrough, he had spent a lot of effort collecting all the sixteen types of the finest Spiritual Herbs. He would be able to break through easily.

However, a moment later, he had a strange hunch as he saw that his daughter remained transfixed in the same spot.

As expected, he heard Lin Qingyun stutter softly, “Dad, I gave it away as well.”

“What about the Chalcedony?” the elderly man’s voice started to tremble.

“I gave it away...”

“Dragon Heart?”

“I also gave that away...” Lin Qingyun could feel her scalp itching as she said softly. “Dad, I’ve given all of our elixirs away to someone...”

“What!?” the elderly man jolted vigorously as if being struck by lightning. He gasped at Lin Qingyun with disbelief.

“Who? Who did you give them all to?” The elderly man’s face was reddened by now.

Lin Qingyun thought of the expert. She felt calmer as she explained, “A man called Mr. Li. He’s a hidden expert and he likes to live an ordinary life. Even the Immortals of the Immortal Land are nothing compared to him!”

Mr. Li?

Hidden expert?

The Immortals were nothing compared to him?

She obviously made these all up!

By then, the elderly man was shaking so vigorously, he could collapse anytime. He was certain by then that his daughter was cheated by a con man!

Well, the elixirs were all stolen. He wondered if this con man took any advantage of her body as well!

The rest of the disciples all looked at Lin Qingyun with a confused look. The Saintess was usually smart. Why was she easily cheated by this man? Perhaps a woman in love would be less rational!

The breakthrough of their Court Master was unlikely to happen now!

Poor father!

“Whatever! Whatever!” the elderly man smiled bitterly. Since it was his daughter who made the mistake, he could only swallow it down. Once he got out of the retreat, he would chop that con man into half!

Instantly, his voice turned a few hundred years older, and with a hoarse voice, he said, “Dismissed. Dismissed.”

From joy to tragedy. All the disciples looked perplexed.

Lin Qingyun bit her tongue. She felt hopeless. Suddenly, her eyes sparkled and she said, “Dad, I did manage to get something in exchange for all of these herbs and elixirs. Perhaps it could help you!”

“What is it?” the elderly man asked.

Lin Qingyun took out a packet of tea leaves and said excitedly, “This! The gift from the expert will not be anything ordinary! Perhaps it could be helpful.”

“Tea leaves?” The elderly man was confused. His age-washed face twitched. Sixteen Spiritual Herbs in exchange for one packet of tea leaves?

He looked at Lin Qingyu as if it was the first time he met his daughter. He had not seen her for ten years, and the changes in her were too much! Especially her IQ. She was a completely different person!

Lin Qingyun looked at her father anxiously with anticipation. She insisted, “Dad, trust me.”

The elderly man saw the look of anticipation in her daughter and could not reject her. He nodded, “Alright, then.”

Whatever. He would try it just for his daughter since she was still young and did not do it on purpose.

Lin Qingyun was delighted! She ran away to make the tea for her father.

On the top floor of the main hall, the elderly man sat cross-legged on a futon placed in the center of the empty room. He raised the cup and looked at the tea.

The tea leaves floated in the tea without a trace of impurities! The tea was clear and had a faint distinctive fragrance.

“Although it’s a loss, I’ll have to admit this is indeed good tea.”

A smile appeared on his face. It seemed to be the first time his daughter made him tea since she was young? What else could he do but forgive her?

The elderly man had no expectations. Out of habit, he blew on the tea and then took a sip.

“Haha, others eat elixirs before the breakthrough, while I drink tea! I’m probably the first in history...”

Chapter 67: Undefeatable!

Chapter 67: Undefeatable!

As the tea entered his mouth, there was a faint hint of bitterness. Suddenly, the elderly man jolted vigorously!

He could feel that when the tea entered his mouth, it dispersed right away, as if he was taking in a mouthful of air. If it was not because of the faint hint of bitterness left on his taste buds, he would not have believed that he actually took a sip of the tea.

“The tea...”

He took another look at the tea and realized something was wrong!

The tea leaves were all of the same size. In fact, it seemed that they were slowly disappearing.

They were not dissolving into the tea. Instead, they were transforming into another form of existence. It almost seemed like...Insights!?

Indeed! It was Insights!

The tea contained Insights!

Tzz...

The elderly man opened his eyes wide as he felt a shiver going down his spine. His scalp started to itch.

Vroom!

In this instant, he heard a buzz in his brain, as if a bell was ringing in his ears!

The ringing of the bell was so loud that it sounded like the morning bell—empowering.

His mind turned blank as his divine consciousness started growing at an appalling speed!

The Distraction Realm!

The distraction of the divine consciousness!

Bamm!

The bottleneck instantly became as thin as paper that could be pricked through instantly.

The elderly man could feel the change in him. As if he was doped, his aura kept increasing, like a growing bamboo! Even he was terrified by the speed!

‘Since when has my understanding become so good? Unless... I’ve been enlightened?’

Outside the main hall, everyone waited anxiously. How was the Court Master doing?

Lin Qingyun bit on her lip as she paced around outside, helpless.

She did not know what she was thinking. Her mind was a mess.

Regret?

Probably not!

She believed that Li Nianfan was definitely an expert, and her choice was not wrong. She just felt guilty. Also, she had high expectations of the tea leaves given by Li Nianfan.

‘Well, a gift from Mr. Li wouldn’t be anything ordinary, right?’

She could not help but look at the other three elderly men. She asked uneasily, “Masters, is it likely for my father to breakthrough successfully?”

The three elderly masters exchanged a look with one another, a hint of bitterness could be seen in their eyes.

The eldest of them sighed and shook his head, “Without the help of elixirs, there’s not a chance!”

He did not accuse her of her wrongdoings but his tone seemed displeased.

Sigh, why did the daughter of the Court Master make such a huge mistake?

The cultivation of immortality was already an act against the sky. If he failed at the breakthrough, it was likely that he would be stuck here forever!

Lin Qingyun’s face went pale. She tightened her grip on the remaining tea leaves as if holding on to the last straw. She mumbled, “Who knows, maybe the tea leaves might be helpful?”

The three elderly men shook their heads and sighed. What a joke. The situation had unfolded to this point and the Saintess still had this foolish thought! How unrealistic!

Suddenly, the Spiritual Qi in the main hall condensed. Swiftly, it exploded like a volcano, more vigorously than before!

The phantom of the Court Master appeared and said hastily, “Qingyun, make me another cup of tea. Now!”

Lin Qingyun’s heart thumped as her face flushed red. She only thought of one possibility. She answered, “Yes, Dad!”

Quickly, the second cup of tea was sent into the room.

Everyone was confused. They had no idea what was going on between the two of them.

What was this all about? A private tea-tasting session?

However, their question did not last for long. After half an hour, the engulfing Spiritual Qi in the main hall grew even bigger!

Instantly, the surrounding Spiritual Qi cleared out as they were all attracted into the main hall, swirling.

With that, the Court Master flew out from the main hall with a mysterious smile on his face, along with a misty aura radiating from his body.

“A breakthrough! The Court Master had a breakthrough!” The three elderly men reacted first as they called out with excitement. “Congratulations, Court Master!”

The rest of the disciples called out with delight, “Congratulations, Court Master!”

The Court Master waved them off. He then flew to Lin Qingyun and asked in an almost trembling voice, “Qingyun, do you still have the tea leaves? Show me! Show them to me!”

Lin Qingyun took out the packet and said in a low voice, “Dad, that’s all we’ve got left.”

“That’s quite a lot! That’s quite a lot!” The Court Master stared at the packet of tea leaves as if looking at the rarest elixir. “They’re so precious! Even a pinch would be priceless! You have so much here. It’ll be enough for my Lingyun Immortal Pavilion to be undefeatable for the next ten thousand years!”

The other three elderly men were in shock. Their faces were filled with question marks after hearing the Court Master’s bold claim.

What he said was too bold! Too bold!

Undefeatable for the next ten thousand years? What concept was that?

Even though the Court Master had a breakthrough to the Distraction realm, his lifespan would only be three thousand years. Ten thousand years would mean...the tea leaves were equivalent to three Distraction realm cultivators?

This was too shocking!

The eldest man looked at the tea leaves for a while before he finally asked, “Court Master, what tea leaves are these...”

The Court Master took a deep breath and answered with a serious look, “The tea leaves...contain Insights! One can be enlightened from tasting the tea!”

Tzz...

The three elderly men gasped. They almost fainted because of that. Their gazes grew more intense as they looked at the tea leaves.

All of the cultivators understood what Insights represented—it represented the ranking of the cultivation!

“Court Master, this...this is true?” the second elderly man asked with a trembling voice.

However, once he asked the question, he instantly felt like slapping himself hard.

What was there to ask? Was the Court Master not a clear example?

The eldest man's breathing turned rapid as he cried out with a hoarse voice, "Treasure! A real treasure!"

"Am I dreaming? A treasure like this exists in the world!?" the third elderly man was still unable to believe it.

The Court Master looked at Lin Qingyun anxiously, his voice trembling, "Qingyun, you said you got these tea leaves from an expert?"

"Yeah." Lin Qingyun nodded.

"Good! Impressive!" The Court Master felt his heart pumping his blood rapidly, shooting it into his brain. His heart was thumping so loudly as if it was about to jump out.

"Expert! A true expert!" he exclaimed with a serious face. "Qingyun, you didn't offend him, did you?"

Lin Qingyun rolled her eyes. “Dad, do I look like someone who would offend an expert?”

“True, if you did offend him, the Lingyun Immortal Pavilion wouldn’t be here now.” The Court Master let out a sigh. He continued, “A chance! A big chance! You’re my good daughter indeed! If you have this chance again, you’ll have to tell me right away!”

Just as Lin Qingyun was about to speak, the Court Master made a gesture to cut her short. He turned to the three elderly men, “This situation is too serious. It’s best if fewer people know about it! Please, excuse my rudeness but I’d like the three of you to leave us.”

The three of them were listening intently but they broke off with an awkward laugh after hearing the Court Master’s words. They understood the severity of this, so they had no complaints.

“We should. Actually, I was just about to leave.”

“Yes, do we look like those who like to eavesdrop?”

“Let’s go, let’s go!”

Chapter 68: Ready For The Table

Chapter 68: Ready For The Table

Seeing the three of them leave, Lin Mufeng's face remained solemn. He raised his hand to place multiple barriers in the room. He only spoke after that. "Qingyun, you may speak now."

Lin Qingyun nodded and told him her experience from beginning to end. "I'll have to start from when I was invited to the Ganlong Immortal Dynasty..."

As Lin Qingyun spoke, Lin Mufeng's face kept on changing. Sometimes nervous, sometimes excited, sometimes terrified, sometimes uneasy...

When she finally finished speaking, his face was filled with excitement. He called out with a grin, "Great! Brilliant! Great!"

"Qingyun, you did the right thing! However, you made a small mistake."

"Hm? What have I done wrong?" Lin Qingyun questioned.

“The expert’s power is way beyond our imagination. What makes you think he cares about the elixirs? It’s the wrong way of seeing it! I’m guessing that this was a test! He was testing your sincerity!”

Lin Mufeng said he was merely guessing, but his tone was assertive and his face seemed as if he was very certain.

Lin Qingyun’s pupils dilated. She exclaimed, “This makes sense!”

“Luckily, none of you disappointed the expert. That’s why he was willing to give each of you a packet of tea leaves,” Lin Mufeng said, feeling fortunate. His daughter’s accidental encounter turned out to be such a big opportunity! This was a blessing to the entire Lingyun Immortal Pavilion!

The tea leaves contained Insights! Though the expert might not even care about it, to the cultivators, the Insights were priceless! They symbolized unlimited possibilities! The sixteen Spiritual Herbs would not be as useful as half the tea leaves! Not even if there were twenty, or even a hundred of them.

Lin Mufeng continued, “If I’m not mistaken, you showed the most sincerity out of all of them. That’s why the expert gave you an additional promise.”

“I see.” Lin Qingyun nodded. She even brought over all the elixirs her father was supposed to use for his breakthrough. Who else could be more sincere than her?

In this sense, it seemed that he knew about her father's breakthrough all along?

His realm was...scary! Terrifying!

"You can't use his promise!" Lin Mufeng stated, his tone determined. "This would be the bond between us and the expert. So, unless it was a matter of life and death, we shouldn't use this. Also, the favor would have to be carefully asked. It must be within our scope, or else we might offend the expert!"

This promise was not just precious. Thinking of it made Lin Mufeng shiver!

If news were to spread, even the Immortals would be jealous of them!

After a moment of thought, Lin Mufeng continued, "I had a breakthrough because of the tea leaves he gave us. We'll visit him soon, but we can't go empty-handed. What's there in the Lingyun Immortal Pavilion that would not disappoint the expert?"

Lin Qingyun frowned as well. The expert's house was filled with Spiritual Items and Machines. What else would he need?

"Let's bring this." Lin Mufeng's eyes were assertive. He had made his decision. "Qingyun, let's go and visit the expert tomorrow."

...

Night had fallen. The forest became restless without the Silver Moon Demon King. In the darkness, black shadows flitted here and there from time to time, with monsters breaking into fights to secure the throne. Even the older Monsters who had been laying low returned to the scene, scrambling for the throne to become the next King.

The forests were filled with strange sounds.

Li Nianfan frowned. He felt uneasy. “What is it recently? Not long ago, there were so many cultivators gathering here, flying in the sky. Now that the cultivators are finally gone, the forests are getting lively again. Are these the cries of monsters? Or even...ghosts?”

Li Nianfan fidgeted in his bed. He even started to question his decision of living in the forest. How would his ordinary four-part building be able to withstand the wilderness?

Daji was standing in the inner court. She frowned when she heard the cries coming from all four corners. Her eyes flickered.

These monsters had the nerve to disturb her master’s sleep! They were asking for death!

She gently pushed open the door and walked out. Not far from her, a white shadow was looking at the door from a tree branch. Upon seeing her, the tiny white fox trembled and ran toward her.

“Sister...”

The Six-Tailed Fox’s eyes turned watery. It snuggled in Daji’s arms, cuddling her with its head.

Daji was slightly shocked. She could feel the little fox’s fear and terror. She asked, “What happened?”

“I’m terrified.” The little fox patted its chest, its six tails trembling. “Last night, the Silver Moon Demon King led a bunch of monsters to trap me. I was almost caught by them, and I thought I’d never see you again... Waa...”

Daji halted. She asked worriedly, “How did you escape?”

The little fox wailed for a little longer before continuing, “An old man and a young lady said they were going to take the life of the Silver Moon Demon King and they started fighting. I ran away during the fight.”

An old man and a young lady?

Daji halted and suddenly remembered what happened in the morning.

That was probably Qin Manyun and Yao Mengji!

Suddenly, it all made sense to her. So, it was no coincidence this morning. They were chasing after the Silver Moon Demon King!

In other words, Li Nianfan had already predicted this! He set these all up effortlessly! Or else, why would Yao Mengji and Qin Manyu happen to be there when they captured her sister? Why would he go hunting in the morning and end up shooting the Silver Moon Demon King?

No wonder! It was all part of his plan!

Her eyes darkened. Li Nianfan saved her sister, and even helped them take revenge! He was too kind to the both of them!

The little fox was comforted. Suddenly, it became active again and scoffed, “The Silver Moon Demon King’s so evil! I wonder if he’s dead...”

Daji’s expression was strange. She pointed at a tree beside them. “Do you see that?”

Hm?

The Six-Tailed Fox halted slightly as it turned its tiny head to look closely.

Instantly, its fur stood up in terror. It jumped onto Daji and cried out in fear, “Silver Moon Demon King? Sister! Run!”

Daji was speechless. “Look closer.”

The little fox stretched out its tiny head anxiously. Suddenly, its tiny mouth parted, its eyes wide open.

“It’s...the feathers of the eagle?” Its face was filled with disbelief. The little fox could not believe its eyes. “Sister, that’s...that’s the feathers of the Silver Moon Demon King?”

“Exactly.” Daji nodded. “It’s completely dead! Its feathers have all been plucked out and the body has been processed by Mr. Li. It’s cleaned now and should be ready for the table tomorrow!”

Chapter 69: Looking Familiar?

Chapter 69: Looking Familiar?

“Ready...ready for the table?” The Six-Tailed Fox’s little head was confused, its little eyes blinking.

The Silver Moon Demon King was still so arrogant and fierce yesterday, but tomorrow, he was to become a dish?

And after a while, he would turn into feces...

Tzz...

This world was too dangerous!

The Six-Tailed Fox trembled with fear.

“Eh?” Daji looked at the Six-Tailed Fox’s buttocks. She exclaimed with a surprising look, “You’re growing your seventh tail soon! I knew the apple would be beneficial to you!”

The Six-Tailed Fox smiled joyously. “Hehe! I’ll catch up with my sister in no time!”

Daji looked thoughtful for a moment, and she then said, “Since the Silver Moon Demon King’s death, the order in the forests has gone out of control. Why don’t you become the next Demon King?”

The monsters had been crying and howling throughout the night these days, affecting her master’s sleep. This problem had to be solved! Also, if her sister could become the Demon King, it would be beneficial for her master. It would allow him to have the best experience of living an ordinary life!

A win-win solution!

Daji’s eyes sparkled. However, the smile on the Six-Tailed Fox started to vanish. It could not believe its ears, and it stuttered with shaking lips, “Demon... Demon... King?”

“I can’t do that!” The Six-Tailed Fox shook its tiny head vigorously.

“Can’t you be braver? You’re almost a Seven-Tailed Fox soon. Your ability is almost Out of Aperture! Why are you still such a coward?” Daji ruffled the Six-Tailed Fox’s tiny head.

She could only blame herself for over-protecting her sister in the past. So much so that it now had no experience fighting.

The Six-Tailed Fox looked at Daji with its doe-eyed, pitiful look. "I don't want to!"

"No!" Daji said with a serious face. "Do you really think you could've escaped last night? It was all because you were lucky! Master sent the two of them to save you! Master not only saved you, but he also gave you a chance. If you can't help him solve his problems, what's your purpose?"

"But... I can't fight them." The Six-Tailed Fox's ears shot up. "Why don't you become the Demon King?"

"I need to stay here to serve my master." Daji shook her head, and after a moment of thought, she said, "Don't worry. Listen to me. I'll help you find a way."

She had to make this happen to serve her master better!

"Oh, right. I've saved you some supper. A bowl of porridge, a dish, and an apple." Daji took out the food and placed them in front of the Six-Tailed Fox.

Its ears shot up with excitement. Without hesitation, it started munching away!

This was not its first time tasting food from the expert, so it did not look down on the food. Instead, it was very excited! If anyone else knew about this food, they would surely fight for these treasures!

Most importantly, the food not only contained Insights, but they were also exceptionally yummy!

Munch! Munch! Munch!

The little fox put its tiny head into the bowl, gulping and slurping every bit of it hurriedly. When it finally raised its head, its white fur was covered in porridge, looking funny and desperate.

A small pinkish tongue came out from the little fox's mouth, licking its mouth from left to right.

“Hmmp!”

The leftover food on its face was instantly cleared up.

“Yummy! So yummy!” The little fox rubbed its tummy with a satisfactory smile, its eyes in the shape of a moon.

Daji picked it up with one hand. “Don’t just eat. Go home and cultivate! Work hard to improve on your ability!”

“Oh...”

...

As the first ray of light touched on the forest the next day.

An elderly man and a young lady arrived at the bottom of the mountain. They then started climbing up the mountain with a hint of uneasiness.

Lin Qingyun looked at the surroundings and said, “I haven’t been here for a few days and there are already so many changes here!”

She still remembered that countless cultivators were hanging around the area due to the Nine-Tailed Fox incident, filling the sky with passing flashes and lights. Even though they were now gone, there seemed to be more monsters here in the forest.

And everything was out of control! She saw a Monster Pig fighting a Monster Tiger earlier, with other small monsters watching in a circle.

How could all these happen under the watch of the expert? What happened?

“The monsters are fighting one another, and it seems that they’re all fighting for the throne,” Lin Mufeng said with a frown. “But isn’t there a Silver Moon Demon King here? How could this happen?”

Lin Qingyun speculated without much thought. “Perhaps the Silver Moon Demon King’s dead?”

“How could this be!” Lin Mufeng shook his head smiling. “The Silver Moon Demon King has been ruling the monsters for four thousand years and is equivalent to a late-period Combination realm cultivator. With its ever-growing power, how could it die? It’s impossible to be killed!”

“Combination realm!” Lin Qingyun cried out in shock.

Although she had heard about the Silver Moon Demon King, she had no idea that it was so powerful! Her father just had a breakthrough to the Distraction realm, yet this Silver Moon Demon King was at the Combination realm! And at its late-period as well!

If no bigshot came out in this Tribulation period, then this Silver Moon Demon King would be invincible!

“This has nothing to do with us anyway. Right now, the most important thing we should do to visit the expert,” Lin Mufeng said with a serious tone. “Tell me what I should be cautious of again.”

“According to what I know, there’s only one thing to be cautious of, which is to treat him as an ordinary man. Also, you have to treat the treasures in his house as ordinary items. He also doesn’t like it when others show him with too much respect. The other time when Luo Shiyu called him Senior Li, he seemed offended.”

Lin Mufeng went into deep thought. He then smiled. “I understand!”

“This expert’s likely to have returned to basics! He’s way beyond an Immortal. Perhaps he’s even got hold of the Truth! To him, being an Immortal or an ordinary man makes no difference. Treasures and ordinary items make no difference as well.

“For example, an ordinary man likes to earn money, but if this ordinary man keeps blabbing about money in front of you, you’d be annoyed because you’re not on their level. In terms of cultivation, it’s the same for the expert as well. So, of course, he wouldn’t like us talking about it.”

Lin Mufeng’s tone was filled with awe. “The realm of this expert is way beyond our comprehension. He must have his reasons for doing so, and the only thing we have to do is to go with it! To keep calm and never offend the expert!”

Not long after, the four-part architecture came into sight. “Dad, it’s right there.”

Lin Mufeng nodded. He exclaimed, “It’s hidden but not really, it seems ordinary but not really. It’s indeed where an expert resides!”

Lin Qingyun walked up gradually and called out, “May I know if Mr. Li’s home?”

Soon, a ‘click’ sound was heard as the main door was pushed open.

Daji looked out from the inside. When she saw it was Lin Qingyun, she said, “Oh, it’s you!”

Lin Qingyun knew Daji as well, and she greeted, “Greetings to Miss Daji.”

This was the transformed Nine-Tailed Fox who was able to accompany the expert! Either of her identities was not to be offended!

Lin Mufeng knew about Daji’s identity. He said, “I’m the father of Qingyun, my name is Lin Mufeng. Greetings to Miss Daji.”

Daji smiled. "Hello, thank you for your elixirs. Please, come in."

"Thank you."

Lin Qingyun and Lin Mufeng entered the house with pious and uneasy feelings. The yard had changed a lot compared to the last time Lin Qingyun was here.

Inside the yard, a black dog was lying in the corner, napping with its eyes closed. An emerald rockery was placed by the river, sparkling and glowing. Surrounding the yard were all kinds of bonsai, blooming with exotic flowers and plants. Xiao Bai was watering the plants with a watering can in its hand.

What a leisurely and poetic scene.

However... Why did the bonsai seem rather familiar?

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Lin Mufeng and Lin Qingyun rubbed their eyes in unison and glared at those bonsai again.

Ah!

Were they not the sixteen Spiritual Herbs they gave him?

This...he...planted them?

They felt a tsunami engulfing their brains as their minds went blank, losing the ability to think! They did think of many possibilities, but the only possibility they did not think of was that the expert would plant these Spiritual Herbs!

And from the growth of these herbs, there seemed to be more of them than there was before?

Lin Mufeng looked at these familiar yet unfamiliar Spiritual Herbs with complicated feelings.

Bigshot!

A true bigshot!

He actually used these Spiritual Herbs as his bonsai. If anyone else saw this, they would have gone crazy!

“Phew...”

Lin Mufeng took in a deep breath before he could calm himself down. He forced himself to look away from these Spiritual Herbs, diverting his attention.

This rockery seemed nice. It seemed to be carved out of translucent jade, looking like a beautiful piece resonating individuality. It was indeed a rare ornament.

Eh?

Why was there a water droplet in the middle of the rockery?

Lin Mufeng halted, and then his face instantly changed colors. He gasped.

Tzz...

Thousand-Year Black Ice?!

This rockery was...the Thousand-Year Black Ice!?

This...what...how....

He could feel his liver and kidneys trembling from inside! This was the Thousand-Year Black Ice! The most precious treasure of the Linxian Palace! They gave this to the expert, and the expert used it as a backdrop!?

‘If so, it’s my greatest pleasure to have the Spiritual Herbs used as his bonsai!

‘As for the Xiao Bai who was watering the plants, it must be the Immortal item that my daughter talked about!’

Instantly, Lin Mufeng felt unusually inferior, feeling rather sad.

‘This yard is too high-end. I really don’t deserve to be here... I don’t have the rights to...’

“Please, take a seat.” Daji’s voice pulled Lin Mufeng and Lin Qingyun back to reality.

Lin Mufeng recomposed himself and said awkwardly, “Sorry to be rude. May I ask if Mr. Li is home?”

Daji nodded. “He’s in the backyard. Please, take a seat first.”

With that, the both of them sat down cautiously, their bodies shrinking tentatively.

Daji did not seem to care. She continued to stare at the stone table in front of her. A chessboard was placed on the stone table with a chess game set up!

So, Miss Daji was a chess lover!

Lin Mufeng looked at the chessboard curiously. “This is...”

His pupils dilated as if his soul had just been sucked out of his body. He jolted vigorously!

He could see that in the chess game, the white and black pieces were entangled with one another, which gradually came alive. In an instant, they had turned into Black Qi and White Qi, killing one another inside Lin Mufeng’s mind.

This was obviously an endgame! The black pieces had an upper hand and the white pieces could only flee. It would not be as bad if this was just an ordinary game. However, the black and white pieces each represented an opposing Dao, incompatible with one another.

The ideas were utterly incompatible!

Lin Mufeng's eyes reddened. He was caught up with the chess game. It was as if his Dao was attacked, yet he was unable to fight back.

He tried his best to get out of it, but any move was a dead end.

Could it be that his Dao...had always been wrong?

His face flashed white and his eyes were bloodshot.

Meanwhile, Daji held the white piece in her hand and placed the piece on a square.

Vroom!

It was as if a stone was dropped into a peaceful lake and layers of ripples rippled away.

Lin Mufeng's mind was instantly cleared up, as if woken up from a deep sleep. The initially weakening White Qi became stronger after having found its one chance to survive!

His eyes blinked sharply, having recovered from his previous state. Although it only took a while, his back was filled with sweat.

Lin Mufeng looked at Daji. He stood up hurriedly, "Thank you, Miss Daji, for your teaching. I won't forget this."

This chess game allowed him a deeper understanding of his Dao—it was greater than an opportunity!

"This is a game set up by master. You just happened to be here," Daji said nonchalantly. She then looked directly at Lin Mufeng and said with a serious tone, "If you can help master, you'll have the chance to do so. If not, your soul will disperse."

Lin Mufeng said, "You must be kidding, Miss Daji. Even if I have ten lives, I wouldn't dare to offend Mr. Li!"

"So be it." Daji nodded. Then, she continued, "Alright, then. Sit back down and act normal. My master doesn't like those who make a scene."

“I know. I know.” Lin Mufeng nodded. He had been warned by Lin Qingyun.

Click!

Meanwhile, Li Nianfan walked out from the backyard with a few mushrooms.

“Eh? More visitors?”

“Mr. Li.” Lin Mufeng and Lin Qingyun stood up hastily.

Lin Mufeng greeted, “I’m Lin Qingyun’s father. Sorry to have invited myself here.”

“No worries. Look at the bonsai in the yard! All thanks to you!” Li Nianfan said smiling.
“Right, how do you find the tea leaves I gave you?”

‘As expected, he knew about my breakthrough with the tea leaves!’

Lin Mufeng said hastily, “Amazing! Very amazing!”

“Glad you liked it.” Li Nianfan nodded. He then turned to Xiao Bai. “Xiao Bai, go and prepare these mushrooms. We’ll make a mushroom stew for lunch.”

“Yes, master,” Xiao Bai answered and walked away.

Lin Mufeng seized the opportunity. He took out a black wooden box and handed it to Li Nianfan. “As a greeting gift, I hope Mr. Li will accept this.”

“Oh, look at you all! So kind!” Li Nianfan shook his head. Cultured men were indeed so polite. They followed the etiquette so strictly and never showed up empty-handed.

He accepted the box from Lin Mufeng. When he opened it, he saw a crystal ball placed inside. This crystal ball was similar to those crystal balls Li Nianfan saw in his previous realm. It fit nicely in his palm.

He had an interested look on his face. He took out the crystal ball and looked closely. The crystal ball lit up as if playing a movie. An image flashed from within.

An old man with a child-like face with white hair showed up, exuding a glow from within. He moved his hand as if casting a spell and soon, red flames started rising around him. Not long after, the flame turned into a firefinch, rising to the sky.

Daji's face changed slightly, showing a hint of surprise.

As for Lin Qingyun, her pupils dilated and she could not help covering her mouth with her hand.

“This...this is the Preaching Pearl!?”

She exclaimed in shock as she looked at her father with a look of disbelief. She could feel a storm overwhelming her. This was the most precious treasure of the Lingyun Immortal Pavilion!