

# Carefree Path of Dreams

## Chapter 31: Trouble

It was dawn.

There was fog surrounding the Green Peak and the spiritual land. Fang Yuan looked at the cliff with anticipation.

A white figure approached the beach, stretched out its claws and seemed as though it was rummaging through something.

"Squawk!"

Above the cliff, numerous Red-eyed White Birds were flapping their wings and pecking around, not aware of the situation on the beach.

In a short while, the white figure retreated and returned to the fog.

"Haha... Flower Fox Ferret, good job!"

The white figure was indeed the Flower Fox Ferret.

Fang Yuan was unwilling to return empty-handed, and so instructed the Flower Fox Ferret to steal some spiritual fertilizer, as what it did previously.

After all, the size, colour, and speed of the Flower Fox Ferret allowed it to escape even if it was spotted, and was the perfect candidate for the job.

And after having Fang Yuan as a buddy, it became much more efficient.

Fang Yuan retrieved the fully-filled cloth bag from the Flower Fox Ferret's neck and smiled, "Good, one more time, and we can settle the entire season's supply of Vermillion Jade Rice and spiritual tea!"

"Keke!"

The Flower Fox Ferret raised its paws, as though it was bargaining.

"All right, I'll keep your portion of the spiritual tea!"

Fang Yuan could not help but feel embarrassed, as he felt that the Flower Fox Ferret had become much wiser and knew how to bargain! It needs to be controlled!

"Go!"

With a flick of its tail, the Flower Fox Ferret went on its way to steal more spiritual fertilizer.

As long as Fang Yuan acceded to his request, nothing else matters.

"This spiritual land... What a pity I cannot own it yet, what a pity..."

Fang Yuan gazed at the Green Peak, in his eyes a tinge of regret.

He knew that although there might be treasures within this spiritual land, the Red-eye White Birds were the owners of this spiritual land and with their existence, he could never develop in the spiritual land.

Therefore, his short-term goal could only be to enter the mountains and to retrieve the spiritual fertilizer.

"The only issue with this spiritual fertilizer is..."

Fang Yuan looked up to the cliff and saw white spots falling down. His expression changed, "Oh sh\*t.....The Flower Fox Ferret and I are actually collecting faeces!"

That's right!

The white beach beneath the cliff was the place where the flock of Red-eyed White Birds went to defecate.

Those incredible, effective spiritual plant fertilizers, were, in fact, bird's droppings!

It was a speechless discovery for Fang Yuan.

Regardless, such a job with so much potential had to go on.

"Anyway, bird's droppings are a natural fertilizer, and since these are the droppings of the half-spiritual, or maybe even spiritual birds, then it is only natural that their droppings have such wonderful effects..."

Fang Yuan was used to manual labour since young and therefore didn't mind. After clearing his thoughts, he started to account for his loot.

From the Flower Fox Ferret's many trips to and fro, and thanks to the distracted Red-eyed White Birds, Fang Yuan obtained a huge amount of 'spiritual fertilizer', enough for him to harvest and sow another batch of Vermillion Jade Rice, and pluck another batch of spiritual tea.

He also took the opportunity and captured a few lone Red-eyed White Birds and ate them for a few meals, as a form of revenge for previously making a fool out of them.

The truth was that Fang Yuan wanted to take advantage of the spiritual effect of the bird meat, and together with the Flower Fox Ferret, they hunted a few Red-eyed White Birds.

Slowly, the birds learnt their lesson and rarely loitered outside the cliff. If they did, they would do it in packs, and the king bird would patrol around the area, which forced Fang Yuan to stop hunting.

In fact, when Fang Yuan first saw the king bird, who was gigantic and had a wingspan over a few meters, he was shocked.

It was definitely a spiritual bird!

Even a few of the bird leaders had the spiritual level of the king bird!

After this observation, Fang Yuan gave up hope on trying to claim the Green Peak for his own.

"Keke!"

The Flower Fox Ferret rushed back with another cloth bag full of spiritual fertilizer, and their mission was a success.

This was normal, as the swarm of Red-eyed White Birds had the intellect of an average human and therefore would not pay too much attention to their own faeces.

"It's time to leave!"

Carrying a full basket of spiritual fertilizer, Fang Yuan walked out of the fog, looked back at it, and recalled a sentence from his dream world, "I will be back!"

At this moment, Fang Yuan was not alone.

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"Red-eyed White Birds, wait and see. One day, I will transform this whole spiritual land into my spiritual farm..."

To a person who loved farming, seeing such a good piece of land go to waste was an unforgivable mistake.

Even though he went back with their baskets full, his grudge against the birds remained.

Fang Yuan brought home a grudge and even more harvest.

The journey back was much smoother than the journey to the spiritual land. When he could finally see the secluded valley, Fang Yuan had already imagined how it would be like to have a bountiful harvest of spiritual rice and tea.

But as he approached the entrance of the valley, his expression changed, "Someone's here!"

Around the valley was a mess, with blood stains everywhere. It was evident that someone came by.

"From the marks, the person did not stay for long!"

Fang Yuan felt the blood on the leaves, looked into the valley, placed his basket down and walked into the secluded valley.

"Come out!"

The Flower Fox Ferret sniffed the ground and pounced.

Fang Yuan stood at the entrance and calmly requested.

A moment passed but there was no movement.

Fang Yuan frowned and waved his hand. The Flower Fox Ferret jumped in and popped his head out as though it was surprised.

"Hmm?"

Fang Yuan stepped in and saw someone lying on the ground. He was pale, and there was blood on his chest. He felt very familiar.

"Zhou Wenwu from the Zhou Family? How did he end up in this state?"

He felt for Zhou Wenwu's pulse. "It's a serious injury, but even though he's passed out, his life is not in danger... Why would this small jerk have the guts to come to my place and give me more trouble?"

Fang Yuan became speechless and came to the entrance.

Previously, the Flower Fox Ferret warned him of a stranger nearby.

"Who is it?"

He walked out of the house and saw a man in black attire. He looked sinister and was around 30 to 40 years old.

"Eh? You noticed me?"

The middle-aged man was surprised, but sounded boastful, "I am Spirit Returning Sect's Elder Song's disciple, Song San, and I am under orders to kill the bastard from the Zhou Family, and if you do know..."

"Oh! That bastard is in the house, bring him away!"

Fang Yuan nodded his head calmly, and caught Song San by surprise, making him forget what he wanted to say.

This type of 'I-have-yet-to-threaten-you-but-you-have-already-cooperated' kind of feeling was a confusing one.

This person was not the average person!

Song Zhong was confused, and witnessed Zhou Wenwu being thrown out like rubbish, "I only have a simple doctor-patient relationship with this man, so take him away!"

The Zhou Family meant nothing to Fang Yuan.

He saved Old Zhou and had gotten the martial arts manual from him, and even protected Zhou Wenxin for a little while. That was already beyond what he would normally do.

It was illogical to defend Old Zhou's son and put his own life at risk.

"He's really Zhou Wenwu!"

Song San took a step forward, recognised him and seemed satisfied. He turned around, look at Fang Yuan and asked, "You're the doctor here?"

"I only know the basics of healing..."

Fang Yuan nodded his head.

"So you were the one that treated Old Zhou's poison?"

"Poison?!"

Fang Yuan grew suspicious.

He knew that Old Zhou had contracted the Drunk Lover Poison, and Old Zhou himself had realised too, but how would this man know?

Unless he was the one that poisoned Old Zhou!

"What poison? I'm not sure!"

Fang Yuan remained resolute on his stand.

'Know your limits, and know when to take a step back!'

Seeing Fang Yuan, Song San knew that if the other disciples were sent here instead, they would let him off and make friends with him.

There were not many people who dared to play along.

He was unlucky to have met Song San because he was reprimanded by his master not long ago.

Song San remained serious, and with a smirk, "Zhou Wenwu chose to look for you at his wits ends, so you must be Zhou Family's ally!"

Fang Yuan became much more serious.

"I do not want to stir trouble..."

Fang Yuan sighed, "Why do some people seem so eager to find death?"

"Whoosh!"

He became a black flash and rushed forward, his entire body pitch black, as though he was wearing a layer of iron clothing.

"Eagle Claw Iron Skin Technique?!"

Song San heard of this famous technique before and even saw Yu Qiuleng used it.

Seeing his opponents skill, it seemed like he was at [Martial Artist (3rd Gate)] or [Martial Artist (4th Gate)]. How would he be of any match to Fang Yuan of [Martial Artist (5th Gate)]?

"You deserve to die!"

Song San smirked, with his right hand clenched into a fist, focused his strength and prepared to strike.

But at this moment, Fang Yuan smiled, "You fool, you've been tricked!"

In mid-air, his technique changed, as his claws transformed to a palm, with a black circle in the middle. It struck down with extreme power, as though it was a large hammer smashing down.

[Black Sand Palm (Grade 5)]!

"You..."

Song San flustered and flew into mid-air, spitting out blood.

"It's you!"

He laid on the floor, with blood oozing from his lips, regretful.

It was as if that he realised at that moment, that this harmless young man was Song Yujie's murderer, but he could no longer bring this piece of news out.

## Chapter 32: The County

"What have you guessed?"

Fang Yuan went up slowly with an apathetic face. His cold look caused Song San to feel the brink of death.

"Hold on a second...."

He shouted. "You killed Song Yujie and Song Zhong will definitely not let you go. He is crazy and he wants everyone to die together with his son.... I can help you since I know that old man...."

He spoke halfway and was horrified after coughing out a mouthful of blood.

"I will settle that old man myself. You should be on your way now!"

Fang Yuan did not know anything else which could cure the Pearl Tail Snake's Poison other than the Yama's Order.

This martial artist should also be easily poisoned even though he was highly skilled like Fang Yuan.

Not long after, Song San became a corpse with a blue-black face.

"Unfortunately.... The poison is so effective that it killed Song San before I could get more information from him.... It seems like it is not worth to give him a pill of the spiritual medicine to let him survive a little longer...."

Fang Yuan felt a little regretful after watching Song San died. He waved and said, "Flower Fox Ferret, go and patrol the area. Kill anyone who dares to come close to this area!"

"Keke!"

A bright white light flashed past and the Flower Fox Ferret was back not long after from its patrol. Its paws were clean and it shook its head.

"No one? So Song San came here on his own?"

Fang Yuan had a suspicion and sighed after looking at Song San's body. "You are lucky!"

If Song San had given up, Fang Yuan would naturally send Zhou Wenwu out and end their relations. However, Song San had the intention to interfere on his own and got himself into trouble in the end. He was indeed unlucky.

Moreover, he was unconscious and did not know Fang Yuan's attitude and performance previously.

It would then be worth saving his life.

"Song Zhong must be really crazy to get the whole Zhou family killed. Luckily, I've saved Zhou Wenwu's life to allow him to find his sect for help. Any sects who know about his situation will definitely help him in any way!"

Once a faction consolidated its power, it would never allow its own men to kill each other. Otherwise, where would the cohesiveness among the men be?



If everyone from the Zhou family had been killed and there was no leader left, Song Zhong could find a few people as scapegoats and allow himself to be not traced as the murderer.

Now with Zhou Wenwu alive as the sole witness, Song Zhong would not be able to escape when others knew about this!

Hence, in Fang Yuan's eyes, Zhou Wenwu was worth saving as he was useful.

After all, Fang Yuan killed Song Yujie and he had to kill Song Zhong so that there would be no further threats.

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"Father..... Ah Fu...."

In his dream, he could faintly see Song Zhong struggling to stay alive.

Zhou Wenwu shouted and woke up from his dream feeling shocked.

He was previously injured in his chest but now he felt much better.

"Yes....Father fought against the enemies desperately so that my sister and I could escape through the secret pathway. Unfortunately, we were still being chased even though he was fighting the soldiers. In the end, we split...."

He began to regain consciousness and took a look at his surroundings. "Is this place....the secluded valley?"

"You have woken up?"

Fang Yuan served a bowl of medicine and showed concern for him.

"Thank you, Master, for saving my life!"

Zhou Wenwu wanted to get up to show his gratitude but was stopped by Fang Yuan.

"You are still injured. You should just stay in bed and rest.... What happened to the Zhou family?"

"The Zhou family...."

Once he mentioned this, Zhou Wenwu's eyes became teary. "From today onwards, there will be no Zhou family in Qingye City!"

"How is this possible? Are Old Zhou and Miss Zhou alright?"

Fang Yuan sounded surprised and asked, "Who is the murderer?"

"Song Zhong is definitely the mastermind of the murder!"

Zhou Wenwu bit his teeth tightly and said, "Even though the murderer had concealed himself, I had seen him with my own eyes. I shouldn't be wrong!"

"Ssss...."

Fang Yuan inhaled and asked, "How could it be?"

"That Song Zhong is a crazy man!"

Zhou Wenwu started to get up and said, "My sister and I were separated. I'm not sure whether you have seen us. When the soldiers and Song San came chasing after me, I then knew it was difficult to defeat Song Zhong...."

"I didn't see them...."

Fang Yuan shook his head and said, "Master Zhou, you are a good man. This place is very secluded and Song San probably would have been gone back...."

"I think so too!"

Zhou Wenwu couldn't believe what had happened, but when he thought about how Fang Yuan dealt with the situation, he understood what Fang Yuan meant and answered him.

"What plans do you have, Master Zhou?"

Fang Yuan cut to the chase by asking him that question.

"I will return to the sect, of course, and look for the leader for help!"

Zhou Wenwu's eyes were red. He clenched his fist and said, "If I'm alive, he will have to be dead!"

He himself knew that he couldn't fight against Song Zhong on his own and he needed help from the sect.

Furthermore, Song Zhong was the one in the wrong and he was definitely going to be punished as long as they were able to expose him!

"With your current injuries, you shouldn't move about so much. Luckily Qinghe County is just nearby. I can only prescribe enough medicine for you to find your sect but not enough to for you to regain your martial arts skills!"

Fang Yuan nodded in agreement.

"Thank you, Master, for your help!"

Zhou Wenwu was grateful towards Fang Yuan but he felt sorrowful. He was supposed to rendezvous with Zhou Wenxin but they had not met up till now. She probably had been killed.

In that case, he would be the only one left in the Zhou family.

"After my revenge, I will do anything you want to repay your kindness!"

"That will be unnecessary...."

Fang Yuan swayed his arms and glanced at Zhou Wenwu, "How about I escort you to the county since you are still injured?"

"What?"

Zhou Wenwu was dazed upon hearing that.

He also had this idea originally but didn't dare to request for it since he had troubled Fang Yuan so much already. Since Fang Yuan offered to do it, it made it seemed like he was a good man in Zhou Wenwu's eyes!

Little did he know that in Fang Yuan's eyes, Zhou Wenwu was extremely important in making sure that Song Zhong would be dead. Hence, Fang Yuan had decided to make that offer so he could make sure Zhou Wenwu reach his sect safely.

Of course, Zhou Wenwu didn't know the truth. In his eyes, Fang Yuan was kind-hearted with incredible medical skills.

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"Qinghe County...."

On the road, a cart moved slowly. Fang Yuan wore his hat and pondered over his thoughts silently.

In this world, the presence of the local authority was rare. For Qingye City, the families there were the ones controlling and making the calls instead of the local authorities.

The county was similar in a sense that the Spirit Returning Sect was in total control of it. The local authorities present there had no say in anything.

Rather, a portion of the high-ranking officials in the county were members of the Spirit Returning Sect.

Therefore, Fang Yuan could guess the state of the royal sovereignty of this county, which was similar to the one he had in his dream.

That was why after his whole family was killed, Zhou Wenwu did not even consider to report to the local authorities. Instead, he went to his Sect for help.

The cart was moving smoothly at a steady pace, which was helpful to the injured person lying in it.

'The Flower Fox Ferret will stay behind to guard the secluded valley. I am sufficient for this trip to the county!'

'Of course, I should not reveal my Black Sand Palm whenever possible. My Eagle Claw Iron Skin technique needs to be stronger as soon as possible!'

Fang Yuan was eager to improve his technique and he glanced at his stats window.

"Name: Fang Yuan

Essence: 2.7

Spirit: 2.6

Magic: 1.5

Age: 18

Cultivation: [Martial Arts (5th Gate)]

Techniques: [Black Sand Palm (Grade 5)], [Eagle Claw Iron Skin Technique (Grade 4)]

Skills: [Medicine (Level 2)], [Botany (Level 3)]"

"Since I have the foundations for martial arts, I am able to improve my Eagle Claw Iron Skin Technique quickly....."

Even when he was still searching for the spiritual fertiliser, he still continued to train. Moreover, he was benefitting from consuming the meat of the spiritual beast. The result was way better than when he consumed the Vermillion Jade Rice.

"My Spirit has increased by 0.1. My Iron Skin Technique has gained a new grade and it is not far from reaching the peak of the 5th Grade...."

Fang Yuan was satisfied with his progress.

When he killed Song Yujie previously, he had revealed his ability in the Black Sand Palm Technique. Hence, he would try as much as possible not to execute this technique.

On the other hand, the Eagle Claw Iron Skin Technique didn't have such a disadvantage and he could train it till he attained the 12 Golden Gates. By then he would naturally gain more attention from the others.

Fang Yuan focused on the Eagle Claw Iron Skin Technique and a few messages appeared in his mind.

"Eagle Claw Iron Skin Technique - A combination of inner and external techniques. When mastered, it would be similar to coating the entire body with iron, making it impenetrable by fire and water, as well as making the body difficult to wound. Currently at 4th Grade, this techniques strengthens the inner power of the Eagle Claw Technique!"

In the path of martial arts, before the Pain Gate is broken through, only inner power, and not inner force would be cultivated!

To Fang Yuan, this was the difference between the disorderly inner power and the rope-like inner force.

However, practising martial arts was also beneficial for one's inner power.

He had this feeling that since his power from his Dantian got stronger, he could feel a very strong energy inside it.

If he were to succeed in the conversion of his inner power, he would advance past the threshold for the standard of an expert in martial arts in Qinghe County!

"Master....Master Fang!"

Just when Fang Yuan was about to execute and train his Eagle Claw technique, a weak voice was heard from the inside of the cart.

"How are you feeling, Master Zhou?"

Fang Yuan opened the cart's curtains and saw Zhou Wenwu's pale face.

"I can still hold it!"

Zhou Wenwu coughed a couple of times, coughing out blood in the process.

"That....that old man will not let me go easily. He will surely send his men to prevent us from reaching Qinghe County!"

"So what?"

Fang Yuan laughed and said, " We have nothing to worry about if Song Zhong doesn't personally stop us!"

He had easily defeated Song San, who was a disciple of Song Zhong. This clearly showed that his skills were comparable to the skills of Song Zhong's men.

Moreover, there were many ways to get to the county. He could purposely take a different road to make it harder for Song Zhong's men to locate them.

Regardless, they could still encounter trouble in the county.