

Daily life 411

Chapter 411 Silent Wishes

A few minutes later there was another guest at Yang Qing's abode who seemed like he had timed his visit perfectly to when Yang Qing was eating his meal. It was Feng Xin.

When he came he didn't talk much and just poured himself the wine on the table and took a few of the dishes that were spread about.

The two ate in silence for almost half an hour and when they had finished all the dishes on the table, Feng Xin stood up to leave.

"Feng Xin, there's no need to hold back anymore. I don't know why you did, Yi Jie isn't one to care about it.." Yang Qing muttered as Feng Xin was walking away halting him in his tracks.

"I know.." Feng Xin softly said.

"I'm headed to the mountain today, I've already left my cases to them.." he added as he left.

"All the best. Later you can tell me how the lightning tastes like, if it's any different from the rest.." Yang Qing said to the fading silhouette of Feng Xin.

"Feng Xin.." he couldn't help but shake his head as he said this.

He had long discovered Feng Xin was purposefully holding back his cultivation, which Yang Qing could only guess was on account of Yi Jie, either that or Feng Xin delayed breaking through so it would take away from the time when he could be eating.

Some part of him felt the odds of the latter were slightly higher.

παΠdαsNovel.com The rest of his team, as if by design came at different times, with each not saying anything. They just stayed there with Yang Qing and then left.

After Su Jinjing left who was the last inquisitor to come in, the final visitor of the day was Mao Yunru, who unlike the rest couldn't mask the worry and sympathy in her eyes.

"How are you finding your new role?" asked Yang Qing when he saw her worried look.

"It's okay, I'm adapting well. I had a good teacher after all. Not many people are lucky enough to have someone known as the world's canvas as their teacher.." Mao Yunru cheekily replied trying to rouse her spirits with humor.

"Don't you forget it," Yang Qing smugly replied.

After that another awkward silence ensued between the two. Yang Qing played around with his wine urn, while Mao Yunru kept pulling at her purple scarf trying to align it perfectly.

"I'll be okay.." Yang Qing finally said when he saw Mao Yunru seemed to be getting nervous by the second.

Mao Yunru for the first time since she walked in, her eyes stopped darting around as she stared at him. When she saw the calmness in those green eyes that carried the essence of a whole ocean in them, it seemed to have affected her as she too started calming down.

"Okay, then..."

A sense of harmony and calmness pervaded the area as they resumed the silence, which unlike before was warm unlike the bundle of nerves and awkwardness it was, moments earlier.

After some moments passed, Mao Yunru stood up to leave after exchanging a few words with Yang Qing.

She had walked away a few steps when she hurried back and kissed Yang Qing's forehead and said,

"Take care," and immediately bolted after with reddened cheeks leaving a stupefied Yang Qing.

"What just happened?" he absentmindedly muttered to himself as he gently touched his forehead.

A small smile appeared on his face, however, the moment was immediately ruined by the celestial nesting weaver that had dropped from its nest with its arrogant gaze falling on Yang Qing. I think you should take a look at

"You finally realized how amazing I am, little Qing.." it pompously said as it emphasized the last two words.

"You bastard.." Yang Qing yelled as he immediately pounced on it, throwing a flurry of punches.

After ten minutes of the two thrashing about, the two lay exhausted in the grass next to the courtyard.

"I'm going to have a talk with the crab you brought over and take a look around this dump. You can have the nest.." the celestial nesting weaver arrogantly said as it rolled its rotund body towards the pond where the starlight crab was staying.

"It has a conscience after all," Yang Qing muttered with a smile as he headed to the nest.

After he arrived, he immediately took out the two arts pertaining to the Frozen Serenity Scripture and started going through them.

About two hours later Yang Qing put both arts down.

"The Frozen Serenity Sect really was something," he muttered with admiration in his tone.

While he hadn't fully cultivated both techniques to any degree at all and was just studying their ins and outs, the bit he had managed to glean in those two hours left him marveling at its intricacies.

It was generally known that yin arts were best at building up the soul and were extremely poor at strengthening the body but the frost fire art had managed to do something that most yin arts couldn't, which was strengthen not only the soul but also the body in equal regard.

The art produced a blue-white flame known as frost fire which was a flame conjured by the energy of the soul, the art strengthened the soul first then used the energy produced to refine the body then with the body strengthened, the energy it generates is partially absorbed by the flame which then feeds back to the soul, creating a tied cycle between the two.

The Winter's embrace was just as amazing. The meditation art was founded on maintaining a calm heart and mind by deriving warm comfort even in desolation. When mastered to perfection, one would be immune to all arts that influenced the mind that were in the blue grade, not only that it increased the odds of a cultivator entering a state of epiphany by 35%. It also increased the cultivator's understanding of their own soul and spiritual sense.

The benefits derived from it were truly huge. However, Yang Qing had not picked them up so he could cultivate them. The time he had on hand was too short for him to even reach the emergent phase of it.

What we wanted to ascertain was the essence of it. Since the two arts came from the same source, even though they are two different arts that target different things, their core essence should be similar, which was what Yang Qing wanted to study.

"As I thought.....this shard feels completely different for something related to the Frozen Serenity Scripture.." he said as he fiddled with a blue shard in his hand.

He stared at it for a full minute before he burned it away with a pure white flame. Black smoke was produced from it along with a sizzling sound which made Yang Qing's face turn grimmer.

"Just what have you all been doing? The essence seems completely different..."

But none of that matters, after tomorrow, the Ice Emerald Sect will be no more..."

Yang Qing exhaled like he was releasing whatever pent-up emotions he had and closed his eyes in silent meditation. A colorful mist filled with stars, oceans, animals, plants, and land, immediately surrounded him.

Just like that, the night passed, followed by the next day without Yang Qing moving.

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Skies in the southeastern side of the southern continent.

"Are you ready, Yang Qing?"

Chapter 412 Delivering The Sentence (1)

Yang Qing looked upwards for a bit, then his gaze fell below him. There was nothing but mist below that obscured everything on the ground from view.

"I am.." he calmly answered as he took out the harbinger's call horn.

He looked to his left and right, where the four judges; Dai Chen, Zhang Qingge, Mo Liwei, and Wei Ying all nodded back at him.

He then looked behind him where Xia Ting and Yu Gen suddenly appeared waving their hands.

"Okay then.."

He immediately took a deep breath and then muttered a silent incantation that produced white sigil markings from the horn.

He tightly held the horn as his gaze pierced through the veil of mist below him. His pupils turned pure white with a green dao marking on them.

He could see a group of young ladies huddled together deciphering an old-looking scroll beneath a silver cypress tree with excitement in their eyes, at another end he could see young girls seemingly about 10-12 years old admiring a senior of theirs producing a 20 foot water current from her sword play, and in another side there were two young ladies who looked to be in their late twenties and were in the early stages of the core formation realm who seemed to be exchanging pointers in the form of combat within an arena as other disciples cheered them on.

The area was brimming with life and if Yang Qing didn't have the yin-yang jade physique or cultivated the University duality indulgent of the myriad worlds cultivation art, he may have very well missed the air of resentment and anguish that floated within every inch of the area below, especially at the central place where it congealed to the point of creating faces filled with pain and torment, screaming.

pandasnovel.com Any part of him that was still hesitant and resistant to eliminating the whole sect, disappeared the moment he saw the congealed air of anguish and sorrow.

Such a thing could only be formed in an area that has been littered with the souls of those who died bitterly and painfully to the end, and their number was in the hundred of thousands. Their resentment lingered afraid, tormented, and unable to move on.

For someone like Yang Qing who had an absurd sensitivity toward life essence, such resentment was as clear as daylight to him. He could even feel the fear that they had as they met their ends.

"What is it?" Dai Chen asked when he saw his look.

"The area is littered with the resentment of millions.." Yang Qing said with an apathetic look.

With zero hesitation he began the proclamation of the charge and sentence that would befall the Ice Emerald Sect.

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The core region of the Ice Emerald Sect,

"Zhao Ju it seems we have intruders above us...."

The mature-looking lady with free-flowing white hair who had been seated in lotus position beneath the Wisteria tree hurriedly opened her eyes as she turned back to face the Wisteria tree which seemed to be the source of the voice that had spoken.

The voice was raspy and had a deathly chillness to it.

"Is it the ancestor of the Twin River Empire?" she asked with worry clearly written all over her face.

"It is not that old emperor, those who have just arrived are different. If his empire had people of their caliber, they would have already flattened the sect..."

The mature-looking young lady's pupils constricted in fear as she looked up.

"There are seven palace stage experts; three are in the first stage, one in the second stage, two in the third stage, and one is in the fourth stage. Each with foundations I've never seen before.

Even that coot would likely flee when targetted by them, and two of them were the two who had sneaked in here not too long ago..."

even with a raspy cold voice that was shaky and a tad bit inaudible at times, one could feel the wariness in the speakers.

"What do we do? Do you think they know?" "I think you should take a look at

"With such a line-up, is it even in doubt?"

A long silence ensued as the mature-looking lady walked back and forth next to the tree.

"Could they be from the Order?" she muttered to herself horrified at the prospect of it, which felt like it was highly likely they were/

"Founder, what do we do!?!? ... I told you we needed to be careful, and things are not the same as back then... see now...the ORDER IS ALREADY AT OUR DOORSTEPS!!!!"

Even though it was just conjecture, she was dead certain those outside were from the Order. They were the only ones who fit the bill and could marshal the lineup outside.

"Calm down will you..where was this reasoning when what we did helped you break through to the palace realm and even increase your cultivation base to the third stage?"

the tone of the voice in the tree was rife with mockery as it said this.

"Stall for time using the array, use every precious resource available. With how much strengthening it has undergone over the years, it should be sufficient to stall them for an hour at least..that should buy me enough time.."

"Enough time for? Do we have a way out?" sect master Zhao Ju impatiently asked.

"Zhao Ju you need to master your emotions well, otherwise even with the special abilities of the Wisteria tree and the taotie destruction rebirth swallowing art, it will be hard for you to break through to the middle stages of the palace realm with such a shaky resolve.

You're the sect master, act as one.."

"I'm sorry founder.." said sect master Zhao Ju as she bowed.

"While the situation we are in isn't ideal, it's not unsalvageable either. The defector Yaozu brought back has dense pure yin energy, enough to support my breakthrough which will give me more capital to negotiate with our benefactor to help us out of this mess.

With his abilities, getting us out of this should not be difficult, but for that, I need to be indispensable to him, and increasing my strength is one such way.

I'm not that far off, so you need to do all you can to buy me as much time as you possibly can. The resources we have acquired over the years should be able to fully activate the formation, and if that isn't enough.."

"Sacrifice some of the talented disciples preferably those in the core formation stage," the raspy voice coldly said.

Sect Master Zhao Ju flinched on hearing the order, however, she immediately recomposed herself as she replied,

"Yes, founder."

"And Zhao Ju..." Just as the sect master was about to hurry away the voice suddenly spoke up.

"You need to be prepared for the chance that not everyone may make it. You need to resolve yourself to abandon your disciples..all of them. Depending on how things go, in the best case, I think I can only guarantee your life, and the other elders in the palace realm, and maybe Yaozu, who has some talent, but for the rest, we will have to abandon them, and everything that ties us to the sect.

Prepare yourself to abandon the sect.."

Sect Master Zhao Ju paused as she softly answered,

"Okay.."

The voice behind the Wisteria tree sighed as Zhao Ju disappeared from sight.

"I guess I should inform him. If he doesn't help us..."

Her interaction with the sect master, though seemed long, had lasted two minutes.

Chapter 413 Delivering The Sentence (2)

"Residents of the southern continent on behalf of the Order, I come before you this day to declare the Ice Emerald Sect, a rank 3 sect founded by Feng Qiu, 53,417 years ago, guilty of breaking the southern continent taboo charter.

Since 40,000 years ago they have kidnapped and slaughtered in the millions. The following is the list of their victims:

Ma Yuan- wife and daughter were kidnapped seven years ago and his cultivation crippled in the process. The kidnapping and the attack were done by Deng Yaozu, an elder of the Ice Emerald Sect.

Lin family- a rankless clan of 97 members was massacred 11 years ago by Ma Song an elder of the Ice Emerald Sect.

Lan family: a family of six, husband Lan Shi, wife- Wang Huiling, twins: Lan Di and Lan Chen, Grandfather- Lan Hui, and Grandmother-Meng Zhilan, were brutally killed and refined into a blood crystal by Luo Jingfei, an elder of the Ice Emerald Sect.

..."

Yang Qing went on to list all the victims in chronological order till he reached the first killing 40,000 years ago, which was the Sun jade kingdom which was the sovereign of the area where the Ice Emerald Sect was located before the whole kingdom was massacred overnight.

Back then with the warring that was going around, such events were common so they didn't stand out much at the time, however, with the range of activities of the Ice Emerald Sect, the slaughter of the Sun Jade Kingdom wasn't just two organizations fighting for hegemony and one losing out.

The Sun Jade Kingdom was built on the foundation of a sun jade which was a crystal that had extremely purifying abilities and had a restraining effect on yin energy, especially tainted ones. This was likely the reason they were targeted by the Ice Emerald Sect who practised yin-related arts, and one that was likely tainted by corpse qi.

With an entity like the Sun Jade Kingdom above them, their activities would have likely been noticed and restrained by them, therefore it seemed more prudent to their plans to eliminate them, and were thus the very first victims to fall.

On paper, at the time the Sun Jade Kingdom was more powerful than the Ice Emerald Sect as it even had a palace stage ancestor, but everyone within the kingdom was slaughtered, with inscrutable means, and from that rubble, the Ice Emerald Sect slowly but surely grew.

And the culprit behind that massacre was none other than Feng Qiu the founder of the Ice Emerald Sect who at the time was already rumored to have died during a ruin exploration 2,000 years prior, and she was an eighth-stage core formation expert at the time, so no one could have believed she was the one behind the Sun Jade massacre.

However, with the means of the Order, even events that happened that far back could be dug up as long as they had a thread to follow and they had more than enough thread to unravel the whole thing including knowing that the founder was alive and kicking.

Yang Qing was amazed at how thorough the report he received from the Judicial Review Committee was. When he read it, he couldn't help but be reminded of Veiled Destiny, the monotoned saint-grade treasure he had worn and befriended during his promotion ceremony.

With its karmic abilities, it could probe the past of anyone in the early stage of the soul formation realm and below. Unraveling the complete life activities of every member of the Ice Emerald Sect both living and dead, was likely as easy as Yang Qing eating a barrel of crisply roasted duck by himself.

He couldn't help but wonder if the treasure had been the one involved in discerning all the guilty parties from the sect. As Yang Qing mentioned the crimes along with the victims, he also mentioned the perpetrators.

...I think you should take a look at

"EEEEEEEEIIIIH!!!! how did they know about me?!!"

The disciples of the Ice Emerald Sect were already confused when they heard Yang Qing'd voice and all those charges put against their sect. That confusion was further added to when they heard an aged loud shriek like that of a dying bird echo throughout the sect.

"Master, master, you have to help us?!"

red markings appeared on the bark of the Wisteria tree as a pulsing red light seemed to be pulsing from deep within its bark.

The bark shimmered and rippled like the surface of water as it opened up revealing an old lady with disheveled white hair with hollow eyes and bark-like grey skin. She had tendrils from the wisteria tree hooked into her back and hands and legs. They throbbed like they were transporting something into the old lady.

The lady had a red orb in her hands that was filled with ancient black scriptings and seemed to be the source of the red glow around the tree.

"Why is he not responding?!"

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"Having found the Ice Emerald Sect guilty of violating the southern continent taboo charter, the entire sect has been sentenced to decimation, and all guilty parties involved in the kidnappings and killings have been sentenced to death...with immediate effect.." Yang Qing said as he coldly cast his gaze below.

He put the horn next to his mouth ready to blow it.

"Zhao Ju, deploy the formation!! USE THEM ALL!! USE THEM ALL!!!!"

The old lady's cry came too late because in that instant as she was madly yelling, a solemn tune that carried with it an ancient aura enveloped her entire sect, and immediately after a thunderous explosion like the roar of a primordial beast resounded in the area.

A sturdy blue crystal dome had appeared above them glowing with numerous black glyphs and a red curtain covering it, seemingly to enhance the dome, but that dome was hit with a massive soundwave and instantly shattered like an egg hit with a rock. It did not last a second to the onslaught of the sound.

Seeing the protective array shattered, Yang Qing instantly sealed the horn with the hide he was given and put it away.

"Members of the Ice Emerald Sect, if your name has not been mentioned in the crimes done by your sect, we will allow you to leave, now. You have ten breaths to make your decision. If you will not have left by that time, you will face the same fate as the guilty members, which is DEATH.."

Chapter 414 Movement From Limbo (1)

Along with the destruction of the formation array, various buildings had already collapsed all over the sect, the only place that remained undamaged was the area where the Wisteria tree was located.

There was a radiant purple-pink veil that had red sigils on it constantly rotating around the veil. However, the veil seemed to be just hanging on. It had dim flickering lighting.

As for the rest of the sect, chaos had ensued everywhere, with yells and screams flooding the area.

Everything had happened too fast, from the destruction of the formation to the announcement Yang Qing had just made before and after the destruction of their formation.

The members of the Ice Emerald Sect still couldn't process all that had happened, and most were left confused about what to do.

"That formation was pretty sturdy," said Mo Liwei as he observed the aftermath below.

"Should have been a high-tier blue grade one.." said Wei Ying.

"It seems like they stacked two formations together to add to its strength," she added.

"Considering the attack on the Echo Resonance Sect, they may have used the formation blueprint they had as part of the Frozen Serenity Scripture set and added it to their own formation..but it seems they added something in there too.." said Dai Chen

"There were blood refinement sigils mixed in.." Yang Qing said as he took out a bamboo stick that had purple lightning flashing through it.

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Meanwhile around the Southern Continent,

Blue Lilly sect (rank 3 sect located in the border between the southern continent and the Millionsfold treasure ocean)

"Sect Master, have you heard?"

"I have...it seems before the day ends, a rank 3 sect will be no more..."

"Isn't the Order too tyrannical deciding the destruction of a sect that has been in existence for 50,000 years just like that? how do we even know the Ice Emerald Sect really did those things they're claiming they did it?"

"Elder Shi Yu, you need to be careful with your words. Don't forget the peace we enjoy today is because of the Order's presence, and with their means do they even need to frame a rank 3 sect like the Ice Emerald Sect..."

"Pass down my order, the sect is closing off for the next ten years. No one from the disciples to the elders is allowed to leave the sect grounds for any reason whatsoever and the order is in effect from this moment.

Anyone caught breaking the order will be punished according to the sect rules, regardless of their rank.."

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Jiang Family (rank 4 clan located in the Grey Fox Kingdom at the border between the southern continent and Blue origin ocean)

"Jiang Chen, are you still against the marriage between the two? You've heard what happened to all those clans and sects, and even royal families.

παΠδσNovel.com Our two clans are weaker than them, what's to prevent what happened to them from happening to us?

Even with the Order's presence, things like these are still happening. What are you hesitating for?

For small fish like us to survive, we need to combine together and look out for one another, and the only way to ensure we will do so honestly is a marriage uniting our both families.

My son, Song Tingfeng, and your daughter Jiang Fan.."

"Song Fa there's no need to pretend with me. Don't think I don't know this is just a means to end for you. What you are really after is the throne, especially, with the news that the retainer of the royal family suffered a grievous injury and is at death's door.

With him out of the picture, the royal family no longer has a quasi-palace stage expert to help them hold the kingdom, so you and the other families have been scheming all this time with greed in your hearts ready to grab that throne for yourselves.

But have you even for one second thought it may all be a trap laid by them to ferret you all out in one fell swoop and destroy you all together?

The royal family isn't stupid, if they were, they wouldn't have had hold over the kingdom for the past 20,000 years, and still have the hearts of the people. I think you should take a look at

Don't you think it's suspicious how news of that senior's injuries spread so fast?

Song Fa, we have known each other for long, Please heed my advice and don't let greed and the opinion of others muddle your head.."

"OI' Chen ...It's a pity....if that is your stance, well.....don't let the others know..All the major families are involved in this, and I don't think they'll take too kindly to fence sitters...ask your sister who is married to the fourth elder of the Pine Flame sect to come visit you. The sooner the better.

Take care, OI' Chen.."

"Take care, Song Fa."

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Royal palace of Autumn Wind kingdom (a rank 3 kingdom located in the southeastern region of the southern continent, 1000km from the Ice Emerald Sect)

"Father let me go!! I must speak up for them!! There is NO WAY!! NO WAY!! the Emerald Ice Sect did what they said they did.

The Order is just making up lies about them!"

"General Fu, don't let that rascal go!.... Yun'er you ingrate!! Do you want to damn the kingdom because of you were enchanted by some beauty from there?!

Do you think just because we can lord over billions, and hundreds of sects and other organizations within our territory, gives us the guts to interfere with the matters of the Order?!

We are no more than dried-out twigs before them, that they can easily snap whenever they wish to.

It's my fault for not disciplining you properly and giving you a wide berth that has left you muddle headed.."

"Muddle-headed?! Muddle headed?! Me? You are the one whose muddle-headed, old man. All you have done since you took the throne was grow your harem and drink wine all day long leaving the affairs of the kingdom to your underlings.

You misuse countless resources that could have helped those who serve you grow stronger, but instead, you use it all on yourself, and your so-called 'cultured friends'.

You plundered countless resources so you could actually reach the palace realm and even after all that, what you ended up with was the shakiest and most pitiful one could get, robbing other geniuses of the family the chance to improve themselves, and I'm Muddle headed?

Since you took over as king, the kingdom has stagnated and in fact, it even feels like it has deteriorated. We are one of the few kingdoms of our rank to have been in existence for 100,000 years, but all of it will likely be ruined by drunk self-serving hands, and you have the gall to call me Muddle headed..heheheheh.....

Why? All because I dared to question the Order's judgment? What's wrong with that? Are we supposed to unilaterally accept everything they say and take it as fact?

The Order was formed from the coalition of numerous cultivator organizations around the continent. Our kingdom was one of those organizations. We supported them with donations from our own coffers, and have been doing so up until 500 years ago.

They are not our overlords, their mandate is to work on behalf of the continent, and we have the right to question them when we feel what they are doing doesn't add up.

How long have we known the Ice Emerald Sect? Now that they are in trouble with the Order, you decide to shrink back and accept what they've been charged with because it's the Order?

If you're so afraid that I'll implicate the kingdom then I'm willing to abdicate my title as the crown prince and even be removed from the Lin clan ancestry records..

Let me go, Father, please."

"Knock him out, General Fu, and seal his acupoints and cultivation base. You can let him go in four days.."

"Yes, your majesty.."

"Yun'er you're perfect in every way except you're too bullheaded and one tracked in your thoughts a lot of the time. With that rigid personality of yours, those old foxes may take advantage just like the damn sect.

I don't care if I'm known as a wastrel or a fool of a king as long as it helps me clear out a smooth pathway for you in the end.

I know the kingdom will be better in your hands and reach greater heights. As your father, all I can do is reduce as many obstacles for you as I can, even if you end up resenting me for it.."

Chapter 415 Movement from limbo (2)

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The top floor of a certain restaurant in Gold Leaf Empire, a rank 1 empire located in the central region of the southern continent.

"Guiren what have you decided to do about the matter concerning our son? will you leave him at the hands of the Order and suffer their fate?! What if they sentence him to death?! if they do, then..."

A young lady with black hair tied in a crystalline butterfly hair clip and a beauty that even words could not describe was seated across from a middle-aged man who was the picture of perfection with smooth-flowing hair that seemed to have been crafted from pure gold.

"Ding'er what do you want me to do? It's the Order, even if I was to ally with your father we still wouldn't be able to do anything. And considering he cut off all ties with you when you decided to follow me, I doubt he'd help. Also, Hou Dehui is closely monitoring the situation.."

"That bastard?! Why?! isn't the case concerning the palace realm, beneath him?!"

"Why else? isn't it because of Liang Zian?"

"Our son can not rot at the Order, Guiren!! We have to do everything to get him out!"

"I know. It's why I'm here to beg your father with you. If that fails then, we will have to wait and see how the undercurrents of the continent pen out."

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Jia family (a rank 4 clan in Silverfern Kingdom in the northeastern part of the southern continent)

Within an open ground stood an elderly-looking man and seated in lotus position were about fifteen children who were between the ages of four to eight.

"Granduncle Ma, why are you smiling?" asked one of the kids when he saw the elderly man look up to the sky with a smile on his face with tears in his eyes.

"I had a sworn brother who disappeared 800 years ago. I was closer to him than my own brothers, and we've known each other since i was just a tiny bit older than you. Sword in hand we travelled around, causing no small amount of mischief with a sense of adventure, but eventually when we grew old, we each got busy.

I came back to help train the young members of the clan, while he decided to settle down and was lucky enough to find someone and they eventually managed to have twin girls, and I became their godfather.

But 800 years ago they disappeared, and I never knew what happened to them despite looking for them, till now..."

"Brother Tao, Sister Linling, I'm sorry I wasn't there for you both and little Zhilang and little Qiang...If they were alive, they would have grandchildren of their own by now..." he muttered to himself as he took a swig out of the jug of wine in his hands.

"As saddened as I am for only knowing it now, I'm glad the Order is there to stand up for you and seek justice on your behalf.

I look forward to seeing you both.." he said as he took another sip with tears streaming down his eyes.

"Granduncle?"

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Murong family clan grounds.

"Grandpa, that announcement? Was that Judge Yang Qing?"

"It was, Yan'er."

"Will he be okay? that is a rank 3 organization.."

"Don't worry, despite how he looked, I could tell he was powerful, and besides he has the Order behind him.

Yan'er, never forget small clans like us can only survive because a monolith like them exists. That is a debt that we can never repay. When you go to the Institute, make sure to learn as much as you can in the three years that you are there..

The Murong family will be in your hands after that.."

"I will grandfather.."

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White Baobab Kingdom

Food street lane,

"Yang Qing, it seems you have your work cut out for you today. I know you never like these things. I wish you well old friend.."

"Longwei who are you talking to? Have you finally lost it? I knew eating as much as you do would come to bite you at some point.."

"Is that how you talk to your king? and stop being stingy with the brown sauce. How is that tiny amount supposed to fill these braised pork cutlets?"

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Wind gliding mercenary escort headquarters.

"Leader Gui you need to remove Yun Wei from his position as head of logistics. Because of him, we are now mixed up in this mess.

What if people find out we were the ones who provided the evidence that led to all this? Our Organization could be razed the next day and all of us killed.."

"Vice Leader Wang Fu calm down.."

"I don't want to hear that from you Chunhua. Don't think I don't know you also helped him with this. Your position as a vice leader should be revoked the same as his. What you both did put us at risk and you did without even putting the matter to a vote."

"I consulted the leader and he agreed to it."

"Gui, why?"

"I decided to hinge a bet on it. With the way things are shaping out, we can't be fence sitters, sooner or later we will have to make a choice, better to make it early, and I think betting on the Order is the best choice we can make for the Wind Gliding Mercenaries.."

Isn't this the dream we all four shared when were small? To grow strong, and travel the world, that is why we went for wind gliding, to be free and unfettered, but for that "But.."

"Leave it be Wang Fu, the die has already been cast. Besides, while you may see it as a risk, I see it as the opportunity we have been waiting for to elevate ourselves into a rank 2 organization and that is a risk I'm willing to take, and I hope you do too.."

Isn't this the dream we all four shared when were small? To grow strong, and travel the world, that is why we went for wind gliding, to be free and unfettered, but for that we need strength, and having a relationship with the Order will give us that.."

"I hope you all are right, because if you aren't.."

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Tang Family, burial chamber.

An old man knelt with his head touching the ground in a dimly lit room as he faced four tablets neatly placed on a platform above him

"Great great grandfather, great grandfather, grandfather, father, did you all hear that? The mission is about to be completed. The person behind the Shu family has been found, and the family is about to be avenged.

The mission is over, so please great great grandfather, please have peace, and let us rest. Let the Tang's curse end here!"

...

On this day, the continent that was in limbo started moving.

Chapter 416 Yang Qing makes his move (1)

Universal bead

Yang Qing rapidly formed seals with his hands which resulted in a small pea-sized green ball forming above him.

The green ball was filled with streaming lights of different colors. There were red, white, yellow, blue, green, orange, purple, and grey.

They swirled around the ball while the ball rotated in a clockwise manner swallowing massive amounts of spiritual qi in the area.

A cyclone could be seen forming above it as it rapidly pulled spiritual qi into the area. With every passing second the green ball grew in size.

Wei Ying and Mo Liwei looked up curiously at the bead with mild surprise in their eyes due to the monstrous volume of spiritual qi that was being sucked into the green ball.

From its sheer volume, one could easily mistake it as a phenomenon that usually occurred after a cultivator survived their tribulation and they were harvesting the results of that successful breakthrough.

One of the harvests was a massive downpour of qi into the cultivator to replace what he/she had expended during the breakthrough. In addition, the quality was also different. The qi that pours into the cultivator after their breakthrough is distinctive from regular spiritual qi because it is induced by the origin dao as a reward to the cultivator for successfully surviving their tribulation.

The qi is mixed with the aura of the origin dao which will help firm their foundations and heal any damage caused by the origin dao since the source of the tribulation is tied to it. Other than that, the qi produced is created for the express purpose of that cultivator. So every aspect of that qi is uniquely crafted to the designs of that cultivator's entire being and isn't the generalized spiritual qi that floated around the planet.

It is geared perfectly to the cultivator from the element prevalent in it to suit what the cultivator is suited for, to the ease in which the cultivator absorbs it and assimilates it. The qi doesn't need to be refined further by the dantian, and is even of a higher grade than if what is usually refined by the cultivator's dantian.

To anyone other than that cultivator, the qi is as useful as normal water, but to that particular cultivator it was created for, it was a precious tonic almost as good as a saint-grade tonic.

When it came to the green ball forming above Yang Qing, while it wasn't the same as the one produced by the Origin dao after a tribulation, based on what they could feel from it, the qi gathered inside of it seemed to be one that could be freely absorbed by anyone, and with a certain level of ease, especially owing to the fact that it seemed like most of the elements were represented within that qi.

The ball formed was as a result of the incomplete purple grade art Yang Qing cultivated, the Universal duality indulgent of the myriad worlds which worked wonders with Yang Qing's yin-yang jade bones, resulting in the formation of a universal qi, that granted Yang Qing the ability to draw in qi from almost anything and it had all rounded nature to it, however, the most prevalent was the yin and yang energy, which was represented by the white and black lines intermingled within the ball, which acted as its core.

The ball served as a second dantian and storage. With it, Yang Qing could replenish his qi but he could also use it as a conduit for a cultivation spell without draining his own reserves, which was his intention for creating it.

"The capacity seems to have increased significantly than last time.." Dai Chen commented with a wry smile on his face because despite the size of the ball being the size of a papaya, the spiritual qi stored in it was enough to rival that of a second-stage palace realm expert.

"It is...seems like he has no intention of holding back at all..." muttered Zhang Qingge.

"That should be enough.." muttered Yang Qing as he sized the amount of qi stored in the green ball.

His hair slowly changed half green with hues of blue in it while the other half was orange-yellow, with matching irises.

He took out a few formation flags which gently floated from his hands and revolved around him.

Yin-Yang Earth's resting aurora of judgment

The green ball turned into a crimson orange. It looked like a miniature sun during sunset.

"Members of the Ice Emerald Sect, time is up..."

Yang Qing gently spoke as the crimson-orange orb rose up into the sky, which filled the entire sect with a red overcast hue that made one think dusk had arrived.

The members of the sect whether it was the new or seasoned disciples to the elders all looked up with solemn expressions on their faces.

The orb not only influenced the scenery of their sect, but every member could feel their hearts beating to the rhythm of the fluctuations of the crimson-orange orb.

Badum! Badum!

Every heartbeat sounded like the drum of judgment. The weak members felt like their chests were caving in and they could not breathe. Every time their heart beat, it became heavy and forceful till some plopped on their knees because they couldn't handle its weight, as they wheezed with their mouths open trying to gasp for breath with their eyes almost popping out of their sockets.

"Those willing to leave, do so now..." Yang Qing's voice was like the tether that pulled those at the brink of collapse back to life.

The pressure and the pain in their chests disappeared the moment Yang Qing spoke. They warily looked up to see the crimson-orange orb above explode into shooting stars that gently glided downwards.

With the exploding orb at the center, the shooting stars produced from the explosion created an orange-red veil in between them that had the vastness, stability, and smell of earth. With the shooting stars as a guide, the veil surrounded the whole sect, creating a translucent crimson-orange dome that had ancient-looking scripts glowing within it.

"Those who want to leave do so now, all you have to do is pass through the veil.." Yang Qing announced as his gaze fell below him to the still-confused members of the Ice Emerald Sect.

"Elders!! Sect Master!! Help us!!" It was unknown who started it, but a swarming yell came from the core disciples and then spread out to the young newer disciples.

They couldn't make heads or tails of what was happening. Everything had happened too fast, and the blow of the announcements was too much for them to fathom, and thus by default, the last tether of their sanity made them latch on to the biggest support they could think of, which was their elders and sect master.

They had grown up idolizing them and thinking them invincible.

Surely those amazing palace stage elders and the powerful sect master above them could handle this...

Once that thought took root in their heart, they began to calm down and some even defiantly looked up at Yang Qing, as if to say

Wait till our elders and sect master get their hand on you, we will be the one to give you ten breaths of time to survive...

They all looked dishevelled with some bleeding from their ears and eyes. They had been manning the formation together, and when it broke, they suffered a little bit of Completely overlooking he was from the Order.

But what they didn't know was, that those elders and sect master they had placed their hopes on, were all looking up with the same expression..FEAR.

They all looked dishevelled with some bleeding from their ears and eyes. They had been manning the formation together, and when it broke, they suffered a little bit of backlash from it.

"How is he just a first-stage palace realm cultivator?" sect master Zhao Ju looked at the veil surrounding them with solemnness in her tone and eyes.

The other elders all had the same reaction. They could feel the sheer level of power hidden within that unassuming veil was enough to slaughter some of them who were already in the palace stage.

"Is the founder really not acting?" asked one of the elders.

"She is a critical juncture, we are on our own for now....we need to work together to buy her as much time as possible.."

"Will we even be able to?!"

"We can only try. Besides it's not like we have a choice in the matter. You heard the sentence..."

"Maybe we can use them to buy more time. The Order values its reputation, surely they will hold back on their account.." said one of the elders as her eyes moved over to the disciples that were calling for them.

Sect master Zhao Ju paused with a conflicted look in her eyes as she looked at the disciples around her. She had watched all of them grow and held high aspirations for some, there were even a few she had groomed to take over for her and push the sect to further heights.

But all that could now only ever exist in her mind.

She sighed as she firmly replied,

"Let me do it.."

Chapter 417 Yang Qing Makes His Move (2)

"Disciples of the Ice Emerald Sect, this is your sect master Zhao Ju. As you have heard, the Order has declared us guilty of heinous crimes. As your sect master, I'd like to announce it's all false.

Our sect did not do those things. We have always kept to ourselves and slowly built up to where we are today.

I admit it wasn't without its fair share of blood shed but this is the world we live in. Is there truly any cultivator who has reached the heights that they have without stepping over someone?

I doubt there is, though I could be wrong, but in the time I've been around, I haven't met a single one.

Despite how blood-ridden the path is, we as the Ice Emerald Sect have always strived to be cordial with everyone. We avoided conflicts if we could, kept to ourselves, and even when we grew a bit strong, we didn't wantonly plunder our neighbors to exert dominance.

Didn't we live peacefully with them?"

"WE DID!!!!"

"Then how could we be capable of doing all those things the Order has claimed we did? They did not even give us a chance to defend ourselves and just unilaterally decided we were guilty and announced the sentence and destruction of our sect..."

While our sect may not be as huge as theirs, we are not made of soft bones. I and the rest of the elders have decided we will stand our ground and fight against their tyranny. We will not shirk back to defend the name of the sect that gave us all we have today.

I will have no regrets even if we meet our end here.

As for you all, I won't order you to fight with us. Those who want to leave can do so, I and the elders will not judge you for it. You can do as the fellow Daoist has said. I wish you all the best in your paths ahead, and I hope you will keep Ice Emerald Sect and our teachings in your hearts.

And for those willing to stay, all I can say is thank you..."

"She's quite the speaker.." said Wei Ying with her tone rife with mockery.

Barely a second later, the whole ground was filled with uproar as the disciples spoke over one another, each pumped full of chicken blood and dragon guts.

"Sect master, what are you saying? Don't look down on us!! If you are staying, so are we. We are not afraid of death either!!"

"Yes, yes...we will show the world that our sect isn't a pushover. Even against an entity like the Order, the Ice Emerald Sect will dare fight back for what is right.."

"The sect is our home.."

"We will fight to our last breath.."

"We will not bend..."

Roars filled the place, with an infectious fighting spirit filling almost every disciple regardless of their age or cultivation base.

People who were riddled with fear moments earlier, now looked as if they wanted to slay the entire world under a righteous banner, but of course, there were those whose sense of preservation remained undeterred by the sensation floating around.

Though their numbers were pitifully few, there were those disciples who took up Yang Qing's offer and passed through the veil with guilty and nervous expressions as they suffered torrents of abuse from the disciples behind them.

There were even some who were attacked but a crimson orange shield appeared around them to shield them from the attacks as they made their way out. The successful passage of one of them prompted a few others to follow suit, and at the end, 17 decided to leave of which one was an elder while the bulk of the rest were new disciples.

Emboldened by the large number that decided to stay back, one of the elders spoke up with mockery in her tone.

"See that, people from the Order. We are not afraid of you. Your claims are ridiculous. We do not accept the charges or the ruling, and if it's a fight you want, then a fight you will get. though we may not match you, our spirit is undaunted.

But for you, you will make an enemy of the world with your actions. Are you sure you can bear it?"

The elder was a palace realm cultivator who amplified her voice with her qi which pushed it for thousands of kilometers.

"They're truly insidious every one of them. She is playing to the audience we have.." Mo Liwei said as he looked behind them.

There were a few figures lurking about monitoring the situation from a distance, and the number seemed to be growing.

Clearly, that elder seemed to be trying to incite others.

Once Yang Qing saw that no one else seemed to have the intention to leave he finally made his move. I think you should take a look at

"You truly disappoint me sect master Zhao Ju. You're a failure as a leader. ."

Two white flames suddenly appeared in the place of Yang Qing's pupils.

"As for you.." Yang Qing's gaze turned to the elder who had just spoken up.

She was short and oozed an unruly and unbridled aura. She had white hair, the same as all the elders.

She had an arrogant smile as she spoke but when Yang Qing's gaze fell on her, she shrunk back.

"You must be the second elder, Xie Liqiu. Thank you for your kind concern but, every person from the Order, whether it's the guard at the gates, or the judges in the courtrooms, every single one of us has been prepared from the moment we stepped through those doors and agreed to join the Order, that we may one day become an enemy of the whole continent.

We have worn that reality every single day. So what if we become an enemy to the entire world? If it happens, then so be it. We are all prepared for it, even if it happens now, we are ready.

We will always do, what we have been mandated to do, nothing more, nothing less, and if making an enemy of you all will be a consequence, then we welcome you all and see whose fist is bigger..."

A murderous intent radiated from Yang Qing's whole body that immediately shut the mouths of the disciples roaring below.

"Also do you think I gave you all this time to make the whole speech because I was afraid to act..attacking those weaker than you, and living insidiously has dulled your senses.

Do you think you can use their lives against me? You're too naive, sect master. Your sect will be buried today, and you all with it, that is in no doubt..." Yang Qing coldly said as he rose to the center of the veil where a small crimson-orange bead was embedded.

The other judges smirked with murderous intent radiating from them, as Mo Liwen suddenly said..

"You heard him, friends. If you dare mix yourselves up in this, we will bury you all, just the same as them.."

"Reverberate," Yang Qing coldly muttered as he clenched his fist and slammed it sideways into the bead-like it as a drum.

Crack!

It shattered like glass, and the veil disappeared soon after. There was no explosion or any thunderous sound or anything that showed something cataclysmic was about to happen, but what happened next sent the elders and the sect master into the deepest abyss of fear.

The disciples they had riled up all collapsed the moment the veil dropped while some exploded into mists of blood. It did not stop there as the same event extended to the regular elders. Some exploded into bloody mists while others dropped unconscious.

"Sect master save me?!!!" one of the core elders suddenly yelled when she saw crimson-orange cracks appearing on her body.

She speedily ran to the sect master only to explode when she had taken less than ten steps.

"Sister help me!" another yelled as she nervously stretched her hands towards an elder who had a mole under her left eye.

"Yao'er!!!!!!!" that elder yelled in return as she booming sound appeared under her feet as she charged towards a slender young looking lady who had a similar looking mole under her right eye.

However, just when she had just reached her, that slender young lady exploded.

"I WILL KILL YOU!!! YOU BASTARD!!!!!"

"How is this happening?" muttered Sect Master Zhao Ju as she saw the disciples falling and exploding all around her.

However, what hit her hardest was that among the victims were three core elders who were all at the peak stage of the core formation realm. They had all exploded into bloody mists within an instant, and one of them was even Guo Mei's sister.

In just a minute only nine people were left standing.

Seven were in the palace realm, while two were in the quasi-palace realm.

"You must be Deng Yaozu, right? The woman you kidnapped from Rapid Twin County, is she alive?" Yang Qing as if unperturbed to what was happening below him or the murderous look Guo Mei asked him, turned his glance to one of the two quasi palace realm cultivators still standing.

Her image matched the description Ma Yuan gave of the kidnapper who came to their home and crippled him and also took his wife and daughter.

Chapter 418 Yang White Lightning Flames (1)

Deng Yaozu flinched a little from being caught off-guard by Yang Qing's question. Despite Yang Qing not explicitly saying who he was asking about, she instantly knew from the question.

She could feel a calm vastness as she looked at Yang Qing's apathetic gaze that was trained on her.

The green-blue iris made her feel like she was being smothered by the full weight of the ocean while the orange-yellow iris made her feel like she had been transported to the surface of the sun, as for the white-flamed pupils, she felt an intrinsic fear that she couldn't quite explain when she saw them.

Just a stare alone made her feel so insignificant. Ever since she broke through to the core formation realm, she had been one of the rising talents of the Ice Emerald Sect in the past century.

In less than 30 years she had managed to reach the quasi palace stage and was well on her way to reach the palace realm. This had created a certain level of confidence within her to the point while she did respect her seniors who were already in the palace realm, she wasn't afraid of them.

She respected them as fellow sect members but didn't have that deep veneration that came from cultivation-based suppression where those in the core formation realm would feel a deep sense of awe towards those in the palace realm.

She never experienced that sense of suppression or pressure from them, and also to her, she always figured it was only a matter of time before she reached the palace realm herself. There was nothing to venerate or fear from them.

But now...she felt a sense of insignificance beneath Yang Qing's gaze that she had never felt before like all it would take for Yang Qing to get rid of her was a mere word or a flick of his fingers, and she would cease to exist.

Not even her sect master made her feel that way. The only other person that made her feel like that was...

When her thoughts reached this far, she thought of the trump card of the Ice Emerald Sect, the real reason they had been able to rapidly improve in the past thousands of years. That unfathomable elder, who was an endless pool of cultivation knowledge.

To date not once had she ever failed to answer one of the millions of cultivation doubts Deng Yaozu had posed over the years. Her answers were always simple, yet profound. A simple response would leave Deng Yaozu harvesting its fruits for months on end.

If there was one person in the whole sect that she deeply respected, it was her, which was why she didn't even hesitate to hunt down her junior sister whom they were close as sisters, and forcefully bring her back to the sect along with her daughter.

For a fraction of a moment, a look of pity flashed in her eyes as she thought of her junior sister before her thoughts went back to the unfathomable elder within the Wisteria tree.

She only discovered about her when she broke through to the core formation realm, and at the time she was only introduced as the guardian elder of the sect, who had been with the sect for over 5,000 years and the past three sect masters, including the current one had been her personal disciple, while the bulk of the core elders were her pupils and she was the reason the sect managed to produce palace realm cultivators.

However, her identity was to be kept a secret, which was why she had never heard of her prior to the first contact she made when she became a core formation expert, and from that moment forth, her life had taken a massive change. Her outlook on cultivation had been redefined and expanded thanks to that elder's insights.

Deng Yaozu couldn't help but well up with pride when she thought of the breadth of wisdom and abilities of that elder.

"With the elder's help, we might be able to get through this..." Deng Yaozu thought as she used that as an anchor to repress her fears forcefully.

She coldly stared at Yang Qing as she said,

"I don't know what you are talking about.."

"Is that so..."

Yang Qing couldn't help but sigh inwardly. Even though it was for a fraction of a second, he noticed the subtle change in Deng Yaozu's eyes when he asked about Ma Yuan's wife. I think you should take a look at

He could only assume the worst. The moment the sect's protection array fell, he scanned the entirety of it with his palace sense. He did manage to find Ma Yuan's daughter in one of the buildings meant for new disciples, however, when it came to her mother, she was nowhere to be found.

He could only assume she was at the one place in the whole sect that had shielded itself from his palace sense, which was the area where the Wisteria tree was located. There was a shielding in the area, that even his spiritual sense couldn't penetrate.

So either Ma Yuan's wife was dead or she was there, and if she was there, based on Deng Yaozu's guilty look, Yang Qing could only assume the worst.

"Seniors, Dai Chen, Qingge, I'll leave their founder to you, I'll handle the rest.." said Yang Qing as his gaze lingered on the Wisteria tree for a brief moment.

"Even here you're still slacking off and leaving the heavy lifting to us.." said Dai Chen as he smiled wryly.

"Well, you did ask me to be shameless after all..." answered Yang Qing as he rubbed his nose.

While he would be facing nine opponents, his match-up was considered easier in comparison to what was in the Wisteria tree.

They could all detect a threatening element coming from it, which could only mean one thing. A powerful cultivator was hidden there, and the Wisteria tree wasn't simple either.

Yang Qing felt two conflicting emotions when he looked at it. One was complete revulsion while the other was sympathy and sorrow.

Dai Chen and the rest had their work cut out for them, and Yang Qing felt a tad bit embarrassed for throwing the biggest problem on them.

"I'll have to finish this quickly.." muttered Yang Qing.

For the rest to act freely he would have to clear the field of every other element that might potentially add more variables to the later fight, and those elders could be counted as one of those variables.

A cool breeze filled the area which prompted the elders and the sect master of the Ice Emerald Sect to look above them.

The sun was already shining on the horizon but above their sect grounds other than the temperature dipping with the cool breeze spread about, there was a gentle darkness enveloping the place with Yang Qing at its epicenter.

His gold-colored palace robes gently fluttered with the wind as a backdrop of what seemed to be a gigantic green ocean appeared behind him.

Slowly the gentle night filled with the ocean breeze filled the place and Yang Qing's silhouette seemed to disappear into the background as two moons appeared in his place.

Grand lunar gaze: Frozen capsule

Before the elders and the sect master could register what was happening, there was a sudden flash of white light and the ground beneath them froze over along with the members of the sect who had been knocked unconscious earlier.

"Guo Mei, Zhilan help Yaozu and Lao Shan! We need them to execute the array!!" sect master Zhao Ju hurriedly yelled as she charged towards Yang Qing's location.

Chapter 419 Yang white lightning flames (2)

Deng Yaozu and another elder of a similar age all had dazed looks as their heads seemed to be glued to the two moons above them with pure white ice slowly encroaching their bodies.

It had reached their waists when the elder with the mole under her left eye, and another elder with white hair and tall slender build with pure black eyes charged at the two of them and rapidly infused their qi to the two elders through their glabella.

Seconds later, their out-of-focus eyes regained clarity. They quickly moved from confused to shocked when they realized they had been encased in ice without even realizing it. What was even scarier was their bodies were even freezing from the ice that had encapsulated them.

They cultivated a blue grade yin-based technique which gave their bodies a certain level of immunity to ice-based techniques, and at their level, that immunity was huge, but at this moment they were no different than a normal who had been submerged in a frozen lake.

The two elders; Guo Mei and Zhilan quickly used their qi to melt the ice off Deng Yaozu and Lao Shan. They traded looks of shock when they tried to get rid of the ice. It had the densest yin energy they had ever interacted with and when they used their own qi that was rich in yin energy to get rid of it, that yin energy within that ice swallowed their yin energy and produced a mist that instantly burned Deng Yaozu's and Lao Shan's bodies.

Guo Mei and Zhilan grimly nodded to each other as they decided to use a brute direct means which was to pull the ice off the two quasi-palace stage elders using their hands.

They both grimaced in pain as they felt the yin energy within that ice invade their bodies. Once inside it immediately started wrecking havoc as they felt like an ice knife was slashing every inch of their bodies.

They both used their qi to try and keep it at bay as they broke apart the ice covering the two quasi-palace stage elders.

"Can you move?!" asked Guo Mei, once the two elders were free.

The two nodded with fear evident in each of their eyes. They almost died without even knowing how.

"You two get into position and wait for the sect master's order to launch the emerald frost flow array..."

Zhilan let's help the sect master.." said Guo Mei as she left with the other elder charging in the direction sect master Zhao Ju had flown off to.

The whole ordeal from Yang Qing's attack to the two elders being frozen in ice, and finally being released had only taken less than ten seconds, but to the four elders, it felt like a lifetime.

The four elders all had complicated expressions from that brief moment. Deng Yaozu and Zhao Shan were horrified and had been smacked with a painful dose of reality of their insignificance in the fight ahead while Guo Mei and Qin Zhilan had a different level of shock.

Yang Qing's attack was a huge slap to their faces as he had overshadowed them in the element they were good at, and despite all of them being in the palace realm, the two elders had struggled to resolve his attack. They still felt like their hands were being stabbed and burned over and over.

Guo Mei struggled to accept it, especially since she was in the second stage of the palace realm.

When they arrived at the place where their sect master had already started confronting Yang Qing, they were hit with an even bigger blow when they saw their sect master, who was the most powerful combatant of them all, being bombarded by attacks as she did all she could to keep it at bay.

Yang Qing's whole look had transformed from his earlier display. He now had a head full of white hair that seemed to be made purely of white flames. His irises were the same too, as they looked to be entirely made of flames.

Beneath his eyes were three lines that flowed down his cheek and seemed to extend all the way to his hands.

The three lines had three colors; the middle line was white, the one on the right was blue-green green and the one on the left was orange-yellow. The middle line with the white color, seemed to be the densest as it pulsed with a radiance that stood out among the three colors.

His look wasn't the only thing that changed, as the purple bamboo he had on his hand that had purple lightning occasionally flashing was now pure white and looked to be coated in white flames that was mixed with white lightning.

Their sect master was not holding back in the slightest as she brought out her full strength as a third-stage palace realm cultivator to bear.

She had a slender four-foot blue blade in her hand which she used to bring out the full might of the Emerald frost flow veiled scripture. The surrounding area was filled with frigid coldness and within that coldness, there were thousands and thousands of tiny crystals forming which rapidly charged at Yang Qing with every swing of her blade, bringing with it a force so powerful that the air seemed to be torn and frozen over in the attack.

A single one of those crystals was as hardy as low tier monarch grade artifact, and it had enough sharpness to tear through a quasi-palace realm cultivator as easily as a hot knife through butter, and the yin energy contained within a single crystal was sufficient enough to freeze a 100-kilometer river within minutes.

However, despite the fearsome threat they posed, they seemed useless to the person currently targeted by them. Yang Qing barrelled through the swarming crystals rapidly swinging the white flame lightning bamboo in his hands.

A white streak ferociously bashed through all the crystals faster than they were being produced and just as Guo Mei and the rest of the elders were arriving, a loud booming sound was produced when Yang Qing arrived in front of their sect master with a rotational swing of his bamboo.

A wave mixed with extreme heat and coldness washed over the incoming elders who hurriedly raised their protective shields, while the two combatants at the center of it were each flung back a couple of steps.

Sect Master Zhao Ju was pushed back for three more steps than Yang Qing.

The six elders inclusive of Guo Mei, who were all in the palace realm, all flew to their sect master's side in time to see the scalding burn marks on her hands and various parts of her face, which sent shivers throughout their body.

Yang Qing stood alone gently rolling his shoulder as he prepared to charge in again.

Chapter 420 Battle against seven palace realm experts (1)

Guo Mei and the other five elders all looked tense as they faced Yang Qing. Because they were in such close proximity to him, they could distinctly feel his overwhelming presence, more so the white flames.

Even the flames were contained on the bamboo Yang Qing was holding and in his eyes, each one of them felt those flames were capable of incinerating the skies, the ground, the rivers and oceans out of existence within an instant.

They felt their skin and their innards being boiled just from being in close proximity to him, in addition the flame seemed to have a suppressive effect to their yin based attributes and even an extreme purifying effect.

They could finally understand why their sect master seem to have a hard time healing her current wounds even though they were not deep.

A sizzling sound along with mist was constantly being produced from the areas on her hands that had been burned, and when they looked at Yang Qing, unlike their sect master who had burn marks spread about her hands, Yang Qing looked perfectly unharmed without a hair out of place.

Just as they were sizing Yang Qing, Yang Qing was doing the same, but in his case, all he saw when he looked at them were their crimes and the blood on their hands, also because of his yin yang elders respectively. All of them had the same white hair, and matchless beauty that would stand out anywhere within the jade bones, and the yang white flames he was coated in, he could detect something else.

The sect master was flanked to the left and to her right by three elders respectively. All of them had the same white hair, and matchless beauty that would stand out anywhere within the continent.

However, Yang Qing, all he felt when he saw them was revulsion and the urge to incinerate them out of existence.

They may look beautiful, aloof and unconcerned with mundane affairs, but the seven of them as per what they had dug up had slaughtered millions which each numbering at least hundreds of thousands of victims.

There was also the fact that Yang Qing could tell they had all cultivated the non luminous dissecting ghost yin flames.

Half of the charges filed against them was because of the seven of them.

From the left to the right was; Fu Ning, Su Zhu, Mo Xiang, Zhao Ju, Guo Mei, Xie Liqiu and finally Qin Zhilan.

Of the seven Zhao Ju was at the third stage of the palace realm, followed by Guo Mei who was at the second stage of the palace realm while the rest were all at the first stage of the palace realm.

Fu Ning and Su Zhu were the weakest, more so the former who based on her fluctuations seemed to have broken through to the palace realm within two years or less. She had yet to get a complete grasp on the abilities of a palace realm expert.

The key to breaking through to the palace realm was to have a grasp of a certain type of Dao and your understanding of that Dao needed to reach a certain threshold before it triggered the tribulation lightning for breaking through to the palace realm.

That threshold was understanding the Dao enough for it to be sublimated into the core, which then triggers the tribulation lightning that melts out your core in the process into something else, something capable of housing your Dao.

That structure was called a palace, and its purpose was to house and nurture the Dao. So the whole palace realm involved nurturing your Dao. The more you nurture it, the stronger your Dao becomes and your understanding of it and your integration of it, which comes into play in the combat abilities of a palace realm expert.

The reason a palace realm expert could effortlessly defeat over a hundred peak core formation experts within an instant was because their attacks had a bit of their Dao infused in their attack.

As long as an attack infused with Dao it was like taking a regular knife, soaking it in the blood of a dragon, remold it with precious metals and have a legendary blacksmith work on it for years till it was sharp enough to split a river in half from a casual swing.

Dao amplified the magnitude and power that one could display from a particular cultivation art or spell. Two cultivators could be practicing the same technique, and have the same level of understanding toward it, however if one of them had even the tiniest bit of Dao infused into that technique when they executed, it creates a monumental difference, since fabric of the world is built from many Daos intertwined together, and whoever has a grasp on it, is able to influence and even borrow its force.

This was why, even after Yang Qing and Sect Master Zhao Ju had taken a brief pause in their attacks, the effects still remained.

The air was covered in streaks of flames in some places, and in others it was frosting with ice.

In general fights between palace realm cultivators usually boiled down to three things; the grade of the art they practiced, because usually the better the grade the better it was on drawing the power of Dao,

the quality of their Dao, and finally their understanding of their Dao which influences the quantity of the Dao they can infuse into their arts.

All three of these things are usually interlinked which was why Yang Qing remained unperturbed even when facing seven palace realm experts.

He may be just at the first stage, but he dwarfed them in terms of the grade of the art he cultivated, and the quality of his Dao, and when it came to his understanding of his Dao, he had three cheats already; the incomplete purple grade art that by increased his understanding Dao the more he became familiar with it, the peerless Yin Yang jade bones that improved one's attunement to the Dao related to the physique, and he had the Order and the numerous instructors with unfathomable insights about the intricacies of Dao to no end.

Though even with all his advantages, Yang Qing wasn't complacent in the least. His opponents were people who had been robbing physiques, who knew what they did with them, and there was also the fact that he could feel something insidious within all of them that seemed to have some ties with the Wisteria tree below them that was strong enough to isolate their founder from all their spiritual sense.

"The sooner I end this the better.." Yang Qing thought as the flames in his eyes and bamboo stick flickered.

The moment they did, he seemed to have disappeared from the spot with the flickering and reappeared next to Fu Ning, who was the weakest of the bunch.