

Daily life 551

Chapter 551 Discussion under the jade tree

Yang Qing felt like he had stood there forever in the stillness and silence. Eventually, he gave as a defeated smile appeared on his face.

"Well, at least you're back. I am glad.." he said with a heartfelt sigh as he warmly took in the sight of the tree.

This past month, the absence of the peerless jade physique made him intimately aware of how integral his physique had been to his daily life and it wasn't only in cultivation. There was a liveliness that he felt was absent.

Earlier he had chalked up that sensation to be as a result of his experiences with the Ice Emerald Sect, but with his physique returning, he instantly knew it was because of its absence.

"Well, you're a reflection of me after all, if I'm to take Grandpa's guess to be true.." Yang Qing muttered as he tried to see if he could sit.

Just as the thought appeared, there was a shift in the mist, as a tiny part of it tore away and transformed into a comfy futon that came behind him.

"This is a pleasant surprise, thank you.." Yang Qing gingerly said as he sat on the futon.

"I think futons are forever ruined for me.." Yang Qing muttered in shock as he swallowed by a level of comfort he never thought possible.

He lost himself to the sensation before his eyes suddenly lit up with crazy excitement.

"Now, if I could have something to eat.." Yang Qing said as he touched his stomach while depicting the face of someone famished.

His eyes darted around as if waiting for something, but a minute passed by with no change.

"Figures," he said with a defeated sigh.

Just as he was about to curl up comfortably on the cushion he saw two hazy figures appear next to the crystalized jade tree.

Yang Qing hurriedly straightened his posture as he widened his eyes trying to confirm what he saw wasn't an illusion.

"They're not fake, right?" he said as he squinted his eyes a few times while rubbing them a couple more times.

He confirmed that there were indeed two indistinct humanoid silhouettes behind the ethereal mist, and from their size, they looked about the size of newborns.

"Who are they?" he wondered as he focused his gaze on them. Try as he may, his sight couldn't penetrate created by the veil-like ethereal mist.

"Why aren't they talking?"

About half a minute had passed by without a word from them. Yang Qing sort of expected with their appearance, there would be something, but all the two blurry figures did was sit below the tree just like Yang Qing, there was even one who took it further and looked to be laying on its side.

Yang Qing was shocked by the indolence he was seeing but more than that he seemed jealous for some reason.

lightsNovel.com Is this something a mystical figure should be doing? It ruins the whole mystical aura.. or maybe it's a key. If I mimic it, something may happen..

Yang Qing with a face that betrayed his true motives quickly lay on his side as he curled up perfectly on the cushion.

"Hey, you two, I'm Yang Qing, care to introduce yourselves?" languidly said Yang Qing.

"Tsk, still giving me the silent treatment and you're living in my body, where is the respect.." muttered Yang Qing in dissatisfaction, however, it immediately changed to a pleasant surprise when he saw the two suddenly have movements.

They both seemed to be waving their hands at him. The one lying down was waving lazily, while the one on the right seemed to have an excitement about them as they waved.

"That's more like it.." said Yang Qing as he waved his hands while still maintaining the same lazy lying down posture.

"Care to tell me why I'm here? coming here should be your doing, isn't it? are you the manifestations of my physique?" asked Yang Qing.

The active silhouette looked to be lowering its head in contemplation before it raised it. Though all Yang Qing could see was blurriness, he could still tell it seemed like it was talking, even though there was no evidence to suggest it and it was just an intrinsic feeling he had.

"I'm sorry but I can't seem to hear what you're saying.."

Yang Qing's statement seemed to have had an effect, as he felt somehow despite not hearing any words or even seeing its facial features, the silhouette seemed to have stopped talking.

Yang Qing suddenly sat up as a rare serious expression appeared on his face.

"Me not hearing you, is it because of interference by the mist or something else or is it because of me?"

"Figures as much.." Yang Qing muttered as he saw both silhouettes seem like they were pointing at him.

"Then you can nod as an answer. I'll try to make my questions direct.."

"Good.." Yang Qing added when he detected a nod from the duo.

"You're the peerless jade physique?" he asked which got a nod from the duo.

"The tree that is behind you, it's part of you too?"

"What does that mean?" Yang Qing muttered in confusion when he saw different responses from the duo. The indolent one nodded sideways to mean no, while the excited one nodded up and down to mean yes.

"It's part of you and at the same time it isn't?" asked Yang Qing.

This time he got an agreeing nod from the two.

Just as he was about to dig further, the indolent silhouette seemed to be waving their hands as if beckoning him to hurry.

"Looks like I don't have much time, then I better make it fast, too bad all the questions that I have currently require some sort of explanation.."

"Is there a way to regularly come here by myself?" asked Yang Qing to which both silhouettes nodded yes.

"But not currently?"

The silhouettes' answer was yes.

"What is the key to coming here regularly?"

The silhouettes paused as if in deep contemplation of how best to put forward their thoughts.

The excitable silhouette started mimicking various activities such as eating, meditating, reading, walking, and seeing things and then pointed to the indolent silhouette before it finished by making a wholesome image like enveloping a world, and then pointed to its wrist and then ended with motions of growing.

"So I need to just continue doing what I'm doing, the time will present itself as I grow.." Yang Qing muttered, which drew a nod from the silhouette.

"Figures. That's the type of response i expect from myself.." he added with a light chuckle.

"As for the final question, are there seals that need to be unlocked, seeing how where you are feels inaccessible to me despite being in front of me?" asked Yang Qing as he decided to go ahead and confirm his grandfather's theory.

On hearing Yang Qing's question both silhouettes suddenly stood up and placed their palms on the trunk of the crystalized jade tree.

A gentle light was produced from where their hands touched which immediately spread throughout the jade tree. Circular ancient runic symbols were produced as the light made its way up the tree. By the time it reached the top, there were five circular runes, each with differing sizes, with the one at the bottom close to their hands being the smallest while the fifth one at the top being the largest.

"Five huh.." muttered Yang Qing.

The two silhouettes slowly started disappearing and Yang Qing could feel the ejection sensation he felt the first time he came here.

He stood up and waved his hands to the disappearing silhouettes.

"Thank you for saving me last time, and always helping me. I hope next time I come here, I can hear your voices. Until next time.." he said with a smile.

The two silhouettes waved back with the excited one waving heavily, while the indolent one, for the first time since its appearance, there seemed to be some energy in its wave though it paled to its counterpart.

Yang Qing chuckled briefly when he saw this as his body disappeared from the location and when he came to, he was at the auspicious wood grove.

Chapter 552 Unexpected harvests (1)

"Thank you senior for your help.."

Once he had regained his clarity and sensed the changes within his body, Yang Qing hurriedly bowed in gratitude to the elderly man before him with the willowy beard.

While his experience with the ethereal crystallized jade tree had likely been the doing of the two silhouettes he saw, the catalyst for the whole thing had to have been the intervention of the auspicious wood grove tree.

Yang Qing's suspicion was more than just an inkling, he felt it was highly likely, especially when he considered the response the two silhouettes gave him when he asked them if they and the jade tree were the same.

Their response more or less gave him an idea of what it was, which was why he knew the saint grade tree's intervention was what had given him the opportunity.

"I feel countless profundities and ideas that I never had before appear in my mind. Senior's connection with the Universal Light Resonant Sect seems to be larger than I earlier thought.."

"Think nothing of it, it's what I should.." said the auspicious wood grove tree with a light chuckle.

"Don't forget, when you reach the peak of the palace realm to visit once a month to cultivate here, and also the other matter of the spring resplendent dew.."

"I won't senior.." Yang Qing solemnly said as he cupped his fists in gratitude.

"Go on then.."

Yang Qing who was about to leave suddenly paused when he was passing by the brook of clarity.

"You can pick some.."

"I don't know how I can ever repay your senior.." Yang Qing said as he gingerly took out a gold vine gourd that had the storage space of a small pond and used it to collect the water from the brook of clarity.

After tasting rice boiled in water from the Brook of clarity, he couldn't go back to eating rice made from any other water that was not from the Brook of clarity.

Yang Qing was cautious at first, trying to be mindful to not overindulge and take a lot of it, however, when he noticed the level of water in the brook of clarity did not seem to decrease at all, he went all out and filled the whole gold vine guard. However, he did not dare turn back to look at the auspicious wood grove tree's expression.

"Take this with you too.." the clone of the auspicious wood grove tree said as he handed over a clear transparent pebble from the brook of clarity.

Yang Qing felt it was smooth, cool, and calming to the touch and he could faintly detect an unfathomable energy swirling within it. It sort of reminded him of the sensation he got when he saw Mo Liwie's roc form that seemed to drag the currents of the void to the real world.

"It's just like the blue pebble you were given by Jia Bohai except unlike that one, this can be used even outside the confines of the Order to bring you here.

When you reach the peak of the palace stage you can use it or if you get into a danger you're not sure you can get out of, use it. Provided there is not a soul formation expert present or a peak stage paragon domain expert, you should be able to reach here.."

Yang Qing didn't waste time on any superfluous words and just bowed in gratitude keeping the favors he gained from the auspicious wood grove tree in his heart.

After Yang Qing left the hidden realm of the auspicious wood grove tree, he called his three remaining inquisitors to find out who wanted to go with him to the branch.

With Feng Xin and Yi Jie already at the Tribulation Mountain attempting their breakthroughs to the palace realm, only Zheng Hu, Su Jinjing, and Luo Meili were left.

After meeting with them only two were available to go with him which was Su Jinjing and Luo Meili. Zheng Hu had already reached a critical point in his cultivation and was preparing to break through and reach the peak stage of the core formation realm. He had already accumulated sufficient from about two months back and had only been holding back because of Ma Yuan's case. Once it was resolved, he made all the preparations for the breakthrough.

With the team already decided, Yang Qing sent the two to the Judicial Review Committee for their induction along with the three spirit beasts in Bolin, Haishi, and Ellie.

Yang Qing in the meanwhile spent the day sorting out some of his affairs. He visited the medical valley to have his last session of treatments along with sharing his findings. Over the one-month period he had refined his skills with his yin-yang jade bones physique in his absence.

lightsnovel.com He was curious to see now that it was back how different his abilities would be thanks to its presence.

Yang Qing had expected his healing would be better thanks to the support from his physique however he had grossly underestimated by how much. The Yin Yang jade bones seemed to have amplified his abilities by levels he didn't expect. His physique was like dragon saliva being poured into a wildfire in a burning forest which catapults the scope of the wildfire from beyond the forest to covering a whole city as it spreads without stopping.

His yin-yang jade bones seemed to have added levels to his healing abilities. The amount of qi he expended, and the quality of his treatment seemed to have experienced an evolution. For example, his go-to technique the spring of resplendence, which was an all-around healing art that was the best for

emergency first aid as it restored the qi, lost blood, flesh, and limbs, and even refreshed the soul to some level in one single motion.

The art had high requirements for learning, but despite the difficulty of learning it, most within the Medical Valley chose to learn it because of its efficiency and versatility. As long as the one who cast the art was a level higher than the one he/she was casting it on, the spring of resplendence could give them a complete recovery on its targetted maladies.

In Yang Qing's case, anyone at the core formation and below would have their limbs, qi, blood, flesh injuries, and even expended soul essence, would be completely restored from a single dew drop.

Chapter 553 Unexpected harvests (2)

But now just the air created as he formed a single drop would have effects on those around. All shallow to mid injuries of anyone at the core formation and below within a 20-meter radius of him got healed, and his spring of resplendence dew, now required half of the qi it required to cast, and its effects were twice as powerful. It even seemed to have a miasma detoxifying abilities, which Yang Qing guessed was because of the passive ability of his yin yang jade bones that gave him immunity to 10,000 different toxins. The number has never been proved, but it was meant to highlight his level of immunity to all kinds of toxins and miasma.

Yang Qing pushed his arts to the limit and see the levels he could reach as he made sure to note every minute change. When he was done with his rounds, he shared the findings with Ren Shu and his grandfather who had been around.

To test how huge of a boost his physique gave him, Ren Shu had Yang Qing try and detoxify the poison that was still on Branch Chief Lei Han's and Hao Da's bodies.

Yang Qing was able to detoxify a quarter of it on Hao Da's body, but that was only after expending half of his spiritual qi in the formation of the spring of resplendent dew.

One would look at the results and think they were lackluster, but Ren Shu was amazed by the results for several factors. One was, that the poison was from the evolving obsidian serpent, so it was one of the most potent poisons one could ever come across considering the flood dragons other than their strength, they were famous for their poisons. It was potent to the extent that poison from a peak domain stage flood dragon was capable of harming an early-stage soul formation expert.

Even though the obsidian serpent had not fully evolved into one, its evolutionary state meant it had some of its abilities slowly budding. Other than the toxicity of the poison, the other factor was the disparity in strength between the two. Yang Qing was only in the second stage of the palace realm while the obsidian serpent was already half a step into the seventh stage.

Yang Qing being able to detoxify its poison even just the tiniest amount would be considered an impossible feat let alone a quarter of it.

For the next few hours, Yang Qing was turned into a lab rat by Ren Shu, his grandfather, some of the seasoned seniors from the Medical Valley, and at some point, even the valley master herself made an appearance.

It was only because of some meeting that was called at Spirit Mountain, did Yang Qing finally had room to escape. He instantly regretted showing off as he did.

After the Medical Valley, Yang Qing had a casual meetup with Dai Chen and Zhang Qingge to inform them of his departure. He also found Lai Lei with them whom he requested to check in on Ma Yuan now and then when he came to use the nest of the celestial nesting weaver in his place for his preparation to break through to the palace realm.

When he was finished, he went to his parent's place to give his mother the news that he wouldn't be around for a month lest she worry something happened to him when he didn't come visit her.

She hid her worry well as she wished Yang Qing well while packing him lots of dishes to carry. Yang Qing was ecstatic, the only sour part, was when she sneakily tried to bring up Mao Yunru into the conversation which prompted Yang Qing to make a run for it.

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One hour later, Thousands Flavor Restaurant,

"What is with mom bringing up Mao Mao every time she gets?" Yang Qing muttered in frustration as he made his way to the restaurant.

"She should either be here or arriving in a couple of minutes.." he added as he entered the restaurant.

"She hasn't arrived yet..." he muttered to himself as he scanned the restaurant.

He promptly made his way to his usual table and ordered a few dozen spring rolls with rice.

In the process of making his order, his usual gluttonous excited state paused for a millisecond as he turned his head to the door in time to see a beautiful lady with black hair, limpid purple eyes with swirling clouds in them, and a beauty that words fell short of, and made mutes of many.

Yang Qing quickly recollected himself and added a few more orders, as he waved to the lady to join him.

"Hi, Qing.."

Yang Qing who had prepared how he was going to tease Mao Yunru like usual immediately froze when he heard her words.

lightsnovel.com "Qing?"

"It is still your name, right? not unless you changed your name to something outlandish like the food priest, with Feng Xin being the food fiend.." Mao Yunru cheekily said as she relishingly took in the sight of Yang Qing being flustered.

"I am glad I did it, wuuuh, I almost bit my tongue toward the end there. Look at him, hehehe..." she amusedly thought.

"But you never called me that before.." Yang Qing answered with a mildly shaky voice which he tried to hide but there was no way the gossip hoarder would miss something key like that.

"Well... back then I didn't use it because you were my mentor, it would have been too casual, but now I can be as casual as I want. Besides, Qing has a nice ring to it. It sounds like the name of a cunning deer.. and I..." Mao Yunru hurriedly closed her mouth before the next words slipped out.

Yang Qing who had been looking for a way out quickly grasped the opportunity.

"You what, Mao Mao? I am rather curious...What are deers to you?" asked Yang Qing with a triumphant smile.

His smile grew wider when he saw her look turned flustered.

"You....you...could I please have steamed lotus root and sticky rice and glacial bamboo wine? He is paying.." Mao Yunru quickly said trying to deflect and assuage her nervousness.

Yang Qing didn't press and decided to enjoy the spring rolls that were next to him.

"This smug bastard.." Mao Yunru angrily thought as she saw the gleeful look Yang Qing had on.

"You?" Yang Qing was immediately caught off guard when Mao Yunru sniped all his spring rolls in a single flash and ate them all.

"How petty can you be?" asked Yang Qing in surprise when he saw her use shadow-void steps to grab those spring rolls and immediately transform them into jelly which she slurped in one motion like noodles.

"Well, I did have one of the pettiest mentors. It's not my fault I gained certain habits.." Mao Yunru smugly said.

Chapter 554 The Oath keeper

"Tsk, not even the crust was spared.." Yang Qing mournfully said as he stared at the sparkling clean empty plate before him.

"Can't you be more ladylike?" grumbled Yang Qing.

"When with rogues be like the rogues lest they take advantage of you, isn't that what you always said, oh wise one.." Mao Yunru smugly said as she enunciated the last words of her sentence.

"Fine, I give up.." Yang Qing begrudgingly said as he picked up his cup of tea warily, afraid that Mao Yunru would pull her earlier stunt.

It was only when he saw her relaxed expression did he dare drink his tea.

A few seconds passed by before the rest of their orders were brought by.

"You even ordered chrysanthemum cake? what is the special occasion?" Mao Yunru asked when she saw the spread of dishes before her.

lightsNovel.com Over half were her favorites, especially the chrysanthemum cake. She couldn't help but eye Yang Qing suspiciously as her heart slowly started racing.

"Don't tell me this numb skull has finally decided to confess? I half expected him to wait 50 years at the rate he was going, or I do it first, but no, he would never let me off if I was the first to do it.

Where are my talismans? I can't believe I didn't bring some with me. No! No! How could I have forgotten them?! no, wait... I could look for a soul cultivator specialist from the Order, and have them duplicate my memories onto a talisman.

There is no way I'm letting this moment go unrecorded, even if I have to fork over all my years' worth of salary, I must record this..."

"Well, one could consider it a ceremony of sorts.." Yang Qing softly said as he took a sip from his jasmine tea.

"Here it comes....what do I say, I hope my words don't fail me. What if go blank, or what if I end up blurting out a lot of things... How is he so calm? He should be as clueless and nerve-wrecked about this as I am..."

"Well..."

"Hahaha, he is nervous after all..." Mao Yunru joyfully thought as she saw Yang Qing turn almost shyly embarrassed like he was afraid to say the next words.

"I was hoping we could share a meal before I left. For the next month or so I will be holding the post of Branch Chief of the Deer Mountain branch before the current branch chief, Hao Da and the rest heal up..."

"That's it!" asked Mao Yunru with a widened look on her face before she hurriedly reigned in her emotions.

"Sorry, I mean, branch chief, you?" she asked trying to mask her disappointment before a hint of concern went through her as she remembered the notification of Hao Da and the rest.

"Why does it feel like she was slightly disappointed?..."

"Wait, could she?"

Yang Qing's gaze fell on the food spreading in front of him and then the dots slowly fell into place, especially, when he recalled his slightly embarrassed expression when he talked about sharing a meal with her. It was difficult for him to say it so openly considering how he spent most of his time teasing Mao Yunru endlessly all the time. Saying something like sharing a meal with her, especially with the consciousness of how he felt about her, was a little nerve-wracking.

"Sorry Mao Mao, if I do it, it will have to be a place littered with arrays that interfere with recording talismans, and for good measure, I'll have to find a way to trick you into signing an oath contract so you don't end up reproducing the memory of the conversation, and I'm still a little shy, but if you were to be the brave one here..."

No, Mom is right, some things you have to be the one to do it no matter how uncomfortable it makes you. I have to be the one to do it, and if she decides to record, I have to resolve myself to how mercilessly she will use it.

Sigh, I wish I was thickskinned sometimes..."

Yang Qing quickly shook his head to erase the fears of his impending doom in the future and went on to answer Mao Yunru's question.

"The branch can't be left unattended for too long, and from those available to fill in the role on short notice, I happen to be the one to check all the boxes. Besides, the Judicial Review Committee knew I was the right person for the job because of my title.."

" And what title is that?" Mao Yunru suspiciously asked.

"The oath keeper.." Yang Qing pompously said as he displayed the demeanor of one entrusted with too much.

"Mao Mao, you may not know this but from the moment I was born, I have kept every single one of my words, and because I have done it for so long, word started spreading about it around the order, and before I knew it, people started calling me the oath keeper.

It's not a title I pay too much keenness to as I am but a humble servant of the masses, doing the little I can and if the higher ups so it fit to hoist the job on me, I have no choice but to answer the call.." Yang Qing piously said as gracefully took a sip of his tea.

"For a coward like you to accept the post, and not even complain about it, they offered you something didn't they?" Mao Yunru calmly said as she calmly took a sip of her glacial bamboo wine.

"Knowing you, let me guess they offered you more spirit stones, but knowing your greedy but cowardly nature for you to change your tune so fast, the amount needed to be significantly higher than what you earn.

Let's see..."

Mao Yunru gently cupped her chin in contemplation with her hand twirling her wine urn.

"For them to really bait you, it would have to be two or three times as much as what you are earning now. It wouldn't be higher than that because like you always harp on, the Order is too stingy to pay you above three times what you're currently, and you're too greedy and cowardly to be swayed by anything less than two times the amount.

They likely used the same adjustment across all the other remunerations you would be receiving as branch chief.

But even then, spirit stones are not enough for them to draw this level of devoutness and lip service out of you, they must have added a few things in there, something they know you would greedily accept and betray any reservations or self-imposed principles you may have.

What was it little Qing.." Mao Yunru said with a charming smile as she leaned over, with Yang Qing's paling face being reflected in her limpid purple eyes.

Chapter 555 Branch chief of the deer mountain branch

"My guess is that they offered you the chance to research some strange incomplete cultivation art with a colorful tale behind it that makes it seem it hides more secrets than it seems and with how giddy you were, the art is likely a rare one that not many have interacted with.

Then with the cultivation art out of the way, they must have tagged at your other proclivities, and when it comes to proclivities there is only one that goes toe to toe with your incessant desire to pull one over the Order, and that is food.

Did they offer to fund all your meals there? Though somehow that feels insufficient. The Deer Mountain Kingdom isn't exactly the Three Fires Empire or the White Baobab Kingdom that are renowned for having good restaurants.

Having your meals sponsored doesn't mean much if there is no place to redeem the offer, and knowing you, as much as you love food, you hate exposing yourself to the outside world more.." something suddenly flashed in Mao Yunru's eyes.

"But it wouldn't be a problem if they brought the restaurant to you in the safety of the branch. So what is it, a chef or will they be sending you food from different restaurants all over the continent on set days of the week?" asked Mao Yunru with a sweet smile.

"Did Senior Enlai and the rest consult her on their offers before they brought it forward or something? How could she be this accurate, and that last guess...Damn! I wish I had thought of it earlier!"

lightsnovel.com Yang Qing had a mix of emotions flooding through him. One of them was fear, and the other was regret.

"From your look, it seems I am right, O.A.T.H K.E.E.P.E.R Qing.." Mao Yunru smugly as she did a celebratory fist pump which she quickly hid in embarrassment when she saw the weird looks she was getting from the other customers.

"You win, Mao Mao, that little judge from before has become dangerously insightful in the shortest time.." Yang Qing said with a sigh of gratification.

"You think I'm fit now to take the title of world canvas, with your title as oath keeper, you don't need world canvas too, do you?" Mao Yunru said with a light chuckle.

"You're enjoying this aren't you?"

"A little, and I'm a little curious about what other titles you hold?" she said as she fluttered her eyes which made Yang Qing gulp a little.

"I'd expect nothing less from the empress rumor hoarder.."

"Can't you compliment me a little.." Mao Yunru said with a soft pout before her demeanor changed to a slightly serious one.

"Be safe out there.." she added.

"I will, besides, after the incident that just happened, it's bound to be the safest place. There is a special inquisitor already dispatched, and the spirit council is likely keeping a close eye on the area.

It's highly unlikely for there to be any incident. The preparations made from the Order guarantee that to some level..." said Yang Qing without going into too much detail.

"OK..how is your friend? You and senior Hao Da are still close?"

"We are, and he is doing okay, though I haven't been able to talk to him yet. He, the branch chief, and the last surviving inquisitor are still unconscious as they undergo the final round of their treatment.

The treatment itself is going well though..."

"Them being unconscious in some sense can be considered a reprieve in some sense, because once they wake up.." Mao Yunru left the following words unsaid as she let out a somber sigh.

"That loss, won't be an easy thing to bear. The seniors at the Judicial Review Committee seem to be anticipating it, as they guess that they may choose not to resume their roles there.."

The mood turned somber and was only turned lighter when Yang Qing made an offer.

"I'll save some recording talismans for you and bring them with me when I come back.."

"Thank you, Qing.." Mao Yunru sweetly said with excitement in her.

"No problem.."

The meal went on for hours as they bantered, and exchanged laughter and tales, during the time, until it came time for Mao Yunru to live as she still had cases to supervise and her cultivation routine to maintain.

They reluctantly parted with Yang Qing promising to reach out via the communication talisman.

With everything he had in mind finally sorted, Yang Qing made his way to the quaint courtyard of the Judicial Review Committee.

He was going for the final briefings before he had to leave for the Deer Mountain Branch. From his team of three, there would also be an additional member which was a personnel from the administration department.

Every branch has one, and they're in charge of the day-to-day running of the branch. They are in charge of monitoring all resource expenditures needed for the functioning of the Order, from the arrays to the cultivation chambers to the monthly disbursed resources to the Order, and any emergency need that may arise.

They were integral to the smooth operation of the branch. The Deer Mountain Branch would be getting another administrative personnel to temporarily step in for the previous one. Though the previous one was not injured, or called over for the attack as they were not front-line personnel, they were nonetheless affected by the events.

The shock that came from losing one's colleagues, while the rest were heavily injured, was not something light. That personnel member had been recalled back and would remain on standby until the branch chief, Hao Da and the last inquisitor had healed up. They would then get to decide what was next for them.

The administrative personnel attached to Yang Qing was a veteran. His name was Mo Guang, and he had been to over 50 different branches across the continent during his tenure as a branch administrative liaison. He later retired from the role when he broke through to the palace realm and went on to become a trainer for administrative liaisons.

With the dire state of the Deer Mountain Branch, with Yang Qing lacking any experience as a branch chief, Mo Guang was called back temporarily because of his vast experience which would be needed to hold the branch together until the next team was decided.

From what he was told, Mo Guang had already left for the branch, so Yang Qing would get to meet him there.

Once everything had been explained, a gold eagle guard was dispatched to Yang Qing to bring him and his team to the branch. They could have gone by themselves, but with the goal of Blue Flame Soul Crow Syndicate unknown, the Order couldn't take any chances, so Yang Qing was transported by a gold eagle guard to the domain realm, and had him protect them during the journey over, and only left them once they were over the skies of the Deer Mountain Range.

There was already a team of special inquisitors along with formation specialists in preparation for laying down the array, Elder Xi Si, had mentioned that was to cover the whole range. In no simple terms, the range could be considered the Order's backyard presently.

"I guess I am now the Branch Chief of the Deer Mountain Branch. Well, these are words I never thought I'd say.." Yang Qing wryly said as he pushed open the entrance to the branch.

Chapter 556 Guide through the branch

There had been countless arrays that obscured the branch from the outside view. From what Yang Qing heard it was powerful enough to fool even the senses of seventh-stage domain experts.

Thanks to the command token he was given as the branch chief, all the powerful arrays covering every inch of the branch were under his control.

Yang Qing felt an odd sense of safety and power when he held the smoothened-out deer horn artifact, which was the command token of the Deer Mountain Range Branch.

Once inside, the branch was just as he had left it when he last visited it a month ago, the verdant mountain that had a faint colorful mist surrounding it, lush vegetation, an inland lake with recreated tributaries, the branch building itself and its accompanying facilities, and the dense spiritual qi that was so dense that it condensed to spiritual dew that was light blue.

Yang Qing couldn't help but sigh at the view. The sigh was one of admiration but also self-realization about the fragility of life in comparison to the things around it.

How many branch chiefs, inquisitors, and administrative personnel had this branch seen, he wondered. A constant spectator to the changes around it while it remained perfectly in place like an eternal record or mark, remaining unchanging, despite those within it changing.

He couldn't help but feel time and life in and of itself was cruel that way. When one lived, provided they made something of themselves, they would feel that things revolved around them but things soon change the moment they die or lose relevance. Their records and presence that they thought would never be erased would end up being buried in obscurity in the never-ending sands of time.

No matter how brilliant a life you live, if enough time passes by, you will be forgotten. The world is more liable to remember a river, a desert, or a unique barren mountain more easily than it would the deeds of someone.

The Southern Continent with all its richness was likely inhabited by hundreds if not thousands of organizations of the same caliber as the two holy lands, however, with all their splendor and power, no one in this day and age knew anything about those organizations. If they wanted to find out, they would have to dig deep, far and wide to find the barest of information, and even then whatever information they find would not be worth the time and effort it would take to dig up.

lightsnovel.com The living, whether they cultivate or don't, all know the Blue Origin Ocean but you would be hard-pressed to find if any one of them has ever heard of the Primeval Cauldron Sect, The Purple Sky Pavilion, The Heavenly Thunder Sect, The Undying Torch Sect had been some of the few organizations that Yang Qing read about that had enough power to rival the current holy lands.

The information he read was no more than broken tablets, worn-out scrolls, and rumors whose information contained only the names of these organizations and that they had unfathomable power. It had nothing else of note or value other than they once existed.

They likely had enough power back in the heyday to overturn the skies and earth over the Southern Continent, but now, how many even knew they existed?

"We are nothing more than living remnants passing by in this book, and while I am still breathing I intend to live it page by page doing the things that move my soul until my numbers end or the script changes.

As for creating and leaving legacies, I leave it to those much braver and adventurous than I..." Yang Qing muttered to himself as his gaze cleared up.

"Are you getting sentimental, boss.." said Luo Meili standing by his side.

"Well, I am getting on in my years, it comes with the territory..." Yang Qing pompously said as he clasped his hands behind his back trying to mimic the expert look Lei Weiyuan always had whenever he was waiting to catch him late for work.

His posture was perfectly executed however, it lacked the imposing sage-like aura Lei Weiyuan had. All it did was cause the two ladies by his side to chuckle.

On his left was the simple-looking Su Jinjing with the deeply penetrating eyes, and beat-up spear that she swaddled like a baby, and to his right was the mature-looking Luo Meili with a gentle look except for the fact that she used three polished bones to hold her hair.

As they were headed toward the branch's courtyard, two figures suddenly appeared before them. One of them was a lady who looked to be in her late thirties. She had silk long flowing silver hair that reached her back, black eyes, and a beauty in her own might that was further boosted by the solitary aura she was releasing. She had on simple white robes that had red and black cylindrical patterns on the sleeves and a gold talon emblem embroidered on the chest area of her coat.

Next to her was an elderly-looking man who managed to perfectly pull off the sage-like look Yang Qing had been trying to pull.

He had tied his hair in a half ponytail that was grey with not a strand out of place and a small stubble on his face that gave him an added mature charm. He had a warm kindness to his eyes that made him seem easily approachable. He had on black and white robes and was currently smiling at Yang Qing and his team.

Yang Qing hurriedly stepped forward as he cupped his fists in greeting.

"Greetings Senior Yen Xu, and Senior Mo Guang, my name is Yang Qing and this is Luo Meili, Su Jinjing, Ellie, Bolin, and Haishi.

We will be in your care from now on, and will try not to be a burden.."

"Hohoho, I am the one who hopes I will not be a burden, Judge Yang Qing, it should be Branch Chief Yang Qing now. I am Mo Guang and it's a pleasure to meet you and your team.

The Judicial Review Committee already filled me in, so I will guide you on the ins and outs of the area though I will be handling most of everything except the cases, of course. If you have any questions or concerns at any time during your stay here please don't hesitate to ask.." said the elderly man.

"Thank you senior Mo Guang.." the trio simultaneously said as they cupped their fists in gratitude.

"Nice to meet you all too though I wish it was under pleasant circumstances. The whole mountain range has already been cleared so don't be wary during your stay here.." said the silver-haired lady by the name of Yen Xu.

"I thank you for your care.." said Yang Qing as he cupped his fists at her.

She was the gold eagle guard attached to the branch. She was one of the reasons Yang Qing could be at ease within and outside the branch. Other than being informed about her particulars beforehand, the talon emblem on her sleeves showed she was a domain expert.

The gold eagle had four divisions; the wing which was made up of palace realm experts, the talon was made up of domain experts, the beak which only had one person who was a soul formation expert in charge of the whole gold eagle guards, and the eyes which were the eagle guards recruits. They were usually deployed to the small branches in areas declared moderately safe to build their experience.

"After the tour, meet me by the bullfrog sculpture.." Yen Xu said as she vanished into thin air.

"Where do you want to start?" Mo Guang gingerly asked.

"We will follow your lead, Senior Mo Guang.."

"Mmmh okay then. Let's start with the subsidiary facilities before we make our way to the main pavilion.."

With the Mo Guang taking the lead, they went to various facilities outside of the main pavilion. There was a battleground that was inlaid with arrays that could mimic certain conditions and there was even an array that could reproduce different opponents of different cultivation levels and races.

Other than the battleground arena, there were spiritual qi refinement pools spread around all over the branch. These were areas where the spiritual qi had been purposefully concentrated and gathered to form small pools with lotus platforms on them. It was the best area for spiritual qi replenishment and circulation of their main arts.

Next to the refinement pools were the meditation spots. Various artifacts and natural resources at the monarch grade had been used in the creation of those spots. They cleared the mind while calming the senses. They were perfect for deciphering the profundities of their cultivation art.

Other than that there was a herb garden and a herb repository that was used to store said herbs and other ingredients and it also had an alchemy refining chamber attached to it.

Yang Qing and the rest were continually awed by what they saw, the effect was especially large on Haishi and Bolin. They couldn't believe the level of opulence they were seeing. The only one who seemed unperturbed was Ellie. Yang Qing had a few guesses as to why. She was a glutton, but to her dismay, the lake around had nothing but spiritual plants growing in it. There was no fish in there, which left her deflated all throughout the tour.

When they reached the main pavilion it was like they had been transported to another world. Space expansion runes had been inscribed into the whole pavilion to create space for different halls like the library, their rooms, individual alchemy and artifact refinement halls, more meditation and cultivation chambers, and the one room Yang Qing was looking most forward to, the kitchen.

Chapter 557 Deal with the White Baobab Kingdom

"What's that?" Yang Qing excitedly said as he took a giant whiff of the steamy air that was flowing through the whole kitchen area.

The kitchen wasn't that large and was about the size of the kitchen in a person's abode with the only difference being the materials used in the kitchen design.

The furniture was made of goldearth vinewood while the roofing was made of wood from a moon-dew birch.

The two materials had been expertly crafted and designed to create the illusion that one was eating beneath a starry sky near a calm lake.

The moon-dew birch provided a refreshing coolness while the goldearth vinewood released a gentle ambient glow that created a sense of relaxation and comfort.

Both these materials were at the top tier of the monarch grade. However, despite the splendor they created that attracted the gazes of the two female companions next to him, Yang Qing's whole attention was the blend of spices and roast meat filling the area.

His stomach instantly grumbled like the roar of an overlord tiger as his gaze fell on the next partition over where there was a young man with a simple honest look and brown hair, his gaze and whole body focused on the assortment he was stir-frying on his wok over gentle white blue flames.

Within seconds he was done with the vegetables that had a soft brown coloring to them as the released misty air that carried their flavors from where the young man was working to where Yang Qing was.

Once done with the vegetables he showed exquisite knife skills as he carved up a crimson boar from head to toe in seconds without any wasted parts or pauses in movements. It was all done in one fluid motion.

There was a rhythmic flow to his movements that seemed to draw everyone in.

"Shi Hai's skills seem like they keep growing every time I see them. How did Longwei agree for him to come, with his nature he would have refused it even if the Order asked.." muttered Yang Qing.

Shi Hai was one of the leading chefs in the White Baobab Kingdom and as such the king was a regular patron of his place. Knowing Longwei, Yang Qing was sure there was no way he would allow such a talented chef to come here for a month and if he did, he would shamelessly tag along.

"Senior Mo Guang, do you know how the Order managed to get his services?" asked Yang Qing.

"From what I was told, the King of the White Baobab Kingdom was given the ice flame perch while young chef Shi Hai other than the payment in spirit stones, and he was given some old tome that contained recipes and handling processes from a certain rogue cultivator dating back 50,000 years ago.

From what I heard that rogue cultivator was pretty famous for his herbology skills, and his cooking.

The rank 2 merchant organization, the Maple Leaf Manor grew to the heights it reached today in part because they stumbled onto one of his core inheritances.

The Order had one of the many tomes he had created, thus they offered a part of it that contained some of his cooking recipes to young Shi Hai.." said Mo Guang as he stroked his beard.

lightsnovel.com "I never ate much other than one soup here and there, most of the time I spent it on fasting pills or just subsisting on spiritual qi, but after sampling one of his dishes, I think this old man may have to change his habits..." he added with a light chuckle.

"Yang Qing, what's wrong?!" asked Su Jinjing when she saw Yang Qing's frozen expression.

"He got the cold flame perch?! The Order had such a thing?!" he said with a tone that was a mix of disbelief, regret, and a hint of bitter envy.

"The cold flame perch, on the list we created, it was solidly in the top fifteen, and Longwei has it? How did the Order even know or find it? No wonder Longwei agreed. Wherever he is, I can imagine the gleeful look on his face.." Yang Qing absentmindedly muttered to himself before some life and clarity returned to him as he took out his communication talisman.

The moment the call connected an impatient voice sounded from the other end.

"Yang Qing I am not sharing it. Enjoy Shi Hai's meals. I will tell you how it tastes later, I'll even send you a recording.."

"Longwei? Longwei? Longwei....I can't believe this bastard wouldn't even hear me out.." said Yang Qing as he gritted his teeth.

However, whatever wrath he had was quickly stored away when the young man put the final touch on his dishes.

He had made stir-fried eggplant and green beans, potato in caramel along with spicy and sour shredded potato, with the main dish being the golden sticky brown sweet and sour pork fillet.

Yang Qing's drool overflowed when he saw the dishes being carried over by Shi Hai.

"Yang Qing, still the same, I see.." Shi Hai said with a small smile when he saw Yang Qing's dazed look.

"Shi Hai, you have outdone yourself.." Yang Qing said as he casually wiped his drool with his sleeves.

"Seeing your reaction I am glad I took the offer.." said Shi Hai with a satisfied smile.

There was no feeling greater for a chef than the look of those who genuinely enjoy their work with honesty, delight, and ravenous excitement like the one Yang Qing had. It was why he was sort of a favorite at White Baobab Kingdom. His reaction every single time was sort of a mix of encouragement, validation, and appreciation to all the chefs who cooked for him which was why there was even a mini competition for who would get to come here, and in the end, Shi Hai was the victor.

Though it was already agreed whoever won other than the spirit stones which they would keep for themselves, would share the recipe given to them by the Order.

Thanks to the efforts of the founder and king of the White Baobab Kingdom, Longwei, he managed to create an inclusive utopia for food lovers and creators alike. Recipes and techniques were not something guarded to the grave, knowledge was freely shared around the kingdom so that cooking dao could be explored of its infinite possibilities.

Sharing of recipes and trading techniques was something encouraged, though all who came in had free will whether to do it or not. As the king, he opened the royal library and all the collections he had to all who became residents of his kingdom. His taking the bold step, became an inspiration to others, and has been an ongoing culture ever since. It was one of the things that gave the kingdom a sense of kinship and closeness among its residents.

Chapter 558 Meeting beneath the somber moon

"Please have your seats as I serve.." Shi Hai gently said as he helped them to their seats and started serving them.

"Yang Qing, do you have any meal plans you would like me to adhere to, i can also take requests from the rest if there is anything you prefer or don't prefer on your menu.." said Shi Hai as he divided up the food onto different bowls and plates on the table.

"I don't know about the rest, but for me, I leave the ends to you, chef, whatever you feel like cooking I will eat. So don't hold back, and if there is an ingredient you want to try that isn't available, inform me.

If the Order can find a cold flame perch, then they can find almost anything. So feel free, Shi Hai..." Yang Qing said with a greedy smile.

"I Knew you'd say something like that. Then I will happily oblige if you don't mind Senior Mo Guang.." Shi Hai said with passionate flames burning in his eyes.

"If the boss said it, then as the administrator, I will do my best to fulfill them.."

lightsnovel.com "What about you all.."

"I will go with Yang Qing's suggestion.." said Luo Meili

"Me too.." added Su Jinjing.

As for the three spirit beasts, they were too awed by the food to say anything. They barely had any willpower to tear their attention from the food to say anything.

The team went on to have their meals, as Mo Guang continued with his orientation filling any gaps that he had not introduced during the tour of the branch.

After they were done, they each went their way, as Yang Qing made his way to the white bullfrog sculpture for his rendezvous with the gold eagle guard, Yen Xu.

The moment Yang Qing arrived at the statue, Yen Xu instantly appeared out of thin air. Yang Qing wasn't all too surprised by her sudden appearance. The whole branch was likely covered by her domain sense.

From what he knew, the domain sense of a middle-stage domain expert was large enough to cover a whole city, so covering a branch like this had to be nothing to someone of her caliber.

"Follow me.." she said as she placed her hand on the bullfrog statue.

A rune instantly appeared on the bullfrog which then opened its mouth and swallowed both Yang Qing and Yen Xu.

The location seemed to have changed and they were now in a location with an open grassland, a dull moon with an ancient rune inscribed on it that was releasing a suppressive glow.

The area was somberly dark with two sources of lighting. One was the soft white glow being released by the singular ancient rune on the greyed-out moon in the dark skies above them and the other came from the motes of light that came from the only tree in the region. It was a dream star sycamore tree. Its leaves had radiant golden dots that made it seem like clusters of stars. The pulsating glow of the glowing dots on its leaves seemed to match the rhythm of the glow being released by the moon above them.

Next to the dream star sycamore tree, there was a dark pond that formed a ring-like surrounding the dream star sycamore tree.

Yang Qing stared around in wonder at what he was doing here. The whole place had a repressive and solemn feel to it like he was walking around the graveyard.

It was silent, chilly, and heaviness in the air that he couldn't explain.

However, his feelings aside, he followed Yen Xu who stopped before the dark pond that surrounded the dream star sycamore tree.

She immediately formed a seal that created a resonant effect between the moon in the gloomy sky and the dream star sycamore tree.

A slow white glow was released from the rune on the moon and traveled down forming a straight line that met with a golden glow that had been produced from dotted stars on the leaves of the dream star sycamore tree.

The two lights created three rings at the point where they connected and the light from the three rings fell on the dark pond that shimmered when the light fell on it.

It flashed and almost looked like it melted away revealing two abnormally tall figures seated in a lotus position on a platform that had countless black ink runes that released a white golden glow.

When Yang Qing saw the two figures, he immediately guessed their identities.

Both had glossy black robes that seemed something fit for an emperor because of how regal they looked.

One of the figures was a thin man who looked to be in his fifties. Though he faced down, he looked like he had a narrow face, smooth black flowing hair that matched the shininess of his robes, and a long beard that reached his chest and was just as smooth.

Next to him was a mature-looking female who looked to be in her late forties, with free-flowing black hair that seemed to have the same luster as the elderly man next to her.

Both figures had their heads facing downward so Yang Qing didn't get a clear look at their faces, but the level of their presence gave out their identities. They had a formless pressure releasing from their bodies, which even though seemed to be restrained by the glow released from the three rings, made the hairs on Yang Qing's hand, stand, especially the man who had a regality to his aura that seemed to evoke a sense of submission to those around him.

However, such an effect was lost on the present company, who remained undisturbed by the aura.

Yang Qing on reflex triggered the dao runes in his bones, which radiated out one of his passive abilities which was poison suppression and purification.

The duo who despite their presence remained motionless suddenly looked up revealing their faces.

They both had jade white skin, with the woman having a kingdom toppling beauty, and the man beside her not losing out in terms of looks either.

They had a sense of cold indifference on their faces which hid a certain level of majesty and malevolence. Both had silver eyes with the elderly man having a mysterious radiant light flowing in his eyes.

They both seemed to be looking at Yang Qing like he was a natural foe to them, especially the elderly man whose cold gaze narrowed on Yang Qing's body, particularly the subtle light and air he was releasing.

Yen Xu who had been standing at the side like a bystander had a brief look of surprise in her eyes before she went back to normal.

"This kid isn't bad. His physique seems to have a suppressive effect on them, especially the evolving one.."

"I take it they're the two obsidian serpents from the incident that involved the branch chief and the rest.." Yang Qing calmly asked as he casually took a seat whilst facing them.

Chapter 559 The obstinate couple

"They are.." answered Yen Xu.

"Figures.." Yang Qing said with a sigh as complex emotions flashed through his eyes when he looked at the two of them.

lightsNovel com One inquisitor had died at their hands and was even eaten at that, but the circumstances that led to it were anything but simple.

"Why am I here?" asked Yang Qing in confusion as he deactivated his runes.

The case of the two obsidian serpents had already been decided. They would be deployed to the various branches of the Order around the continent for the rest of their lives. Their fates were already sealed, and of the branches they would work at, he knew the Deer Mountain Branch would definitely not be in consideration.

With the bad blood already created between them and the members of the Branch, it would be cruel to have the obsidian serpents have any interaction with them, and even if Hao Da and the branch chief had no issue with it, which they likely would considering they lost two of their colleagues, there was also the Deer Mountain Kingdom to consider who had lost three princes with one of them surviving.

The Kingdom would likely take issue if they realized the culprits responsible for the losses they suffered were still alive and well within their territory and at the Order's intervention no less.

It was safer to send them to a place far away from here.

"Before their placement is decided by the Judicial Review Committee, it was decided that they would be held here for the time being, and as such, as the Branch Chief, they are now under your purview.

Take this.." Yen Xu said as she handed Yang Qing a miniaturized version of the bull frog statue that had just swallowed them.

"This is the key to getting here and it also controls this pocket space and the luminous starfall array that is used to bind and seal the two of them..

The method to controlling the array is in there, just insert your spiritual sense. The method for controlling the array and refining the token is imprinted there.."

Yang Qing was a bit dazed from the sudden information but he quickly did as he was told and inserted his spiritual sense into the bullfrog token.

A monosyllabic script appeared in his mind which then rearranged itself into an incantation that Yang Qing was able to easily memorize.

Yang Qing executed the incantation as inscribed and within a few minutes, he was able to gain control of the pocket space in the area.

With the token as a medium, he could now tell how powerful the luminous starfall array was. As powerful as the two obsidian serpents were, with the power of the array at his fingertips, Yang Qing felt it would take no more than a single breadth to end their lives, destroying both their body and soul.

Everything within the pocket space was under his control.

"That bullfrog must be an ascendant-grade artifact with space-bending attributes.." Yang Qing muttered to himself as he stored away the token.

From start to finish, the elderly man and the woman didn't so much as speak as they coldly stared at the duo though they seemed to avoid looking at Yen Xu with their gaze permanently fixated on Yang Qing.

"Have they spoken at all?"

"Just once, when we captured them. They said they would kill us, and were pretty vivid on the details, but after that not a single word.."

Yang Qing furrowed his brows when he heard that before he let out a sigh of exasperation.

"I know this doesn't mean much but I am sorry for the loss you suffered..."

As Yang Qing said that, the two cold emotionless couple had a shift in their expressions, especially the woman whose eyes blazed with fury.

"If you're sorry why don't you release us and remove the seals binding us or offer your life up for killing our daughter?" the elderly woman coldly said her tone filled with sarcasm.

"I am afraid I can't do that. I happen to like my life more than most and as for releasing you, when the time comes, you will be released, well not completely but some version of it.."

"You humans are just the same, greedy. Your clothes, looks and demeanor may be different but underneath that skin of yours, you are all the same; greedy, self-serving, and unsatiable. Bringing nothing but chaos everywhere you go and we are the ones called savages.

You will pay for what you did to our daughter.." the woman calmly said as she released a dense killing intent and malevolent aura that was immediately doused out by the array as quickly as it appeared.

"While I won't deny your claims about us humans, but we did not kill your daughter. I believe my companions told you that at the mountain before the fight started or after you were caught. Isn't that right, senior Yen Xu.."

"We did.." Yen Xu curtly answered.

"Makes me wonder why you're so fixated that we did it. You're both late-stage palace realm experts, surely you must have keener senses to realize who murdered your daughter.

Whether it is through spiritual imprints that you may have placed on your daughter or your familiarity with her, it's easy for you both to tell who did the deed, especially, when they didn't have enough time to cover their tracks..."

The two obsidian serpents remained unresponsive to Yang Qing's deductions still maintaining the same indifference.

"While we may have not killed your daughter, there is no doubt you killed one of our own, and injured three others.

You claimed a life so I would be within my rights to claim both of yours for the two inquisitors we lost.." Yang Qing coldly said.

His statement seemed to have gotten a rise out of the elderly man whose pupils flashed slightly before they went back to normal.

"You see, while I am sympathetic, there is another emotion in me that is stronger than that, which is vengeance.

There is a big part of me that is tempted to kill you here and now. From the guidelines I was given in my new role, and my interaction with you now, I am sure if I really pushed for it since there are grounds for it, you would get executed.."

"There's really no need to mince your words, isn't this what you all were after from the start? Everything contained within this body of mine which..."

The elderly man who had been silent all this while finally spoke. His tone was filled with fury, bitterness, and regret.

Yang Qing's eyes shone at the statement made by the elderly man.

"Seeing what you have seen from the moment you were caught till now, do you think we have any interest in you? Others may, but we don't?"

"Because you're virtuous people, unlike other humans?" the woman scornfully asked.

"No, it's because the blood and body of an obsidian serpent even one that is at the cusp of evolving to a flood dragon doesn't hold much intrigue or value to us. Maybe if you had the bloodline of a true dragon we would be tempted, but even then it's just a temptation, but as it stands you have nothing we want.."

Chapter 560 Blood Charcuterie Market Town

The woman scoffed at Yang Qing's response clearly not believing him while the elderly man seemed like he had said all he needed to say. He lowered his head as if to say he was done talking or accommodating Yang Qing.

Yang Qing didn't say much as he took out a few feathers of the celestial nesting weaver that he had forcibly plucked out during one of their many scuffles. He considered it part of the reparations owed by the foul-mouthed weaver.

The two obsidian serpents immediately froze as their bodies seemed to contort like they were losing control of their transformation and were being forced into their original forms. Their bodies even seemed like they wanted to genuflect on the spot and all these were caused by the four soft white feathers that released an ethereal light which made it look like it had been plucked from the heavens.

Just as it looked like they were about to lose control, Yang Qing put away the feather. When Yang Qing took out the feathers, he expected such a reaction. Their reaction was bloodline suppression at its finest. Bloodline suppression was a phenomenon among spirit beasts where those of a higher bloodline could suppress those with lower bloodlines just through presence alone, governed by the laws of natural Dao.

Bloodline was like a crown or a shackle to spirit beasts depending on which side of the bloodline coin they fell on.

To escape the confines of this phenomenon, the spirit beast had to at the very least reach the domain realm, which the two obsidian serpents had not reached.

The celestial nesting weaver had a superior bloodline that was at the same level as the phoenix, kunpeng, roc, or dragon. Despite its languid and uninspiring look, it had a noble bloodline. Yang Qing had it imbue the feathers with spiritual imprints which was why it had a strong effect on the two spirit beasts.

"Like I said, we don't need your bodies or bloodline. The deal promised to you still stands. We will help you find who killed your daughter, they are the true culprits in this whole thing. If you lay your anger, prejudice, and hubris about yourself aside, you will be able to see this.

But words are not enough to convince you, so something else needs to be done.." Yang Qing said as he took out his communication talisman.

For what he planned for the couple, he needed the approval of the Judicial Review Committee.

"Judge Yang Qing, what is it? Have you settled in well?" asked a soft motherly voice.

"I have settled in well, thanks to your efforts and the seniors around me.."

"Good, so what is it?"

"I needed the opinion of the committee on a certain matter..."

"The two obsidian serpents, I take it?"

"Yes.."

"What is it you wanted to discuss? Long Enlai, Jia Bohai, and Jiang Chen are here too.."

"Could I alter the plans for the two? Rather than have them stay here, they could be sent to the Blood Charcuterie Market, and three or four sites at the Insitute whose occupants can trounce them, and someone from the beast hall to guide them around.."

"Reason?"

"I don't think they have interacted with the outside world much. Experiencing those places may be an eye-opener for them and shatter any self-conceived notions they have which will help in our cooperation moving forward.."

"Mmmh, okay then. Is Fen Xu there?"

"I am.."

"What do you think?"

"It can't hurt.."

"Okay then, we will have someone from the beast hall pick them up and guide them for a week. It should be sufficient.."

"Thank you, seniors.."

"Take care Yang Qing.."

Yang Qing heaved a sigh of relief as he put away his communication talisman.

"Thank you for your support, Senior Fen Xu.." Yang Qing said as he cupped his fists to the stoic gold eagle guard, who chuckled slightly as she said,

"You really are as vindictive as they say.."

lightsNovel.com Yang Qing was shocked by her sudden laugh before he rubbed his nose in slight embarrassment as he said,

"It can't be helped. To deal with their level of obstinacy, it's the only way.."

There was slight guilt in his tone since he knew the suggestions he made had a certain level of petty vengeance and vindictiveness to it.

The Blood Chacurterie Market was a famous small town that was next to the Sea of Churning Beasts.

Because of how close the town was to the sea, it constantly had a blood mist around it, which a small part came from the town itself while a large part came from the Sea Of Churning Beasts.

The Sea itself was blood red from the constant fights that happened between its habitants and or from cultivators who came to try their luck there. The Sea was home to countless spirit beasts whose variety seemed limitless.

There were certain unique spirit beasts you could never find anywhere else but there, the cold flame perch was one of them.

The spirit beasts were walking treasure troves, and the sea itself also hid countless other natural treasures that were capable of changing the fate of a cultivator, which was why despite the high mortality rate of the region, where even an early domain expert could easily die, countless still tried their hand there.

It was for this reason that the Blood Charcuterie Market Town came about. Those who survived would trade within that town. At the start, it was just a simple barter trade between survivors of the venture from the sea who managed to get something out of it before it mushroomed into a merchant town.

Every reputable merchant organization had a branch open there that gave prices and offers that were so outlandish that it tempted countless to flock to the town and risk their lives to venture into the Sea of churning beasts.

Soon the town that at the start looked like a village became one of the most prosperous towns on the continent where anything could be traded at the right price and because of its mix mash of different organizations, it was a free town with no ruler. Even the Order had an establishment there governed by the Shadow Hawks as it was a haven for sourcing information from all around, despite it being famed for the place where you could any kind of meat.

The streets were lined up with stalls that had meats from all kinds of spirit beasts which contributed to the bloody mist that pervaded the area, and because the area was filled with all kinds of flesh from powerful spirit beasts, someone below the middle stages of the core formation realm would not be able to survive there.

They would have their bodies crushed under the pressure being released by those corpses. Yang Qing had once visited the place. He redeemed his merit points for the chance to be accompanied there. He always wanted to visit the town, but it was where the powerful gathered, he couldn't risk going alone, especially with his late-stage core formation cultivation base at the time, so he needed someone powerful to accompany him.

A gold eagle guard went as his protector, and the experience was more than he had imagined.

The reason he wanted the two obsidian serpents to go there was to shatter the illusion they had that flood dragon bloodline was special.

Once they saw a carved-up flood dragon being hung up on some stall somewhere, maybe they might realize getting one isn't as hard or extremely coveted as they think. And if that didn't work, then getting sent to one of the Institute special sites would work.

There were forests filled with spirit beasts that had a bloodline that was as powerful as a flood dragon if not more. Having the obsidian serpent couple be 'guided' by a few of those spirit beasts may very well help bring some clarity to their muddled minds.

That week's experience was bound to shake a few things up in them. The road to personal clarity is paved with extreme humility and Yang Qing was sure to help them with that. Since they were under his care, it was his duty to do all he could for them.