

Divine 1821

Chapter 1821 Separation 3

Gu Chaoyan hesitated for a moment, her mind filled with uncertainty. After a lengthy pause, she carefully weighed her options and eventually nodded in agreement.

Her anxiety had been overwhelming, but strangely enough, she hadn't even noticed the biting cold that surrounded her. It was only when she finally came to a stop that she became aware of a searing, indescribable pain coursing through her body.

Ouyang Mingjing's words echoed in her mind, and she couldn't deny the truth they held. She had lost her composure, and simply returning to their previous location would not suffice.

This called for a different approach. She needed to find a solution.

With a renewed determination, Gu Chaoyan nodded once more and prepared to enter the wagon. However, before she could step inside, she voiced her idea to the others. "It's growing colder by the minute. Sword One, please retrieve my red clothes and tear them into strips. Hang them on the wagon—they'll stand out against the snow. If we're not too far away, someone might spot us!"

As she spoke these words, Gu Chaoyan felt a glimmer of assurance within her.

Sword One promptly took charge of the task and set out to carry it out.

Meanwhile, Gu Chaoyan finally made her way into the wagon, where she was greeted by a comforting warmth. The interior offered respite, and she felt her tension ease considerably.

Lingyun, who was attending to her inside, offered words of solace. "Elder Miss, I understand your worries, but please try not to overwhelm yourself. Our leader is resilient and won't succumb easily."

Gu Chaoyan simply nodded, too fatigued to muster a response.

Exhaustion weighed heavily upon her, and she pressed a hand to her forehead, desperately seeking a solution.

As time passed, darkness descended, interrupting their brief respite.

Lost in her deep contemplation, Gu Chaoyan failed to notice the passage of time. Eventually, she lifted the curtain and was met with the shroud of darkness outside.

Startled, she hurriedly stepped out of the wagon and called out to Sword One, her voice filled with urgency. "Sword One, start a fire. They may not see the redness, but they can spot the flickering flames!"

Sword One acknowledged her instructions and descended to arrange everything accordingly.

Ouyang Mingjing, nearby and growing increasingly irritated by her exhaustion, turned to Longqing and issued a stern command. "Tomorrow, lead the way and assist her in leaving this place. No more searching, understood?"

Upon hearing this, Longqing nodded in agreement, fully comprehending the gravity of the situation.

He fervently wished for Phoenix Girl to return to town swiftly. The City Lord had weighed the circumstances and realized the paramount importance of Snow Territory's affairs over all else.

"Understood," Longqing replied resolutely.

Longqing proceeded to descend and make the necessary arrangements as instructed.

Ouyang Mingjing had intended to approach Phoenix Girl and address the situation, but upon seeing her current state, he decided against it. He didn't want to get too close to her in this condition, so he chose to leave instead.

However, as he turned to depart, a familiar figure caught his eye.

It was her!

What was she doing here? He had already explicitly warned her against such reckless actions. Why couldn't she understand and accept his words?

Truly, she was as stubborn as ever!

Ouyang Mingjing quickly pulled her aside, finding an empty corner where they could speak privately.

Glaring at her, he spoke with a firm tone, "Didn't you hear what I said? No more of these foolish endeavors! If you continue, you'll face the consequences!"

Chapter 1822 Promise To Qing 1

Qing gazed at Ouyang Mingjing with wide eyes, her heart pounding in her chest.

She had always been a part of the troops, never daring to entertain the thought of approaching him. She understood all too well that it would remain nothing more than an unattainable fantasy.

But now...

She found herself in his presence every day, engaging in conversations where he displayed personal emotions towards her. It felt like a dream come true for Qing.

Initially, her frequent visits to this place were solely to check on Elder Miss and ensure her well-being. However, over time, she realized that she might encounter him here and even exchange a few words. It was as if fate compelled her to be drawn here, against her own will.

And true to form, she once again found herself standing in such close proximity to him, hanging onto his every word and scrutinizing her own reflection in his eyes.

Qing dared not utter a single word, but she continued to stare.

Meanwhile, Ouyang Mingjing regarded Qing intently.

Qing possessed an exceptional beauty, surpassing that of ordinary maids. If she were dressed differently, she could easily be mistaken for a noble lady.

She excelled in every aspect, save for her social standing.

If she could stand by his side, someone should admire and adore her.

As the City Lord of Snow Territory, a man of the highest status, he believed he should be able to attain anything he desired.

As the City Lord, Ouyang Mingjing had always been aware that his wife should be Phoenix Girl. His duty was to forge a perfect partnership with her. However, today, he witnessed Phoenix Girl risking her life for another man, displaying her indifference towards him. In that moment, he questioned the purpose of waiting for a perfect union with her.

Why should he adhere to outdated traditions?

Didn't he deserve a woman who genuinely adored him?

Ouyang Mingjing soon came to the realization that the traditional path was not necessarily the right one for him. He didn't have to deny himself the affection of a woman who genuinely liked him.

Turning his gaze towards Qing, he posed a direct question, "Do you like me?"

Qing didn't deny it. Though she was timid, quiet, and lacking in confidence, she mustered the courage to admit her feelings.

And admit them she did.

"Yes, I like you. I don't expect much from you. I can be your servant if you wish, or I can keep my distance," Qing replied, her tone laced with self-deprecation.

Ouyang Mingjing furrowed his brow.

That was precisely what he disliked—her self-deprecating manner. As the City Lord of Snow Territory, he had no need for a woman who demeaned herself in such a manner.

"I don't need you to be my servant, and I don't want you to keep your distance. I exist in my own realm, and you don't need to label yourself as a servant. There's no need for such words. I cannot bring you out of the darkness just yet, so for now, you must hide yourself. But in a few days, hopefully soon, you can come and stay by my side. Remember, I don't desire a person who constantly belittles themselves next to me. So, do you understand what you should do?" Ouyang Mingjing emphasized.

He had never envisioned making such promises before, but the events of the day had left him feeling distressed, compelling him to offer these assurances.

Qing was utterly dumbfounded, unable to process the sudden turn of events.

After a few days, could Qing truly stand by the side of the City Lord?

Was he genuinely implying that he would keep her by his side?

Qing was overcome with astonishment and elation.

She had never dared to imagine that one day she would achieve such a result.

Could her long-held dream finally become a reality?

As she pondered these thoughts...

Initially, she had been dispatched to the temple, with people urging her to focus on her practice and distance herself from the outside world.

But...

Before the City Lord's departure, she received news that prompted her to venture into Snow Territory—a decision she had never anticipated making.

And everything seemed to unfold seamlessly, as if meticulously orchestrated.

Now, here she stood...

And for the first time, the City Lord laid eyes upon her. Instead of pushing her away or expressing surprise, he simply cautioned her not to be discovered, emphasizing that she would be solely responsible for any consequences.

This indicated that the City Lord had foreseen her presence.

Throughout her years of serving Elder Miss, Qing had absorbed many valuable lessons. She had been taught to observe and glean insights from the minutiae of life.

Enthralled by her admiration, she had initially overlooked these details. However, upon careful reflection, she began to piece everything together.

It became evident...

The City Lord had intended to bring her along all along.

And the City Lord had asked if she liked him, even making a promise of a future where she could openly be by his side.

Could it be that the City Lord had feelings for her as well?

Did he truly desire her presence by his side?

Why?

Had she caught the attention of the City Lord before?

Qing couldn't help but feel overwhelmed by confusion.

Ouyang Mingjing didn't appreciate Qing's reaction. She had started to resemble Phoenix Girl in her behavior.

He turned away from Qing, no longer meeting her gaze, and spoke quietly, "Return to where you belong and heed my orders. Never act recklessly like this again."

With those words, he shifted his focus to a different direction and departed.

Just as Ouyang Mingjing left, Longqing approached, addressing him as the City Lord. "City Lord, have you truly developed feelings for that maid? I assumed you simply wanted her to accompany us. In that case, what about Elder Men..."

Before Longqing could finish his sentence, Ouyang Mingjing shot him a piercing glare. "Am I the City Lord, or are you? Are you also the Elder Men?"

"No, my apologies," Longqing promptly replied, halting his words.

Ouyang Mingjing cast a quick glance at him before continuing on his way.

Observing the City Lord's retreating figure, Longqing grew even more concerned.

The City Lord had been in power since his youth, while Longqing and the other Elder Men were older than him. Throughout the years, it had been Longqing's duty to offer reminders to the City Lord.

The City Lord had always been steadfast and avoided making mistakes.

However, this time...

The City Lord was acting recklessly.

Longqing trusted the City Lord, but the influence of the Acacia beans concerned him. He worried that the City Lord might lose control due to the effects of the beans and make a grave error, jeopardizing their plans—a mistake that would bring immense regret.

Phoenix Girl had arrived in Snow Territory, and everything hinged on the remaining details. They couldn't afford any missteps at this point.

As for the King from the Saint Divine Land, his fate remained uncertain. He must be deeply entangled in their scheme.

Soon, the City Lord would realize his dream.

Longqing let out a sigh...

His worries were genuine.

—

The following day...

As the dawn broke, they made preparations to depart.

Chapter 1824 - Change 1

Before Ouyang Mingjing departed, he approached Gu Chaoyan's carriage and spoke urgently, "Snow Territory's guards—two-thirds of them—have set off in search of him. We were ambushed, indicating that the internal conflict within Snow Territory is escalating. I don't have time to waste here with you."

"...."

"From this point onward, we will travel directly to the towns of Snow Territory. Once there, we will dispatch additional troops to continue the search. Accompany me to the town, and I will fulfill my promise by giving you the Fire Lotus. Don't break your word, Phoenix Girl."

With those words, Ouyang Mingjing returned to his own carriage and departed without further inquiry or delay.

The hidden guards from Shadow Door contemplated intervening, but the Snow Territory guards stepped forward, creating an insurmountable obstacle.

Gu Chaoyan spoke from within the carriage, "We should heed their instructions."

The hidden guards ceased their advance.

The group pressed onward, sensing a palpable shift in the atmosphere.

The troops, once marching in a single file, now found themselves flanked by numerous Snow Territory guards positioned outside the carriage. Meanwhile, the hidden guards from Shadow Door and the maids were escorted far away.

Soon, Gu Chaoyan pieced together the unfolding situation.

It appeared that there was more to the situation than meets the eye. There were underlying complexities at play, and the casual injuries might not be as innocent as they seemed. Gu Chaoyan needed to carefully consider these factors.

Furthermore, Ouyang Mingjing's sudden change in demeanor signaled that their agreement might not be as stable as initially promised. They had been too complacent and had underestimated the potential risks involved.

The fate of finding Huaijin now relied on their own luck, and Gu Chaoyan couldn't afford to let anything happen to him.

Lost in her thoughts, Gu Chaoyan suddenly felt as if she had descended into a frigid dungeon, with the warmth inside the carriage failing to alleviate her discomfort. She curled up, trembling.

Sword One was taken aback. "Please, allow me to fetch the City Lord."

Gu Chaoyan halted her, shaking her head.

The people from Snow Territory were treating them differently now. If Ouyang Mingjing were to discover the change in her condition, those from Snow Territory would likely become even more callous towards them.

She would never allow him to learn of her predicament.

As the heat overwhelmed her once again, Gu Chaoyan instinctively reached for Sword One's assistance. The sudden and intense heat made her feel as if she were being grilled alive.

She quickly began removing the layers of blankets and thick clothing that covered her, seeking relief from the scorching sensation.

"Elder Miss, what is happening?" Sword One inquired with concern.

“I feel extremely hot. Sword One, please step outside the wagon and fetch some snow,” Gu Chaoyan requested, removing the blanket and explaining her discomfort.

Sword One hurriedly complied, venturing outside the moving wagon to gather the snow.

Inside the wagon, Gu Chaoyan eagerly took handfuls of snow and applied them to her face, finding some relief in the cooling sensation.

Outside, Lingyun and the hidden guards engaged in conversation.

Lingyun was torn about what to do. She should have informed Gu Chaoyan about the hidden guards' situation when they first experienced their difficulties.

However...

Lingyun helplessly relayed, “Elder Miss is not feeling well. She may not be able to handle it.”

Understanding the predicament, the hidden guards made the decision to withdraw.

Gu Chaoyan questioned, “What is happening?”

Chapter 1825 - Change 2

Upon hearing Gu Chaoyan's voice, the hidden guards were filled with a mixture of disappointment and renewed hope. Their eyes shimmered with anticipation.

But now, Gu Chaoyan seemed willing to listen.

Lingyun stood by the guard's side, silently supporting them.

In a hushed voice, mindful of the numerous guards from Snow Territory around them, Gu Chaoyan spoke, "What has happened? Why were our troops ambushed, and why are so many guards falling ill?"

"...."

One of the guards stepped forward, respectfully but urgently explaining, "Elder Miss, our troops were unexpectedly attacked by an ambush, resulting in the loss of many provisions for cold weather. We are growing increasingly cold, and a significant number of hidden guards have fallen ill, their conditions worsening. The situation is dire."

"...."

"I have spoken with the people from Snow Territory, but they have shown no concern for our plight," the guard continued. "Thus, we are compelled to turn to you, Elder Miss."

"...."

"Lingyun informed us that you are not in good health, and we did not want to burden you," the guard expressed respectfully. "However, we beseech you to speak with the City Lord of Snow

Territory and request assistance. Many lives have already been lost, and we cannot afford to lose any more. Mr. Head is absent, and it is our duty to protect you.”

“...”

Furthermore, the guard disclosed another distressing fact. “Moreover, the guards from Snow Territory have been crossing the line due to their sickness. They have been insulting our maids. We have intervened so far, but we cannot continue to protect them indefinitely. While they may not be ladies of high birth, they are girls who have traveled alongside us. We are doing our utmost to shield them!”

As the truth was laid bare before Gu Chaoyan, she was taken aback by the revelation. Lingyun, too, was astounded.

They were aware that they were facing challenges, but they had not fathomed the severity of their situation. Not only had many hidden guards fallen ill, but the maids were also enduring immense suffering.

Lingyun, being a young woman herself, understood the profound impact such mistreatment would have on the girls.

Gu Chaoyan clenched her fists tightly, but her feeble state rendered her powerless. She experienced alternating sensations of cold and heat, causing her to perspire uncomfortably beneath her thick clothing, which clung to her skin.

Her weakened state prevented her from mustering any strength, and as she attempted to rise, her body failed her, and she collapsed due to her lack of stamina.

Witnessing this, Sword One was alarmed. Hastily, she rushed to Gu Chaoyan's aid, exclaiming, "Elder Miss, allow me to investigate!"

Chapter 1826 - Change 3

Elder Miss was in no condition to address any of these issues.

While the hidden guards and maids were important, Elder Miss held the utmost significance. If anything were to happen to her, all their current efforts would be rendered meaningless.

The hidden guard overheard the conversation from inside and was filled with guilt and regret. He realized that he had made a mistake by asking them for help. He should have respected Ms. Lingyun's decision to spare Elder Miss from further troubles.

Elder Miss was known for her kind-hearted nature, and it was likely that she would want to assist them. However, he feared that by burdening her with their problems, he would only worsen her already precarious condition.

Gu Chaoyan gently shook her head.

The presence of Sword One would not make a difference. The guards from Snow Territory were bullying them precisely because they lacked fear. They held the upper hand, and Sword One's presence alone would not change the situation.

She knew that she had to confront this challenge alone, personally.

Only when she stepped forward and took action could their circumstances be altered.

With great effort, Gu Chaoyan struggled to stand up.

As she emerged from the wagon, Sword One draped a cloak over her shoulders. "I will attend to the injured hidden guards."

Witnessing Elder Miss's pale countenance, the hidden guard was consumed by guilt. They were aware that Elder Miss had come seeking a solution for the poison within her heart.

Yet, the hidden guard felt a deep sense of remorse for having compelled her to tend to their needs while she herself was unwell.

Filled with regret, he yearned to guide her back to the safety of the wagon.

"Lead the way, don't waste any time," Lingyun reminded the hidden guard.

The revelation had already reached Elder Miss, and there was no way to retract that knowledge. Rather than deliberating over whether it was appropriate for Elder Miss to concern herself with these matters, it was best to expedite the process by bringing her there so she could fulfill her duties swiftly.

The hidden guard felt relieved by Lingyun's reminder.

He took the lead and began guiding them.

A few guards from Snow Territory intercepted them upon seeing Elder Miss stepping out of the wagon.

Gu Chaoyan cast a sharp glance their way, causing some guards to avert their gaze, not daring to meet her eyes again.

They were observing her, but she was the Phoenix Girl, and they did not dare to meddle too much in her affairs.

“Where do you think you’re going, Phoenix Girl?” the Snow Territory guard inquired.

“Should I report my every move to you? Who do you think you are?” Gu Chaoyan retorted angrily, particularly after learning about their mistreatment of the hidden guards.

The Snow Territory guard’s face twitched in displeasure but he said nothing further, choosing to quietly trail behind her.

Gu Chaoyan proceeded towards the location where the hidden guards were stationed.

Having rarely disembarked from the wagon, she now grasped the gravity of the situation.

The once-vigorous hidden guards, who exuded energy upon their first encounter, now bore the marks of weariness, exhibiting signs of injury and experiencing the biting cold.

And those gravely injured individuals bore visible redness on their faces, a clear sign of distress.

Some were battling the chill, while others grappled with severe wounds.

Without a doubt, many would not have lasted another day. If not for her arrival, they would have succumbed to their injuries.

Gu Chaoyan retrieved her needles.

Chapter 1827 - Change 4

And Sword One joined her in assisting the wounded. "Give them the water I brought. Lingyun, gather the herbs," Gu Chaoyan instructed.

The injured hidden guards hesitated, expressing their concerns, "Elder Miss, we are mere servants. We cannot allow you to risk infection. We will be held responsible!"

Gu Chaoyan paid no heed to their protests.

With determination, she asserted, "Show me your hands."

Her command held a captivating power, compelling them to comply.

The hidden guard extended his hand, and Gu Chaoyan swiftly began the treatment. Her movements were deft and agile. As she worked, the hidden guard felt a significant improvement, no longer on the verge of losing consciousness.

Sword One approached, and without raising her gaze, Gu Chaoyan instructed her, “Sword One, give him a cup of water from this flask.”

She had brought the water from her spatial storage, anticipating its need, and her foresight proved invaluable.

The hidden guard felt a complete recovery after consuming the cup of water.

Gu Chaoyan moved on to the next injured individual.

Some with more severe wounds received acupuncture, while those with minor injuries were administered medicinal pills.

Gu Chaoyan was fully engrossed in her work, causing the troops to pause their activities.

Word of Gu Chaoyan’s actions reached Ouyang Mingjing as well.

Longqing expressed his concern, “City Lord, you must intervene and stop Phoenix Girl! It’s absurd for her to personally treat the hidden guards just because she’s a Phoenix Girl!”

Ouyang Mingjing brushed off the matter, saying, “Let her do as she pleases. It’s of no concern to me.” His focus was on how to handle Qing. Phoenix Girl could handle things her own way.”

As long as it didn't consume too much time.

Longqing sighed, realizing that he couldn't persuade Ouyang Mingjing any further.

By the time Gu Chaoyan finished attending to the hidden guards, it was already dusk.

The hidden guards had always been their protectors, so Gu Chaoyan deemed it necessary to check on their well-being first.

Sword One was assigned the task of keeping watch over the disgraced maids.

Just as Gu Chaoyan left the camp, Sword Two approached her.

“Elder Miss, the guards have gone too far. If it weren't for Sword One, the maids would have suffered even worse. Some have already faced humiliation due to our failure to protect them. And now, a dozen more have been taken away by them!” Sword Two snapped angrily.

Gu Chaoyan's expression turned grim. “Take me there!”

Sword Two led Gu Chaoyan to a nearby camp.

Numerous guards stood outside, displaying an indifferent demeanor. However, they were taken aback upon seeing Gu Chaoyan's arrival.

“Phoenix Girl, what brings you here? Please leave,” one guard urged.

Ignoring their words, Gu Chaoyan pushed past them and entered the camp.

The guards inside wore mocking smirks.

Sword One was facing them.

Chapter 1828 - Protection 1

Their brutish behavior came to a halt as Sword One made her appearance. The guards watched her with amusement, as if they were witnessing something comical.

In the realm of Saint Divine Land, few women possessed martial arts skills, making Sword One a remarkable exception. Despite their bullying of the maids from Saint Divine Land over the past couple of days, they were unable to match Sword One’s capabilities. Today, someone had attempted to confront them, which provided them with great entertainment. They neither defeated Sword One nor allowed her to overpower them.

However, after dealing with numerous guards, Sword One was visibly fatigued.

The guards were prepared to create another spectacle when Gu Chaoyan stormed into the tent.

Initially, they assumed it was just another arrogant individual from the Saint Divine Land, ready to be taunted. But their mocking expressions froze upon realizing that it was Phoenix Girl who had entered.

Their wild behavior ceased in the presence of Phoenix Girl.

Before they could wipe the smirks off their faces, a profound silence fell over the tent.

Sword One sheathed her sword and, instead of joining Gu Chaoyan, she approached the maids. There were twenty maids, each assigned to one of the twenty guards from Snow Territory present in the camp.

As Sword One entered the tent, the guards were caught in the act of insulting the scantily clad maids. They appeared startled and froze upon her intervention. They dared not make any movements or even adjust their own clothing.

This kind of mistreatment had been happening for days, and the maids, being of lower status, had been too afraid to speak up. It was only recently that they shared this information with the hidden guards, who began to investigate the matter. However, they held little hope for any form of rescue. After all, with the King's absence and their low social standing, they felt powerless.

Sword One assisted the maids in adjusting their outfits, ensuring their dignity.

Gu Chaoyan stood coldly in place, her gaze sweeping across the guards.

During this tense moment, a few guards managed to slip away unnoticed by Gu Chaoyan. They were likely reporting to their superiors, which aligned with Gu Chaoyan's own plans.

Gu Chaoyan remained silent and motionless, sending a clear message of her disapproval.

The guards, realizing that their actions had been exposed, felt a wave of guilt wash over them. While their bosses may have been aware of their behavior, they had previously turned a blind eye. However, with Phoenix Girl involved, they feared the consequences and the potential for punishment.

Among the guards, there was one audacious man who stepped forward, addressing Gu Chaoyan directly.

He said, "This place is meant for servants, Phoenix Girl. It would be best if you returned to your wagon. It is not appropriate for you to remain here."

"...."

"These matters will only taint your eyes," he continued.

"...."

"These women are merely low-class servants. They have come to Snow Territory and will settle here. However, as a foreign group, they will not lead peaceful lives. If they choose to stay with us, we will take responsibility for them."

The guard stated his perspective, drawing on his experience in the Saint Divine Land. He understood the significance placed on maintaining proper social status and identities.

Chapter 1829 Protection 2

But in Snow Territory, the rules were less strict compared to other places.

The promises they made were merely empty words, reflecting their innermost thoughts.

They hoped that by handling this matter themselves, their superiors wouldn't need to intervene.

The guard wore a smirk, waiting for Gu Chaoyan's response.

As Gu Chaoyan listened to his words, her eyes narrowed.

So, according to him, "they are here in Snow Territory and won't have a peaceful life as foreigners?"

Gu Chaoyan pondered over his statement.

It soon became clear to her what was happening.

So, these people believed that they had come to settle down in Snow Territory?

But...

Who had ever informed them that they were here to settle?

While she and Ouyang Mingjing had an agreement to collaborate towards their respective goals, the guards should not have been privy to this information. The hidden guards and the maids were mere companions, not intended to stay indefinitely.

In essence...

It seemed that everyone was aware that those who arrived in Snow Territory were never able to leave.

Then...

That confirmed one thing...

Her suspicion that the ambush did not arise from internal conflicts was right. They had been set up.

Ouyang Mingjing must have been involved in this scheme as well.

The guard fell silent after revealing the information. He peered at Gu Chaoyan, growing puzzled when he saw no change in her expression.

Gu Chaoyan was seething with anger inside.

Especially after hearing the guard's words.

Under normal circumstances, she would have swiftly taught him a lesson before he even realized it.

But...

She couldn't do it now.

Her weakened state left her devoid of energy to deal with these guards. She would wait until their superiors arrived and handle everything together.

A chilling sensation enveloped her, exacerbated by the absence of a coal basin in the servants' camp, which only intensified the cold.

Her clothes, damp with sweat, clung to her body, further amplifying her discomfort.

But the garments failed to provide any warmth.

She remained silent, not wanting to worry Sword One and Lingyun with her current predicament.

Ouyang Mingjing entered the scene and witnessed the situation.

The guards who had sneaked out were originally targeting Longqing but unexpectedly ran into Ouyang Mingjing. They arrived at the camp together.

Ouyang Mingjing had not anticipated such a turn of events, nor had he considered how he should handle this situation.

Gu Chaoyan confronted him directly, "City Lord Ouyang, what do you mean by allowing your guards to insult my maids?"

"....."

"We are supposed to be working together, yet you mistreat us. I don't think we need to continue this partnership!"

"...."

"Before you talk about any deals, you better act like a decent man!"

Ouyang Mingjing fully understood her character. Other leaders might not care about the maids, but she did. Otherwise, the incident with the Acacia beans would not have occurred.

Internally, he felt an intense surge of anger.

He had invested so much effort and time in dealing with Phoenix Girl, and the agreement had finally been settled. Yet Phoenix Girl had not yet arrived in Snow Territory.

Chapter 1830 Protection 3

Ouyang Mingjing's frustration grew as these individuals became a hindrance to their plans.

Snow Territory had plenty of women available, so why couldn't they wait before taking action against the girls from the Saint Divine Land?

He looked at Gu Chaoyan with a serious expression and stated, "I will give you a resolution."

Then he shifted his attention to Longqing.

Finally, he turned to the guards who had recently made a mistake.

These guards were all familiar faces and highly capable individuals working under Longqing. However, their behavior had crossed the line.

"All of you are dismissed, and you will receive 20 lashes," Ouyang Mingjing declared.

Longqing appeared taken aback by the decision.

These guards were exceptionally skilled and valuable assets. Firing them seemed excessive.

"City Lord, they are outstanding employees. You can punish them, but please reconsider firing them," Longqing interjected, expressing his dissatisfaction.

After a moment of contemplation, he reluctantly proposed, "Alternatively, they can marry these women. Would that be a suitable resolution?"

Upon hearing the guards' objection, a wave of unwillingness swept through them.

These guards were popular and ambitious individuals under Longqing's command, and they aspired to have their pick of excellent partners. Marrying low-class women from the Saint Divine Land was not part of their plans. These women were meant for pleasure, not for marriage. They desired pure-blooded women as their wives, not these maids.

The maids and hidden guards from the Saint Divine Land were filled with fury and indignation at this humiliating proposition.

And in response to their words...

Gu Chaoyan took immediate action.

Swiftly, she seized Sword One's sword and launched herself at the guards. In a matter of seconds, she severed their hands, leaving them screaming in pain. Not stopping there, she continued her assault, severing their arms one by one. Her movements were lightning-fast, a testament to her assassin training from her previous life.

Before Ouyang Mingjing and Longqing could comprehend what had transpired, Gu Chaoyan tossed the bloodstained sword to the ground, addressing Sword One, "The sword is tainted now. Dispose of it. I will provide you with a sharper one once we return to the Saint Divine Land."

Facing the others, Gu Chaoyan shifted her gaze towards Ouyang Mingjing and Longqing, her voice firm and decisive. "Since it took you both so long to come up with a solution, allow me to make a decision on your behalf."

"...."

"These individuals have not only insulted the maids from the Saint Divine Land but also physically harmed them. Therefore, the punishment is simple: sever their hands. Whether or not they are fired is inconsequential to me."

"...."

"In this way, they will never insult girls from our country" she continued, her voice chillingly calm, without even blinking at the sight of blood. "This incident is closed."

However, a thought struck her, causing her to add with a touch of scorn, "As for the notion of marrying them, I'm sorry to inform you that your guards are unworthy of such honorable women."