

Divine 1851

Chapter 1851 Proof that You Are the Pheonix Girl 3

"Please conduct yourself appropriately," Gu Chaoyan remarked coldly, her expression one of disdain.

Ouyang Mingjing, who had been in high spirits, suddenly felt as if he had been doused in icy water.

Over the past few days, he had arranged for numerous maids to attend to her and provided her with luxuries. He had believed that they were getting along well, but now he found himself having to caution her to be careful.

Perhaps...

The Elder Men were right.

His priority should be impregnating her.

He wasn't taking risks for his own sake.

Ouyang Mingjing, accompanied by Gu Chaoyan and Longqing, approached the Elder Men.

Ouyang Mingjing gestured towards the white jade sword in Gu Chaoyan's hands and spoke, "The white jade sword can only be wielded by the Phoenix Girl to vanquish demons and Fey. Can't this sword serve as proof of her identity?"

The Elder Men did indeed notice the white jade sword in Gu Chaoyan's possession.

Well...

It did belong to the Phoenix Girl.

However...

The white jade sword was merely a weapon associated with the Phoenix Girl, distinct from the significance of Golden Rolls.

Golden Rolls held the fate of thousands of lives.

And Golden Rolls was the sole evidence of the Phoenix Girl's identity.

Golden Rolls was the only thing the world acknowledged.

According to the Golden Rolls...

Elder Man didn't dwell on that point, but he was nearly certain that she was indeed the true Phoenix Girl, not someone Ouyang Mingjing had casually and indifferently brought back to deceive the people.

If she was genuine, then things would become very complicated.

The Elder Men didn't wish to be enemies of the Phoenix Girl.

Hence, they were attempting to prevent the Phoenix Girl from marrying the City Lord.

Elder Man shook his head quietly. "No."

"..."

"The white jade sword is unique, but that alone doesn't prove that she is the Phoenix Girl."

"..."

"Phoenix Girl, please present the Golden Rolls."

"Why? Why should I prove anything to you?" Gu Chaoyan interrogated sharply.

That statement startled the Elder Men.

However...

They remained calm.

"We want to see the Golden Rolls, not take the Phoenix Girl's belongings. What we want to see is the Golden Rolls. My lady, you may not be aware, but Snow Territory is no longer as independent as it was a century ago. Enemies are encroaching upon Snow Territory, and conflicts arise frequently. While Snow Territory can defend itself, it is on the verge of collapse. The Phoenix Girl can aid us. Without the Golden Rolls, you cannot be the Phoenix Girl. You cannot be the wife of the City Lord of Snow Territory, as it won't be beneficial for us at all," Elder Man explained.

Elder Man kindly revealed Ouyang Mingjing's true intentions to her.

Upon hearing his words, Gu Chaoyan began to develop a liking for Elder Man.

She added, "If enemies come to Snow Territory, then Snow Territory should be capable of defending itself. What's the point of placing all the hope on a single Phoenix Girl? In that case, what happens when the Phoenix Girl is no longer present? Won't future generations of Snow Territory face the same predicament?"

Elder Man gazed deeply at Gu Chaoyan.

As for Ouyang Mingjing...

Chapter 1852 Proof that You Are the Phoenix Girl 4

Hearing Gu Chaoyan's firm words with Elder Man, Ouyang Mingjing felt a sense of satisfaction.

He had noticed that the Phoenix Girl was fiercely protective of her maids and guards.

Even in this conversation with Elder Man, she still took his side.

Elder Man was attempting to undermine their plans, and only then could they achieve their objectives.

And now...

The Phoenix Girl was standing in their way, preventing them from obtaining what they desired.

With that realization, Ouyang Mingjing smiled briefly.

It was in this moment that he began to understand why Elder Man had told him that only strong women like the Phoenix Girl could stand by his side, rather than gentle and kind-hearted girls. What could the latter truly accomplish?

It was a stark contrast.

However...

Elder Man and Ouyang Mingjing had completely different thoughts.

Since their first encounter, the Phoenix Girl had treated Ouyang Mingjing with coldness. She was clearly unhappy about their impending marriage.

And now, she spoke those words in front of them.

She might be tough, but her main goal was to prove her identity and sever her ties with Snow Territory.

Upon careful consideration, she realized that approaching certain matters with an open mind might lead to easier solutions. Sometimes, those who remained hidden could find the answers they sought.

A meaningful conversation with the Phoenix Girl was necessary.

After a moment of thought, Elder Man turned to Gu Chaoyan, attempting to understand the situation.

Gu Chaoyan responded directly with a nod, indicating her understanding.

Elder Man comprehended the situation.

"The Phoenix Girl is correct. Snow Territory's affairs are our own concern," Elder Man agreed, choosing not to pursue further questioning.

He then glanced at the other Elder Men and spoke to Ouyang Mingjing, "The recent war in Snow Territory has left us with numerous matters to attend to. I shall take my leave now."

Ouyang Mingjing nodded, brimming with pride. "Very well."

The Elder Men departed promptly.

Ouyang Mingjing accompanied Gu Chaoyan back to 500 meters, in a jovial mood. "I never expected you to handle those old men so skillfully. Their martial arts prowess is formidable, and I find them difficult to contend with. They continuously challenge me and show me no respect."

"...."

"They have acted so recklessly in front of me, yet you managed to silence them with just a few words."

"...."

She couldn't discern who was truly right or wrong.

Ouyang Mingjing was young and had held the position of City Lord for many years.

Being relatively young and lacking influential support, he must have faced numerous challenges and hardships in his role. That explained his current demeanor. Despite his remarkable accomplishments and high status, he remained deeply fearful of the Elder Men.

When someone appeared to defend him, he became visibly excited, reminiscent of a child.

Chapter 1853 For What 1

He was a man who had been through a lot as well.

What a pity.

He had suffered so much that he lost the justice in his heart. He was unscrupulous in order to achieve his goal.

However...

But for what happened to Qing, and his extermination of Huaijin, she would have helped him in Snow Territory. After all, he did help her before.

What a pity.

For her, Ouyang Mingjing was more like an enemy. He was the murderer who killed Qing and hurt Huaijin. He was also the person who used all kinds of tricks in front of her.

So she was not going to help him at all.

And she even planned to cooperate with his enemies.

And she had nothing to do with who was right or wrong between him and the Elder Men. She was not from Snow Territory, and she was not in the position to make the judgement.

"What is it?" Ouyang Mingjing could not help but ask, seeing that she was in a daze.

"I am tired, I am going to take a break." Gu Chaoyan answered coldly.

Ouyang Mingjing nodded and told the maids to escort her back into the room, whilst he went to deal with the rest.

Gu Chaoyan had never liked having too many people around her. Apart from Lingyun, she asked the other maids to leave.

The maids had just left...

When a figure sat down on the table in front of her.

Lingyun got startled. Even Gu Chaoyan, who had always been calm, got slightly startled.

Her room was heavily guarded Ouyang Mingjing's guards. How did he walk in without showing anything or getting noticed.

The man sitting in front of her seemed to have understood what she was thinking. He said expressionlessly, "I am formed by magical power. So it is not me who is in front of you, but one of my magical powers. The palace is heavily guarded. I am an advanced cultivator, but I may cause trouble if I am here personally"

"...."

"Ouyang Mingjing and I are enemies, and it is not a big deal if we are discovered. But that would be bad for you, Phoenix Girl. So I am sorry to have offended you, but I have to talk with you with my condensed magical power right here."

"...."

"You are smart enough to understand what is going on in Snow Territory. I don't like City Lord, and I would like to bring him down."

"...."

"But I don't want Snow Territory to be torn apart. Also, Snow Territory is facing many enemies, so we are in a deadlock anyway."

"...."

"He is the City Lord of Snow Territory, and he became City Lord while being too young. Because of this, he has not been well-taught to behave like a City Lord. He is narrow-minded and only wants to rely on the so-called Pheonix Girl. He claims that he has been like this since ancient times. Anyone with a clear mind would know that he is just trying to set up people."

"...."

"Sooner or later, Snow Territory will break down."

"...."

"I don't want that to happen."

"...."

"Pheonix Girl, what are you doing here in Snow Territory anyway?" He asked straightforwardly.

Hearing what he said, Gu Chaoyan felt that what he said made sense.

Sooner or later, the situation would have Snow Territory ruined.

However...

That was not what she would like to get involved.

But Gu Chaoyan had nothing to hide, when Elder Man put it so clearly.

Chapter 1854 For What 2

She said frankly, "What I want is the Fire Lotus flower."

"...."

"Also, I need to settle some personal grudges with Ouyang Mingjing."

"...."

"Elder Man, you are here asking for me, because I need to help you with something. If you do, please tell me, Elder Man, if I help you, you don't have to worry about my personal grudge. I just need the Fire Lotus flower." Gu Chaoyan said.

Fire Lotus flower?

The human-shaped being made of magical power showed a strange expression on the face.

"You are poisoned?" He was obviously surprised.

"Yes." Gu Chaoyan said straightforwardly.

No wonder he could not sense any magical power from the Pheonix Girl. But for the white jade sword, he would not even admit that she was the Pheonix Girl.

So that was the explanation.

Hearing the result, Elder Man sneered. "They are really unscrupulous."

"What do you know?" Gu Chaoyan could tell from his tone that he knew the truth.

She had no idea when the cold poison was planted or why the fire lotus flower was in Snow Territory.

She had been posioned with that venom since she was little.

Then how did people from Snow Territory drug her?

That was what Gu Chaoyan had never been able to understand.

"If you are posioned, then there is no need to wonder why you are here in Snow Territory. I am just feeling emotional because of what those people did to you. Your mother, namely the previous wife

of the City Lord, was so weak in magical power that she could do nothing for Snow Territory. So they wanted you to come to Snow Territory as soon as possible."

"...."

"But your mother, who has very little magical power, gritted her teeth and ran out of Snow Territory when she was about to give birth to you."

"...."

"I did not understand why they were not in a hurry to get your mother back when she ran away. It was because they planted the cold drug in your mother's body. Even if she ran away, she had to return to Snow Territory if she wanted to live. Also, you are intermediately poisoned, and the Fire Lotus flower in Snow Territory can detoxify you."

"...."

"They must have not expected that your mother would rather die than return to Snow Territory. That is why they have been asking you for help these years."

"...."

"But Ouyang Mingjing was innocent about your venom and your mother's. He was not yet the City Lord." He recounted the past, but did not push the blame to Ouyang Mingjing just because he wanted to work with Gu Chaoyan.

Ouyang Mingjing was innocent, but not the Elder Man next to him.

Ouyang Mingjing was someone they made use of.

"Anyway, we can talk about the past when we have time. I don't have enough magical power. Today our arrangement is reached. I will come to you if you need anything in the future."

The moment he finished the words, he was gone.

Gu Chaoyan was left alone in the chair, looking serious.

Lingyun was not assured. What she had just heard was too shocking. She was worried that Elder Miss would not be able to accept the truth at the moment.

"Lingyun, please leave me." Gu Chaoyan said seriously.

"Elder Miss, are you alright? I..."

"Nothing, just leave me alone."

Instead of insisting, Lingyun left directly.

Elder Miss always had ideas.

After Lingyun left, Gu Chaoyan went directly into the space, where Huang Fu was rummaging through a pile of old books.

"You know about what happened to my mother?"

Chapter 1855 For What 3

Huang Fu, who had been selecting books, paused momentarily upon hearing Gu Chaoyan's request. After a brief pause, he resumed picking up his chosen books.

He was more knowledgeable about what had befallen her mother in Snow Territory than anyone else. But what difference did it make?

Huang Fu seemed to have gathered a collection of worn and tattered books, placing them on the table before taking a seat himself.

He then spoke, "I know. That's why I won't prevent you from coming to Snow Territory."

"...."

"In any case, the Fire Lotus flower is just one part of the equation, and I can find a solution for that," he continued.

"...."

"I believe it's important for you to experience it firsthand," Huang Fu said with a serious expression.

For instance...

He couldn't change the fact that she had no recollection of him.

He longed to share everything he knew with her, including their grudges. However, with her lacking any memories, it felt like giving something that didn't rightfully belong to her, even if he were to disclose everything.

So he decided to wait until she recalled everything on her own before delving into their past grievances.

Having expressed his thoughts, Huang Fu showed no inclination to say anything further.

Instead, he inspected the books in his hands.

In contrast to his red attire, the worn and shabby books seemed out of place.

Gu Chaoyan comprehended his intentions clearly.

It appeared that Elder Man had been correct.

Nevertheless...

Gu Chaoyan possessed the ability to differentiate between gratitude and grudges, and she knew what her course of action should be in the future.

The animosity between her and Snow Territory was not a simple matter confined to Qing's death alone!

Huang Fu paid no heed to her contemplation of revenge. Opening the books, one by one, he spoke, "Since you're working with Elder Man, he will surely procure the Fire Lotus flower for you as soon as possible. Hence, you should begin your cultivation. I've gathered these books for you during these days to assist you. Once you've finished with the previous ones, read them in the designated order."

Huang Fu arranged the books meticulously.

Gu Chaoyan picked up the first book and commenced reading it attentively.

"Don't rush to read it now. You can review what you've read previously," Huang Fu emphasized, insisting on maintaining a systematic approach.

"I've finished reading the book you gave me, and I've memorized it," Gu Chaoyan casually responded. Without pausing, she continued to delve into the pages.

Huang Fu was slightly taken aback.

However, he swiftly regained his composure and remarked, "You're still as intelligent as ever."

"As intelligent as ever?" Gu Chaoyan emerged from the pages, gazing up at Huang Fu. "When was that?"

"When you remember me," Huang Fu candidly replied. He reached out and gently caressed her head, refusing to delve into the past. Instead, he added, "Take these. You're so clever, and it seems I need to prepare everything for you."

Having said that, Huang Fu departed on his own.

Gu Chaoyan was left alone with the books he had given her. She stepped out of the space, feeling perplexed.

She typically didn't spend much time in that space.

Chapter 1856 For What 4

She could not reveal the existence of the hidden space to anyone.

Quietly, she tucked the book under the pillow and began sorting through its contents.

Her mother's untimely demise was a result of a malicious poison coursing through her veins, a toxic inheritance.

The burning desire for vengeance welled up within her, fueled by both past grievances and new ones.

Lost in her thoughts, Gu Chaoyan drifted off to sleep.

The following days passed by peacefully, albeit with her confined to the palace like a prisoner. Except for when Ouyang Mingjing was present, she was forbidden from venturing beyond the palace walls.

Nevertheless, she maintained secret communication with Elder Man.

Unbeknownst to Ouyang Mingjing, Elder Man possessed profound cultivation skills. It was fortunate that he remained unaware; otherwise, Ouyang Mingjing's anxiety would have escalated further.

On that particular day...

Chaos erupted in Snow Territory, surpassing the previous disturbances in intensity.

Gu Chaoyan sensed the heightened commotion and understood that the enemies from Snow Territory had returned. It had only been a few days, yet they launched another assault. Snow Territory seemed destined for ruin.

Lost in her thoughts, Gu Chaoyan's musings were interrupted by the opening of the palace gate. It was Longqing.

"Phoenix Girl, come with me," Longqing urged, prompting Gu Chaoyan to follow.

"Okay."

Longqing led her to the gate of Snow Territory.

Gu Chaoyan observed the fierce battle unfolding before her, where skilled practitioners clashed with their magical powers.

It was evident that Snow Territory was at a disadvantage.

"Phoenix Girl, you must aid us in Snow Territory!" Longqing pleaded.

Gu Chaoyan glanced at the warring factions, her expression calm.

She stood there like an outsider, detached from the outcome. The victor or the vanquished held no significance to her.

Consequently, her emotions remained concealed.

"When I arrived in Snow Territory, my agreement with your City Lord was solely to assume the role of the Phoenix Girl, providing reassurance to your people. Our collaboration did not involve intervening in Snow Territory's conflicts. We never discussed it. Therefore, I cannot involve myself. Please understand," Gu Chaoyan murmured quietly as she observed the scene.

It was as if she were uninvolved, distant from it all.

Longqing's eyes widened.

What!

Was she refusing to help?

"Are you truly so callous?" Longqing asked Dao Seeking in disbelief.

However...

Gu Chaoyan had no intention of responding.

Was she callous?

Then they must have forgotten who killed Qing.

That was precisely why she remained inactive today.

Besides, what right did he have to tell her what she ought to do?

Gu Chaoyan turned on her heels and departed without a word.

Enraged, Longqing disregarded everything else and plunged into the midst of the battle.

This time, the situation differed from before. The tranquility outside Snow Territory would not be restored until nightfall.

The court had fewer maids, and a significant portion of them possessed magical abilities.

However...

None of that concerned her.

As usual, she fell asleep that night.

The next morning, Lingyun assisted her in combing her hair.

With a resounding bang, the door flew open, and Ouyang Mingjing burst into the room in a rush.

Chapter 1857 Ouyang Mingjing's Madness 1

He appeared pale, his hair disheveled, and he exuded an air of disarray. Fatigue weighed heavily on him, evident from his sunken eyes.

However...

None of these physical signs compared to the anger etched across his face.

It was a rage that seeped deep into his core.

His gaze bore into Gu Chaoyan. "Do you have any idea what kind of assault Snow Territory has endured and the extent of the injuries suffered by our civilians?!"

"..."

"Snow Territory has enjoyed a peaceful existence for generations, and its inhabitants are accustomed to a life devoid of turmoil, shielded and protected."

"..."

"But now? The Huayin School and other factions relentlessly attack us, showing no mercy until we are obliterated."

"..."

"One-third of our guards lie dead, and panic engulfs the civilians. Countless skilled practitioners and maids have joined the battle, striving to defend a fragment of Snow Territory."

"..."

"Yet, Longqing brought you here, and you remain inert."

"..."

What was happening?

Ouyang Mingjing seethed with fury. He had never experienced such a humiliating defeat within Snow Territory. The only reason they could breathe a sigh of relief was due to Huayin's forces retreating. Without that retreat, their relief would have been nonexistent.

And this Pheonix Girl...

The people of Snow Territory held them in high regard, treating them with utmost respect. She was meant to become the City Lord's wife, yet she remained inactive.

Throughout history, the Pheonix Girl had been the guardian ensuring the safety of Snow Territory's civilians.

True, she was currently afflicted with a moderate poison, limiting her capabilities on the battlefield.

But...

She could still offer solace to the city's inhabitants!

Had she provided comfort, the civilians would not have doubted him or placed blame on him. With the presence of the Pheonix Girl, the favor of the people began shifting towards Elderly Man Gao Xiu and the others. In that case, the Pheonix Girl would be utterly useless. He had invested so much energy and time into her, and this was the outcome?

He refused to accept it!

Gu Chaoyan regarded him calmly.

The fact that Ouyang Mingjing was in such a state did not surprise her in the least.

Having assumed the throne at a young age and faced the formidable Elder Men of Snow Territory, Ouyang Mingjing had always harbored a deep fear of them. No matter how composed and experienced he appeared before the people of Piaomiao Pavilion, his emotions easily spiraled out of control when confronted with these Elder Men who posed a threat to his position as the City Lord.

Whatever had occurred the previous day must have undermined his standing as the City Lord, triggering his outburst.

However...

None of those concerns should burden her.

"Snow Territory and Huayin School are adversaries, and their target is you. I have no involvement in that."

"..."

"As for consoling the civilians of Snow Territory, what does that have to do with me? I am merely the Queen of the Saint Divine Land, and the affairs of Snow Territory are not my concern."

"..."

"Ouyang Mingjing, even if we have a partnership, the only thing we agreed upon was for me to return to Snow Territory with you so that your people could witness your reunion with the Pheonix Girl. I never made any promises regarding a wedding or any other obligations to your people."

"..."

"I have always adhered to our agreement without violating any stipulations."

"..."

"But look at yourself! You forced a false marriage upon me and assigned someone to guard me, even at the cost of Qing's life..."

Chapter 1858 Ouyang Mingjing's Madness 2

"You took that away from me as well," Gu Chaoyan stated bluntly. "Have you ever fulfilled what I asked for? Have you given me the Fire Lotus flower? Why are you doubting me?"

"..."

"Zhou Huaijin is the only one who has the right to question whether I have treated the civilians poorly." Gu Chaoyan locked eyes with him, her resolve unwavering.

Ouyang Mingjing furrowed his brow.

Only Zhou Huaijin?

Then what did that make him?

The marriage between the City Lord and the Phoenix Girl had been a longstanding tradition. What mistake had he made?

He had invested so much of his energy into her and had shown her the respect befitting the City Lord's wife.

What more could he have done?

Why?

Why did she always act as if she had no involvement?

Why could she be so heartless and indifferent?

"Zhou Huaijin is already dead, and he is alone in Snow Territory. Without clothes or medicine, how long can he survive? Just give up!" Ouyang Mingjing revealed the truth without reservation.

He had nothing left to fear.

He might as well be direct with her.

Gu Chaoyan displayed no emotions on her face because she knew all too well what Zhou Huaijin was like. And just as she had suspected, he had been aware of everything.

But she remained expressionless.

Ouyang Mingjing despised her.

His expression twisted, and he advanced towards her with aggression. Lingyun, sensing something was amiss, attempted to intervene, but Ouyang Mingjing employed his magical power to forcefully push her away. The other maids in the room were all loyal to Zhou Huaijin, so they remained passive.

Ouyang Mingjing approached Gu Chaoyan with hostility.

Yet she maintained the same impassive expression on her face.

As if there was no one standing before him.

Ouyang Mingjing detested her calm demeanor. She only displayed emotions in the presence of Zhou Huaijin.

But that was far from the truth!

He couldn't shake off Elder Man's words from his mind. "If she becomes pregnant with your child, she won't be able to escape."

However...

He didn't want to waste any more mental energy pondering over this.

Ouyang Mingjing drew nearer, and Gu Chaoyan sensed that he had ulterior motives.

She never anticipated that Ouyang Mingjing, no matter how enraged he was, would stoop to such actions. But he did!

She swiftly rose to her feet, taking several steps back while gripping the hilt of her white jade sword.

Fearlessness coursed through her veins. She could simply...

Ouyang Mingjing utilized his magical power to pull Gu Chaoyan towards him, trapping her in place, rendering her unable to move.

Finally, a different expression crossed Gu Chaoyan's face. The previous calmness had dissipated entirely.

However...

Disgust now radiated from her.

She despised Ouyang Mingjing's proximity.

Why?

Why did she always wear a smile in front of Zhou Huaijin when she loathed him?

He couldn't accept it.

Even if he hadn't truly fallen for her, he was obligated to do so.

Ouyang Mingjing drew nearer, his gaze fixed upon her. "Zhou Huaijin is dead."

"..."

"Our wedding was not a pretense, not from the beginning to the end."

"..."

"Snow Territory is a realm of treacherous unpredictability. Once you're in, there's no escape."

"Is that so?" Gu Chaoyan remained unfazed, unthreatened.

Ouyang Mingjing's eyes reddened as he bent down.

Chapter 1859 Ouyang Mingjing's Madness 3

He attempted to forcefully cover her lips with his own.

Gu Chaoyan fought with every ounce of strength she possessed. Despite Ouyang Mingjing employing his magical power, he couldn't restrain her movements. It became evident that Gu Chaoyan was resolute in freeing herself, further infuriating Ouyang Mingjing.

Witnessing the scene, Lingyun struggled to rise and intervene.

However...

Before she could act, another maid intervened and restrained her. The maids from Snow Territory wouldn't allow her to interfere.

Observing Gu Chaoyan's futile struggles, Ouyang Mingjing smirked. "I advise you to cease your resistance. You won't escape, and you'll only suffer more."

"..."

"With your intermediate poisoning and sealed magical power, you're powerless against me."

Ouyang Mingjing boasted with pride.

In the next instant, he reached out towards her clothing without any sense of propriety.

Gu Chaoyan found herself defenseless. She bit her tongue, ready to inflict harm upon herself, but Ouyang Mingjing detected her intentions and thwarted her with his magical power.

His fury intensified. "Would you rather die?"

Uttering those words, he forcibly tore open her clothing, exposing the undergarments beneath.

His eyes turned bloodshot.

In that moment...

He flung Gu Chaoyan onto the table and leaned down.

Suddenly...

A crimson silhouette burst forth.

Before Ouyang Mingjing could discern its nature, he was sent hurtling through the air by an immense surge of magical power. Collapsing onto the ground, he clutched his chest, feeling as though his internal organs had been shattered.

As he attempted to retaliate with his own magical power, he realized it was futile.

His alarm grew.

And in that moment...

Huang Fu had already unsealed Gu Chaoyan's magical power and swiftly adjusted her clothing.

Only now did he spare a moment to address Ouyang Mingjing.

Even Huang Fu hadn't anticipated such shameless behavior from Ouyang Mingjing.

Otherwise, he wouldn't have allowed Gu Chaoyan, who was intermediately poisoned, to venture to Snow Territory.

Huang Fu seethed with fury.

Enraged, he channeled the magical power in his grasp, poised to strike Ouyang Mingjing.

But right at the critical juncture, Gu Chaoyan intervened. "Hold on."

Ouyang Mingjing turned to face Gu Chaoyan, his expression riddled with confusion.

"After all, he is a pitiable man. He assumed the role of City Lord at a tender age, living in the shadow of others for 500 years and his own shadow for another 500."

"..."

"He couldn't obtain what he desired from me, and Huaijin is alive and well. There is no need for him to pay with his life."

"..."

"As for Qing... I want to avenge her, but I don't wish for his demise. Qing had feelings for him before she died; otherwise, she wouldn't have subjected herself to such cruelty and spared his life."

"..."

"He doesn't deserve to die, but we can't let him off too easily."

"..."

"Render him powerless, and everything will be resolved."

Gu Chaoyan spoke with a compassionate tone.

He was acting on behalf of Qing.

Ouyang Mingjing was bewildered. "Zhou Huaijin is still alive? How is that possible? Does he intend to leave Snow Territory?"

Before Ouyang Mingjing could finish his sentence, Huang Fu interjected bluntly, "There will always be someone superior. You cannot control the entire world!"

Chapter 1860 Ouyang Mingjing's Madness 4

"But it's only because of Qing's concern for you that I decided to spare you," Huang Fu remarked.

"..."

"You are far from deserving the Phoenix Girl!"

With those words spoken, Huang Fu raised his hand and struck Ouyang Mingjing with a surge of magical power. Ouyang Mingjing let out a scream and lost consciousness.

When Elder Man and Longqing arrived, they were taken aback by the sight of Ouyang Mingjing unconscious on the ground.

They hurriedly rushed to his side. "City Lord!"

Ouyang Mingjing weakly opened his eyes, appearing frail.

Elder Man had a rough understanding of the situation.

How dare they treat the City Lord in such a manner!

"What happened?!" Elder Man roared, demanding an explanation.

Despite enduring the battle the previous day, the City Lord and his faction suffered heavy losses.

They were unable to withstand the assault from the Huayin School's leader. It was Gao Xiu and his forces who arrived and managed to drive them away.

Consequently...

The civilians began to view the City Lord unfavorably.

Furthermore, the Phoenix Girl had not made an appearance the previous day, and prior to that, some Phoenix Girls had failed to present the Golden Scrolls, which symbolized the identity of the Phoenix Girl. As a result, doubts arose about the authenticity of the Phoenix Girl.

When all of these factors were combined, the situation escalated into a major predicament.

Things were already in a chaotic state.

Snow Territory was on the brink of chaos with the City Lord in such a state!

Elder Man was filled with anger.

"What is happening here?" Huang Fu sneered. "You should ask your City Lord what has transpired."

Gu Chaoyan remained silent as Huang Fu spoke.

However...

Huang Fu had donned a silver mask, which he hadn't been wearing when alone with Ouyang Mingjing.

The silver mask bore a resemblance to the one worn by Huaijin. And... why did Huang Fu also resemble Huaijin?

Gu Chaoyan was utterly perplexed...

Suddenly, Ouyang Mingjing shouted in despair, "I'm ruined! I can't use my magical power anymore!"

He sounded desperate.

Elder Man approached to investigate and discovered that it was indeed true.

He cast an incredulous glance at Huang Fu. How could this man disable the City Lord so effortlessly? How powerful must he be?

"He is the Head of Snow Territory. What right do you have to do this?" Elder Man snapped. However, he didn't dare to provoke him, fearing he would suffer the same fate.

"Why?" Huang Fu sneered. "He humiliated the Phoenix Girl!"

"..."

"Besides, you have more sinister deeds to answer for."

"..."

"You killed Qing, you took the Phoenix Girl hostage, and you returned to Snow Territory with her. You plotted against the King of the Saint Divine Land!"

"..."

"What you have done is sufficient to warrant him being killed ten times over. I'm showing mercy by merely crippling him," Huang Fu declared bluntly.

He seemed inclined to continue unearthing past grievances.

Elder Man was growing exasperated with it all.

A familiar, aged voice resonated from outside. "What? You have done so many terrible things in Snow Territory?!"

"..."

"No wonder Snow Territory has been faring poorly year after year!"

"..."

"You've been gradually ruining us!" Gao Xiu entered with his men, accompanied by individuals of influence among the civilians.