

Divine 2161

Chapter 2161 - Familiar 1

He was about to learn something valuable from his Junior Sister.

The Fist Sect specialized in honing punching strength, resulting in a bulkier style that often put its practitioners at a disadvantage.

Having already ascended to the rank of Paragon, he understood that to progress further, he needed to shed some of his weightiness. Emulating his Junior Sister's agility could help him avoid the disadvantages associated with his current style and potentially elevate his abilities.

Grateful for what he had done for her and Yuan Jia's consideration, he eagerly sought a closer bond with his Junior Sister.

Yuan Jia then approached her for some words of encouragement.

However, she hesitated.

Despite their heated conversation, Lv Zhengyang remained silent, gradually distancing himself from their discussion.

Eventually, Lv Zhengyang withdrew entirely.

Yuan Jia was perplexed.

As a disciple of the Fist Faction, he hadn't interacted much with Lv Zhengyang, so maintaining distance was acceptable. But it seemed strange that he and his Junior Sister had undertaken numerous missions together and defended her, yet now it appeared as if they were strangers.

Such a situation should not have arisen.

Rumors had circulated that Senior Brother Lu was an approachable person, but this encounter contradicted those claims.

Honestly...

Yuan Jia possessed some knowledge about Senior Brother Lu. Many new disciples admired him, but the older disciples seemed reluctant to discuss him. He was indeed an enigmatic individual.

"Junior Sister, what's happening between you and Senior Brother Lu?" Yuan Jia inquired.

"Nothing," Gu Chaoyan replied candidly.

She refrained from approaching Lv Zhengyang, maintaining her impassive expression.

Delving deeper into Lv Zhengyang's character didn't interest her; he was an enigmatic individual.

His singular focus on aiding the weak set him apart.

However, Gu Chaoyan had no intentions of embracing weakness herself. Hence...

Their paths diverged, and she had no intention of continuing her association with Lv Zhengyang.

“Senior Brothers,” Di Hongyun greeted them with a smile as he approached Gu Chaoyan. “Junior Sister.”

Gu Chaoyan looked puzzled. Since he hadn’t yet reached the rank of Paragon, she couldn’t fathom why he was present.

“Junior Sister, what’s the matter? Why wouldn’t I be here?” Di Hongyun replied confidently, believing his presence was entirely justified.

Gu Chaoyan couldn’t help but roll her eyes at him, which visibly irritated Di

Hongyun.

“He came on his own,” Yuan Jia chimed in with a grin.

“Senior Brother Yuan Jia!” Di Hongyun exclaimed loudly.

In contrast, Lv Zhengyang's reaction was markedly different.

He cast a disdainful glance at Di Hongyun, feeling that he was an ungrateful individual.

Despite Di Hongyun's slow cultivation progress and lack of talent, Lv Zhengyang, as a Senior Brother from the Beastmaster Sect, had not dismissed his contributions. Lv Zhengyang had frequently taken him on missions, which should have been enough to repay his debts. However, Di Hongyun's current ungrateful attitude left Lv Zhengyang disheartened, making him reluctant to even look at him.

Following the arrival of the boisterous disciples, Elder Men arrived, restoring tranquility.

Regardless of their earlier clamor, none of the disciples dared to create a disturbance in the presence of the Elder Men.

Once everyone had gathered, they embarked on their journey towards Wuyuan Island.

It took them a full day to reach their destination.

As they neared Wuyuan Island, Gu Chaoyan spotted a remarkably familiar figure in the distance..

Chapter 2162 - Disciple Missing 1

It was her! That woman...

Though she had only encountered this man a few times, his memory remained vivid in her mind.

Huaijin had seemingly lost all vitality under her watchful gaze, confined to a restless slumber within the Longmai Mountain's embrace.

One day, she vowed, revenge would be hers!

Gu Chaoyan clenched her fists, her gaze filled with loathing.

"Junior Sister, what's bothering you?" Di Hongyun inquired, sensing Gu

Chaoyan's unusual demeanor.

Members of the Grand Unity Sect surrounded them. The upcoming competition loomed, attracting major sects from all corners. Among them were the Moon Sect and several others.

"I'm alright," Gu Chaoyan replied, concealing her emotions.

Di Hongyun remained puzzled.

"Are you sure? You seemed quite perturbed, as though you encountered someone you disliked."

Gu Chaoyan ceased her scanning of the surroundings, and Di Hongyun followed suit.

Despite their encounter, it appeared that the Grand Unity Sect had no intention of acknowledging the presence of the Wushang Sect's representatives. They strode ahead, leading the way on their own.

They needed to pick up the pace.

Soon, they disappeared from sight.

“Are those individuals from the Moon Sect?” Gu Chaoyan pointed in a certain direction and queried.

“Yes.”

Those two individuals bore an uncanny resemblance to faces she’d encountered in Xuhai City.

It seemed they had entered the illusion as well.

A growing sense of concern gnawed at Gu Chaoyan, fearing for their safety.

However, much to her surprise, they crossed paths with them once more.

Did that mean they had successfully escaped the illusion?

The confusion in her mind mirrored on her face, prompting Di Hongyun to inquire, “Junior Sister, what’s troubling you?”

“Senior Brother Yuan Jia, do you recognize those two individuals?” Gu Chaoyan queried.

“I believe I do, but I can’t be certain. Are they the same ones from Xuhai City? They do bear a striking resemblance,” Yuan Jia admitted, lacking a definitive recollection.

Gu Chaoyan’s perplexity subsided.

It didn’t matter; what mattered was that they seemed to have found their way out as well.

Upon the Supreme Sect’s arrival at Wuyuan Island, they were allocated a resting period. The Moon Sect’s members were assigned this privilege, as they had emerged victorious in the previous round.

Typically, two individuals would share a room during the break, while the other ordinary disciples might have three or four per room.

Being the sole female disciple of the Supreme Sect, Gu Chaoyan was granted the luxury of her own sleeping quarters.

By this point, Gu Chaoyan felt content with her situation.

They rested, knowing that in two days' time, the competition would commence.

Wuyuan Island was permeated with the mystical essence of spring water, yet the aura here appeared so commonplace that Gu Chaoyan suspected the true magic lay solely within the spring water. Consequently, she harbored no desire to engage in cultivation, opting instead for a rare respite. For practitioners, days of undisturbed sleep were a rare luxury.

However, the need for slumber wasn't pressing.

Gu Chaoyan enjoyed a peaceful night's rest, only to be stirred awake by distant commotion.

Just as she prepared to investigate, Di Hongyun's voice rang out, "Junior Sister!"

Gu Chaoyan opened her door, inquiring, "What's the matter?"

"Follow me. A fellow disciple from the Supreme Sect has inexplicably disappeared," Di Hongyun explained, his expression fraught with worry.

A disciple missing on Wuyuan Island?

Chapter 2163: Disciple Missing 2

Gu Chaoyan had a vague sense of the situation unfolding on Wuyuan Island. Although this year, it was the Moon Sect that had orchestrated the gathering of the major sects, the other sects were not content to let the Moon Sect monopolize decision-making. Even if they were not directly involved in the proceedings, they had stationed their disciples to keep a close watch on Wuyuan Island, apprehensive of any potential advantage the Moon Sect might attempt to gain.

The Moon Sect, as the hosting faction, appeared cordial, while members from various sects played the role of vigilant overseers.

Despite the absence of protective array formations, Wuyuan Island remained seemingly secure. It was perplexing that a disciple would vanish without a trace under these circumstances, particularly since most of the Supreme Sect's disciples shared a single lodging.

Baffled and concerned, Gu Chaoyan wasted no time and quickly left her quarters with Di Hongyun.

Elder Men from the Supreme Sect were mobilizing their disciples to search the island comprehensively, determined to locate the missing individuals, regardless of their sect affiliation. The unfamiliar territory held too many uncertainties, urging a swift resolution.

Together, Gu Chaoyan, Di Hongyun, and Yuan Jia set off in one direction. Along the way, they encountered disciples from other sects also hurrying out to join the search. Curiosity prompted Gu Chaoyan to request Di Hongyun to inquire about the situation from these fellow disciples.

As they probed for information, it became evident that the disappearances were not isolated incidents, and almost all disciples from the other sects were unaccounted for. The situation took on a grave tone.

Di Hongyun, visibly alarmed, concluded his investigations and muttered, "Even the Moon Sect disciples have vanished. What could possibly be happening? Were they abducted by bizarre creatures in the dead of night? But every aspect of this is eerily strange." Fear began to grip him as he contemplated the prospect of falling prey to these enigmatic creatures.

This time, Gu Chaoyan refrained from rolling her eyes at him, but she couldn't help but feel a growing sense of unease.

The situation was undeniably bizarre. Even if it wasn't the work of some supernatural entity, it was evident that someone was responsible. The motives, however, remained shrouded in mystery.

If the intention had been to secure an advantage for their respective schools in the contest, it would have made more sense to target disciples participating in the competition. Yet, to Gu Chaoyan's knowledge, those who had gone missing were ordinary disciples, none of whom were slated for the contest.

With furrowed brows, Gu Chaoyan, Di Hongyun, and Yuan Jia continued to

scan their surroundings, but no clues presented themselves. Despite Wuyuan Island's relatively modest size, there seemed to be no place to conceal the missing individuals. The absence of any traces heightened their anxiety.

The search had gone on for hours without a breakthrough, and frustration loomed over the group. Even Gu Chaoyan, typically composed, wore a troubled expression.

The occurrence of such an event on Wuyuan Island had caught everyone off guard, marking an unprecedented occurrence.

After prolonged fruitless efforts, the major sects finally convened. The Elder Men of the Moon Sect, who had overseen the Moon Sect for the past three years without incident, were now visibly agitated. The pressing question was: what had transpired this year to result in the inexplicable disappearance of so many disciples?

Moon Sect took responsibility, acknowledging, "It is our disciples who have gone missing, and we accept the blame for this. We will mobilize additional resources to intensify the search and locate our missing disciples.."

Chapter 2164: Disciple Missing 3

So, he willingly accepted the blame.

However, once he shouldered this responsibility, the Elder of the Moon Sect couldn't help but feel a deep sense of distress and injustice. "In truth, four of our disciples have also gone missing."

"I wonder what's happening on Wuyuan Island? Why are our disciples disappearing without a trace? Our Moon Sect's guardians on Wuyuan Island reported no unusual activity, and there's no record of anyone entering or leaving. Where could they have vanished to? It's baffling," the Elder from the Black Moon Sect couldn't help but voice his concerns, sensing that something was amiss.

Perhaps they had encountered something supernatural.

The Elders from the various sects were well aware of the situation.

Among all the sects, the Moon Sect was relatively weaker. The only reason their disciples participated in the annual contest was for a chance to become the abbot.

There was no conceivable motive for the Moon Sect to orchestrate such disappearances.

Furthermore...

Why did the Moon Sect have so many disciples who were not participating in the contest?

The other Elders refrained from placing blame on the Moon Sect for this predicament.

This matter demanded a thorough investigation.

“Tomorrow marks the commencement of the contest. The Elders and disciples from the major sects will spearhead the search for our missing disciples, while the rest will proceed with the competition. Once the contest concludes, the victorious sects will conduct a comprehensive inquiry. Wuyuan Island is our collective responsibility, and we won’t tolerate any further disruptions,” declared the Elder from the Grand Unity Sect as he took charge of overseeing the contest.

Without a leader from the Moon Sect, the Grand Unity Sect, a formidable faction, was a welcomed choice for presiding over the event.

Unanimously, the assembly agreed with the Elder’s proposal.

The contest and the mysterious disappearance of some ordinary disciples held significant importance for the major sects.

The allure of Wuyuan’s spring water was simply irresistible.

“Very well,” responded the Elder Men from the major sects.

With the matters settled, the major sect representatives were dismissed.

Gu Chaoyan returned to her quarters, wearing a troubled expression.

Gu Chaoyan wasn't part of the group responsible for investigating the disappearances.

But...

She was secretly relieved that she didn't have to deal with this matter as part of a team.

She preferred to investigate on her own.

As she made her way back to her room, a familiar figure approached her and winked.

This face...

Gu Chaoyan had only met him once, but she remembered it well.

Zuo Hanyin, the Head of the Undead Race.

Before leaving, she had given him a discreet signal to follow her, expecting him to do so from a distance. Instead, he had sneaked onto Wuyuan Island and approached her openly.

Clearly, he possessed impressive skills.

Her judgment about this man had been accurate.

"Why are you here?" Gu Chaoyan asked curiously.

"You asked me to follow you, so I felt obligated to come up with a solution," the Head of the Undead Race replied with a reasonable tone. "Now that I'm a disciple of your Supreme Sect, it's only logical for me to follow your lead."

"Do you have any more pills? Give me two." The Head of the Undead Race said. "Junior Sister!" Gu Chaoyan was about to take out the pills when Di Hongyun arrived, looking very happy..

Chapter 2165: Disciple Missing 4

As the pills scattered through the air, the Head of the Undead Race wore a dreadful expression. His gaze turned toward the source of the voice and locked onto Di Hongyun—it was him again!

What a vexing individual.

Recollections of their encounter in Xuhai City flooded back. Di Hongyun had incessantly pestered him, seemingly determined to lead him to his demise.

The old vendetta remained unresolved, and now, it resurfaced with a vengeance. The Head of the Undead Race glared at Di Hongyun with a malevolent intensity.

Di Hongyun had only just arrived and was met with an unsettling, hatred-filled stare. This was their first meeting; why did this Junior Sister despise him so vehemently?

Di Hongyun might not have been the most exceptional student in the school, but he possessed an air of attractiveness that did not repel anyone. None of the other Junior Sisters had shown aversion towards him, so what was it about this particular Junior Sister?

However, Di Hongyun didn't hold her in high regard either.

Unable to contain himself any longer, he quipped, "Junior Sister, where did she come from? She seems quite formidable. Let's not bother with her; we have our own game to play."

"Who are you calling formidable? You pretty boy! You're quite the daring one, asking a girl to play with you? Have some shame!" The Head of the Undead Race retorted sharply, showing no signs of politeness.

He had never been fond of her demeanor, but now, her choice of words added another layer of irritation. She referred to him as a tough man?

"Let's just ignore him and proceed with our discussion," the Head of the Undead Race remarked curtly to Gu Chaoyan, dismissing Di Hongyun with a dismissive wave.

He couldn't believe that Gu Chaoyan would prefer this pretty boy over him.

After all, this pretty boy lacked any real skills.

He was the Head of the Undead Race, and Gu Chaoyan had come to negotiate a deal with him, so it was expected she would be on his side.

Gu Chaoyan shot an exasperated glance at the duo.

Her irritation had reached its peak.

One of them had been annoying from the start, and now there were two of them causing a ruckus.

Their incessant, loud chatter was grating on her nerves.

"Quiet down and follow me," Gu Chaoyan huffed, rolling her eyes at the two of them, then proceeded towards the room.

"Hmph!"

"Hmph!"

The two of them rushed to lead the way, continuing their bickering and even shoving each other.

As they entered, both got wedged at the doorway.

Gu Chaoyan took a seat and witnessed the absurdity of the situation, with the two of them stuck faraway.

She couldn't help but roll her eyes again.

How foolish and disruptive!

One Inner Sect disciple of the Supreme Sect and the Head of the Undead Race were both wedged at the door, unable to move!

What had she done to deserve encountering such individuals?

“If you don’t come inside, I’m closing the door,” Gu Chaoyan snapped.

Only then did the two of them make an effort to enter.

The Head of the Undead Race squeezed in and wore a smug expression. He sat down and regarded Di Hongyun with an air of superiority.

“You have no sense of decency,” Di Hongyun shot back.

“I see no reason to be polite to a pretty boy like you,” the Head of the Undead Race retorted.

“You...”

“Shut up!” Gu Chaoyan shouted.

“Let’s have an ambush tonight. I believe that the murderer will appear. Maybe we can catch the murderer.” Gu Chaoyan said what she was thinking.

“I won’t go with him.”

“I won’t go with her..”

Chapter 2166: Disciple Missing 5

The two of them spoke in perfect unison, a rare occurrence.

However, it was evident they had reservations about accompanying each other.

Gu Chaoyan cast a scrutinizing glance at the pair, deeming them both unreliable.

“If you’re not coming, I’ll handle it myself,” she declared, her patience waning in their presence.

These two individuals clearly had a strained relationship, and Gu Chaoyan had been apprehensive that their discord might cause complications for her.

“We’ll go,” they responded in tandem, their voices finally aligning in agreement.

Numerous disciples had inexplicably gone missing, and venturing alone to investigate posed a significant risk. Hence, they reluctantly decided to tag along, even if it meant enduring each other’s company.

Observing their compliance, Gu Chaoyan remained seated, intent on strategizing with them.

They needed a well-thought-out plan before they drew any attention.

“Junior Sister, how did you anticipate that this man would strike again tonight?” Di Hongyun inquired with curiosity.

“It’s a calculated guess. The audacity he displayed in perpetrating such acts within the vicinity of numerous schools suggests he’s confident he won’t be apprehended. His arrogance leads me to believe that, given our failure earlier, he’s likely to make another attempt. He either has a specific motive or seeks to test his own abilities. Of course, there’s a chance he won’t show up, but I consider the probability to be higher,” Gu Chaoyan explained thoughtfully.

As she spoke, she retrieved a bottle of pills from her belongings.

The Head of the Undead Race’s eyes widened upon seeing the pills.

However, these pills held no allure for him; the Undead Race required no such aids to regain their vitality.

However, following their meal...

He suddenly began to feel the effects of the pills.

At this moment, the pills she had given him promised a return to his former abilities.

As his gaze landed on the pills, he couldn't help but fixate on them.

"Eat one, and it will conceal your aura," Gu Chaoyan instructed.

The joy that had initially graced the Head of the Undead Race's face faded. It turned out to be a pill solely designed to mask one's presence, a feature entirely useless to him.

Recognizing the pills' utility, the Head of the Undead Race couldn't help but feel despondent.

After Gu Chaoyan finished hers, she casually tossed a bottle to him. "Take it."

Instantly reinvigorated, he eagerly opened the bottle, finding the same pills as before, and a radiant smile returned to his face.

She had accepted the pills without hesitation, allowing her to utilize them to conceal her aura.

"Junior Sister, why didn't you give me any pills?" Di Hongyun expressed his displeasure.

This rugged-looking woman had all the pills while he was left empty-handed. It hardly seemed fair.

"That's simple. If you behave well this time, I'll give you one," Gu Chaoyan replied matter-of-factly.

"Fine," Di Hongyun conceded, still disgruntled.

The Head of the Undead Race couldn't hide his delight. He cast a triumphant glance at Di Hongyun.

“Alright, let’s move. You need to behave too. Misbehave, and you won’t have any opportunities in the future,” Gu Chaoyan warned, determined not to give him any room to create problems.

“Okay,” the Head of the Undead Race responded, his enthusiasm dampened.

Finally, the three of them found a suitable hiding spot.

If the mysterious individual launched another attack, it would likely fall to the ordinary disciples to deal with him.

What they needed to do was to stay by the ordinary disciples’ side.

The three of them squatted for a long while, but nothing happened.

“Junior Sister, we are all very cautious, and that man is not coming.” Di Hongyun said with a small voice..

Chapter 2167: Disciple Missing 6

Di Hongyun had been correct.

Initially, no one had been aware or cautious during their first move.

Consequently, it had been exceedingly straightforward for them to act.

However, for their second endeavor, the major sects had already become aware of the situation. They had not only dispatched individuals to investigate but also mobilized the disciples of these major sects. Consequently, it had become exceedingly challenging for him to take any action.

Hence, the possibility of him not arriving became a distinct possibility.

Nevertheless, she had no intention of departing.

She was staking her bet on this likelihood.

Even if she were to leave, it would merely be a brief respite. Her thoughts would invariably return to this situation, and she would have no regrets if she decided to stay.

Thus, Gu Chaoyan advised him to remain silent and await further developments.

Observing her resolute decision, Di Hongyun refrained from uttering further words and patiently awaited the unfolding events.

However, just as Di Hongyun had momentarily let down his guard, a disturbance erupted.

This disturbance emanated from the quarters of the disciples belonging to the Supreme Sect.

Di Hongyun was poised to take action when Gu Chaoyan intervened, halting him in his tracks.

Her gaze fixated on the concealed opening they had crafted.

It was them!

They were the two disciples from the Moon Sect, or to be more precise, the same two individuals she believed she had encountered in Xuhai City.

Their intentions did not bode well. Were they the culprits behind the disappearance of the disciples?

As Gu Chaoyan pondered these unsettling questions...

...a surge of mystical energy characteristic of a Paragon Warrior filled the air.

They launched an assault on the disciples of the Supreme Sect within the room.

Di Hongyun was on the verge of charging forward, but it was the Head of the Undead Race who halted him, not Gu Chaoyan.

In the brief moment it took for the Head of the Undead Race to intervene, one of the Supreme Sect's disciples in the room had already met their demise.

Di Hongyun fixed the Head of the Undead Race with a furious, red-eyed glare, but he refrained from uttering a single word.

Two disciples from the Supreme Sect had perished right before their eyes. It was an utterly unacceptable tragedy, yet...

Choices always loomed before them.

Gu Chaoyan concealed her emotions and continued to observe the unfolding events.

Members of the Moon Sect confiscated the spiritual roots of the two deceased disciples, then produced a vial of mysterious elixir, sprinkling it over the bodies. Soon, the bodies liquefied into a pool of water. The two Moon Sect disciples departed with an air of disdain.

"Let's follow them," Gu Chaoyan suggested in a hushed tone.

Subsequently, the two disciples departed. Gu Chaoyan had initially anticipated that they would persist in assaulting disciples from other schools, but they did not. Instead, they exited the room and headed toward an isolated location.

Gu Chaoyan remained in pursuit.

She wished to uncover the nature of the relationship between these two individuals.

Seizing another person's spiritual roots was a profoundly malevolent method!

Moreover, the manner in which they handled the disciples this time differed from their previous approach. They employed a bone-melting solution this time, whereas the previous disciples had merely vanished. Could this alteration be attributed to their inability to deal with the bodies effectively now?

And who stood as their mastermind?

Was it the Moon Sect, or was there another force at play?

After a short journey, Gu Chaoyan brought Di Hongyun and the Head of the Undead Race to a halt.

She spotted additional figures emerging ahead, and pressing onward would risk exposing them. Therefore, they needed to find concealment here and observe the unfolding events.

Although the distance was considerable, it didn't hinder her.

Her hearing surpassed that of an average person.

She held firm in her belief that she could distinctly and comprehensively hear everything.

"How dare you!" The woman's enraged cry echoed through the air..

Chapter 2168: Truth 1

Gu Chaoyan recognized the voice immediately, a deep-rooted familiarity that sent shivers down her spine. This was the same woman who had assaulted Huaijin.

Pei Yueling, the daughter of the Grand Unity's leader, had some ominous connection to the vanishing disciples, and Gu Chaoyan's expression remained impassive as she eavesdropped on their conversation.

"Why couldn't you wait?" Gu Chaoyan's voice dripped with exasperation. "Did you not consider the repercussions of your actions here on Wuyuan Island? The noise you've created is enough to draw unwanted attention. Capturing those disciples was already risky, but now this spectacle? Grow some discretion! If you jeopardize our operations, don't expect any sympathy from me." Pei Yueling snapped, her irritation palpable. "I spent all of yesterday cleaning up your mess. How do you intend to rectify it today?"

The two culprits exchanged nervous glances, clearly intimidated by Pei Yueling's wrath. They quickly explained, "We were on the verge of a crucial breakthrough, so close to giving up. That's

why we took this risk, Senior Sister. Please, spare us. We won't engage in such actions from now on. And we've ensured today's operation was discreet; no one will discover it."

Pei Yueling remained silent for a moment, contemplating their words. "It certainly stirred up quite the commotion, yet remains unresolved," they added with an attempt at flattery.

Only then did Pei Yueling's anger begin to dissipate, though her disapproval remained evident. She had not anticipated such audacity from the two without her consent, a fact that still irked her. Observing their changed demeanor, she found some satisfaction in their newfound humility.

"In the future, exercise caution," Pei Yueling emphasized as she departed, "You must handle things discreetly to avoid drawing attention. With so many schools and Elder Men on Wuyuan Island, the old cuttlefish might catch wind of something. "

Gu Chaoyan, Di Hongyun, and the Head of the Undead Race exchanged uneasy glances.

The mention of the "Old Cuttlefish" referred to them, not the old squid, and the weight of that realization hung heavily upon them.

They waited in silence until everyone had left before cautiously returning.

Their endeavor had yielded valuable information. They now knew that two disciples from the Moon Sect had been posing as Senior Sisters from the Grand Unity Sect. This indicated they were associated with the Grand Unity Sect, and if they were infiltrating the Moon Sect, it boded ill for the sect's future.

Upon their return to their quarters, Di Hongyun, who had been uncharacteristically silent, suddenly erupted in frustration. "You, you stopped me! If you hadn't, those two Junior Brothers wouldn't have died! What a cold and ruthless woman!"

"Idiot!" The Head of the Undead Race intervened, his tone stern. "Even if you had intervened, you wouldn't have been able to stop them. You would have jeopardized all of us and achieved nothing. Those two were elite Paragon Warriors, while we three lack martial prowess. Do you not grasp that? We were powerless to halt them!"

Di Hongyun.

“If she hadn’t stopped you, you would have ruined everything.”

“Now is not the time for blind loyalty,” she lectured with utmost seriousness..

Chapter 2169 - Truth 2

Gu Chaoyan spoke candidly in front of Di Hongyun, regretting his impulsive actions. He had acted recklessly, and had it not been for the intervention of the Head of the Undead Race, they would have been in grave danger. While it was true that Di Hongyun bore some responsibility, he remained oblivious to the gravity of his mistake, which was deeply unsettling.

Di Hongyun was a constant presence by Gu Chaoyan’s side. If he didn’t wish to continue this companionship in the future, he could always return to his former life. His loyalty was unwavering, and there would always be those who would stand up for him.

However...

If he intended to journey alongside her in the future, things could not stay the same. Beyond the inconvenience he caused her, what concerned Gu Chaoyan the most was the potential peril he might face. If Gu Chaoyan were to take responsibility for him, she needed to be absolutely clear with him.

“Do you still wish to remain at my side in the days to come, or would you prefer to stay with Senior Brother Lv Zhengyang and the others? If you find it disagreeable, you are welcome to remain by Senior Brother Lv Zhengyang’s side. If you are committed to staying with me, you must comprehend the circumstances we face. It may be harsh, but it’s the reality. At times, you must make a choice,” Gu Chaoyan told him firmly.

Di Hongyun differed from the Head of the Undead Race. The Head of the

Undead Race had acquired wisdom through numerous experiences, but Di Hongyun had been sheltered by his Senior Brothers and the Supreme Sect, leaving him somewhat naive about the true nature of their predicament.

In truth, Gu Chaoyan herself was often perplexed. There were moments when she questioned whether having Di Hongyun by her side was a mistake.

Today, she intended to give him the autonomy to make that choice for himself.

Upon hearing Gu Chaoyan's words, Di Hongyun appeared shocked and then concerned. He responded, "Junior Sister, I wish to remain with you."

When it came to following his Junior Sister, Di Hongyun's emotions were a tangled web.

Initially, he had been eager to do so, motivated by a profound debt of gratitude. His Junior Sister had once rescued him from members of the Grand Unity Door, and he believed that following her was his way of repaying that kindness. His intention was to be of assistance to her.

However, as time passed, Di Hongyun came to realize that his Junior Sister didn't actually require his help. She consistently looked after him and seemed entirely self-sufficient.

Yet, despite this, he still harbored a strong desire to remain at her side. The reasons behind this perplexed him.

Upon careful reflection, he surmised that it was because he felt a sense of authenticity when he was with his Junior Sister. Not only did he feel that she was genuine, but he also felt more true to himself.

For instance, in moments like this one, where he had made a mistake, Junior Sister would likely become angry, reprimand him, and perhaps even suggest that he shouldn't accompany her. However, when she was with Senior Brother Zhengyang, such scenarios rarely occurred. She had never held him accountable for his errors.

Or perhaps, having Junior Sister around imbued many aspects of life with meaning.

In any case, he realized he needed time to process certain things, such as

Junior Sister's occasional aloofness and her choices. Nevertheless, he remained resolute in his determination to work for her.

“I want to stay with you. Regarding what transpired today, I will reflect on my actions,” Di Hongyun declared firmly.

Gu Chaoyan nodded in response..

Chapter 2170 - The Contest at Wuyuan Island 1

Seeing Gu Chaoyan nod in agreement, Di Hongyun felt completely reassured. He then reverted to his usual cheerful demeanor, chuckled dumbly, and shot a playful glare at the Head of the Undead Race.

In response, the Head of the Undead Race wore a perfectly innocent expression. He believed he had no involvement in this matter and had committed no wrongdoing.

“So, what should be our next course of action? We are aware that the two individuals from the Moon Sect are not genuine Moon Sect disciples but refer to the woman from the Grand Unity Sect as ‘Senior Sister.’ This implies they are the culprits. Should we report this to the sect? Let the Elder Men handle it, and remove these troublemakers this morning?” Di Hongyun suggested.

Deep down, Di Hongyun held a firm belief that the Elder Men were the most capable authority figures capable of resolving any situation.

However, both Gu Chaoyan and the Head of the Undead Race simultaneously shook their heads.

Reporting the incident to the Supreme Sect at this juncture didn’t seem like the right course of action.

“Not at this moment,” Gu Chaoyan rejected the proposal.

“This matter involves both the Moon Sect and the Grand Unity Sect, and we lack concrete evidence. We were mere witnesses to the incident, and it wouldn’t be appropriate to involve the Elder Men just yet. Let’s wait for the upcoming contest and revisit the issue afterward. I might be able to devise a plan to coax those two individuals into revealing themselves during the contest,” Gu Chaoyan suggested, contemplating her next steps.

Upon hearing this, Di Hongyun chose not to press the matter further. He had full confidence in his Junior Sister's resourcefulness.

If that was her plan, then perhaps it was the best way to handle the situation, especially since they had no concrete evidence.

He anticipated having to explain the situation to the Elder Men, but even if they believed him, what about the other schools? Would they also trust his account?

This was a matter that required careful consideration.

After Gu Chaoyan had finished her instructions, she advised the two of them to take a brief respite.

Meanwhile, she pondered the situation. According to her recollection, those two individuals from the Moon Sect were meant to be participants from their own sect. However, the contests on Wuyuan Island had always adhered to strict rules, with participants being exclusively Paragon Warriors.

These two individuals were already exceptional Supreme Warriors, almost guaranteed to triumph over the Paragon Warriors in the contest. The woman had instructed them to conceal their true strength for now, with the intention of revealing their true abilities to all the major sects.

This strategy would undoubtedly draw significant attention to their sect, making it unnecessary for them to worry about concealing their identities any longer. Gu Chaoyan found solace in this plan and decided to take a break herself.

The following day...

It was the day of the contest.

Despite the continuous troubles caused by disciples from various major sects, the contest remained the focal point. The spring water from Wuyuan Island held immense importance for all the schools.

Simultaneously, someone was investigating the disappearance of disciples.

Two more disciples from the Supreme Sect had met unfortunate ends, causing a momentary concern among the Elder Men, who subsequently convened on the field.

For this contest...

The Grand Unity Sect, Moon Sect, Supreme Sect, Baiyun Sect, and Fengyun Sect were all active participants in the event. These renowned sects held a prominent status on the continent, with the Grand Unity Sect standing out as the most influential, particularly in recent years. Their remarkable progress had positioned them as potential contenders among the super sects.

Despite their significant presence and influence, the major sects coexisted harmoniously in relative peace.

The competition took place on Wuyuan Island..