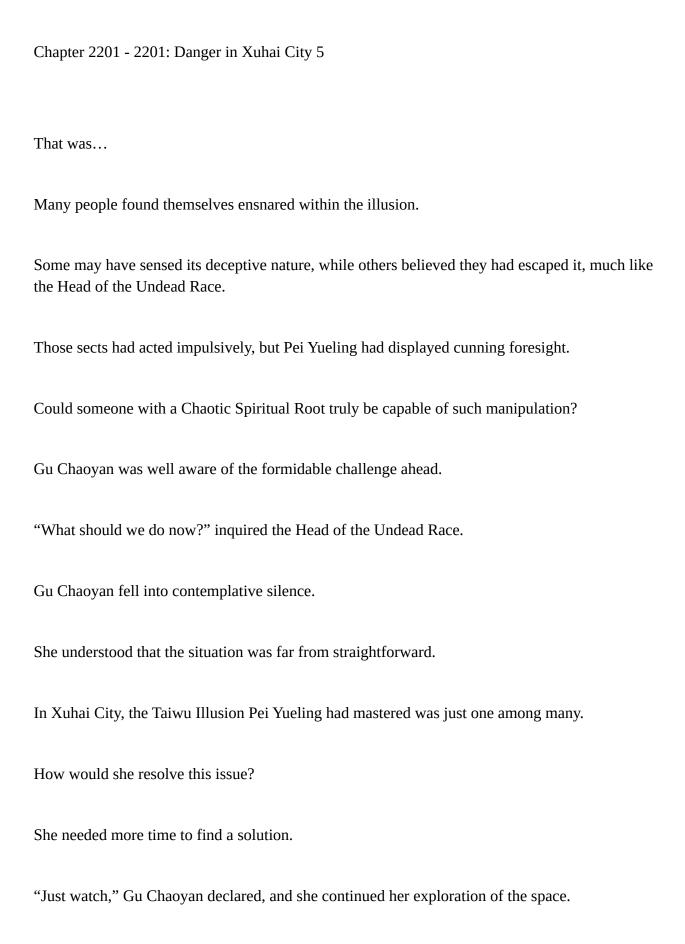
Divine 2201



Hours turned into days as she delved into the books. Within the tomes stored in this space, numerous illusions were documented, but only one held the key to a resolution. The rest remained enigmatic. What could be done? Gu Chaoyan's anxiety mounted. "Why can't you grasp it?" Huang Fu's voice suddenly echoed in her ears. "You're back?" Gu Chaoyan exclaimed in surprise, but Huang Fu wore a disappointed expression. "I'll accompany you," Huang Fu declared, then promptly exited the illusion. Before Gu Chaoyan could fully grasp the situation, Huang Fu vanished. She followed suit, emerging from the illusion, but Huang Fu was nowhere in sight. Almost instantly, all the disciples from various schools surrounded her. Had the illusion dissipated? That was Gu Chaoyan's initial thought. As she comprehended the reality, Gu Chaoyan surmised that the illusion had indeed vanished, possibly due to Huang Fu's assistance. "What's happening?" the Head of the Undead Race inquired, clearly perplexed. "The illusion has dissipated," Gu Chaoyan confirmed.

With that proclamation, Gu Chaoyan surveyed the scene more closely. Half of the disciples had succumbed to the illusion, and the remaining ones were in a state of distress. Elder Lin was conspicuously absent.

Only a few panicked disciples from the Supreme Sect remained.

"Pei Yueling, you fiend!" Accusations began to fly at Pei Yueling.

Originally, their mission in Xuhai City was to exterminate the Undead Race, but Pei Yueling had manipulated them. She had coveted their lives, and witnessing many of their comrades fall to her machinations had ignited their anger. Pei Yueling, however, appeared unfazed and even elated. "He's here?" She could sense his presence.

Intuitively understanding the situation, Pei Yueling held these so-called disciples in disdain. She merrily pursued her target, leaving behind a trail of cursing disciples.

"It seems she's gone to seek someone," the Head of the Undead Race observed.

"Anyone can see that," Gu Chaoyan retorted sharply.

Was she searching for Huang Fu because he had disrupted her illusion?

Gu Chaoyan suspected as much, though she couldn't be certain.

However, at this moment...

The most pressing matter was to exit Xuhai City without delay.

Xuhai City was already firmly under Pei Yueling's control. They were at a disadvantage here and needed to escape.

With this determination in mind, Gu Chaoyan exclaimed, "Lead us out of Xuhai City!"

Upon hearing these words, the disciples felt a renewed sense of resolve.



The Undead Race, an irksome existence, could not be extinguished.

In that very moment, the Undead Race began their assault, some still bearing the tattered remnants of school uniforms stained with blood.

The disciples shivered at the sight, sensing that unless they could escape Xuhai City, their fate might mirror that of their assailants.

The revelation that Grand Unity Sect was consorting with the Undead Race fueled their resentment.

"Watch out for their blood," Gu Chaoyan cautioned, joining the fray.

Within the illusion, many disciples found themselves in peril, with over half already fallen. Nevertheless, more than 2,000 individuals remained, pitted against hundreds of Undead Race members. Victory remained within their grasp, provided that Pei Yueling did not return too swiftly.

Their primary objective was to swiftly conclude the battle. Gu Chaoyan harnessed her inherited powers, striking down numerous advancing Undead Race adversaries. However, these relentless foes seemed impervious to her attacks, repeatedly rising as if untouched by harm.

Exhaustion weighed heavily upon the sect's disciples, while the skinless monstrosities pressed on relentlessly.

"We cannot persist like this. What do you believe the Undead Race fears the most?" Gu Chaoyan inquired, also serving as the Head of the Undead Race.

The Head of the Undead Race hesitated momentarily. There were indeed things that struck fear into the Undead Race, but revealing these vulnerabilities would put the Undead Race at a disadvantage. His concern was not for the Undead Race present but for the ancient Undead Race, and he couldn't divulge this information so easily.

"Fire," he finally admitted after careful consideration.

Fire could desiccate them and inflict lasting agony, although it couldn't kill them outright.

Without hesitation, Gu Chaoyan summoned her Phoenix Fire. The Undead Race dared not approach her, writhing in pain as the flames enveloped them. The mastery of Phoenix Fire by a Martial God

like her left many disciples astonished.

"Let's find a way to break the enchantment surrounding Xuhai City so we can escape," Gu Chaoyan

urged.

The enchantment was, in reality, an intricate array formation, always anchored to an array

formation's core. If they could locate and destroy the array's core, the enchantment would dissipate.

Pei Yueling had constructed the barrier that trapped them in Xuhai City, so the key elements of the

enchantment lay within the city.

She possessed a deep familiarity with Xuhai City, having been here before, along with the Head of

the Undead Race.

"It's over there!"

Chapter 2203 - 2203: Escape 1

The leader of the Undead Race bellowed at Gu Chaoyan with a burst of excitement.

Being well-acquainted with Xuhai City, he swiftly pinpointed the array's core location, making

earnest contributions to the mission rather than being a hindrance.

Gu Chaoyan, amidst her attempts to repel the Undead Race using the Phoenix Fire, turned to

acknowledge the Undead Race leader, signifying that he should take charge of this task.

In response, the Undead Race leader offered her an assuring glance and proceeded towards the

array's core.

In that very moment, Gu Chaoyan, in her endeavor to not only ward off the Undead Race controlled by Pei Yueling but also to incinerate them with the searing power of the phoenix, pressed on.

The phoenix's flames elicited painful cries from many of the Undead Race, and those fortunate enough to remain unharmed hesitated to advance.

The Undead Race leader, resolute in his mission, obliterated the array's core.

At this juncture, Gu Chaoyan had no intention of further engaging with the

Undead Race. Instead, she shouted with fervor, "Escape!"

Upon hearing her command, the disciples comprehended the situation and began making their way out of Xuhai City.

Over a thousand disciples remained, and it would take some time for all of them to evacuate. During this period, Gu Chaoyan would focus on dismantling Pei Yueling's Undead Race forces.

Initially hesitant, the Undead Race leader eventually joined the effort.

These Undead Races were not true representatives of their kind. They lacked the consciousness that true Undead Race beings possessed, as they were mere puppets under Pei Yueling's control. If left unchecked, they would only sow discord and potentially lead to misunderstandings among the genuine ancient Undead Race.

For instance, the conflict with the human race had been instigated by these manipulated beings, dragging the authentic ancient Undead Race into the turmoil as well.

Upon learning of the situation, the Head of the Undead Race showed no mercy, immediately launching an onslaught against the Undead Race.

Amidst the fierce combat, Gu Chaoyan reached out to him, urging, "Just withdraw."

Despite his initial inclination to annihilate the remaining hundred or so Undead Race members, the Head of the Undead Race hesitated.

"I can't predict when Pei Yueling will return. While it's regrettable that we haven't wiped out the Undead Race completely, it's not worth risking a confrontation with Pei Yueling alone. These

Undead Race members are still immature, and we can handle them. However, we're no match for

Pei Yueling," Gu Chaoyan persuasively argued.

There were pivotal decisions to be made, and learning to make the right ones ensured they weren't

at a disadvantage—a lesson they were currently living.

Though the Head of the Undead Race wore a regretful expression, he relented upon hearing Gu

Chaoyan's words.

He followed Gu Chaoyan as they hastily made their way toward Xuhai City's gates, escaping the

clutches of the Undead Race.

Meanwhile, the trapped Undead Race remained confined within.

The disciples anxiously awaited Gu Chaoyan's return. As they saw her emerge, an elder from the

school inquired, "What about the disciples' remains? It appears that Pei Yueling intends to use them

for her sinister purposes." The lifeless bodies...

For Pei Yueling, they represented a significant opportunity for skill enhancement and the creation of

more Undead Race minions.

Leaving this matter unattended would be catastrophic.

Yet...

If that were the chosen path...

Chapter 2204 - 2204: Escape 2

Time was slipping away, and the most crucial task at hand was preserving the lives of those who remained. This had always been Gu Chaoyan's steadfast belief.

"None of us can stand against Pei Yueling. It seems she's focused on someone else for now, granting us a window to escape. There are too many deceased disciples' bodies here for us to carry. It's only a matter of time before Pei

Yueling returns. We must return to the school promptly and disclose the truth about the situation in Xuhai City."

"Furthermore..."

"...," a hesitant murmur.

"We've uncovered Pei Yueling's secret, and we've glimpsed the true malevolence of the Grand Unity Sect. If we rush back now, we might bring calamity upon the sect, and Pei Yueling and the Grand Unity Sect might pursue us relentlessly."

' more contemplative silence.

"When you return to the sect, exercise extreme caution and devise a plan without delay."

Gu Chaoyan's words illuminated the minds of everyone present.

It made sense!

Pei Yueling had initially intended to silence them to ensure that today's events remained hidden. However, circumstances had shifted. They had managed to escape, and when they did, word would spread to all the major sects.

How long could the Grand Unity Sect protect them?

For a moment, they were torn, uncertain whether returning home was the right choice. Going back could indeed bring dire consequences to their school!

"Is there any alternative, perhaps avoiding a return to the school?" Elder Man subconsciously inquired of Gu Chaoyan, as if she were their guiding force. It was thanks to her that they had managed to break free from the clutches of the school.

"Even if Pei Yueling doesn't return to the school, it's only a matter of time before she takes action against your school. She's already manipulating the school's disciples, and what transpired in Xuhai City will repeat itself. By the third occurrence, it will become exceedingly challenging for her to target your school," Gu Chaoyan stated bluntly.

Pei Yueling had already laid such plans in motion.

There was no evading it.

That was the unfortunate reality they faced.

"The top priority now is to return to our respective sects and divulge the truth. Together, we can devise a strategy to confront the Grand Unity Sect," Gu Chaoyan added cautiously.

With that said...

She had no desire to linger here any longer, so she urged them to depart.

Their concern was that Pei Yueling could reappear at any moment, and by then, those remaining would be in grave danger.

Disciples from the major sects were flying back to their respective sects using Sword Kinesis Flight.

In Xuhai City, chaos reigned, and many disciples from the major sects had perished. The majority hailed from the Fengyun Sect, with only a few belonging to the Supreme Sect.

There were now less than 100 scattered survivors.

Elder Lin had also vanished.

Gu Chaoyan had no information on the situation, and she could only wait until she returned to the school. Upon their arrival at the Supreme Sect, they were greeted by a sect member. Observing only 100 individuals returning, she was taken aback. "What happened?" "Let's return to the school first," Gu Chaoyan replied. As they passed by the Array Sect, Gu Chaoyan didn't take the lead. Instead, she lagged behind. She hadn't had the chance earlier, but now she intended to find Yan Wuji. He was an outer sect disciple who had accompanied her to Xuhai City. She had left Yan Wuji many things, and as long as he used them, he would be fine. But as she looked about... Gu Chaoyan did not see Yan Wuji. Something happened to him? But Zhuo Yuanbai flashed past her, all of a sudden.. Chapter 2205 - 2205: Zhuo Yuanbai's Evil Act 1 Gu Chaoyan firmly grasped Zhuo Yuanbai's arm, her grip unyielding. She held onto Zhuo Yuanbai, not out of enmity, but due to a strange sensation of her own essence

emanating from him. It was perplexing. The only plausible explanation was that Zhuo Yuanbai

possessed something left by Yan Wuji.

"What are you doing?" Zhuo Yuanbai exclaimed, his voice echoing loudly.

"How dare you!" Gu Chaoyan retorted, her voice laced with anger. "I'm an inner sect disciple, and you, an outer sect disciple, should address me as Senior

Sister. How dare you!"

Zhuo Yuanbai hesitated but complied reluctantly.

"Now, hand it over!" Gu Chaoyan demanded, her gaze fixed intently on him.

"Hand what over?"

"Give me Yan Wuji's belongings," Gu Chaoyan stated, her eyes narrowing dangerously. Zhuo Yuanbai panicked, yet he responded with a hint of confidence, "No.'

"Remember, everything I gave to Yan Wuji carries my magical essence," Gu Chaoyan warned, determined not to let him off the hook.

Zhuo Yuanbai's mood darkened.

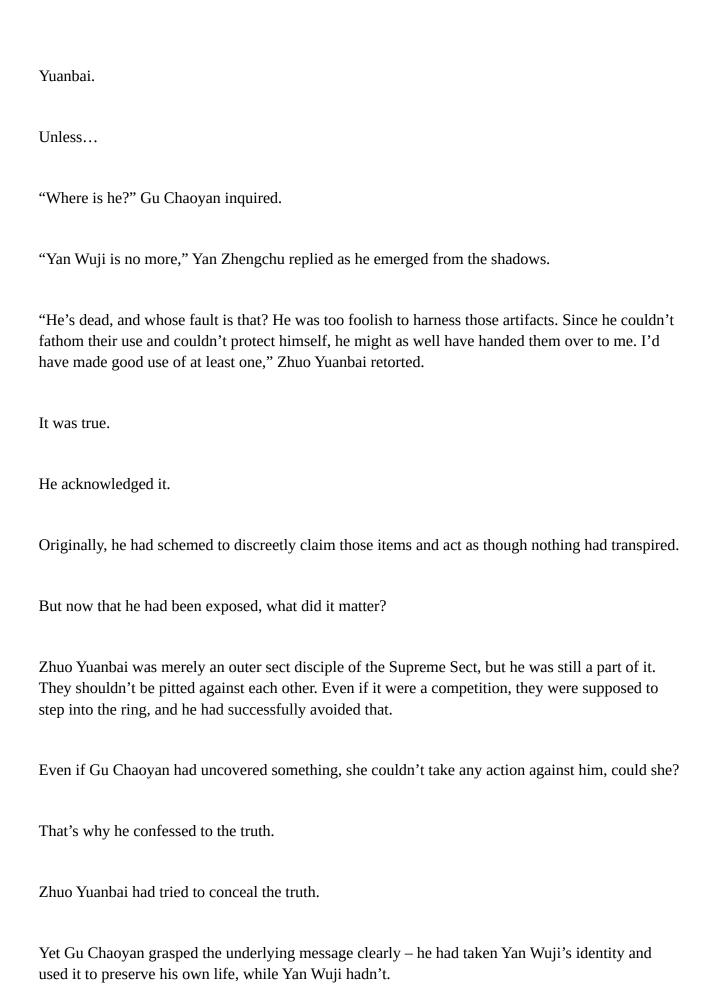
Gu Chaoyan was an inner sect disciple, and the chasm between inner and outer sect members was substantial.

Inner sect disciples were skilled at conserving energy.

"Why bother giving them to him? He lacks the expertise to use them, so he entrusted them to me," Zhuo Yuanbai admitted openly, surprising everyone present.

She retrieved the items from her storage space. Aside from the magical essence and the charm, everything else remained intact.

"He gave them to you?" Yan Wuji was no fool to hand them directly to Zhuo



Yan Wuji was the Yan Family's last hope.
But Zhuo Yuanbai was truly exasperating!
He was convinced that Gu Chaoyan wouldn't dare to do anything to him.
However, she was Gu Chaoyan, and there was nothing beyond her capabilities.
Gu Chaoyan stashed away the evidence.
Zhuo Yuanbai had no choice but to acknowledge that those possessions were not his own.
He had to come to terms with it.
His life was saved.
After Gu Chaoyan put away the stuff, she used the power of inheritance and struck at Zhuo Yuanbai directly. That strike almost killed Zhuo Yuanbai.
Zhuo Yuanbai looked at Gu Chaoyan in disbelief.
She was really going to do that to him?
"Surprised, huh?"
Chapter 2206 - 2206: Zhuo Yuanbai's Evil Act 2

"You and I hail from the same school, and it's imperative that we refrain from causing harm to one another. Are you aware that your actions are in direct violation of our school's regulations?" Zhuo Yuanbai whispered apprehensively, desperately trying to ensure his own safety. He knew that if Gu Chaoyan struck him again, it could mean his demise.

However, what he couldn't have anticipated was the extent of this woman's madness, willing to sacrifice her own future for the sake of Yan Wuji. What could possibly be driving her to such extremes?

"And what if I am?" Gu Chaoyan remained impassive as she readied herself to strike at Zhuo Yuanbai once more.

Zhuo Yuanbai met his end right then and there, leaving the onlookers among the disciples in utter disbelief. It was the first time they had ever witnessed a member of their own sect take the life of a fellow disciple, albeit with her own motives. Despite their shock, most chose not to challenge the established rules, motivated by their own aspirations for the future.

"You're well-informed about the situation in Xuhai City, and you're also aware of my intentions. I leave the Supreme Sect in your hands. I have other matters to attend to," Gu Chaoyan conveyed to the Head of the Undead Race before promptly departing.

"She escaped?" The Head of the Undead Race was perplexed by Gu Chaoyan's actions.

"No, she has returned to the Shenyou Continent. The Zhuo Family of the Shenyou Continent is on the brink of extinction," Yan Zhengchu responded calmly, a glint of satisfaction in his eyes.

He had wisely chosen not to oppose the Yan Family, considering the dire consequences that would have befallen him as the Prince.

"Ah, I see." The Head of the Undead Race replied calmly, concluding that it had indeed been Gu Chaoyan who orchestrated these events.

Elder Man from the Supreme Sect was on the verge of pursuing Gu Chaoyan..

However, the Head of the Undead Race intervened, his tone composed as he stated, "An incident has transpired in Xuhai City. All those disciples were manipulated by Pei Yueling and have met

their demise. Pei Yueling is also the one responsible for raising the Undead Race in Xuhai City. The deceased disciples will have their very roots plucked and be assimilated into the Undead

Race she controls. We've now unveiled this secret to your sect, placing Supreme

Sect in a precarious situation. We must focus on devising a strategy to confront Pei Yueling."

Recalling that Gu Chaoyan had asked him to relay the events in Xuhai City before her departure, the Head of the Undead Race breathed a sigh of relief, having fulfilled his mission. He entrusted the remainder to the elders.

Elder Man regarded the Head of the Undead Race with a perplexed expression.

This unconventional-looking woman was undeniably a disciple of Supreme Sect. Why had he never encountered such an unorthodox female disciple from Supreme Sect before? Furthermore, she appeared detached from the sect's affairs. It was a puzzling situation, which perhaps explained his proximity to Gu Chaoyan.

With a resigned sigh, Elder Man from Supreme Sect proceeded to address the matter. Initially, it seemed like a minor incident, but upon closer reflection, it became apparent that something significant had occurred. The audacity of Grand Unity Sect and Pei Yueling was staggering.

The prevailing hypothesis was that the Grand Unity Sect intended to incite discord among the various sects. Given the Grand Unity Sect's formidable capabilities, any aggressive moves from them would undoubtedly spell trouble for Supreme Sect and the others.

"Let us return and deliberate on how to tackle this predicament.."

Chapter 2207 - 2207: The Zhuo Family's Destruction 1

When Elder Man of the Supreme Sect abruptly departed, he tightly grasped the leader of the Undead Race.

The leader of the Undead Race wore a deeply perplexed expression. What did this entail for him?

He had been collaborating with Gu Chaoyan, necessitating his support in all matters. However, Supreme Sect's involvement offered him no advantages. Why drag him along in the first place?

The elderly man possessed formidable strength, making it impossible to shake him off.

The leader of the Undead Race appeared utterly helpless.

As disciples from the major sects returned to their respective sects...

In Xuhai City, Pei Yueling was enduring a miserable time. She had sensed his presence but couldn't locate him. Her initial joy had turned into irritation.

Upon her return to Xuhai City, her intention had been to exploit the spiritual resources and practices of thousands of disciples to alleviate her displeasure.

However, when she arrived in Xuhai City, she was greeted by the sight of hundreds of deceased Undead Race members. Aside from those who had perished within the illusion, the rest had all vanished, and the protective enchantment lay shattered.

Pei Yueling seethed with anger. "You're all useless!"

She launched an attack on the Undead Race members, who continued to cry out. For a moment, Xuhai City took on a menacing appearance.

"What should we do? If those disciples escape, we'll undoubtedly be exposed to the major sects. It's possible that not only you but also the Grand Unity Sect will be implicated," the man beside her cautioned her after she had vented her fury.

This was the immediate issue they needed to address. The Undead Race members in Xuhai City were their own kin, and attacking them proved futile.

Pei Yueling's expression darkened.

Nothing was proceeding as planned!

Her mood took a sour turn as numerous problems marred what had initially seemed like a flawless plan.

"What's there to be afraid of?" Pei Yueling retorted, clearly displeased by his timidity.

"We may indeed be more powerful than the other major sects individually, but if they unite, it could pose a challenge. Furthermore, there's substantial dissent within the Grand Unity Sect regarding your practices..." the man explained.

"In that case, we'll simply prevent them from uniting," Pei Yueling snapped. "Moon Sect has leaned on our support for a long time; a little persuasion will keep them loyal. As for the Fengyun Sect and Baiyun Sect, they aren't particularly formidable. Even if they join forces, they'll emerge severely weakened. If the Grand Unity Sect arranges for someone to discuss cooperation, they'll likely acquiesce."

"Of course, we don't have to tolerate any resistance, but..."

"We'll deal with the mighty Supreme Sects first, then dismantle them one by one. Those sects are as good as gone; it's all part of the premeditated plan," Pei Yueling regained her confidence in an instant.

The failure in Xuhai City was but a minor setback.

The reason for her setback had been his unexpected appearance and interference.

Given the circumstances, they could simply expedite the plan.

"Excellent, excellent!" the man grinned, thoroughly pleased with the strategy.

When the Grand Unity Sect absorbed these sects, they would swiftly ascend to super sect status.

Thinking about this bright future...



A sharp voice cut through the air, proclaiming, "Our Zhuo Yuanbai is on the verge of being admitted to the inner sect, and he has already gained the favor of the Elder Men.

At the mention of Zhuo Yuanbai's name, Gu Chaoyan's interest was piqued, drawing her towards the source of the conversation.

The voice continued enthusiastically, "Furthermore, Yuan Ming is participating in the Supreme Sect's examination this year. He possesses the coveted Golden Rolls and has honed his skills diligently. Yuan Bai insists that he's a shoo-in for the Supreme Sect."

The tone dripped with pride, but it left Gu Chaoyan with a furrowed brow.

Had the Zhuo Family always been mistreating the Yan Family?

Initially planning to avoid the lively atmosphere, Gu Chaoyan decided to step in directly. "You can't simply waltz into the inner sect at will. We have 4,000 outer sect disciples, and Zhuo Yuanbai's rank is barely within the top 3,000. He isn't eligible for this year's examination. How can he expect to enter the inner sect so easily?"

"Recognized by Elder Men? He possesses only a Heaven Spiritual Root, while anyone acknowledged by the Supreme Sect's Elder Men must possess a mutated one. Heaven Spiritual Roots are far too common," Gu Chaoyan added, her tone devoid of politeness.

Madame Zhuo's anger flared. "Who do you think you are?"

Before she could finish her sentence, Gu Chaoyan revealed herself in the attire of an inner sect disciple of the Supreme Sect. She had earned the right to speak her mind, and many onlookers began to chuckle.

Such a direct rebuttal was a rare sight.

Madame Yan, on the other hand, beamed upon seeing Gu Chaoyan. "Oh,

Chaoyan has returned!"

"Chaoyan, you're already an inner sect disciple? When did this happen?"

Madame Yan asked with astonishment and pride.

"Elder Beastmaster has approved and accepted me as an inner sect disciple of the Beastmaster Sect. I am the only disciple who can simultaneously take the inner sect examination," Gu Chaoyan retorted arrogantly to Mrs. Zhuo.

Madame Yan swelled with pride. She looked at Madame Zhuo proudly.

"Also..."

"Your Zhuo Yuanming is not qualified to enter Supreme Sect any more. He will never be qualified in his life." Madame Zhuo's face changed.

What did that mean?

"You want to bend the law and use your identity as an inner sect disciple to deal with us? Supreme Sect has rules that forbid this from happening.."

Chapter 2209 - 2209: The Zhuo Family's Destruction 3

Upon hearing Gu Chaoyan's words, Madame Zhuo felt a surge of anxiety wash over her. She hailed from no sect herself, but in the grand tapestry of the Shenyou Dynasty, it was customary for noble families and dynasties to send their progeny to esteemed sects like the Supreme Sect. Those fortunate enough to gain acceptance into such sects always maintained a strong connection, even when circumstances took them away from their family clans. They never failed to mention their sect.

The distinction between outer sect disciples and inner sect disciples within the Supreme Sect was common knowledge throughout the Shenyou Dynasty.

Inner sect disciples enjoyed the privileges of sect membership, with access to a wealth of knowledge beyond the reach of their outer sect counterparts. Furthermore, they held prestigious positions within the sect hierarchy. If Madame Zhuo truly harbored intentions, her path to influence was unobstructed. Unbeknownst to the Zhuo Family, the woman before them, a member of the Yan Family, had ascended to the coveted status of an inner disciple within the Supreme Sect. Manipulating matters concerning the Zhuo Family would be a straightforward task for her. Fear had taken hold of Madame Zhuo. She dreaded the possibility of a calculated vendetta by Gu Chaoyan that could undermine the flourishing Zhuo Family. This concern prompted her to invoke the rules of the Supreme Sect in front of all, attempting to salvage some dignity for the Zhuo Family while offering a gentle reminder. Yet, her efforts were in vain... She wasn't issuing a threat to Gu Chaoyan, who had already resolved her course of action. With a calm gaze, Gu Chaoyan responded, "The rules of the Supreme Sect? Your qualifications to remind me are insufficient, and I'm more well-versed in them than you are." Indeed. Inner sect disciples of the Supreme Sect were barred from interfering with the examination.

Gu Chaoyan had never harbored intentions of meddling with the examination itself.

However...

Her plan was far more sinister: to ensure that everyone from the Zhuo Family met their demise alongside Yan Wuji!

Yan Wuji's unfortunate encounter in Xuhai City had been no accident; Zhuo Yuanbai's sinister and cunning nature was evident in the shadow cast over those events.

While Zhuo Yuanbai had already met his demise, Gu Chaoyan harbored no intention of sparing the Zhuo Family. What purpose would their preservation serve? To potentially perpetuate a legacy of trouble for the Yan Family for generations to come?

Her objective was clear: to eliminate the root of the issue.

Zhuo Yuanming's qualifications did not meet the standards required for participation in the examination. The connection to the rules of the Supreme

Sect was tenuous at best.

Gu Chaoyan raised her gaze to meet Madame Zhuo's eyes.

Then, without another word, she took her seat as directed by Madame Yan.

Madame Zhuo remained in a state of disarray, left without any solace from those around her.

The accolades and praises flowed freely toward the Yan Family. They now possessed inner sect disciples, a fact that commanded respect and even fear. Many had children at the Supreme Sect, yet they remained as outer sect disciples for years. The Yan Family's rapid ascent in such a short time testified to its extraordinary nature. It was evident which held greater significance and which did not.

The Zhuo Family, it seemed, had brought their troubles upon themselves.

Meanwhile, the Yan Family's resurgence was on the horizon.

A collective sigh of realization swept through the onlookers.

Times had undeniably changed.
Madame Yan beamed with pride.
The transformation of the Yan Family had taken everyone by surprise.
Madame Yan's immense pride became too much for Madame Zhuo to bear. She had contemplated reaching out to Zhuo Yuanbai to gain insights into the current situation concerning him and Yuan Ming.
However, leaving prematurely would have been impolite. So, she persevered, feigning composure in an increasingly uncomfortable environment.
Fortunately, the banquet concluded swiftly.
Madame Zhuo breathed a sigh of relief and made her hasty exit
Chapter 2210 - 2210: The Zhuo Family's Destruction 4
Madame Zhuo departed with a sense of disappointment.
Everyone within the Yan Family was experiencing mixed emotions. Alongside their pride, they celebrated the fact that the Yan Family now boasted an inner sect disciple from the Supreme Sect.
Observing the Yan Family's elation, Gu Chaoyan couldn't help but feel a tinge of bitterness.
If only Yan Wuji hadn't suffered that unfortunate injury, this joy would be unadulterated.
But

Something had indeed befallen Yan Wuji.

Perhaps Gu Chaoyan should have withheld the truth for a while longer, but she had been unwilling to let the members of the Supreme Sect arrive and deliver a sudden shock to the Yan Family.

The situation within the Yan Family was far from ideal.

It was only right to prepare them in advance. That was the responsible thing to do.

"Chaoyan, what's on your mind?" Madame Yan inquired, her tone teasing and her demeanor quite cheerful.

Madame Yan was a blunt and forthright person, a demeanor shaped by the hardships the Yan Family had endured. Now that things were finally looking up, her straightforwardness had only intensified.

Gu Chaoyan offered a smile but chose not to respond.

Madame Yan insisted that she join them and added with a grin, "For some reason, this year has been exceptionally favorable for the Yan Family. Yan Shuang has returned, two of our own have joined the Supreme Sect, and most importantly, Chaoyan, you've ascended to inner sect status so swiftly. There's something else from the Supreme Sect that you haven't had the chance to hear yet."

More good news?

Gu Chaoyan gazed at Madame Yan, her confusion evident.

Had something else extraordinary transpired within the Yan Family since she and Yan Wuji had entered the Supreme Sect?

In fact, Madame Yan was feeling a bit self-conscious herself.

She announced, "I'm expecting again after so many years."

"The Yan Family has only a few children, and I only have Wuji, which has been quite a stark situation. But after all these years, we've been blessed with another child. How unexpected!" Madame Yan's joy was palpable.
What every family clan desired most was a flourishing lineage, which could bring them happiness.
A subconscious smile crossed Gu Chaoyan's face.
Madame Yan was pregnant once more!
She glanced at the slightly protruding belly. It was truly a remarkable occurrence.
Moreover
Having a child meant they still had hope for the future.
As for Wuji
Hopefully, this news would alleviate their sorrow.
Gu Chaoyan's thoughts raced.
"This is truly wonderful news!" Gu Chaoyan was so overjoyed that she struggled to find the right words.
As they continued their conversation, they reached the inner chamber of the Yan Family.
During the banquet, the Yan Family had centered their attention on Gu Chaoyan, who had just returned.
Yan Shuang and Yiqiu were both present, though the Old Master of the Yan Family was absent due to other commitments.

"Chaoyan, what brings you here? Is there some issue with the Supreme Sect?" Zhao Yiqiu inquired.

Traditionally, those who went to the sect rarely had the opportunity to return a few years later. And even if they did, it was usually just for a mission. Yet, nothing significant had transpired in the Shenyou Dynasty, so the Supreme Sect hadn't dispatched any disciples here for missions.

Hence...

Zhao Yiqiu's concern was quite justified.

They felt like a close-knit family.

Gu Chaoyan glanced at Yan Shuang and then at Madame Yan, nodding slightly..