

Divine 2351

Chapter 2351: Mission 31

If she could attain the cultivation of the Paragon Martial God, she would be nearing the half-step Golden Immortal realm. In this state, she could almost catch up to Pei Yueling, or at the very least, gain access to the second world like her. It wouldn't be too distant of a prospect to seek revenge then.

Huaijin?

The thought of Zhou Huaijin, lonely and imprisoned in Longmai Mountain, weighed heavily on Gu Chaoyan's mind.

Her mood shifted as she contemplated Zhou Huaijin.

Suppressing the sorrow within her, she inquired, "What's the mission?"

There was a brief silence within the chaotic spacetime, followed by a voice, "In the northern region of Jinwei Land lies a small country named Baizhou Land. It's similar to Jinwei Land, prohibiting women from cultivating and regarding them as inauspicious beings. Your task is to persuade the people of Baizhou Land to acknowledge the power of women and end their discrimination."

"After completing this mission, you can exit the mission and refine your cultivation in the chaotic spacetime up to the First Heaven of Paragon Martial God."

"What do you think?"

"I agree," Gu Chaoyan replied without much deliberation.

She was eager to advance her cultivation, and the mission's reward was highly enticing. She was more than willing. If she wanted to agree, there was no reason to delay.

The chaotic spacetime emitted a subtle smile, and then his voice faded, gradually growing more distant.

Gu Chaoyan understood that he was likely departing.

As she lay on the bed, her mind was filled with these thoughts.

And then, there was Zhou Huaijin...

As she ruminated on these matters, fatigue overcame Gu Chaoyan, and sleep beckoned.

He waited for her to awaken.

Outside the door, the nanny had been patiently waiting.

Given Gu Chaoyan's current level of cultivation, she could sense if anyone approached. Moreover, the nanny had nothing to hide.

"Madam, what's the matter?" Gu Chaoyan inquired first.

Since they had smoothly entered the pagoda, the nanny had been consistently busy. His presence outside today indicated something significant must have arisen.

"Someone from the palace has arrived. They conveyed that the Emperor wishes to discuss matters with you," the nanny relayed.

On the Emperor of Jinwei Land's side, the woman who had just secured the agreement allowing Jinwei Land's women to cultivate had dispatched someone. She seemed concerned that something of great import was afoot and wanted to address it before resuming her cultivation.

Gu Chaoyan remained unaware of what transpired.

She rose from the bed. "I'll go and see."

Gu Chaoyan proceeded to exit the pagoda. Up to this point, men were not permitted inside, so representatives from the palace could only await her outside.

The eunuchs within the palace held considerable influence, and in front of Xu Xunnan, they dared not display any dissatisfaction.

When Gu Chaoyan emerged, one of them smiled and spoke, "Lady Xu, the Emperor requests your presence."

Gu Chaoyan offered a slight nod.

She motioned for the nanny to oversee the pagoda as she followed suit.

The reason behind the Emperor of Jinwei Land's summon remained unknown to her.

Gu Chaoyan was equally in the dark.

They made their way to the palace of Jinwei Land.

Having been here before, Gu Chaoyan was well-acquainted with the surroundings.

En route, the palace eunuchs exchanged a few words with Gu Chaoyan.

Chapter 2352: Mission 32

Witnessing the cold demeanor on Gu Chaoyan's face, the other party eventually abandoned their grudge.

In a short span, the Imperial Study had been meticulously restored to its original state, erasing any traces of the previous altercation. It was as though nothing untoward had transpired in the Imperial Study.

The Emperor of Jinwei Land was evidently unfazed.

In the presence of the Emperor at the Imperial Study, Gu Chaoyan had not held back, and he was now back at the same location.

Observing Gu Chaoyan's arrival, the Emperor of Jinwei Land appeared in high spirits. "Lady Xu, greetings. I have a matter to discuss with you."

"What is it?" Gu Chaoyan inquired, her expression tinged with curiosity as she calmly took a sip of tea.

"It's like this. Today, in Baizhou Land, they are hosting a grand palace banquet. Jinwei Land needs to send representatives to attend the event. Besides Jinwei Land's princes, they also require envoys. Traditionally, they would select suitable ministers to serve as envoys. However, now that women have been granted the ability to cultivate, the responsibility falls primarily on you. Logically, your pagoda should also nominate individuals to journey to Baizhou Land. Thus, I've come to discuss this matter with you. Of course..."

"It's entirely your choice if you are disinclined," the Emperor of Jinwei Land stated with a smile, making it difficult to discern whether he favored the idea of the pagoda sending representatives or not.

Baizhou Land.

'The envoy.'

Gu Chaoyan swiftly recollected the mission assigned to her by the chaotic spacetime. It was rather convenient that she could make her way to Baizhou Land as part of her journey.

In retrospect, it seemed that the chaotic spacetime often tasked her with missions as if it possessed foreknowledge of future events and prompted her to make choices in advance.

As for her, she had been diligently tracking the unfolding events to fulfill her mission.

Up to this point, Gu Chaoyan still found the missions in the chaotic spacetime to be rather extraordinary.

“Yes, certainly,” Gu Chaoyan assented.

The Emperor of Jinwei Land maintained his smile.

It was apparent that he wished for her to accept the mission.

Naturally, the Emperor of Jinwei Land harbored a desire for her to participate.

What sort of place was Baizhou Land?

It was a nation that held deep-seated prejudice against women.

Xu Xunnan had found himself in a challenging situation, even if he presently agreed to the situation. He remained disgruntled and saw an opportunity to use the situation in Baizhou Land to teach an ignorant girl a lesson. In doing so, he could derive some satisfaction.

The smile on the Emperor of Jinwei Land’s face appeared to signify his delight in seeing Xu Xunnan face difficulties.

He was the emperor, and it was the first time he had been confronted with a threat. How could he readily accept Xu Xunnan?

Observing the Emperor of Jinwei Land, Gu Chaoyan chose not to dispute this matter. She had her own mission in Baizhou Land, one that would bring her substantial benefits.

Upon her return, she intended to address her grievances with the Emperor of Jinwei Land.

Hence...

Outwardly, both the Emperor of Jinwei Land and Gu Chaoyan displayed smiles, but beneath the surface, their intentions were far from benign.

After ascertaining the precise timing for her departure to Baizhou Land, Gu Chaoyan exited the court.

She returned to the pagoda to arrange the rest.

The nanny, upon spotting her, inquired with concern, “Has something occurred?”

“No, I simply wish to discuss something with you regarding Baizhou Land, and I intend to journey there myself,” Gu Chaoyan explained.

“Baizhou Land?” The nanny immediately furrowed her brow. “No, you mustn’t go. Baizhou Land is a place that harbors a deep animosity towards women. If you venture there, you’re likely to face hardship. You cannot rely on those individuals from the palace to safeguard you.”

Chapter 2353: Mission 33

“Due to your cultivation, the emperor and those men are sure to harbor animosity towards you. I’m afraid they eagerly anticipate any mishaps befalling you in Baizhou Land,” the nanny expressed her disapproval, her eyes reflecting deep concern.

Gu Chaoyan had been well aware of this when she accepted the mission within the turbulent spacetime.

In fact, it was precisely because of this awareness that she embraced her mission.

The nanny’s words stemmed from genuine concern for her.

Nevertheless, she had to venture into Baizhou Land.

“Nanny, in Baizhou Land, no one can intimidate me with my current level of cultivation. If I want these girls to have protection, I cannot yield to fear. I must stand up for them. If I shrink from every challenge, these girls will never be able to cultivate properly,” Gu Chaoyan asserted firmly while locking eyes with the nanny.

Initially, the nanny had vehemently objected to this idea.

However, her retort led to a heavy silence.

After all the time they had spent together, the nanny had come to regard Gu Chaoyan as part of her own family. She always dreaded the possibility of Gu Chaoyan facing mistreatment or hardship.

But...

From the very beginning, everything they had undertaken required a willingness to fight.

Someone had to step forward and lead the way in these matters.

Xu Xunnan had always been at the forefront, so certain situations couldn't be avoided.

The nanny no longer opposed this decision.

Yet, her worry remained.

After a brief pause, the nanny suggested, “You may go, but you should not go alone. I'll gather a few girls with strong cultivation skills to accompany you and provide protection.”

Gu Chaoyan found herself inclined to decline the offer subconsciously.

However, when she looked at it from the nanny's perspective, she refrained from refusing.

The nanny was overly concerned about the situation. If Gu Chaoyan were to stay behind, the nanny would undoubtedly fret daily.

Allowing them to accompany her had its merits. It would grant them a chance to explore, assist her, and not be consumed by worry during her absence.

After contemplating this, Gu Chaoyan finally nodded. "Very well, I will approach some individuals and ask if they are willing to come along. If they decline, we'll forget about it."

The nanny remained silent for a moment.

"In addition, Nanny, there's one more matter I need to discuss beforehand," Gu Chaoyan continued, "Upon my return from Baizhou Land, I have other commitments that will require me to leave for an extended period. I will entrust the pagoda to you during my absence."

The nanny was still silent.

"You should prepare yourself mentally," Gu Chaoyan advised.

Originally, she hadn't intended to go into such detail. Yet, in light of the nanny's concern and her reliance on her, Gu Chaoyan wished to ensure that the nanny was mentally prepared so that she wouldn't be caught off guard.

The nanny replied, "Don't worry, Lady Xu. I will manage the pagoda and eagerly await your return."

Gu Chaoyan was somewhat taken aback by the nanny's response.

Then, it struck her.

The nanny genuinely considered her part of her own family.

She would worry in the face of adversity but was overjoyed by the prospect of positive developments.

The departure for Baizhou Land was scheduled for three days hence.

Gu Chaoyan set off with Jinwei Land's team, along with the nanny and ten girls.

This marked the maiden voyage of Jinwei Land's women to Baizhou Land in an envoy capacity.

It was evident that a number of the accompanying soldiers harbored visible discontent and were disapproving of the presence of these women.

On their journey, they encountered numerous individuals who wore stern expressions and treated them with hostility.

Yet, the women paid no heed to these reactions.

Chapter 2354: Mission 34

So, what if these soldiers were unhappy?

In any case, these women were focused on their cultivation. Their well-honed abilities rendered them impervious to bullying by disgruntled men, who could do little more than wear sullen expressions.

This was the advantage of cultivating strength; it instilled a sense of empowerment.

Without their cultivation, these women knew that the men would likely exploit their vulnerability and live in fear of retribution if they underperformed.

The men's displeased countenances only fueled these women's determination to excel in their cultivation and resist being victimized.

Throughout the journey, things proceeded relatively smoothly. Despite the soldiers' unhappiness, they had heard about what had befallen the Imperial Master when pitted against Xu Xunnan. Knowing that they would be at a disadvantage, they didn't dare to provoke any conflicts.

After four days and three nights, they finally reached Baizhou Land.

Baizhou Land, unlike the prosperous Jinwei Land, appeared desolate and barren along the way, explaining the rumors surrounding it.

As they crossed the border into Baizhou Land, the local citizens automatically made way for Jinwei Land's envoy, hesitant to express any curiosity and eager to understand the reason behind their visit.

However...

Even though the people of Baizhou Land granted them passage, Gu Chaoyan could still discern from a distance that the women of Baizhou Land were being mistreated and subjected to a life resembling that of slaves.

It took them a full day to reach the capital of Baizhou Land.

Upon their arrival outside the capital, envoys from Baizhou Land extended their welcome. The presence of Jinwei Land's envoy initially stirred excitement among the locals in Baizhou Land, who greeted them with beaming smiles. However, those smiles gradually waned when they caught sight of Gu Chaoyan and her companions. Their expressions became complex, and suspicion clouded their eyes.

"What is the meaning of this, Jinwei Land? Are you belittling Baizhou Land? How dare you send these ill-fated women to bring harm to us?" The Baizhou Land envoy expressed evident anger, his direct question underscoring the perceived disrespect toward Baizhou Land.

To them, this was a grave affront to their nation's honor.

"The Baizhou Land envoy may have misunderstood. I will certainly clarify this matter when I meet your king," replied Jinwei Land's envoy in a placatory tone, opting not to elaborate and allowing the people of Baizhou Land to express their grievances.

The expression of the Baizhou Land envoy improved slightly.

However, Gu Chaoyan and her companions still regarded him with disdain, as if their very presence was an affront to Baizhou Land. They had never faced such treatment in Jinwei Land, and their demeanor was now marked by discontent and a hint of anger.

Gu Chaoyan, on the other hand, remained her usual composed self, as though she had not heard the accusations.

The envoy from Jinwei Land cast a meaningful glance at Gu Chaoyan, and the smile on his face faded slightly.

They then proceeded to the palace of Baizhou Land.

Baizhou Land was not as opulent as Jinwei Land. Even the capital appeared somewhat faded, not to mention the palace itself.

In Gu Chaoyan's perspective...

There was a reason for all of this.

Baizhou Land was not as progressive as Jinwei Land, which naturally reflected in its relative wealth.

However, in her view, ever since Jinwei Land had allowed women to cultivate, she believed the nation's strength would continue to grow. In a world where both men and women existed, their coexistence was essential for progress.

It was not as if one side was suppressing the other.

If so, creativity would always be limited.

Following Jinwei Land's decision to allow women to cultivate, Gu Chaoyan believed that the nation would grow stronger and more prosperous. In her estimation, the gap between Jinwei Land and Baizhou Land would widen even further in less than three years. If Baizhou Land remained unchanged, it risked being overtaken by Jinwei Land within a few years.

Her purpose in visiting Baizhou Land this time was to demonstrate to its people the power and influence of women. She aimed to accomplish this goal without having to actively advocate for the women of Baizhou Land. In truth, her intervention might not even be necessary, as Jinwei Land's progressive policies had already set a precedent that would gradually bring about change.

These thoughts occupied Gu Chaoyan's mind as they slowly reached the palace of Baizhou Land.

Inside the palace, the presence of women among Jinwei Land's envoy team surprised many, including imperial guards, eunuchs, and palace maids. Their initial surprise soon transformed into discontent.

Yet, Gu Chaoyan continued walking into the court, seemingly impervious to the curious gazes. If she allowed herself to be perturbed by such minor matters, she would not have been able to achieve what she had in the past. It seemed that Jinwei Land's emperor and envoy had underestimated her, thinking that her arrival in Baizhou Land would disgust her.

How naive.

The prince, king, and monarch of Baizhou Land received Jinwei Land's envoy. In the throne room of Baizhou Land, it was evident that the King of Baizhou Land was the one who attached the most significance to Jinwei Land. As Jinwei Land was undeniably more powerful than Baizhou Land, the latter had to tread carefully. The king was exceedingly polite to Jinwei Land's envoy, not to mention the prince accompanying him.

The Third Prince, on the other hand, was a figure who held no status or recognition in Jinwei Land.

In Baizhou Land, the Third Prince found himself basking in newfound glory, and it showed in his slightly arrogant demeanor.

“The Prince of Jinwei Land and the envoy are here. Please, take your seats, they are prepared...”
The King of Baizhou Land began to speak with a bright smile. However, before he could finish his sentence, the prince, king, and monarch’s faces darkened upon seeing Gu

Chaoyan and a few other women.

Jinwei Land had graciously arranged for the prince and envoy to attend the banquet as a gesture of respect. Naturally, the King of Baizhou Land was pleased by this.

However...

What was happening?

Why had they brought a group of women to slight Baizhou Land?

While Baizhou Land may not have matched Jinwei Land in power, it was not to be insulted by anyone!

“The Emperor of Jinwei Land is underestimating our Baizhou Land,” remarked the King of Baizhou Land, his expression ugly and his voice tinged with a gloomy threat, as if he wished to keep Jinwei Land’s envoy and others responsible for the affront.

It was clear that they had violated a significant taboo of Baizhou Land.

Jinwei Land’s envoy had originally anticipated enjoying the spectacle as the prince, king, and monarch humiliated the women. However, upon seeing their reactions, he sensed something was amiss. They appeared to be venting their anger on the envoy party. Although Baizhou Land’s national strength was lacking, angering the King of Baizhou Land and being left here as targets was not what he had signed up for. He had come here for his apprenticeship and had no desire to meet his end in this place.

This was a significant setback.

The envoy from Jinwei Land was gripped with fear and hastily protested, “You’ve misunderstood.”

“Our emperor didn’t send these women here because he looks down on Baizhou Land. On the contrary, he holds Baizhou Land in high regard.”

“High regard?” The expressions of the King of Baizhou Land and his party grew even more unpleasant, as if they were being played. “Sending a few unfortunate women here, and you call this holding Baizhou Land in high regard?”

Chapter 2356: Mission 36

“You don’t understand.”

“Our Jinwei Land has altered its policy. Originally, women were prohibited from cultivating, but due to the efforts of these young women, the emperor has issued an imperial decree. Now, women in Jinwei Land are allowed to cultivate. Moreover, there’s a dedicated individual overseeing women’s cultivation, and that is Lady Xu Xunnan.”

“This is not a sign of disrespect to Baizhou Land. Quite the opposite, the Emperor of Jinwei Land highly values it. That’s precisely why he sent these women to Baizhou Land, so that you, the King of Baizhou Land, could witness it,” the envoy explained with utmost respect. At this moment, he was doing his utmost to present the situation in the most favorable light to ensure his own safety.

The expressions of the King of Baizhou Land and his entourage remained deeply displeased, but it was clear they had no intention of making things difficult for Jinwei Land’s envoy or the group.

However...

The King of Baizhou Land slammed the table forcefully and spoke sternly, “This is absurd, absolute nonsense!”

“Women are nothing but bad luck. Beyond being a burden, what use are they? If they cause trouble, we should simply eliminate these unfortunate beings. How can the Emperor of Jinwei Land be so soft-hearted as to indulge them?”

“Allowing them to cultivate? It’s utterly futile.”

“Our Baizhou Land appreciates the kindness of your Emperor of Jinwei Land, but we simply cannot accommodate it. Leave these unfortunate women behind, and take them away.”

“Furthermore, as the envoy, kindly convey my message to the King of Jinwei Land and urge him to rescind the imperial decree promptly. We mustn’t let these unfortunate women tarnish our nation!”
The King of Baizhou Land displayed no concern for Gu Chaoyan and her companions, treating them with the same disregard as the common slaves of Baizhou Land.

Jinwei Land’s envoy appeared to be in a predicament. He glanced at Xu Xunnan and the others, then at the King of Baizhou Land, perpetually wearing a troubled expression.

However...

His demeanor did not reflect any actual difficulty. In fact, he might have been secretly pleased. This could very well be what the Emperor of Jinwei Land had intended. It was also what the envoy had wished to witness. After all, this envoy was a man and had no qualms about kicking someone when they were down.

Nevertheless...

Gu Chaoyan was no ordinary person.

How could she be pointed at and berated in this manner?

Useless? Unlucky? Sent back?

Hah...

“King of Baizhou Land, are you implying that we women are a source of bad luck? Did you not, too, come into the world from a woman’s womb? Why did you not inherit any of this ‘bad luck’?”
Gu Chaoyan retorted, unflinchingly.

The King of Baizhou Land had already been seething with rage, initially aiming to expel these troublesome women from Jinwei Land. But suddenly, he was challenged by a woman in this manner. The King of Baizhou Land was incensed to the point where veins bulged on his face. Yet, he had never been questioned in such a manner before, and he found himself momentarily at a loss for words. The atmosphere in the hall hung in an awkward impasse.

In less than half an hour, the King of Baizhou Land pounded the table. “How dare you!”

Gu Chaoyan cast a quick glance at the table. She presumed it would be unharmed, but the King of Baizhou Land might not fare as well with his wounded pride.

Maintaining this level of anger was no simple task.

Nevertheless...

The more infuriated the King of Baizhou Land became, the more deplorable his attitude toward women appeared.

Yet, as time progressed, it became increasingly evident that his attitudes could be altered more swiftly.

Chapter 2357: Mission 37

The angrier the King of Baizhou Land became, the more satisfaction Gu Chaoyan derived.

“Your Majesty, I apologize for any offense my earlier question may have caused. I was simply seeking clarification,” Gu Chaoyan said, her voice taking on a tone of trepidation, as if she remained genuinely fearful.

Only then did the King of Baizhou Land begin to relax slightly.

He had no desire to squander time on someone like her. He merely wanted to expedite their departure from Baizhou Land.

The King of Baizhou Land was on the brink of speaking, but Gu Chaoyan interjected hurriedly, “And, Your Majesty, you mentioned that women are useless and that cultivating is a waste of time. Why do you consistently hold such beliefs?”

“Just because the women in Baizhou Land may not fulfill your expectations, it doesn’t mean that all women in the world are the same. It’s possible that it’s your perspective that’s flawed,” Gu Chaoyan declared candidly.

Her gaze met his without a hint of mockery; she was earnest in her statement. Nonetheless, her words contained subtle taunts aimed at the King of Baizhou Land and his domain. This was certain to irk him.

He had been raised among individuals who were deferential, both in the palace and outside of it. No one had dared to overstep their boundaries or speak impudently in his presence. This woman from Jinwei Land was the first to challenge that norm.

For the first time, he encountered such a defiant individual. He was momentarily at a loss for how to respond, his anger coursing through him, seeking an outlet. If she had been from Baizhou Land, he could have simply eliminated her. However, she hailed from Jinwei Land, complicating any direct course of action.

“The envoy of Jinwei Land, take a good look at your companion. She appears to have disregarded propriety entirely. How do you propose we address her transgression?” bellowed the King of Baizhou Land.

The envoy from Jinwei Land felt the strength drain from his legs. He was caught in a perilous situation with no room for offense. Offending the King of Baizhou Land could potentially result in dire consequences, and Xu Xunnan, despite her cultivation prowess, had already been injured by the Imperial Master. The King wished to impart a lesson through the King of Baizhou Land’s hands, but he had not provided any guidance on how to handle Xu Xunnan. This left the envoy in a state of intense anxiety, sweat forming on his forehead.

His gaze briefly shifted to the Third Prince, who chose to avert his eyes, feigning ignorance. He had merely been brought along to Baizhou Land to represent the royal family and was not entrusted with any specific tasks. Understanding Xu Xunnan’s reputation, he had no desire to provoke her, especially since he lacked favor within the palace. It was one thing to endure his own mistreatment,

but crossing paths with Xu Xunnan could result in a united front of Jinwei Land's women opposing him in the future. Such a life held no appeal for him.

Jinwei Land's envoy, his voice trembling, was left with no option but to utter, "King of Baizhou Land, we are currently in Baizhou Land's domain. If I have offended you, I trust that you will deal with it according to your own judgment."

"Deal with them?" The King of Baizhou Land initially expressed surprise before responding impolitely, "Deal with them, indeed. Guards, seize these women and carry out their punishment!"

The Baizhou Land guards eagerly advanced to surround the women.

The envoy from Jinwei Land's countenance stiffened. He hadn't anticipated that the King of Baizhou Land would opt for such a direct and extreme measure. This turn of events left him deeply concerned. If Xu Xunnan chose to hold him responsible...

However, the Baizhou Land guards had not yet reached Gu Chaoyan. The envoy realized that the situation had not yet reached its climax.

Chapter 2358: Mission 38

Gu Chaoyan's voice resonated with urgency as she inquired, "Lord Zhang, are you truly prepared to make this decision? If the King of Baizhou Land were to take my life, will you stand by him without question?"

Lord Zhang, the envoy from Jinwei Land, struggled to contain his anxiety, repeatedly wiping the perspiration from his brow. He hesitated before responding, "This... I..."

How could he offer a satisfactory explanation in this situation?

The women of Jinwei Land, especially those who pursued cultivation, were formidable individuals. He hadn't anticipated such a challenging assignment. Initially, he assumed it would be a straightforward mission, given the King of Baizhou Land's known temper. He was confident that the King could find a way to handle Xu Xunnan. Little did he expect that the prince, the king, and the King of Baizhou Land would exceed expectations and directly thrust the responsibility upon him. His original imperial mission was merely to escort Xu Xunnan to Baizhou Land to experience a minor setback. But now, faced with the prospect of her death, he was at a loss.

Lord Zhang's entire body was soaked with anxiety as he contemplated his predicament.

The King of Baizhou Land showed no inclination to grant him the latitude to change his stance. He barked sternly, "You, unfortunate woman! Your envoy has already beseeched me to mete out your punishment. What more needs to be said? I declared my intention to end your life, and today I shall carry it out."

"You have brought shame upon my land of Baizhou. Failure to administer justice would be a disrespect to me. If anyone obstructs, I shall have them all executed," the King of Baizhou Land declared resolutely.

Lord Zhang's eyes widened at the ominous threat.

Executions for all?

At this point, he dared not utter another word, for it meant placing his own life in jeopardy. While Jinwei Land offered a potential escape, he was entirely powerless in Baizhou Land.

Lord Zhang forced an uneasy smile and fell silent.

The King of Baizhou Land gazed with smug satisfaction at the envoy and the previously timorous prince.

At first, he had no intention of taking any drastic measures against these unfortunate women after explaining the situation. However, this particular woman seemed oblivious to the bounds of respect and decorum. Her insults, directed at him and Baizhou Land, left him with no choice but to reconsider.

For how could Baizhou Land maintain its standing in the world if such affronts were not addressed?

Baizhou Land's guards had already reached Gu Chaoyan and were ready to escort her away. But as they drew near, her spiritual energy exerted an overpowering force, causing the guards to crumple to the ground. Blood seeped from the corners of their mouths as they clutched their chests, struggling to comprehend what had transpired.

The King of Baizhou Land, utterly flabbergasted, urgently called for assistance. "Someone!"

In Baizhou Land, women were deemed unfortunate because, apart from their ability to give birth, they were often considered ineffectual. They struggled with tasks requiring strength or skill, and their cultivation talents were typically lacking. Their existence seemingly revolved around depleting resources without much contribution. To the King, it was a perplexing state of misfortune.

Yet, this envoy from Jinwei Land possessed a remarkable command of spiritual energy, effortlessly incapacitating Baizhou Land's guards.

Such a display was unprecedented, but in the King's eyes, it represented a threat that couldn't be ignored. For if she were allowed to persist and nurture the women of Jinwei Land into more capable individuals, what would become of Baizhou Land?

As the King of Baizhou Land, he needed to prioritize the well-being of his nation over personal sentiments. Therefore, he set aside his previous displeasure, placing the safety and interests of Baizhou Land at the forefront of his concerns.

"Guards!" The King of Baizhou Land's voice resonated with a thunderous command. "Organize an execution immediately for these women! Their insults against Baizhou Land cannot go unpunished. Erase them from this world!"

Baizhou Land's guards rushed forward like a tide, converging upon Gu Chaoyan, who observed the approaching horde with a steely gaze.

Her countenance remained composed.

Most of the guards in Baizhou Land were novices in the realm of cultivation. No matter how many advanced upon her, they were all destined to succumb to the immense pressure she exerted. Fear did not occupy her thoughts.

In the realm of cultivation, victory hinged not upon numbers but rather the disparity in one's cultivation level. There existed chasms between different tiers of cultivation, making such disparities insurmountable.

These individuals were but ants in her presence.

Should she choose to, she could easily claim the life of the King of Baizhou Land in a mere instant. Yet, Gu Chaoyan had no intention of such an act. She held a different objective in mind, understanding that perceptions were deeply entrenched in individuals' minds due to their environment and history. Ending their lives would serve no purpose; her aim was to reshape their beliefs.

Upon the King of Baizhou Land's command, the guards of Baizhou Land surged forward. However, they crumbled before they could draw near Gu Chaoyan. The sheer pressure she exuded inflicted torment upon them. Attempting to advance would only result in being repelled by her spiritual energy and incurring internal injuries.

Though the mercy she displayed spared them from severe harm, it was a considerable struggle for them to rise again. After their previous ordeal, they found no will to rejoin the fray. The pressure alone threatened their lives, and they were well aware of this.

Guard after guard succumbed, forming an unbroken chain of defeat.

Gu Chaoyan, in contrast, stood her ground, apparently expending no effort, yet her influence compelled these individuals to kneel.

The King of Baizhou Land wore a vexed expression. Determined to exact retribution, they now found themselves at a loss, stunned by the unexpected turn of events. This woman possessed an astonishing power.

It was as if she could singlehandedly bring down Baizhou Land's palace.

In that moment, the King of Baizhou Land experienced a profound revelation as to why the Emperor of Jinwei Land had acceded to such an unreasonable request and permitted the cultivation of Jinwei Land's women. The Emperor likely had little choice in the matter.

This unforeseen turn of events left the King grappling with a pressing dilemma.

If the current situation persisted, it would be untenable. Beyond the substantial casualties incurred by Baizhou Land, their national strength had been grievously weakened. If Jinwei Land were to entertain hostile intentions, Baizhou Land would find itself in an even more perilous predicament. Furthermore, Jinwei Land possessed considerable renown.

The envoy before him was appointed by Jinwei Land out of respect for Baizhou Land. Yet, Baizhou Land had initiated hostilities against the envoy, merely in response to a provocation. If Jinwei Land were to employ this pretext to deploy troops, given the present circumstances, Baizhou Land would likely be vanquished by Jinwei Land.

This state of affairs was untenable.

After a careful assessment of the situation, the King of Baizhou Land urgently commanded, "Stand down, all of you."

Addressing Gu Chaoyan, he said, "Miss, it is all a misunderstanding."

"You're here on a diplomatic mission to Baizhou Land, and our nation extends a warm welcome to you. This is simply a misunderstanding. Further conflict would strain the relations between our two countries."

"Baizhou Land and Jinwei Land are neighbors, despite our proximity."

“However, the situation within our respective nations presents a stark contrast.”

“The vast misunderstanding has arisen due to the divergent national contexts. It’s primarily a matter of differing customs and norms between Baizhou Land and Jinwei Land. These disputes may be vociferous, but they need not escalate to a national level.”

“Miss, please articulate your requirements. Baizhou Land will strive to accommodate them to the best of our ability without disrupting the harmony,” the King of Baizhou Land stated, a trace of their prior fierceness still lingering, although their visage now bore a facade of amicability.

At this point, Gu Chaoyan relented, withdrawing her imposing aura. She stood composed, her perplexity evident as she remarked, “King of Baizhou Land, I must clarify that I have never intended to impose undue burdens on your nation from the outset. I serve as an envoy and my sole expectation is that Baizhou Land greets us in a customary manner. I am earnest in this regard.”

The King of Baizhou Land was momentarily taken aback by her words.

After all, a substantial altercation had occurred moments ago, during which she had engaged in combat and held the upper hand. He had contemplated intervening but hesitated, aware that the cost might be too high. Yet, the woman chose not to escalate the situation.

This turn of events confounded him.

As the King, he had never encountered such an enigmatic individual before. Her unpredictability made it challenging to oppose her.

“A conventional reception suffices?” The King of Baizhou Land expressed a hint of skepticism, uncertain whether she spoke the truth or employed a ruse. He refrained from a hasty decision to avoid provoking her.

Gu Chaoyan nodded in agreement.

Her objectives in coming to Baizhou Land were fairly straightforward. She aimed to fulfill her mission and have the people of Baizhou Land wholeheartedly appreciate Jinwei Land’s women.

As for the King of Baizhou Land, despite his temperamental nature, he demonstrated a willingness to prioritize his nation's interests, even going so far as to lower his voice in consideration of the country's welfare. This quality wasn't without merit.

Furthermore...

The King of Baizhou Land had personally witnessed her formidable power, which naturally bred a sense of trepidation within him. Otherwise, his demeanor wouldn't have shifted in this manner.

Given these circumstances, he was well-suited to her intentions, and she had no intention of complicating matters for him.

Moreover, leaving her conditions unspoken would only deepen the King of Baizhou Land's unease in the coming days, a situation she wished to avoid.

With her mind made up, Gu Chaoyan conveyed her decision.

The King of Baizhou Land breathed a sigh of relief, his countenance breaking into a beaming smile. "Yes, yes, indeed. A customary reception is in order. And not just that; they should be treated as honored guests."

"I cannot afford to be lax in the slightest."

In the days that followed, the King of Baizhou Land busied himself with the necessary arrangements. The princes and envoys from Jinwei Land had long anticipated their arrival, having made preparations for their temporary residence. As for Xu Xunnan and the other women, who had initially been unexpected guests, the King of Baizhou Land made special accommodations for them as part of his revised plans.

They resided in the most luxurious palace within Baizhou Land, where all their desires were promptly attended to. In this opulent abode, their encounters with the inhabitants felt akin to encounters with the King of Baizhou Land himself. Every interaction demanded the utmost respect, and no one dared to create any inconvenience.

Even in terms of cuisine, they enjoyed meals of a standard matching the daily fare of the King of Baizhou Land. Yet, beyond these essentials, the King of Baizhou Land had meticulously overseen

various additional aspects of their stay. In Baizhou Land, no one apart from the late emperor had ever experienced the same level of consideration from the King of Baizhou Land.

Within the Baizhou Land Palace, these individuals...