

Divine 2491

Chapter 2491: Demon Clan 23

The Clan Leader of the Bone Clan felt a tinge of aggrievement.

Yet, being composed entirely of bones, his emotions remained inscrutable, evident in his tone.

Gu Chaoyan started to feel a sense of helplessness.

What kind of person was the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan?

While her formidable cultivation inspired fear, it was another matter entirely that she had left behind a romantic entanglement—a peach blossom debt embodied by the skeletal beings of the Bone Clan.

It was truly a perplexing situation.

The Clan Leader of the Bone Clan bore a striking resemblance to the Dao Child of the Demon Clan. Both seemed to have resisted growing up.

“Being cold to you is quite generous. It’s a miracle I haven’t sent you away,” remarked the Dao Child of the Demon Clan, a touch of annoyance in his voice.

The Dao Child harbored an intense dislike for anyone attempting to approach his sister with romantic intentions, eager to dismiss them outright.

Nevertheless, the Clan Leader of the Bone Clan continued to gaze at Gu Chaoyan with a lingering sense of aggrievement.

This Bone Clan leader possessed a large eye socket and a well-defined chin, presenting an overall handsome appearance. In the context of the Bone Clan, he might be considered exceptionally good-looking.

If only he had a human form, the impact would be extraordinary.

Alas...

He remained confined to skeletal form.

Gu Chaoyan remained frustrated.

“Clan Leader of the Bone Clan, today marks the birthday celebration of the Clan Leader of the Human Clan. If there’s nothing else, I kindly request that you leave,” Gu Chaoyan said diplomatically.

“Yueyue, can I visit the Demon Clan as a guest after the Clan Leader’s birthday? Those people from the Demon Clan are terrible. After the ancient city of the Demon Clan moved away, they didn’t bother telling me where it was. Visiting has become quite a challenge,” lamented the Clan Leader of the Bone Clan.

“I won’t tell you!” replied the Dao Child of the Demon Clan cheerfully.

Gu Chaoyan could feel a headache coming on. “Let’s discuss it later.”

Only then did the Clan Leader of the Bone Clan reluctantly depart.

After his departure...

The Dao Child of the Demon Clan positioned himself as a barrier, preventing others from approaching and striking up a conversation.

Gu Chaoyan made no effort to intervene.

She had no desire to engage with these individuals, fearing that she might inadvertently disclose her true identity.

Seated there, she attentively observed the representatives from various races.

As the little dragonman had mentioned, the Second World was significantly more intricate than the Shenyong Continent. Unlike the relatively few races in the Shenyong Continent, this realm was teeming with diverse races, abundant spiritual energy, and elevated cultivation levels.

Except for the Bone Clan.

And the Blood Clan.

While she assessed others, many were doing the same to her.

“The residence of the Clan Leader of the Human Clan is indeed extraordinary. The security measures are quite stringent. He isn’t allowed to leave now; he’s just stepping out to fetch some wine,” grumbled someone, holding a wine pot.

Just that single remark.

Gu Chaoyan overheard his comment.

They weren’t allowing anyone to leave?

It was just a birthday celebration. Why impose such restrictions?

The more she pondered, the more she sensed something amiss.

Gu Chaoyan approached a guard from the Demon Clan, urging him to investigate the situation.

“Sister, what’s the matter? If there’s anything, you can assign it to me. They won’t handle it well,” the Dao Child of the Demon Clan interjected, eager to take charge.

“Don’t worry, just send someone to inquire. Stay here and ensure my safety. Let them handle the minor issues,” Gu Chaoyan instructed.

The Dao Child of the Demon Clan immediately beamed, as if he had just received a treat.

It seemed that his sister didn't want him to go because she had a more important task for him.

"Sister, don't worry. I've got your back. Everything will be fine with me here."

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Gu Chaoyan gazed at the Dao Child of the Demon Clan with a complex expression.

Unlike others, the Dao Child of the Demon Clan treated the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan with genuine sincerity, doing everything for her welfare.

Gu Chaoyan knew him to be different, a man of integrity without impurities.

Although she was unaware of the events that transpired between the Dao Child of the Demon Clan and the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan in the distant past, Gu Chaoyan couldn't help but feel a twinge of guilt at this moment.

Driven by that guilt, she averted her eyes.

Just as she was about to speak, the individual she had dispatched returned precisely at that moment. He spoke softly, "Clan Leader, it's no longer possible for us to leave. There's a barrier around the residence of the Clan Leader of the Human Clan, and there are numerous guards outside. We can only enter and not exit. The Human Clan hasn't provided any explanation."

"His actions are quite deceitful. I suspect this birthday celebration is more than it seems; the Clan Leader of the Human Clan likely has ulterior motives."

Gu Chaoyan was accompanied by individuals from the ancient city of the Demon Clan, accustomed to witnessing much of the world. Through keen observation, they could deduce the unfolding situation.

“How dare they!” exclaimed the Dao Child of the Demon Clan, expressing his discontent.

At this point, the First Elder and the others also grasped the essence of what seemed to have occurred. They approached and inquired, “Is something amiss?”

Gu Chaoyan nodded.

Indeed, something was amiss.

“I fear that the Human Tribe Leader’s birthday isn’t as simple as it appears. Let’s proceed with caution,” cautioned Gu Chaoyan.

She then discreetly instructed the individual in a hushed tone to relay to the Clan Leader of the Bone Clan that no further details should be divulged.

With these arrangements in place, Gu Chaoyan regained her composure.

The birthday celebration for the Clan Leader of the Human Clan continued seamlessly.

Well-wishes were exchanged amicably.

The Clan Leader of the Human Clan took the opportunity to share the joyous news of the return of the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan, expressing his profound sense of fortune.

Time swiftly passed.

As the event drew to a close, it was time for the guests to depart.

Seated in his place, the Clan Leader of the Human Clan made no move. He simply observed the departing guests with an inscrutable smile on his face.

“Let’s go.”

Their ability to leave or not hinged on the capabilities they possessed.

Soon, the guests discovered that a barrier had been erected around the residence of the Clan Leader of the Human Clan. This barrier hadn't been present when they arrived, indicating it was established during the birthday celebration. Its sudden appearance restricted their departure. What did this signify?

The Clan Leader of the Blood Clan reacted vehemently, returning in anger. "Clan Leader of the Human Clan, what is the meaning of this? We came to celebrate your birthday, and you set up a barrier to keep us from leaving?"

"Clan Leader of the Blood Clan, calm yourself. While this barrier indeed exists, if you possess the ability, you can naturally break through it. If you can't..."

"Then, what's the purpose of leaving?"

"What are you implying?"

"If you lack the ability to breach it, then stay." The Clan Leader of the Human Clan wore a sinister smile, dripping with a thirst for blood.

"You seek our lives?" The Clan Leader of the Blood Clan finally grasped the sinister truth.

This purported birthday celebration was nothing more than a cunning ambush—a treacherous ploy against the various clans!

Throughout the years, the Human Clan had harbored ambitions within the Second World, aiming to supplant the erstwhile Demon Clan. Many considered the Clan Leader of the Human Clan's apprehensions to be mere paranoia.

Now, it appeared...

The Clan Leader of the Human Clan didn't dwell much on it; his ambitions burned even brighter.

While the former Clan Leader of the Demon Clan sought supremacy, the Human Clan aimed for dominion, desiring to assert control over the entire Second World.

In the event of a mishap befalling the Clan Leader, chaos would inevitably ensue within the clan. The Clan Leader of the Human Clan saw this as an opportunity to unify the Second World.

Compared to the Demon Clan, the Human Clan was a shade more sinister, an unfortunate commonality among humans.

Now, these disparate clans found themselves standing on the same side, united in their desire to confront the Clan Leader of the Human Clan and vent their collective anger.

"It all hinges on the capabilities of your Human Clan. Clan Leader of the Human Clan, have you considered that if you take this risk and fail, the Human Clan might become our shared adversary in the future? The Human Clan could swiftly vanish from the Second World," analyzed the Clan Leader of the Bone Clan, devoid of strong emotions. He provided a straightforward assessment for the Clan Leader of the Human Clan.

He believed that engaging in a deadly confrontation here wasn't a favorable outcome. This was the territory of the Human Clan, and if they harbored such intentions, they should have been prepared.

Moreover, their contingent for the birthday banquet was not extensive. Given the Human Clan's confidence, they likely possessed some ace in the hole or a trump card. A direct confrontation might lead to losses.

In light of this, a diplomatic resolution seemed more prudent.

Being the last to arrive, the Clan Leader of the Bone Clan immediately sensed that something was amiss upon entering the residence. The presence of the barrier confirmed his suspicions. Instinctively, he surmised certain possibilities.

His first move was to head to the Demon Clan. If the Clan Leader of the Human Clan had orchestrated this, the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan could potentially guide everyone through this crisis.

Her cultivation level was formidable.

However, upon close interaction,

He discovered.

The Clan Leader of the Demon Clan no longer exuded the formidable aura of yore. The overwhelming pressure that once emanated from her was absent.

For a thousand years, they hadn't made an appearance. It was highly probable that something had affected their cultivation. If that were the case, they were genuinely in peril.

This was precisely why the Clan Leader of the Bone Clan expressed these sentiments — an attempt to avoid conflict.

The Clan Leader of the Blood Clan, known for his fiery temper, disapproved of the Clan Leader of the Bone Clan's cautious approach. "Gu Ming, when did you become so timid? This wretched Clan Leader of the Human Clan has shown his true colors, and you still want to give him a chance? Let's confront him head-on and end this. The Human Clan will only serve as our slaves from now on."

The actions of the Human Clan had truly incensed him.

Individuals from the Blood Clan were straightforward and preferred transparency in their dealings. Such devious schemes were outright repulsive.

He continued with a blunt assertion, "You aspire to unite the Second World with your Ling Family? You deceitful and cunning individuals are nothing but a blight on the Second World. Even when the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan was detestable and ostentatious, I, Xue Ye, didn't hold it against her. She was principled and righteous. Despite her vexing strength, I still respected her. You contemptible people... Hmph!" The Clan Leader of the Blood Clan kept voicing his disdain.

Gu Chaoyan had been lingering in the background, hoping to remain inconspicuous and observe how the other clan leaders would handle the situation.

With her half-step Golden Immortal cultivation, she was powerless here. Hiding seemed like the best option.

Yet now...

If the Clan Leader of the Blood Clan harbored grievances, so be it. Why drag her into it without cause?

The gaze of the clan leaders shifted back, as if glimpsing a glimmer of hope, when they heard the announcement, "The Clan Leader of the Demon Clan is present today."

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"What have we to fear?" questioned the Clan Leader of the Blood Clan, his trust unwavering.

In the Second World, the sole individual he had genuinely submitted to was the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan.

The Clan Leader of the Demon Clan possessed a formidable cultivation level, rendering her impervious to the machinations of the Human Clan.

Gu Chaoyan, reluctantly drawn into the conversation, felt a surge of irritation. Her intense dislike for the Clan Leader of the Blood Clan deepened. Why involve her in this when he could handle it himself? As a half-step Golden Immortal, she was utterly vulnerable to the Clan Leaders present, and her presence only served to expose her.

Gu Chaoyan wore a visibly reluctant expression, and the Dao Child of the Demon Clan keenly perceived it. He positioned himself in front of his sister, prepared to show no mercy to anyone who dared to attack her.

While the Dao Child of the Demon Clan trusted his sister, he wasn't naïve. Over the thousand years of her absence, she returned with a forced smile, her cultivation level significantly diminished. He sensed her weakened state and deduced it might be connected to the Energy Deviation she experienced during cultivation in the past.

Against the Clan Leader of the Human Clan, his sister might not be a match. Regardless, he was determined not to let his sister face embarrassment.

Gu Chaoyan felt deeply moved by her brother's protective stance.

The Clan Leader of the Human Clan glanced at the representatives of the Demon Clan and then turned his attention to the Blood Clan Leader. "Do you believe I would persist with this plan if I feared her? What significance does the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan hold? Perhaps a thousand years ago, she had some standing, but now, she is truly inconsequential."

"Her presence changes nothing."

Having spoken, the Clan Leader of the Human Clan ingested a pill.

Suddenly, his once abundant spiritual qi surged, enveloping them in a suppressive force.

As they felt it, they realized it was comparable to the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan from the bygone era.

A trace of panic finally flickered across their faces.

Even the Clan Leader of the Blood Clan was taken aback.

What Gu Chaoyan yearned for the most at this moment was to evade and flee.

However...

Given her status, such an action was untenable.

When had the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan ever resorted to escaping?

It was inconceivable.

Fleeing back would undoubtedly arouse suspicion within the Demon Clan, leading to potential complications.

Reluctantly, feeling a surge of guilt, she steeled herself and moved forward.

As the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan and the erstwhile foremost figure in the Second World, she should rightfully lead.

The other Clan Leaders agreed with this notion.

Yet, they didn't depart; they positioned themselves right behind her.

Gu Chaoyan wasn't privy to the full extent of the Human Tribe Leader's might, but she understood that he could extinguish her existence with a mere strand of spiritual energy.

Urgency consumed her as she sought a swift resolution.

Fortunately, she had stashed numerous items in her spatial storage back then.

Among her acquisitions was a talisman, brimming with potent spiritual energy capable of withstanding an onslaught from the Clan Leader of the Human Clan.

She had to act swiftly.

This initial move served a dual purpose — to intimidate the Clan Leader of the Human Clan and to steady the other Clan Leaders.

The Clan Leader of the Human Clan dismissed her with a lack of concern.

Undeterred, Gu Chaoyan unleashed a surge of spiritual energy, swiftly incorporating the talisman into her sleeve, absorbing the Dao spiritual energy with remarkable speed.

A flicker of surprise crossed the Clan Leader of the Human Clan's face as he regarded her in astonishment.

Was it possible that the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan hadn't succumbed to Energy Deviation, but rather, her cultivation had grown even more profound?

Nevertheless, faced with the current situation, he steeled himself and pressed on.

His potent medicinal pills held the capability to contend with the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan.

Such thoughts occupied the mind of the Clan Leader of the Human Clan.

Just as he prepared to execute his next move...

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Gu Chaoyan executed swift movements, vanishing from the Clan Leader of Human Clan's sight, causing his attack to miss its mark.

Blocked and evaded, the Clan Leader of Human Clan displayed visible frustration. Meanwhile, the other Clan Leaders, emboldened by these events, grew more ambitious, entertaining thoughts of departing this place today. The Clan Leader of Human Clan, unable to contend with even the Clan Leader of Demon Clan, seemed ill-suited to talk about unifying the Second World.

To onlookers, dodging twice appeared deceptively simple.

Yet, only Gu Chaoyan herself comprehended the considerable effort she had exerted.

Facing the prospect of a third move, Gu Chaoyan surveyed the others.

Both the Clan Leader of the Blood Clan and the Clan Leader of the Bone Clan no longer exhibited tension. Instead, they observed leisurely, awaiting the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan to directly confront the situation.

Gu Chaoyan felt a surge of speechlessness.

While she grappled with the challenge, these onlookers simply enjoyed the spectacle.

She then turned her gaze to the Dao Child of the Demon Clan.

He appeared remarkably composed.

Annoyance welled up within Gu Chaoyan.

As a mere half-step Golden Immortal, she could initiate the first move due to the talisman's assistance.

The success of the second move was purely a result of the unexpected, catching the Clan Leader of Human Clan off guard.

Yet, regarding the third move...

Gu Chaoyan's forehead beaded with sweat. She hadn't formulated a plan for this contingency.

Had Gu Chaoyan not evaded the attack, she could have faced imminent death. The Demon Clan would likely have remained indifferent since they were confident she wasn't a fiend. Just the thought of such a dire outcome left Gu Chaoyan drenched in sweat.

The Clan Leader of the Human Clan exhibited a newfound uncertainty. He hesitated, reevaluating the potency of the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan.

He...

“Elder Brother, strike quickly! It’s been too long. If you delay further, it might be too late. Eliminate this woman!” urged members of the Ling family.

The Clan Leader of the Human Clan quivered, comprehending the urgency. He knew he couldn’t afford any more delays.

Simultaneously, Gu Chaoyan gleaned the situation.

The Human Race Patriarch’s formidable cultivation stemmed solely from the potent medicinal pills he consumed. This realization offered a strategic advantage — she could bide her time and prolong the confrontation.

As the effects of his medicinal pill waned, the patriarchs of the other clans would eventually surpass him in strength. In that scenario, a resolution to today’s predicament might be within reach.

Contemplating her next move, a surge of spiritual energy raced toward her.

Once more, Gu Chaoyan vanished, leaving the Dao spiritual energy dissipating. This time, the Clan Leader of Human Clan, more experienced, recognized that the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan was merely concealed somewhere. Activating his spiritual energy, he scanned another direction.

Despite scrutinizing his surroundings, he failed to discern the whereabouts of the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan.

“Where is she?” the Clan Leader of Human Clan queried in bewilderment, leaving his family and onlookers equally perplexed by the sudden disappearance of the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan.

In a fleeting moment, the Clan Leader of Demon Clan vanished.

What level of cultivation could achieve such a feat?

Did the Clan Leader of Demon Clan's return signify not a weakening due to Energy Deviation, but rather an ascension to a realm where her cultivation was beyond detection, capable of instantaneously disappearing within space?

Startled, the Clan Leader of Bone Clan anxiously inquired of the Dao Child of Demon Clan, "What is your Clan Leader's current cultivation level?"

Chapter 2496: Demon Clan 28

The Dao Child of the Demon Clan found himself in a perplexing situation.

Uncertain of the Clan Leader's cultivation level, he pondered the mystery. Was the Clan Leader's cultivation merely at the onset of the Second World? Normally, individuals born into any clan were considered half-step Golden Immortals from birth. Perhaps, he speculated, the Clan Leader had experienced an unfortunate setback in cultivation, regressing to this initial stage.

However, a nagging doubt lingered: *

Could it be that the Clan Leader had already attained an incomprehensible level of cultivation, rendering her expertise so profound that ordinary observers, like them, perceived it akin to that of a child?

The Dao Child of the Demon Clan remained unsure.

Nevertheless, the abrupt disappearance of the Demon Clan's Clan Leader left the Clan Leader of the Human Clan on the verge of madness.

The unexpected revelation of the Demon Clan Leader's current cultivation level astonished him. The Ling Family could not afford to falter, compelling him to take swift action.

His formidable spiritual energy surged, targeting those present.

In response, the Dao Child of the Demon Clan swiftly stepped forward, intercepting the onslaught of spiritual energy.

The Clan Leader of the Human Clan's spiritual energy forced the Dao Child of the Demon Clan to recoil slightly. "This is not good; we may not be a match for him."

Promptly, the group retreated.

"Where is the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan? Bring her forth to confront the Leader of the Human Clan!" someone in the crowd demanded.

However, the vanished Clan Leader of the Demon Clan remained conspicuously absent.

Gu Chaoyan regarded them with lingering trepidation, recalling how the recent surge of spiritual energy had nearly claimed her life.

Fortunately, in a moment of crisis, she discovered an alternative application for her spatial abilities. Swiftly, she concealed her body within the confines of space, disappearing from their immediate perception while actually remaining in proximity.

Despite their persistent calls, she hesitated to reappear. Safety was hard-won, and the risk of emerging seemed too great.

Gu Chaoyan continued to shrink within her concealed space, determined not to expose herself.

Yet, her absence left the group unable to resist. Even the Dao Child of the Demon Clan wore a troubled expression.

A sigh of relief escaped Gu Chaoyan. She pondered the nature of her perceived transgression.

Seizing a white jade sword, she emerged momentarily from her hidden space, swiftly striking the injured Clan Leader of the Human Clan. With deftness, she retreated once more into her spatial refuge, creating an illusion of disappearance.

The Human Clan Leader, wounded and with diminished cultivation, faced a vulnerable moment.

Observing this opportunity, the Dao Child of the Demon Clan rushed forward, recognizing the strategic advantage.

With the Human Clan Leader's diminished cultivation, the alliance of Clan Leaders became an overpowering force against him.

Gu Chaoyan exhaled, leaving the unfolding scenario to them, as she contemplated ways to unravel the spirit formation. Her familiarity with barriers positioned her as a valuable asset in this critical moment.

The barrier originated from an array formation, evolving into a formidable structure known as a barrier.

Locating the array core was the key to unlocking the barrier, providing a pathway for escape.

After investing some time, Gu Chaoyan successfully dismantled the ward and emerged from her spatial refuge. Observing the Chief still putting up a resistance, she calmly addressed the situation, "The ward has been opened; please dispose of this stray dog."

Gu Chaoyan's demeanor suggested that she had already reached a resolution regarding the events that transpired.

The Clan Leader of the Bone Clan, Gu Ming, delivered the decisive blow to the Human Clan Leader.

Henceforth, the Human Clan would likely find itself relegated to the status of stray dogs within the Second World.

Gu Chaoyan released a sigh of relief.

This ordeal had proven to be a significant trial.

Chapter 2497: Demon Clan 29

If she didn't decipher the utility of her spatial abilities today, the risk of meeting her demise in this predicament became a stark reality.

Contemplating the perilous situation, she acknowledged the gravity of the circumstance.

With the demise of the Human Clan Leader and the successful opening of the barrier, the other fleeing members of the Ling family were now inconsequential, akin to stray dogs.

The Clan Leaders collectively breathed a sigh of relief.

Approaching Gu Chaoyan with appreciative smiles, they expressed gratitude, "We owe today's salvation to the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan. Without her, we would have been in serious trouble."

"By the way, could it be that the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan anticipated this, prompting her timely appearance?"

Gu Chaoyan forced a smile.

Internally, she marveled at their speculative minds. If she had indeed foreseen these events, why would she have chosen this particular moment to intervene? It seemed a peculiar assumption.

Yet, outwardly, she maintained her enigmatic demeanor, offering only a faint smile without confirming or denying their suspicions. This ambiguity added to the mystique surrounding the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan.

Given her silence, the others refrained from pressing further, allowing their imaginations to fill in the gaps.

With the demise of the Human Clan Leader, there was a mess to clean up. However, Gu Chaoyan saw no need for the Demon Clan to involve themselves.

Addressing the Dao Child of the Demon Clan, she remarked, "Dealing with these nuisances is tiresome. Let's return to the Demon Clan."

She had no inclination to engage in further conversation with the Clan Leaders. In fact, she harbored a lingering apprehension that they might discern something about her. Thus, she deliberately distanced herself from these troublesome discussions.

"Sister, let's just go and pay no attention to these matters," suggested the Dao Child of the Demon Clan, sensing the natural aversion.

His sister had never been fond of such affairs, a sentiment that persisted from the past to the present. He comprehended her stance.

The Demon Clan departed without further ado.

The members of the other clans were eager to rectify the aftermath. Surviving owed much to the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan, and cleaning up the mess felt like a small price to pay, considering the potential benefits.

The demise of the Human Clan Leader resulted from his excessive ambition, leaving a trail of grievances. The memory of his past actions lingered, ensuring future retaliation against the Human Clan.

Additionally, the Human Clan Leader's residence yielded valuable spoils.

And so, the Demon Clan left, while representatives of other races expressed intentions to visit in the future.

During the return journey, the First Elder and the Demon Family Elder extended polite greetings to Gu Chaoyan.

Gu Chaoyan, however, grappled with conflicting emotions.

After today's incident, it seemed they had unequivocally recognized her as the Clan Leader. Whether this was a boon or a bane, she couldn't fathom.

Adrift in contemplation, she absentmindedly placed her hand on her forehead, grappling with the uncertainty.

Suddenly, the Dao Child of the Demon Clan entered, wearing a joyful expression as he remarked, "Sister, your cultivation has ascended to a transcendent level. Congratulations! You used to fervently desire formidable cultivation, and now you've achieved it."

"Our Demon Clan can ascend to greater heights. We might even seize the opportunity to revisit the ancient city of the Demon Clan. The mere thought brings me joy; we can reclaim our historical roots."

"Why should my lack of strength hinder my return to the Demon Clan's ancient city?"

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That had always been a perplexing aspect for Gu Chaoyan.

When the Demon Clan relocated from the ancient city hundreds of years ago, there was no intention of returning. It wasn't until she, as the Clan Leader, proved her worth that the desire to return surfaced. Gu Chaoyan couldn't comprehend this shift in perspective.

Even without the presence of the Clan Leader, the Elders and the Dao Child of the Demon Clan, assuming leadership roles, should have maintained control over the ancient city of the Demon Clan.

The Dao Child of the Demon Clan was taken aback.

He hadn't anticipated his sister raising such a question.

Wasn't the ancient city of the Demon Clan her city? Did she not understand the significance?

Perhaps, he wondered, had she always resided in the Demon Clan's ancient city, her cultivation perpetually formidable, rendering her unaware of these circumstances?

Puzzled, he explained earnestly, "Sister, have you forgotten? The ancient city of the Demon Clan relies on your cultivation to activate its protective barrier. Furthermore, the entire city depends on your cultivation to function. Without you in the ancient city of the Demon Clan, we can only sustain our connection with the Yu Meng for a limited time—about a hundred years. As time progresses, the pervasive miasma of the ancient city becomes insurmountable. That's why we established the Demon Clan City, a place to reside when you're not present."

Shock overcame Gu Chaoyan.

She hadn't forgotten; she was entirely unaware.

Dependent on the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan's cultivation?

Returning was impossible, regardless.

At her current cultivation level—a mere half-step Golden Immortal—stepping into the Demon Clan's ancient city would likely prove fatal, given the toxic miasma, let alone sustaining its functions.

Gu Chaoyan shook her head and said, "Hold off on that for now."

"In the Human Clan Leader's mansion, you witnessed that my cultivation appears significantly enhanced, but it's misleading. While practicing Energy Deviation, my overall cultivation has suffered. I can vanish into thin air, but the core cultivation is compromised. I'm concerned..." Gu Chaoyan conveyed with a hint of sadness, hoping the Dao Child of the Demon Clan would comprehend and abandon the idea, perhaps even dissuading others.

The Dao Child of the Demon Clan had already contemplated these matters, understanding they were issues the Demon Clan would eventually confront.

He smiled. "Sister, I understand."

His sister's cultivation must have suffered damage.

Knowing her sister's nature, she would have personally dealt with the Human Clan Leader rather than letting him off easily.

The reason for raising this concern was not due to a belief that it should be so, but because the First Elder and others had officially acknowledged Gu Chaoyan as their sister. With this acknowledgment, the return to the Demon Clan's ancient city was imminent.

"Sister, don't worry. The ancient city of the demon race doesn't require your personal cultivation. It stands for every Clan Leader of the demon race. As long as you hold the position of Clan Leader of the Demon Clan, the ancient city will naturally restore itself," comforted the Dao Child of Demon Clan.

Upon hearing his words, Gu Chaoyan's expression turned even more distressed and anxious.

No need for personal cultivation?

That meant the ancient city recognized humans solely through the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan.

Her predicament seemed dire.

She wasn't the authentic Clan Leader of the Demon Clan, yet she bore an uncanny resemblance to one.

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Even if she miraculously avoided harm from the miasma, restoring the ancient city of the Demon Clan to its original state proved an insurmountable challenge. Sooner or later, her true identity would be unveiled.

And when that moment arrived...

The entire Demon Clan would show her no mercy.

The thought weighed heavily on Gu Chaoyan, intensifying her discomfort.

Every passing moment in this realm felt like a relentless trial, each fraught with unimaginable terror.

Despite the Dao Child of Demon Clan's attempts to uplift her spirits, Gu Chaoyan found it impossible to summon a smile.

The Dao Child of Demon Clan blamed himself endlessly, striving to devise ways to bring happiness to his troubled sister.

Upon their return to the Demon Clan City,

The First Elder welcomed her with utmost respect.

Yet, Gu Chaoyan couldn't find it in herself to smile.

She almost preferred the skepticism!

The other Elders, along with the residents of the Demon Clan City, made a grand spectacle, joyously welcoming their Clan Leader back to the city.

This time...

They had truly acknowledged her.

Every step felt like a struggle for Gu Chaoyan.

Ahead loomed the throne of the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan—a path she had to ascend again, knowing each ascent depleted a substantial amount of her energy.

Maintaining an expressionless demeanor, Gu Chaoyan fought to conceal her emotions.

She advanced step by step toward the Clan Leader's throne.

With each step, she projected an image of calm dominance, disguising the trembling in her legs.

Unbeknownst to those watching, Gu Chaoyan grappled with her own unease.

Finally, she let out a sigh of relief.

From her elevated position, overlooking the Demon Clan City, she exuded an air of undeniable authority.

Following her lead, the First Elder and the Demon Clan members bowed in reverence to their Clan Leader.

Gu Chaoyan executed the ceremony as per her own speculation.

Upon its completion, the First Elder eagerly inquired, "Clan Leader, when do we plan to return to the Demon Clan's ancient city?"

As expected, the recurring question resurfaced.

No wonder the Dao Child of the Demon Clan had expressed concerns.

Return to the Demon Clan's ancient city?

Risk exposure to the toxic miasma?

Or openly admit that she was not the true Clan Leader of the Demon Clan?

She resisted providing a direct answer.

Perplexed, the First Elder gazed up at the Clan Leader.

Gu Chaoyan, appearing reluctant, offered a tentative response, “As soon as possible.”

The First Elder beamed with approval. “Yes!”

With that, the matter seemed resolved.

Wearing a troubled expression, Gu Chaoyan descended from the Clan Leader’s throne.

This time, she left the assembly behind, turning away to depart.

On the contrary, the First Elder and the others appeared unperturbed.

It was a characteristic trait of the Clan Leader to be assertive.

He directed everyone to disperse and make preparations for the return to the Demon Clan’s ancient city.

Once Gu Chaoyan departed, she secluded herself in a room and summoned the Dragonman.
“Consider how we can escape.”

“Why would you suddenly want to flee when you’re doing well as the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan?” The Dragonman, content with its indulgent lifestyle, munched on Spirit Stones, showing a lack of understanding.

“This is no jest. They’re heading back to the ancient city of the Demon Clan. I am not the authentic Clan Leader of the Demon Clan. Going back means certain death,” Gu Chaoyan asserted gravely.
“Not only due to the demon clan miasma, but the ancient city of the Demon Clan is also intrinsically linked to the Clan Leader. Only the true Clan Leader can resurrect the ancient city, and I cannot fulfill that role.”

The Dragonman grappled with the dilemma.

Indeed, this deception posed considerable challenges.

“Why not claim you want to take a stroll these few days, and we can use that as an opportunity to escape?”

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In the current situation, the Dragonman clung to hope, but Gu Chaoyan’s words hinted at a more serious predicament.

It possessed some knowledge about the ancient city of the Demon Clan.

The Demon Clan earned its name due to its inherently demonic nature.

The existence of the ancient city of the Demon Clan was intricately tied to the Clan Leader of the Demon Clan. In essence, the ancient city’s fate hinged on the presence of the Clan Leader.

Moreover, each generation of the Clan Leader transformed the appearance of the Demon Clan Ancient City entirely.

For the Demon Clan to desire a return to their ancient city, it meant acknowledging the current Clan Leader and aspiring to revive the city. The revival of the ancient city was essential for the residents to continue their cultivation.

Gu Chaoyan, resembling the Clan Leader of Demon Clan, could maintain her façade.

Yet, if she ventured to the Demon Clan’s ancient city, her true identity would undoubtedly be exposed. Such exposure would lead to dire consequences, not just for her but also for the

Dragonman, still relatively young and finding it challenging to return to the Second World. The possibilities were abundant, and it would be a tragedy for him to perish here.

Therefore, the Little Dragon agreed.

Pleased with its compliance, Gu Chaoyan nodded, deeming the plan acceptable.

“Alright, let’s pick a suitable time to make our escape,” she decided.

The Little Dragon nodded in concurrence.

With the matter seemingly settled, a voice interrupted, “Sister.” It was the voice of the Dao Child of the Demon Clan.

They had just met, so why was he here again? Gu Chaoyan couldn’t fathom what this guy could possibly want.

Hiding the Dragonman away, she opened the door and playfully patted the Dao Child of the Demon Clan on the head. “What’s the matter with you? Why do you keep bothering me every day?”

The Dao Child of the Demon Clan was taken aback, looking at her with a slight blush on his face, clearly feeling a bit embarrassed. Calling the Clan Leader his sister was a rare occurrence, and it seemed the Clan Leader had recognized him.

However...

Only when the Clan Leader mistook his identity could he be so at ease in her presence. The Dao Child of the Demon Clan occasionally relished the sensation of being recognized incorrectly.

“You all returned from the Human Clan Leader’s residence and specifically came to see you,” the Dao Child of the Demon Clan truthfully revealed.

This revelation left Gu Chaoyan stunned.

A case of mistaken identity?

This must be the elder brother of the Dao Child of the Demon Clan. She wasn't accustomed to suddenly being called sister.

"It's you." Gu Chaoyan had no choice but to playfully slap him again.

To assert that she wasn't afraid of him, the Dao Child of the Demon Clan responded with a laugh.

Although he usually wore a serious expression, when he smiled, he looked quite charming. However, this fleeting moment of levity soon reverted to his usual mature and stern demeanor.

"Is there any issue within the Demon Clan?" Gu Chaoyan asked, getting straight to the point.

"No."

"That's good."

The two of them exchanged a wordless gaze.

The Dao Child of the Demon Clan appeared unperturbed, casually taking a seat. Meanwhile, Gu Chaoyan couldn't help but wish that the Dao Child of Demon Clan would leave promptly.

Despite the Dao Child of Demon Clan's mature demeanor, it was important to remember that he was still a child.

Born as twins, their parents had abandoned them at a very young age, leaving the Clan Leader as their primary caretaker. Although only slightly older, she assumed the role of an older sister and had been looking after them ever since.