

Divine 2581

Chapter 2581: Ice Flame Continent 38

The Clan Leader of the True Martial Race smiled and remarked, “You still have many good days ahead of you. Why think about retirement now? Take your time. After the Anicca Race, whether in your hands or theirs, they will all be yours.” He appeared genuinely nostalgic about the past.

However, the First Elder shook his head, clearly disagreeing with the Clan Leader of the True Martial Race.

“I’m not as fortunate as you, having many children. I only have Yan’er. What else is there to consider?” the First Elder insisted.

The Clan Leader of the True Martial Race simply smiled, choosing not to say anything more.

In reality, the Clan Leader’s words didn’t reflect his true thoughts. If he genuinely wished for the Great Clan Leader to retain power indefinitely, what would become of his daughter? What about his future grandson?

Therefore, the First Elder’s thoughts aligned well with those of the Clan Leader of the True Martial Race, and he was quite satisfied.

The two engaged in a happy conversation, quickly reaching an agreement during their discussion.

With no rush to leave, the First Elder remained in the True Martial Race for a while. Observing that the two had not returned, he left them there and returned alone.

The Clan Leader of the True Martial Race appreciated cooperating with the First Elder. The First Elder understood his boundaries, aware of his position within the dynamics.

Indeed, the Clan Leader found it quite agreeable.

Not long after the First Elder’s return to the Anicca Race, Kang Yan and Ziluo came back the next day.

While the True Martial Race offered some entertainment, it mostly amounted to a waste of time beyond the usual activities of eating, drinking, and playing.

Although both of them were arrogant and headstrong, they remained diligent in their cultivation, unwilling to squander time.

The First Elder had anticipated their return, allowing him to calmly come back.

This time, it was Ziluo who returned, and there was a noticeable change in her demeanor.

Her face exuded newfound confidence, and it seemed as though she regarded the Anicca Race with disdain, as if stepping on them beneath her feet.

As for Kang Yan, she felt like she had gained some level of control over him.

In the past, Ziluo occasionally felt a twinge of guilt, being an outsider from the Anicca Race in the True Martial Race. She believed she shouldn't be so assertive.

However, current circumstances suggested otherwise.

Observing Kang Yan and the First Elder's attitudes, she comprehended that they couldn't function without her.

Kang Yan went about his own business, and Ziluo, after a moment of contemplation, sought out Kang Shi.

Now that she had reached the ninth heaven, she needed to break through a formidable bottleneck. It seemed insurmountable, and obtaining pills to facilitate the breakthrough could save her significant time.

Kang Shi had desires, didn't he?

All she had to do was bring what he wanted.

Casually selecting a Dharma artifact, Ziluo went to find Kang Shi, navigating the familiar path she knew well.

Taking advantage of the solitude around, she hastened to his location.

Upon reaching Kang Shi's abode, she found him leisurely sipping tea, seemingly unoccupied.

Ziluo skipped over.

Gu Chaoyan looked up as she was drinking tea, and saw Ziluo walking towards her.

She was wearing a purple dress. She was small and cute, but she looked very cute in this dress. Her eyes were dark, and she looked very playful.

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Gu Chaoyan scrutinized her, understanding why Ziluo was so popular among the Anicca Race.

Indeed, if one didn't know her true appearance, it was easy to be misled by her face and demeanor, perceiving her as a harmless junior sister.

Aware of Ziluo's situation, Gu Chaoyan didn't dwell on it.

When Ziluo approached Kang Shi, she returned the favor and sized him up.

Kang Shi had undergone some changes.

During their initial encounter, Kang Shi presented himself as a promising young man. His vibrant spirit had resonated with Ziluo, and she had readily agreed to the engagement, deeming him worthy.

However, upon their subsequent meeting, she found a disheartened version of him. Kang Shi appeared unkempt, and Ziluo suspected he neglected personal grooming.

In her eyes, he seemed unlucky, and she had no inclination to spare him a second glance.

To Ziluo, Kang Shi was nothing to admire; she regarded him with disdain.

Yet, today was different.

Dressed in a simple green robe with casually tied-up hair, Kang Shi sat calmly, sipping tea unhurriedly. He exuded a certain charm that caught Ziluo's attention.

In a good mood, Ziluo expressed her satisfaction. "I'm here to exchange for pills," she declared confidently, with a touch of mischief in her voice.

She then presented her offering—a low-level Dharma artifact, an enchanted armament. The purpose of the Dharma artifact was to control low-level demon beasts, making them subservient for personal use.

Ziluo's choice of presenting a Dharma artifact seemed insincere, mainly influenced by Kang Shi's presence.

Gu Chaoyan wasn't concerned with sincerity but rather the utility of the offered item.

However, the Dharma artifact held no use for Kang Shi, prompting him to shake his head.

Feeling a bit uneasy, Ziluo looked at Kang Shi, questioning, "What does this mean?"

"You can't exchange this for anything. Choose something else. I can't accept everything," Kang Shi explained.

Ziluo, displeased, asked, "Are you intentionally making things difficult for me?"

"No, we all have limitations. I don't have an abundance of herbs, and I only exchange what I need," Kang Shi replied calmly, showing no sign of emotion.

Ziluo remained unhappy, convinced that Kang Shi was deliberately creating obstacles.

“Tell me what you want, and I’ll get it for you,” she offered, restraining her temper.

“Miss Ziluo, you may have misunderstood. It’s not about what I want, but what you want. If it suits my needs, I’ll exchange it; if not, I won’t,” Gu Chaoyan clarified, emphasizing that it depended on compatibility and fate.

Ziluo, still feeling that Kang Shi was being difficult, said, “Senior Brother Kang Shi.”

Little Junior Sister entered the scene, and Gu Chaoyan’s demeanor shifted from cool detachment to warmth. She inquired, “Little Junior Sister, what is it?”

Spotting the Dharma artifact on the table, Little Junior Sister’s eyes lit up. “This is a Dharma artifact that can control some low-level demon beasts.”

Turning to Gu Chaoyan, she asked eagerly, “What is it, Little Junior Sister? Do you want this thing?”

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Observing Little Junior Sister’s tone and expression, Gu Chaoyan could easily discern her interest in the Dharma artifact.

This revelation surprised her.

She had no personal interest in the item, but it seemed Little Junior Sister had a liking for it.

Throughout this period, Little Junior Sister had maintained their close friendship, unaffected by Kang Shi’s attitude. Grateful as ever, Little Junior Sister had proven to be a reliable companion.

Recognizing the potential for a lasting friendship, Gu Chaoyan considered treating Little Junior Sister as one of her own.

In that moment, she already decided to exchange the Dharma artifact with Ziluo for Little Junior Sister.

Little Junior Sister nodded in acknowledgment and confessed with a hint of embarrassment, "I'm a little interested in beast taming, though it's not very practical for me at the moment. My cultivation level isn't high enough."

"..."

"Senior Brother Kang Shi, you don't need to consider me," she added, not wanting to burden him further. Little Junior Sister took another glance at the Dharma artifact but refrained from dwelling on it, clearly indicating her reluctance to trouble Senior Brother Kang Shi.

Remaining quiet on the sidelines, she waited patiently, having other matters to attend to. However, out of respect for Senior Brother Kang Shi's guest, she refrained from interrupting.

Ziluo's gaze fixated on Little Junior Sister, as if she was intruding on her territory. Despite feeling displeased, Ziluo had no authority to dismiss her.

Looking at Kang Shi, Ziluo doubted he would act solely based on her preference for the Dharma artifact.

Ziluo spoke casually, "Since you don't like this, I'll go get something else. I'll be right there."

But Gu Chaoyan interrupted her, saying, "Wait."

"I have no intention of taking this item from you because I genuinely don't need it. So, I won't exchange it for pills. However, if Little Junior Sister likes it, I'll make an exception and give it to you. Leave the Dharma artifact, and take this pill instead," Gu Chaoyan declared calmly, negotiating with an air of fairness.

Ziluo, originally prepared to make a change, became perplexed at this unexpected turn. What did this mean? Was he going back on his word for another woman?

She wouldn't allow Kang Shi to treat other women this way, especially if he was breaking the rules for them.

Expressing her discontent, Ziluo questioned Kang Shi, “What do you mean? Are you breaking the rules for a woman?”

They were engaged once, and even though she was now married to Kang Yan, it hadn’t been long. How could Kang Shi seemingly forget about her and curry favor with someone else?

Gu Chaoyan regarded Ziluo as if she were a fool. “A Dharma artifact like yours would never be able to exchange for my elixir pills. But because Little Junior Sister likes it, the rules are being bent. Miss Ziluo, please conduct yourself appropriately,” she added, clearly irritated by Ziluo’s attitude.

Unwilling to marry Kang Shi herself, Ziluo shouldn’t prevent him from treating others well.

“Kang Shi!” Ziluo roared in frustration.

“Are you going to make the exchange or not? If not, please leave,” Gu Chaoyan said impatiently, while Little Junior Sister remained silent, watching the drama unfold.

Gu Chaoyan was on the verge of chasing Ziluo away.

“Fine, I will make the exchange,” Ziluo yielded. She needed the pill urgently, and dealing with someone as stubborn as Kang Shi might not result in a favorable trade for other items. She wouldn’t settle for the short end of the stick and decided to break through first.

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Despite making the exchange, Ziluo harbored dissatisfaction.

Initially, Kang Shi had been reluctant to accept her offerings, but now he was willing just because this woman liked them? It didn’t sit well with Ziluo.

She discreetly pocketed the pill, silently declaring her decision not to leave.

Observing the woman seated there, Ziluo then turned her attention to Kang Shi, wearing a serious expression. “Kang Shi, step out for a moment. I have something to discuss with you privately.”

Gu Chaoyan, puzzled by the sudden request, glanced at Little Junior Sister, who smiled and nodded.

Still confused, Gu Chaoyan followed Ziluo outside.

Impatiently, she inquired, "What is it? Just say it."

"It was my father's decision to call off the engagement. Being the daughter of the Clan Leader of the True Martial Race, my father has his considerations about whom I marry. It's unrealistic to expect him to prioritize your cultivation. I've tried to convince him for years, but you haven't changed much, and I can't persuade my father any longer. That's why it ended up like this," Ziluo explained.

"..."

"That's not what I truly wanted," Ziluo continued.

"..."

"Kang Shi, if I didn't have feelings for you back then, why would I have agreed to the marriage?" Ziluo revealed.

Gu Chaoyan responded bluntly, "Now that you are married to Kang Yan, there's no point in discussing these matters. Is that what you wanted to talk about privately?" She couldn't grasp Ziluo's intentions.

Ziluo nodded solemnly.

"I know you might find it hard to believe, but it's true. I am genuinely willing. My father coerced me into this marriage. Even though I'm already wed, I still have feelings for you," Ziluo confessed.

"....."

"I'll support you in the Anicca Clan's competition. Even if I can't directly assist, I'll find a way to arrange matters for you outside the clan. You can count on me," Ziluo pledged, envisioning a

scenario where Kang Shi would be solely reliant on himself, refining pills for her benefit. To her, it all seemed possible.

Her words carried sincerity.

Kang Shi regarded her with an incredulous expression.

Did Ziluo think he was a fool?

“Thank you, but no. We are merely fellow disciples. You’re already married, and there’s no connection between us. Please go back and refrain from uttering such things again. Regardless of your feelings, I have no interest in you,” Gu Chaoyan responded coldly, turning away and departing.

Ziluo attempted to hold her back, but Gu Chaoyan dismissed her, not providing an opportunity for further interaction.

“Very well!” Ziluo shouted in frustration, turning back.

There would come a day when she could take control of the situation. She vowed to handle things appropriately when she achieved her breakthrough, ensuring no one had an easy time.

Back inside, Gu Chaoyan seemed to have forgotten about the encounter with Ziluo. “Little Junior Sister, what’s the matter?”

“...”

“I came to check on you. The clan competition is approaching, Senior Brother Kang Shi. Focus more on cultivation and less on studying these pills,” Little Junior Sister advised, to which Gu Chaoyan nodded in agreement.

“And as for Miss Ziluo, don’t be misled by her. It could lead to trouble in the future. Senior Brother Kang Shi, do you understand?” Little Junior Sister added.

Little Junior Sister appealed with a concerned expression, fearing that Senior Brother Kang Shi might genuinely believe Ziluo's words and be inclined to help her.

She remembered the history of the True Martial Race wanting to cancel the engagement, and how it was prolonged due to the Clan Leader and Kang Shi's pleas. The whole situation had spanned several years, during which Senior Brother Kang Shi had sacrificed his dignity for the engagement.

Little Junior Sister was genuinely worried.

Gu Chaoyan looked at Little Junior Sister and burst into laughter, as if she suddenly grasped something.

She hadn't expected Little Junior Sister to be so perceptive.

Initially puzzled by Little Junior Sister's behavior earlier, Gu Chaoyan now realized that she had intentionally kept silent in front of Ziluo, perhaps to allow Ziluo to misunderstand.

Gu Chaoyan felt a sense of joy.

In this world, having someone who cared deeply for her was a source of happiness.

"Little Junior Sister, don't worry. I have no feelings for Ziluo, and she is already married. It doesn't concern me. She's just like any other member of the family," Gu Chaoyan reassured Little Junior Sister, hoping to alleviate any unnecessary concerns.

Little Junior Sister had come over out of concern for Senior Brother Kang Shi's cultivation and potential challenges during the upcoming competition.

Little Junior Sister didn't need to worry about this matter.

Throughout this period, she had been consistently refining pills, ensuring that her cultivation kept pace. In fact, the original purpose of refining pills was to use them for her own cultivation, making it impossible for her to lag behind.

For her, exchanging items was merely a matter of convenience.

After contemplating for a moment, Gu Chaoyan utilized her spiritual energy to reveal the level of Dao spiritual energy to Little Junior Sister. She then glanced at her, asking, “Are you reassured?”

“Senior Brother Kang Shi!” Little Junior Sister exclaimed in surprise. “Have you returned to your past cultivation speed?”

Only the Senior Brother Kang Shi from the past could exhibit such remarkable cultivation speed and talent.

Gu Chaoyan was unsure how to explain the situation. Since Little Junior Sister seemed to believe so, she responded, “I haven’t made progress before because it feels like I’ve hit a bottleneck. I couldn’t figure it out.”

“...”

“When we broke off the engagement, it was as if I gained insight and started cultivating again,” Gu Chaoyan revealed.

Little Junior Sister was pleasantly surprised.

She wasn’t concerned about the reason; as long as Senior Brother Kang Shi’s cultivation improved, it was a positive development.

With his current cultivation, there would be no issues in the upcoming competition.

Senior Brother Kang Shi wouldn’t be expelled from the clan and could continue his cultivation.

The Clan Leader would undoubtedly be pleased.

Everything was falling back into place.

Filled with excitement, Little Junior Sister exclaimed, “Senior Brother Kang Shi, this is great!”

Gu Chaoyan handed the Dharma artifact to Little Junior Sister and said, “Take this.”

“...”

“Although it’s a tool for taming beasts, it’s a basic-level Dharma artifact, an enchanted armament. It can only tame low-level demon beasts without intelligence.”

“...”

“So, when you use it...”

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“Remember, be very careful,” Gu Chaoyan emphasized with seriousness.

Little Junior Sister held the Dharma artifact and nodded solemnly.

“Ziluo is quite insincere. Even if she approaches me, it’s likely just to extract something without taking any risks. That woman is very cunning. Not only me, but also you, Little Junior Sister, must stay vigilant around her,” Gu Chaoyan warned.

Having conveyed her caution, Gu Chaoyan intended to provide guidance to Little Junior Sister on the art of beast taming.

As she turned around, there was no one behind her.

Gu Chaoyan sighed awkwardly, realizing she might have been too long-winded and Little Junior Sister had likely gone off to amuse herself.

With Little Junior Sister out for some recreation, Gu Chaoyan settled down to contemplate her own matters.

In the realm of cultivation, tea-drinking wasn't a prevalent pastime; instead, interest focused on various types of pills. Hence, Gu Chaoyan had planted some tea trees in her personal space. Nourished by the Holy Spirit Water, the tea produced had a delightful fragrance.

During idle moments, she would sit here, sipping tea, and pondering various things.

Gu Chaoyan cherished these peaceful days.

The day of the Anicca Race's competition was approaching.

While the annual competition held lesser significance for most, as almost everyone met the required standards and few faced expulsion from the clan, it carried great importance for individuals like Kang Shi. His cultivation had stagnated for years, and if there was no improvement soon, he might be deemed unsuitable for further cultivation.

At present, his cultivation had already reached the First Heaven of the Martial King Realm, which should be sufficient to handle the upcoming competition.

Even Kang Yan and Ziluo, considered geniuses, were only at the pinnacle of the Martial Emperor Realm. Kang Shi was no different from them, and he had no plans to draw excessive attention to himself at the moment; he knew there was a long journey ahead.

Having organized her thoughts, Gu Chaoyan shifted her focus to the matter concerning the Clan Leader.

She had identified the faction controlled by the First Elder within the Anicca Race. Her plan was to dismantle them methodically. Therefore, her priority remained refining pills, as only through this could she elevate the Clan Leader, Kang Shi, and the select individuals Kang Shi trusted. Ultimately, she aimed to create a support system of her own.

Simultaneously, she intended to cultivate her own group of supporters after the competition.

Post-competition, as everyone witnessed Kang Shi's cultivation level, the perception of the Clan Leader's son being inept vanished. As long as he wasn't considered incompetent, people were eager to align themselves with him.

The path forward looked promising.

Kang Shi resumed his quiet cultivation.

Meanwhile, Kang Yan grew increasingly frustrated.

Ever since his father disclosed certain matters to him, Kang Yan had been yielding to Ziluo. However, his compliance didn't deepen Ziluo's affection for him; instead, it fueled her arrogance and disdain. She no longer cared about him.

Previously, she had some trepidation towards him, but now, all reservations were gone.

Kang Yan, despite understanding certain principles, reached a point where he couldn't tolerate the situation any longer.

His heart was truly not aligned with the Great Dao.

After a heated argument, Kang Yan stormed angrily to seek out the First Elder.

Slamming the table heavily, the First Elder expressed his frustration. "Is that why you're here?"

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Kang Yan nodded in agreement.

The First Elder was genuinely angry. If he had more than just this son, he wouldn't have invested so much time and patience in someone he considered foolish.

"We're on the verge of the competition. True, dealing with Kang Shi is within our grasp, but is that the only thing you should be concerned about? Do you not realize the urgency of cultivating, allowing your strength to shine within the clan? Only then can you win the hearts of the clan members. Don't you understand?" the First Elder scolded.

"..."

“I’m truly disappointed in how you waste your time fooling around with a young girl,” the First Elder expressed his unhappiness.

His recent endeavors in the clan hadn’t been smooth, adding to his frustration.

Ultimately, how could he be pleased with a son who was so lackluster?

While Kang Yan knew the truth in his father’s words, he still felt unjustly treated. His father’s words didn’t account for the extent to which Ziluo had gone overboard.

“Father, no matter what, Ziluo is my wife. But look at her, acting arrogant and despotic all the time. It’s bad enough she doesn’t take me seriously, and now she openly seduces Kang Shi. Why would she go for someone as insignificant as him?”

“...”

“If anything happens in the future, it will be a disgrace to your son. What will outsiders think of me?” Kang Yan fumed at the thought. Kang Shi was the person he found most intolerable.

Ziluo seducing Kang Shi?

This meant Kang Shi’s pill refinement technique was effective.

He needed to act quickly, arranging matters to acquire Kang Shi’s pill refinement method for himself.

The pill was in their hands, so it naturally had nothing to do with him.

Another matter concerned Ziluo.

“If Ziluo really did something out of line, that’s a good thing. We have something on her. In the future, whether in front of Ziluo or the True Martial Race, we will be proactive and not passive like before. This is a good thing.”

“...”

“Yan’er, only through enduring hardship can one become an Exalted One,” the First Elder explained. “You’re still young after all. There are some things that you can’t endure. It’s nothing. As long as you can endure it, everything belongs to us. When we reach a certain height, we won’t have to worry anymore. No one can bully us.”

The First Elder spoke earnestly.

Although Kang Yan understood what his father meant, he still felt a little indignant and believed that it wasn’t the case.

He wanted to express his thoughts, but the First Elder didn’t give him a chance to speak.

Kang Yan returned unhappily.

He thought he could endure it for now. After the competition, everything would be fine. He wouldn’t have to suffer so much anymore.

Upon his return, Kang Yan remained unhappy.

He had no interest in Ziluo making a fuss on the side.

To Kang Yan, a woman like Ziluo, even if she hadn’t done anything yet, was no different from a troublemaker.

Seeing that Kang Yan was in a bad mood, Ziluo became even more displeased and slapped him directly.

Kang Yan glared at her but didn’t retaliate. Instead, he stood up and left.

This time, Ziluo created an even bigger scene, demanding that Kang Yan apologize to her.

And so it went.

Until the eve of the competition.

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Only then did she finally calm down.

Kang Yan's attention shifted away from Ziluo. Regardless of what happened to her, the outcome would change after the competition—it was an entirely different scenario.

Post-competition, Kang Shi would be expelled from the clan, falling under their control. Regardless of Ziluo's actions, she would be powerless. Moreover, once their father assumed the position of the Clan Leader of the True Martial Race, it signified that the Anicca Race was now under their dominion. They would no longer be subservient to the Clan Leader of the True Martial Race. Naturally, Ziluo wouldn't command as much respect from them, and if she erred, they would simply impose punishment.

Kang Yan ceased his arguments with Ziluo, and gradually, Ziluo lost the inclination to continue.

Her thoughts also gravitated towards Kang Shi.

Kang Shi had rejected her earlier proposition.

Yet, he wasn't in dire straits yet. When he found himself in such a predicament, he wouldn't maintain the same composure. When she reappeared, she would offer him a promise, affirming that her feelings hadn't wavered. By then, she expected him to be grateful and willingly serve her.

Both Ziluo and Kang Yan harbored their own contemplations, leading to a period of silence between them.

They patiently awaited the day of the competition.

The atmosphere in the clan was vibrant.

It was a rare sight to witness Kang Shi emerge and make his way to the competition hall.

On this occasion, he wasn't entirely subjected to ridicule. Instead, some individuals sought to befriend him, offering polite greetings along the way.

However, he remained wary, treating these greetings merely as superficial exchanges.

Gu Chaoyan also arrived at the venue.

She stood outside, observing the scene within the competition hall.

The competition in the Anicca Clan differed from the clan competitions Gu Chaoyan had encountered in the past. It wasn't a team-based martial arts competition in the arena.

This competition was more akin to the monitoring of disciples' spiritual roots when they entered a sect, although in the Anicca Race, it wasn't a test of spiritual roots but rather of cultivation levels.

There were two criteria:

Firstly, participants had to meet a specific minimum cultivation standard.

Secondly, their cultivation had to show improvement every year. The degree of improvement wasn't strictly defined, as long as there was progress.

Kang Shi already met the standard set for clan disciples. However, the only reason he might be selected was that his cultivation hadn't improved in the past few years. Two years ago, he still had a chance, but if he didn't show improvement this year, he would lose that opportunity. He would then need to seek opportunities outside the clan.

Gu Chaoyan stood at the entrance of the court, surrounded by onlookers. Many gazes lingered on Kang Shi, each viewer harboring different thoughts.

Some, like Kang Yan and Ziluo, eagerly awaited Kang Shi's departure. These individuals had already taken sides.

On the other hand, there were those who hoped for Kang Shi to stay. These were clan disciples who hadn't aligned themselves with any faction. They were considering the practical aspect – Kang Shi's medicinal pills were valuable to them. Having a consistent supplier of medicinal pills would facilitate continuous breakthroughs in their cultivation.

As they grew stronger, obtaining what they desired in the future would become much easier.

The individuals of the Anicca Clan harbored their own thoughts.

Gu Chaoyan didn't linger for long and entered the premises.

Wherever she moved, conversations ensued.

As the discussions subsided,

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This was when the Clan Leader, First Elder, and others arrived.

They personally attended to oversee the competition.

Kang Yan and Ziluo accompanied the First Elder. They were not aligned with the rest, and their distinct status reflected this division.

Kang Shi was among them.

Ziluo and Kang Yan occasionally cast glances at Kang Shi.

Kang Shi waited silently.

As the competition was about to commence, the disciples of the clan began their assessments one by one. Results were generally satisfactory since not many individuals were expelled annually.

The routine process caused some to grow drowsy.

Gu Chaoyan continued to wait patiently, seemingly hesitant to step forward.

As individuals finished their tests one after another, Ziluo decided to go ahead. Before the test, she playfully remarked, “Now that I am a member of the Anicca Tribe, I must undergo the test.”

With that, she proceeded.

In the first round, everyone was astonished.

Third Level Martial Emperor Realm.

She had broken through once more?

The youngest daughter of the Clan Leader of True Martial Race was already renowned for her cultivation talent. At such a tender age, she had already reached the pinnacle of the Martial King Realm.

She didn't anticipate that within the brief period after joining the Anicca Race through marriage, Ziluo had achieved another significant breakthrough. Undoubtedly, she truly lived up to her reputation as a remarkable talent.

Ziluo's cultivation impressed, and the faces of both the First Elder and Kang Yan radiated satisfaction.

Next up was Kang Yan.

As he ascended, he scrutinized Kang Shi, seemingly eager for competition.

Ziluo's advancement to the Third Heaven of Martial Emperor Realm was undoubtedly astounding news.

However, Kang Yan, assisted by his father, had already reached the sixth level of the Martial Monarch Realm. This martial prowess far surpassed Ziluo's. Among the young Anicca Race members, Kang Yan could easily secure the leading position.

Confidently, Kang Yan stepped onto the testing platform, unleashing his spiritual energy.

Level Six Martial Emperor Realm.

What?

At such a young age, Kang Yan had already attained Level Six Martial Emperor Realm.

His accumulations were substantial.

Comparatively, he was much steadier in his cultivation journey than Kang Shi had been in the past.

Taking things gradually seemed to be working well for him.

If he continued at this pace, he could be the next Clan Leader.

This realization sparked lively discussions among the crowd, revealing their contentment with Kang Yan's achievements.

Gu Chaoyan observed the situation, acknowledging that Kang Yan surpassed her initial expectations.

She suddenly felt that the top-notch Martial King cultivation she had prepared might not be sufficient.

Initially, Gu Chaoyan had no desire for the spotlight. Her goal was simply to showcase Kang Shi's breakthrough in cultivation. However, considering the First Elder's likely impatience in the upcoming competition a year later, she might need to alter her plans.

If Kang Shi could reclaim his former glory in this competition,

It could potentially lead to even smoother progress thereafter.

Hearing the ongoing discussions, Gu Chaoyan reconsidered her strategy.

While immersed in her thoughts, Kang Yan, unwilling to let her off the hook, turned around just before leaving the testing platform. “Kang Shi, you haven’t been tested yet, have you?”

Gu Chaoyan shook her head slightly. “Not yet.”

“Then don’t hold back. Come here. There are certain things that can’t be avoided,” Kang Yan declared.

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Kang Shi had not stepped forward for quite some time, keeping a low profile. Considering his cultivation level, Kang Yan’s words seemed justified.

After all, if Kang Shi failed to achieve a breakthrough, he might have to leave the clan.

All eyes focused on Kang Shi as Gu Chaoyan ascended the platform.

As she prepared for the test, Kang Yan hesitated, wanting to stay on the platform and seize the opportunity to compare himself with Kang Shi, possibly embarrassing him.

However, the Clan Leader intervened, urging Kang Yan to step down. The First Elder, however, restrained him, assuring the Clan Leader that they would plan for Kang Shi’s future even if his cultivation had not improved.

Gu Chaoyan smiled faintly, recognizing the favorable circumstances.

“Let’s proceed,” Kang Yan sneered.

Gu Chaoyan nodded subtly and channeled her spiritual energy.

In the next moment...

A top-notch Martial Emperor cultivation.

Kang Yan, initially ready to mock, found himself abruptly silenced.

A top-notch Martial Emperor cultivation.

What?

There was an uproar below.

Kang Yan seemed to have heard wrongly.

His cultivation had now reached the sixth layer of the Martial Emperor Realm, a level that his father had meticulously cultivated. The extent of effort and resources spent on nurturing such cultivation was beyond imagination.

Kang Yan believed that no one could surpass him.

However, facing the revelation of Kang Shi's top-notch Martial Emperor cultivation, who had shown no progress for the past few years, and had supposedly been stuck at the peak of the Martial Monarch Realm, left Kang Yan utterly bewildered.

How was this possible?

The First Elder's smile froze on his face.

This unexpected turn of events was too astonishing. No one could have anticipated its reality.

The disciples of the Anicca Race were also thrown into a state of shock.

Kang Li, however, wore a gratified smile.

Top-notch Martial Emperor cultivation.

Previously, when Shi'er assured him not to worry and claimed that he could do it, Kang Li assumed it referred to a breakthrough. Little did he anticipate that his son would swiftly recover his former prodigious talent.

Realizing that Kang Shi had achieved the peak of the Martial Emperor Realm in such a short time, Kang Li couldn't help but ponder the possibilities for his son's future.

The Clan Leader ascended the stage.

Addressing Kang Yan, who stood alongside Kang Shi, he commended, "Very good. This year's competition showcases the exceptional cultivation of the Anicca Race's young talents."

"..."

"Kang Yan has attained the Level Six Martial Emperor Realm. It's rare for someone of his age to reach such heights."

"..."

"Kang Shi, amidst the turmoil of these past years, you have still managed to comprehend it. This is commendable. Moving forward, no one from other races can use Kang Shi's situation to belittle our Anicca Race."

"..."

"Henceforth, everyone should focus on cultivation. Those who make significant breakthroughs will naturally receive better treatment from the clan, allowing you to access more cultivation resources."

"..."

“The competition concludes today,” declared Kang Li.

Kang Shi descended from the stage and walked out of the clan, accompanied by a crowd of onlookers.

Gao Zhuo approached, offering a hearty pat on Kang Shi’s shoulder. “Well done. I didn’t misjudge you.”