

Divine 2611

Chapter 2611: Top-notch Golden Immortal Dao Ancestor 2

What remained conspicuously unspoken was the general disregard from other races towards the Clan Leader of the True Martial Race. It seemed as though they were deliberately turning a blind eye to his existence, behaving as if they were completely unaware of his position.

Despite his simmering anger, the Clan Leader of the True Martial Race found himself powerless in the face of this blatant disregard.

In a hurried attempt to break free from the stagnation, the Clan Leader orchestrated the swift marriage of his youngest daughter to the second son of a lesser clan leader within the same month. Finally, the True Martial Race had something to occupy themselves with, a much-needed distraction from their recent woes.

However, their respite was short-lived, as they soon received unsettling news. The Anicca Race, the Heaven Race, the Five Grains Race, and others were entering into cooperative alliances. The Anicca Race contributed pills, and in return, the other races provided resources apart from medicinal pills.

For instance, the Anicca Race might receive a certain quantity of medicinal pills, and in exchange, the Heaven Race would grant them access to their back mountain for hunting demon beasts. While each race contributed different resources, they all agreed to collaborate.

Even some smaller clans on the continent forged partnerships with the Anicca Race, excluding the True Martial Race.

Was this a sign of the True Martial Race being ostracized on the continent?

The races benefiting from the pills were flourishing, growing stronger under their influence, while the True Martial Race lacked such vital resources, steadily weakening. As time elapsed, the grim possibility of them having no place to reside on the continent loomed over them.

Contemplating the future filled the Clan Leader of the True Martial Race with apprehension. He could only lament his past decisions.

Why did he meddle in the power struggles of other races?

Had he refrained from interference, the Anicca Race would have remained distinct, and the True Martial Race would have retained its identity. The current animosity might never have arisen, and regretfully, the Clan Leader couldn't help but rue his past actions.

Indeed, had they not severed the engagement in the past, what would the fate of the True Martial Race be now?

The Clan Leader of the True Martial Race hesitated to delve too deeply into that contemplation, consumed by an overwhelming sense of regret that drained his vitality.

In that same year, Kang Shi's father, Kang Li, who doubled as the Clan Leader of the Impermanence Clan, contemplated passing his position to Kang Shi. However, Kang Shi declined the offer, opting instead to embark on a journey of training. Kang Li, respecting his decision, allowed him to go.

Before Kang Shi set out, he entrusted Gao Zhuo and Little Junior Sister as the Clan Leader's trusted aides.

Meanwhile, seizing the opportunity presented by Kang Shi's departure, Gao Zhuo and Little Junior Sister, having recently confirmed their intentions, expedited their wedding banquet to support Kang Shi.

Following the celebration, Kang Shi departed to fulfill his mission.

As the task concluded, Gu Chaoyan, unlike her previous ease, experienced a weighty sense of relief. The past ambition of elevating her cultivation level for revenge against Pei Yueling lost its luster upon discovering the truth about Huaijin—a mere clone.

Now hesitant, she refrained from delving too deeply into matters, grappling with a newfound fear of the unknown.

In a moment of recollection within the Chaotic Space, memories of the first encounter with Zhou Huaijin and their tea-drinking scene in winter sparked excitement in Gu Chaoyan.

Energized by the memories, she entered the tempering space, eager to engage in the process.

The cultivation level of a distinguished Golden Immortal Dao Ancestor was awe-inspiring.

Gu Chaoyan, feeling a weight lifted, released a sigh of relief.

Exiting the chaotic space, she now harbored two determined goals.

Firstly, she sought to locate Emperor Cang, questioning him about the reason behind his clone's involvement in her life and the assistance provided.

Secondly, she demanded the return of his clone—Huaijin belonged to her, not merely as a clone.

Chapter 2612: Regenerating the Black Fog 1

Gu Chaoyan emerged from the Chaotic Space, having already attained the status of a Golden Immortal Dao Ancestor. However, her presence seemed unremarkable in the vastness of the second world, and her aura didn't draw much attention in the ancient city of the Demon Clan.

Consequently, the denizens of the Demon Clan's ancient city displayed little reaction to her arrival. Nevertheless, Gu Chaoyan's appearance did manage to stir some excitement among the locals.

The Dao Child of the Demon Clan was the first to detect her aura and eagerly approached her.

"Sister, has your cultivation progressed smoothly?" inquired the Dao Child of the Demon Clan.

"The cultivation of a top-notch Golden Immortal Dao Ancestor is advancing well, but achieving the status of Master of Fortune will require some time," Gu Chaoyan responded, a hint of weariness in her voice.

Observing his sister, the Dao Child of the Demon Clan hesitated. Gu Chaoyan instantly sensed his uncertainty, realizing that he sought her out for a particular reason but refrained from disclosing it due to her exhausted state.

“Speak, what is it?” Gu Chaoyan demanded directly, leaving no room for hesitation.

Surprised, the Dao Child of the Demon Clan questioned, “Sister, how did you know? Do you possess some form of divine foresight that you acquired during your recent cultivation?”

Gu Chaoyan remained silent, offering him a pointed gaze.

The Dao Child of the Demon Clan couldn’t evade her scrutiny and hurriedly explained, “It’s the First Elder. Upon your awakening, he instructed me to inform you that he wishes to take you somewhere.”

“....”

“There’s nothing advantageous about the First Elder. If you’re fatigued, it would be wiser to rest before meeting him. There’s no rush to comply with the First Elder’s request,” cautioned the Dao Child of the Demon Clan, clearly hoping to dissuade Gu Chaoyan from an immediate response.

Seemingly unfazed, Gu Chaoyan chuckled.

He was the one who cared the most for him among the Dao Children of the Demon Clan.

“It’s alright; I’m not fatigued. I’ll see what’s happening,” Gu Chaoyan reassured the Dao Child of the Demon Clan, affectionately touching his head before heading towards the First Elder.

The Dao Child of the Demon Clan remained standing, still in a daze. Absentmindedly touching his head, he wore a perplexed smile, unsure whether to be pleased or confused. In any case, he felt that something had changed; his sister seemed to favor him more than before.

Filled with joy, the Dao Child of the Demon Clan brushed off any other concerns.

Gu Chaoyan approached the First Elder directly, who was engrossed in managing the affairs of the Demon Clan’s ancient city.

Upon entering, Gu Chaoyan felt a bit awkward. Despite being the Clan Leader, she functioned more as a figurehead, leaving the day-to-day operations to the First Elder, who was consequently burdened with numerous responsibilities.

“Clan Leader, has your cultivation progressed smoothly?” the First Elder inquired, lifting his head as he sensed someone’s presence.

Gu Chaoyan exerted a subtle pressure.

“The cultivation of a top-notch Golden Immortal Dao Ancestor has yielded some results,” she responded with a smile.

Choosing not to delve further into cultivation matters, Gu Chaoyan inquired, “The Dao Child of the Demon Clan mentioned that you were seeking me for something?”

“That’s correct. Two days ago, another dark fog manifested at the location of the vortex. That’s why the Dao Child of Demon Clan informed you immediately after your cultivation,” explained the First Elder.

What?

Another dark fog had appeared?

“Let’s go and investigate,” was Gu Chaoyan’s immediate response.

The First Elder brought her there.

For the first time, the surroundings felt familiar to her.

Upon her arrival, Gu Chaoyan was greeted by a dense mass of black mist.

Just as Gu Chaoyan drew near...

The black mist that had lingered within the whirlpool suddenly convulsed, being drawn into Gu Chaoyan's body, rendering her surroundings blank once again.

Gu Chaoyan found herself enveloped by the swirling black mist, enduring its presence. Simultaneously, she sensed her cultivation strengthening and breaking through.

The First Elder stood in astonishment, witnessing this unusual spectacle.

During their previous visit, the black fog had been confined to the vortex. The Clan Leader had voluntarily absorbed it, gradually incorporating the black mist. However, the current situation was markedly different. The black fog was now directly assimilated. The First Elder grappled with confusion, trying to comprehend the unexpected turn of events.

To safeguard the Clan Leader and her Guardians from any potential mishaps, the First Elder remained vigilant, even within the confines of the Demon Clan's ancient city.

The absorption process extended over several hours. As the black mist was entirely assimilated, Gu Chaoyan's power surged significantly.

The First Elder refrained from intervening, patiently awaiting Gu Chaoyan's awakening. Once she stirred, he inquired, "Clan Leader, how do you feel?"

"I have reached the level of Spiritual Unity, primarily due to the black mist. It appears to be spiritual energy lost by someone, and upon entering my body, it naturally transforms into spiritual energy," Gu Chaoyan explained, shaking her head in bewilderment.

Although unaware of the origin of the black fog, she marveled at its mystical properties.

The enchanting nature of the phenomenon sparked her curiosity, prompting her to contemplate entering the space to observe any alterations.

The First Elder contemplated the situation seriously.

If this indeed was spiritual energy,

Then...

“This should be the spiritual power that you lost, Clan Leader. The ancient city of the Demon Clan exists because of you, and the entities in the Mushroom Ancient City naturally belong to you. It’s implausible for another’s spiritual power to descend here unless a mighty god perishes, in which case, at most, a holy mansion would manifest in the ancient city of the Demon Clan,” explained the First Elder.

Yet, if this was the Spiritual Energy the Clan Leader had lost, why was it present here? The situation defied logic.

Perplexed, Gu Chaoyan was clueless about the unfolding events.

“Let’s return and contemplate what’s happening. It appears to be a fortuitous occurrence—a reward for my soul’s rapid integration,” suggested Gu Chaoyan.

Even in the swiftly cultivating Chaotic Space, achieving the fusion of one’s soul required considerable effort.

The First Elder nodded in agreement, and together, they departed the forbidden area.

Upon reaching home, Gu Chaoyan immediately checked the interspace’s situation.

To her complete surprise, things had taken an unexpected turn.

What was happening?

Gu Chaoyan was thoroughly taken aback.

Contrary to her expectations, the black fog in the space hadn’t increased. Instead, it seemed to behave like the white fog, densely packed within the confines of the interspace.

Anticipating that the absorbed black fog would augment the existing fog in the space, the reality was entirely different.

Gu Chaoyan found herself baffled.

Numerous unexplained phenomena left her yearning for answers.

Desiring clarification, she sought guidance but found no one to ask. The space offered no responses.

Thus, the mystery persisted.

Chapter 2614: Regenerating the Black Fog 3

Having successfully achieved the breakthrough, Gu Chaoyan's initial joy transformed into a contemplative silence tinged with worry.

The perplexing situation eluded her understanding, breeding discontent.

The Dao Child of the Demon Clan, aware of her intense cultivation focus, had refrained from interrupting her recently, engrossed in their own affairs.

Gu Chaoyan remained lost in thought.

Unexpectedly, the disruptor was none other than the Chaotic Space itself—an essential cultivation Dharma artifact.

Contrary to its role, the entity overseeing the Chaotic Space didn't resemble a human but rather a consciousness inherent to the space. This consciousness had the ability to traverse freely between Gu Chaoyan's living space, the Chaotic Space, and the mission space.

This aspect of the situation annoyed Gu Chaoyan.

As soon as the Chaotic Space emerged, it reminded her, "There's a mission now that requires you to enter the Chaotic Space and cultivate promptly."

"I'm not in the mood for missions right now," Gu Chaoyan flatly rejected.

For a Dharma artifact, it exhibited an impressive level of insistence.

Preferring not to steal the limelight, Gu Chaoyan felt compelled to decline.

The Chaotic Space emanated a sense of helplessness.

It had anticipated this outcome.

Despite the shift in the current master's personality compared to the previous one, the fundamental essence remained unchanged. Indeed, it was the same.

He didn't want to pressure her either; it was the result of being pressured himself that led him to rush others.

The Chaotic Space exuded a sense of helplessness and grievance.

"Let's make a deal. I can share some information with you if you accept this mission," proposed the Chaotic Space.

Anticipating his master's temperament, he had come prepared. Otherwise, he would have found himself in quite a predicament.

Gu Chaoyan appeared intrigued.

"Can you reveal what's on my mind right now?" she inquired. The Chaotic Space had taken the initiative to address her concerns, implying awareness of her worries. Seizing this opportunity, she aimed to extract some information.

"Certainly," replied the Chaotic Space confidently.

Gu Chaoyan felt a twinge of discomfort.

Indeed, it seemed to know everything.

What kind of entity was this Chaotic Space? How vexing.

Without uttering a word, Gu Chaoyan listened.

The Chaotic Space continued, “The black fog is the spiritual energy you lost in the past, and it has now returned to its original owner.”

“...”

“As for the white fog, it serves to prevent Energy Deviation and acts as a suppressant on your cultivation, slowing down your progress. In essence, your cultivation is not naturally like this; it’s currently being subdued.”

“...”

“At present, there is no solution to this issue. You can only endure it for now,” the Chaotic Space stated.

“...”

“Perhaps, when you reach the Sky Sect one day, everything will be resolved. While the second world is more potent than those low-level continents, it is still just an existence. Your perplexities can’t be unraveled here.”

“...”

“I’m finished. Can you go and fulfill the mission now?” inquired the Chaotic Space.

“Of course, just give me a few more hours,” Gu Chaoyan replied. True to her character, she wouldn’t renege on her commitment, aligning with her earlier decision.

The Chaotic Space emitted a content and pleased smile.

Evidently, the space was highly content with the resolution.

However...

Chapter 2615: Mission 1

She still needed some time to contemplate it on her own.

Currently, based on her understanding, not everyone with advanced cultivation possessed their own consciousness space. Individuals like the First Elder did not have such a space; it seemed she was the sole exception.

The purpose and nature of this space had always eluded her.

But now, she began to grasp some semblance of understanding.

It seemed this space carried the white fog, and the vacant expanse was likely a derivative.

Now, with the addition of the black fog, it accommodated that as well.

According to the Chaotic Space, this black fog constituted her original spiritual power.

‘What about the white mist?’

The white fog’s nature remained an enigma to Gu Chaoyan.

For now, she needed more time to comprehend it.

After sorting through her thoughts, Gu Chaoyan returned to the Chaotic Space to resume her training.

The Chaotic Space exhibited enthusiasm, akin to encountering family.

Swiftly, it announced, “This mission is quite straightforward. Upon completion, you will reach the pinnacle of soul fusion. How about that?”

Gu Chaoyan wasn’t overly excited. She calmly examined the task.

This mission...

Gu Chaoyan found herself perplexed.

The mission assigned by the Chaotic Space seemed downright imprudent.

It appeared to lack consideration for the mission’s difficulty; rather, it felt as though a mission was assigned for some arbitrary reason.

This particular task required her to intervene in other people’s affairs, unrelated to cultivation.

Why was the Chaotic Space insisting she undertake it?

Helplessly, Gu Chaoyan stared at the Chaotic Space, seeking an explanation.

The Chaotic Space cleared its throat, appearing a bit awkward. Nevertheless, it maintained its seriousness and said, “This mission is currently time-sensitive. It’s a good deal for you. Just go.”

A good deal for her?

Gu Chaoyan doubted that the Chaotic Space would release her so easily.

Surely, something unfavorable must be at play.

Before Gu Chaoyan could voice her concerns to the Chaotic Space, she was unceremoniously propelled away.

She found herself tumbling into the mission space.

Furious at the Chaotic Space, Gu Chaoyan attempted to retaliate, but her attempts to exit proved futile. Abandoning the mission seemed wasteful.

Thus, she resigned herself to endure and proceeded with the mission.

The protagonist of this task was named Yan Danqiu. Their father had passed away before the New Year, and now their mother's health was deteriorating. Yan Danqiu had two sisters and no younger brother, making their survival challenging.

Initially, when their mother was still healthy, she could manage. However, with her health declining, the family's situation became untenable.

The uncles from the Yan family intended to divide the assets of the third branch, prompting Yan Danqiu's efforts to prevent it, resulting in his collapse until now.

Upon awakening, Gu Chaoyan found herself thrust into the mission.

Gu Chaoyan frowned as she watched everything.

She sighed.

Gu Chaoyan rose to her feet, determined to assess the situation outside.

"Sister, you're finally awake. Uncle's family came and took away many things again," Yan Danqiu's younger sister, Yan Dandong, tearfully informed her.

Being quite young, Yan Dandong was powerless when faced with such situations.

The uncles from the Yan family sought to claim the land belonging to the third branch of the Yan family. Unable to locate the property deed, they resorted to gradually pilfering rice, noodles, and oil from the household, finding it an easier approach.

Now, with their mother's health deteriorating, the family's predicament became even more dire.

Chapter 2616: Mission 2

The third branch of the Yan family depended on the food they had diligently saved over time for their sustenance. With their provisions now stolen, what options did they have left for their meals? While a few of them could endure hunger, it was not an option for their ailing mother.

Yan Dandong, overwhelmed with anxiety, was on the verge of tears. Her eyes were swollen from crying.

Gu Chaoyan sighed deeply.

This mission proved to be more challenging than the cultivation-oriented ones, posing a considerable headache.

“Don’t cry. No one can take anything away from us,” Gu Chaoyan assured.

“Sister, but you...” Yan Dandong hesitated, not due to a lack of trust in her sister, but out of concern for her sister’s well-being. Her sister had already fainted from injuries, and entrusting her with such intricate matters raised worries about her sister’s health. The fear was palpable in Yan Dandong’s eyes.

Gu Chaoyan sighed again.

Though the Yan family’s children demonstrated remarkable maturity, their sensibility held little value in their harsh environment. Despite their wisdom, they were still being driven to the brink of survival.

While their mother could shield them from some challenges in good health, the prospect of her illness left them vulnerable and unprotected.

Ultimately, the assets of the third branch of the Yan family were at risk of being divided, and the daughters were being hastily married off—a distressing fate.

Fortunately, Gu Chaoyan was present to offer protection.

As Yan Danqiu and Yan Dandong conversed, a commotion erupted outside. It seemed someone was attempting to force their way in by kicking the door.

Yan Dandong, overcome with anxiety, shouted frantically, "It must be them again. I've tried to block the door with various items, but it's not holding!"

Gu Chaoyan nodded.

It was commendable that Yan Dandong could handle the situation at such a young age.

Now, it was Gu Chaoyan's turn.

Surveying the room, Gu Chaoyan turned to Yan Dandong. "Go, bring me some knives from the kitchen."

"Sister, what are you going to do?" Yan Dandong asked, puzzled.

"Don't worry, just bring them here," Gu Chaoyan reassured.

Yan Dandong hurriedly fetched the knives.

After a short while, Gu Chaoyan held two knives in her hands.

She stepped out with determination.

As she emerged, individuals from the clueless branch of the Yan family were already entering the courtyard. Having heard that the eldest branch had taken away a substantial amount of noodles, they had come, not anticipating the resistance from the younger members. Their audacity surprised them.

Without acknowledging Yan Danqiu and Yan Dandong in the courtyard, they proceeded to invade.

Gu Chaoyan confronted them. "What do you want?"

“What are you doing? Retrieve your belongings,” declared someone from the second branch of the Yan Family self-righteously.

“Take something? It belongs to my family, and you think you can just take it?” Gu Chaoyan questioned with a cold expression.

“Why not? Your father passed away early, and we were the ones looking after you. Isn’t that what we should do? You useless people still dare to obstruct us. Do you believe that we, from the second branch of the Yan Family, won’t abandon you anymore?” arrogantly retorted the person from the second branch.

“Enough, you don’t have to worry about it. Go home,” Gu Chaoyan replied sternly.

The second branch of the Yan Family was about to respond, but upon hearing this, they swallowed their words. “Useless thing, get out of the way.”

“We don’t need you to search for anything. You can leave now,” Gu Chaoyan stated icily.

“You don’t need us? Fine. If the Jiang family breaks off the engagement with you, don’t come running to us in tears.”

Chapter 2617: Mission 3

“No, let’s go,” Gu Chaoyan insisted.

The second branch of the Yan Family glared at the determined Yan Danqiu with hostility.

“This is my brother’s house. My brother is dead. These things belong to us. It’s only right for us to take them. We can’t keep them for you guys to lose money, right?” Yan Tieniu shouted.

Gu Chaoyan stood her ground.

Yan Dandong couldn’t hold back her tears. “Mother has already fallen ill. There’s only a little food at home. If you take it away, we’ll have nothing. We won’t be able to survive.”

“What does it have to do with us if you guys can’t survive?” Yan Tieniu showed no empathy. He was on the brink of aggression.

The people from the second branch of the Yan Family were determined to force their way in.

Gu Chaoyan, brandishing a kitchen knife, swung it menacingly. “I’ll kill whoever snatches it!”

“...”

“My sister is right. Without this bit of food, mother and we will starve to death. We can’t live any longer, so we might as well take some people with us,” Gu Chaoyan declared with no trace of warmth in her eyes.

The individuals from the second branch of the Yan Family were left stunned.

After a brief moment of shock, they swiftly regained their composure.

“Who do you think you’re scaring?” Madam Jin retorted fearlessly, undeterred.

Leading the charge, she attempted to push her way inside.

Gu Chaoyan, without a hint of hesitation, swung the knife at her.

Seeing the swift attack, Madam Jin, who initially thought Yan Danqiu was bluffing, was startled as her hand narrowly avoided being cut. Although unharmed, there were visible wounds.

Shocked, she hastily retreated. “You... you’re a murderer!”

“...”

“He who is down need fear no fall. I am not going to live anyway, so I might as well drag you down with me. It is worth it. We are not doing well, and I am not going to let anyone live well,” Gu Chaoyan threatened.

The second branch of the Yan Family insisted on pressing forward, but Gu Chaoyan swiftly incapacitated them one by one. Yan Tieniu attempted to apprehend her, but she deftly evaded him.

Forced to retreat, the second branch of the Yan Family had no other option.

Only then did Yan Dandong's family breathe a sigh of relief.

In particular, Yan Dandong regarded Danqiu with admiration. "Sister!"

In the past, her sister had protected them, but she hadn't displayed such dominance and courage.

Now, Yan Dandong felt that, with her sister around, there was nothing to fear.

While Yan Dandong was reveling in happiness, Yan Danxia returned with a plethora of wild vegetables. She furrowed her brow and remarked, "I'll cook wild vegetables for you. It can last for a few days. I hope Mother will recover soon."

"Second Sister, there's no need to eat wild vegetables. There's still some rice at home," Yan Dandong exclaimed joyfully.

"There's still rice?" Yan Danxia felt a bit puzzled. Logically, there shouldn't be anything left in the house; anything would have been stolen. "They didn't come to snatch it?"

"They came, but my sister drove them away," Yan Dandong assured.

Yan Danxia looked at Gu Chaoyan incredulously.

Although Yan Danqiu was protective, she was usually timid. Other than pleading, she didn't know what else to do. With her in charge, things at home would be taken even more swiftly. How could she have driven them away?

Yan Danqiu found it hard to believe.

“It’s true,” Yan Dandong affirmed.

Gu Chaoyan did not wish to delve further into the conversation, so she redirected, saying, “Let’s go and cook first. We’ll skip the wild vegetables for now. We can have whatever we want. I’ll make sure Mother gets more. As for the rest, I’ll take care of it.”

“You’ll take care of it?”

Chapter 2618: Mission 4

Yan Danxia’s voice was sharp, clearly expressing her dissatisfaction with Yan Danqiu’s words.

In Yan Danxia’s view, Yan Danqiu was incredibly feeble. She always knew how to retreat, and it was precisely due to her eldest sister’s personality that their mother lived in such exhaustion. Eventually, in the effort to shield them, she fell ill at home.

Since she went out to gather wild vegetables, Yan Danxia had no intention of relying on her eldest sister. She preferred to depend on herself.

“With so little left in the family, are you determined to waste it? Can’t you save it for Mother to eat in emergencies? Do you think wild vegetables will be readily available at all times? Can you afford to squander them like this?” Yan Danxia loudly questioned. She had endured the mockery of many people to obtain these wild vegetables, and now they were being treated with disregard. This upset Yan Danxia greatly.

Gu Chaoyan sighed.

She looked at Yan Danxia, who was currently in a foul mood.

It had indeed been a long time since Gu Chaoyan experienced such a life. Consequently, when she contemplated things, she naturally thought in accordance with her usual tendencies. In her eyes, good things were certain to come, so there was no need for hesitation.

However, Yan Danxia and the others had a different perspective. They couldn’t envision what the future held, and their lives were already arduous. They were well aware of this reality.

Gu Chaoyan didn't want to indulge in extravagance until she acquired something substantial that could sustain and uplift their spirits.

She nodded at Yan Danxia. "Sister, you haven't thought it through. Let's consume the wild vegetables for now, and we can prepare something nice for Mother to eat later."

"..."

"Danxia, don't worry too much. I'll stand in front of you and protect you from now on." Gu Chaoyan gently stroked Yan Danxia's head. Despite any objections, Gu Chaoyan would ensure that everything necessary was conveyed and done for their well-being.

Yan Danxia started to speak, wanting to express something, but ultimately, she couldn't bring herself to say it.

Instead, she went in to prepare wild vegetable soup.

Gu Chaoyan refrained from offering help because she was unfamiliar with the process and opted to stay uninvolved. Besides, she couldn't consume wild vegetable soup.

Utilizing her time, she decided to survey the local geographical environment, hoping to secure a better future.

Yan Danqiu's residence was situated behind the mountain, and despite not being impoverished, the village was relatively prosperous. Each household possessed ample fertile land, including Yan Danqiu's family.

Presently, Yan Danqiu's family had a total of 15 acres of farmland, originally belonging to Yan Danqiu's father. After his unfortunate demise, this land became a coveted possession for the Yan family.

In reality, if Yan Danqiu could safeguard these fields effectively, it would be sufficient for the current family of four to lead a comfortable life.

However, it wasn't enough.

Not nearly enough.

In a place like this, where their father was no longer present and there were no males in the family, these fields were challenging to defend. Even if she successfully defended them now, what would happen after her mission concluded? Would they be able to protect them as well? Probably not.

This prompted Gu Chaoyan to contemplate alternative solutions to help them.

The mission itself wasn't complicated, but it exposed her to the intricacies of human nature.

Lost in thought, Gu Chaoyan was interrupted by Yan Dandong calling her. "Sister, come and eat."

Without hesitation, Gu Chaoyan joined them at the table.

Although Yan Danxia's expression still carried a hint of awkwardness, she refrained from saying anything in the end.

As they sat down to eat, Yan Danxia eventually spoke up, "If we continue like this, we might..."

Chapter 2619: Mission 5

"It's impossible to live like this for a lifetime. While it's commendable for you to take a stand with a knife and face danger head-on, we can't confine ourselves at home forever. We need to make a living. The most crucial thing is to safeguard those fields," Yan Danxia expressed with a melancholic gaze.

She could foresee the dire consequences if they failed to protect what was rightfully theirs.

Yan Danxia and her elder sister were no longer in their youth. While her elder sister could potentially marry into the Jiang family, even if life there would be challenging, what about Yan Danxia and Yan Dandong? They might be sold off by their uncles, and their mother wouldn't be able to survive.

This frustration fueled Yan Danxia's anger toward Yan Danqiu. In her perspective, Yan Danqiu seemed oblivious to their future. As long as this period passed peacefully, Yan Danqiu could marry into the Jiang family and secure a relatively stable life.

"There will be a way. Eldest Sister will come up with solutions. Don't worry so much," Yan Danqiu assured.

Yan Dandong nodded, having witnessed her sister's strength during the previous incident. In her eyes, her sister seemed like an incredibly capable person. If she said she could handle it, she undoubtedly could.

Yan Danxia pursed her lips, revealing her skepticism.

She had seen Yan Danqiu's past actions. With no male figures in their family to protect them, they were vulnerable and unable to fend for themselves.

Gu Chaoyan understood their concerns. After contemplating for a moment, she declared, "I won't get married. I'll stay here to watch over you as you grow up. Then, I'll cure our mother, and we can lead a good life together."

"....."

"You're still young; don't worry too much about it, okay?" Gu Chaoyan advised.

She had already made up her mind to convey this.

In fact, she had carefully considered it just before.

With the Yan family's father gone and their mother's recent illness, the sisters had endured bullying from their uncles for a considerable time. The Jiang family, as potential in-laws, had remained silent throughout. Judging by the Yan family's current plight, it seemed likely that the Jiang family had long abandoned the idea of marrying Yan Danqiu.

Moreover, they probably aimed to distance themselves from any association with the Yan family.

Even if the Jiang family didn't formally sever ties, given their current behavior, there was little chance they would extend any benevolence. Taking care of her mother and sisters seemed improbable if they were to marry into the Jiang family. Even if they did, it was unlikely they would entrust her with managing household affairs. In such circumstances, it made more sense to focus on the well-being of the Yan family. Life at home would be more meaningful than any other option.

Yan Danxia was about to voice her disagreement, but upon hearing this unexpected decision, she fell silent, registering a degree of surprise.

Yan Dandong, being younger, could only observe adult matters with wide eyes.

"I'm not okay with this. I don't want you to do it," Yan Danxia expressed her concern, finding the proposal too much.

Gu Chaoyan gestured dismissively, "It's none of your concern."

"..."

"As the eldest sister, I have my own responsibilities. It's my duty to take care of you both."

"..."

"Let's focus on eating for now. I'll handle the arrangements for tomorrow," Gu Chaoyan stated.

Yan Danxia and Yan Dandong obediently resumed eating, keeping their thoughts to themselves.

After finishing the meal...

Gu Chaoyan remarked, "I don't think they'll dare to make a move for the next two days."

Chapter 2620: Mission 6

“But you’re aware that Uncle’s family is not a good family, and they won’t let us live peacefully either. Tomorrow, lock the door and stay at home. Don’t go out, and don’t open the door, no matter who calls you. Wait for me to come back,” Gu Chaoyan advised.

“Sister, where are you going?” Yan Dandong inquired.

Gu Chaoyan pondered for a moment.

Even if she wasn’t sure they fully comprehended her words, Gu Chaoyan respected the two sisters of the Yan family and decided to share everything with them.

“The reason for our current situation is mainly because we lack support. If we want to improve our lives, we need our own strategies and some people who appear capable of supporting us. Our father mentioned to me before that there are valuable wild medicinal herbs in the mountains. Our North Village specializes in cultivating medicinal herbs for a living. If we can find a way to locate those medicinal herbs and sell them...”

“...”

“Firstly, we’ll have some money for a fresh start.”

“...”

“Secondly, we can approach our father’s former employer, the Lin Family’s pharmacy. If our ingredients are of high quality, they might provide assistance, allowing us to lead a better life.”

“...”

“I need to think about it more, but that’s all I can come up with for now.” Gu Chaoyan had considered the options but preferred not to delve too deeply into the intricacies, fearing they might find it overwhelming.

Yan Danxia and Yan Dandong remained silent for a while. They were still young and required time to process this information.

After a lengthy pause...

Yan Danxia inquired with confusion, "But finding those medicinal herbs can't be that easy, can it?"

"Father already told me the approximate location, so I just need to invest some time and effort. Father believed it was a pity to unearth them, so he left them there. But unexpectedly, so many unforeseen things happened," Gu Chaoyan explained, feeling a tinge of guilt. She knew that her father had passed away, making it convenient for her to weave some fabrications, or else her two sisters might not believe her.

Uncertain about finding medicinal herbs on the mountain, Gu Chaoyan had a backup plan. If the mountain yielded nothing, she could retrieve some from her interspace.

Either way, she couldn't afford to lose in terms of confidence. Her two sisters needed to believe her.

In the current predicament of the Yan family, maintaining their morale was crucial. They had to restrain their frustration, or everything would crumble.

Yan Danxia and Yan Dandong, being still young, placed trust in Gu Chaoyan's words. Both wore serious expressions, anticipating the future and feeling a sense of responsibility for safeguarding the family.

To prevent them from rushing ahead, Gu Chaoyan advised, "Go and get some rest. I'm going to check on Mom."

The two children obediently nodded.

Gu Chaoyan went to see Mrs. Yan.

As long as she was alive, there was hope for recovery, so Gu Chaoyan wasn't overly anxious.

Upon entering the room, the scent of medicine filled the air, a common occurrence for someone bedridden for an extended period.

Danxia had brought some food earlier, and Gu Chaoyan noticed that Mrs. Yan hadn't eaten much. Concerned, she approached and said, "Mom, why aren't you eating?"

"I'm not hungry. Take it and eat it. My body can't take it anymore. There's no need to waste these things. I'm useless. I can't protect you."