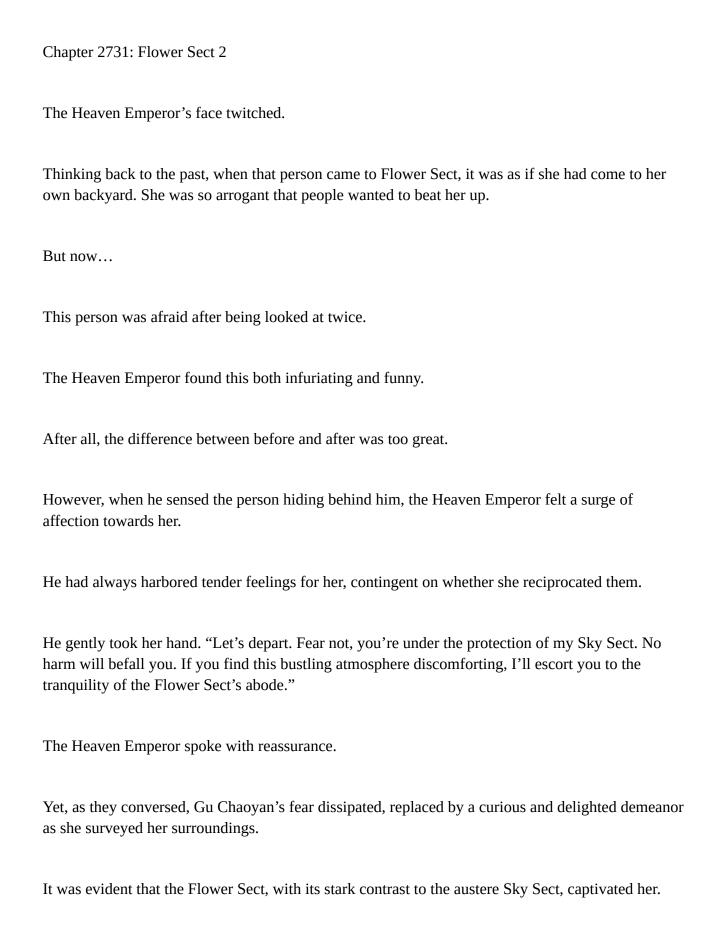
Divine 2731



The Sky Sect was known for its solemnity, with scarce adornment of flowers.

In contrast, the Flower Sect exuded a different aura. Rare blooms adorned every corner, captivating the eye.

Visitors to the Flower Sect adhered to its rules, refraining from heedlessly plucking the flowers.

Part of this restraint stemmed from a sense of awe; these blossoms were captivating, yet potentially treacherous.

In the Flower Sect, anyone was eligible to pluck the flowers, as clearly stipulated in the documents, except for the Phoenix Flower, which bloomed only once every thousand years.

However, plucking the Phoenix Flower was not an opportunity open to all.

The majority of these rare blooms were harvested by descendants of the Flower Sect, with the plucker ascending to the position of Sect Leader.

This was the method by which the Flower Sect determined its leadership.

Yet, accidents were not uncommon. A millennium ago, an audacious woman plucked the flower, resulting in an extended tenure for the incumbent Sect Leader.

This time around, despite another potential mishap, the Flower Sect's current leader spared no effort in extending an invitation to the Sky Sect's Heaven Emperor.

After all, who wouldn't desire a few extra years at the helm?

Upon the arrival of various sect members, discussions ensued among the leaders while others indulged in leisurely activities within the garden, where the Phoenix Flower resided.

The Heaven Emperor prepared to confer with the Flower Sect's leader, while Gu Chaoyan eagerly ventured into the garden.

Slightly apprehensive, the Heaven Emperor contemplated arranging alternative accommodations should Gu Chaoyan feel unwell and wish to avoid interaction.

Before he could voice his concern, Gu Chaoyan grasped Lin Xue's hand and bounded into the garden with excitement.

The Heaven Emperor's expression twitched. What happened to her earlier apprehension?

Nonetheless, he hastened to catch up and inquired, "I'm about to discuss matters with the Flower Sect's leader. What are your plans? Will you be staying here to play?"

Gu Chaoyan nodded earnestly, fully intending to revel in the garden's delights.

With little choice, the Heaven Emperor departed, leaving Gu Chaoyan to her amusement.

However, he still addressed Huailan and the others with utmost seriousness, "Take good care of her and ensure her safety. Failure to do so will have dire consequences."

"Yes," the others replied promptly.

Knowing the Heaven Emperor's reputation for keeping his word, they were naturally filled with trepidation.

The garden bustled with a plethora of flowers and people, some engaged in casual conversations while others mingled in social circles.

Meanwhile, Gu Chaoyan immersed herself in studying the flowers, her expression earnest.

Unfamiliar faces surrounded her, and she remained oblivious to their identities.

Yet, many were aware of her association with the Heaven Emperor and couldn't resist casting curious glances her way.

A few bold individuals approached, though they maintained a cautious distance, mindful of the formidable reputation accompanying the Heaven Emperor's companion.

"Are you from the Sky Sect, brought here by the Heaven Emperor?" inquired a group of boys and girls, their tone frosty.

Chapter 2732: Flower Sect 3

Gu Chaoyan nodded seriously.

She had come with the Heaven Emperor, and she was also from the Sky Sect. There was no mistake.

The few of them snorted.

Their disdain for individuals from the Sky Sect had originated with Feng Le's actions. Feng Le, a woman from the Sky Sect, had infamously seized the Phoenix Flower from their Flower Sect, shattering their hopes of their father ascending to the position of Sect Leader—a prospect that had been anticipated for a millennium. The ensuing bitterness lingered, even after Feng Le's demise. The mere sight of Sky Sect members stirred resentment within them.

"What's your connection to Feng Le? Are you her sister?" the group's leader queried bluntly.

Gu Chaoyan furrowed her brow.

She disliked the direct interrogation. Despite her amnesia, she remained astute enough to discern their underlying emotions.

While ignorance might have been plausible if they harbored ulterior motives, their blatant animosity was unmistakable.

She shook her head. "I have no knowledge of any Feng Le."

This revelation elicited mild surprise from the group. Did this mean she had no ties to Feng Le?

Their uncertainty left them momentarily at a loss.

If her connection to Feng Le were affirmed, they would reclaim their sense of pride. However, if not, they were uncertain how to proceed.

Gu Chaoyan did not want to talk with them. They hated her so much, yet they still wanted to talk with her. Gu Chaoyan could not understand what was going on.

If they didn't want to leave, they could just leave.

"Lin Xue, let's go somewhere else." Gu Chaoyan subconsciously went to the person closest to her.

Lin Xue nodded knowingly.

She was acutely aware of the confrontational intent behind the group's presence. With Gu Chaoyan's amnesia leaving her vulnerable, they saw her as an easy target, especially given their subordinate status and modest cultivation levels. Knowing the Heaven Emperor's directive to protect Gu Chaoyan, Lin Xue deemed it prudent to withdraw.

Huailan echoed her sentiment with a relieved sigh.

As they began to depart, the group voiced their discontent.

But Gu Chaoyan halted, turning to face them, silently prompting the woman to continue.

"Then who are you? What's your connection to the Heaven Emperor? His fiancée, perhaps?" the woman inquired.

Gu Chaoyan shook her head definitively, confident in the negative answer.

Such a relationship had never been mentioned by the Heaven Emperor.

The group found themselves at an impasse.

If Gu Chaoyan wasn't linked to Feng Le and wasn't the Heaven Emperor's fiancée, what role did she hold to warrant her presence at the Flower Sect's gathering?

"Could you be... the Heaven Emperor's younger sister?" they conjectured.

This seemed the most plausible explanation.

In that moment, many who had previously harbored animosity towards Gu Chaoyan found a newfound appreciation for her.

"If she truly is his sister, then fostering a favorable relationship with her is imperative! It's the key to securing a marriage with the Heaven Emperor of the Sky Sect!"

Despite Gu Chaoyan's lack of association with Feng Le, they harbored no intentions of absolving her of accountability.

Their desire for retribution against the Sky Sect for past grievances remained steadfast.

"Do you recall the events from over a millennium ago? Feng Le, from your Sky Sect, pilfered our Flower Sect's prized Phoenix Flower. Now, as a member of the Sky Sect yourself, how can you possibly abstain from attempting the same?" The woman leading the group practically wore her scheme on her sleeve.

Chapter 2733: Flower Sect 4

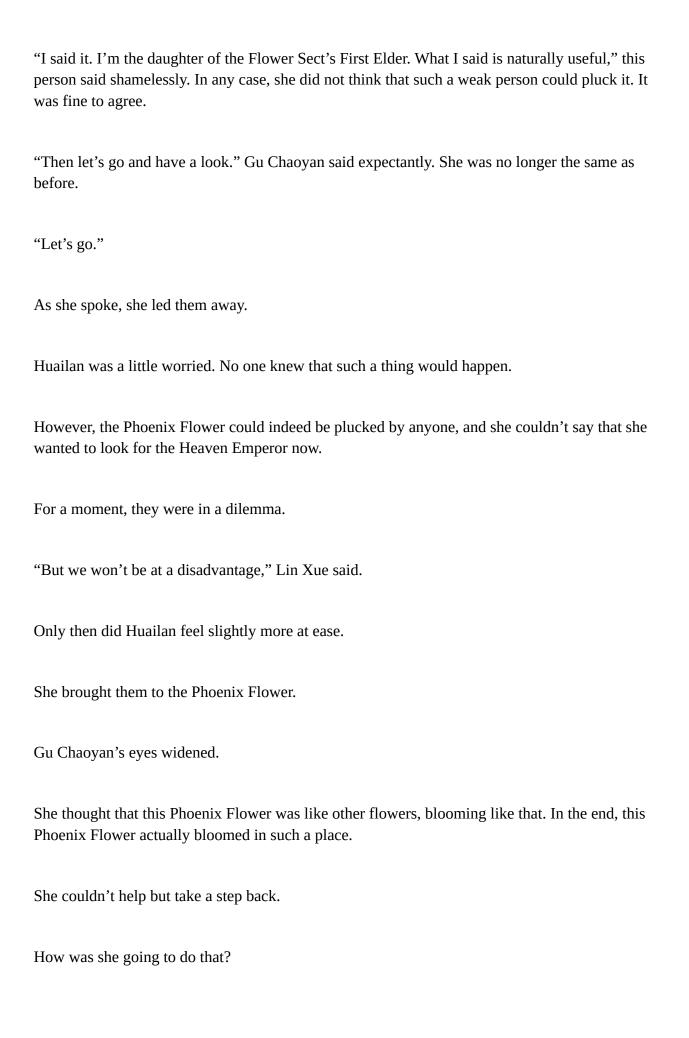
Their thoughts were very simple. Since the Sky Sect dared to come, they definitely had to give them some face. Otherwise, how could they settle the score from a thousand years ago?

Moreover, it was obvious that this person was easy to bully.

If she was asked to pluck it, she would not dare to pluck it, let alone pluck it.

If that segment was wrong, it would be embarrassing enough.





She turned to look at Huailan.

Huailan also looked anxious.

It was also her first time coming to the Flower Sect.

The Heaven Emperor was a man, and he usually didn't bring any maids with him, so they didn't have a chance to come out.

The Phoenix Flower bloomed amidst a frigid pool, still partially encased in ice. The vast expanse of the cold pool presented a daunting obstacle for anyone attempting to pluck the flower.

In such frigid waters, inadequate cultivation made one susceptible to the infiltration of chilling air. This could lead to frostbite of the spiritual roots, severely hampering future cultivation progress.

Hence, while the Phoenix Flower technically remained accessible to all, few dared to venture forth. They understood the risks involved and chose caution over recklessness.

Aside from Feng Le, only a select few from the Flower Sect, vying for the coveted position of Sect Leader, dared to attempt the feat.

Furthermore...

"Those who lay a hand on the Phoenix Flower without the ability to pluck it risk having their blood drained by the flower. The extent of this drain is subject to chance."

A cautionary tale lingered from the past: an elder of the Flower Sect, lacking the necessary prowess, suffered a withered and pallid fate after an unsuccessful attempt, his cultivation stagnating indefinitely.

Chapter 2734: Flower Sect 5

Huailan hesitated to entrust Lady Chaoyan with the task, knowing her limitations. After a moment of contemplation, she turned to Lin Xue and murmured, "Inform the Heaven Emperor of the situation. This is a significant issue concerning Lady Chaoyan's future."

Not only did Huailan issue instructions, but she also delineated the advantages and disadvantages of the situation. Without hesitation, Lin Xue promptly rose to carry out the task. Furthermore... Addressing the members of the Flower Sect, Huailan remarked, "If you're willing to wager against Lady Chaoyan, then she shouldn't be the sole participant in the selection process. As representatives of the Flower Sect, it's only fitting that you take the first step." Gu Chaoyan nodded in accord. Huailan's logic was sound. Without attempting the task themselves, they wouldn't grasp its intricacies. The members of the Flower Sect exchanged knowing smiles, understanding their apprehension. Indeed, Huailan's suggestion was reasonable. If successful in plucking the flowers, it would be a boon. If unsuccessful, it would merely be a minor setback. And if unable to pluck them at all, it wouldn't overly tarnish the Flower Sect's reputation. In the past, the icy pools and Phoenix Flowers posed significant threats. "But how long ago was that?" Over time, they had developed remedies to shield themselves from harm, rendering them impervious to the dangers of the Cold Pond and the Phoenix Flower. Consequently, they remained

unscathed.

However, for outsiders, the perils of the Cold Pond and the Phoenix Flower persisted.

"In that case, it's fine for us to give it a try first." The leader agreed, then said with a domineering expression, "In that case, let me demonstrate first."

After stating her intentions, she utilized Sword Kinesis Flight to traverse the frigid pool and approached the Phoenix Flower. Despite her forceful attempts to pluck it, the flower remained firmly rooted, inflicting a wound on her hand as it greedily drew blood. Realizing the peril, she refrained from further efforts, mindful that her protective pills might prove inadequate.

Retracting her hand swiftly, she returned using Sword Kinesis Flight.

Although she had anticipated the outcome, a trace of dissatisfaction lingered. She muttered despondently, "It's futile. Let's move on."

Her companions faced similar challenges. While they managed to navigate the icy pool, they too failed to pluck the Phoenix Flower.

Meanwhile, Gu Chaoyan refrained from attempting the feat.

A sense of urgency gripped Huailan.

Why hadn't the Heaven Emperor arrived yet?

What should be done about Lady Chaoyan?

She couldn't afford any missteps.

In theory, the Heaven Emperor should have arrived promptly.

Indeed, the Heaven Emperor could have hastened his arrival, but instead, he instructed Lin Xue to await calmly.

In contrast, Gu Chaoyan was eager to prove herself.

Equipped with Sword Kinesis Flight, she faced difficulties. The biting chill of the pool's atmosphere disrupted her flight, causing her to plummet. While Gu Chaoyan was taken aback, the members of the Flower Faction reveled in her misfortune.

Gu Chaoyan's face darkened.

This sword floated above the cold pool and slowly moved.

Her shoes were already wet.

Gu Chaoyan thought for a while, threw out a white ribbon, tied a knot on the branch near the The sight of Gu Chaoyan struggling with the Phoenix Flower was truly difficult to witness.

Her attempts seemed clumsy, almost painful to watch.

From the perspective of the Flower Sect members, she was perilously close to the frigid waters of the pool, risking the corrosion of her spiritual essence.

Yet, despite the odds, Gu Chaoyan persisted.

Approaching the Phoenix Flower with a gentle touch, she delicately plucked it.

Chapter 2735: Flower Sect 6

She took it off and held it in her hand, waving the Phoenix Flower at Huailan excitedly.

The faces of the few people from the Flower Sect had already completely frozen.

The others couldn't help but twitch.

Why was someone handling the revered Phoenix Flower with such carelessness, as if it were a common weed?

The significance of the Phoenix Flower couldn't be overstated. Not only did it mark the position of the Flower Sect's sect master, but it also held immense benefits for marrow purification and cultivation enhancement.

Ordinarily, one would handle it with the utmost reverence. How could they treat it so recklessly?

Upon her return, Gu Chaoyan tossed a rope to Huailan, requesting assistance to pull her ashore.

Once on solid ground, she handed the Phoenix Flower to Huailan and turned eagerly to the Flower Sect members, proclaiming, "You all agreed that if I successfully plucked this Phoenix Flower, I could freely claim any other flowers from the Flower Sect!"

The expressions on the Flower Sect members' faces soured as if they had tasted something foul.

They never imagined she could accomplish such a feat, throwing their plans into disarray.

With this opportunity squandered, they'd have to wait another millennium for the next Phoenix Flower to bloom to vie for the Sect Leader position.

Considering the current Sect Leader's advanced age, another thousand-year wait could be fatal.

If she dared to pluck it, fine, but how dare she covet the other flowers in the sect?

The lead woman brandished her sword, poised to confront Gu Chaoyan.

Just then, the Sect Leader's attendants arrived. "Lady Chaoyan, Lady Hua Wu, the Sect Leader requests your presence."

With the Sect Leader's men present, Hua Wu abandoned any notion of attacking further. Provoking them would only result in her own humiliation.

Hua Wu found herself...

The group received an invitation.

Gu Chaoyan quickly spotted the Heaven Emperor among the gathering, accompanied by other individuals, likely leaders of various sects.

The Flower Sect Master greeted them with a smile.

"Lady Chaoyan, I've heard that you managed to pluck the Phoenix Flower, is that correct?" the Flower Sect Leader inquired kindly.

"It is indeed true," Gu Chaoyan affirmed boldly, embodying a fearless demeanor.

"What about the other flowers?" the Flower Sect Leader queried, slightly puzzled. He had witnessed the plucking of the Phoenix Flower, but Gu Chaoyan held nothing in her hand.

At the mention of the flowers, Gu Chaoyan suddenly recalled something.

Approaching Huailan, she retrieved the flower from her.

Huailan held it out in her hand.

Gu Chaoyan confessed with embarrassment, "Sect Leader of the Flower Sect, I must apologize. When I set out, I hadn't intended to pluck the Phoenix Flower, so I didn't bring along the container for the flowers."

The Flower Sect Leader chuckled heartily, while the expressions of the Flower Sect members turned sour, particularly Hua Wu, who appeared on the brink of fury.

Though Huailan spoke the truth, its implications were rather bitter. What did she mean by not intending to pluck it?

The Flower Sect Elders pondered silently.

Gu Chaoyan returned the flowers to Huailan with a harmless toss and turned earnestly to Dao Seeking, "The Flower Sect Leader mentioned a wager with me. If I successfully plucked the flower, I could claim the flowers. However, despite my success, she refused to honor the bet and threatened me with her sword. May I still take some flowers with me? Many of them are quite beautiful."

Hua Wu was so angry that she vomited blood.

She was still not satisfied after obtaining the Phoenix Flower?

She still wanted to covet other flowers?

And if she said it here, where would she put herself?

Sure enough...

Chapter 2736: Flower Sect 7

Upon hearing Gu Chaoyan's words, her father's gaze turned hostile, as if she were his adversary. Peaceful resolution seemed impossible.

This woman was solely to blame!

Her attempt to salvage her reputation had backfired catastrophically. Who could have predicted she would commit such a foolish act?

Even if her intentions were noble, she'd forever hang her head in shame before her father. Her standing within the Flower Sect would undoubtedly suffer. Hua Wu seethed with animosity towards Gu Chaoyan.

Meanwhile, the Flower Sect Leader's smile widened even further upon hearing Gu Chaoyan's explanation.

It appeared that Gu Chaoyan hadn't initially intended to pluck the flower but was persuaded by the First Elder's daughter.

The Flower Sect Leader couldn't suppress a sense of amusement at this self-inflicted predicament.

Since the moment the Phoenix Flower was plucked, he had suppressed the urge to burst into laughter. His position as Sect Leader was now secure once more. With the next flower not due to bloom for another thousand years, he could solidify his authority. A few millennia would be ample time for him to consolidate his power. Regardless of future contenders for the Sect Leader position, none would pose a threat to him.

How could he not feel elated?

Observing the First Elder's reaction, he couldn't help but admire it silently.

"The Sect Leader of the Flower Sect, they also attempted to pluck it, but I refrained. You can't renege on your promise," Gu Chaoyan interjected anxiously, fearing she might be denied the chance to claim the flowers. The thought of leaving behind so many beautiful blooms filled her with sorrow.

The Flower Sect Leader reassured her kindly, "I won't go back on my word. Simply tell me your preferences, and upon your return, I'll ensure they're all prepared for you. Should you require anything in the future, just come to the Flower Sect and seek me out."

"Is that so?" Gu Chaoyan's face lit up with joy. Ignoring the Phoenix Flower, she reached out to tug playfully at the Heaven Emperor's attire.

The Heaven Emperor responded with an affectionate smile.

While the Flower Sect Leader had readily acquiesced to Gu Chaoyan's request, he wasn't about to let Hua Wu off the hook so easily.

After reaching an agreement with Gu Chaoyan, he turned his attention to addressing Hua Wu's transgression.

"You and your companions aren't children anymore, especially you, Hua Wu. You're at an age where marriage should be on your mind. Why are you still engaging in such frivolous behavior? While the Phoenix Flower may be fair game, the other flowers are painstakingly cultivated by the sect. They're not to be treated lightly or wagered upon so casually and recklessly."

"…"

"With so many members in the Flower Sect, if everyone behaved as you did, the sect would be in jeopardy. Let this serve as a lesson."

"…"

"First Elder, Hua Wu is your daughter. Despite the myriad responsibilities within the sect, don't neglect her education," the Flower Sect Leader admonished the First Elder bluntly.

"Yes, Sect Leader," the First Elder reluctantly conceded, shooting Hua Wu a stern glare that made her recoil in fear.

With outsiders present, it wasn't prudent for the Sect Leader to continue chastising internal affairs. His stance was clear, however.

Despite the First Elder losing face, he would ensure a lesson was learned.

The Flower Sect Leader found himself increasingly fond of the Heaven Emperor. Previously viewing him as aloof, he now sought to cultivate a closer relationship. With the Phoenix Flower plucked and the Heaven Emperor in attendance, his position as Sect Leader was secure.

Indeed, the Flower Sect Leader not only admired the Heaven Emperor but also held Gu Chaoyan in high regard.

While the main event of the Flower Sect had concluded with the plucking of the Phoenix Flower, there remained...

Chapter 2737: Flower Sect 8

Since they were already here, it could be considered a friendly opportunity for the various sects to interact.

It was not good to mention the Phoenix Flower again. As for the position of the Sect Leader of Flower Sect, outsiders naturally would not say anything.
There was only one thing to talk about.
It was time for the Meteor Academy to start recruiting students.
The Meteor Academy was established by the most powerful Elders of the various sects. Now, it was an academy outside the sect.
The Meteor Academy accepted very few students, but if they could be chosen, it would be a huge opportunity.
Therefore, the Sect Leaders of the various sects began conversing.
Each sect aimed to select the most exceptional individuals for the Meteor Academy.
The Flower Sect Leader then produced an invitation letter and presented it to the Heaven Emperor. "Given Lady Chaoyan's youth and her current cultivation level, it would be beneficial for her to attend and refine her skills."
This could be considered a good relationship with the Sect Leader of Flower Sect.
The Heaven Emperor immediately accepted it.
It was one thing to go, but this thing was quite precious. It would be a waste not to take it.
The others continued to talk about this matter.
Gu Chaoyan found it very boring to chat here.
So she went to play by himself.



Fortunately, before departing, Gu Chaoyan had obtained all the flowers she desired, courtesy of the Flower Sect Leader's generosity. Smiling contentedly, she reflected on the abundance of blossoms. Apart from her preferences, the Flower Sect Leader had granted her access to all the other flowers as well.

Upon returning to the Sky Sect, Gu Chaoyan wasted no time in planting the flowers, eager to see them flourish.

The place where the flowers were planted naturally belonged to the Heavenly Palace.

For Gu Chaoyan, this was her home. The flowers she cultivated here held a special significance, making the palace feel even more like her own.

This action stirred curiosity among many observers.

However, with the Heaven Emperor's implicit approval, there was no cause for concern.

Once Gu Chaoyan finished planting the flowers...

The Heaven Emperor finally beckoned her over and produced the invitation. "The Academy is seeking new students. Would you like to attend? It could help advance your cultivation."

"I will," Gu Chaoyan replied earnestly.

Despite her adeptness with Sword Kinesis Flight, Gu Chaoyan felt a keen desire to further enhance her cultivation.

With those words spoken...

She made her way straight to the Celestial Thearch's bed and reclined. Exhaustion weighed heavily upon her. Despite sleeping throughout the journey, the lengthy travel had taken its toll.

While Gu Chaoyan could rest, the Heaven Emperor remained vigilant.

Summoning Lin Xue, he had matters to attend to.

Chapter 2738: Flower Sect 9

He had instructed Lin Xue to keep watch over Gu Chaoyan while he attended to other matters. Despite the responsibilities awaiting him in the Sky Sect, he opted not to rely on his clone's presence for her companionship.

Gu Chaoyan slumbered deeply, undisturbed for several hours. Upon awakening, her first instinct was to seek out the Heaven Emperor. Ignoring Lin Xue's calls from behind, she searched tirelessly until she spotted him seated atop a towering chair, surrounded by people who remained invisible from her vantage point. Unperturbed, she made her way toward him.

With a helpless smile, the Heaven Emperor dismissed the elders and regarded Gu Chaoyan affectionately. "Already awake? Weren't you planning to rest a while longer?"

"You were nearby," Gu Chaoyan stated seriously.

The Heaven Emperor chuckled warmly before growing pensive. "When do you intend to depart for the Meteor Academy?"

"Right away," Gu Chaoyan replied eagerly. The prospect of attending the academy filled her with excitement, eager to hone her skills in Sword Kinesis Flight.

Though a hint of reluctance flickered in the Heaven Emperor's eyes, he nodded with a smile. "Very well, I'll escort you there."

Despite yearning for their current intimacy to last indefinitely, he knew he couldn't keep her memories suppressed forever. It was essential for her to recover and pursue her education at the Meteor Academy.

Before bidding farewell, the Heaven Emperor embraced Gu Chaoyan tenderly, then arranged for their journey to the academy.

While ordinary disciples required a full day to reach the Meteor Academy, as the Heaven Emperor, he possessed his own flying beast, significantly reducing travel time to a mere two hours.

Thus, they soon arrived at the Meteor Academy.

Upon arriving at the Meteor Academy, Gu Chaoyan encountered the man who had berated her earlier while riding the green lion. Her initial smile faltered, and she instinctively grasped the Heaven Emperor's hand, seeking his support as she walked past the man.

The Heaven Emperor couldn't suppress a chuckle at her reaction.

Gu Chaoyan's demeanor reminded him of their initial encounter many years ago when she was brimming with cheekiness and defiance.

However, over time, she had become distant and aloof.

Casting a pointed glance at the young man from the Flower Sect, the Heaven Emperor guided Gu Chaoyan away.

Upon their arrival at the Meteor Academy, the Heaven Emperor had already arranged for Gu Chaoyan's teacher and the Celestial Thearch.

Though reluctant to part ways, the Heaven Emperor departed, knowing that the upcoming mission at the academy could potentially aid in Gu Chaoyan's journey to reclaim her lost memories.

Once she returned, she would be the Gu Chaoyan he remembered.

"It's you again," a slightly irritating voice interrupted as the man confronted Gu Chaoyan.

"You again," Gu Chaoyan retorted disdainfully, turning away from him in refusal to engage.

The teacher overhead interjected, "Our academy has a new mission that requires immediate action. Prepare yourselves, as we're about to embark on the mission."

Gu Chaoyan was dumbfounded.



Curious, Gu Chaoyan inquired, "What's the mission about?"

"We're tasked with subduing an ancient phoenix," the youth from the Flower Sect responded with a hint of smugness, as if he possessed some special insight into the matter.

Gu Chaoyan pursed her lips, choosing to remain silent.

She had no interest in conversing with him.

He was the only one who knew. Even if she didn't want to admit it, she refused to seek answers from him.

As Gu Chaoyan delved into discussions about the ancient phoenix, she noticed the flying beast's erratic movements.

"It's an ancient phoenix!" someone exclaimed.

Gu Chaoyan caught sight of a majestic phoenix illuminated by flames not far off.

A sense of return washed over her as she watched the scene unfold, a feeling of familiarity tingling at the edges of her consciousness.

The phoenix swooped down upon them, overwhelming the students with its fiery onslaught. Many found themselves engulfed in the phoenix's flames, rendering them unable to retaliate. Even the young man from the Flower Sect was not exempt. Witnessing the imminent danger, Gu Chaoyan shielded him from the onslaught before boldly charging at the phoenix with sword in hand. Along the way, fleeting images flashed through her mind, recalling a resolute determination from a previous life.

As her sword clashed with the phoenix, the flames dissipated, revealing the Heaven Emperor beneath. He removed his mask, his gaze penetrating as he addressed Gu Chaoyan softly.

"You remember now, don't you?" he asked gently.

Still poised with her sword, Gu Chaoyan's eyes welled with tears.

It seemed that the memories buried on Dragon Vein Mountain were all she had. Zhou Huaijin was merely a clone, a fleeting presence that briefly kept her company. In her previous life, consumed by obsession, she had gradually lost touch with reality, becoming numb to the world around her, including him. Yet, here he was, reincarnated once more. He remained unchanged. Glancing at the Flying Beast, Gu Chaoyan saw no one else aboard. Whether the youth from the Flower Sect, the teacher, or the student on the mission, they were all mere echoes from her past. "Chaoyan, I just want to ask you, is that okay?" the Heaven Emperor inquired. Gu Chaoyan lowered her sword, nodded silently, and approached him with quiet resolve. The grand wedding of the Heaven Emperor and the Heaven Empress unfolded. The First Elder found himself breaking out in a cold sweat as he observed the formidable woman seated upon the throne. It dawned on him why the Heaven Emperor held her in such high regard. She wielded immense influence within the Sky Sect, and now he understood—she was the Phoenix Girl! He silently thanked the heavens that he had not sided with his daughter in the past. It was time to make a decisive choice. Meanwhile, the Sect Leader of Xing Sect gazed upon the scene above, utterly dumbfounded.

So many years had passed.

The Phoenix Girl?

He had always dismissed her as foolish and simple-minded.

Suddenly, clarity washed over his previously clouded mind. He realized he had completely misinterpreted the Heaven Emperor's subtle cues. With newfound clarity, the Sect Leader of Xing Sect boldly addressed the other Sect Leaders, his tone dripping with mockery. "I recall during the assessments, many of you insisted that such a foolish individual had no place in the Sky Sect, did you not?"

The other Sect Leaders were left speechless, unable to muster a response. They had forgotten what it felt like to be spoken to in such a blunt manner by the Sect Leader of Xing Sect.