

Dragon King 171

Chapter 171: Who Does Zi Belong to!

Since all the guests had already left, Zhao Guang thought for a bit and reached out his right hand.
“Please!”

They left a few people guarding the entrance while Zhao Guang, the elders, and about 20 important figures of West Ocean went upstairs into the meeting room on the third floor.

Zhao Hongyu took Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi along with them.

Instead of sitting down at the long desk in the room, the two groups of people seated themselves in the greeting area of the room. Oldman Zeng and Zhao Guang each sat in an old-fashioned wooden armchair in the middle, and the others either sat beside them or stood on the side.

Zhao Guang took the chair on the east side while Oldman Zeng took the one on the west side across a rosewood tea table. Beside Zhao Guang seated Zhao Kuo, then it was Zhao Hongyu, Zhao Yanzi, and Hao Ren. All the elders of the East Ocean were standing.

On Oldman Zeng’s side, his grandson, Zeng Yitao, was beside him while the elders were standing as well.

Although they weren’t at the long desk, the two groups of people positioned themselves in two obvious opposite sides.

“What does Elder Zeng have in mind to discuss?” Zhao Guang picked up a cup of green tea after he had sat down.

“I’ll be upfront with you, Dragon King Zhao. You knew that we would be proposing a marriage plan to Zhao Yanzi on her 15th birthday, yet you still put on this show. What is it that you are trying to pull?” Oldman Zeng threw a question at Zhao Guang without even touching the cup of tea in front of him.

“Oh, that? I’m not sure what you are talking about,” Zhao Guang took another sip and said calmly.

“Humph! Don’t play dumb with me. West Ocean had informed East Ocean two years ago that we will hold a magnificent wedding for Zhao Yanzi. We would have the engagement ceremony when she turns 15 and the marriage when she turns 18!” Oldman Zeng said, clenching his fists.

“Old b*stard! Who are you to say that she will marry into West Ocean? When did Zi ever agree?” Zhao Kuo shouted abruptly.

Peng!

Oldman Zeng smashed his palm into the rosewood tea table, leaving a deep palm print.

“What are you East Ocean trying to do by secretly setting up a marriage!” He shouted.

Boom! Pa!

Zhao Kuo smashed his palm on the table as well, and the tea table turned into pieces immediately.

“When did you have a say in what we decide to do in East Ocean!” Zhao Kuo roared.

The atmosphere suddenly got intense, and both sides were on the edge of starting a fight. Although East Ocean had a master like Zhao Kuo, the average strength of the people on West Ocean’s side was higher than that of East Ocean’s!

Oldman Zeng took a few deep breaths and said coldly, “You would be facing a war if you don’t give us a satisfying answer.”

A war!

A war in the world of cultivation!

Not only the elders of East Ocean but also the elders of West Ocean shivered.

There hadn’t been a large war in the cultivation world for over 600 years. Due to the ascendance of the human cultivators and the establishment of Dragon Tribe’s Inspector System, there hadn’t even been a single kill in the near 100 to 200 years!

Both East and West Ocean Dragon Clans were of great power, so the inspectors wouldn’t be able to stop a war between the two.

Six sects of the human cultivators were involved in the war 600 years ago, and all sides lost half of their masters and elites as a result. Although the Dragon Tribe wasn’t officially involved in the war, it was still affected and lost 16 Qian-level Masters.

Oldman Zeng’s remark implied how serious he was!

It would cause huge consequences if this matter around Zhao Yanzi caused a war between the Dragon Clans!

Zhao Guang stopped Zhao Kuo who wanted to speak and kept calm as he asked Oldman Zeng, “What do you want?”

“Cancel the marriage between Zhao Yanzi and this kid and let her marry into West Ocean after three years,” Oldman Zeng said firmly.

His stern attitude showed how certain he was about this. It also demonstrated what status Zhao Yanzi would have if she were to marry into West Ocean.

Hearing this, Zhao Yanzi was so mad that she tried to stand up and say something, but Zhao Hongyu stopped her.

Zhao Guang knew that West Ocean wanted to take advantage of East Ocean, and they could find just any excuse to do so. It was true that Zeng Yitao was fond of Zhao Yanzi, but he was rude and unreasonable, not to mention that he was a womanizer and a bully who had no good characteristics at all!

How could Zhao Guang let his baby girl marry such a prince!

Zhao Guang didn’t want to give in, so he put the teacup on the table as he said lightly, “That is impossible.”

“You...” A strong power raised from Oldman Zeng’s body. He had always thought Zhao Guang was a pushover and had no idea that he would be so strict on the issue involving his daughter.

But... He didn’t dare to announce the war.

Both East Ocean and West Ocean had thousands of years of history, and a war wouldn’t do West Ocean any good even if they won.

Although it seemed like South Ocean and North Ocean weren’t doing anything, they were both monitoring the relationship between East Ocean and West Ocean.

Oldman Zeng’s body slightly trembled as he said, “Alright, I will give you another month to decide...”

“That wouldn’t be necessary because Zi has found her future husband, and we respect her decision. So, we won’t consider letting her marry into West Ocean,” Zhao Guang said lightly.

Hearing this, Zhao Yanzi looked at Hao Ren on her side and blushed.

“I wasn’t the one who chose him... But I guess Hao Ren would be better than Zeng Yitao...” she thought to herself.

Hao Ren, on the other hand, was listening to the discussion quietly and analyzing the relationship and situation between East Ocean and West Ocean.

He now understood why he was made into the Fuma as he was the key to cut off West Ocean. Otherwise, it would have been hard for East Ocean to reject the marriage proposal due to the relationship between the two clans.

But now, since Zhao Yanzi had chosen the Fuma ‘herself’, and the Fuma had successfully become a member of East Ocean Dragon Clan, it would be arbitrary for West Ocean to argue on that.

If Zhao Yanzi weren’t taken and East Ocean rejected West Ocean’s proposal, East Ocean would be to blame for embarrassing West Ocean. However, if Zhao Yanzi were already taken yet West Ocean wished to marry her forcefully, it would be West Ocean to be blamed for interfering with other people’s relationships.

No matter what, East Ocean was standing on the side of justice now. If West Ocean were to start a war on purpose, most neutral forces would be on East Ocean’s side.

Hao Ren had reached Kan-level before Zhao Yanzi’s birthday party. It might not seem like a huge deal, but it was a significant contribution strategically.

“Good... Good... Good...” Oldman Zeng stared at Zhao Guang and said it three times in a row. He understood that although they were more powerful, East Ocean was better than them strategically. Also, East Ocean’s land business was more prosperous than West Ocean’s, and they were more successful in drawing other powers over to their side!

East Ocean had been planning on this ever since a few months ago, and Zhao Yanzi’s birthday party was only a demonstration of their capabilities.

Zhao Guang had secretly prepared for a war a long time ago!

They would be falling into East Ocean's trap if West Ocean announced a war right now!

"Goodbye!" Oldman Zeng suddenly stood up and walked out of the room.

Chapter 172: The Thoughts of the Little Girl...

Seeing Oldman Zeng leaving with all the elders of West Ocean, Zhao Guang picked up his teacup again and took a sip.

The confrontation wasn't easy for him either. He placed the cup back on the table, and the table broke into pieces all of a sudden. The cup fell onto the floor and broke into pieces as well.

Then, the chair Oldman Zeng was sitting on before dissembled on its own too.

"This Oldman Zeng's Heaven-Quaking Scroll has already reached the top-level, and anyone under the mid-tier Qian-level would be either severely injured or killed by his attack," Zhao Kuo stood up and said.

Zhao Guang stood up as well and asked Zhao Kuo as he looked at the pieces on the floor, "Were you ok from his attack?"

"I'm on a higher level than he is, and my technique is stronger than his. It's not a problem. The old guy looks terrifying, but he is just a coward in reality. He tried his best to avoid breaking through the mid-tier Qian-level just to dodge the Heavenly Tribulation."

Zhao Guang nodded and turned to Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi without saying anything else.

"Come on, let's go home."

He then turned to the elders and said, "You all had a long day today. Go back and take some rest. Premier Xia, let me take a look at the list of gifts after you are done writing it."

"As you wish, Dragon King." Premier Xia bowed.

Zhao Guang went out of the meeting room. Zhao Hongyu, Hao Ren, and Zhao Yanzi followed him out. All the elders bowed to them together and said, "Goodbye Dragon King!"

Zhao Hongyu asked Hao Ren to leave the white Ford in the garage here, and the four of them went back to Zhao Yanzi's house in the Ferrari and the black Chevrolet.

Zhao Hongyu was worried that the people of West Ocean were still around to cause Hao Ren trouble. She asked him to stay the night so that they could protect him.

"Don't worry, Hongyu. West Ocean won't dare to do anything to Hao Ren. The situation right now is that Ren is the Fuma of East Ocean, and we will fight back with full strength if they do anything to him. Oldman Zeng knows the consequences."

He said as he took off his jacket. He was a bit tired from entertaining all the guests today.

"It's better to be careful no matter what. Ren should stay the night," Zhao Hongyu insisted.

Hao Ren nodded and decided to stay to keep Zhao Yanzi company. Since his grandma and parents were not home, it would be boring to go back and stay there himself.

"I'm going upstairs then..." Zhao Yanzi rubbed her eyes, looking sleepy. Surprisingly, she didn't object to the idea of Hao Ren staying the night this time.

Hao Ren followed her upstairs. He looked at her silk tank top and thought to himself, "Her drowsy look is actually pretty cute."

As soon as she went back to her room, Zhao Yanzi went to the bathroom for a shower after such a long day. Unlike Hao Ren, she took a day off from school and had been welcoming the important guests since this morning. Now it was already ten o'clock, so she was about to pass out.

Hao Ren sat down at her table to check her homework as he listened to the sound of the water behind the door.

Compared with how bad it was before, Zhao Yanzi's homework had improved a lot. However, he still spotted a few wrong answers after a brief scan.

Now that the birthday party was over, she had to focus on her studies now. Zhao Yanzi's curtain, pillow, and bed sheet had all been changed due to the change of the season. The room appeared to be more refreshing than before.

However, the sweet scent was still the same, and it made Hao Ren feel very comfortable.

When Hao Ren finished looking at the Math, Physics, and Chemistry homework on her desk, Zhao Yanzi walked out of the bathroom in her pink pajamas.

"Hey! You didn't give me a birthday gift this time!" She dried her hair with a little towel as she walked over.

"I just came back from my grandma's and went straight to school to get my report card. I was too busy... So, I forgot to get you a gift," Hao Ren answered.

"Busy, busy, busy. You just forgot!" She rolled her eyes at Hao Ren.

"I'll make it up..." Hao Ren said softly.

"My birthday is already over, so there isn't much making up that you can do!" she reached out her clean and smooth palm and said, "Hand over your wallet!"

Hao Ren was like a helpless lamb in front of her. He took out his wallet obediently and put it in her hand.

Zhao Yanzi opened the wallet without hesitation and took all the big notes out of it. She put them in her drawer and said grumpily with her head lifted, "I'll let this one slide. Since there was no gift, I'll take the cash!"

She looked exactly like a bossy girl at school. Hao Ren wondered if she had been hiding in the small alleys near the school after class to extort money from the students.

"Alright, go take a shower!" Seeing Hao Ren staring at her, she tried to get him moving again.

Hao Ren walked into the bathroom.

“Here!” she flipped out a set of men’s pajamas from her nightstand drawer and threw it at Hao Ren.

He caught it and looked at her.

Zhao Yanzi realized that something was wrong and blushed immediately. “No! It’s my mom who put it here!”

Hao Ren laughed and took the pajamas into the bathroom. Zhao Yanzi, on the other hand, flushed as she realized that her explanation was a bit farfetched.

After a nice relaxing cold shower, Hao Ren walked out of the bathroom and saw Zhao Yanzi on her computer.

“Um...” Hao Ren went over. “I’ll put the clothes I changed out of here for now.”

“Leave it, and my mom will wash it,” Zhao Yanzi said. Her eyes were still fixated on the computer screen.

“Let’s go to bed, it’s late already,” Hao Ren said. He noticed the weirdness after saying it.

Sure enough, Zhao Yanzi turned to look at him. “What are you talking about?”

“I mean, YOU should go to bed,” Hao Ren explained immediately.

“There’s no school tomorrow,” Zhao Yanzi murmured and kept on playing her game.

“Damn it!” she added.

Hao Ren was confused about what he had done to piss her off again. Then, he realized that she was playing Popodino and had just lost another game.

“Hey!” she turned to Hao Ren and said, “Aren’t you good at games? Come and help me!”

Hao Ren was speechless.

“I’ll help you win two rounds, and then you go to bed. Deal?” he asked.

“Ten! Ten rounds! Till he exits the game himself!” Zhao Yanzi shouted. It seemed like she was furious at her opponent.

“Go to sleep soon, guys.” Zhao Hongyu knocked on the door.

“I know, I know, Mom. It’s my birthday!” Zhao Yanzi yelled.

Zhao Hongyu shook her head, laughed a little, and left. This daughter of hers was too much to keep in line; she had decided to let Hao Ren deal with Zhao Yanzi in the future.

Hao Ren sat in the sofa chair in front of the computer. Zhao Yanzi was too lazy to pull out the other chair, so she just sat on the back part of the chair.

Hao Ren put his hands on the keyboard, took a deep breath, and waited for the game to start. Popodino was a game that he was really good at when he was in high school. However, he hadn’t played since he started university.

Ready, Go!

Hao Ren quickly hit the keyboard as soon as the game started. The opponent was at a skillful 'post-doctoral-level' player. The game took a long time, and Hao Ren almost got a cramp in his wrist. At last, his experience didn't disappoint him, and he won the game.

He turned back and found Zhao Yanzi leaning on his back in excitement. She stared at the screen with a cheerful smile on her face.

"Um...hem!" Hao Ren coughed to remind her.

Zhao Yanzi suddenly realized that her entire body was leaning on Hao Ren's shoulder and back. Since she was only in her pajamas, she could imagine that Hao Ren must have felt something. Suddenly, her face turned red.

"What are you looking at? Go ahead and start the second game!" she shouted out.

"What do I get if I win?" Hao Ren asked on purpose.

"Well, you can sleep here if you win!" Zhao Yanzi said absentmindedly.

Her entire focus was on the screen and didn't even notice what she had just said.

Hao Ren sighed lightly and started the second game.

Hao Ren's shoulder was blocking Zhao Yanzi's view, so she sneaked in front of him.

"Here! Here! And over there! Use the tools!" her instructing skills were obviously better than her gaming skills. She started to shout as the game got intense.

Zhao Hongyu and Zhao Guang heard her in their room. They glimpsed at each other speechlessly and turned the volume of the TV up.

In the end, Zhao Yanzi couldn't help but reach out her slim arms to help Hao Ren with the tools. Her body shook slightly as she pressed onto the keyboard.

Hao Ren felt the unsettledness in front of him. His hands were controlling the keyboard, and that made his arms wrap around her perfectly.

He felt like he was holding a Teddy Bear made of cake.

Although the opponent was pretty good, there was no way that he or she could defeat the two of them. Soon, the opponent exited this gaming room after losing six games in a row.

"Hahaha..." Zhao Yanzi laughed loudly. However, she stopped immediately when she realized that it wasn't very lady-like.

She looked at her sides and saw that Hao Ren's arms were wrapping her. It seemed like she was cuddling in his arms.

She gritted her teeth, bent her arms, and struck behind her.

"Ah!" the unexpected elbow attack made Hao Ren feel a pain in his chest.

Zhao Yanzi calmed herself down from the game and realized that this 'uncle' had been taking advantage of her for a long time. She jumped off the chair, thought for a bit, and hopped into her bed.

Hao Ren was confused by her change of temper. He pulled out the sheets and blankets from under her bed and started to make his bed on the floor.

Zhao Yanzi thought that he could sleep in the empty room next door, but she didn't mention anything.

"That...West Ocean's Crown Prince..." Hao Ren laid down and tried to ask.

"Don't mention him!" Zhao Yanzi shouted immediately.

Hao Ren zipped his lips as Zhao Yanzi suddenly rolled over and asked him, "Grandma is in another province?"

"Um," Hao Ren nodded.

"Let's go see her tomorrow?" She blinked her eyes.

"Um...alright," Hao Ren hesitated before agreeing.

He felt like he was kidnapping this young girl...

Chapter 173: Who's More Like the Bad Guy?

Zhao Yanzi was probably really exhausted. She fell asleep in just a little while.

The light on the ceiling was off, but the lamp by the bed was left on. Hao Ren curled up in the dark and looked at the ceiling, thinking about what happened during the day.

West Ocean must have a strong background to back up its attitude. Oldman Zeng, especially, was so arrogant. If it weren't for Zhao Yanzi's Third Uncle, he would have kidnapped Zhao Yanzi forcefully even though they were on East Ocean's turf!

There were other things besides the issue with East Ocean and West Ocean that were giving Hao Ren a headache.

The room was tranquil, and Hao Ren could see some dim lights from the few corners of the room. Those were the array formations that Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu put up when Zhao Yanzi and Hao Ren slept over at Lu Qing's place.

Hao Ren looked at Zhao Yanzi, who was already deep in her sleep, and sighed. He thought that maybe it would be easier just to be a mortal being.

Tik Tok... Tik Tok...

It was already the next morning, and Hao Ren didn't sleep at all. He silently cultivated the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll and guarded Zhao Yanzi at the same time; he was uneasy about East Ocean irritating West Ocean yesterday. Although he was only on Kan-level, he was still stronger than Zhao Yanzi, who lost all her power.

“Ah...” Zhao Yanzi yawned as she stretched in her bed.

She noticed that Hao Ren was staring at her, so she snorted and kicked her blanket on to Hao Ren’s head.

Hao Ren pulled the blanket down, thinking, “So ungrateful. I guarded you for the entire night! If you do not recognize my contribution, you should at least recognize my hard work.”

Zhao Yanzi didn’t know that Hao Ren was awake all night. She hopped into the bathroom to freshen up. She was never concerned about the threat from West Ocean. “What on earth could they do? East Ocean is not afraid of West Ocean at all,” she thought.

When these two got downstairs, Zhao Hongyu had already prepared breakfast for them. Everything was nice and ordered as usual.

“I’m going to see Grandma with Hao Ren today, Mom.” Zhao Yanzi took a bite of her bread.

“How are you going there?” Zhao Hongyu asked.

“Driving over!” Zhao Yanzi pointed at Hao Ren. “Doesn’t he know how to drive?”

Hao Ren nodded and said, “Auntie, you and Uncle should come with us.”

“We can’t. There are a lot of things to deal with after the birthday party,” Zhao Guang said.

“Then... The two of us can go?” Zhao Yanzi asked Zhao Guang timidly.

“Yeah, you guys can go.” Zhao Guang nodded casually.

Zhao Yanzi was delighted, but Hao Ren was surprised by the fact that Zhao Guang allowed this.

“Be careful,” Zhao Hongyu said to them and went upstairs to pack some clothes for Zhao Yanzi.

Then, Hao Ren took Zhao Guang’s black Chevrolet and drove Zhao Yanzi toward the little village in Zhejiang Province where Grandma was at.

As soon as Zhao Yanzi and Hao Ren stepped out of the house, Zhao Guang turned to his study room and said, “Premier Xia, go ahead.”

“Yes, Dragon King,” Premier Xia walked out of the study room in his green robe and said, “According to the new information, amongst the elders who used the Mystic Ice, six of them had leveled up to Kun-level.

“Six...” Zhao Guang looked down slightly as if he was weighing the meaning of that number.

“West Ocean has higher strength than us to start with, and now they have six more Kun-level Masters. No wonder they had the guts to cause trouble at the birthday party,” Zhao Hongyu said.

Zhao Guang nodded with a serious look on his face. “Keep going.”

“Yes,” Premier Xia’s look was serious as well. “There is also the report of the appearance of a Soul Formation Cultivator in our East Ocean City!”

“Soul Formation Cultivator?” Zhao Guang, who had always kept his calm, looked surprised.

“Since it involves a Soul Formation Cultivator, we weren’t able to dig too deep. However, according to Su Han’s remarks during the birthday party and our comprehensive analysis, the reason for Qin Shaoyang’s transfer to Northwest Sky Mountain was that he probably had pissed this cultivator off.”

Zhao Guang frowned as he rubbed his chin. “In that case, it does sound like that’s what had happened. Qin Shaoyang belongs to the Metal-Elemental Dragon Clan, and he should have a special status in the Inspector System. He must have gotten on the bad side of an important figure to be sent to the cold and remote Northwest region.”

“Also...” Premier Xia hesitated for a few seconds before saying, “When Fuma Hao was breaking through to Kan-level, a Soul Formation Cultivator who was passing by gave him some help.”

“Oh?” Zhao Hongyu and Zhao Guang were both surprised this time.

Premier Xie continued, “The entire situation appears to be more complex than we had estimated. West Ocean brought a lot of powerful cultivators this time, but they didn’t do anything at the birthday party. They might be afraid for this Soul Formation Cultivator in East Ocean City.”

Zhao Hongyu shook her head and said, “The Soul Formation Cultivators do not interfere with issues within the Dragon Tribe. Even if the war between East Ocean and West Ocean start, they won’t get involved as long as no human is injured. However, the transfer of Qin Shaoyang was surely a reason for West Ocean to be on alert.”

“You are right, Dragon Queen. All three parties are in a stalemate for now, and we need to wait and see if Third Lord can break through to the Heavenly Dragon Realm. Oldman Zeng is not easy to deal with, and he must be waiting for his opportunity as well,” Premier Xia said.

“You are right. He lost his temper yesterday, but it was just an act. He is extremely sneaky. However, both sides are holding grudges about yesterday. I’m sure that there will be some conflicts in these few days. It’s a good thing that Zi is not here for now,” Zhao Guang looked at Premier Xia and said, “Don’t worry about us. Just go ahead and secretly protect Ren and Zi for the next two days.”

“Yes!” Premier Xia bowed, turned into a dash of green light, and disappeared.

Hao Ren, in the meantime, was driving toward a toll station on the highway.

Zhao Yanzi was a bit nervous since this was the first time that she and Hao Ren went on a trip by themselves. However, she was just happy that she could take this opportunity to avoid doing her homework.

“What? Do I look like a bad guy?” Having sensed her nervousness, Hao Ren asked.

“What do you think?” Zhao Yanzi threw the question back at him.

“I didn’t do anything other than watching over you as you slept, did I?” Hao Ren asked.

Zhao Yanzi pouted, but she didn’t know what to say.

Hao Ren’s tone made her feel like he was going to do more something this time.

"I told you that the condition over there isn't that good. So, don't yell and tell me to drive back when you get there." Hao Ren re-confirmed as soon as they got past the toll station.

"I know! So annoying!" She rolled her eyes at him because she didn't think of herself as spoiled at all.

The vehicle got on the highway.

Hao Ren drove for a while before he finally asked, "What's that West Ocean's Crown Prince's name?"

"Told you not to speak of him!" Zhao Yanzi was not happy, but she still answered, "Zeng Yitao!"

Hao Ren secretly memorized the name; he knew that this guy wasn't a good one.

"Do you... Do you have a marriage agreement with him?" Hao Ren asked again.

"Pttf! We never agreed! They were the ones who came up with it on their own, and my dad never agreed to it!" she said.

Hao Ren knew that West Ocean must have proposed a few times, and Zhao Guang rejected using the excuse of Zhao Yanzi's age.

However, East Ocean suddenly found Zhao Yanzi a fiancé without telling them, and it made West Ocean Dragon Clan furious.

"This is probably why Zhao Guang fought against all pressure and made me, a human, into Zhao Yanzi's Fuma," Hao Ren thought.

The road trip on the highway was very boring, and Zhao Yanzi slowly fell asleep. She was busy the day before and didn't get to sleep well at night. It was normal for her to get sleepy today.

Hao Ren tried his best to drive as smooth as possible.

Sometimes, he felt sorry for her because although everyone catered to her needs as the princess of East Ocean Dragon Palace, she didn't have much freedom.

Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu probably decided to let her grow up on land to make her happier.

The three-hour-drive took them to the small. The bumpy road woke Zhao Yanzi up from her dream, and she rubbed her eyes and looked outside.

The simple houses surprised her. "Ah? This is it?"

She grew up in the city and would see luxurious palaces if she went to the Dragon Palace. Even when she went on a trip to the GreenStone Mountain, she lived in the best hotel at the foot of the mountain. When did she ever live in a 'village' like this?

Hao Ren ignored her because they were already at the destination. Even if Zhao Yanzi protested and screamed, nothing could be done.

The vehicle drove into the yard, and Grandma, who was sunbathing, saw Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi getting out of the black car.

She walked over, surprised. "How come... You are here?"

“Grandma!” Zhao Yanzi ran over to her and greeted in her sweet voice.

“Oh! How come you didn’t tell me that you have such a pretty granddaughter!” that old grandma, Grandma’s good friend, smiled as she also walked over with a fan in her hand.

“Grandma...” Zhao Yanzi greeted her as well.

“Such a pretty little granddaughter...” the old grandma walked around Zhao Yanzi and said.

“This is not my granddaughter. She is my...” Grandma was about to explain.

Zhao Yanzi blushed as she called out, “Grandma!”

Grandma changed up what she was about to say, “Hehe, our little Zi is shy!”

The old grandma didn’t think much. She rubbed her head and said, “Today is Saturday, and all my sons who work in the towns nearby are back. There is only one empty room, and we don’t have enough blankets...”

Chapter 174: Learn to Be Virtuous...

Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi wanted to surprise Grandma, so they didn’t notify her beforehand. Now, they were faced with the awkward situation which was beyond Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi’s expectation.

There was only one room, and there were only one bed and one set of blankets.

“We’ll deal with the accommodation situation later tonight,” Hao Ren said. He already had a plan for this one-room situation.

“If you need to be in different rooms, I’ll ask one of my sons to go back to town so that we can have another empty room,” the old grandma said.

“That’s not necessary. We’ll deal with it later tonight,” Hao Ren quickly rejected her suggestion; he didn’t want to cause them so much trouble.

Zhao Yanzi quietly turned to Hao Ren as she was worried, but she didn’t say anything.

“Now that you are here, let’s have lunch first!” Grandma held on to Zhao Yanzi’s hand and said brightly.

The people in the countryside had their lunch earlier than city people because they had to do farm work after lunch. Usually, they would have lunch before 11 o’clock.

After the three-hour-drive, they were just in time for lunch.

They wouldn’t prepare a lot of dishes in the countryside, and Zhao Yanzi was obviously not used to the light dishes they had. She filled herself up anyways with a little frowny expression.

“This girl is a little more spoiled than Yujia,” Grandma thought to herself as she watched Zhao Yanzi eat.

The old grandma’s family went to their farms and did manual rice transplanting after lunch. It was just in the busy season for farm work, so her sons came back to help on the weekends. Although the old

grandma was quite old, she was experienced. Hao Ren's grandma went into the field as well to help around. She didn't think it was dirty at all. Instead, it brought back a lot of her memories.

Zhao Yanzi found it fun, so she went to help barefooted. She got exhausted after just transplanting less than a dozen rice plants in a few minutes, but Hao Ren finished two to three rows during that time.

Grandma smiled when she saw that they were having lots of fun on the other side of the field, playing and helping each other. Although the rice plants were a little crooked, she could foresee them growing up healthily. Suddenly, she realized the growth in Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi as well.

They worked until two in the afternoon, and everyone took a break. Zhao Yanzi lost interest in it and ran over to the creek to wash her feet. Then, she picked a big stone to sit on while she swayed her delicate legs up and down to air dry them.

The old grandma who was taking a break on the side of the field nudged Hao Ren's grandma with her elbow. "That... That is not your granddaughter-in-law... Is it?"

Grandma smiled quietly as she narrowed her eyes.

"In the afternoon... Let's do something else," Zhao Yanzi walked to Hao Ren on the warm cobblestones and said.

"I told you it's going to be boring here, yet you insisted on coming," Hao Ren said absentmindedly as he wiped the dried mud off his feet.

"I'm here to see Grandma, and you are being mean to me!" Zhao Yanzi felt wronged.

Hao Ren looked at her speechlessly. "Alright, we'll go look around in the afternoon."

"Yes! Yes!" Zhao Yanzi put on her socks and shoes and was cheered up again.

Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi 'escaped' from the field after explaining to Grandma. They went into the village and wandered around.

Actually, there was only so much to see in the countryside, mostly were unpaved roads and houses made of bricks. However, Zhao Yanzi found it interesting whenever she saw chickens, ducks, cats, and dogs in people's yards.

Sometimes chained up black dog would bark at her when she passed by, and she would get scared and hide behind Hao Ren.

Hao Ren thought to himself, "Hey... You are a dragon, but you are scared of a puppy?"

When they passed by a giant warehouse, Zhao Yanzi was curious about what was inside. She got on her tiptoes to look through the window.

When she saw sweet potatoes piled up in little hills inside, she was excited. "Hey! There are sweet potatoes inside!"

Her eyes brightened as if she hadn't eaten in hundreds of years.

Hao Ren sighed lightly, "Ah... I'm not asking you to call me your husband, but at least you should call me by my name..."

He walked over to her and looked inside as well. "So what?"

"Baked sweet potatoes!" Her eyes shot out lights of excitement. There were usually middle-aged man and woman selling baked sweet potatoes in simple metal ovens by her school, and she had always wanted to bake one herself.

Hao Ren took her to the front of the warehouse to see if they could get inside.

To their surprise, the iron gate was not locked at all. They lightly pushed it open and entered. Zhao Yanzi was extremely excited to see hills of sweet potatoes right in front of her. Regardless of the dirtiness of the sweet potatoes, she dashed over like a greedy thief and stuffed two into her pocket and a few more in her arms.

Seeing Hao Ren not moving, she called out, "What are you doing? Come to take some!"

Hao Ren put four or five in his arms reluctantly. He had done something like stealing sweet potatoes when he was little. In fact, he even went into other people's fields to dig them out.

However, he never thought that he would be doing this again as a university student...

Zhao Yanzi couldn't take anymore despite how much she wanted to. She got out of the warehouse reluctantly.

Just when they stepped out, a few farmers with garden hoes passed by and saw them sneaking out. They shouted out, "What are you doing?"

Zhao Yanzi ran away out of panic, and Hao Ren followed her without thinking.

The two of them, a tall guy and a short girl, hastily dashed onto the little road as the sweet potatoes rolled out of their arms. Premier Xia looked down from a low cloud and sweat came out of his forehead. "The princess of East Ocean Dragon Clan is stealing sweet potatoes with her fiancé..." he thought nervously.

Zhao Yanzi and Hao Ren ran out of the village and were relieved when they found that there was no one after them.

They counted the "stolen goods" and realized that most of them were gone. Hao Ren only had a couple in his arms while Zhao Yanzi had two in her pockets. Altogether, there were five of them.

Zhao Yanzi carried the sweet potatoes happily as if they were priceless treasures. Since Hao Ren had lived in the countryside before, he knew that the sweet potatoes didn't worth much. Usually, a farmer was able to harvest more than half a warehouse in one season.

The farmers wouldn't even care if Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi asked them for a dozen, and that was why the warehouse wasn't even locked.

Hao Ren only ran away with Zhao Yanzi out of panic. But now, Hao Ren only found it funny seeing how thrilled and excited Zhao Yanzi was.

“Let’s bake them here!” Zhao Yanzi calmed herself down a little and suggested as she was satisfied with the surroundings.

They were outside the village and surrounded by a few little hills, which was perfect for blocking the wind. Hao Ren picked up some tree branches and created a little hole with his five-elemental sword energies. He put a sweet potato inside and covered it with the branches. Then, he lit it up with the fire-elemental sword energy.

He was only at Kan-level and had only mastered the first level of the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll. The five-elemental sword energies wouldn’t be able to harm an enemy. In terms of offensive power, they might not even be better than kitchen knives. However, they worked pretty well at trivial things like this.

Zhao Yanzi carried a stone over to sit beside the fire. She stared at the sweet potato, full of expectation.

“Can it be cooked properly?” she asked.

It was obvious that this was the first time she baked sweet potatoes. Hao Ren found himself a stone to sit on as well and said, “Of course! I’ve done it a lot when I was little.”

“Shouldn’t we be putting the sweet potato on top of the fire? Can it be cooked underneath?” Zhao Yanzi was still questioning his words.

“That would burn it. It wouldn’t be baking unless it’s underneath,” Hao Ren explained to her patiently. Zhao Yanzi had no interest in the five-elemental sword energies he just used, yet, she was so curious about baking sweet potatoes.

About 20 minutes later, Hao Ren released some water-elemental sword energies to extinguish the flame. He poked around the ashes and took out a black sweet potato from underneath.

Zhao Yanzi didn’t care about the cleanliness and reached over to grab the sweet potato.

As soon as she had it in her hands, she realized how hot a freshly baked sweet potato was. She immediately started to blow on it and almost couldn’t hold it.

Even so, she didn’t want to let go of it. She switched it between her hands and revealed her greediness.

When the sweet potato cooled down a little, she couldn’t wait to peel it open. The tempting golden color of the inside demonstrated how well done it was.

Zhao Yanzi was probably afraid of Hao Ren stealing it from her, so she bit onto it with both hands holding it. However, the inner part was still a bit hot. She started to blow again as soon as she took a bite.

Hao Ren was speechless when he saw her silly look.

One sweet potato was not enough for her. She pointed at Hao Ren as she ate. “Bake another one! Bake another one!”

Hao Ren shook his head with a smile. He gathered more tree branches and put two sweet potatoes in the hole which was still warm. He kept adding branches into the flame to keep up the temperature.

Zhao Yanzi rubbed her belly in satisfaction after she had finished that sweet potato. She patted Hao Ren's shoulder with her dirty hands. "Let me do it! Let me do it!"

From watching Hao Ren, she thought that baking sweet potato was a piece of cake. So, she decided to try it herself. Hao Ren noticed the two black stains left on the corners of her lips, but he chose not to tell her since she didn't offer him any part of the baked sweet potato.

After adding branches into the flame for 20 minutes, Zhao Yanzi asked Hao Ren to extinguish the fire. He hastily took out the two sweet potatoes from the ashes only to find that they were already burned into coal-like black pieces.

Hao Ren looked at Zhao Yanzi, and she instantly blushed.

She didn't think that the inside would be as burned as the outside. After peeling off the burned layers, there were still some edible parts inside.

"Here! This one's for you!" She passed one to Hao Ren generously this time.

She was eating happily despite the black stains on her hands. Hao Ren smiled as he realized that Zhao Yanzi could be quite cute sometimes.

However, the sweet potato in his hand was basically burned completely. The edible part of it was only as big as his palm.

"Pay attention to your cultivation. Although having fun is important, cultivation is more important. It would be troublesome if you can't defeat Zeng Yitao in the future." Zhao Yanzi patted Hao Ren's shoulder in encouragement after finishing up two sweet potatoes.

That... That sounded like a different version of Hao Ren's encouragement to her regarding her studies...

Chapter 175: Natal Dharma Treasure?

After eating the baked sweet potatoes, Zhao Yanzi was full. She placed the two remaining ones on the roadside for the lucky person who would walk by.

It was already about four in the afternoon. The cooking smokes were beginning to float up from the village homes, and the farmers who had been working in the fields all day were on their way back with their tools on their shoulders.

Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi also turned around and went back. Now with her belly full, Zhao Yanzi was energetic again, looking around interestedly. Some kids ran around her for a while before running away, singing. During all this time, she was oblivious to the black stains at the corners of her lips.

"That Zeng Yitao, what level is he on now?" Halfway across the village, Hao Ren asked Zhao Yanzi.

"I suppose he reached Zhen-level about a year or half a year ago," Zhao Yanzi said distractedly.

"Zhen-level..." Hao Ren thought about it. It was equivalent to the Core Formation Realm for human cultivators. Although it was only two-levels higher than Kan-level, there was a drastic difference between them.

With the aid of the Dragon Core, it was quite easy for the dragons to reach Zhen-level. However, before a dragon could reach Zhen-level, his or her level would still be in the Foundation Establishment Realm. There was a huge difference between the two realms.

“Zhen-level is nothing special. I was once at Zhen-level,” Zhao Yanzi said.

Hao Ren knew Zhao Yanzi’s Zhen-level was the result of elixirs. Judging from her lazy ways of doing her homework, Hao Ren would be surprised if she had reached Zhen-level on her own.

In contrast, as West Ocean’s Crown Prince whose grandfather was a top-tier master, Zeng Yitao should have reached Zhen-level on his own since he had to inherit the West Ocean Dragon Clan in the future.

“A cultivator of Kan-level would never defeat a cultivator of Zhen-level, right?” Hao Ren asked her.

“Of course not!” Zhao Yanzi turned to look at Hao Ren. “I think Zeng Yitao is quite powerful. Oldman Zeng of West Ocean taught him a Blue-grade technique which I think is called Three Stars Destruction Scroll.”

“It seems that Zeng Yitao indeed meant to marry her since he even told her his cultivation technique. Of course, he must have been trying to show off when he told her that,” Hao Ren thought.

“It is said that this technique would allow the cultivator to have three powerful Natal Dharma Treasures. However, he only has one Natal Dharma Treasure now, and I don’t know what kind of Dharma Treasure it is.” Zhao Yanzi told Hao Ren everything she knew about Zeng Yitao

In fact, she was worried that Zeng Yitao would ambush Hao Ren and challenge him while his cultivation level was still relatively low. Then, she thought about Hao Ren’s fight with Qin Shaoyang and admitted that it was quite a triumph.

If she had to choose between Zeng Yitao and Hao Ren, she would undoubtedly prefer Hao Ren. She had heard a lot of unsavory tales about Zeng Yitao, and she wondered how many more incidents she didn’t know about.

When Zhao Yanzi visited the Dragon Palace as a little girl, she just played pranks on the ordinary soldiers but never hurt them. However, Zeng Yitao had wounded and even crippled some West Ocean soldiers, and that was why the people in and out of the West Ocean Dragon Palace would flee at the sight of Zeng Yitao. After all, he was the Crown Prince who was spoiled by his grandfather who was mostly in seclusion cultivation and had not left the Dragon Palace for hundreds of years.

While they chatted, they walked toward that old grandma’s courtyard.

Seeing the black stains at the corners of her lips, Hao Ren was afraid that Grandma would scold him for not helping Zhao Yanzi out. He pulled her arm and said, “Wait a moment. There are some black stains around your lips”

“Black stains?”

“Yeah. You got them when you ate the sweet potatoes.” Hao Ren pointed at the corners of her lips.

Zhao Yanzi tried to look down but couldn’t see. She tried to rub them off with her fingers but couldn’t do it properly without a mirror.

Hao Ren turned to face her and brushed her hand off. He put his fingers in the clear water inside a container by the roadside and lightly rubbed at the black stains at the corners of her lip with his wet fingers.

Since they were stains from the ashes, it was not easy to clean them with only water. Hao Ren wetted his fingers repeatedly and rubbed carefully.

Anxious to get her clean and pretty face back, Zhao Yanzi stood still obediently and was even a little moved by Hao Ren's patience.

Hao Ren was very careful with this task. With Zhao Yanzi's shorter height, he bent his back to keep his gaze on the delicate skin around her lips; his head was almost touching hers.

Zhao Yanzi's skin was so fine, smooth and elastic that it felt like gel.

Exhaling deeply, Hao Ren finally got her lips clean.

Meanwhile, looking at Hao Ren who was so close to her, Zhao Yanzi suddenly felt her heart beating faster. Feeling Hao Ren's fingers around her lips, she wondered if a kiss would feel like this. Her face reddened suddenly, and she slapped Hao Ren's hand away abruptly before giving him a vicious look.

Hao Ren was surprised since he had been trying hard to clean her up. He wondered if Zhao Yanzi was angry at him for not telling her about the black stains earlier.

They stood there and stared at each other when an old man led an ox over and shut it in a fenced shed beside them.

Then, this ox began to drink the water from the container beside them. Zhao Yanzi and Hao Ren exchanged a surprised look and realized immediately that the water Hao Ren used to clean Zhao Yanzi's face was, in fact, the drinking water for the ox!

"You're dead!" Enraged, Zhao Yanzi raised her hand to hit Hao Ren.

Startled, Hao Ren ran away immediately. Although he had once lived in the countryside, he had no idea that the fenced shed was for an ox.

Zhao Yanzi chased him into the old grandma's courtyard. Seeing them running back, Grandma chuckled.

After eating two sweet potatoes, Zhao Yanzi was so full that she didn't have a great appetite at dinner.

"Ren, Zi, I'm afraid that you have to share a room tonight," while eating the congee, the old grandma glanced at them and said.

Zhao Yanzi was surprised, but Hao Ren answered immediately, "No problem!"

"This evil guy!" Zhao Yanzi glared at him.

Hao Ren held her hands under the table, signaling her to be silent. Thinking that she had to share a room and a bed with him, Zhao Yanzi was furious and regretted that she had come here with Hao Ren.

After dinner, they enjoyed the cool air in the courtyard. The good sons gave back massages to the old grandma one by one, and the kids frolicked in the courtyard. Zhao Yanzi chatted with Grandma while the kids pulled Hao Ren to join their little game.

When the moon hid its face in the clouds, everyone called it a night.

Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi entered a simple room in which there were only a bed and one set of bedding.

Zhao Yanzi looked at Hao Ren, thinking that he would offer to sleep on the floor. However, Hao Ren patted her on the head and gestured her to keep silent before whispering, "I'll sleep in the car outside, and you can sleep here. The old grandma's sons only come home on the weekends, so we shouldn't make them go back to the town by taking their rooms."

Zhao Yanzi looked at him and nodded. She then looked at the brick floor and thought it would be quite cold to sleep on.

With a smile on his face, Hao Ren silently opened the door. He crossed the courtyard and got into the black Chevrolet.

Chapter 176: Not Attractive at All?

Zhao Guang's Chevrolet was quite spacious, especially the back seats. It managed to accommodate one sleeping on it with his or her legs bent.

However, it was not as comfortable as a solid bed. Hao Ren turned around again and again and couldn't find a comfortable position.

Finally, he sat up cross-legged and began to cultivate the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll.

Five sword energies slowly circulated in his body while Hao Ren controlled the strength of them with the technique. The sword energies sometimes traveled out of his body and sometimes entered his body.

When the five sword energies combined, they formed a small grey hundun¹sword energy.

The sword energy pulsed in his palm as if it was alive.

"Natal Dharma Treasure." Suddenly, Hao Ren remembered the things that Zhao Yanzi had told him during the day.

Zeng Yitao could have three Natal Dharma Treasures which could be connected to the owner's mind. The cultivator could control them at will and could utilize their full power. On top of that, as the cultivator reach a higher realm, his or her Natal Dharma Treasure would also elevate and grow more powerful.

"My sword energies are formed by the essence in my body, and they share my blood and mind. Are they Natal Dharma Treasures? The technique Zeng Yitao is cultivating can let him have three Natal Dharma Treasure. With two more Natal Dharma Treasures than most cultivators, he is naturally more powerful. Well, this hundun sword energy of mine could be divided into five elemental swords. Does it mean that I have five Natal Dharma Treasures? If I could achieve the realm of 'Ten Thousand Swords at Heart'

mentioned in the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll and could transform the hundun sword energy into tens of thousands of swords, does it mean that I will have tens of thousands of Natal Dharma Treasures at my command?

At this thought, Hao Ren turned his attention from the control of the strength of the sword energy to the control of its direction. The sword energy ran through his body and clothes with faint muffled thunder sounds. With a thought, Hao Ren brought two fingers together and made a gesture before yelling, "Go!"

The grey hundun sword energy traveled through his fingers before shooting out of the window and up into the sky.

In the dark night, the whiteish grey sword energy had a tail trailing behind it like a flare.

Boom!

The sword energy entered the clouds in the sky, but Hao Ren could still feel the connection with the sword energy and could even sense the clouds.

The sword energy continued to soar and instantly penetrated layers of clouds.

Boom!

Disturbed by the sword energy, the lightning started to form.

Muffled thunders boomed in the sky, and Hao Ren hurriedly called back the sword energy as he felt a pressure in his chest.

So far, the sword energy couldn't make turns yet. Therefore, it dropped with the same route it had when it went up into the sky.

"Back!" Hao Ren reached out his hand, and the sword energy shot through the car window before entering his palm.

A surge of burning energy traveled from the center of his palm into his heart. He looked down and saw a red mark on the Laogong acupoint in the center of his palm as if he had been burned!

The power of the lightning. Hao Ren endured the pain and realized that the sword energy had brought back the energy of the lightning from the clouds.

The Nature Essence in his body seemed to have been activated by the pure lightning power. It began to boil!

Meanwhile, a lightning bolt flashed in the clouds, lighting up the whole sky.

Hao Ren felt lucky since he had withdrawn the sword energy from the clouds. If his sword energy, the 'Natal Dharma Treasure' connected with his spirit, had been damaged, he would also have been wounded and would at least spat out a mouthful of blood.

The red mark on the Laogong acupoint in the center of his palm gradually disappeared. He hurriedly transferred the pure energy of the lightning into his own Nature Essence, feeling that his whole body

was soaked in the stimulation of the lightning. Suddenly, another opening appeared in the Dragon Core in his body.

The magnificent Nature Essence from the outside entered Hao Ren's body like a whirlpool, and the car even shook under its force.

Half a minute later, the new opening on the Dragon Core was finally full of essence and became stable. Meanwhile, Hao Ren felt like the connection between him and nature seemed to be sharper.

At this moment, a drizzle began.

The temperature in the courtyard dropped, and Hao Ren who was sitting in the car felt the chill.

In the room about a dozen meters away, Zhao Yanzi tossed and turned in her bed and couldn't sleep either under the dim yellow light from a lightbulb dangling from the ceiling.

The walls of the room were coated with lime mud and dust. In a corner, several spiders were crawling at a measured pace to build their webs. On the floor, some black bugs were crawling back and forth.

Zhao Yanzi rolled into a ball with the quilt around her on the bed that was made from hard boards, observing her surroundings alertly.

After some thinking, she got up and put on her shoes. Seeing it was drizzling outside, she picked up an umbrella from the corner of the room and cautiously walked into the courtyard.

Sitting in the car, Hao Ren was cultivating with his eyes closed, trying to solidify his realm.

Zhao Yanzi walked to the car and knocked on the window.

"What's the matter?" Hao Ren was surprised to see her.

"Idiot! Aren't you cold out here?" Zhao Yanzi opened the door and got in the car.

"It's raining. Aren't you afraid that you will catch a cold coming out in your pajamas?" Hao Ren looked at her and asked.

Zhao Yanzi didn't answer. She curled up her legs and sat in the back seat beside Hao Ren.

Hao Ren thought for a while. "What? You can't sleep alone here?"

Zhao Yanzi pouted, but she remained silent.

"Do you want me to keep you company in the room?" Hao Ren asked again.

Finally, Zhao Yanzi turned to look at him. "It is you who offered to keep me company; I didn't ask."

Her eyes sparkled like two innocent diamonds in the dark night.

Hao Ren smiled. Placing his hand lightly on her shoulder, he nudged her out of the car before following her. He took a cushion from the car and held up the umbrella before walking Zhao Yanzi to the room.

Although the room didn't have heating, it was warmer than the courtyard. Hao Ren tossed the cushion onto the cold brick floor before sitting down on it cross-legged.

Zhao Yanzi froze. She had not meant to let Hao Ren sleep on the floor. Seeing that he was already on the floor, she had no choice but to get back into the bed with her lips pouted.

Time ticked away while the drizzle continued. With Hao Ren at her side, Zhao Yanzi now had more control over her thoughts. For example, she no longer wondered if the bugs would crawl into her ears or not. Meanwhile, Hao Ren silently felt the second opening on his Dragon Core. He found that the Nature Essence circulated faster in his body, and he could use more essence at a time. Even the hundun sword energy in his palm seemed to have a more solid shape.

“Ahem! Ahem!” Lying on the bed, Zhao Yanzi suddenly cleared her throat.

Hao Ren turned to look at her.

“You... Ugh... Can sleep on the bed,” Zhao Yanzi stammered while her shining eyes avoided Hao Ren’s.

“Do you mean it?” Hao Ren asked casually.

Zhao Yanzi’s face turned burning red, wondering if this ‘Uncle’ was so dense that he had to wait for a second invitation.

“I mean... The bed is not so small. I can give you half of it,” Zhao Yanzi said. Then she added, “But the quilt is mine.”

Hao Ren thought for a while before standing up from the floor and climbing onto the wood board bed.

Zhao Yanzi’s face turned bright red. In her home, the floors were covered by carpets, and it wasn’t cold to sleep on it. But in this countryside house, the floor was paved with cold bricks, and it was very uncomfortable to sleep on it even though Hao Ren had the cushion he brought from the car.

She pulled the quilt tightly around her body and shifted to lie on her side with her back to Hao Ren.

After sitting so long on the hard floor, Hao Ren found that it was a lot more comfortable to sleep on the bed. He lied on his side facing the wall with his back to Zhao Yanzi.

The atmosphere between them was still a bit awkward.

“You... Can’t... Touch me,” After a moment of consideration, Zhao Yanzi felt like she had to warn him.

“Your figure is not good enough to tempt me,” Hao Ren retorted casually.

“You!” Zhao Yanzi widened her eyes and had the urge to turn and hit him. On second thought, it was quite improper to mess with him in the current situation. She held herself in check.

Soon, Hao Ren’s breathing became even and long. Zhao Yanzi turned silently and sat up slowly to look at him over his shoulder. She tried to determine if he had really fallen asleep.

After seeing that Hao Ren didn’t move for half a minute, she was certain that he was asleep.

“Pig!” With a silent insult, she moved back to her side of the bed carefully.

When she moved back, a thought occurred to her; when she was hovering over Hao Ren, if he had suddenly woken up and reached out, she would have landed in his arms. This thought brought redness

to her face again, and she moved back and pulled the quilt around her immediately. Lying on her side with her back several centimeters away from Hao Ren, she bit hard on her lip.

“Forget it. No one would know anyway.” Zhao Yanzi consoled herself before falling asleep.

Premier Xia peeked through the crack of the door when he passed the room. Immediately, he covered his eyes with his hands and silently murmured before resuming his patrol in the courtyard, “I saw nothing; I saw nothing!”

When Zhao Yanzi woke up the second morning, she found that she was alone in the room. Subconsciously, she checked her quilt and realized that it was still tightly tucked around her. She looked at Hao Ren’s side and saw a slight dent in the bed, showing that he hadn’t moved during the night.

“I thought he wouldn’t be able to sleep.” Zhao Yanzi was a little disappointed. She opened her suitcase and changed out of her pajamas.

During this time, Hao Ren was at the hilltop cultivating the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll. After getting the second opening in the Dragon Core, he seemed to have gained some new inspirations.

The hundun sword energy that was made from the five elemental sword energies was gradually condensing. The vague grey sword energy now looked like a real sword. The only problem with it was that it was not retractable. The only time it would return to Hao Ren’s body was when it fell straight back down after he shot it high up into the sky.

He cultivated on the quiet hilltop almost until noon. Thinking that Zhao Yanzi would be up by now, he walked down the hill and returned to the old Grandma’s courtyard.

The old Grandma’s family were sitting together peeling bamboo shoots while chatting. Grandma had joined them, reliving the country life.

Zhao Yanzi was making rounds unsteadily on an old black Phoenix-Brand bike. The old-style bike had too big of a frame for Zhao Yanzi’s petite size, and her feet barely touched the pedals.

“You’re finally back. Zi looked for you everywhere early this morning, and you didn’t even bring your cell phone,” Grandma complained to Hao Ren when she saw him enter the courtyard.

“Well, I just went to the nearby hills for a walk.” The moment he said this, Zhao Yanzi’s bike crashed toward him unsteadily.

Hao Ren gave the bike a gentle push, so it passed him instead of crashing into him. Zhao Yanzi seemed to be having a good time without him.

Many kids in the city didn’t know how to ride a bike, and Zhao Yanzi didn’t seem familiar with it either. However, with her strong athleticism, she managed to gain her balance on such a big bike.

“Ah...” Zhao Yanzi tried to turn, but it was too late for her. She rode directly toward the mud wall of the yard.

She could only make small turns in the yard. When Hao Ren pushed the bike forward, it sped up and was too fast for her to make a turn, so she crashed toward the short wall.

In a big stride, Hao Ren reached out and carried her from the bike before it crashed into a pile of hay in the corner.

Zhao Yanzi hit Hao Ren on his chest furious, and Grandma who was peeling bamboo shoots saw it and chuckled happily. She had been through a lot of things, and it was flirtation disguised as fighting in her eyes.

After lunch, the old Grandma's family was about to work in the fields, and it was almost time for Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi to return home. Grandma was reluctant to let Zi go, but she was comfortable here and didn't want to return to East Ocean City for the time being.

Zhao Yanzi was pleased with the two-day trip in which she not only ate sweet potatoes she baked herself but also learned to ride a bike as well, though it had been quite painful in the beginning when Hao Ren wasn't around to prevent the falls.

Sitting in the car, Hao Ren waved goodbye to the old Grandma's family and his grandma. He drove the car onto the road outside of the village before entering the highway.

Soft music floated in the car, but it couldn't pull Zhao Yanzi into a nap. She looked at the lush green fields on both sides of the highway and asked Hao Ren abruptly, "Tell me the truth, did you sleep last night?"

"I did. Soundly," Hao Ren told the truth.

Zhao Yanzi gritted her teeth and glared at Hao Ren. It seemed like she was not satisfied with his answer.

Nonplussed, Hao Ren wondered what was wrong with him falling asleep. After a moment of consideration, he gave up and turned his attention to the road.

Zhao Yanzi pouted and turned her gaze toward the fields.

"Humph! I'm not attractive to you at all!" she thought.

They returned to East Ocean City safely, and Hao Ren drove directly to Zhao Yanzi's home.

Both Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu were home. It seemed like they knew that Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi would return since they had prepared dinner for them already.

As Zhao Guang predicted, the people from West Ocean Dragon Palace stayed two more days in East Ocean City and fought a small-scale battle with East Ocean Dragon Palace. They had at least 30 'practices' with each other and ended with light injuries on three Elders from West Ocean and moderate injuries on seven Elders from East Ocean. By gaining the upper hand over the East Ocean, the West Ocean got the revenge they wanted.

Since Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi were out of the city, they were not engaged in the fierce battle. Now, West Ocean had withdrawn their forces, and things began to settle down a bit.

"Ren, you can go with me to the Dragon Palace today. Now that you are on Kan-level, I think it's necessary for you to choose a Natal Dharma Treasure as soon as possible," sitting down at the dinner table, Zhao Guang said after a moment of consideration.

Chapter 177: The Mysterious Daoist

“Natal Dharma Treasure?” Hao Ren asked. He thought that he could only get Natal Dharma Treasures after reaching Zhen-level.

“Yes, Natal Dharma Treasure is the Dharma Treasure that would connect to your mind and spirit. Normally, you can keep it in your body, feed it your blood and cultivating its spirituality. In the end, you’ll be able to become one with your Natal Dharma Treasure,” Zhao Guang explained patiently.

“Isn’t it too early to talk about Natal Dharma Treasure right now?” Zhao Hongyu said worriedly.

“You’ve seen the situation now. West Ocean is forcing us out. If Ren doesn’t improve his strength quickly, he might be their major target,” Zhao Guang said.

“Natal Dharma Treasure will bond together with you for the good and the bad. Although it can help you to raise your power to a certain degree, it would be a threat too if a master gets a hold of your Natal Dharma Treasure. Isn’t it better for him to get to Zhen-level and have a steady foundation first before getting a Natal Dharma Treasure?” Zhao Hongyu asked.

“I think it’s more suitable for Ren to hurry up and refine a Natal Dharma Treasure now as West Ocean just left,” Zhao Guang said and turned to Hao Ren. “What’s your take on this?”

“Let’s go to the Dragon Palace and see,” Hao Ren said frankly. Premier Xia explained Dharma Treasure briefly before but didn’t mention anything about Natal Dharma Treasure.

Thinking of choosing a Dharma Treasure that would join his cultivation from now on, Hao Ren was still pretty excited.

“I’ll stay because I got a bunch of homework to do,” Zhao Yanzi said lightly.

Zhao Guang nodded. Hao Ren took Zi’s Dragon Core, and Zi was just like a healthier mortal being now. If she wanted to cultivate, she would have to wait until Hao Ren reaches a certain realm and completes the secret technique with Zhao Yanzi to return half of the mature Dragon Core to her.”

However, Zhao Yanzi didn’t put any effort into cultivation, and Zhao Guang never had high expectations for her. Therefore, he didn’t even allocate a Natal Dharma Treasure for her just in case that this item would become a burden for her if it got captured

After dinner, Zhao Yanzi went back to her room to study, and Zhao Hongyu followed her upstairs to tutor her. Zhao Hongyu thought that she occasionally had to care about Zhao Yanzi’s studies due to Zhao Yanzi’s Class Advisor’s last home visit.

The matter wasn’t urgent, so Zhao Guang drove Hao Ren to the beach. On the way there, the Father-In-Law and the Son-In-Law didn’t have that many conversations. Zhao Guang didn’t even ask about the two-day trip.

They arrived at the beach, went through the passage last time, crossed the bottom of the sea, and arrived at the Dragon Palace. Even though flying was convenient, there would be some inevitable inspections if Inspectors found out. Only when it was an emergency or when the weather reduced

visibility, such as a thunderstorm, would the dragon cultivators be allowed to fly in the sky. This was a part of the regulations.

“Welcome Dragon King, welcome Fuma!” Premier Xia sensed the arrival of Zhao Guang and Hao Ren from the array formation and greeted them.

“Yes, have you organized the list of presents from last time?” Zhao Guang asked.

“I’ve already put it in the main palace for the Dragon King to look through,” Premier Xia said respectfully.

Zhao Guang nodded.

“I plan to have Ren choose a Natal Dharma Treasure, and I’ll leave that to you. I’ll check the altar for the Heavenly Tribulation. Come to see me if anything happens.”

After he finished speaking, Zhao Guang flew away.

“Natal Dharma Treasure...”

Premier Xia seemed to be surprised too. Then, he slightly bowed at Hao Ren and said, “Please follow me, Gongzi Hao.”

He met Hao Ren many times, and they weren’t as unfamiliar as before. He was closer to Hao Ren than Zhao Yanzi, and he was more inclined towards this ‘Fuma’.

Hao Ren thought that Premier Xia was bringing him to the Godly Treasure Palace to choose a Dharma Treasure, but Premier Xia led him to the southeast corner of the Dragon Palace.

There was a huge palace here, and there was a normal brick house beside it with a small garden.

Premier Xia stopped in front of the fence that circled the garden and yelled, “Grandmaster Qiu, are you in there?”

“Even with Premier Xia’s prestigious status in the East Ocean Dragon Palace, he has to stop at the entrance of this small garden. Who is the person living in this house?” Hao Ren couldn’t help but be curious about it.

Seeing no reactions from the inside, Premier Xia straightened his body and yelled again respectfully, “Grandmaster Qiu, are you in there?”

There was still no reaction. Premier Xia thought slightly and finally yelled again, “Grandmaster Qiu, are you in there?”

If it weren’t a request from the Dragon King, he wouldn’t dare to bother this influential figure! If they still didn’t get a reply after three tries, he could only bring Hao Ren back and report to the Dragon King!

The worn wooden door of the brick house was pulled open, and a little Daoist, dressed in green clothes, walked out; he looked like he was eight to nine years old.

“What’s up with the yelling? I’m taking a nap!”

Premier Xia shrunk his neck and smiled awkwardly, “Little Daoist Zhen, is your master here?”

“Nope! He went to travel the world!” this kid answered impatiently with an unfriendly attitude.

“When will he be back?” Premier Xia asked again.

“I don’t know!” the kid said before turning around and heading back to the house to continue his nap.

However, Premier Xia didn’t even dare to get angry. He could only force a smile and didn’t call the boy back. Seeing that this little Daoist was about to close the door, he turned to face Hao Ren with a sad expression.

“Eh?” Suddenly, the kid, who was about to close the door, got surprised. He walked out of the house, passed through the garden that had a lot of plants, and stood in front of Hao Ren and Premier Xia.

Hao Ren looked at this little Daoist at the same time and found that this kid actually looked like an eight or nine years old boy. He had a red dot on his forehead and was very good-looking.

“Five Elemental Body Type. Hmm, that’s kind of weird,” he circled around Hao Ren and murmured.

Premier Xia smiled as he stood aside and didn’t dare to interrupt.

“Hey, show me your cultivation technique,” this little Daoist went back to Hao Ren and said.

Hao Ren wasn’t happy with the attitude, but he thought that he shouldn’t hold a grudge against a little kid. Thus, he circulated the Nature Essence in his body using Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll and shot out five elemental sword lights over the small house.

After a crashing sound, five dashes of sword energies exploded, and the energy got bounced back with tremendous force. Premier Xia set up a defensive energy wall quickly in order to block the damage.

Obviously, powerful array formations were set up around the house.

“Oh.” This boy in green didn’t have a beard, but he still touched his chin pretentiously. “You’re cultivating the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll,” he said.

Hao Ren was surprised because this kid could tell that he was cultivating an uncommon technique instantly, which meant that this kid was knowledgeable. He started to take this kid seriously.

“Are you here for the Natal Dharma Treasure?” this boy turned to look at Premier Xia and asked.

“Yes, yes,” Premier Xia nodded hastily.

“My master is not here, and I’m too lazy to do the work. But again, it doesn’t matter if one has or doesn’t have a Natal Dharma Treasure when he or she is cultivating the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll,” the boy said proudly.

“How so?” Premier Xia asked right away.

“The Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll uses Nature Essence to cast sword energies. Even though this cultivation technique could host a Natal Dharma Treasure, it’s better off using the sword energies that are formless and weightless. They are capable of killing enemies from thousands of kilometers away, and they could also form sword formations. Wouldn’t it be extra to have a Natal Dharma Treasure in the body?” he squinted at Premier Xia and said.

“I see. I know now.” Premier Xia cupped his hands together slightly and replied. However, he thought in his mind, “If you don’t want to make us a Natal Dharma Treasure, why bother to say so much other stuff. He has the same weird temper as his master.”

Yet, Hao Ren suddenly had a feel of comprehension. In fact, this kid’s words were similar to his assumption. The Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll was to change formless sword energies into solid swords. If it could be further cultivated, the sword energies could reach the grade of ‘Tiangang’. Wouldn’t it be more powerful than any other Dharma Treasure?

“However, since you came, I shouldn’t waste your time.” this kid said. Even though he looked like a kid, he spoke like an old man. He stood on his tiptoe, reached his hand out, and pinched Hao Ren’s necklace.

“Okay, I’m going to take a nap. Don’t bother me if nothing happens in the future.” The kid waved his hand and returned to the house.

“Thank you very much, Little Daoist Zhen!” Premier Xia cupped his hands together and said respectfully.

Seeing the boy entering the house, Premier Xia turned to Hao Ren quickly and whispered, “What did he give you?”

Hao Ren lowered his head and looked at the necklace. “There doesn’t seem to be any changes.”

“Try inputting some Nature Essence,” Premier Xia said.

Hao Ren followed his instruction and suddenly made a discovery... This broken necklace suddenly had space within it! It was a space that was as big as a bedroom!

It was similar to a Dharma Treasure called Xumi Ring that could be used as a portable storage space. However, the space inside this necklace was now a few hundred times bigger than the space inside ordinary Xumi Ring!

Seeing the surprised expression on Hao Ren’s face, Premier Xia guessed that little Daoist Zhen had given Hao Ren something.

He smiled contently and said, “Finally, we didn’t come in vain! Gongzi Hao, let’s report to the Dragon King. I’ve tried my best, so please say something nice about me!”

Hao Ren nodded and followed Premier Xia. They left this corner and headed towards the direction of the main palace.

What Hao Ren was shocked about wasn’t just the large space inside his necklace. On top of that, that kid created a space in the necklace from a simple pinch of his fingers.

According to Premier Xia’s explanation from last time, spatial Dharma Treasures like Xumi Ring were the hardest to create!

Also, what was amazing was that the Dharma Spell needed to open this space was the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll!

When that boy created the Dharma Treasure casually, he also changed the Dharma Spell of this Dharma Treasure into the phrases written on Hao Ren’s cultivation technique!

When he saw that Hao Ren was still in shock, Premier Xia laughed, “Gongzi Hao, you are very fortunate. This little Daoist Zhen has the same queer temper as his master and never easily gave away benefits. However, he made an exception and upgraded your Dharma Treasure for you!”

“Who is his master?” Thinking of Premier Xia’s respectful attitude in front of that kid, Hao Ren asked.

Premier Xia slowed down his pace. “The Godly Dragon has nine sons, and each of them is unique and different. His master is the elder son of the Godly Dragon who created heaven and earth, Qiu Niu!”

Chapter 178: Resisting Heavenly Tribulation

“The son of the Godly Dragon who created this world...” Hao Ren immediately slowed down his steps as he was stunned.

“Since his seniority is so far beyond us that we could only address him as Grandmaster Qiu. He doesn’t involve himself in the business of the East Ocean. However, when he is in a good mood, he would toss out some defective items, and we’d pick them up for our collection,” Premier Xia said.

“Defective items... Collection...”

It meant that the shining advanced Dharma Treasures displayed in the Godly Treasure Palace were all items discarded by Grandmaster Qiu. This grandmaster found a quiet place in the East Ocean Dragon Palace to live, and he gave the Dragon Palace these ‘defective’ Dharma Treasures as a repayment. Because the most powerful Dharma Treasure Creator resided in East Ocean, the East Ocean had the largest number of top-tier Dharma Treasures among the four ocean Dragon Clans.

“Natal Dharma Treasures are quite different from ordinary ones. While the ordinary Dharma Treasures can be activated with a Dharma Spell, the Natal Dharma Treasures must be stored in the cultivator’s body and connected with the cultivator’s blood and meridians. Therefore, they need to be made with a special method. An ordinary cultivator can make ordinary Dharma Treasures as long as he or she has the materials and enough cultivation realm. However, Natal Dharma Treasures can only be made by special Dharma Treasure Creators since any minor issues in them would be fatal to the cultivators,” Premier Xia explained on the way.

Today, he took Hao Ren to the small house to try his luck. Usually, the Elders of East Ocean wouldn’t dare to trouble this ancient grandmaster, who could be counted as their ancestors, by asking him to make them Natal Dharma Treasures. However, since Hao Ren was the Fuma of East Ocean, and Grandmaster Qiu might make an exception for him. After all, it was an easy task for Grandmaster Qiu to make a Natal Dharma Treasure. Unfortunately, Grandmaster Qiu was not at home, and his disciple was too lazy to make it for Hao Ren. It was pretty much a useless trip.

“With Grandmaster Qiu’s help, Zhao Yanzi’s Third Uncle will pass the Heavenly Tribulation with ease, won’t he?” Hao Ren asked.

“Hehe, here is where you are wrong. For one thing, Grandmaster Qin is now traveling, and no one knows when he’ll be back. Also, even if he is now in the Dragon Palace, he won’t interfere with the Heavenly Tribulations. After all, when one reaches top-tier Qian-level, one must face the Heavenly

Tribulation. If you pass it, you live. Otherwise, you die. It is one of the Natural Laws, and Grandmaster Qiu will never interfere with it.”

After a pause, Premier Xia continued, “Besides, if you are Grandmaster Qiu who has lived for tens of thousands of years, you wouldn’t care if a junior could pass the Heavenly Tribulation or not. If he did care, he would have been an extremely busy man in the past tens of thousands of years.”

Hao Ren nodded silently. Indeed, Zhao Kuo’s fate was essential to East Ocean. However, it was a trivial matter in the eyes of Grandmaster Qiu.

It meant that if a war broke out between the East Ocean and West Ocean and there were many casualties, it would seem like a child’s play to Grandmaster Qiu, and he won’t be caring enough to intervene.

Premier Xia and Hao Ren returned to the main palace and didn’t see Zhao Guang. Knowing that he would be at the altar, Premier Xia took Hao Ren to find him there.

The altar was situated in the Northeast region of the Dragon Palace. Although Hao Ren had mentally prepared himself for it, he was astonished when he saw the altar.

As big as four official soccer fields, the altar was built with one piece of jade that was purer than white marble. There were many layers to it, and each layer was engraved with complicated patterns. On top of that, colorful crystals were inlaid in the essential locations, and the whole altar was magnificent!

Undoubtedly, the patterns engraved on the altar were, in fact, advanced array formations.

Judging from the great preparations the East Ocean Dragon Clan was making for Zhao Kuo’s Heavenly Tribulation, Hao Ren knew the event in half a month would be grand and breathtaking.

“How did it go?”

Zhao Guang was checking the last-minute details of the altar. When he saw Hao Ren and Premier Xia, he walked over and asked.

“Grandmaster Qiu is out, and only his disciple is in the house. However, little Daoist Zhen didn’t want to make a Natal Dharma Treasure for Fuma, and he said that Fuma didn’t need one with his cultivation technique,” Premier Xia answered.

“Well, we can’t force them if they are not willing to help.” Zhao Guang’s face fell.

Obviously, he also didn’t believe little Daoist Zhen’s words. The Natal Dharma Treasure would grow and level up with the cultivator; without it, the cultivator would be at a disadvantage if he or she encountered an opponent who had one. Besides, Zhao Guang had seen Hao Ren’s weak sword energies and knew that Hao Ren defeated Qin Shaoyang because he got the secret help from the Elders who were at the party.

“Uncle, I think that boy was right. If I can master the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll, my sword energies could battle with Dharma Treasures. In the long run, it’s not good for me to have a Natal Dharma Treasure. Also, Premier Xia did his best,” seeing the worrisome expression on Zhao Guang’s face, Hao Ren tried to comfort him.

“You’re right. Maybe I’m too impatient. There are some fine Dharma Treasures in the Godly Treasure Palace. If you like, you can select one or two. Without the restrictions of the Mount Tai Bracelets, you are free to use Dharma Treasures,” Zhao Guang said.

He had meant to say that some Dharma Treasures in the Godly Treasure Palace could be used as Natal Treasures even though they were not as powerful as the ones made by Grandmaster Qiu himself. On second thought, he decided against it as it may be too rushed.

Thinking that the necklace was enough for him to study, Hao Ren shook his head and said, “I don’t need them right now. After all, Dharma Treasures are just tools and external matters. Focusing on the elevation of cultivation realms is the best way to go.”

Zhao Guang smiled, satisfied with Hao Ren’s way of thinking. He turned to Premier Xia and said, “You can accompany Ren back onto land. I’ll stay here for a few days to ensure that this altar is well prepared for my brother’s Heavenly Tribulation that is less than half a month away.”

“Yes, Your Majesty!” Premier Xia answered respectfully.

“Another thing; you are authorized to go on land more frequently. The West Ocean won’t be happy, and they would definitely come back. Since the battlefields will be mostly on land, you must familiarize yourself with it.” Zhao Guang Instructed.

Premier Xia bowed.

“Uncle, take care,” Hao Ren said to Zhao Guang.

“I will!” Zhao Guang nodded before walking to the other side of the altar to check.

The moment Hao Ren and Premier Xia left, Zhao Guang turned around and looked at Hao Ren. With a cold expression on his face, he sighed and thought, “Alas! Zen Yitao is cultivating the West Ocean’s Blue-grade technique, Three Stars Destruction Scroll, which could host three Natal Dharma Treasures as his strength increases. In contrast, the Fuma of my East Ocean has nothing. If they engage in a fight, it would be worrisome. If I had known that the situation between East and West Ocean would get so tense, I wouldn’t have allowed him to cultivate the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll. Although it is great at foundation building, its offensive ability is even weaker than an ordinary Yellow-grade technique...”

Chapter 179: The Hidden Space – Jiezi Space

Back on land, Hao Ren drove Zhao Guang’s black Chevrolet back to East Ocean City with Premier Xia who needed to talk with Elder Lu and Elder Sun about some issues.

Of course, he was protecting Hao Ren in some sense.

Hao Ren dropped Premier Xia at Lu Qing’s apartment building before driving to Zhao Yanzi’s home to return the car.

Since it was already 11 o’clock when he got there, Hao Ren spent the night in Zhao Yanzi’s home.

The next morning, the three of them had breakfast without Zhao Guang there.

“Auntie, could you explain to me the process of going from Kan-level to Li-level?” Hao Ren asked while eating a sandwich.

Now that he was on Kan-level, his agreement with Su Han was over. Since he thought that it was not proper to ask her questions about cultivation anymore, he took the opportunity to ask Zhao Hongyu.

“It’s not difficult for one to get to Li-level from Kan-level.” Zhao Hongyu poured milk into her glass with a gentle hand.

“You know, unlocking the first opening in the Dragon Core brought you to Kan-level, and you need to unlock ten openings to reach Li-level. To reach Zhen-level, you need to unlock 40 openings.”

Hao Ren nodded, thinking that he was one step closer to Li-level since he had unlocked two openings already. If he could go on at this speed, he would reach Li-level in two weeks. But as the process goes on, cultivation would get harder, and it would probably take longer to achieve that goal.

Seeming to have sensed Hao Ren’s thoughts, Zhao Hongyu said, “It takes longer for you since you are cultivating the five elements simultaneously. Although Zhao Guang has low regards for your Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll, I think you are progressing steadily, and that will bring great benefits to your future cultivation.”

“Thank you for your encouragement!” Hao Ren smiled.

Zhao Hongyu smiled as well and was more appreciative of Hao Ren. In the past, she just wanted him to take care of Zi and keep her safe with his kindness and patience. But now seeing his persistence, modesty, intelligence, and diligence, she had high hopes for him.

Pouting, Zhao Yanzi didn’t join the conversation. She had not finished her homework last night, and all that she could think about now was how to get to the school early and copy Ling’s homework.

“Oh, you can drive the Ferrari today. I ordered the SUV, and I’m planning to drive it back home today. I can’t park it in the garage with the Ferrari in there,” Zhao Hongyu said.

“Ok.” Hao Ren had a headache at the thought that he had to drive the Ferrari to school. However, it wouldn’t be safe if he parked it outside the campus.

After breakfast, Zhao Hongyu drove Zhao Yanzi to school while Hao Ren drove the shiny Ferrari to East Ocean University.

When he stopped at a red light, Hao Ren touched the necklace dangling before his chest. He activated it with the Light Splitting Sword Shadow Scroll and opened the space in the necklace.

It had been late when he returned to Zhao Yanzi’s home last night, and he went to bed without studying the necklace. Refreshed in the morning, he began to explore the hidden space in it.

The hidden space in the necklace was as big as a room. Right now, it was empty.

Picking up an empty candy box in the car, he tried to put it in the space but failed.

He tried with other small objects in the car, and the results were the same.

“Is it a fake space?” Hao Ren was baffled.

After a moment of consideration, he took off the bell that Lu Linlin and Lu Lili gave him and tried to put it in the space.

Swoosh! The space instantly sucked the golden bell inside.

Surprised, Hao Ren immediately opened the space and tried to take the golden bell out.

After two attempts, he took the bell out of the space. After slipping the golden bell back onto his wrist, he thought for a while before untying the two cultivation accessories from the necklace and tossing them into the space.

The two items were sucked in. One was the amber that Zhao Yanzi gave him to help him absorb the water elements, and the other was the golden pearl that Su Han gave him to help him absorb the metal elements.

He took them out of the space in the necklace and put them back onto the chain. Then, he tried again with the empty box and failed.

After experimenting, Hao Ren finally understood that the hidden space in the necklace was not for the ordinary objects. It was a space that could only store objects with spirit, or in other words, treasures.

As to the objects in the mortal world such as cakes and pencils, they couldn't enter the space.

Honk! The cars behind him honked together. Hao Ren looked up and found that the light was green again and the cars in other lanes were already moving forward.

He pulled the gear lever, and the Ferrari accelerated abruptly, instantly leaving a distance of more than ten meters between him and the honking cars behind him.

He drove the car to the southern dorm area to get his books. When the Ferrari entered the dorm area, it caught everyone's eyes.

East Ocean University didn't lack rich students; a couple of days ago, Huang Xujie had just shown off his Mercedes-Benz S350 in the school. However, no one expected that someone would drive a Ferrari to school!

It was obvious who was more eye-catching!

Of course, Hao Ren didn't want to attract attention. After this week, he planned to go home and park it in his garage for Zhao Hongyu. The garage in his home was spacious enough to park four cars.

When he entered the dorm room to get his textbook, Zhao Jiayi and the other two were coming out. Not mentioning anything about the car, Hao Ren walked downstairs with them.

“F*uk! Whose car is this? Such a show-off!” Seeing the Ferrari parked at the entrance of the dorm building, Zhao Jiayi was the first to yell.

“How much does it cost? Who is the guy that drove such a car to school? It would definitely impress the girls!” Tucking the books under his arm, Zhou Liren walked over and touched it cautiously before a thought occurred to him.

“No! This is a male dorm building; it should be parked in front of the female dorm building if he wants to impress them!”

Cao Ronghua walked around to peek at the plate before looking at the car in detail. “This car... looks quite familiar.”

Beep!

The lights of the car turned on suddenly.

Zhou Liren, who had been touching it, jumped back immediately, thinking that he had activated the alarm by touching it.

They were surprised when they saw Hao Ren tossing his bag into the storage space in the car before opening the driver side door and getting into the convertible sports car.

“F*uk!!!”

Zhao Jiayi, Zhou Liren, and Cao Ronghua yelled at the same time.

“I have space for one of you!” Sitting before the steering wheel, Hao Ren turned to them and said.

Zhao Jiayi reacted the quickest. He pushed Zhou Liren and Cao Ronghua aside before pulling open the door and getting into the seat beside Hao Ren.

“Me too! Me too!” Zhou Liren put one foot in the car and yelled.

“Go! Go! You’ll be next!” Zhao Jiayi pushed him out.

Hao Ren chuckled and started the car, leaving Zhou Liren and Cao Ronghua behind.

“F*uk! You are rich!” Sitting in the car, Zhao Jiayi couldn’t contain his excitement.

The car drove out of the dorm area and onto the campus. Hao Ren just nodded with a smile as a response to Zhao Jiayi, and his swag looked faked in Zhao Jiayi’s eyes.

The feeling of driving a Ferrari was indeed different. Although they drove slowly around campus, Zhao Jiayi enjoyed himself very much as the girls on the road cast glances at them.

Xie Yujia was riding a bike before them. She glanced at the Ferrari when it passed her, and she froze when she saw that the driver was Hao Ren.

Hao Ren saw Xie Yujia in his rear-view mirror. Thinking that it was not a good idea to stop the car and talk to her, he continued to drive to Academic Building C.

Reluctantly, Zhao Jiayi jumped off the car, thinking that it would be awesome if he could drive it. However, among the guys in their dorm, only Hao Ren had his driver’s license, and Zhao Jiayi had never driven a car beside playing racing games on the computer.

The students coming and going from Academic Building C saw Hao Ren and Zhao Jiayi getting off the Ferrari, and Zhao Jiayi quite enjoyed their disgusted and jealous glances.

Zhao Jiayi was usually disgusted with the behavior of rich kids, but he felt different when he was the one who got to class in a Ferrari.

With the remote control, Hao Ren locked the car and raised the roof. Zhao Jiayi was envious of this, and he was also regretful that he couldn't drive it even if he could get the key from Hao Ren.

They entered the classroom. Shortly, Xie Yujia, Zhou Liren, Cao Ronghua, and others came into the room.

Zhou Liren and Cao Ronghua trotted over, still panting. "Tell the truth! Are you... A kept man of a rich woman?"

From the look of him, he had been running after the Ferrari to the class.

"Ok, I'll stop messing with you. Someone loaned the car to me, and I'll return it after this week," Hao Ren said.

"How could someone loan you a Ferrari so casually?" Zhou Liren widened his eyes. "When did you make such a rich friend?"

Hao Ren smiled and ignored his question.

Cao Ronghua was deep in thought. "Is it the car that the beautiful office lady drove?"

At this reminder, Zhou Liren remembered it too.

"Right! That beauty once drove the Ferrari to pick you up! No wonder it looks familiar!"

Knowing that they were referring to Zhao Hongyu, Hao Ren didn't deny it and said, "Yeah. I borrowed the car for a short while."

You're indeed kept..." Zhou Liren yelled.

Hao Ren covered his mouth, knowing what he was going to say.

Xie Yujia looked back toward the noisy group. Glancing at Hao Ren, she sighed slightly.

When Hao Ren's eyes met Xie Yujia's clear gaze, his heart lurched.

"The Class President looked back at you again. You are indeed charming with that Ferrari!" Zhou Liren bumped Hao Ren with his arm and said.

Hao Ren smiled helplessly, knowing that they would never understand Xie Yujia.

Chapter 180: Dharma Treasures Are Array Formations

After the morning classes, Cao Ronghua, Zhou Liren, and Zhao Jiayi raced down the building like three excited middle-schoolers since the winner of the race would get the opportunity to sit in Hao Ren's Ferrari.

The other classmates also knew that Hao Ren had driven a Ferrari to school, and they all went down to take a look.

Sitting in the front row, Xie Yujia quietly packed up her stuff and didn't want to join the fuss.

Soon, only Hao Ren and Xie Yujia were left in the classroom while the others were all downstairs checking out the Ferrari.

"The... Car is not mine," Hao Ren explained to Xie Yujia.

The classroom was empty now. Even though some students passed by the door occasionally, it was very quiet inside. The sunlight shot through the windows and landed into the room, reflecting on the empty desks.

"Ok." Xie Yujia nodded. "You don't have to explain anything to me."

"Are you upset?" Hao Ren asked again. Pretending to be packing his books, he still stood in the back row.

"No. I just don't want to interfere with your business," Xie Yujia said in her clear and casual voice.

Then, she put the books into her bag before standing up.

Speechless, Hao Ren watched Xie Yujia walk to the door of the classroom.

"Oh," Xie Yujia looked back suddenly when she reached the door and said, "There's no class after two this afternoon, and I plan to visit my old school, LingZhao Middle School. Do... Do you want to go with me?"

Hao Ren froze for a moment before nodding. "Ok."

"Your little beauty is in LingZhao Middle School too, isn't she? You can visit her while you are there." She walked out of the classroom after giving him a bright smile.

Hao Ren packed up his books hurriedly. When he walked out of the classroom through the rear door, he saw Xie Yujia going down the stairs on the other side of the corridor.

He took out the car key and was walking down the stairs when his cell phone beeped with an incoming text message. Thinking that it was from Xie Yujia, he clicked it open and found that it came from an unfamiliar number.

"Hi, I'm Wang Jia. Dear Classmate Hao, it suddenly occurred to me that I still owe you 10 yuan when we collected the class fees last time. How about I treat you to a dinner tonight?"

This message reminded him of the conversation between Ma Lina and Liu Yan about the snobbish attitude of Wang Jia, one of the girls in their class. He knew that not every girl in their school was as indifferent to fame and fortune as Xie Yujia, and he deleted the message without hesitation.

When he was perceived as poor, no girls except the Class President, Xie Yujia, offered him help. Now that he drove a Ferrari to school, girls began to invite him to dinner.....

After walking out of the Academic Building, he saw many students surrounding his Ferrari.

Their attention attracted the curiosity of the passing students, and these passing students all walked over to see what was happening. With the car key in his hand, Hao Ren backed off and decided to take a walk around campus. He was planning to come back and get the Ferrari when the crowd was gone.

“Gongzi!”

He didn’t walk far when Lu Linlin and Lu Lili jumped out suddenly from the side. They hooked their arms through his intimately.

They were as agile as small kitties, and they dressed especially bright and cute today with unique floral blouses.

“Oh, here you are.” Hao Ren pulled his arms from theirs and looked at them. “How are your exam scores?”

“Thanks to you, we had excellent scores!” Lu Lili stuck out her tongue cutely and reported before her sister could say anything.

“Excellent scores probably means that every course is over 80,” Hao Ren thought.

“Thanks to your tutoring, my sister and I got excellent scores. Thus, we have decided to invite you to lunch,” Lu Linlin said to Hao Ren with a smile.

They had not seen Hao Ren for several days and were quite pleased to see him today. Ignoring everyone else, their eyes were only on Hao Ren. The guys around them were burning with jealousy at this scene.

“The Ferrari belongs to him!”

“No wonder the most beautiful girls in the school are with him.”

“Even Huang Xujie was defeated by him. There’s nothing we can do.”

Triggered by the sight of Lu Linlin and Lu Lili clinging onto Hao Ren’s arms, the whispering gossips spread.

Since Hao Ren had questions that they could answer, he didn’t decline the invitation. While he walked with them toward the Hongji Square, he said, “A couple of days ago, I accidentally released the sword energy into the sky, and it brought back some Lightning Energy that seemed to be helpful to my cultivation.”

Hearing Hao Ren’s words, Lu Linlin and Lu Lili who were walking on both sides of him exchanged a look before raising their hands to cover their smiles.

Confused, Hao Ren asked, “What?”

“Silly Gongzi, it’s Lightning Cultivation, so of course you need to cultivate with Lightning in the sky. If you could only absorb the five elemental essences from nature, it won’t be called Lightning Cultivation at all,” Lu Lili snickered.

Her smile dazzled the guys around them.

“You dare to call me silly!” Hao Ren pouted and pretended to be angry.

Thinking that Hao Ren was about to punish her, Lu Lili stuck out her tongue before jumping further away from him.

The scene triggered another surge of jealousy among the guys who were around them.

“Gongzi, in fact, we came to you to ask you something,” Lu Linlin moved closer to Hao Ren and whispered.

“What is it?” Hao Ren asked.

“For one moment this morning, we suddenly lost contact with the bell, but the contact soon returned. We were surprised but knew that you were not in danger. We just came over to check with you,” Lu Linlin said.

“Oh...” Hao Ren thought that the loss of contact was due to his necklace. “Last night, I went to the Dragon Palace and got a hidden space attached to the necklace. In fact, I was about to ask you something about it. Why is it that only Dharma Treasures or items with Nature Essence on them can be stored in the hidden space, and the objects of the mortal world can’t be put in there?”

“In fact, all Dharma Treasures including the ones that have hidden spaces in them are a combination of array formations,” Lu Linlin explained, “For the top-tier Dharma Treasures, there are comparatively more complicated array formations. There are simpler and fewer array formations in the low-tier ones.”

“Different Dharma Treasures have different functions; they are decided by both the materials and the array formations. In fact, great Dharma Treasure Creators could not only destroy a Dharma Treasure with ease but also make Dharma Treasures with materials proficiently as well.”

“Dharma Treasures such as Xumi Rings could only store the true treasures of nature. The storage places inside these Dharma Treasures aren’t real space. They must sense the Nature Essence fluctuations of an object before they could store it. The objects without Nature Essence can’t form connections with the array formations in the Dharma Treasures, so they couldn’t be stored in the hidden space.”

Hearing Lu Linlin’s detailed explanation, Hao Ren nodded, finally understanding the great power of that young boy. That young Daoist was someone who could create hidden spaces at will! With only one touch, he had built dozens of mini array formations that could balance one another in this ordinary necklace.

When Su Han gave him the necklace, it contained only several simple array formations. After Qin Shaoyang’s two attacks, the array formations were all broken.

Zhou Liren and the others were busy making comments and arguing with each other and didn’t hear a word of the conversation between Hao Ren and the Lu sisters.

“If the space could cut off the connection between the bell and the Lu sisters, then it would...” Suddenly, an idea occurred to Hao Ren.