

Dragon King's Son-In-Law Chapter 21 -

: Aren't You Too Generous

Translator: Noodletown Translated Editor: Noodletown Translated

“Joy puts heart into a man. You do look especially refreshed today.” On the way to the class the next day, Cao Ronghua commented while studying Hao Ren.

“Going out with a rich girl gave him a different aura.” Rubbing his chin, Zhou Liren told Zhao Jiayi and others while gazing at Hao Ren.

“He has a light elegance in every movement.” Zhao Jiayi joked.

They had been teasing him, but Hao Ren did feel his aura had changed ever since he made the breakthrough last night.

It seemed he had merged with nature. Although he couldn't absorb the essence of nature yet, he had a faint feeling that he himself was the nature.

He had this feeling after he had just reached the first level of the basic cultivation technique, but he was not a true cultivator yet. No wonder Zhao Yanzi's Third Uncle regarded mortals with disdain. Hao Ren reflected while he savored the changes in his body.

The four of them were on their way to class when they met some of the girls from their class who had just come out of the cafeteria after breakfast. Glancing at Hao Ren, Xie Yujia was about to pass them to take a front seat in the classroom. Struck by a feeling of strangeness, she looked back at Hao Ren again.

“Weird. He is wearing the same clothes as yesterday. How come I find his presence different...” Xie Yujia was a little baffled, thinking it a result of her imagination. Shaking her head, she swung her leg over her bicycle and rode toward the Academic Building.

“Xie Yujia looked at you twice. Have you two been seeing each other?” Zhou Liren asked Hao Ren with a wink.

Hao Ren snorted, “How is that possible...”

In his heart, Xue Yujia was not only the Class President but the most popular girl in the class as well. She was too out of reach for him.

Besides, he was an engaged man now.

They strolled carelessly into the Academic Building just when the class began. Taking a window seat with fresher air, Hao Ren dug out his study materials and began to prepare for his tutoring session.

“Why didn’t you answer my message yesterday?” In the middle of class, Hao Ren received a text message from Xue Yujia.

Surprised, he looked up and met Xue Yujia’s gaze. He wondered why the diligently note-taking Class President would send him a message during the class...

Hurriedly, he looked down and answered her message, “You mean about the long-distance run? I got it.”

“You are the only participant in our class, and only six have been selected in our whole major to enter the games. I hope you won’t disappoint me.” She sent another text message.

All of a sudden, Hao Ren felt layers of pressure. The biannual Athletic Games in East Ocean University was a competition held among all the students, regardless of age. The most athletic students selected from the tens of thousands of students in the university would compete with one another. It was a big show.

“Got it,” Hao Ren answered the text message. He had been a renowned long-distance runner in high school, but he had never entered any provincial level competitions and didn’t gain points for it during his university entrance examination.

Xue Yujia had high hopes for him, but he was not so confident with himself. Although he was fast, he had spent almost all his time playing video games after he entered university. It had been a long time since the last time he had put any real efforts into practice.

Thinking that was the end of the text conversation, he was surprised when Xue Yujia sent him another, saying, “Did you get a haircut yesterday? How come I feel like you look different today?”

“No, I didn’t,” Hao Ren answered the text message.

Then Xie Yujia stopped messaging him. Hao Ren wondered if he had sounded too aloof. But soon, he was immersed in middle school English practice questions.

In the evening, Hao Ren again took the bus to Zhao Yanzi’s home. No longer a stranger, Hao Ren was not as reserved as last time. However, he still remained silent on topics about their family.

After dinner, Zhao Hongyu declined Hao Ren's offer to clean the table for her and asked him to tutor Zhao Yanzi. Reluctantly, Zhao Yanzi followed Hao Ren up to the second floor.

After a day's thought, Hao Ren had decided to tutor Zhao Yanzi according to the different knowledge points. Today's quiz focused on the most common topic in the middle school English course, the tenses.

Time ticked on, and Zhao Yanzi racked her brains and finally finished the quiz.

"Uncle, are you sure you are really good at it?" With her chin propped up in her palm, she spun a ball-point pen with the other hand and watched Hao Ren mark her paper earnestly.

She had changed out of her school uniform into a short T-shirt with a kitten pattern and a red plaid skirt. Like a candy, the loose combination oozed the sweetness of a teenage girl.

Slouching on the chair with her legs curled beneath her, she was oblivious that her posture exposed a strip of flat belly to Hao Ren.

"If you learn earnestly with me, it won't be too difficult for you to be one of the top three in your class." Hao Ren scrawled a big red score of 30 on the paper before returning it to her.

Ignoring her pouting lips of disapproval, Hao Ren pointed at the first question and began to explain, "Since it uses 'yesterday' in the first part of the sentence, you must use past tense with the verb. And the past tense of 'say' is 'said', not 'sayed'... Hey, listen up and note this down..."

Seeing Hao Ren's earnest face, Zhao Yanzi looked resentful. Still, she had to listen to him, and she began making notes on her notebook.

Hao Ren had seen the books in Zhao Hongyu's studio and knew her English was excellent. He wondered how her daughter was so lousy in English.

At the end of the one-hour tutoring session, the upper end of Zhao Yanzi's ball-point pen was almost chewed off, showing how much she resented Hao Ren.

"Ren, follow me upstairs." Zhao Guang showed up by the door on time.

"Ok." Putting down the papers, Hao Ren followed Zhao Guang up the small stairs into the studio.

"It seems that you have broken through level one?" Zhao Guang asked when they were inside the studio.

“It seems so. I feel that my body has been unlocked.”

“Well, good job. However, the first level is quite simple. Today I will teach you the next part.” Zhao Guang looked calm without any signs of surprise or joy.

Hao Ren sat down and listened to him patiently, wondering what realm Zhao Guang had reached. Whatever realm Zhao Guang was in, it couldn't be low.

Hao Ren had never dreamed of flying in the sky, entering the earth, shattering the mountains, and tumbling the oceans. Saving his own life was his purpose. And if he achieved some accomplishments in his cultivation, he would be more confident in helping Zhao Yanzi survive the crisis three years later.

Of course, he knew the family of Zhao Yanzi was trying their best to help him, though strictly speaking, Zhao Yanzi had caused all this trouble. However, they would rather place their own daughter at risk than sacrificing innocent Hao Ren. That alone showed more wisdom and righteousness than most parents could ever have.

Very soon, it was nine-thirty, and Zhao Guang had explained every point of the Spirit Concentration Scroll in detail.

“You can come back at the same time tomorrow. Then you can cultivate by yourself and ask me whenever you have any questions,” glancing up at the clock, Zhao Guang instructed.

Hao Ren nodded. Walking out of the studio to the second floor, he entered Zhao Yanzi's room and found her working hard on her homework. Not wanting to interrupt her, he gathered his tutoring materials and quietly left the room.

“I'll drive you back,” Zhao Guang appeared at the door and offered.

“Thank you,” Hao Ren accepted.

On the way back to school, Zhao Guang asked suddenly, “Can you drive?”

“I got my license last summer, but I'm still a beginner,” Hao Ren answered.

“How about I buy you a car so you can come and go with ease. Which do you like, Chevrolet or Volkswagen?” Zhao Guang asked casually as if he was talking about a 10-yuan toy instead of a 100,000-yuan car.

“Err, it's not necessary. I can take a taxi back in the future,” Hao Ren said in a hurry.

Zhao Guang didn't pursue the topic. He drove Hao Ren to the dorm building in silence.

“Oh, please tell Zi that I have to participate in the Athletic Games next week and I’ll have to practice. I’ll resume the tutoring sessions next Tuesday.”

“Ok.” Zhao Guang restarted the car with a steady hand and disappeared around the corner.

“A calm father-in-law, a gentle mother-in-law, a willful young fiancée, what more will come my way?” Inhaling deeply, Hao Ren walked into the dorm building.

When he got into his dorm room, his three dormmates were still out. Apparently, they were at an internet café playing games. Opening his backpack, Hao Ren was in the process of reorganizing the tutoring materials and saw that a big pig head had been drawn on the title page of his favorite middle school English test bank.

A coarse nose, bulging eyes, droopy ears and thick lips... On the side were the words: Self-important Uncle.

Gazing at the caricature of the pig head that was drawn to look ugly but looked a bit like him, Hao Ren chuckled.

Dragon King’s Son-In-Law Chapter 22 -

: The Most Handsome Guy in East Ocean University

Translator: Noodletown Translated Editor: Noodletown Translated

In the following two days, Hao Ren didn’t tutor Zhao Yanzi but took the time at night to practice long-distance running on the sports field. He didn’t expect to win the first place, but he didn’t want to end up last either.

He believed that his long-distance skills were still there and he just needed to regain his form.

With only 4-5 lamps illuminating the 400m synthetic racetrack surrounding the outside of the soccer field, the whole sports field looked quiet and lonely.

Regulating his breathing and steps, Hao Ren practiced alone. He had purposely chosen to run here at nine o’clock at night.

In one hour, the entrance of the dorm buildings would be locked up. The basketball and soccer players had all gone back, and thus he would have no distractions while practicing.

Today in Weak Optical Signal Processing class, the beauty Su Han was wearing a studded shirt, denim shorts, and Dr. Marten Boots. She looked so gorgeous that the guys yelled and cheered.

However, she didn't spare a glance at Hao Ren as if she didn't summon him to her office last week.

She remained aloof during the whole class until she left. Although Hao Ren knew they crossed paths in another world, they had returned to the normal world and were strangers. After all, a super beautiful female teacher would never show any special treatment to a very ordinary student.

He believed that Su Han must have gone to Lu Qing to talk about him.

While he ran, his mind wandered through events that happened today. Suddenly, a basketball rolled toward his feet.

Hao Ren stopped running and picked up the basketball before looking toward the place where the ball had come from. Not far from him, a handsome guy wearing a white shirt sat on the bleacher. With a well-proportioned and robust body, the guy had dashing eyebrows slanting upwards and outwards.

Hao Ren recognized him.

Known as the Most Handsome Guy in East Ocean University, Huang Xujie was the president of the university's Rock Climbing Club and the celebrity student who was even pursued by the most popular girl in the school, Lin Li.

Lifting the basketball with one hand while pointing at it with the other, Hao Ren used this gesture to ask him if the ball was his.

Huang Xujie nodded and curled his finger.

Hao Ren took a step forward before throwing the basketball to him with one hand.

The basketball covered the 20-plus meters between them before it fell toward Huang Xujie.

Huang Xujie reached one hand out and caught the ball.

With the ball gone, Hao Ren swung his arms and prepared to start jogging again.

"Sophomore!" Huang Xujie suddenly said.

"Uh?" Hao Ren looked at him, baffled.

"I heard that you too had entered the 1500-meter race?" He asked abruptly.

Hao Ren looked at him cautiously, feeling a trace of hostility from him.

"I heard that you've been in the limelight quite a lot recently." Spinning the ball with his finger, Huang Xujie asked, "You live in grand style, don't you? And you have been picked up from campus by a limo, haven't you?"

"Did I steal your show?" Hao Ren asked directly.

Snap! Huang Xujie stopped spinning the basketball abruptly, "Yeah. I'm pissed off by your blatant shows."

Though low-key, Hao Ren was never afraid of confrontation. Facing Huang Xujie on the racetrack, he asked, "So as a senior, you want to teach me a lesson, don't you?"

Huang Xujie didn't answer. Instead, he asked, "They say Su Han asked you to her office all alone. What's between you and her?"

From the trace of hostility, Hao Ren sensed an intense jealousy.

"I have nothing to tell you!" Hao Ren went back to jogging.

Huang Xujie froze for a moment, surprised that an ordinary sophomore would be so arrogant. His hand tightened on the basketball while he gazed at the back of Hao Ren.

When Hao Ren returned after another lap, Huang Xujie was gone.

He knew he had attracted a lot of attention in the past couple of weeks, and the several limo pick-ups on campus made him look like a big show-off.

More importantly, Su Han's invitation to her office made the self-important handsome guys red-eyed with jealousy. Maybe they thought Hao Ren's previous behavior had been his efforts in attracting Su Han's attention and the famous students were furious that his clumsy efforts had paid off and had successfully drawn Su Han's interest to him.

After all, their blatant behavior only won them screams of the pretty girls while the extreme beautiful Su Han didn't show a trace of interest.

Indeed, Su Han's beauty exceeded people's imaginations, and it was natural that the male students were crazy for her. If Hao Ren had not known her real identity, he would have been silently amazed by her beauty, too.

It was three quarters past nine when Hao Ren jogged back to his dorm. Zhao Jiayi and his other two roommates were engaged in a fierce card game with Gu Jiadong from the dorm room opposite to theirs.

Hao Ren took his washbasin and towel to take a cold shower. He didn't tell anyone about Huang Xujie's provocation.

Friday passed quickly with only half a day of classes. With most of the students coming from local areas, East Ocean University became unusually quiet every Friday afternoon.

Zhao Jiayi and the others didn't want to go home this weekend, and they dragged Hao Ren and several others from the next-door dorm room to a nearby KTV*. After singing themselves to exhaustion, they went to a hot pot buffet. They stuffed themselves with beer and meat before returning to the dorm room for a game of cards.

The days were decadent and carefree.

It comforted Hao Ren that he had such a group of brothers with him no matter what had happened. They did everything together: going to classes, skipping classes, drinking, and feasting.

Zhao Yanzi's Third Uncle would never appreciate this kind of happiness enjoyed by mortals.

At nine o'clock, Hao Ren put down the cards in his hand and said, "I'm going to the sports field to practice running."

"Oh, don't go. It's no use practicing with only a few days left before the race. Play cards with us..." Zhao Jiayi tried to stop him.

"I can regain some of my form with practice. Gu Jiadong, come over and play cards!" Hao Ren stuffed his cards into Gu Jiadong's hands, "It's on me if you lose, and you get all the benefit if you win."

Grinning at the promise, Gu Jiadong took his cards and sat down immediately.

Hao Ren changed into his running shoes and jogged to the sports field.

The campus was unusually quiet on Friday nights. When he was passing by the office building, Hao Ren looked up involuntarily as a weird thought occurred to him, "Su Han should be home now. Where does she live?"

Zhao Hongyu said Su Han had some special connection with East Ocean Dragon Clan, and Hao Ren wondered what it was... Maybe that was why she took a teaching position at Lu Qing's university...

While he ran, Hao Ren wondered about her. He met two girls who were taking a walk. When they saw his lingering glance, they snorted in disdain. Almost every male in the university more or less had some feelings for Su Han, and the male students were usually caught staring at Su Han's office in the hope of finding a glimpse of the unrivaled beauty.

It was frustrating to them that Su Han didn't show her face except when she was walking to and from her class. No one had seen her even at the cafeteria. All of these deepened the feeling that she was like a fairy who didn't consume food of the mortal world.

Hao Ren came to the sports field and began to run the ten laps according to his plan. He found his stamina recovered faster than before, and he wondered if it was a result of the breakthrough into the first level of the Spirit Concentration Scroll.

The dim lights extended Hao Ren's shadow while he enjoyed the vast sports field and the loneliness of the night. Circulating the energy according to the Spirit Concentration Scroll and savoring the nature's essence, he regulated his breathing and steps as he ran at a steady pace.

His clothes floated in the air. Hao Ren didn't realize there was a free and eased aura surrounded him when he ran. Every step was steady and firm while a light breeze swam around him and through his clothes.

The Heavenly Dao came from nature. The order of nature had unknowingly influenced Hao Ren, and each of his movements in this peaceful night followed the easiest and logical routes suggested by the Five Elements and Eight Trigrams.

After ten laps, he ran another ten laps.

Hao Ren was surprised that his strength had not diminished at all. He was practicing long-distance running, but he felt like he was strolling casually without any heaviness detected in his steps.

"Uh?" After a while, he had a sudden feeling that someone was watching him from a corner.

He looked towards that direction.

He saw Xie Yujia in a long chiffon floral dress sitting quietly on a step a dozen meters away. She was watching him with a smile.

* KTV: A place for Karaoke

Dragon King's Son-In-Law Chapter 23 -

: You Must Not Lose

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Hao Ren saw no one else around, and it seemed like she was here all by herself. After a moment of hesitation, he jogged over, "What...what are you doing here?"

“I’m here to watch you run.” Xie Yujia tilted her head and smiled.

Her raven black hair covering her shiny forehead and her long pony-tail trailing over her back gave her a fresh look.

The night breeze brushed over her and sent a wisp of fragrance to Hao Ren. Soft and white skin, flesh and clean hair, and her fluttering dress showed that she had just taken a shower.

Hao Ren had always thought Xue Yujia was pretty, and so did all his male classmates. Since she rarely showed her face during university activities, the most popular girl in the class had become her class’ or her major’s “private property”. She wasn’t promoted as someone who rivaled with Ling Li as the most popular girl at the university.

In fact, Hao Ren thought Xie Yujia was prettier than Lin Li, and he found Xie Yujia’s fresh and elegant temperament more appealing.

“How did you know I was practicing here?” Hao Ren continued with his questions.

He had not sweated much while running, but he was now suddenly sweating all over when facing Xie Yujia.

“I am the Class President, and I know everything.” Still smiling, Xie Yujia looked at Hao Ren confidently. “You have been practicing running here at nine every night. Am I right?”

Hao Ren knew information spread really fast among the girls, but he had never expected Xie Yujia would notice him, an ordinary and unimportant classmate. Didn’t the girls always talk about the doings of handsome guys?

“You look dashing when you run,” Xie Yujia continued.

Embarrassed, Hao Ren lowered his head. “It’s an honor to receive a compliment from the beautiful Class President,” he said.

Again, Xie Yujia smiled sweetly, “I’m the Class President, and it’s my duty to encourage you for the sake of our class’ honor.”

“So you didn’t mean it; it was just an encouragement.” Hao Ren gave her a disappointed look.

“I meant it; it is also an encouragement. You do look attractive when you run,” seeing Hao Ren’s disappointment, Xie Yujia immediately added.

The moment she said that, she seemed to have found something wrong with her words. She lowered her head and smiled. When she lifted her head again, she had regained

her confidence as the Class President. "In fact, as long as you give it all, I will still be pleased even if you end up in the last place."

"Thanks a lot for the encouragement!" Hao Ren dug out his mobile phone from his pocket, "It's now nine forty. The dorms will be lock up if we don't hurry back."

"Today is Friday, and they won't close until twelve," Xie Yujia reminded him.

"Oh, I almost forgot without your reminder." Hao Ren thought for a moment, "But it's still late, and I have finished my practice. How about I walk you back?"

"Aren't you hungry?" Xie Yujia asked him abruptly.

Hao Ren stared blankly at her for a moment. "I have instant noodles in my dorm..."

Seeing the silly expression on Hao Ren's face, Xie Yujia smiled, "I'll treat you to a late-night snack as a reward for your hard practice for the class' honor."

"Ok." Hao Ren nodded. He had not expected that Xie Yujia would invite him to a late-night snack. It had been a big surprise for him already when Xie Yujia came to watch him practice so late at night.

"Wait a minute." Hao Ren asked Xie Yujia to stay where she was before dashing across the field and picking up the jacket he had left on the grass. Then he ran back to her side.

Standing on the stairs in her elegant long dress as she was silhouetted against the night and the lamplights, Xie Yujia looked even more fresh and alluring.

"Let's go!" Hao Ren called Xie Yujia.

"Ok." Xie Yujia nodded and followed Hao Ren out of the fenced sports field.

Whoosh... While exiting the sports field, a gust of wind swept towards them. Without thinking, Hao Ren immediately draped his jacket over Xie Yujia's shoulders and then shielded her from the biting wind with his body. He led her out of the cold and drafty place.

"How come I never noticed your gentlemanliness?" Back on the quiet road of the campus, Xie Yujia returned the jacket to Hao Ren and said.

"Is it because I have stayed so long with Zhou Liren that I have got some of his ill-manners?" Hao Ren joked.

"Zhao Jiayi and those guys are sometimes indeed outrageous, but I think you are different." Xie Yujia told him while they walked.

It was close to midnight, and it was quiet with almost no one in sight. The dim lights from the scant street lamps gave the road that was neither too long or too short made it feel a little a dubious and romantic.

“Not so different. In fact, I’m no better than them.” Hao Ren said self-mockingly.

“I think you are more earnest with things. At least you have begun practicing days before the race.” Xie Yujia couldn’t help but speak up for him.

Hao Ren smiled, “I’m a bashful man who is afraid of losing.”

Xie Yujia remained silent and walked to the back gate of the university shoulder to shoulder with Hao Ren. She walked pensively as if she was savoring Hao Ren’s words or thinking about something else.

Hao Ren had never imagined that he could take a walk with the most popular girl in the class shoulder to shoulder on the campus on such a quiet night. Anyone that saw them would regard them as a couple.

“What do you want to eat?” At the back gate, Xie Yujia asked Hao Ren abruptly.

“Err...spicy Hot Pot?” Hao Ren asked tentatively.

Spicy Hot Pot was the cheapest meal he could think of. After all, he was uncomfortable having a girl treat him to a meal.

“Ok!” Xie Yujia agreed promptly.

It was Friday night, and the dorm buildings wouldn’t be locked up until midnight. There were actually many students out for late-night meals. Hao Ren regretted his decision of eating Spicy Hot Pot, fearing that the guys who were playing cards in his dorm room might also come out for a late-night snack. He would be doomed if they saw him and spread the gossip.

Xie Yujia didn’t seem to share his concern when she cheerfully walked to one of the Spicy Hot Pot stands. She turned to ask Hao Ren, “What do you want to eat? Pick whatever you want!”

Seeing her brisk manner, Hao Ren put down his concern and embarrassment. He picked up some skewers of meat and vegetables and placed them in a basket before handing it to her.

“You’ve run for a long time and must be starving. Take some more!” Without consulting him, Xie Yujia put several more skewers of meatballs in Hao Ren’s basket.

Then she picked some for herself and brought both baskets to the stand owner for payment

They sat at a table in the open air and waited impatiently for the delicious-smelling skewers to be picked up from the pot.

“Guys, don’t show up now...” While they were waiting, Hao Ren prayed silently.

“Why do you look so nervous?” Xie Yujia looked at Hao Ren and questioned.

“No, I’m not.” Hao Ren looked at the pretty Class President, “This is my first time eating a late-night snack with you, the Class President. Of course, I’m a little nervous.”

“Is it your first time eating a late-night snack with a girl?” Gazing at Hao Ren with her bright eyes, Xie Yujia asked again.

“Who told... When I was in the high school, I had a girlfriend...” Hao Ren didn’t want to admit the shameful truth.

Seeing Hao Ren’s stiff expression, Xie Yujia giggled. “I don’t believe it.”

Hao Ren curled his lips in embarrassment and decided to turn the question on her. “Class President, you are so pretty. You must have had boyfriends before.”

Xie Yujia shook her head, and her ponytail swayed with her movement. A bright black luster shone on her hair under the illumination of the streetlights.

“Then we are equal,” Hao Ren said without thinking.

Xie Yujia smiled without commenting. Suddenly it occurred to Hao Ren that they were not at all equal. Xie Yujia was so pretty, and she must have had a lot of guys pursuing her. She had just ignored them since her focus was on studying. Him, on the other hand, was just an ordinary guy who wasn’t liked by any girl.

“Two Spicy Hot Pot dishes!” The stand owner’s wife brought the Spicy Hot Pot dishes to them. She seemed to have noticed the fresh beauty, Xie Yujia, and couldn’t help glancing at her several times.

Not only the stand owner’s wife but the male students nearby as well were sneakily looking at her.

A beauty, even a low-profile one, couldn’t escape the attention of males.

“Eat!” Xie Yujia looked at the Spicy Hot Pot dishes and casually handed a pair of chopsticks to Hao Ren.

To the male students who didn't know them, this casual gesture was an act of intimacy which attracted their jealous glances.

"This guy looks so ordinary, and neither does he seem rich. How come he caught the beauty's eye?" The male students speculated silently while they ate their food and sneaked glances at Xie Yujia.

"Class President, why didn't you go home this weekend?" Hao Ren asked her while he opened the package of chopsticks. That was for one-time use.

"Because I wanted to watch you run," Xie Yujia answered without thinking. She snickered at the surprised look on Hao Ren's face, "Ok. I stayed to help the Student Council to organize some stuff."

"So inviting me to the meal was not in your original plan?" Hao Ren asked.

"Let me think..." Xie Yujia lowered her head to take a bite of a meatball. "Err, I planned only to watch you practice, but later I decided to reward you with a meal when I saw you practicing so hard."

Hao Ren didn't care if she was telling the truth or not since he was quite moved that Xie Yujia would come over and watch him practice so late at night.

"The other day when Su Han asked you to go to her office, what on earth happened?" Xie Yujia asked abruptly.

"She saw me talking in class and took me to her office to give me a lecture," Hao Ren answered.

Xie Yujia's eyes told him that she didn't buy it, but she didn't question him on that. Instead, she asked another question, "Then what happened with that the little beauty who came to see you?"

"She is one of the girls I'm tutoring. She just came here to mess with me," Hao Ren answered immediately since he had prepared these answers.

He looked at Xie Yujia, "Class President, you seem quite interested in me recently."

"The things happening to you recently made it impossible for me not to notice them," Xie Yujia retorted.

With a grin, Hao Ren lowered his head and began to suck the noodles into his mouth with loud noises. The male students who had been sneaking glances at them were furious at his lousy table manners. They thought he was blatantly showing-off that he could eat a late-night meal with a beauty even with such rudeness.

In fact, Hao Ren was uneasy. He had been Xie Yujia's classmate for more than one year, and their paths had not crossed frequently. At the university, classes were loosely organized. Since several classes took the same courses while students from different majors took the same public courses, it was rare for them to have interactions. Besides, only a few girls were in Hao Ren's major, and they always hung out together. In short, Hao Ren had little chance to interact with Xie Yujia.

"What Cao Ronghua and others told me last time was just a joke, wasn't it?" Xie Yujia asked.

"Er?" Hao Ren raised his head, and his face had turned red due to the Spicy Hot Pot he had eaten.

"They came over and told me that you liked me." Xie Yujia bit her lip before forcing the words out.

Her big eyes with long eyelashes looked exceptionally beautiful even in the shabby late-night meal stand.

Hao Ren's face turned even redder, "No... They were just kidding..."

"Oh... It's not important. I felt they liked to joke around." Xie Yujia smiled brightly, seeming indifferent to the whole incident.

"Those seniors didn't make trouble for you, did they?" After a while, Xie Yujia asked abruptly.

"Why do you ask?" Hao Ren was suddenly cautious.

"I heard from the Student Council that some troublesome senior male students had been displeased with your behavior in the past couple of weeks. They declared that they would teach you a lesson." Xie Yujia stared at Hao Ren while she expressed her worry.

"Well, it's no big deal." Indifferently, Hao Ren went back to eating.

"I know some of them. Do you want me to explain to them about the misunderstandings?" Xie Yujia asked for Hao Ren's opinion.

"It's not a big deal. You don't have to trouble yourself with it," Hao Ren declined with a wave of his hand.

He didn't think those guys would cause a lot of troubles for him. More importantly, he didn't want Xie Yujia, a girl, to help him to solve the problem.

“Well, I guess they are just trying to frighten you. You must stay low-key in the future in the university,” Xie Yujia advised him with concern.

“But it’s not my fault,” Hao Ren thought about it but didn’t say it.

When they finished their food, it was almost eleven at night. The night’s air got colder. Seeing Xie Yujia’s thin dress, Hao Ren was afraid that she would catch a cold and suggested that they should return to the dorms earlier. Xie Yujia had no objections.

Anyway, they were still classmates and couldn’t stroll around hand in hand until midnight like a real couple.

Walking through the quiet campus, Hao Ren accompanied Xie Yujia to her dorm building.

“Do your best at the Athletic Games!” Standing at the door, Xie Yujia encouraged Hao Ren with a smile.

“Got it. Class President, have a good night.” Hao Ren waved at her. For reasons unknown to him, he preferred to call her “Class President” instead of her name.

He turned to walk to his own dorm building, and a question occurred to him, “Was it a date?”

If it had not been a date, how come he felt much closer to her?

“A beauty like the Class President was just encouraging me to perform better I guess.”

Hao Ren shook his head to get rid of his wild speculations. Back in his dorm, he took a shower and went to bed.

Ding! Ding...

In the early morning of the next day, a Saturday, Hao Ren was woken up by the ringing of his mobile phone.

“Ren! What’s the heck!” Zhao Jiayi sleeping on the lower berth beneath him was the first to wake up. He threw aside his quilt and dashed to the table before tossing the ringing mobile phone to Hao Ren who was sleeping on the upper berth.

An unknown number was on the screen.

“Who is it? It’s still early!” Hao Ren answered the phone with a trace of displeasure.

“I’m Zhao Guang. Our car is now in front of your dorm building.” A steady voice came from the phone.

Dragon King's Son-In-Law Chapter 24 -

: Who Said We Are Not a Family?

Translator: Noodletown Translated Editor: Noodletown Translated

The voice briefly stupified Hao Ren before he quickly put down the phone and rushed to the balcony from his upper berth.

He saw the black Chevrolet quietly parked in front of his dorm.

He went back into the room without thinking much and threw on some clothes and shoes. Hao Ren then picked up his phone and sprang downstairs.

Zhao Guang was in the driver's seat while Zhao Hongyu was in the passenger seat. Zhao Yanzi was sitting in the back with her pouting little mouth.

"Why...are you here?" Hao Ren asked in surprise.

"We are going on a weekend trip, and we are here to pick you up," Zhao Guang responded. The tone of his voice was beyond doubt as if Hao Ren was definitely going to join them.

Hao Ren wanted to come up with an excuse, "Today I..."

"I'll have Lu Qing speak to the school if there is something you need to do," Zhao Guang said.

"Um..." Hao Ren struggled for a bit before he finally gave up, "Alright, it's not a big deal. We don't need to speak to the vice principal."

"Okay." Zhao Guang nodded.

"Get in the car." Zhao Hongyu smiled at Hao Ren.

Hao Ren opened the door awkwardly and sat in the back beside Zhao Yanzi. That was his only option.

"Mom! Why are we taking him? You said it was going to be a family trip!" Zhao Yanzi complained.

"Isn't Hao Ren a part of our family?" Zhao Hongyu said softly.

Zhao Yanzi didn't know what to say. She thought about it, and Zhao Guang interrupted just when she was about to argue again, "We'll just go back home if you keep complaining. You can go do your homework then."

That certainly worked at suppressing her temper as she shut her mouth. However, her pouting became even more obvious.

“Ren, you haven’t had breakfast yet, have you?” Zhao Hongyu turned around and asked gently.

“It’s ok. I’m not hungry,” Hao Ren answered.

“Open up the bag, Zi. Give Ren a piece of bread,” Zhao Hongyu said.

Zhao Yanzi held her breath and opened the bag. Still upset, she took out a small bread and threw it at Hao Ren.

“Thank you!” Hao Ren said to Zhao Hongyu.

Zhao Guang kept on driving steadily and stopped talking.

Zhao Yanzi lurked in the corner and kept her distance from Hao Ren. It was more of a demonstration of her attitude towards Hao Ren and her parents; it was evident that she was annoyed at him.

After leaving the downtown area, they got on a much broader road. The four of them in the car never spoke again.

The long drive and similar views outside the window were starting to make people sleepy. Both Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi were dozing off.

Hao Ren was sleeping because of the lack of sleep he had since he slept too late last night and woke up too early this morning. As for Zhao Yanzi, it was due to her excitement of the trip today that made it difficult for her to go to sleep last night. The comfortable seats of the car made her want to sleep as well.

The two of them both fell towards the middle of the back seat as the car continued along the road...

“We are here!” A crisp voice woke them both up.

Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi slowly woke up as they realized that their heads were touching.

“Get out!” Zhao Yanzi pushed Hao Ren away with an unpleasant frown. She quickly jumped out of the car.

The surrounding view of green mountains and clear waters soon put a happy smile on her face.

Hao Ren wiped the drool from his mouth and got out of the car too. He realized that they were already in the mountains.

“Where is this?” He asked.

“GreenStone Mountain,” Zhao Hongyu answered.

“Ah?” Hao Ren was surprised.

GreenStone Mountain was a famous tourist attraction outside East Ocean City, but it was over 100 kilometers from downtown. It seemed like they have unnoticeably driven for more than two hours.

“Let’s go to the top of the mountain today and stay at the hotel at the foot of the mountain tonight,” Zhao Hongyu continued.

“Ah?” Hao Ren became even more surprised.

He forced himself to come on the trip with Zhao Yanzi’s family thinking that they would return within a day. But to stay the night...? It was...

Since it’s over 100 kilometers from the city, even the buses here wouldn’t be going in that direction. People who visited here would usually drive or take the bus provided by travel agencies after all.

“Let’s put our belongings down at the hotel first,” Zhao Hongyu suggested.

Zhao Guang put away the car key as he nodded. He took the large traveling bag from her and headed towards the nearby hotel.

Although Zhao Guang didn’t talk much, Hao Ren could feel the tacit understanding and loving relationship between him and Zhao Hongyu.

“Here!” Zhao Yanzi stuffed her backpack into Hao Ren’s arms and skipped behind her dad.

Hao Ren felt a little awkward knowing that he had to stay with them for two days. However, there was no way back at the moment. He threw Zhao Yanzi’s backpack onto his back and followed them to the hotel with a shrug.

The four-star hotel at the foot of the famous mountain wasn’t cheap at all. One room would cost 1200 yuan a night.

Zhao Guang paid for two rooms with his platinum card as if it was nothing.

Then they need to coordinate the rooms. "They wouldn't make me share a room with Zhao Yanzi, would they?" Hao Ren thought to himself.

"Let's go!" Zhao Guang patted him on the shoulder after noticing Hao Ren's hesitation.

Hao Ren suddenly realized that he would be sharing a room with Zhao Yanzi's dad, and Zhao Yanzi would be in the other room with her mom.

"What was I thinking..." Hao Ren talked to himself as he walked into the room with Zhao Guang.

Their rooms were opposite to each other. Hao Ren followed Zhao Guang into the room and found that the rooms were elegantly decorated even though they weren't too large.

He pulled back the curtains, and the beautiful scenery of GreenStone Mountain entered his view. A wave of fresh air breezed across his face; he had never breathed in such fresh air in the city.

"Put everything down and freshen up a little before we start the climb," Zhao Guang said to Hao Ren.

"Ok," Hao Ren put Zhao Yanzi's pink little backpack on a chair and walked into the bathroom. He brushed his teeth as well as rinsed his face. He left in such a rush that he didn't even have time to do that. It was pretty embarrassing to think about.

The three of them were already waiting at the door when Hao Ren stepped out of the bathroom.

"So slow!" Zhao Yanzi mumbled.

Hao Ren didn't want to quarrel with her in front of her parents. He lightly coughed twice and asked Zhao Guang, "Time to go?"

"Take my backpack!" Zhao Yanzi cried out.

Hao Ren turned around and picked up her little pink backpack.

"Be polite, Zi!" Zhao Guang finally couldn't hold it back anymore and scolded her.

Zhao Yanzi gritted her teeth as she felt wronged. She was so thrilled about the family trip, but Hao Ren's sudden appearance made her uncomfortable.

"Come on, let's get on the mountain," Zhao Hongyu said.

"Oh, let me give my grandma a call first. I was supposed to go visit her this weekend," Hao Ren suddenly remembered and took his phone out.

He dialed home and told his grandma that he wouldn't be able to visit her this weekend since he was going out with his "classmates". His grandma didn't blame him. On the other hand, she told him to have fun.

Zhao Hongyu felt that Hao Ren was even more filial and understanding through his use of tone and words over the phone.

"The air here is really fresh. You should take your grandma here sometime. There is a Farmer Host* at the mountain foot. Some young people in the city would bring their parents here to escape the heat as well as enjoy each others' company. The elders can play cards, chat, and try out some refreshing dishes. This place is pretty relaxing and popular," Zhao Hongyu said to Hao Ren as he hung up the phone.

"Um," Hao Ren mumbled. He had never mentioned Zhao Yanzi to his grandma, and he even told her that he was out with "classmates" just now. How was he supposed to introduce his grandma to Zhao Yanzi's parents?

He didn't know if grandma would be startled or surprised to see such a disobedient and misbehaving granddaughter-in-law.

"We are a family so don't be so stiff. Loosen up a little. Let's start the climb," Zhao Hongyu smiled at Hao Ren and walked out of the hotel entrance while holding Zhao Guang's hand.

* Farmer Host: it is a type of restaurant/hotel where people would stay with a family of farmers in order to experience the farm life.

Dragon King's Son-In-Law Chapter 25 -

: The Mysterious Daoist Temple

Translator: Noodletown Translated Editor: Noodletown Translated

Zhao Yanzi was completely at ease. She was jumping and leaping, leading everyone else. Today, she was wearing a short skirt that was sewed together with cotton and denim fabrics, displaying her silky, slender calves. Out of her low cut and vest-like sleeveless shirt came two plump arms and a good portion of skin. It was a little alluring. For a girl her age, or for Hao Ren who was relatively conservative, her choice of outfit seemed rather bold.

On the other hand, the Roman sandals on her feet craftily balanced out her s*xiness with the liveliness of youth. Along with her springing and bouncing, the slippers were flopping like two fluttering butterflies.

It was nice to have a mother who was a designer. With such casual mix and match of an outfit, not only did Zhao Yanzi not look awkward, she actually looked like a pretty little catalog model.

In comparison, Hao Ren couldn't be more unfashionable. He was wearing a shirt that hadn't been washed in three days, a pair of wrinkly jeans, and a pair of dirty running shoes.

The only thing about him that could attract any attention was the little pink backpack on his back. However, that was also Zhao Yanzi's item. Speaking of that, it was indeed strange enough for a guy like him to be wearing a pink backpack.

As Zhao Yanzi rushed ahead, Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu were walking side by side with Hao Ren. While Zhao Guang's outfit was business casual, Zhao Hongyu went for a young athletic feel; it was almost impossible to tell that she was already the mother of a middle-schooler.

They continued climbing up the flights of stone stairs and finally arrived at the ticket office for the tourist attraction.

Zhao Yanzi was already standing right next to the window of the ticket office, impatiently waiting for her parents to go purchase tickets. Her inability to hold herself back reminded Hao Ren of the times when he went sightseeing with his parents in his childhood.

Zhao Guang walked over calmly and bought four admissions tickets at once. Hao Ren felt a little uncomfortable that his ticket was paid for. But at a time like this, he did not want to put up a hypocritical fight over anything unnecessary.

Through the mountain gates, they continued moving up along the stairs.

The sight was undeniably magnificent. Their surrounding was saturated with greenness; as a result, even the air was giving off a hint of coolness. The reappearing stream was meandering downwards along the trail, generating a pleasantly clear and melodious sound by their feet.

With her mouth wide open, Zhao Yanzi started taking in exaggeratedly deep breaths of fresh air. Hao Ren couldn't help but smile at her innocent and childish behavior.

It was incredibly relaxing and satisfying for them to be one with nature again after having spent a long time living in the city.

Hand-in-hand, Zhao Hongyu and Zhao Guang were taking their time to admire and appreciate the scenery around them. Since Hao Ren did not want to walk beside Zhao Yanzi, he strolled behind them. Similarly, Zhao Yanzi did not want to be stuck with Hao Ren either. Thus, she was like an excited small animal, sprinting and exploring ahead.

“Zi, slow down!” Zhao Hongyu cautioned,

“Mom! There is a cave here!” Zhao Yanzi screamed passionately from ahead.

Zhao Hongyu let out a chuckle. She turned around and waved at Hao Ren before walking ahead to join Zhao Yanzi. “This cave was created due to the impact of the underground water. Streams in the mountain have formed secret paths inside the mountain. When they run into fragile and worn-out rocks, they would burst through. What we have seen on our way here are tributaries; the real water streams are all contained on the inside of the mountain...”

“How come there is no water in it then?” Zhao Yanzi asked curiously.

“That is because the size and impact of the water streams also depend on the season. When the water stream is affluent, the water will seep through. Of course, it could also be that the stream had been diverted. In other words, this was formerly an exit that had become blocked off from the inside due to a small-scale landslide,” Zhao Hongyu explained patiently.

While nodding her head, Zhao Yanzi’s eyes lit up as if she had just discovered a new continent. She pointed ahead, “Look, there is some writing over there!”

“‘Earthly Paradise’, this was supposedly inscribed by the famous poet Du Fu of the Tang dynasty. There used to be a Daoist temple here called ‘Celestial Cloud Temple’...” Zhao Hongyu patiently elaborated as she walked.

Blinking her big eyes, Zhao Yanzi was able to keep calm and followed her mother closely, observing and listening.

Hao Ren was in awe. He was surprised that Zhao Hongyu was so knowledgeable. Not only was she successful in architectural designs, but she was also very eloquent when it came to astronomy-geology, culture, and humanity.

As a result, they advanced quickly as Zhao Hongyu interpreted along the way. Moreover, she was often able to branch off from one point to pass on more information to Zhao Yanzi. Her voice was gentle and pleasant; even Hao Ren was enchanted and had learned a lot from listening to her.

After walking for about two hours, they reached the halfway point and decided to go eat at a small restaurant on the mountain.

Their tables were planted outside and underneath an awning. While they were devouring the vegetables and rice, they were also able to appreciate the magnificent views of GreenStone Mountain.

Hao Ren had been trapped in school for far too long. Today's opportunity to travel with the Zhao Family had his eyes and mind refreshed by the green mountain and clear streams; he became cheerful as well.

"There is a Daoist temple on top of this mountain called 'Heavenly Oneness Temple'. It was said that Daoist Master Zhang had once cultivated here. The biggest palace in this Daoist temple is called the 'Founder's Palace'. All of its shingles were covered with rolled gold. They have a pine tree that is two thousand years old as well. Moreover, there is a monument that was inscribed by Daoist Master Zhang himself..."

As he was eating, Zhao Guang suddenly became enthusiastic and pointed out to Zhao Yanzi.

"That is fun!" Zhao Yanzi looked to her father in anticipation, "Let's go check it out after we finish eating!"

"It takes three hours to get up there. Since there are no cable cars here, your mom and I will pass on this one. We plan to walk up a little more, but then we will take our time to go back down and get some rest at the hotel," Zhao Guang replied.

"Awww..." Zhao Yanzi was obviously disappointed.

"Or you can ask Hao Ren to go with you?" Zhao Hongyu suggested.

"Who needs his company!" Gritting her teeth, Zhao Yanzi declared, "I will go by myself!"

"No way. We would be worried if you went up there yourself!" Zhao Hongyu denied Zhao Yanzi's proposition resolutely.

Knowing that she could not defy her parents, Zhao Yanzi sulkily lowered her head in silence.

After their meal, they continued the climb. After walking for about half an hour and having checked out "Elder Lord Cave" that had immense history, Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu were ready to leave.

As much as Zhao Yanzi wanted to continue upwards and to explore the Daoist temple on top of the mountain, she could only follow her parents' order now that they have decided to call it a day.

Seeing that Zhao Yanzi was upset and was pouting her lips, Zhao Hongyu said, "How about... we make an exception and let you continue your tour here on the mountain?"

Zhao Yanzi's eyes lit up instantaneously, and a bright smile started blooming across her face.

“But there is one condition; Ren has to stay with you. Otherwise, we will be worried,” Zhao Hongyu added.

Biting her lip, Zhao Yanzi struggled for a few seconds but finally concurred, “Fine, I want to see what’s up there!”

A shade of joy appeared on Zhao Hongyu’s face as she turned to Hao Ren. “Ren, please stay with Zi. Come back down as soon as you reach the top of the mountain. Give us a call if you need anything. At your pace, four hours should be enough for you to go up and get back down to here. It takes approximately two more hours to get down to the foot of the mountain so that it would be six hours in total. We’ll expect you to be back in the hotel by seven o’clock.”

Actually, Hao Ren did not want to go back to the hotel so early, either; it was a rare chance for him to be able to be immersed in nature. Therefore, he nodded at Zhao Hongyu assuredly and said, “Yes, auntie. I will try my best to look after Zi.”

Zhao Guang gave Hao Ren a light encouraging nod before turning around and leaving with Zhao Hongyu.

Hao Ren knew very well that Zhao Yanzi’s parents were trying to create opportunities for him and Zhao Yanzi to get to know each other through spending time alone. However, he did not want to overthink it as all he wanted now was to visit the legendary Daoist temple.

Likewise, Zhao Yanzi was thinking the same thing. Now that her parents had walked far away, she started shouting at Hao Ren, “Come on, hurry up! Don’t be a slowpoke and hold me back!”

After briefly rolling his eyes at her, Hao Ren looked up at the endless trail and took a step forward.

Dragon King’s Son-In-Law Chapter 26 -

: Who’s Holding You Back?

Translator: Noodletown Translated Editor: Noodletown Translated

The top of the mountain was three hours away from where they were. If they were fast, it would only take two hours. Adding the time it would take to return to the halfway point and then to the foot of the mountain, it would total to at least six hours.

Thinking that he would have to spend at least six hours alone with Zhao Yanzi which was about half a day, Hao Ren became unsure.

Fortunately, the scenery was splendid. If he could not bear to look at Zhao Yanzi, he could at least find consolation in the beautiful views.

On the other hand, Zhao Yanzi was ecstatic. She was practically running up the mountain. It was unclear whether it was because she could not wait to visit the Daoist temple or that she was intentionally trying to lose Hao Ren.

Needless to say, Hao Ren would not let her get out of sight so easily. Taking a deep breath, he sped up and followed closely behind her.

“Hurry, hurry! See how slow you are!” While climbing upwards, Zhao Yanzi turned around to press Hao Ren to go faster.

Disregarding her taunts, Hao Ren continued at the speed he found appropriate. After all, he was a long-distance runner and knew how to properly distribute his physical capacity, unlike Zhao Yanzi who was sprinting without any thought of conserving energy for the latter part of their journey.

Unsurprisingly, half an hour later, Zhao Yanzi who had been running hastily upwards had become exhausted. Gradually, she began to slow down.

Going at an even pace, Hao Ren had caught up with Zhao Yanzi within minutes after she had slowed down. In no time, he had ran passed her.

“Hey!” Seeing that Hao Ren was going to abandon her, Zhao Yanzi couldn’t help but yell at him.

Putting on a face that looked innocent, Hao Ren turned around. Standing on a higher step, he looked down at her and asked, “What? Can you not run anymore?”

“I…” Zhao Yanzi’s face was bright red, “I just wanted some water!”

She reached her arm towards Hao Ren and demanded, “Give me some water!”

Hao Ren opened her backpack, took out a bottle of water, and handed it to her.

After gurgling down mouthfuls of water, Zhao Yanzi threw the bottled water back at Hao Ren in a hostile manner.

Her bad attitude had indeed made Hao Ren feel uncomfortable. However, he reminded himself how nice her parents had been to him and decided to put up with it.

Placing the bottled water back in the backpack, he proceeded to climb without a care for whether Zhao Yanzi could still keep up or not.

That had made things very difficult for Zhao Yanzi. Now that Hao Ren had resumed climbing, she had to follow suit. For one, all of their supplies were in the backpack that Hao Ren was carrying. On top of that, she did not want to be looked down upon by Hao Ren. Hence, she could only force herself to carry on. In this situation, she could no longer utter any mockery towards Hao Ren as she did before.

On their way up, Hao Ren had been going at an even and steady pace just as he would do if he was in a long-distance race. With a superior sense of rhythm, he could adjust his pace according to his breathing.

On the other hand, Zhao Yanzi now felt torturous. As she tried to keep up with Hao Ren, she was constantly out of breath, and her face had gone from bright red to pale white. She couldn't stop glaring at Hao Ren as her grudge towards him grew.

They continued climbing for a little longer before Hao Ren finally came to a halt. At last, Zhao Yanzi got a chance to catch her breath.

Hao Ren opened up the map and studied it for a few seconds, "Well, we're halfway there. At our current pace, we should be able to get there in an hour."

"Ahhh? Another hour!?" Zhao Yanzi's face was filled with despair. As she imagined having to repeat the ordeal she had just gone through, her body couldn't help but become weak and powerless.

Paying no attention to her reaction, Hao Ren rolled up the map and got up on his feet again.

Now that Zhao Yanzi had finally caught her breath, she saw that Hao Ren was ready to move on again without much of a break. She had immediately developed an intense hatred towards him. Pausing for a few seconds, she exploded in rage and started screaming at Hao Ren who was already far ahead, "You jerk!"

Hao Ren turned around, still looking innocent and unaware. He looked at her from afar, "What is wrong?" He asked.

"You... You..." Zhao Yanzi was so mad that she was unable to utter a complete sentence through her gritted teeth.

"Do you need a break?" Hao Ren asked.

Zhao Yanzi's face had turned red from suppressing her anger and her desire for a break. Even though she did indeed need a break, she couldn't bring herself to say the words. She was afraid of giving Hao Ren a reason to mock or to look down on her.

"Oh my, it does seem a little tiring. Let's take a break here then." Hao Ren put down the backpack and placed it on the steps. Then he sat down right next to it.

“Know that you are the one who wanted to take a break, I haven’t said a word about being tired!” Zhao Yanzi uttered out of her pouty lips and sat right down on the ground like Hao Ren.

Her pallid face was the best indicator that her body was about to give out, but Hao Ren had no intention of exposing her.

They were sitting six to seven steps apart, staring right at each other.

Hao Ren suddenly remembered that there was a camera in the backpack. He took it out quickly and pointed it at Zhao Yanzi who was sitting below him.

Click!

Her grumpy face was instantly framed and got captured in a photo.

“Who gave you the permission to take photos!?” She screamed in a high-pitched voice.

Trying to hand the camera to her from high up, Hao Ren said, “How about you take a photo of me, too?”

“Why would I want to take a photo of you!?” Zhao Yanzi rolled her eyes.

“How about... we take a photo together then?” Hao Ren again suggested.

Zhao Yanzi turned away from the camera without looking at Hao Ren, “Humph, who would want a photo with an uncle like you!”

Promptly, Hao Ren put the camera back into the backpack and stood up, “That’s enough of a break, let’s get going.”

“You...” Zhao Yanzi glanced at Hao Ren in annoyance. She knew that he was “punishing” her for not cooperating, but there was nothing she could do but run along.

Hao Ren turned around and saw that Zhao Yanzi’s face was bright red from trying to catch up. He thought for a second and decided to slow down. Even though Zhao Yanzi was such an ill-tempered girl, there was no need to physically punish her for that.

“If I had my Dragon Core, I could outrun you a hundred times!” Punching Hao Ren’s shoulder, Zhao Yanzi said regretfully.

“If you can’t climb anymore, it’s not too late for us to turn back,” Hao Ren proposed sincerely; there wasn’t a trace of mockery in his tone.

Yet, Zhao Yanzi gritted her teeth and responded determinedly, “Who said I couldn’t climb anymore? I will get to the top of the mountain for sure!”

Sensing that Hao Ren was looking at her sympathetically, she clenched her teeth again. "If you can't do it, then start heading back yourself!"

Hao Ren's mouth curved into a smile as he actually found Zhao Yanzi's determination to be quite commendable.

At this time, Zhao Yanzi's face was bright red. Adorned with drops of sweat, her small nose and chest were rising and falling to the rhythm of her rapid breathing, and her snowy white skin was moist and silky like milk.

The strands of her hair that were soaked by sweat made her seem almost enchanting. Although young, she had started to showcase her potential in growing up to be a beauty.

Clutching her fist tightly, she abruptly took a deep breath and surpassed Hao Ren again. After that, she continued to run forward.

Not knowing what to do with her, Hao Ren could only speed up and run along her.

The two were advancing in silence. Since the site had no cable cars set up and it was already the afternoon, the higher up they went, the fewer tourists there were.

As the view was becoming more grand and spectacular, the trail was also becoming quieter. In the end, it seemed as if Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi, the "competing" hikers, were the only ones left on this mountain.

Obliquely, the sun came through from between the branches of the trees. Hao Ren looked down on his phone; it was already three o'clock. If they didn't reach the top of the mountain soon, they would be returning late to the hotel. Especially if the sky darkened, it would be even harder for them to traverse the mountain.

"Zi, we have to pick up the pace, or else we won't be able to make it down in time." After walking in silence for close to an hour, Hao Ren finally spoke up.

"Quit nagging me!" Zhao Yanzi answered impatiently.

Sweat had already soaked her face and most of her outfit. Judging from the look on her face, she was indeed trying her best already. After all, she was only a young girl, and Hao Ren was on the long distance running team back in high school; their physical strengths were not at the same level, to begin with.

Just when they began to doubt whether they could make it in time, things took a different turn. As they followed the trail and walked around a big thick tree, the golden eaves of the Daoist temple had suddenly come into their sight.

“Ha! We made it!” Zhao Yanzi shouted out of joy. She did not try to hold back her happiness of overcoming the mountain.

Hao Ren also felt delighted. He was surprised yet satisfied to see that their efforts had come to fruition.

At the same time, he was a little concerned. It had taken a long time and a lot of physical strength for them to reach the mountaintop. Would they be able to get back to the hotel by seven as they had planned?

“Bubblehead! Hurry up and don’t get lost!” Seeing that Hao Ren was hesitant and hadn’t moved off the steps, Zhao Yanzi couldn’t control her excitement and yelled at Hao Ren unreservedly.

Somehow, to Hao Ren, such thoughtless name-calling had indicated a sense of trust and friendliness.

Dragon King’s Son-In-Law Chapter 27 -

: Listen or Suffer

Translator: Noodletown Translated Editor: Noodletown Translated

Paying no attention to Hao Ren’s reaction, Zhao Yanzi leaped towards the Daoist temple. Carrying the backpack, Hao Ren stepped across the entrance of the Daoist temple after her.

The golden eaves of the temple were soaking up the last bit of the afternoon sunshine, and the entire Daoist temple appeared solemn and serene.

Since it was already afternoon and the temple was situated on top of the mountain, there weren’t any visitors. As there were no cable cars, only people who were fit and determined like Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi would be able to visit the temple at this hour. Otherwise, one would have to start climbing in the early morning in order to arrive here by noon and then further spend the entire afternoon getting back down.

Therefore, arriving at such odd hours, Zhao Yanzi and Hao Ren didn’t run into any visitors. In the yard of the Daoist temple, some young Daoists were sweeping up fallen leaves. Even Zhao Yanzi who was yelling and shouting on her way in had become quiet as soon as she stepped into the temple.

The paving bricks in the yard were of different colors and had been put together to create a massive picture of the Tai Chi and the Eight Trigrams. In the south-west corner of the yard, there was an aged yet towering ancient pine tree.

Hao Ren knew that this must be the thousand-year-old tree Zhao Guang had mentioned. With a heart filled with respect, he walked over to it calmly. As the temple did not have many visitors, the ancient tree had not been fenced off. It had only quietly taken its place in the corner of the yard.

Hao Ren walked up and reached out his hand, gently caressing its trunk which was full of senescence and fortitude.

Its bark was rock-solid and smooth. From its outer appearance, it did not even look like wood anymore.

Hao Ren stealthily began running the Concentration Cultivation Scroll and was becoming aware of nature's essence nearby. He was actually able to receive a burst of condensed wood essence from the rigid bark of this ancient pine tree.

Moreover, the Dragon Core inside his body seemed to have resonated with the ancient tree as Hao Ren could feel it vibrating inside of him. The warm and humid energy flow had traveled through Hao Ren's arms and towards the interior of the tree. At the same time, the ancient tree was also emitting a burst of wood essence towards Hao Ren, nourishing his body.

Zhao Yanzi watched Hao Ren quietly. She understood that he must be having an enlightening moment and did not want to interrupt him.

After a full minute, Hao Ren withdrew his hand and breathed out heavily. The fatigue that he felt from climbing up the mountain had completely vanished. Instead, all that was left in him was pure strength and prosperous liveliness.

With his heart full of reverence, Hao Ren slightly bowed to the ancient tree.

Hao Ren noticed that Zhao Yanzi had become dazed while watching him. He called to her with a smile, "Let's go."

For a few seconds, Zhao Yanzi could not react properly. She couldn't help but let out an "Oh" and start following Hao Ren's footsteps. As she passed through the yard and entered the main palace, she was finally herself again. The image of the smile that Hao Ren just gave her had lingered in her mind, and she suddenly felt her heart flutter.

Hao Ren didn't even realize how gentle he had just smiled at Zhao Yanzi. Upon entering the main palace, he raised his head to observe the statue of the Founder of the San Qing Religion that was a few meters tall. Then he proceeded inwards.

The entire main palace was giving off a grand and magnificent, solemn and awe-inspiring atmosphere. It had instantly made Hao Ren feel that this visit was well worth their effort and time.

Zhao Yanzi was following Hao Ren closely. Being surrounded by solemn-looking statues had frightened her a little.

Through the main palace, they walked into another yard. There was a stone hut to the east of the yard, and inside of the hut stood a stone monument that seemed to have been there forever.

Somehow, after the enlightenment at the ancient tree, Hao Ren suddenly felt that Zhao Guang had told them about the ancient tree and the stone monument on purpose.

Hao Ren stood in front of the stone monument and began reading carefully the writing inscribed on it.

“It is everlasting and cannot be named. It is the original void of ‘non-being’. This ‘Oneness’ is the Dao which is invisible and formless. It may be regarded as vague and intangible. When the Oneness Dao comes forward, its front cannot be seen. When one tries to follow it, one cannot see its rear. By abiding with the original Dao, one can master the presence...”

As hard as Hao Ren had tried, he was only able to make sense of a couple of sentences.

Standing next to Hao Ren, Zhao Yanzi was also reading the words on the monument in silence.

“If desire shall conceal true self, true self will manifest itself even more. If desire shall weaken the true self, true self will strengthen itself even more. If desire shall abandon the true self, true self will prosper even more. If desire shall deprive the true self, the true self will give even more. This is known as the enlightened nature that is subtle yet profound. Gentleness overcomes strength, and the meek overcomes the strong...”

The more Hao Ren read, the more difficult it was for him to understand. Likewise, with her brows deeply furrowed, Zhao Yanzi seemed to be having a hard time deciphering it herself.

This was the way to command water.

Suddenly, a sense of enlightenment crossed Hao Ren’s mind.

It was as though an awareness had arisen from the bottom of his heart. It was about to break through his chest and reach for his head.

Hao Ren then thought of the prosperousness and liveliness of the ancient tree again; it reminded him of the times when he was working on math problems. He felt as though his thinking was now finally on the right track and was about to be able to solve a challenging problem.

“Water gives life and nourishes all things on earth. Water breaks through and overcomes all impediments.”

Bong...

The unexpected tolling of a bell had abruptly interrupted Hao Ren's reflection.

Zhao Yanzi who was lost in her own thoughts had also jumped at the loud noise.

Hao Ren turned around and looked at his phone. He realized that they had spent precisely half an hour standing in front of this stone monument.

The continually falling leaves had found homes on the tops of their heads and their shoulders, and the young Daoists who were performing cleaning chores had also returned to rest.

Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi were now alone in this empty yard.

“It is quite late now, let's start heading back,” Hao Ren said.

“Okay...” Zhao Yanzi responded obediently. It seemed that her thoughts were still with the writings on the monument.

Hao Ren put out his hand and helped Zhao Yanzi to clear off the fallen leaves in her hair and on her shoulders.

His gesture was casual and gentle, and Zhao Yanzi did not react in time. She felt surprised and a hint of sweet joy.

“This guy is actually quite nice to me.” Zhao Yanzi secretly thought to herself.

On the other hand, Hao Ren did not put much thought into his gesture. He looked down and patted off the leaves on himself before leading Zhao Yanzi out of the front gate.

Dusk seemed to come particularly early on the mountain. As the sun could still be seen hanging loosely from afar, its last beams of lights were trying to lit up the sky effortfully; it seemed that darkness would soon consume the world.

“Let's head down quickly.” Hao Ren urged Zhao Yanzi as they could not afford any delays.

With her lips pursed, although Zhao Yanzi was criticizing Hao Ren for having no compassion for the opposite s*x in her mind, she did not dare to cause any real delays. Hence, she started following Hao Ren down the trail in compliance.

As expected, the way down was less physically demanding than the way up. However, since the sun had gone down considerably, visibility had been significantly reduced. As they could not see the steps beneath their feet clearly, they had to move more cautiously and more slowly.

The trails floored with green stone plates were like strings on an instrument, and the mountain streams were like musical notes. Together, they played the rhythms of the mountain. Puffs of cool and gentle mountain breezes swiftly crossed the countless branches, generating the most natural musical.

As they walked, they were becoming more aware of all the changes around them. In the end, they seemed to have developed a more profound understanding of the natural simplicity that the Daoists had been promoting.

The Daoist temple and pavilion stood far away in the seclusion of the endless greenness of the forest quietly. Conveniently borrowing the views of nature, these structures had completely become one with the mountain and forest. Such a splendid sight was certainly sufficient for Hao Ren to suspect that a legendary Daoist master could indeed take residence in this mountain.

Hao Ren was immersed in the sceneries around him along the way. When he suddenly thought of Zhao Yanzi and turned around to check on her, she had already stopped moving a long time ago and was far behind him.

Hao Ren formed a trumpet with his hands, placed it over his mouth, and yelled at her, "Hey..."

Zhao Yanzi heard Hao Ren. However, instead of walking forward, she actually sat down.

"What is up with her..." Hao Ren picked up his pace and began walking back to her. When he arrived, he questioned, "Why are you not moving?"

Pouting her lips, Zhao Yanzi turned away from him.

Hao Ren assumed that she was tired, so he sat down next to her for a break as well. He did not understand the mind of a little girl at all; he was so self-absorbed on their way down and did not check on Zhao Yanzi at all. Even though Zhao Yanzi did not say a word and tried to follow him with her greatest effort, she felt extremely upset and neglected.

"Can you still move?" Seeing that Zhao Yanzi seemed to have no intention of getting up and the sky had darkened, even more, Hao Ren couldn't help but ask.

"If I had my Dragon Core, I would have made it down a long time ago and not be here listening to you talk!" She responded with rage.

Now, Hao Ren finally realized that he had overlooked the fact that she was only a little girl and had limited strength. Zhao Yanzi's parents had asked him to look after her, yet, all he cared about was being on time. He was worried that they could not make it down the mountain in time and did not consider Zhao Yanzi's well-being at all. They were in a rush on their way up, and now they were in a rush on their way down as well.

"How about..." Hao Ren paused to think, "I carry you on my back?"

"Bah! Who would want that!?" With cheeks puffed with anger, Zhao Yanzi stood up and started walking downwards.

"Hey! Slow down!" Hao Ren immediately ran after her as he was afraid she would trip.

He began to have a slightly better understanding of this little girl's thoughts. Although she kept emphasizing that she didn't need Hao Ren to care for her, she became very upset when he actually did what she said,

On their way down, Zhao Yanzi had picked up the pace, and Hao Ren was following by her side, trying to guard her against any potential dangers. The two were positioned like the intertwining black and white in the Tai Chi symbol as they traveled downwards along the peaceful trail.

Still, as fast as they were proceeding, the sky had inevitably darkened.

"You! Hurry!" Now that the last beam of light was fleeing and they were still two hours away from the foot of the mountain, Zhao Yanzi had become genuinely anxious.

"Is it this side or that side?" By the dimming light, Hao Ren held up the map and asked. The closer they were to the halfway point, the more small exhibits and diverging paths they would encounter.

"It is definitely this side!" Zhao Yanzi pointed to the left.

"Oh, then it is definitely the other side!" Hao Ren directly went towards the right. After Zhao Yanzi had given the wrong direction three times in a row, Hao Ren had become faithless in her sense of direction and believed that he had to go against her hunch to get to their destination.

Zhao Yanzi was flabbergasted. Yet, she did not trust her own sense of direction either. In the end, she could only follow Hao Ren. Strangely enough, every time Hao Ren had gone against Zhao Yanzi's hunch and went the other way, it turned out to be the correct way down the mountain.

There were no signs of any other human beings in the entire mountain, and it was almost dead silent. Consequently, the footsteps of Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi were becoming more distinct as they resonated in the dark.

As the sun had set, the previously gorgeous sceneries had now become grim and gruesome. Being in this remote and thickly forested mountain, Zhao Yanzi was surely terrified as she was only a young girl after all. As a result, her speed had decreased, and she was not running ahead anymore. Slowly, she began walking by Hao Ren's side.

This time, Hao Ren had figured out what she was thinking and took the initiative to hold her small hand. He had no intention of taking advantage of her; he worried that she might roll down the mountain if her legs started trembling due to fear.

As the sky continued to darken, they proceeded even more slowly. Without noticing, it was already way past seven o'clock. It was night time, and they were still at least two hours away from getting down to the hotel with their pace.

Moreover, except the areas nearby Daoist temples which had cell towers, their cell phones had no signals anywhere else on the mountain. For them, there was nowhere to turn for help. Hence, Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi could only brace themselves and carry on.

The paths on the mountain were full of twists and turns. Sometimes they pointed upwards and other times downwards. At times, the two had become confused whether they were climbing up the mountain or descending. Yet, overall, they felt that they were getting close to the foot of the mountain.

"Hey, we're not going to starve to death here, are we?" Pinching Hao Ren's palm, Zhao Yanzi couldn't help but ask.

"If there is really nothing left to eat, then I will eat you first," Hao Ren said to her.

"You..." Wrinkling her nose, Zhao Yanzi glared at Hao Ren while her cheeks puffed with anger. While talking with him, her fear automatically dropped.

Time was ticking away; it was already eight o'clock at night. However, the foot of the mountain still seemed unreachable to them.

Being caught in this mountain where birds had the creepiest chirping, Zhao Yanzi had no one to rely on but Hao Ren. She stayed close to him and grasped his hand even more tightly.

Hao Ren was also unfamiliar with the mountain. As he did not bring a flashlight, he could only turn on his cell phone and utilize the weak light from it to light up the path under their feet. He prayed that he would not miss a step and roll down the mountain with Zhao Yanzi.

On their way down, they found some peculiar insects that were emitting golden lights. However, these were not fireflies as they tend to be lumpily attached to mountain cliffs.

Zhao Yanzi had an intense fear of insects. She cowered right next to Hao Ren and clutched onto his hand firmly. Regret had now filled her heart. She regretted climbing to the mountaintop with Hao Ren as it had resulted in them being stuck in the middle of a mountain at night and could not make their way back down.

“Hey, how am I supposed to walk if you’re grabbing onto me so tightly?” Hao Ren turned and asked her.

Embellished on her fair face, Zhao Yanzi’s starry eyes were beautiful and charming in pitch-dark.

“I... I’m not scared. I’m only feeling a little cold.” Zhao Yanzi’s tenacious quibble had given herself away unintentionally.

Enclosing her smooth and slippery palm tightly in his own, Hao Ren had strengthened his will to make it down the mountain and pressed on.

After feeling their way in the darkness for over an hour, they finally caught a glimpse of the light from somewhere close to the foot of the mountain. The brilliantly illuminated hotel had also appeared before their eyes.

“We’re almost there!” Pulling on Zhao Yanzi’s hand, Hao Ren increased his speed. His cell phone was about to die, and the light emitted by Zhao Yanzi’s cell phone was too weak to be helpful. If they did not get down now, they would seriously be stuck on the mountain.

Zhao Yanzi also let out a sigh of relief and accelerated.

At last, after about fifteen more minutes, they had made it to the entrance of the mountain.

As she had been extremely anxious on her way down, Zhao Yanzi’s palm was now fully covered in sweat.

Now that they were safe, she finally realized that Hao Ren had been holding her hand for hours and abruptly withdrew her hand out of his.

“What a way to take someone’s goodwill for ill intent...” Hao Ren sighed at her aggressive behavior.

“Who gave you the permission to hold my hand!?” Zhao Yanzi asserted eloquently.

Hao Ren couldn’t be bothered with arguing with her as his stomach was now growling loudly. They had long finished all the snacks in the backpack on their way down.

He promptly walked towards the hotel. Zhao Yanzi followed behind him, looking torn by her mixed feelings. Truthfully, she knew that she had become very dependent on Hao Ren on their way down. If it weren't for him, she would not know what to do in those situations.

At the same time, she did not want to admit to herself that she could only get down with his help. She believed that if she had run into any real danger, her parents would surely come to her rescue.

As soon as they got to the hotel, it seemed that their alliance had broken down. Zhao Yanzi was giving Hao Ren dirty looks as if he owed her millions.

Now that Zhao Yanzi was giving him the cold shoulder, Hao Ren did not want to waste any more effort on being friendly to her either. What concerned him the most right now was that he had to share a room with her father; he thought it might be awkward.

As they entered the hotel respectively, they returned to their rooms. Listless and exhausted, Hao Ren was surprised to find that there was a note in the room. On it, it stated: "Zi's mother and I are going to visit a friend who lives nearby; we might be back late."

Ding dong... Ding dong...

At that moment, the doorbell of his room started ringing.

He ran over to get the door and found Zhao Yanzi standing there awkwardly. "Hmm... Let's go eat?" she said as she bit her lips.

Dragon King's Son-In-Law Chapter 28 -

: Just for a Little While

Translator: Noodletown Translated Editor: Noodletown Translated

Staring at her, Hao Ren thought, "Weren't you just ignoring me moments ago?"

Nonetheless, he was not the one to hold a grudge. He turned around and picked up his keycard. "Let's go."

Zhao Yanzi secretly felt relieved as she was totally expecting Hao Ren to reject her. As a stranger in a strange place, she would hate to eat out alone. If only her parents were around or her stomach was not violently voicing its dissatisfaction, she would not have come to ask Hao Ren so shamelessly.

Her fierceness had further weakened as she recalled how she intentionally ignored Hao Ren only moments ago and now had to beg him to go eat out with her.

The two walked out of the hotel and were in search of small restaurants. It was already past nine and was approaching ten o'clock at night. Most of the restaurants had already closed. Not knowing where to look, they searched somewhat aimlessly in the areas close to the hotel. The fact that they could not find a restaurant that was open had made them even more hungry.

Afraid that she might get lost, Zhao Yanzi was staying close to Hao Ren. Walking along a somewhat desolate street, Hao Ren had finally spotted a small restaurant ahead of them that was still operating.

They rushed into the restaurant and were about to place two orders of food when they realized that there were a bunch of husky and muscular men in there. Some of them had their heads shaved, others were shirtless, and all of them were cursing and trying to drink as much as they could.

Zhao Yanzi was scared and wanted to drag Hao Ren out of the restaurant. Hao Ren, on the other hand, gently grabbed her hand and comforted, "It's okay."

He was absolutely starving and had no more energy to look for any other restaurants. Besides, it was almost next to impossible to find another restaurant that was still open at this hour.

He led Zhao Yanzi to a corner and seated themselves. He then said to the owner who had come up to greet them, "Two bowls of rice – one with shredded pork and garlic sauce and one with sauteed pork and green peppers, please."

He ordered on Zhao Yanzi's behalf without consulting her first. If it were any other times, she would definitely be "scolding" him for being disrespectful. But now, she was alarmingly watching the "dangerous men" around them and was too preoccupied to object to Hao Ren.

"Where there are people, there are drunkards. I'll knock you out in three drinks, or I'll knock you out in five..." The men at the other tables were drinking and chanting as they played their drinking games. As the atmosphere became more fervent, their voices grew louder.

Zhao Yanzi thought for a moment and decided to move from the seat across from Hao Ren to the one beside him instead.

Her alarmed and panicky look reminded Hao Ren of a startled little bird. He chuckled and reached out his hand.

Zhao Yanzi was confused. Moments later, she realized that Hao Ren was asking her to hold his hand.

"Screw you!" Zhao Yanzi scolded quietly. "I am not that scared," she thought.

Soon, the piping hot rice bowls had been served. Zhao Yanzi randomly picked one and started engulfing it.

So did Hao Ren. He picked up the other rice bowl and started devouring it like crazy.

Their actions were so synchronized that they probably appeared to others as a very compatible couple.

After dinner, the two felt that their stomachs had been filled with warmth. As Zhao Yanzi refused to stay in the restaurant for any longer, she asked Hao Ren to pay the bill and got out of there immediately.

This little town at the foot of the mountain was incredibly quiet. At night, the distant mountain range could be seen generating a continuous and endless shadow.

The moon was shining gently on the two of them, projecting two shadows on the smooth concrete path; one was tall, and the other was short.

Observing their shadows that were touching each other ahead of her, Zhao Yanzi suddenly realized that she was standing too close to Hao Ren and quickly pulled herself away.

Shuu, shuuu... Out of nowhere, a wildcat appeared and caused Zhao Yanzi to jump up and move closer to Hao Ren again.

Facing her, Hao Ren once again placed his hand in front of her.

Zhao Yanzi looked at him and paused for a few seconds. "Just for a little while," she said.

As she finished, she placed her hand into Hao Ren's palm.

All of a sudden, she no longer felt anxious and uneasy. Instead, she felt calm. Moreover, any changes in their surrounding were not evoking much fear in her anymore.

Hao Ren did not say much. He quietly focused on leading her back to the hotel along the paths they had previously taken.

A peaceful small town, a serene mountain range, light breathing, gentle footsteps, and the slight warmth of the hand... it was all so tranquil.

After walking for about fifteen minutes, they had arrived at the parking lot in front of the hotel, and their view instantly brightened.

Hao Ren let go of Zhao Yanzi's hand. Zhao Yanzi turned and looked at Hao Ren as if she was ready to spew the harshest remarks. However, she decided to swallow it down instead.

Her face had turned bright red as she somehow found herself useless and incompetent. Abruptly, she went into the hotel looking seemingly irritated. Hao Ren had no clue what was going on in her head. All he knew was that Zhao Yanzi was not the gentle and friendly type.

Following her, Hao Ren walked into the hotel and returned to his room. To his surprise, he discovered that Zhao Guang was still not back yet.

"Zhao Yanzi's parents must be catching up with their friend and lost track of time," he thought.

He lay down on the bed and opened Zhao Yanzi's pink backpack. He took out the camera and found that they had only taken one photo with it the entire day. The only photo was the one where Zhao Yanzi was sitting on the step and looking up angrily with her cheeks puffed up.

"She is actually not that annoying..." Hao Ren shook his head and laughed as he put away the camera.

After he finished taking a hot shower, he realized that Zhao Guang had come back.

Zhao Guang briefly inquired about their day on the mountain, and Hao Ren also briefly responded to his inquiry. Without any further questioning, Zhao Guang nodded, acknowledging his response, and went on to shower in the bathroom.

Feeling nervous and awkward, Hao Ren got into bed. He was guessing that in the room across from theirs, Zhao Hongyu must be asking Zhao Yanzi about their day as well.

It had been a scary and thrilling day. Nevertheless, he had successfully brought Zhao Yanzi down without anyone getting hurt. It was not an easy task to take care of that little girl.

Having labored all day, Hao Ren quickly fell asleep before Zhao Guang could even come out of the bathroom.

When he woke up the next day, Hao Ren found Zhao Guang sitting on the sofa watching TV.

"Were you exhausted yesterday?" Zhao Guang asked as he saw that Hao Ren had woke up.

"A little bit," Hao Ren answered.

“We are going to eat at a nearby Farmer Host in a bit. Afterward, we will be heading home,” Zhao Guang told him.

“Ok.” Hao Ren nodded his head. He thought for a second and spoke again, “Thank you very much for your hospitality these days.”

“Alright, go freshen up.” Zhao Guang walked over to the window and pulled open the curtains.

It was a drizzling and foggy day. The mountain view was hazy but splendid. A swift breeze came in through the window and started diffusing in the room. It was even colder than what they had encountered yesterday, but it was refreshing and awakening.

Hao Ren put on his shirt and went over to the bathroom to freshen up. When he was ready, he followed Zhao Guang out, and they went to knock on the door across from theirs.

When the door opened, Zhao Hongyu appeared, and Zhao Yanzi was following closely behind her mother.

Zhao Yanzi was wearing a milky colored long T-shirt with a pair of gorgeous aubergine leggings; it was a beautiful and classic combination. Not only did the T-shirt look lovely on her, the tight leggings perfectly outlined the elegant and slender curves of her legs. Hao Ren couldn't help but keep glancing at her.

On the other hand, Zhao Hongyu was wearing a Bohemian style floral dress. The excessive abstract floral patterns worked very well with the loose and flowy style, making her look casual and stunning at the same time.

Both the mother and the daughter were each wearing a straw hat. The coffee-colored broad-brimmed straw hat perfectly matched the dark and light patches on Zhao Hongyu's dress, accentuating her elegance. Differently, the straw hat seemed a little out of place when it was matched with the rest of Zhao Yanzi's outfit. However, the fact that it was unconventional brought a sense of delight to the gloomy weather outside.

“Let's go.” Zhao Hongyu tenderly held onto Zhao Yanzi's hand as she gave her keycard to Zhao Guang.

Zhao Guang lead Hao Ren, and the four of them walked towards the hotel reception along the red-carpeted hall.

Walking through the winding corridor of the hotel, Hao Ren saw GreenStone Mountain. Showered with drizzling rain and mist, it was like an impressionistic landscape painting.

For a second, Hao Ren genuinely felt like he was a part of the family.

Dragon King's Son-In-Law Chapter 29 -

: The Real Master

Translator: Noodletown Translated Editor: Noodletown Translated

After checking out of the hotel, Zhao Guang drove them to another place near the bottom of GreenStone Mountain.

On their way to the destination, it was raining. The mountain range and clear waters both appeared a bit depressed. Zhao Yanzi was playing with the edges of her long T-shirt while looking at the rainy scene in silence.

She changed to a new set of clothes because the weather turned chilly today. Hao Ren could only wear the shirt he wore yesterday because he didn't bring another set of clothes.

The mountains were moving in the background, and the square car window outlined Zhao Yanzi's side face. It was a delicate face; the pink-whiteish neck supported a small head, and her black hair laid beside her porcelain-like ears. It presented a vague and dim aesthetic.

"If this girl doesn't fight and quarrel, she is actually quite pretty." Hao Ren looked at her quietly and thought.

The car stopped in front of a courtyard house. The owner of the courtyard house greeted the four of them zealously.

Hao Ren noticed that a lot of old people lived there. Due to the rain, they were all chatting on the benches underneath the roof instead of going out for walks.

"It's a great resort for elders who want to retire," Zhao Hongyu turned back and explained to Hao Ren.

Hao Ren suddenly understood. This place was near the bottom of the mountain. The weather was beautiful, and the air was fresh. It was indeed an excellent place for retirement.

The owner of the courtyard house brought them to a small backyard. Hao Ren found out that there was a hidden but beautiful spot; a small half-outdoor restaurant.

Bamboos fences, frames covered with grapevines, antique-looking square tables, and a small piece of land planted with loads of vegetables... All of this reminded Hao Ren of his childhood.

"Sit," Zhao Guang found a table, sat down, and said.

There were only four tables there, and it wasn't as noisy as normal restaurants.

The drizzling rain continued. The green corn field kept on swaying like the wave, and water dripping down along the grapevines created a beautiful scenery.

The restaurant's stir fry dishes were cheap but tasted delicious. They were made from natural and organic ingredients.

Zhao Yanzi's mother, Zhao Hongyu, was very charming and began talking about what had happened in the past. She talked about how the barren mountain started to flourish throughout the passage of history.

Zhao Yanzi and Hao Ren both enjoyed listening to the stories about what happened before they were born.

Even Zhao Guang, who normally remained silent, was in a good mood when talking about the people and origins of GreenStone Mountain in this pure and natural environment. He also talked about the lifestyle of people who were in Hao Ren's grandparents' age, and that drew Hao Ren and Zhao Yanzi's interest.

Zhao Yanzi had never experienced things like these, and that was why she was very interested. For Hao Ren, he still had vague memories of the past. As Zhao Guang kept talking, he felt more and more nostalgic.

Halfway through the meal, Zhao Yanzi couldn't help but want to go out and look around. Zhao Hongyu didn't stop her. She borrowed an umbrella and asked Hao Ren to accompany Zhao Yanzi.

Hence, both of them rushed out of the small yard surrounded by the fences and went to the nearby vegetable farm for an "adventure".

There was very little rain, and Zhao Yanzi was unwilling to hold the umbrella. She ran forward like a bird who just got released from its cage.

She rolled up her pants and went inside the muddy cornfields with her sandals. Hao Ren wore sneakers and couldn't get down there. He could only watch her play around crazily and wildly while standing on the ridge,

In Hao Ren's memories, he was often sent to his grandparents' place in the countryside when he was young, and the countryside at that time was fairly similar to the scenery there!

It was a pity that with the expansion of the city, the countryside was replaced by reinforced concrete which later became factories, warehouses, and harbors...

“Hahaha...” Zhao Yanzi’s feet were both covered in mud. She finally finished playing in the fields and returned happily to the ridge that Hao Ren was standing on.

Due to the narrowness of the ridge and the slipperiness of the mud, she was unable to keep her balance and had to hold on to Hao Ren.

Hao Ren grabbed her. Seeing that she found everything here interesting, he realized she actually had some cute sides.

Nowadays, how many kids in the city had really gone to the countryside? They didn’t even get a chance to touch a piece of soil, not to mention to play in the fields!

Tall corn stalks seemed to separate this place from the outside and made a little isolated world.

When one looked up, chilly rainwater hit his or her face. A blue sky could also be seen.

When one looked down, the refreshing odor of soil came to one’s nose. Occasionally, the sound of bugs could also be heard.

“It’s about time to go back,” Hao Ren reminded her.

“No! Let’s go check the front too!” Zhao Yanzi said capriciously as she dragged Hao Ren’s arm and walked forward.

It was rare for her to enjoy the real happiness of the countryside. How could she go back so easily?

They came to a small river after crossing the cornfield. The water of the river was very clear. Although they didn’t see any fish, the cobblestone riverbank was fairly beautiful.

The rain dropped on top of the river and made many ripples; that created an elegant prospect in the rough and unadorned field.

Hao Ren held up the umbrella and let her appreciate the small river. In fact, experiencing the countryside in these mountains and forests not only excited Zhao Yanzi but also delighted Hao Ren.

Zhao Yanzi found a place with shallow water, went inside with her sandals for a bit, then returned to Hao Ren’s side.

Seeing that half of her body was soaked in water, Hao Ren was scared that she would catch a cold and dragged her back. Zhao Yanzi didn’t resist this time.

A small tree branch extended onto the side of the road. A small grasshopper jumped in front of them, a thrown-away worn-out bamboo basket was to their left... every small thing in front of their eyes made Hao Ren more and more nostalgic.

Zhao Yanzi continued to walk and breathe heavily along the way as if she couldn't smell this kind of refreshing air when she returned to the city.

A joyful feeling spread throughout the field.

They returned to the small restaurant and saw Zhao Guang and Zhao Hongyu still eating. Zhao Hongyu didn't blame her daughter when she saw her whole body covered with mud. Instead, she took out a napkin gently and wiped off the rain on her forehead.

"How was it?" Zhao Guang asked Hao Ren. This random question made it sound like he was an elder who was familiar with Hao Ren and had known him for many years.

"Pretty good. It's very rare to experience the feeling of the countryside now," Hao Ren replied.

"Yeah. We'll be returning to the city soon," Zhao Guang nodded and said.

Hao Ren nodded and looked at the green and lush mountains and suddenly felt lost.

Zhao Yanzi cuddled inside her mother's arms and seemed like she was reluctant to leave the nature as well.

Yet, they still had to go back. After half an hour, Zhao Guang drove his black Chevrolet and took them back to the city.

It was still raining. Zhao Yanzi who played wildly for two days, finally couldn't stop the weariness from settling in as she leaned on the seat and fell asleep.

Hao Ren looked towards the monotonous landscape of the highway. Feeling the quiet ambiance in the car, he suddenly realized that he seemed to be a lot closer to Zhao Yanzi's family after the two-day field trip.

Without Zhao Yanzi's unbearable ill temper, Zhao Hongyu and Zhao Guang were indeed very kind to him, and there weren't any problems with them.

"After returning to the city, let's have a family dinner together," Zhao Hongyu who sat in the front seat said suddenly.

"Family dinner?" Hao Ren reorganized his thoughts and asked with confusion.

"Yeah, with Zi's Third Uncle, her Second Uncle's family, and our family," Zhao Hongyu said.

“She completely treats me as a family member...” Hao Ren thought.

However, thinking about meeting up with the relatives other than Zhao Yanzi’s parents, Hao Ren felt pressured and shook his head, “This is not necessary...”

Honestly speaking, as to marrying Zhao Yanzi, he hadn’t had a clear idea yet. If there was a new way of solving the current problem in the future, maybe he wouldn’t become Zhao Yanzi’s “husband”, and Zi won’t have to marry him unwillingly.

Certainly, another reason was that Hao Ren knew Zi’s Third Uncle didn’t like him. Therefore, he didn’t want to go to their family dinner.

“That’s fine, then we’ll bring you back to your school,” Zhao Hongyu said. She didn’t have any intention of pushing Hao Ren.

“Does Zhao Yanzi’s father have two siblings?” Hao Ren asked.

“Yes, you saw Zi’s Third Uncle last time. He isn’t married and has been single. Zi’s Second Uncle is doing business overseas, but some of his family members stayed behind in East Ocean City, and we still meet quite often,” Zhao Hongyu explained.

Zhao Guang didn’t participate in these conversations. Instead, he focused on driving.

Hao Ren felt like their lifestyle wasn’t any different compared to ordinary people, but they were probably wealthier than normal. “Zhao Yanzi’s Second Uncle probably has a bigger business than her dad’s.” He thought.

And as of Zi’s Third Uncle, he looked malicious, his personality wasn’t that great, and his temperament didn’t feel like that of a successful person. He probably didn’t have a stable job. “No wonder he is still single and didn’t get married.” He wondered.

As if she guessed what Hao Ren was thinking, Zhao Hongyu said, “Zi’s Third Uncle is very diligent in cultivating. He doesn’t care about secular matters and never had any thoughts of having a family nor a career. Zi’s Third Uncle may look ordinary, but he has the highest cultivation level out of all three brothers.”

“Oh? How does he compare to Su Han?” Hao Ren asked randomly. He remembered that Zhao Hongyu once said that in their circle, Su Han already belonged to the top tier.

Zhao Hongyu smiled. “Two Su Han can’t even beat Zi’s Third Uncle.”

Her reply slightly shocked Hao Ren. Two Elder Lu couldn’t beat Su Han, and two Su Han couldn’t beat Third Uncle... According to Zhao Hongyu’s statement, Su Han was a Heavenly level master who was one step away from entering the Soaring Realm. Then the actual strength of this Third Uncle...

“As for a person like me who is still a newbie struggling with the beginner’s cultivation technique, Zi’s Third Uncle can pinch a hundred of me to death with a single finger...”

Hao Ren’s forehead was covered with a layer of cold sweat.

“Her Third Uncle has a bias against you. But don’t worry, he isn’t the type of person who kills for no reason,” Zhao Hongyu smiled and said.

“This Third Uncle loves Zi very much. No matter what, I am nominally Zi’s “fiancé”. In this period of time, if I did anything against “the normals of a husband”, I probably will die very miserably...”

Another layer of cold sweat suddenly covered Hao Ren’s forehead.

Dragon King’s Son-In-Law Chapter 30 -

: Failure of an Opportunity

Translator: Noodletown Translated Editor: Noodletown Translated

Zhao Guang dropped Hao Ren off at the gate of the dorm and left.

Zhao Yanzi was still asleep, and Hao Ren didn’t want to wake her up. He said good-bye to Mr. and Mrs. Zhao and thanked them for the weekend.

Zhao Hongyu had gotten more and more satisfied with their future son-in-law. She felt that he was considerate, smart, and even more pleasing than Zhao Yanzi. She already secretly treated him as her son.

Hao Ren returned to his dorm room and saw no one was in there; he guessed that they probably went to the internet cafe. It was because the school regulations stated that first and second-year students couldn’t bring their computers to the dorm, and the school wouldn’t connect internet for lower years’ dorms. Therefore, internet cafes were the most visited places by lower-year students.

While they were out, Hao Ren finished the assignments that had been accumulating for a week. He didn’t bother to do the complicated ones as he had planned to borrow someone’s and copy their assignment.

Near dinner time, the other three guys were still not back. In fact, Zhao Jiayi and the others believed that Hao Ren went home already and would only come back to the dorm around seven or eight o’clock on Sunday night. They wouldn’t have guessed that Hao Ren went to spend some time with his “fiancée” this weekend.

Hao Ren recalled the weekend that he spent at GreenStone Mountain. It was probably the most substantial and meaningful weekend he has had in a while.

Hao Ren took out his cell phone and found the picture of Zhao Yanzi pouting in anger.

He uploaded the picture from the computer in the hotel to his cell phone.

Her shiny eyes were like black pearls, her nose was delicate, her mouth was as small as a cherry, and her eyelashes were naturally curly. With the background of green forest and gray stone stairs, this girl seemed like she had potential as a fashion model.

If Zhao Jiayi and the others didn't see Zhao Yanzi in person, they would think that Hao Ren had downloaded a beauty's picture from somewhere on the internet and set it as his cell phone's wallpaper.

Hao Ren thought about it and still didn't dare to use the picture as the wallpaper on his cell phone.

"Although she is just a little girl, she will become a super beautiful lady after three years. Anyway, the fifteen-year-old Zhao Yanzi is probably already a super pretty girl with that kind of appearance. She is probably really popular at her school too."

"Uh, what am I thinking about? Am I jealous..." Hao Ren suddenly realized.

Zhao Jiayi and others finally came back noisily around seven o'clock in the evening. They were caught by surprise when they saw Hao Ren in the room.

"How come you came back so early today?" Zhao Jiayi asked.

They totally thought Hao Ren went back home, and Hao Ren certainly didn't mention that he went on a trip with Zhao Yanzi's family. If they knew that he went out with the little girl's family, they would definitely doubt his relationship with the little girl.

"Tomorrow is the Athletic Game. Ren, you got to work hard and try not to come in at the last place," Zhou Liren patted Hao Ren's shoulder and said encouragingly.

"Your expectations of me are so 'high!'" A drop of cold sweat appeared on Hao Ren's forehead as he thought.

"It's great that we don't have any classes for the whole day tomorrow!" Speaking of the Athletic Games, Cao Ronghua who usually had a calm personality seemed to be excited as well.

They chitchatted about which class' beauty would be there and looked everywhere for a telescope. They didn't have any hope towards Hao Ren's 1500-meter race. If he wasn't their roommate, they probably wouldn't even care.

From their perspective, Hao Ren was a "last-minute resort kind of guy". He would be doing great if he didn't get the last place. After all, there weren't any great athletes in

their major. Most of the people were ordinary students. Occasionally, there were a few people who were talented, but those talents were mainly in regards to academics.

They talked about tomorrow's Athletic Games excitedly. Hao Ren ignored them and went to the balcony for some fresh air.

The rain was already gone, and the moon that was in the sky was bright.

Hao Ren recited the Spirit Concentration Scroll silently twice. He felt refreshed, as all the negative energy around him seemed to have disappeared.

He tried to recall the ancient tree from the Daoist temple in GreenStone Mountain and the stone monument attentively. He always felt that there were some inspirations that he couldn't grasp on to no matter what.

Even now, Hao Ren still couldn't forget the comfortable feeling of the rich wood essence entering his body. He also couldn't comprehend the weak suction that happened when the energy in his body went towards the trunk of the tree.

"Water element..."

Hao Ren suddenly thought of what Su Han said when she grabbed his arm.

"Is it possible that the Spirit Concentration Scroll utilizes the water elements that originates from heaven and earth?" An idea came to Hao Ren's mind.

"If desire shall conceal the true self, the true self will manifest itself even more. If desire shall weaken the true self, the true self will strengthen itself even more. If desire shall abandon the true self, the true self will prosper even more. If desire shall deprive the true self, the true self will give even more. This is known as the enlightened nature that is subtle yet profound. Gentleness overcomes strength, and the meek overcomes the strong..."

The scripts on the stone monument appeared in front of Hao Ren's eyes again.

Hao Ren felt his heart pounding, and the barrier that stopped him from advancing to the second level of the Spirit Concentration Scroll was about to be broken.

"As a matter of fact, Zhao Guang asked me to go to that Daoist temple not only to accompany Zhao Yanzi but also to test how much I could comprehend and understand."

Hao Ren frowned and tried his best to look for the sensation of "water".

However, the more stubborn he was, the harder it was for him to comprehend it.

He took a deep breath and slowly recited the Spirit Concentration Scroll to calm down his mind.

“Water is Yin and wood is Yang; affinity and counter can complement each other; combining toughness with tenderness so they can have mutual control and support... Hao Ren thought about the ancient tree and suddenly had some profound inspirations.

The seed that the ancient tree left inside Hao Ren’s body that contained pure wood essence abruptly sprouted. In the meantime, the water element in the air formed into a few tiny water streams and poured into Hao Ren’s body.

Hao Ren felt his whole body was extremely comfortable, and the body that was originally “transparent” became a clear container and took in all the nature’s energy from heaven and earth.

He knew that he was about to break through the first level of the Spirit Concentration Scroll and achieve the second level! It was the inspiration that the ancient tree brought him. In terms of that stone monument, it talked about the ways of managing and controlling water, and it matched the essence of the third level of Spirit Concentration Scroll.

The mist that was originally spreading in the air gradually formed into nine vague whirling streams of water and entered into Hao Ren’s nine crucial acupoints around his body.

After entering Hao Ren’s body, the thick streams tried to find their own positions and began to settle down.

“What are you doing outside, Ren?” Zhao Jiayi yelled from inside the room.

Hao Ren was suddenly shocked and the nine water streams that were filling Hao Ren’s body immediately vanished.

Zhao Jiayi walked to the balcony and patted Hao Ren’s shoulder, “What are you thinking out there? You have a race to attend tomorrow! Go to bed early!”

He dragged Hao Ren back inside.

At the same time, the ancient tree that brought Hao Ren his seed of inspiration completely vanished and Hao Ren couldn’t find any trace of wood essence nor control the abundant water energy inside his body. His body was like a container that leaked from the bottom, and all the accumulated “water” was gone.

Nature’s energy around Hao Ren’s body once again returned back to chaos as it wasn’t divided into the five elements anymore.

Hao Ren understood that this failure wasted a great opportunity to advance to the second level of the Spirit Concentration Scroll. Additionally, he didn't know when his next breakthrough will be.

Even though he was disappointed, he didn't want to blame it on Zhao Jiayi. After all, Zhao Jiayi saw him standing outside for too long and asked him to take a break for his own good.

"Sigh, I better find a quiet place without disruption for cultivation," Hao Ren climbed up to his upper berth and thought in annoyance.