

EMPEROR 401

Chapter 401 Troublemaker

"In any case, I'm planning to return to that place when I reach the Seventh Stage to see if I could enter those mysterious spaces," Davis spoke as he elaborated his thoughts.

Indeed, he had certainly planned to visit the Third Layer again upon entering the Seventh Stage in any one of the cultivation systems. This way, he could find the secrets of Fallen Heaven or come in contact with that mysterious entity who is like an invisible ticking time bomb strapped behind his back.

Coming in contact with the former will result in an increase of his power while coming in contact with the latter would result in death, in the worst-case scenario.

"Ahh, we understand." Logan nodded his head, "We will accompany you at the time."

"Sure, but don't blame me if disaster strikes us in that mysterious space. It's not like we're touring around for sightseeing..."

Logan shut his mouth. He really wanted to explore the outer space in the Third Layer as he really liked adventures but his son had indirectly told him not to go since it might result in his death.

He sighed but then spoke to Claire, "What do you think?"

Claire came back to herself after hearing Davis's explanation, so she promptly nodded her head, "It's better if we listen to his words."

Logan and Claire looked at each other in a knowing light and spoke at the same time, "After all, he doesn't mean to harm us..."

Davis wasn't amused as he understood that they were taking a jab at him for his actions at that time, which almost made them battle to the death.

Although he felt slightly guilty, it remained that the only way to bring an end to that matter was to make things clear and move to the next stage.

His lips curled as he replied with a sneer, "You two weren't straightforward with your feelings, what else can I do other than forcefully making you two stick to each other again?"

"You two even made your children deeply worried and distressed because of this matter, do you two feel no shame?"

Logan and Claire looked away as they indeed had no words refute that fact.

Claire turned red from embarrassment but she then spoke, "You shouldn't have done that but instead talked to us..."

Davis had an exasperated expression on his face, "If soft methods worked, things wouldn't have developed to that point!"

Both Logan and Claire went silent, making the surrounding people who heard their argument turn cold.

Their son, the crown prince was actually the perpetrator? But they did nothing to him? The Crown Prince is that strong?

Such thoughts swirled around their head, and they made a silent note in their minds to not leak this information.

Davis sighed, "If you two still think I what I did was wrong, then go ahead and punish me. I'm willing to be punished..."

Claire panicked a little, "Davis, I... We didn't mean that. You are our son, how can we see you suffer!?"

Davis smiled on hearing his mother's words. It wasn't like he knew this would happen but was glad that they thought this way.

After all, there was a slight difference in how he had viewed them before learning the truth about his transmigration and after the unverified revelation.

"Enough mother, it's better if you punish me, so there are no hard feelings left between us. After all, I understand that I was the one who caused your heart demon to manifest and take possession of you..." Davis replied as he wholeheartedly thought this way.

In a way, the plan he devised could've gone wrong on so many levels, so to say the least, he was prepared for punishments that could affect his life in turn for their permanent reconciliation.

Claire bit her lips as she felt that she had made her son feel guilty of harming his own parents.

This, in turn, caused her to make a decision.

"Well then, I'll bestow your punishment," Claire spoke as she sat straight, reclining on the cold seat.

Logan turned stunned, so was Clara!

She instantly stepped forward and spoke, "Mother, if you're going to punish elder brother then I request to punish me as well. I was in the know and agreed with elder brother's plan!"

At the same time, Logan sent Claire a Soul Transmission, "Claire, what are you doing? Didn't we choose to forgive our son?"

Claire raised her hand and stopped everyone from reacting while her gaze fell on Clara, "Very well, I will punish you after declaring Davis's punishment."

Logan strongly spoke with a frown revealed by his brows, "You can't do this!"

Claire turned to look at Logan, her eyes were devoid of hate but love.

Logan became stunned but then understood. He nodded his head to her inquisitive gaze, which seemed to ask him that if he trusted her.

Claire's lips curved as it turned into a smile. She looked at Davis and spoke, "Your punishment is to accompany us to the Alstriem Family Territory in the future."

Davis's mouth went slightly agape as he became stunned for a moment.

After a short pause, he smiled, "As you wish, mother."

At that time, when he removed the seal from his mother, she told him to not interfere with her revenge but now, she gave him a punishment to accompany them.

To Davis, it couldn't get any better as he could protect them with his powers, instead of secret tailing them to protect behind their backs like he originally planned.

This wasn't punishment but a restriction. In the future, he would have to travel with them together to bring Claire justice. This also had its pros and cons.

Claire then turned to look at Clara, "As for you, the punishment is to take care of the Royal Castle during our absence."

"Yes..." Clara blinked and then her face turned a little sad.

She had wanted to explore the First Layer sooner but now it looked like she was tasked with house-sitting; to hold down the fort.

"You have to especially take care of that troublemaker Diana, as well as give special care to Edward."

Clara nodded her head in agreement, but inwardly, she really felt that it was a punishment.

Logan laughed as he was satisfied with Claire's decision to 'punish' them.

He turned to look at Davis in an amused light, "Leaving that matter behind, you seemed to be getting ready for another marriage, I assume?"

Davis turned stunned as he saw his father wink, "What!?"

'Marriage? What the hell were they talking about?'

"What are you talking about, father?" He confusedly asked.

Logan's amused expression disappeared but was then replaced with a hint of goodwill, "Davis, you can't turn out to be like me. If you did it, then put an end to that matter by taking a clear decision. You can't hurt Evelynn just like how I inadvertently hurt Claire..."

"Wait, wait, wait! What did I do for you to even think like this?" Davis still confusedly spoke.

Logan turned confused as he blinked. His son who told him to take responsibility for his past mistakes denies responsibility now?

He didn't have a son like that...

He looked at Claire with a confused look on his face.

Claire on noticing Logan's expression, glanced at Davis to ask, "Davis, didn't you bring a woman named Mo Mingzhi into the Royal Castle?"

Davis narrowed his eyes and delivered, "Yes..."

At the same time, it suddenly dawned on him.

Claire blinked but then continued, "When the castle maids you assigned asked her about her identity, she seemed to reply that she is your woman with a proud expression on her face."

Davis's face twitched.

So that's what had happened.

Chapter 402 Overprotective

"Just like when your Uncle Viktor brought back Meng Ying, the rumors about you bringing a mortal woman to the Royal Castle spread like wildfire in the past hour, so you tell me what exactly is going on in this place..." Claire smiled as she shook her head.

Davis felt a headache. He was not bothered about explaining this to his parents but how should he explain this to Evelyn? He imagined that there was already a slight amount of distrust starting to form in her when he revealed his secrets to her but now, on top of that, there was another problem that he would have to explain.

He suddenly felt like tearing apart Mo Mingzhi to pieces but he hastily calmed himself down.

He had expected something like this would happen but didn't think it would be so soon, not even an hour had passed but Mo Mingzhi had caused trouble for him.

He sent Logan and Claire a Soul Transmission, "That woman was just a kid when I took care of her in my previous life but now, I don't know how, but it seems like she became obsessed with me during the course of the passing years..."

Logan and Claire suddenly understood but the latter's eyes flashed, "So, she is someone you took care of in your previous life... No wonder you had a soft spot for her, bringing her to this place for her to cultivate, am I correct?"

Davis paused but then smiled, "Mother's assessment is quite accurate. Clara can prove my words to be true as she was with me the whole time."

"Oh, you finally revealed your past life to her?"

"Yes." Davis deeply smiled, his gaze slightly profound. The lie he had told them would turn out to be true if his conjectures were right.

Clara then verified his words to be true in a short while. Of course, they used Soul Transmission for conversation, so the Throne Hall was relatively silent.

When Claire understood everything, she spoke, "Then she is spreading false information which affects my son in an immoral manner."

With a slight pause, she added, "This calls for a trial..."

Davis shook his head, "Don't, just leave her be... She'll eventually learn cultivation and leave this place when she recognizes that I pay no attention to her."

"Are you sure? Even though she is a mortal, she dared to say that she is your woman even though it is not the truth. Regardless of what motives she may have, it still remains that she chose to sacrifice her virtue to you on the surface, so she must have some determination to see through her schemes until the end."

Davis replied, "Maybe... But still, leave her alone for a few years and we'll see what happens then..."

Claire nodded her head in agreement, "If that's what you want then mother will no longer pay heed to this matter."

But rather than truly agreeing with his opinion, she felt that as if her son was rather protective of that woman.

'Maybe even a little overprotective...' Her eyes flashed when she recalled why Davis had killed that mortal called General Wang Ke from Clara just a while ago.

"In any case, you better explain this to Evelynn. You wouldn't want a repeat of our mistake, right?"  
Claire giggled as she placed her finger over her upper lips

Davis wryly shook his head and left, his steps couldn't be heard as he floated away.

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Half an hour had passed from the time Davis exposed his secret to Evelynn. He walked back and returned to his room, but didn't find his wife in the room.

He instantly panicked and sent out his Soul Sense, making him relaxed.

'So, she's there...'

Davis made his way above to the top floor and entered the artificial park that he had created with the help of numerous artisans.

On the same bench he sat frequently, he saw Evelynn sitting there, watching the blue skies and clouds with a calm and serene gaze.

He wasn't sure if he should approach her now but felt that he should act natural lest that it accidentally brings even more suspicious of his real identity.

Just when he wanted to infer her situation by seeing the Karma Threads connecting them, she turned to look at him.

With a sigh, he abandoned his thought and walked towards the bench as he sat by her side.

Evelynn moved her hand towards him, intertwining her fingers with his fingers.

Davis felt surprised but his eyes were calm.

Evelynn bit her lips, her expression radiating a complex feeling that would melt one's heart, wanting to protect this frail soul.

"I'm sorry, I just needed to time to think about your words..."

Davis nodded in a serene manner, "What did you think?"

A short while passed but then, Evelynn wryly chuckled, "I thought you weren't my Davis anymore..."

Davis held her hands tight as he gazed at her.

"I thought you were someone else..." Evelynn bit her lips as moved her eyes, "But I realized that I was thinking too much into this matter."

"What made you think that I am still Davis then..." He asked, a little apprehensive and doubtful.

She held his hand, and this was a good sign which meant that she had recognized him as her husband, Davis.

But how did she arrive at that conclusion? Did she realize something or did she stop thinking altogether?

"Is there even any need to?" Evelynn asked him back with a smile.

Davis didn't reply but was inwardly depressed since it seemed like she stopped thinking about his true identity and gave up.

"Why do I have to think when I can just ask our mother of your story. As for the veracity of your words, I can simply ask Clara to verify if it is the truth!"

Davis widened his eyes. So she didn't stop thinking but faced it with a smarter approach to this matter.

Davis inwardly laughed at himself. So he was the one who you emotional over this matter, even forgetting that it could be solved this way.

'Truly, I'm an idiot... I should've just called them over and discussed with all three of them but that would leak all secrets of mine which is more dangerous.'

Maybe his mind subconsciously excluded them from his calculations?

He lifted up his hand that was connected with hers and looked at her confusingly.

Then if she was waiting for them to confirm the facts for her, why did she grab his hands?

"I personally wanted to believe in you, no matter the cost."

Davis's heart shook, "What if I did not turn out to be Davis..."

With a smile on her face, she replied, "I said I wanted to believe in you no matter the cost. If I turned out to be wrong, then I will simply kill myself..."

Davis leaned in and embraced her in a hug, "Evelynn..."

Evelynn felt her eyes cloud from the tears that were threatening to spill out from her eyes. Illusory beams of light permeated her vision, reflecting the skies.

"Do you know how miserable I felt when I couldn't say that you were undoubtedly my Davis."

Tears fell from her eyes and stained his shoulders.

"My heart felt so heavy..."

Davis caressed the back of her head, however, she sniffed as she suddenly moved back.

\*Pahh!~\*

With a wronged expression on her face, Evelynn gave Davis a light slap before hugging him again.

Davis was flabbergasted as he opened his mouth wide in astonishment.

"Never make me doubt you again!"

Tightly holding his neck, she felt like she would strangle him to death, never letting him go again.

She tightly held his neck as if she would strangle him to death.

"Hmm..." After a silent pause, Davis just hummed with her in agreement.

Chapter 403 Evelynns Worry

Davis softly kissed the side of her face, her cheek and separated from her, "Then until you verify this matter, I will not sexually approach you. After all, I don't want you to kill yourself from a misunderstanding."

'Heh, that would turn out to be a joke!' Davis inwardly mocked himself.

Evelynn wiped away her tears and jokingly asked, "You mean to say that it's okay for me to kill myself if you are not Davis?"

Davis shamelessly smirked, "Of course, didn't I already tell you that I can't have you fall into another man's embrace."

Evelynn's eyes flashed as she laughed.

"What's so funny?" Davis turned speechless.

Was this a laughing matter? He had just indirectly told her to die if he was not Davis. He became temporarily confused.

"This statement just made me believe that you're absolutely my husband. Only he would be this selfish and greedy towards me..."

Stunned, Davis laughed together with her as he saw her come back to be herself once again.

'That's right, I am not only greedy but also selfish...'

However, as if mocking himself, he held his thought, 'Ridiculous right? Nevertheless, let's make her doubt me again before this reconciliation gets over!'

After all, there was another matter to confess.

Seeing that it was the right time, Davis spoke, "Also, didn't I say that I was taking care of a kid when I was Tian Long."

Evelynn stopped her laugh in a few seconds and then nodded her head.

"I brought her back but she seems to be claiming that she is my woman. Don't believe her! She is lying. I didn't do anything to her either..."

Evelynn's expression changed but she narrowed her eyes and pouted her lips when she heard the latter part of his sentence.

That made her suspicious enough...

"Why are you looking at me like that?" Davis extended his hands as he tried to explain himself, "Clara was with me the whole time, you can also verify this matter by asking her."

Evelynn closed her eyes and took a deep breath. She opened her eyes and looked at him in an annoyed manner while her expression seemed to say, 'Just when I said don't make me doubt you ever again.'

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In Clara's room.

Clara's room was neatly kept, however, it was normal as it could get, just like any other royal's room. There was no uniqueness to it, other than the big mirror which was at the corner of the room.

If it weren't for it, her whole family would've thought Clara had no womanly thoughts.

"Of course, Mo Mingzhi is lying but she did seem to be bent on being my brother's woman."

Clara said while elegantly relaxing on the chair, her golden-like hair lustrously fell over her bosoms.

There were two figures beside her, seemingly listening to her speak as they asked questions.

These two were none other than Davis and Evelynn.

Evelynn heaved a sigh of relief and brushed it off as a matter of another woman being fixated on her husband. There were already two of them as far as she knew, Princess Shirley and Ellia. As for the others, they might as well not exist in her eyes as a threat.

Davis had already given his word that he won't take another woman as his woman as long as she didn't give permission, so she wasn't worried by these kinds of women anymore but still couldn't keep herself from doubting his words.

After all, she had experienced the deed with Davis and she knew how tempting it was for him to see her naked body.

If he were to see another naked woman, wouldn't he fall just like that?

Davis's eyes twitched in annoyance.

After he mentioned about Mo Mingzhi to Evelynn, she straightaway grasped his arms and went to Clara to verify about this matter.

She didn't ask about the truth of his identity first but wanted to know whether if he had a deep relationship with Mo Mingzhi.

To this, he could only sigh exasperatedly.

Priorities were priorities...

"Clara, your brother says that he possesses memories of his previous life, is that true?"

Clara briefly paused wondering why her brother would reveal his past life to more people but then nodded her head in understanding, "It is indeed true. My very own eyes confirmed it and brother also seemed to know a lot about the Third Layer which further proved the fact that he has his previous life's memories."

Evelynn turned jubilant as she glanced at Davis with the corner of her eyes but then turned to look at Clara again, "Did he have a woman in his previous life?"

"I asked the same question to my brother once in the Third Layer and he said no, to which my eyes perceived it as the truth."

"Oh..." Evelynn nodded her head a little as she moved back but inwardly she was on cloud nine.

Even though her husband had a previous life, he was without a woman! This made her feel happy even though she should be feeling pity that he didn't have a proper previous life.

Davis's expression twitched again. He thought that she would be deeply investigating his identity from all angles, even cross-checking facts but instead she seemed to be interested in his personal life.

To this, he didn't know whether if he should laugh or cry.

But then, Evelynn did really cross-check facts by asking him questions while having Clara verify the facts for her.

An hour later, she got to know all she wanted to know and confirmed that he was really her husband and not some entity who had possessed her husband.

With this, she heaved a sigh of relief. The things she feared didn't come to pass on, or she really didn't know what she would've done.

Evelynn also understood his worries and no longer went to meet Claire for knowing his past.

There were some things even they didn't know, and even to Clara, she made sure that she didn't ask about those questions or she would've caused inconvenience to her husband.

Like the matter about his non-existent master, or the harmless lie he told that he regained his previous life's memories but later turned out to be true after they went to the Third Layer.

For the latter fact, he had already told her that he needed Clara's special power to verify the truth,

But even without that, she confirmed all the facts that she needed to confirm and was glad that Davis turned out to be himself, and not some mysterious entity.

She patted her bosom twice and swung beside to look at Davis in a curious light as if trying to gain more secrets out of him.

Davis just extended his hand towards her forehead and flicked his finger.

"Ouch!~" Evelyn held her forehead as she felt pain.

She instantly realized that she had really placed him on a spot with her actions and questions because he had never hurt her before.

"This is for that slap you gave me on the rooftop." Davis chuckled.

Evelyn just inwardly sighed but pouted, putting an act of grievance before him.

Clara looked at the two flirting with each other, wondering how far these two would go... Maybe they would strip their clothes and do the deed right here if she weren't present.

Such a thought crossed by her mind giving her the chills and trauma she experienced in her childhood when she remembered her parents do the same.

"Get out!"

Davis and Evelyn froze before obediently scrambling out of the room.

Chapter 404 Mo Mingzhi

In a certain room within the Royal Castle of the Loret Empire.

There was a woman with shoulder-length black hair stretching her waist, her body bending while displaying the flexibility of her bones.

She exercised for a while, sweating a lot in the process before dropping her slightly plump butt on the bed, taking deep breaths as her breasts heaved.

With a few amounts of deep breaths taken, her heaving finally stopped but her breaths were still heavy yet serene.

This woman was none other than Mo Mingzhi, who was led into the Royal Castle by Davis and brought into a room by a few castle maids on behalf of the former's command.

Having nothing to do, she slightly browsed her surroundings before deciding to exercise, and upon doing so, discovered the pleasant changes in her body, caused by the so-called heaven and earth energy.

Mo Mingzhi's lips slightly curved as she thought back to the dumbfounded expressions of the maids when she said that she was Davis Loret's woman.

She didn't know who exactly Davis was in the Royal Castle initially but from the talkative nature of the maids, she managed to garner some information.

'Crown Prince of the Loret Empire?' Mo Mingzhi rasped her left arm with her right index finger as she held her arms below her breasts.

She had already managed to garner the situation in the royal family with her tactful questions. Her initial conclusion graded this royal family as an amiable one.

'How on earth...' Mo Mingzhi slightly paused as she realized that it was no longer earth but a vast cultivation world.

She did not correct her sentence but continued, '... did Tian Long manage to change his face, no, his entire body and pose as Davis Loret? This doesn't make sense...'

Although she more or less believed that Davis was Tian Long, there weren't many logical pieces of evidence backing this fact.

As an investigator, she felt ashamed of herself for relying on what her heart told rather than her brain.

'Could it be that he transmigrated and possessed the original Davis Loret as mentioned in those silly ReadFreeWebNovels?' Her eyes mocked herself while she was unaware that she was close to the truth.

Her expression suddenly turned solemn.

'There is some truth in those ReadFreeWebNovels. For example, the cultivation world...'

However, what was the idea behind those cultivation novels. It was none other than ancient Chinese History. She had no inkling if the history of Chinese Gods had to do anything with this world.

However, she knew that there was no Heavenly Emperor and the likes from the questions she posed to do Davis during their travel.

'In any case, I should protect the secret of his real identity.' She closed her eyes and nodded her head.

Feeling thirsty, she opened her eyes and turned to look at the refreshments and food that were placed on the table.

She stood up and walked towards the table. Once she stood in front of the table, she smelled the appetizing fragrance, making her stomach growl in hunger.

She patted her lean midriff which was not covered by her yoga clothes. Smiling lightly, she took the vase towards her right and poured the contents into a silver cup.

She took the cup towards her face and drank, her face brightening and her body felt like it was rejuvenating from fatigue.

"As expected of water filled with heaven and earth energy!" Mo Mingzhi smiled and placed the cup on the table.

With this final exercise of hers, she had completed her rehabilitation and withstood the addiction of drugs, leaving it in the dust.

While traveling to this Royal Castle for half a month, Davis had already taught her the basics of cultivation.

On how she should first learn to meditate without allowing any thoughts to disturb her.

On how she should grasp the underlying meaning in the cultivation manuals before, and not only focus on the instructions of the circulation method.

He had also imparted some of his cultivation experience to her, even reminding her to be diligent and not make haste in cultivation.

Of course, all this was because of her constant pestering. She was not at all afraid that he would leave her behind as long as she doesn't go overboard.

In this half a month, she had grasped how to make her mind feel empty but was only able to maintain for a minute or so, but she knew that was enough to find the meridians in her body to circulate energy.

In fact, the heaven and earth energy present here played a huge role in her part to make her be able to sense her meridians which were located throughout her body.

All that was left for her to explore her circulation route to the center and find her dantian which was located near the abdomen.

At least, that was what she heard from Davis's own mouth.

'He is so caring towards me...' Mo Mingzhi's heart fluttered, ignoring how he had rejected her advances while treating her with some distance.

The smile that was on her face gradually receded before she thought, 'I should try practicing cultivation in a few days. As for him...'

Mo Mingzhi pondered over this matter, actually, pondered over a lot.

'He is a prince, not only a prince but a crown prince with a lot of perks. He should be able to marry a lot of women without restrictions since he is next in line to the throne.'

'Even if he is not, he should still be and to marry some amount of women... I've already decided to become his mistress, and he would more or less acceptable if I keep being stubborn, even reluctantly if I insist till my death.'

'The only obstacle then would be his wife. I don't know her attitude towards me... Will she accept or...'

'... Silence me?'

Mo Mingzhi narrowed her eyes, 'It's possible.'

She had numerous scenarios pop up in her head as if she were detective trying to rebuild the crime scene.

A hazy womanly silhouette whom she recognized as Davis's wife either made it difficult for her to live in the Royal Castle or planned to kill her every time she had the chance.

Mo Mingzhi facepalmed herself.

'Why am I thinking in this direction? However, if his wife really tried to kill me...'

She pursed her lips, '...Then what should I do?'

'Stay low for the time being until I become strong? No!'

'That is too long! By that time, more women might surround him. I, at the least, can't be far away in terms of his lovers.'

Mo Mingzhi's expression suddenly froze.

A few seconds of silence passed before a wry smile lit up her face, 'Without realizing, I've already degraded myself...'

'Maybe such is the fate of a woman who is bent on a married man.'

Mo Mingzhi curled her lips as she mocked herself again, no longer feeling sure of her future.

She stood and stretched again, removing the demotivating thoughts from her head.

She silently cheered for herself, 'Mingzhi, you're older than you think you are! It's time you make him see you as a woman! Have some confidence!'

At this time, she heard a knock on her door, prompting her to look at the source.

Various thoughts popped up in her mind as she turned cautious, her eyes flashed wanting to see who it was behind the door but couldn't.

After a silent pause, she moved towards the door and opened it, only to see a woman who wore a white lab coat.

"Nice to meet you fellow earthling, my name is Meng Ying."

Mo Mingzhi's face became blank as she turned stunned, "Huh?"

Chapter 405 Preparation For Breakthrough Into The Sixth Stage

Half a year passed.

During this time, the improvements made by the Loret Family members in cultivation made were indeed massive, massive enough to make them the sole rulers of the Grand Sea Continent if Princess Isabella didn't exist.

From Edward to Logan, almost all of them achieved breakthroughs in their cultivations, even the branch family.

Logan And Claire both broke through the Sixth Stage with a few months of an interval between them.

Claire broke through as soon as Davis came back from the Third Layer, and Logan followed after her in a few months.

There imminent and close breakthroughs were only possible this soon, because, Davis had given them the 10 Low-Level Spirit Stone Vein Fragments to them to cultivate.

He gave 5 of them each, and that paved the way for them to breakthrough by absorbing the condensed energy inside them, after all, Low-Level Spirit Stone Vein Fragments were used by Sixth Stage Essence Gathering Experts to cultivate and the energy it contained were hundred times higher than its counterpart spirit stone.

Furthermore, after reaching the Law Manifestation Stage, Davis gave them the souvenir he brought from clearing the Earth Dragon Immortal Inheritance.

He gave them a single Sky Grade Pill to each of them and it easily enabled their Body Tempering Cultivation to skyrocket in a few months.

The two pills he provided them were gentle in energy, capable of easily inducing an expert to the Gold Stage as long as they were in the Silver Stage.

And as expected, Logan broke through to the Gold Stage in Body Tempering Cultivation a month after his breakthrough to the Law Manifestation Stage in Essence Gathering Cultivation.

He shot straight past from Mid-Level Silver Stage to the Low-Level Gold Stage with the help of the pill which Davis gifted.

As for Claire, after her breakthrough to the Law Manifestation Stage, she broke through to the Silver Stage with her own hard work and then consumed the pill which made her Silver Stage Cultivation reach the Peak-Level.

Unfortunately, even though she used a High-Level Sky Grade Pill to breakthrough, due to certain limits, she couldn't break through to the Gold Stage.

However, there were no side effects due to the potency of the pill but their foundations were unstable for a short period of time after their breakthrough. Nevertheless, they managed to consolidate it after a few days.

In the Empress's Quarters, Claire's room.

"We'll leave shortly to the First Layer in a month or so, are you ready, Davis?" Claire spoke in a gentle voice as she sat side by side with her husband, Logan, beside a neatly kept table.

"I'm not ready yet, I have yet to break through to the Martial Ascension Stage and the Law Seed Stage," Davis replied with a shrug.

He looked handsome, attractive but not elegant. He is 182 centimeters tall, almost near to 6 feet. He was 2 inches taller than his father.

Hearing Davis's words, Claire furrowed her brows in worry, "Davis, you're just 21 years old... Are you sure that you can cultivate further? Isn't this a little bit hasty?"

"Mother, I already waited a lot and completely consolidated my cultivation at the Peak-Level for the respective cultivation systems other than my Soul Forging Cultivation. I was worried something would happen while you all were cultivating but you two and the others managed to breakthrough without any deviations."

Claire and Logan couldn't help but be moved. They were about to speak when Davis simplified his words.

"I was waiting for you all to break through properly so that's why I had temporarily delayed myself from breaking through."

Claire pondered but her face still bore hesitation, "But Davis, for your Soul Forging Cultivation, you have your master to guide you but what about the other two cultivation systems? Even if you leave out the Essence Gathering Cultivation System, you're just quickly breaking through in the Body Tempering Cultivation System, I'm just worried."

Davis shook his head, "Mother, I've absorbed the Blood Essence of the Earth Dragon Immortal, so it shouldn't be a problem for me to break through to the Eighth Stage in Body Tempering Cultivation, so much less needs to be said about the Sixth Stage of Body Tempering Cultivation which I'm about to take a step towards."

Logan nodded his head in agreement, different from the worried Claire, "Claire, you're worrying too much. Just like Clara, he too managed to clear the Emperor Grade Trial, and besides, he knows what he's doing, probably even more than us."

A wry smile appeared on his face, "Compared to him, our knowledge and worldview are less, and that much is obvious."

Davis just smiled at hearing his father's comment, not bothering to show humility.

Claire brought her finger above wanting to retort but gently sighed. After a slight pause, she spoke, "Alright, just don't overdo it..."

"I won't." Davis replied and said, "Then within a month of my breakthrough, we'll leave, is that fine?"

Logan and Claire nodded in agreement.

Davis expressed, "That's settled then, and you two also settle the matters of the Empire. Don't give much trouble to Clara since she would be the one here, taking care of the Empire."

He then left his mother's room and a few minutes later, arrived in front of the cultivation quarters built for the mainline of the royal family.

There, he saw Clara and Diana stand outside as they stared at one of the rooms that were present there.

"Brother!"

Once they spotted Davis, they both shouted at the same time.

Davis smiled as he asked, "What's going on?"

"Edward was on the verge of a breakthrough, so he came here to break through to the Revolving Core Stage." Diana responded but she then spoke, "Brother, as you said, I was able to better control illusions once I reached the Revolving Core Stage!"

"Is that so? Good..." He replied and turned to look at the door they were looking at, because, he just sensed fluctuations created from a breakthrough.

'Looks like Edward broke through without any mishap...' Davis smiled as he inwardly mused.

His little brother was just 13 years old but managed to break through to the Revolving Core Stage.

Diana who was just 14 years old, slightly pouted as she sensed the fluctuations, "He managed to catch up to me..."

"It's your fault for slacking off in the beginning..." Clara coldly spoke.

Diana turned a little sad as she grasped her brother's arms, "Brother, elder sister is bullying me!"

Davis caringly laughed, "Clara, be kind to your little siblings."

"I'm just stating the facts." Clara avoided his gaze and replied.

Diana let her tongue out as she provoked Clara, her eyes displaying her playfulness.

"Hahaha..." Davis laughed at their antics.

These two little sisters of his were absolutely stunning, even looked divine, especially Clara, as her outlines and curves were even more refined than in the past.

As his two sisters poked fun at each other, Edward came out in a few minutes.

When the door opened, a figure slowly floated outwards but then lost balance as it fell the moment it discovered a figure.

"Brother, you're here..." Edward turned a little embarrassed as he stood up from the ground.

He thought of mightily posing while poking fun at Diana but didn't think that his elder brother would be present here as well.

"Congratulations on your breakthrough, Edward." Davis gently spoke as he looked at his little brother's features, concluding that he resembled his teenage self more if it weren't for his black hair and purple eyes.

Chapter 406 Leaving With Some Guidance

"Hehe, if it weren't for the spirit stones you brought back brother, it would have taken a lot more time..." Edward embarrassedly spoke.

Davis could recognize that it was not humility but the truth. He knew that their talents were not as great as Shirley or Ellia to be breaking through to the Third Stage in their 13's.

"Haha, come here, I want to talk to you all about something." Davis waved his hands, wanting them to stand in a circle including him.

Edward approached and stood beside the three of them.

"I presume you three already know about the matter about mother, father, Me and my wife heading to the First Layer soon?"

Clare, Diana, and Edward nodded their heads, but instantly, worried expressions depicted their faces.

"Within a month or two, we decided that we will leave and it has been confirmed."

Diana and Edward were stunned but Clara had an expression on her face which seemed to tell that she had already expected it.

"What? No! I am also coming!" Edward spoke as he shook his head.

Meanwhile, the mature Diana simply sighed, "I understand, we'll take care of ourselves until you all return."

"Good." Davis responded to Diana and then turned to look at Edward, "I'm sorry little brother, the First Layer is dangerous and we are not strong enough to protect you all the time."

Edward had his eyes moist, "But... but, I reached the Revolving Core Stage!"

Davis shook his head, "Revolving Core Stage Cultivators are like everywhere. They are simply like the First Stage Cultivators here, a normal sight..."

Edward trembled but then a moment later, he opened his mouth, "I understand, I'll continue to improve myself and hone my skills here."

Davis nodded in satisfaction as he patted Edward's head, "Good!"

He then turned to Clara, "We are leaving, so that would mean everything within the Empire would fall into your control, are you sure you can handle it?"

"Although not as good as our father, I've also learned how to govern the Empire as an Emperor in these few months..." Clara replied with calm, "I'll also reach the Law Seed Stage within a few months, maybe around the time you all leave."

Looking at her confident expression, Davis became relaxed.

A Fifth Stage Cultivator at the helm was surely assuring their hearts and minds, especially when it was their own family member.

"It's fine, as the smart sister here, I will take care of these two!" Diana cheerfully boasted by the side.

Davis laughed at her looked at her. Though he was happy, his second little sister was awfully positive, wasn't she?

'Wait!?' Davis pupils dilated.

A moment later, he solemnly looked at Diana and spoke, "Diana, you aren't planning to secretly meet with Wayn Nolan while we're away, are you?"

Diana's expression froze. She stuttered, "Wha!... What are you talking about, brother?"

'As expected...' Davis gave off a sigh and spoke, "Are you going to disappoint father and mother?"

Diana went tongue-tied but then her eyes started to turn moist, "I'm not..."

Davis proceeded to hold her little hands, "Look, Diana, if you like Wayn, it's fine. Be bold and openly accept that you like him."

Diana nodded her head after a short moment of pause. She couldn't help but hold her elder brother's hand.

"That's right, first be truthful to your own heart. Then, after you have grown up and confirmed your emotions for him, you can be with him. I will support you. Until then, you are only allowed to see him with some royal guards following behind your back."

Diana wiped her tears that were about to fall from her eyes as she nodded her head, "I will listen to brother's words."

But then, she slightly hesitated and spoke, "But brother, he... He is cool... and handsome. I'm worried that some other woman will take him away... from me."

Davis simply asked, "Does he love you?"

Diana nodded her head hesitantly, "I think so..."

"Then have you confessed your feelings to him?"

Diana shook her head.

'So they haven't even confirmed their love for each other and it is just in the process of budding, huh?' Davis mused and spoke, "Diana, you're a princess. If he can't even wait and chooses another woman over you, is there a need to continue having feelings for him anymore?"

"If he can't even wholeheartedly chase you, is there even a need to think about him anymore?"

Diana went stunned. She shook her head but then, she realized that her brother has a point.

But what if Wayn really left her for another woman and stayed loyal afterward just because she couldn't get him first? Wouldn't that be really sad?

She explained her doubts to her elder brother Davis.

Davis went tongue-tied as he had no answer to this question. Indeed, if that really happened, then wouldn't he be the one who separated them in the name of being proper?

This was a paradoxical question and there was no right answer to love.

Unlike Clara, he could see that Diana had a high EQ. She even knew to a certain degree on how one's emotions flowed.

Thinking for a bit, he sighed but then he spoke, "I truly have no answer to your question."

Diana became worried.

"That's why it was said that all is fair in love and war. Stealing, deception, scheming, manipulating, plundering, betraying and many more, but all that is still despicable and something your brother absolutely detests." He said and stood up.

"In any case, all I'm saying is to be sure of what you're doing before you leap into the unknown, do you understand? Davis asked but then said, "It's fine if you don't understand now, but I know you will eventually."

As expected, Diana nodded her head in confusion.

He took a few steps towards one of the doors and said, "I'm entering closed-door cultivation for a few days. If anyone asks, tell them not to disturb me during this time."

Opening the door, he entered inside and closed it.

Diana stood as she had a complex expression on her face. In truth, she didn't consider much and enjoyed Wayn's company a lot. His smile was heartwarming and she knew that he was righteous enough to stop her from doing any form of mischiefs.

But what her brother said also made her realize that what she imagined wouldn't come to be true unless she entirely stopped meeting him

'In any case, my elder brother has indirectly approved of him. All I got to do is make sure that he stays loyal to me by visiting him with guards protecting me. As long as I do this, it can't be considered that I have disappointed my parents, right?' Diana inwardly formed a plan for her future. She liked him and wouldn't give up easily!

Clara looked at her little sister as her eyes flashed, "Diana, don't you dare disappoint brother either. He is always looking out for us."

Diana became meek in front of her strict elder sister but still opened her mouth, "Of course, that goes without saying."

Edward looked at his sister in utter disbelief. There was such a thing happening and he didn't know one bit about it?

He couldn't believe his ears. The conversation that underwent just now undoubtedly meant that his elder sister liked that brat from the Nolan Family known as Wayn.

'So that's where she disappears to when sneaks out of the Royal Castle...' He slowly understood, why at times she disappeared for no reason from the eyes of her guards from time to time.

Chapter 407 Tripartite Alliances Cautionary Measures

Tripartite Alliance Territory, West Territory Gate.

At the west end of the Tripartite Alliance Territory lies the Territory Gate which led to the Alstriem Family Territory.

Numerous figures were moving about to and fro, entering and exiting while the guards deployed guarded the huge transparent gate that stood tall while covering a singular area in a vertical direction, stretching to the skies.

However, the transparent gate was only 1,000 meters in height. As for how far it's wide, it was no more than 100 meters wide, making it look like a vertical rectangular gate.

Not only were there guards at the level of the Fifth Stage, there were even more powerhouses at the Sixth Stage and the Seventh Stage but were in less number.

The people who were traveling were mostly at the Fifth Stage while or above, but the latter was rare.

The transparent gate which had an opaque red outline to it stretched to the skies for about 1,000 meters, its majestic undulations making people subconsciously lower their heads in nervousness.

Besides the transparent gate, the surroundings were covered by thick smog that blocked one's sight and sense, including Soul Sense. The thick smog covered the entirety of the space, from the deep surface till the skies.

If it weren't for the smog, people could freely travel between territories as there wouldn't be anything of much blocking them, like the transparent gate.

The transparent gate didn't block them to be exact but made them be able to travel through territories as it was found later unlike the smog which divided the entire First Layer into 52 territories.

Rumor had it when smog descended from the heavens, quelling the chaos of the First Layer, the territory gate and the other territory gates were suddenly established in a space-shattering event, but there were no credible pieces of evidence since it became a myth after a long passage of time.

As for the veracity and the truth of the myth, maybe the Emperor Grade Powers in the Large Territories might know of it.

A few kilometers away from the transparent gate, there was a town of merchants, a kind of marketplace that existed solely for buying and selling all kinds of goods for convenience and money-making purposes.

People who came from the Alstreim Family Territory try to purchase or sell goods and try to profit from it. It was the same for the merchants looking for a profit in the Tripartite Alliance Territory.

There were all sorts of handymen present there and they engage in a petty and cheap battle of wits and even deceit to gain more wealth.

At the Territory Gate, numerous people traveled to and fro, entering the transparent gate to make it to the other side and vice versa. They pay the toll of a single Mid-Level Spirit Stone to gain the right to make it to the other side.

Everyone knew that this gate was solely owned by the Alstriem Family Territory, and so they made the profits from allowing people to exit and enter their territory.

One Mid-Level Spirit Stone for access... Low-Level Spirit Stones weren't allowed in the transaction since the former had more weight. If one had to pay using Low-Level Spirit Stones, then they would have to pay double the amount.

2,000 Low-Level Spirit Stones.

The collection obtained from holding and possessing these gates itself bore plenty of wealth. It was no doubt if a money tree were to exist, they were none other than these territory gates which could be occupied and supervised.

However, the eyes which were gazing at this location were something only the powerful could cast. If someone dared to raid this place, an Emperor Grade Power would step out to descend judgment.

In this case, it was none other than the Alstreim Family as they were the ones who were in control of this Territory Gate.

Among the numerous people who exited the transparent territory gate and walked out to the Tripartite Alliance Territory, there was a middle-aged man.

His appearance was frail but handsome. He looked princely even while looking sick yet the people beside him automatically kept their distance between him as they felt uncomfortable, not at his pale appearance but from the vague undulations he emanated.

He paused for a while before looking in the southern direction. With a single step, he soared towards the air and flew towards the horizon.

After flying for a few kilometers at the speed of a kilometer per second, the middle-aged man glanced at the North and East direction before suddenly bolting off into the southern horizon, leaving a sonic boom behind as his figure disappeared from anyone who had been viewing him at the time.

The speed he had taken off created a resounding boom, his speed reaching the over the range of over 10,000 kilometers per second.

The people who had just been faintly viewing him with curiosity had their eyes bulge in fear and trepidation.

Although they couldn't measure the speed since the person they were observing disappeared from their view in an instant, they could at least guess that it was an expert above the Seventh Stage, or maybe even the Eighth Stage.

They quickly moved their gaze away once they realized this as they didn't want to get involved with trouble. However, some also of their eyes flashed in a knowing light.

After all, there had been a ban placed on Eighth Stage Experts from entering the Tripartite Alliance Territory.

In any case, if trouble were to ensue, they knew that they would quickly die just from the resulting onslaught that was not even targeted at them in the first place.

They felt that they should leave this matter to the Tripartite Alliance to take care of but some others didn't and wanted to report.

And as expected, a few minutes later, greedy individuals and opportunists reported this matter to the Tripartite Alliance and by doing so, hoped to get some rewards.

The Tripartite Alliance had no idea that such a being entered and dispatched their remaining Seventh Stage Experts from the headquarters to warn the intruder to exit peacefully.

From the information they managed to gather, they still didn't know if the intruder was a Seventh Stage Expert or Eighth Stage Expert, so they had chosen to settle this peacefully if it was the latter.

If it was the former, then that would only mean a battle would ensue, unless if the intruder possessed a powerful background. In that case, they would let them go, whether scot-free or through compensation, it depended upon the background of the intruder.

Such cases were common in the past and intruders from the common background would be killed without mercy unless they pledged their lives to the Tripartite Alliance by having a Soul Seal placed on them.

But the Tripartite Alliance three branches were simultaneously startled.

They thought that there had been only a single intruder but they received reports indicating that there were two other intruders from the other two territory gates, which belonged to the Towering Cloud Hall and Falling Snow Sect.

Realizing that the situation was slipping out of their hands, the three branches in the Tripartite Alliance Headquarters quickly contacted their true headquarters in their own territories to dispatch Eighth Stage Experts.

Surprisingly, their request was not heeded and they were denied even if they reported that the situation was dire. Left with no choice, they were forced to search for those three intruders just by themselves.

However, in the upcoming days, no matter how they searched, they couldn't find the relevant individuals which would finally anger the Tripartite Alliance Headquarters, making them dispatch numerous people to suspicious and important places.

They also sent a Grand Elder level character to take care of the latent problem which was none other than the Cloud Spring Mercenaries.

Chapter 408 Three Major Powers

Two days later.

At the southern end of the Tripartite Alliance Territory. Unlike the other three directions, there existed no territory gate in this direction.

There were only numerous mountains and hills, completely surrounded by desert, which has given off a threatening feeling of desolation and loneliness. This was also the reason why this region was named as the Desolate Plains.

The sky was shining blue but the atmosphere was so hot from the scorching sands that even smoke filled the surroundings. The resulting heat produced vapor as it evaporated above.

Suddenly, a figure appeared above in an instant. He stood there and gazed at the mountains in front of him before waiting for a while.

Time passed.

That 'while' he waited lasted for another day before two other figures appeared beside him.

"You two took long enough..." Spoke the man who first arrived, his countenance slightly pale while the scorching hot land did nothing to him when it could make Seventh Stage Experts uncomfortable.

From the two other figures who appeared, a middle-aged man spoke, "We already know that the difference in each direction to this place is vastly different, so why are you trying to take a jab at us for no reason, Dian Alstreim?"

He looked strong, tall and rough on the edges but was still attractive enough to be looked twice by women, especially if they know about his status.

"Spare your smart words, Xanbas. Your Martial Overlord cultivation is as useless as ever." Dian Alstreim indifferently spoke, as if doing this was just a chore for him.

The last figure who was silent all this time was a middle-aged lady with a white veil. She spoke nothing but stepped forward and moved ahead towards the mountains.

Suddenly, her figure disappeared as a ripple spread out as if distorting the space before the waves vanished.

Dina Alstreim and Xanbas, both of their pupils shook as they had her figure etched on to their souls. She was so elegant and gorgeous as the snow that they would give almost 90 percent of their lives to earn her favor.

Xanbas snorted as he followed her trail while he too disappeared into the mountains.

Dina Alstreim had a calm expression on his face as if nothing could faze him. He had waited here for a whole day and during that time, he did absolutely nothing.

The level of calmness he achieved had already peaked for his current cultivation. In other words, his willpower was undoubtedly tempered to a great level.

Even so, he still couldn't take his thoughts off that woman.

He took a step forward while showing no emotions and reached the place where they disappeared.

His mouth stretching in a sigh while his figure vanished into the mountains.

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In a palace-like structure, an empty hall.

Seated below the middle of a chandelier that was above is a middle-aged man.

He sat crossed legged and seemed to be cultivating with a small object in his hands. It looked like an ingredient, kind of like fruit.

The small object glowed as it shrank at a faster rate, its efficacy coursing towards the man's glabella. The middle-aged man's eyes quivered while he let out a groan as if experiencing pleasure.

A few minutes passed like this and three figures appeared in the hall but stayed silent as they did nothing. They only patiently waited, not daring disturb the person who was cultivating.

Soon, the small object in the person's palm turned into ashes while the remains fell over the surface, scattering all over the place.

The person opened his eyes as he lightly laughed, "For all of you three to be here at the same time in your soul bodies, it looks like you three are as cautious as ever."

The middle-aged woman replied first, "We expect to discuss our contract in a place of fairness, so it is not too much to ask your esteemed Soul Emperor to exit your grand abode."

His eyes glinted as his figure shook, "Very well."

The next moment, his body disappeared from the place as he appeared outside. The soul bodies conjured by the three also turned into three specks of light before returning to their fleshy bodies.

The man who was called Soul Emperor casually cast his glance over to the three of them before his gaze paused on the middle-aged lady, "How about our individual deal, Tirea Snow? Have you considered my proposal?"

"Let's talk about that after we have discussed the main issue." Tirea Snow calmly spoke. Her white robes fluttered and snow glinted over the scorching mountains below. Her name, as well as her temperament, were one with snow.

The Soul Emperor laughed as he shook his head, "Thousand years ago, you all three managed to discover my presence in this Desolate Plains due to a single careless mistake of mine. Now, forgot about that, I have called you all three here for the matter of fulfilling our Blood Soul Contract."

"So, esteemed Soul Emperor, did you finally recover from your injuries?" Xanbas asked outright without even bothering to mince his words.

He was straightforward, aggressive but wise.

The man who was repeatedly called Soul Emperor shook his head, "Not quite..."

Tirea Snow and Xanbas were both startled. Their expressions changed.

"Then why have you called us three?" Dina Alstreim spoke with a casual tone but inwardly he was just as angry at the other two.

The Soul Emperor laughed again, "Why are you all so impatient? I did recover my cultivation but my injuries are still present..."

All three of them turned startled.

Recovered my cultivation?

Suddenly, their expressions changed as all three of them shuddered momentarily. They could feel the soul force and pressure the Soul Emperor emanated.

Their eyes narrowed while they shouted in their hearts, 'High-Level Emperor Soul Stage!!!'

Trepidation filled their hearts and suddenly, the Soul Emperor appeared a little closer to them before moving in the direction of Tirea Snow.

Tirea Snow tried to move but the invisible shackles that bound her mentality made her indecisive and unable to move in a split second.

The next moment, the Soul Emperor arrived in front of her and spoke with a lustful expression on his face, "Tirea Snow, you are a woman who is worthy to bear my descendants. I want you!"

His words echoed like honey but she knew that it was a poison.

'A Soul Technique!' Tirea Snow harrumphed and revolved her cultivation to the extreme.

The technique broke as she came out of her reverie, only to see her being protected by the other two men from her neighboring territories.

Her heart didn't seem to waver but instead, she knew they all three were in this together.

The three of them were none other than the unofficial leaders of the Alstreim Family, Towering Cloud Hall, and Falling Snow Sect.

Tirea Snow is none other than the ruling ancestor of the Falling Snow Sect. She had once been the Sect Leader but gave her position to her successor as she retired to watch over the Falling Snow Sect behind the scenes.

The same went for Dina Alstreim and Xanbas who were respectively the ancestors from the Alstreim Family and Towering Cloud Hall.

Thousand years ago, the three powers conquered the Tripartite Alliance Territory which was previously called the Desolate Territory.

At that time, these three ancestors managed to discover an anomaly coming from the southern end of the Desolate Territory.

Feeling confused, disturbed and curious, they decided to check out the anomaly which could threaten their rule and found that an injured Soul Emperor had been hiding in this place.

A battle instantly took place but the Soul Emperor seemed to be at the Mid-Level Emperor Soul Stage which greatly suppressed them even though the Soul Emperor was supposed to be injured.

Fighting to a deadlock, the two parties came to an agreement as they settled their fight with a Blood Soul Contract.

#### Chapter 409 Dark Speck Of Light

The content of the Blood Soul Contract was for the three of them to keep silent about the existence of the injured Soul Emperor and not tell another soul about it, even going to the lengths of banning Eighth Stage Experts from entering the Tripartite Alliance Territory.

As for the Soul Emperor, he promised them riches equaling that of a lone Emperor Grade Territory and a way to break into the King Soul Stage!

Clouded by greed, selfishness, and an urge to improve themselves to an even higher level, they were tempted and softened to sign the Blood Soul Contract.

Besides, they didn't know who this Soul Emperor was neither did they know about the other Soul Emperors in detail. They didn't even know about the events happening in the Middle and Large Territories, much less the Soul Emperors who were elusive and secretive to the extreme.

Soul Emperors were highly sought out by normal cultivators because of the numerous techniques the former knew. They were not only revered but also feared!

The three of them could not offend an unknown Soul Emperor for no reason, so they were even more tempted to sign the Blood Soul Contract.

After a day of contemplation, they gave in to their greed and signed the Blood Soul Contract.

But now...

Tirea Snow gritted her small teeth as she moved back a little, keeping a certain distance from the other two as her eyes flashed with a cautious light.

Since the power gap had been widened, between them and the Soul Emperor, it was unknown if the other two would suddenly backstab her and offer her up to the Soul Emperor.

It didn't take much but her actions certainly did create a crevice in their shallow unity, created by the situation they faced at hand.

She hurriedly sent them a Soul Transmission, "You two, now that the Soul Emperor is at High-Level Emperor Soul Stage, the Blood Soul Contract is rendered useless!"

Dina Alstreim and Xanbas similarly sent a reply.

"We have no choice but to battle again to injure him as we did so a thousand years ago!"

"Although the chances of us winning are extremely low, it wouldn't be easy for him to take us three down any time soon, especially when he is still injured!"

The Blood Soul Contract they signed was at High-Level Emperor Grade which could affect Ninth Stage Experts but only to the level of Low and Mid. Although it had a chance of affecting High-Level Ninth Stage Expert, it was only a probability, not an assurance.

As for High-Level and Peak-Level, only a Peak-Level Emperor Grade Blood Soul Contract could affect, and that too for the latter, it only had a chance depending upon its effectiveness.

Tirea Snow frowned and her brows were narrowed. Her beautiful yet distressed appearance caused the Soul Emperor to let out a laugh.

"Beauty Snow, it's fine to talk through Soul Transmission in front of others but in front, a higher stage Soul Cultivator, especially an Emperor Soul Cultivator, don't you realize that it's meaningless?"

"Blood Soul Contract rendered useless? Battle again to injure him? If we work together, he can't beat us? Hahaha," The Soul Emperor mockingly laughed as he pointed at the three of them.

The three of them were solemn and didn't lose themselves in rage due to his provocation. Instead, their hearts were filled with a sense of trepidation and desperation.

Even though Xanbas said it like that, he perfectly understood the gap dividing the levels of the Ninth Stage were enormous, even many times wider than the gap separating the First Stage to the Peak of the Eighth Stage.

Normally, a Low-Level Ninth Stage Cultivator would find it extremely difficult and even impossible to face a Mid-Level Ninth Stage Cultivator.

Thousand years ago, the only reason they were able to fight the Soul Emperor to a deadlock was due to the fact that he was injured and they combined their powers, otherwise, it was unknown if their three territories would've been unanimously occupied by this rogue Soul Emperor.

"You're taking this too far. As an esteemed Soul Emperor, you're not following your words of promise."

"Even if the Blood Soul Contract is not in effect, as a Soul Emperor, your esteemed self should still follow your own words, otherwise, your reputation would fall to the gutter."

"Even if we're bound to fight and die, or escape, you certainly wouldn't since we have our own ways to inform the entire 52 Territories about your existence in an instant!"

Dina Alstreim, Xanbas, and Tirea Snow spoke respectively as they placed their cards on the table.

To their words, the Soul Emperor laughed again.

"Hahaha, the Blood Soul Contract is indeed rendered useless, but that is only to my case. As for you three, do you think that you will be able to handle the backlash from disobeying the conditions I imposed on you three in the Blood Soul Contract?"

This point, they knew but ignored it because it would become a disadvantage to them if they specifically mentioned this.

They instinctively knew that they would meet their deaths, or even a worse future if they didn't play their cards right.

Both the groups stood their ground, floating in the skies as they stared at each other. Undulations spread, threatening to destroy the surrounding mountains.

The Soul Emperor also frowned inwardly, thinking if they would really sacrifice their lives to inform the world about his existence.

'That would be a problem...' He silently mused but then smiled as his gaze fell on Tirea Snow, "Beauty Snow if you were to become my woman, I promise to not to harm the three of you or your territories."

"Over my dead body!" Tirea Snow coldly spoke, enunciating each of her words as she looked at his languid yet lusty eyes. His countenance was splendid even though he was pale but she refused to be in a relationship with this Soul Emperor who seemed to lust after her.

"Then I have no choice but to..." Just when the Soul Emperor thought of declaring that he would make her his slave, he went quiet.

Lifting up his head, he saw a vague dark light shine upon the land from the skies. The illusory dark light only lasted for an instant before it disappeared.

The dark light was nothing but a speck when seen from their height, but he could somehow feel that it was slowly expanding and growing as if it was a living thing.

A sense of uneasiness enveloped him, especially his heart as he narrowed his eyes.

The other three also noticed the unusualness of a certain point in the sky and their faces also scrunched up in confusion, even an uneasy type of distress filled their souls.

"What is that?" Tirea Snow involuntarily spoke as her heart trembled. She had never seen anything like this nor did the others, seeing that they have no choice of words to reply.

The Soul Emperor turned to look at them with his face no longer jovial but solemn.

He threw a spatial ring to them, "Here, there should be a few methods to help you three break into the King Soul Stage. As for the riches I promised, I would grant them after my injuries have been completely healed."

He snorted in derision, "Consider yourselves lucky!"

The three ancestors of the three major powers were stunned into silence, their minds reeling in confusion.

He turned around and disappeared into the mountains, leaving the three of them muddled. Even as some moments passed, none of them spoke.

It wasn't that they were completely stunned by the Soul Emperor's actions, it was because they didn't what to feel of this spatial ring anymore.

Should they be ecstatic to have gained a way to break through to the King Soul Stage or be worried about the dark speck of light on the ceiling of the sky, threatening to cast them with the unknown?

Watching the reaction of the Soul Emperor, it could be seen that this black speck of light in the sky was no ordinary matter.

The three of them looked at each other before heading to their respective territories to handle the inevitable chaos that would ensue.

## Chapter 410 Poisoning Ruthlessly

Unknown Territory, Unknown City.

In a particular grand residence which hosted a celebration.

Inside the luxurious and lavish Banquet Hall which was wide enough to contain more than 1,000 people at once. Chandeliers hung high, lit with candles on each petal. Numerous tables carried food on top of it, waiting for people to take a sumptuous part in it.

Some of the food was eaten...

However, the people in this residence were coughing blood all over the surface while their skin displayed signs of withering as well as puss seeping out of tumors that formed all over their bodies.

Horrifying screams echoed, bringing despair and hatred into the banquet hall.

The family in this residence was supposed to celebrate their ancestor's birthday, but tragically, events didn't occur according to their plan.

Except for two people who didn't belong to this family, almost all of them who belonged to this family were collapsed while coughing out blood, their vitality waning out.

Only one person other than the two people was able to stay conscious and ignore the effects of the poison.

It was none other than the ancestor of the said family.

The ancestor kneeled while trying to dissipate the effects of the poison but was held down by another power that seemed to have an advantage over him, over his soul to be exact.

"Why!? Who are you!? When have we offended you!?" The ancestor's face contorted in torment as he screamed in grieving throes.

The family he had nurtured painstakingly for over 1,000 years was dead, no, was going to die soon from the deadly poison.

He could see them writhing on the floor, their expressions filled with pain.

He saw one of the women looking at him for help, her lips moving 'save me, save me' but no sound was heard.

Blood kept leaking out from the woman's mouth, her eyes innocent and pure, invoking one's desire to protect.

Suddenly, her body twitched as her face contorted. Her eyes which were pure shot a venomous gaze at the ancestor as if she were cursing him for eternity.

The ancestor who saw it clenched his teeth as he tried to stand up, trying to escape but the astounding pressure of the soul force left him reeling into the abyss.

His crooked eyes turned to look over the two women in front of him, who were solely responsible for the tragedy that occurred here. The gaze in their eyes told him that disaster was imminent for him.

Resentment filled his heart as he spat out, "Bitches!"

A woman in red hair frowned when her brows narrowed. Her eyes looked devilishly charming but her looks were covered behind a veil. Her curves were ample, not big or small.

She held a sword in her hands that radiated a fiery undulations, trying to unveil its majesticness, but seeing that there was no use for it, she kept it inside her spatial ring.

She panned her gaze towards her side and spoke in a confused tone, "Why did we use poison?"

A white-haired woman stood by the side, her gaze cold and serene as if what was happening in front of her didn't seem wrong. It didn't faze her, unlike the red-haired woman who didn't like the sight in front of her, indulging herself in complex feelings.

Her pale lips moved, "It's better if I don't taint my hands with the blood of these scums who pose to be a family when all they do is depraved acts."

An icy smile broke out in her face but was hidden by a veil, "Besides, using poison in a banquet seems to get people to poison themselves, how convenient."

Her gaze suddenly changed, the expression in her face contorted before she turned back and walked towards a grand chair which was designed like a throne.

That was where the ancestor sat, and beside the grand chair was a table.

The white-haired woman stood before the table and cast her gaze over to the medium-sized jade box that was placed on top of the table.

She extended her hand, grasped it with her palms as she opened it.

Blinding light shone before the radiance disappeared.

Sitting in the jade box was a palm-sized triangular-shaped colorless crystal.

Her facial expression contorted again before an icy smile lit up her face, "We got what we came here for..."

"You did this all to get a High-Level Spirit Stone Fragment!?" The ancestor spat out these words with an incredulous expression on his face. His mind was reeling in disbelief.

Although it was an item that he acquired through illegal means like blackmail, stealing it from a rich casanova with a high background, he was willing to exchange it for a high price.

However, he was thorough with his methods. He had gotten the item by forcing the casanova to sell the High-Level Spirit Stone Fragment through auction.

If he could trade this piece of spirit stone fragment for the lives of his entire family, he felt he would've given it without hesitation. However, the reality could be different.

If he wasn't poisoned, maybe he could've relied on a despicable method to turn the tides around by using the lives of his family as a sacrifice.

The white-haired woman panned her gaze towards the ancestor, "Who told you that this is a High-Level Spirit Stone Fragment?"

The white-haired woman suddenly grasped the object in her hands and shook it while imbuing her ice-cold energy.

The palm-sized triangular-shaped crystal visibly contorted before it changed into a white semi-gaseous state, tentacles wringing out as it tried to escape the white-haired woman's grasp.

Its outgrowth did nothing to the one who held it in place. It could be seen that the item possessed no offensive capabilities.

"Hundred Shaped Wistful Cloud..." The white woman smiled as she explained, "Having the ability to change shapes as its name indicates, it rather tries to escape from the moment it is born through the congregation of heaven and earth energy in the atmosphere."

The ancestor went tongue-tied as he absentmindedly uttered, "An ingredient?"

"A King Grade Ingredient indeed, which can also be used to concoct Emperor Grade Treasures."

The ancestor's heart trembled as he temporarily forgot about his own situation in desire. He couldn't help but ask, "What are its uses?"

The white-haired woman smiled and didn't explain its properties but rather the result, "When directly consumed, it can help one breakthrough to Supreme Soul Stage."

The ancestor's heart almost stopped! Greed filled his eyes as he looked at the magnificent ingredient with bloodshot eyes.

He had such a treasure but didn't know about it!?

"Of course, the prerequisite for one is to be at the Sixth Stage in Soul Forging Cultivation; Peak-Level of Mature Soul Stage, just like I am..."

The white-haired woman waved her free hand, making the ancestor experience immense pressure on his soul.

Without being able to circulate energy, he lost control of the flow of energy traversing in his meridians and instantly failed to suppress the poison.

The poison simultaneously erupted!

\*Pui!\*

The ancestor spat a mouthful of blood as he collapsed, his body twitching from immense pain. He tried to escape with his soul body since he had an Elder Soul Stage Cultivation but failed due to the immense pressure cast by the white-haired woman.

His gaze was filled with horror, no longer throwing his greedy eyes over to the Hundred Shaped Wistful Cloud. He simultaneously circulated his Peak-Level Law Dominion Cultivation but failed to curb the poison haunting his body.

Soon, tumors formed and exploded, spreading puss which created more tumors as it kept repeating the cycle.

The red-haired woman looked at this morbid sight, her gaze moving away in disgust and pity.