

Es. Benefits 1041

Chapter 1041: Since You're Already Here, Stay a Bit Longer

At that moment, Ji Qiuyu thought, if she knocked on the door now and took the initiative to enter Lu Chen's room, would it make Lu Chen think she was a frivolous woman?

However, she quickly reconsidered, since she and Lu Chen had already confirmed their relationship as a daoist couple, shouldn't daoist couples be together?

Although she did not have experience with matters between men and women, she had lived long enough to understand them.

Then she thought again, hadn't Lu Chen mentioned that he was practicing some cultivation technique that forbade him from engaging with women lately?

Even if he couldn't be involved with women, there shouldn't be a problem with them just staying together, right? As long as they did not engage in activities between men and women, wouldn't that be okay?

For a moment, Ji Qiuyu was extremely conflicted. As she struggled internally, Lu Chen's voice suddenly came from inside the room.

"Qiuyu, the door is open, come in."

Hearing this, Ji Qiuyu's mind went blank, and a blush instantly appeared on her cheeks.

Following that, Ji Qiuyu pushed open the door and entered Lu Chen's room.

Seeing Ji Qiuyu's shy demeanor, Lu Chen smiled and asked, "Qiuyu, what brings you here so late? Is there something you need?"

At this question, Ji Qiuyu was momentarily at a loss for words.

Seeing Ji Qiuyu standing there dumbfounded, Lu Chen continued, "Could it be that you came to discuss matters of cultivation with me?"

Ji Qiuyu then snapped back to reality and hastily replied, "Yes, I just had a question about cultivation that I wanted to ask you."

To ease the awkwardness, Ji Qiuyu had no choice but to take the cue Lu Chen had given her. She couldn't possibly say that she was here to sleep with him, how awkward would that be?

Lu Chen smiled and said, "Then come over and sit down."

Saying this, Lu Chen took a seat in front of the tea table.

Ji Qiuyu then sat down across from him at the tea table, and Lu Chen asked, "What was your cultivation question?"

Ji Qiuyu quickly responded, "I actually figured it out at the doorway just now, so there's no need to trouble you."

Lu Chen replied, "I see."

At this, Lu Chen picked up the teacup on the table, took a sip of tea, and then looked into Ji Qiuyu's eyes with a smile and asked, "Qiuyu, you wouldn't happen to have come here to sleep with me, would you?"

Facing Lu Chen's direct statement of her inner thoughts, Ji Qiuyu was taken aback, her face turning even redder. She wished she could just find a crack in the ground to crawl into.

However, Ji Qiuyu did not outright deny it but said, "Now that we are already daoist couples, isn't it quite normal for daoist couples to spend the night together, discussing and sharing insights on cultivation?"

Lu Chen smiled and responded, "Naturally."

Ji Qiuyu then looked into Lu Chen's eyes and asked, "Then why didn't you come find me tonight?"

Lu Chen smiled and replied, "Didn't I tell you this afternoon? I have been practicing a special cultivation technique recently and until I make significant progress, I must avoid female company."

"Qiuyu, you are so beautiful, and if we were to stay in the same room at night, I definitely couldn't resist."

"This..."

Hearing Lu Chen's reply, Ji Qiuyu's cheeks flushed deeper with another layer of crimson.

"This... I see."

"Then I... should probably go back."

As she finished speaking, Ji Qiuyu stood up, ready to leave.

But just as she got up and turned to leave, Lu Chen suddenly reached out, grabbed her arm, and didn't let her leave.

"Qiuyu, since you're already here, why not stay a bit longer? There's no need to rush off."

At this point, Lu Chen directly pulled Ji Qiuyu into his arms, and at that moment, Lu Chen, through the puppet, could also feel the touch of Ji Qiuyu's body.

Of course, a puppet body wouldn't possibly react, but Lu Chen's real body instead did react at this time, though his real body was now in the Daxia Imperial Palace in Tianchen World, and Ji Qiuyu couldn't possibly feel that.

After being pulled into Lu Chen's embrace, Ji Qiuyu's entire being became incredibly nervous; this was her first time being so close to a man.

However, after calming down a bit, Ji Qiuyu always felt something was strange.

Lu Chen's body seemed too calm, she didn't even feel his heartbeat, but she thought it was because Lu Chen hid his presence and didn't think much of it.

At this moment, Lu Chen whispered in Ji Qiuyu's ear, "Qiuyu, you coming to me so actively, could it be you want to engage in Dual Cultivation?"

Hearing this, Ji Qiuyu's face grew even hotter. She outwardly didn't harbor such thoughts, but deep down, that might not be the case, she felt like her coming to find Lu Chen was very likely driven by some thoughts of Dual Cultivation.

Ji Qiuyu hurriedly said, "No... not at all, I... I just wanted to discuss some cultivation insights with you."

Seeing Ji Qiuyu so flustered, the corners of Lu Chen's mouth lifted slightly. Ji Qiuyu's appearance had already revealed her inner thoughts, there weren't many women in his harem who were so proactive on the first meeting.

At that time, Lu Chen's hand lightly brushed over Ji Qiuyu's bottom, causing her delicate body to immediately tremble, and she felt her body become very strange.

No! She couldn't continue like this anymore!

Ji Qiuyu felt if she continued being entangled and embraced by Lu Chen like this, she would be driven mad.

Ji Qiuyu quickly twisted her delicate body and then said, "Lu... Lu Chen, I just remembered I still have something."

Lu Chen continued to whisper in Ji Qiuyu's ear, "Qiuyu, you're not trying to run away, are you?"

Seeing her thoughts exposed, Ji Qiuyu hastily said, "No... not at all."

Lu Chen didn't continue to trouble Ji Qiuyu; his current body was just a puppet. Keeping Ji Qiuyu here, he couldn't really do anything to her.

Moreover, being stimulated by Ji Qiuyu's body, his real body was already very uncomfortable at the moment, needing to immediately find a wife to help him.

Lu Chen then released Ji Qiuyu. "Alright then, you go ahead and get busy."

Seeing Lu Chen release her, Ji Qiuyu internally breathed a sigh of relief, but deep down, she felt a tinge of disappointment; if Lu Chen had continued, it wouldn't have been unacceptable.

Ji Qiuyu shook her head, quickly stifling the thoughts deep in her heart, then turned to look back at Lu Chen's handsome face, "Lu... Lu Chen, I'll go back first."

Lu Chen smiled and said, "Hmm, alright."

Then, Ji Qiuyu turned around and left the room.

After Ji Qiuyu left, Lu Chen's attention completely returned to his real body.

At that moment.

Tianchen World, Daxia Imperial Palace.

Lu Chen used Shadow Shifting to arrive in Zhou Youyou's room.

At the time, Zhou Youyou was sitting by the bed, embroidering something, and her sister Zhou Xiaoxiao was also sitting beside her.

Now Zhou Youyou was no longer the playful and cute little girl she once was; she had matured a lot and also exuded the aura of a wife, after all, the children were already so big.

Seeing Zhou Xiaoxiao and Zhou Youyou together, Lu Chen revealed a slight smile.

Just then, the two women suddenly noticed Lu Chen's presence; they quickly got up, "Greetings, Your Majesty."

As soon as Zhou Youyou finished speaking, Lu Chen directly toppled her onto the soft couch, "Youyou, I'll need your help next."

"Ah?"

Zhou Youyou hadn't reacted before she heard a tearing sound.

Chapter 1042: What do you think I want from you?

Lu Chen and his wives already had a profound understanding, especially Mu Zixuan and the Zhou sisters. Whenever Lu Chen entered their room, they could quickly get into the mood without much conversation.

Although both Zhou sisters were mothers, each time they faced Lu Chen, they acted as shy as young girls.

At the moment, Zhou Xiaoxiao was sitting to the side, watching what was happening next to her. Her face was flushed, her heartbeat accelerated, and her consciousness was somewhat blurry.

Despite not being the focus yet, she felt something similar to Zhou Youyou, probably due to a sisterly bond.

At that time, while continuing his actions, Lu Chen said to Zhou Youyou, "Youyou, you're being naughty. Soon there will be fish in your room."

Hearing this, Zhou Youyou blushed even more. "Your Majesty, your concubine... ah..."

Zhou Youyou didn't know what to say, and now she couldn't speak at all. She could only let Lu Chen manipulate her.

After an unknown amount of time, Lu Chen suddenly looked towards Zhou Xiaoxiao. Startled by his sudden gaze, Zhou Xiaoxiao trembled, knowing it was now her turn to fulfill her duties.

Then Zhou Xiaoxiao lay down, but at this time, Lu Chen didn't do anything to her. He had already gotten up and was sizing her up.

Seeing Lu Chen look at her without making a move, Zhou Xiaoxiao became curious, wondering what he was up to.

A moment later, Lu Chen revealed a smile. Before Zhou Xiaoxiao could react, Lu Chen grabbed her jade arm and flipped her body onto Zhou Youyou.

The Zhou sisters were now face-to-face. Their cheeks reddened further. They knew what Lu Chen wanted to do; after all, they had been married to him for many years and knew him well.

Then Lu Chen continued to help the Zhou sisters with their cultivation.

In the following months, Lu Chen manipulated a puppet to maintain an ambiguous relationship with Ji Qiuyu while enjoying his time in the Palace with his wives and concubines.

Occasionally, Lu Chen himself would also spend some time in the Black Dragon City Imperial Palace.

As the days passed, the world seemed to stabilize. The Daxia Dynasty was steadily developing and growing more prosperous, especially since the creation of the Cultivation Academy, which weakened the influence of the major Sect powers on the Cultivators.

Newborn Cultivators, when choosing their paths, no longer thought first of joining these Sect forces but of the Daxia Cultivation Academy.

Now the Cultivators were essentially tied to the Daxia Dynasty. The Sect forces, knowing that Lu Chen was undercutting their foundation, were powerless to stop him.

In the Imperial Palace of Black Dragon City.

Lu Chen was being affectionate with Wu Junwan in the yard when a maid entered, "Your Majesty, Lady Su requests an audience."

Hearing this, Lu Chen paused momentarily. Su Hanyan seldom came looking for him; she was quite fearful of how he might treat her and knew that once caught by him, she wouldn't leave the bed for ten days to a half month.

She was actually seeking him out today?

Lu Chen asked, "Did she mention what it's about?"

The maid replied, "No, she just said she has a matter to discuss with Your Majesty."

Lu Chen then said, "I understand."

As he spoke, his gaze returned to Wu Junwan in his arms, and he smiled, "Junwan, it seems I have to leave for a bit."

Wu Junwan didn't mind at all. She calmly said, "Your Majesty should hurry over."

Lu Chen came to her, and one doesn't have to guess what he wanted. This guy was already in the mood, she thought, sitting in his arms, she could feel his passion—it was just short of him tearing her gown.

Now that Su Hanyan had come looking for him, she had narrowly escaped an ordeal.

Compared to the women at Yancheng Imperial Palace, the women of Black Dragon City Imperial Palace were not so interested in matters between men and women; once or twice a year was enough.

Wu Junwan and the others were more interested in Cultivation, perhaps it was because of Cultivation that their desires had become particularly low.

Of course, if Lu Chen had come to them wanting to start something, they wouldn't have been unwilling.

At this moment, after hearing Wu Junwan's words, Lu Chen whispered in her ear, "Junwan, why do I feel like you can't wait for me to leave?"

Wu Junwan said calmly, "Your Majesty is overthinking it. The Honored Master wouldn't normally come looking for you. Since he made the effort to come by himself, it must mean he has something important. I just don't want Your Majesty to miss out on important matters."

Lu Chen asked, "Is that so?"

Wu Junwan replied, "Yes, that's what I think."

Lu Chen then let go of Wu Junwan. "Alright then, I'll come to find you in a few days."

Upon hearing this, Wu Junwan's brows twitched slightly. A few days?

It was unlikely that Lu Chen would get up from Su Hanyan's side in less than ten days or half a month; he probably wouldn't come in just a few days.

However, Wu Junwan didn't mind, it was good that her Honored Master had bought her some more time; she could use this time to cultivate.

Lu Chen directly used Shadow Shifting to arrive at Su Hanyan's courtyard, where Su Hanyan was sitting in the pavilion, looking somewhat nervous.

She also realized that coming to find Lu Chen on her own was a risky move. She definitely wouldn't be able to return home tonight.

While she was distracted, a familiar voice came, "My lady, what are you thinking about so deeply?"

Su Hanyan suddenly returned to her senses, she looked up at Lu Chen and hurriedly said, "No... I wasn't thinking about anything."

Lu Chen walked straight towards her, speaking as he walked, "You came looking for me, it must be something important, right? Could it be that there are invaders in the Misty World again?"

Su Hanyan replied, "That's not it; I want to ask you for a favor."

Hmm?

Hearing this, Lu Chen paused for a moment, then smiled and asked, "Ask me for a favor? What kind of favor?"

Su Hanyan was about to answer when Lu Chen suddenly came behind her, wrapping his arms around her waist.

Before Su Hanyan could speak, everything went dark before her eyes, and the next moment, the two appeared on the soft couch in Su Hanyan's sleeping chamber.

Feeling the heat coming from behind her, Su Hanyan knew what Lu Chen was about to do again.

Just then, she heard a ripping sound, followed immediately by a feeling of fullness that surged in her heart.

Su Hanyan bit her silver teeth, trying hard not to make a sound, only hearing Lu Chen say from behind, "Asking me for a favor naturally requires some payment, wouldn't you agree, my lady?"

Su Hanyan asked, "What do you want?"

Lu Chen smiled and asked, "What do you think is on you that I would want?"

Su Hanyan fell silent; apart from her body, there really wasn't anything on her that could attract Lu Chen, and her body had long been his, thus it couldn't be used as a bargaining tool.

Su Hanyan said, "I... I don't know."

Lu Chen didn't say it directly; he immediately started moving, watching Su Hanyan's snowy back, Lu Chen felt in peak condition, other matters could wait, first to take care of business at hand.

After who knows how long, with a roar from Lu Chen, he finally stopped and continued speaking, "Actually, it's simple, just serve me willingly for once, and I'll agree to your request."

Su Hanyan said wearily, "You... you haven't even... heard what it is, how can you... agree?"

Lu Chen chuckled, "Even if you don't say it, I roughly guessed what it could be."

Chapter 1043: Don't rush to thank me just yet, you still have things to finish.

Although Lu Chen had already relinquished control over the political affairs of Great Sum, with all matters being handled by Lu Changfeng and the other officials, his grip on the empire remained very firm.

Especially the Brocade Guard, which was still under his command, had expanded its reach. Members of the Brocade Guard were now present within all the major Sects, and Lu Chen was well informed about their movements.

In recent years, the influence of Sects over Cultivators had waned significantly, and the number of talented Disciples they could recruit had become fewer and fewer, to the point where many Sects struggled to recruit any Disciples at all.

Even though Su Hanyan was the Emperor's woman, the plight of the Misty Immortal Sect wasn't much better. The first choice of Cultivators in their cultivation path was now the Cultivation Academies, followed only then by the major Sects' influence.

While the Misty Immortal Sect was still able to recruit some Disciples, the quality of those they attracted declined year by year, which greatly worried the Elders.

If this trend continued, it was feared the Misty Immortal Sect would fall into even greater decline.

However, the upper echelons of the Misty Immortal Sect were not entirely foolish; if they could not recruit talented Disciples, they might as well follow the trend. Since Great Sum was establishing Cultivation Academies, the Misty Immortal Sect could do the same and masquerade as a school to recruit students.

Although it was a good idea, nobody knew what the Sum Emperor's stance on this was. If he discovered that the Misty Immortal Sect was covertly setting up a Cultivation Academy, he might become very angry.

As it stood, only the Daxia Imperial Court had the right to establish Cultivation Academies. Sect powers could only watch helplessly. If they had been allowed to establish their own Academies, they would have done so long ago.

The reason Su Hanyan had come to see Lu Chen today was quite straightforward—she wanted to secure a spot from Lu Chen to establish a Cultivation Academy.

Although Lu Chen was no longer deeply involved with the bureaucratic affairs of the Daxia Imperial Court, he was still the Emperor and held great authority. With just a word from Lu Chen, the Misty Immortal Sect could establish a Cultivation Academy in Black Dragon City.

Su Hanyan looked at Lu Chen with seductive eyes, curious to know if he really understood why she had come to see him today.

As Su Hanyan watched him with skepticism, Lu Chen continued, "The Misty Immortal Sect is not forbidden from establishing a Cultivation Academy. However, any Academy they establish must accept the unified management of the Daxia Dynasty's Education Ministry."

Hearing this, Su Hanyan was taken aback. It turned out Lu Chen really knew why she was here.

But...

If the Misty Immortal Sect's Academy accepted the unified management of the Daxia Dynasty's Education Ministry, wouldn't that mean that the Misty Immortal Sect was cultivating Cultivators for the Daxia Dynasty?

Would the Cultivation Academy established by the Misty Immortal Sect still truly be their own?

Lu Chen continued, "Accepting the management of the Daxia Dynasty's Education Ministry does not mean that the Misty Immortal Sect has to follow all commands from the Imperial Court. It simply means if the Daxia Imperial Court stipulates that the Misty Immortal Sect's Academy can only recruit a certain number of students each year, then that is the number they must adhere to."

"Of course, the specific management of the Misty Immortal Sect's Academy would be left to itself; the Daxia Imperial Court will not intervene."

Su Hanyan instantly grasped Lu Chen's meaning. He intended to limit the number of students the Sects' Cultivation Academies could recruit. This was understandable since if the Sects' Academies were to recruit students excessively, they might affect the public Cultivation Academies run by the Daxia Dynasty.

Without delay, Su Hanyan responded, "Thank you, Your Majesty, for your generosity."

Lu Chen smiled and said, "Don't be too quick to thank me. There's still something you haven't done."

Su Hanyan was startled, remembering what Lu Chen had mentioned earlier—she would have to attend to him actively to secure this opportunity.

But...

She had hardly ever actively served Lu Chen; it had always been Lu Chen taking the initiative, which left her unsure about what to do.

Lu Chen then said, "If you don't know what to do, you can let your two Disciples come and teach you."

Su Hanyan quickly said, "No... there's no need for that."

Su Hanyan certainly didn't want her two direct disciples to witness her in such a state, so she decided to fumble her way through this herself.

Lu Chen withdrew himself and lay on the soft couch. Seeing this scene, Su Hanyan's cheeks flushed even redder with embarrassment.

Su Hanyan then slowly got up, knelt on the soft couch, and slightly bent forward.

She remembered what she had seen Wu Junwan do for Lu Chen, so she planned to learn from Wu Junwan.

Seeing Su Hanyan, this fairy, willing to take the initiative to do such things, Lu Chen's passion flared even more, and Su Hanyan couldn't help but let out a small "Mmm."

Su Hanyan cursed in her heart, "This bastard!"

Despite feeling incredibly humiliated, Su Hanyan had to continue for the sake of the Misty Immortal Sect's Cultivation Academy. It was a long while before the first phase finally ended.

Su Hanyan lay by the edge of the soft couch, retching incessantly. Lu Chen then asked, "Even if you set up the Cultivation Academy, you can't necessarily make those students join the Misty Immortal Sect. After all, in terms of cultivation resources, the combined sects might not compare to the resources of the Daxia Dynasty."

The Daxia Dynasty controlled the planting of Spirit Rice; just this alone was enough to make cultivators willing to toil for the Daxia Dynasty.

After vomiting a few more times, Su Hanyan wiped her mouth and then said, "We have to at least try. If we continue like this, there will hardly be anyone left in the Misty Immortal Sect in the future."

Nowadays, many cultivators from the Misty Immortal Sect had left the Sect to join the Daxia Dynasty, and there was nothing the Sect could do to stop it. They certainly couldn't forbid these cultivators from joining the Daxia Dynasty.

The Daxia Dynasty had laws in place stating that the major sects could not restrict the freedom of cultivators. If cultivators wanted to leave the Sect, the various major sects could not stop them, as doing so would be opposing the Daxia Imperial Court.

The talent drain was increasing, and without any replenishment, in the long run, the Misty Immortal Sect would probably be left with only a few retirees. This was not what Su Hanyan wanted to see.

Although she was Lu Chen's woman and her stance was largely on Lu Chen's side, she did not want the Misty Immortal Sect to become fully subservient to the Daxia Imperial Court. She still wished to maintain some degree of autonomy for the Misty Immortal Sect.

Su Hanyan did not want to be like Lu Chen's other women, who stayed in the Imperial Palace every day, entirely at Lu Chen's mercy.

At this moment, Su Hanyan slowly approached Lu Chen, preparing for intimate contact with him, but just then, Lu Chen stopped her.

A sly smile crossed his face, "Let's change the location."

Hearing this, Su Hanyan instantly understood what Lu Chen meant, and her face flushed with embarrassed anger.

Su Hanyan immediately said, "Don't even think about it."

Lu Chen said, "When my wives and concubines serve me, they do it this way. Since you are offering yourself to serve me, naturally all methods must be employed."

With that, Lu Chen reached out, pinching Su Hanyan's cherry lips while looking into her eyes.

"We've already tried here; it wouldn't hurt to try other places as well."

"You!"

Speechless with rage, Su Hanyan thought, this guy actually wants to...

Although she was a cultivator and had undergone fasting, having expelled all impurities from her body and thus could technically comply, the thought of having to serve him in such a manner filled Su Hanyan with an overwhelming sense of humiliation.

After all, she was also a cultivator.

How could she bow to such exploitation?

Chapter 1044: After All, You Are Already Fasting

Although Su Hanyan verbally stated her reluctance, for the sake of the Cultivation Academy of the Misty Immortal Sect, she eventually chose to compromise.

Thankfully, with the help of Rejuvenating Skill, she didn't experience too much discomfort. However, psychologically, she found it difficult to accept, feeling that she had completely become this guy's container.

If others found out that her three places had been...

She couldn't imagine how people would view her.

Damn it, this guy really doesn't treat her like a human being.

At this moment, Lu Chen was lying on the bed, looking up at Su Hanyan's face filled with shame and anger, her expression full of humiliation and unwillingness.

Seeing Lu Chen staring at her with a playful smile, Su Hanyan snorted coldly and continued her actions.

Lu Chen asked, "How does it feel?"

Su Hanyan coldly replied, "I feel nothing."

Lu Chen persisted, "Really?"

Su Hanyan snorted again, not continuing to respond to Lu Chen's question.

At this point, Lu Chen put his hands behind his head, resting on them, and while looking at Su Hanyan's face, he said, "How about you come here from now on, and we always do this?"

Su Hanyan immediately responded, "In your dreams!"

Lu Chen chuckled, "I was just saying."

"Since you've already practiced fasting and haven't eaten, it's all the same everywhere."

At this, Lu Chen suddenly remembered something and continued, "Oh, no, that's wrong. You just ate something, and quite a bit at that."

Hearing this, Su Hanyan glared fiercely at Lu Chen again.

"If you keep saying these things, I'm leaving!"

By now, Su Hanyan was getting visibly angry; this jerk was getting an advantage and still acting smug. He should just lie quietly; what good does humiliating her do?

Seeing Su Hanyan getting somewhat angry, Lu Chen said with a smile, "Alright then, you can leave."

Although Lu Chen said this, Su Hanyan couldn't really leave. If she did leave like this, Lu Chen definitely wouldn't approve her qualifications to establish a Cultivation Academy for the Misty Immortal Sect.

Su Hanyan clenched her teeth and had no choice but to continue serving Lu Chen. Just then, Lu Chen took his hands from under his head and slowly sat up, facing Su Hanyan directly. Before Su Hanyan could react, Lu Chen pinned her beneath him.

For a moment, Su Hanyan felt a bit panicked; after all, she had been proactive earlier, and everything had been under her control.

"What... what are you trying to do?"

Lu Chen didn't answer Su Hanyan's question and instead increased the intensity. "It's rare that Fairy Su is willing to serve me like this. I can't let down Fairy Su's goodwill."

"You... Ah!"

Meanwhile.

In the Ziyang World.

Above Black Dragon City, on a Flying Boat.

Bai Wenbin stood on the deck of the Flying Boat with a troubled expression, listening to his subordinate's report; he felt like the woman he loved might have already been taken by someone else.

Bai Wenbin glanced at the subordinate in front of him, then continued to ask, "You mean Qiuyu goes to Lu Chen's room every night on her own to discuss matters of cultivation?"

The subordinate replied, "Yes, commander. That's what the spies in the City Lord's Mansion reported."

Bai Wenbin glowered, then continued to ask, "How long has this been going on?"

His subordinate answered, "About a month or so."

At that moment, spiritual energy emanated from Bai Wenbin, "This damned Loose Cultivator, daring to vie for the same woman as me!"

A man and a woman alone in a room, to claim they were merely discussing cultivation, he didn't believe it one bit.

He feared they had already become intimate. The thought that he had pursued Ji Qiuyu for so long, and she had been indifferent to him, while Lu Chen, the Loose Cultivator who had only recently arrived in Black Moon City, had already become involved with Ji Qiuyu, filled Bai Wenbin with immense anger.

Bai Wenbin clenched his fists tightly and then turned to look at his deputy, "The person I asked you to invite, have you invited him?"

The deputy hurriedly replied, "Reporting to the leader, the person has agreed, and I have already given Lu Chen's portrait to him. He said we should hear news of his death within three days."

Hearing this, a sinister smile appeared on Bai Wenbin's face, "Dare to compete with me for a woman, then you have only death to face."

At that moment, Bai Wenbin suddenly remembered something and continued to say, "Right, did you tell him not to harm Ji Qiuyu?"

"Rest assured, leader. I spoke to him, and he said that when they make their move, they will lure her away."

After all, Ji Qiuyu was appointed by the Zixiao Dynasty to guard Black Moon City. Although the internal strife within the Zixiao Dynasty was severe and it had been a long time since anyone was sent to Black Moon City, who could say for certain that one day the Zixiao Dynasty wouldn't remember Ji Qiuyu and send a strong force over again.

This was also why Bai Wenbin had never dared to coerce Ji Qiuyu. Although his strength was inferior to hers, he still had many strong backers. If he truly wanted to possess Ji Qiuyu, it wouldn't be too difficult.

He mainly feared the Zixiao Dynasty and the Ji Family.

Unexpectedly, Ji Qiuyu, whom he had not even touched or held hands with, was already frequently in the same room with Lu Chen.

The more Bai Wenbin thought about it, the angrier he became, eager to see Lu Chen's decapitation soon.

At that moment, Bai Wenbin glanced at Black Moon City beneath the Flying Boat and then said to the soldier controlling the boat, "Let's go."

Hearing Bai Wenbin's command, the soldier immediately maneuvered the Flying Boat away from Black Moon City.

At this moment inside the City Lord's Mansion of Black Moon City, Ji Qiuyu looked up at the departing Flying Boat and sighed in relief. She was now afraid that Bai Wenbin would cause trouble for Lu Chen.

Although she had been very careful, since it had happened, there was always a possibility Bai Wenbin would find out. She didn't know whether Bai Wenbin knew about her involvement with Lu Chen, but it was always right to be cautious.

Now that Bai Wenbin had left, she felt temporarily relieved.

In the quiet of the night,

Ji Qiuyu wandered around her room, somewhat conflicted about whether to go to Lu Chen's room. These past few days, she had been visiting his room almost every night.

Although they hadn't engaged in intimate relations yet, there were nightly embraces and cuddling, which made her exceedingly happy to be so close to Lu Chen.

But she felt too forward and worried whether Lu Chen thought her promiscuous because she visited him almost every night. Wasn't it too frequent?

Thinking this, Ji Qiuyu felt a slight stir of emotion. They were already Daoist couples, yet every night it was her visiting Lu Chen, and not once had he taken the initiative to visit her.

What kind of Daoist couple was this?

Did Lu Chen truly want to be Daoist companions with her?

Forget it, she wouldn't go tonight. She decided to wait in her room and see if Lu Chen would come to her on his own.

With that thought, Ji Qiuyu sat on her soft couch, waiting for Lu Chen to come.

But she waited and waited, and two hours soon passed, yet Lu Chen had not come.

Ji Qiuyu pondered for a moment; Lu Chen had mentioned he was cultivating a technique that required abstinence from female companionship, perhaps this was why he wasn't taking the initiative. She shouldn't fuss over these things.

Forget it. She would take the initiative to go to him after all, to foster their relationship further, and perhaps in the future, she could also learn the Demon-Exorcising Sword Technique from him.

Chapter 1045: Lu Chen Can't Possibly Die Like This!

Ji Qiuyu had just finished psyching herself up when she left the room.

However, as soon as she stepped out, she heard some noise outside.

Suddenly, a person clad in black thrust a sword towards her. Ji Qiuyu quickly dodged and raised her hand, causing the Spirit Sword from her room to fly into her grasp.

"Who's there!"

Ji Qiuyu swung her sword, sending a Sword Qi directly at the person in black, who did not tremble before her but instead immediately turned and fled from the City Lord's Mansion.

Ji Qiuyu frowned. An assassin appearing in the City Lord's Mansion was not something she could let go easily. She immediately followed up, wanting to find out who the assassin was, and most importantly, who had sent him and for what purpose.

At this moment, Ji Qiuyu had no idea that the other party might be using a diversion tactic.

As soon as Ji Qiuyu followed the assailant, another man dressed in black reached the City Lord's Mansion and appeared at the Puppet Lu Chen's door.

Lu Chen's real body was still immersed in communication with Su Hanyan and had not realized that his puppet was about to face trouble. Seeing as it was just a puppet, Lu Chen hadn't focused much on it.

The man in black sensed the situation inside the room, found someone who seemed to be meditating.

Without hesitation, the man in black burst in and thrust his sword at Lu Chen's puppet, which did not dodge at all and was directly pierced in the chest by the assassin.

Seeing this, the man in black was stunned; he knew that with his strength at the Yin-Yang Realm First Layer, it should be easy to kill a Creation Realm Cultivator, but he had not expected it to be this easy.

Could something be amiss?

Meanwhile.

The real Lu Chen shuddered all over and his face turned grim.

His puppet had been tampered with?

Who was it?

Regrettably, he had focused all his attention on his real body and had not noticed the puppet's condition.

It seemed he would have to ask Yun Xianxian to make another puppet for him.

Although the puppet was now damaged, Lu Chen still had a final bit of connection with it. He immediately used this connection to raise the puppet's head and saw the black-clad man in front of him.

As Lu Chen raised his head and opened his eyes, the man in black came to his senses—it seemed he had been overthinking; it was not anything unusual, perhaps just that this Lu Chen lacked vigilance, or might have been too absorbed in cultivation, which made the assassination so easy.

The puppet controlled by Lu Chen queried, "Who... who are you?"

The man in black sneered and replied, "You do not need to know. All you need to know is that you have offended someone you shouldn't have."

With that, the black-clad man struck again, ready to decapitate Lu Chen's head and take it back to settle his mission. However, just then, Lu Chen's puppet revealed a peculiar smile.

Seeing this smile, the man in black instantly sensed the danger, but before he could dodge, Lu Chen's puppet exploded right there. The explosive force of a Creation Realm Cultivator's blast was immense, but Lu Chen had controlled the explosion's force.

The man in black was blown away. At this moment, Ji Qiuyu, who was pursuing another black-clad man within Black Moon City, suddenly felt the explosion from the City Lord's Mansion and realized that something had happened there.

Ji Qiuyu then realized she had fallen for a diversionary tactic.

Her expression slightly changed, knowing that the assassin had lured her away but had not attacked her, indicating that his target could only have been Lu Chen.

Ji Qiuyu hurried back.

When she reached the City Lord's Mansion, the courtyard where Lu Chen resided had been blown into a crater, and Lu Chen was nowhere to be seen.

Ji Qiuyu immediately checked for auras and discovered that the explosion had indeed been caused by a Creation Realm Cultivator. She was struck dumb at that moment.

The presence of a Creation Realm Cultivator could only mean Lu Chen.

Ji Qiuyu suddenly felt all strength leave her body; she slumped to the ground, her eyes hollow as she stared at the large pit.

For a moment, Ji Qiuyu's mind went blank, even forgetting her sorrow.

"How... How could this happen..."

"No... it's impossible, Lu Chen couldn't just die like that."

Ji Qiuyu then stood up and began searching for any evidence that Lu Chen was still alive. After her search, she found no bloodstains or human remains, which likely meant that Lu Chen was still alive.

However, this self-explosion was hard to explain...

Ji Qiuyu thought again, perhaps an assassin had tried to kill Lu Chen, but was instead defeated by him. Being a dead man walking, the assassin chose to self-explode.

But...

Ji Qiuyu also knew that this explanation was a bit far-fetched.

If it really was the enemy's self-explosion, a Creation Realm's self-explosion could potentially destroy the entire City Lord's Mansion, even with protective arrays within Black Moon City.

If it truly was an assassin's self-explosion, he wouldn't have controlled the power of the blast. It must have been Lu Chen, fearing collateral damage to others in the City Lord's Mansion, who could have controlled the explosive force, creating only a small crater.

Even though Ji Qiuyu knew the likelihood that Lu Chen was gone was high, she still couldn't accept the reality. Although she and Lu Chen were not yet Daoist couples, they had confirmed their relationship, and her feelings for him had grown incredibly deep. How could she accept his death?

Ji Qiuyu scanned the surroundings again, confirming the absence of flesh and blood, she continued to deceive herself internally. Lu Chen must have gone after other assassins, which is why he hadn't returned; she just needed to wait a little longer, and he may come back.

Then, Ji Qiuyu continued to wait in front of the large crater.

Meanwhile,

In the Tianchen World, at the Imperial Palace of Great Sum in Black Dragon City.

After Lu Chen had destroyed the puppet, he pulled back his Divine Sense completely.

Su Hanyan could tell that Lu Chen was somewhat preoccupied, but she didn't ask further, merely laying quietly.

However, it wasn't long before Lu Chen perked up again and began to address serious matters.

While moving, Lu Chen said, "I've approved your Cultivation Academy, but there is one more requirement."

Su Hanyan, sounding weary, said, "You... you want to go back on your word?"

Just a moment ago, he had clearly stated that as long as she served him, he would agree to establish the quota for the Cultivation Academy, but now he was making additional demands.

Lu Chen indifferently said, "If you don't agree, let it be. I've already taken advantage, so it's no loss to me."

Hearing Lu Chen's rogue words, Su Hanyan found herself completely unable to do anything about him and could only ask, "What... what... requirement?"

Lu Chen replied, "Very... well... quite simple, I've got other matters soon, so I can't continue now. However, I really like it here, so just stay in the Imperial Palace for a couple of months."

Su Hanyan instantly understood Lu Chen's meaning. This scoundrel probably hadn't had enough fun, but was currently busy and afraid she'd run off, thus wanting to keep her and continue playing with her for these two months.

Su Hanyan bit her lip, "You... you're really a foolish... ah... lord!"

Su Hanyan didn't even know how to curse Lu Chen appropriately; she felt that the world's vilest words would be a compliment to him.

And this guy had such thick skin; even if she cursed him, he would take it as a compliment.

Su Hanyan had no other choice, knowing she couldn't escape for the next two months, so she said, "Fine... I... agree."

Chapter 1046: I, Myself, Am Warning You—Don't Even Think About It

Seeing Su Hanyan agree, Lu Chen began another round of action.

"Oh, right, there's also... huh... one more thing."

At this moment, Lu Chen suddenly thought of something else. Because he had not taken the proper route, Su Hanyan was still very much alert at this time. She asked, "What... thing?"

Lu Chen said with a smile, "After I leave, you must not eat anything."

Su Hanyan immediately understood Lu Chen's meaning; she did not respond to his words but instead snorted coldly.

Lu Chen didn't say more after that. He believed that Su Hanyan should know what to do, and then Lu Chen got busy again.

After Lu Chen had finished with his official business, he went to the neighboring bathhouse for a quick shower and changed into a new set of clothes.

Yun Xianxian had quite a bit of a cleanliness fetish and disliked the scent of other women on him. After all, he was going to ask Yun Xianxian for help and naturally couldn't offend her.

When Lu Chen arrived at Yun Xianxian's chamber, Yun Xianxian was sitting upright on a blanket, meditating.

Sensing Lu Chen's arrival, Yun Xianxian didn't even open her eyes but asked icily, "Su Hanyan is willing to serve you in every way, shouldn't you be happily playing now instead of coming to bother me?"

Yun Xianxian was aware of everything happening in the Imperial Palace, including what had just taken place in Su Hanyan's chamber.

She wasn't jealous or upset about it—she just didn't understand why Lu Chen, who was having a good time, would come to her.

Could it be that this scoundrel, while busy playing with Su Hanyan, thought about the fact that there were still two untouched parts on her body and wanted to...

At that thought, Yun Xianxian couldn't help but frown slightly, and the chill around her grew even stronger.

This disciple could dream on!

Although she had long been his woman, she had her dignity. Expecting her to do such a humiliating act—there was no way.

Hearing Yun Xianxian's words, Lu Chen, with a playful grin, said, "Is Honored Master getting jealous? How about..."

Before Lu Chen could finish, Yun Xianxian immediately opened her amethyst eyes and glared fiercely at him, saying, "I warn you, don't even think about it!"

"Su Hanyan is Su Hanyan, and I am I!"

Uhm... this...

Lu Chen quickly realized why Yun Xianxian had such a strong reaction.

Realizing why Yun Xianxian was angry, Lu Chen chuckled and then said, "Honored Master, could it be that you think I want you to do the same thing as Hanyan?"

Yun Xianxian said indifferently, "Isn't that the case? With your personality, why would you leave before you're satisfied? You came here with designs on me, didn't you?"

Lu Chen, smiling, said, "Honored Master really has quite the imagination."

"But speaking of which, although Honored Master says she's unwilling, she has been peeping at the disciple's actions the whole time, which seems to suggest that deep down, Honored Master has some thoughts about it."

Hearing this, Yun Xianxian felt a jolt in her heart.

Indeed, she had been sensing everything happening in Su Hanyan's chamber through her Divine Sense, which is how she knew Lu Chen wasn't yet satisfied.

She was really just curious about how Su Hanyan served this wayward disciple.

However, having it pointed out made it sound as if she also had such desires, which caused a blush to spread across Yun Xianxian's cheeks.

Then Yun Xianxian denied it, saying, "You don't need to change the subject; no matter what you say today, I will never agree to you doing that sort of thing to me."

Seeing Yun Xianxian's cold and beautiful face wearing an expression of embarrassed anger, Lu Chen decided not to tease Yun Xianxian any further and spoke up directly, "Honored Master, I have come to you today mainly because I want to ask for your help."

Yun Xianxian said, "I have told you that there is no way I would use those 'places' to help you."

Lu Chen couldn't help but let out another chuckle, "Honored Master, what kind of person do you take your disciple for? I haven't even said what it's about yet."

Seeing Lu Chen looking at her with a playful expression, Yun Xianxian finally realized that Lu Chen might indeed have some serious business with her.

For a moment, the blush on Yun Xianxian's face deepened, even her pure white neck turned red.

Lu Chen spoke again, "I want to ask Honored Master to craft some puppets for me."

Hearing this, Yun Xianxian was relieved. It turned out to be a genuine matter. She had thought that this rebellious disciple found his play with Su Hanyan insufficient and was looking to continue with her.

Yun Xianxian then asked, "I recall that I have crafted a puppet for you before."

Lu Chen came to sit in front of Yun Xianxian and then extended his large hand to encircle Yun Xianxian's slender waist.

Yun Xianxian showed little reaction to Lu Chen's touch since she now knew that Lu Chen came with a genuine issue, so she didn't have to worry about Lu Chen doing to her what he had done to Su Hanyan earlier.

At this time, Lu Chen said, "My puppet was destroyed by someone in the Ziyang World."

Yun Xianxian asked curiously, "Did your puppet encounter any hindrances after entering the Ziyang World? Like difficulty in control?"

Lu Chen said, "My Puppetry Technique has greatly improved, so there were no issues with controlling the puppet."

Yun Xianxian thought to herself, Lu Chen must have held back some of the Puppetry Technique he initially passed to her.

Yun Xianxian did not ask any further and said simply, "Bring out the materials."

Lu Chen unhesitatingly brought out the fragments of the Immortal Boat from the Mysterious Moon Palace, and Yun Xianxian promptly began to meticulously craft the puppets while Lu Chen continued to hold her slender waist, refraining from any other advances.

After a short while, three puppets identical to Lu Chen appeared in front of them. Yun Xianxian continued to ask, "Do you want to send all three puppets to the Ziyang World?"

Lu Chen replied, "Not for now, I am not yet able to control too many puppets at the same time."

He could indeed control several puppets simultaneously, but doing so would easily distract him, and significantly reduce the puppets' strength, which was unnecessary.

It would be better to wait until his Puppetry Technique was perfected. For now, it was best to control one puppet at a time. Should a puppet be destroyed, he could send another one to continue.

Lu Chen then stood up, came in front of the three puppets, and dripped a drop of his own blood onto each, beginning the refining process. Soon, the puppets became completely identical to him.

Of course, a puppet was still a puppet, lacking some functions.

Seeing that Lu Chen had finished refining the puppets, Yun Xianxian resumed her aloof demeanor, "I have helped you with your request; you may leave now."

Hearing this, Lu Chen gave a faint smile, knowing that Yun Xianxian was still afraid that he would truly do to her what was not proper.

Although he had indeed been intimate with many of his wives and concubines, Lu Chen never forced the issue. He was well aware that not all women could accept such matters.

Among the wives and concubines in the Yancheng Imperial Palace, only two or three had had such experiences.

At that moment, Lu Chen said, "Honored Master, after helping me with this major matter..."

Lu Chen had not yet finished speaking when Yun Xianxian hurriedly interrupted, "It was nothing, not worth mentioning. Go on with your business."

This was a saying that Yun Xianxian was all too familiar with; Lu Chen's next words would be about wanting to repay her, and she was very clear on what form his 'repayment' would take.

After so many years together with him, she no longer cared much for that kind of thing; she certainly did not want to let him have his way with her.

Chapter 1047: Finally...finally another Cultivator has come here!

Seeing Yun Xianxian's strong reaction, Lu Chen gave a slight smile and then said, "Honored Master, gratitude must be repaid, and I am a person who recognizes and repays kindness."

Yun Xianxian snorted coldly and said, "If you truly were a person who recognizes and repays kindness, you wouldn't have made yourself into your woman."

"I'm not going to argue with you any longer; I need to cultivate. You better hurry on with your own matters, as Sect Master Su is still waiting for you in the room."

Yun Xianxian probed with her Divine Sense and discovered that Su Hanyan had not yet risen to leave, which proved that Lu Chen was indeed not yet satisfied and that there were still serious matters ahead for him and Su Hanyan.

As if this guy, Lu Chen, had indeed come to create puppets—a fact that made Yun Xianxian internally breathe a sigh of relief.

Lu Chen said, "All right then, after this matter is finished, I'll come back and properly repay Honored Master."

As Lu Chen's voice fell, his body disappeared on the spot. Once he had completely vanished, Yun Xianxian breathed another sigh of relief, "Thank goodness this ungrateful disciple didn't come for me..."

Yun Xianxian stopped mid-sentence, and as soon as she thought of the scene she had sensed earlier, her face became unbearably hot.

She found that this defiant disciple was becoming increasingly crafty. Before, this guy was merely openly lascivious, but now his antics had grown more numerous, and the key issue was that his wives were indulging him all along.

If they continued indulging him like this, he was likely to come up with even more antics.

Of course, it wasn't entirely the fault of those women; after all, with Lu Chen being so powerful, they had no power to resist him. If Lu Chen insisted on doing certain things, they could only be forced to accept.

However, Yun Xianxian was still somewhat disappointed, feeling they could at least show some dissatisfaction instead of placating this defiant disciple.

By accommodating him, this defiant disciple would surely become even more demanding. Though Lu Chen could sometimes be forceful, one couldn't deny that he occasionally

showed respect to his women. If they expressed even mild dissatisfaction, he wouldn't continue.

But once they had started, such situations were likely to become more common.

Thinking this, Yun Xianxian felt a wave of disgust towards Su Hanyan. That woman truly had no bottom line; by giving in, she set a precedent, and now Lu Chen would surely think the other women would behave the same.

Yun Xianxian took a deep breath to stabilize her turbulent emotions, trying hard not to keep thinking about those things.

After all, she just needed to stay true to her heart. How Lu Chen's other wives spoiled him was their business—it had nothing to do with her. She would never give in to those behaviors.

At this moment, Lu Chen had once again arrived at the crack in the boundary wall of the Ziyang World and sent another puppet into the Ziyang World.

Continuing to control the puppet towards Black Moon City, Lu Chen also thought about what excuse he should use later.

When he self-destructed the puppet, the explosion was complete, but there might still be traces left behind. After all, a puppet is a puppet, not a real person, without flesh and blood. Ji Qiuyu might discover something.

After much thought, Lu Chen eventually decided to reveal the truth about the puppet. Only by doing so could he calmly self-destruct the puppet when faced with danger again.

If he didn't tell Ji Qiuyu about the puppet, he would need to find excuses and concoct lies every time there was danger. That would be too exhausting.

Naturally, Lu Chen only planned to reveal his puppet identity to Ji Qiuyu, not his true identity as his original self.

Although they had now established a Daoist couple relationship, they had not consummated their marriage. Telling Ji Qiuyu now that he was from the Tianchen World could possibly trigger her resistance and make her wary of him.

Once it was a done deal and Ji Qiuyu became his woman, even if she found out he was from another world, there would be nothing she could do about it.

After the Lu Chen puppet entered the Sealing Demon Land, he released Spiritual Energy on his own accord to see if, like last time, a black hand would emerge from beneath the Sealing Demon Land.

A moment later, indeed, countless black hands emerged from the earth. Those human hands, fused with the power of the Heavenly Demon, instantly grew longer and reached out to grab Lu Chen's puppet.

Lu Chen paid no attention to the black hands and directly controlled the puppet to fly towards Black Moon City.

At this time, the Heavenly Demon underground became excited once again.

"Finally... finally, another Cultivator has come here!"

"This time, I absolutely cannot miss this opportunity!"

Immediately, the Heavenly Demon released its power and continued to reach for the flying Cultivator. Just as its hands, formed from the power of the Heavenly Demon, were about to touch the Cultivator, suddenly a strange barrier blocked those black hands.

Seeing this, the Heavenly Demon was momentarily stunned.

Unwilling to give up, it reached for the flying Cultivator again, but the result was the same.

The Heavenly Demon flew into a rage.

"What on earth is going on!!!"

For a time, the Sealing Demon Grounds shook violently, and the cities around the Sealing Demon Grounds, especially Black Moon City, felt the disturbances from here.

Seeing the whole earth trembling and the Demonic Qi shooting into the sky, Lu Chen's lips curved up slightly. It seemed he had angered the Heavenly Demon sealed underground.

Forget it, I shouldn't tease it anymore. If I continue to provoke it, Black Moon City will also suffer soon.

Even if there were no demonic beasts attacking Black Moon City, if the Heavenly Demon became angry, Black Moon City itself would face earthquakes, which was not good news for the city.

Afterward, Lu Chen increased his speed and left the Sealing Demon Grounds, reappearing at the gates of Black Moon City.

When the soldiers of Black Moon City saw Lu Chen, they were all stunned. They had heard about what had happened at the City Lord's Mansion; although Ji Qiuyu had always insisted that Lu Chen was not dead, the scene clearly had the traces of the Genesis Realm explosion, which from all signs, indicated that Lu Chen was no more.

And yet, here was Lu Chen, alive and well, in front of everyone.

Seeing the soldiers looking at him with strange expressions, Lu Chen said indifferently, "What, don't you recognize me?"

The soldiers, as if waking from a dream, quickly came to their senses, "We have seen the Deputy City Lord!"

Without saying much to the soldiers, Lu Chen strode towards the City Lord's Mansion and soon arrived at its entrance.

When the maids of the City Lord's Mansion saw Lu Chen, they all looked like they had seen a ghost. Nearly everyone there believed that Lu Chen was dead.

Now, only Ji Qiuyu was grieving deeply, convinced that Lu Chen was still alive.

But if Lu Chen was truly dead, then who was this individual in front of them?

The leader of the guards at the City Lord's Mansion looked at Lu Chen with a face full of horror and stammered, "Deputy... Deputy City Lord, how... how are you?"

Lu Chen ignored the leader of the guards and asked directly, "Where is the City Lord? I need to see her."

The leader of the guards quickly replied, "The City Lord... is... in her room."

No sooner had the leader of the guards finished speaking than Lu Chen walked directly towards Ji Qiuyu's room.

Chapter 1048: Did You Really Like Me?

When Lu Chen arrived at the doorway to Ji Qiuyu's room, he heard some strange noises coming from inside.

"Lu Chen... why didn't you even say a word before leaving?"

"At least leave a letter."

At that moment, the maid at the doorway shook her head and sighed upon hearing the voice from the room, thinking that Ji Qiuyu had been so affected she spent her days locked in her room, talking to herself.

However, just then, the two maids at the doorway saw Lu Chen entering the courtyard, and upon seeing him, the color drained from their faces.

"Ghost... ghost..."

Lu Chen immediately raised his hand, making a "shush" gesture.

At that moment, another voice from Ji Qiuyu continued, "Lu Chen, wait until you come back and see how I'll deal with you!"

Hearing this, Lu Chen chuckled. Then he spoke up at the doorway, "I'm back now, I really want to see how the City Lord plans to deal with me."

At that moment inside the room, Ji Qiuyu, with her hair disheveled, wearing a white garment, lay on the soft couch. Upon hearing Lu Chen's voice, she suddenly lifted her head.

After regaining her composure, she quickly waved her hand, and the door to the room burst open, revealing Lu Chen standing there.

Ji Qiuyu was stunned for a moment.

Seeing Ji Qiuyu in her disheveled state, Lu Chen felt a pang of distress. He hadn't realized the explosion of his puppet had affected Ji Qiuyu so deeply, it seemed she truly considered him her Daoist couple.

Lu Chen then said, "Qiuyu, sorry, there were some things I didn't tell you, which made you worry."

Saying this, Lu Chen waved his hands, signaling the two maids at the doorway to leave. Naturally, the maids understood the relationship between Lu Chen and Ji Qiuyu and wisely exited the courtyard.

Lu Chen continued walking toward the room. Just as he entered, Ji Qiuyu suddenly spoke coldly, "Who are you!"

As her words fell, the sword by Ji Qiuyu's bedside flew out, stopping right in front of Lu Chen, its tip pointing at his neck.

Even though Ji Qiuyu had hoped all along that Lu Chen was still alive, deep down she knew there was a good chance he had exploded. Seeing Lu Chen at that moment, she regained her clarity.

Before Lu Chen could reply, Ji Qiuyu demanded again, "What is your purpose in impersonating Lu Chen!"

Seeing how vigilant Ji Qiuyu was, Lu Chen showed a slight, reassured smile, "Qiuyu, seeing you being so vigilant makes me feel relieved."

Ji Qiuyu spoke with frost in her voice, "Stop trying to be friendly, answer my question now, or you die!"

Ignoring the threat, Lu Chen explained, "That day, when the assassin came to my room, I was cultivating and let my guard down, failing to notice the assassin. When I hurried over, worried, my puppet clone had already been pierced through, and I had no choice but to explode the puppet clone."

"To avoid worrying you, I sent this puppet clone to you immediately."

Hearing Lu Chen's explanation, Ji Qiuyu was momentarily stunned.

Puppet?

She had certainly heard of controlling puppets in battle, so she quickly understood what he meant, but she could hardly believe that she had been always sticking close to a puppet.

In that instant, a murderous aura overflowed from Ji Qiuyu, "You mean to say, the previous Lu Chen was just one of your puppets?"

Lu Chen said, "You must have also noticed that if it really were a cultivator self-destructing, there would definitely be some corpse fragments or blood left at the scene."

Ji Qiuyu certainly understood this, and it was precisely because of this that she still harbored a glimmer of hope that Lu Chen was alive. However, she had never expected that Lu Chen would actually be a puppet.

Seeing the ugly expression on Ji Qiuyu's face as she glared fiercely at him, Lu Chen hurriedly continued, "Qiuyu, I am truly sorry I did not tell you initially. My real body is

currently trapped somewhere and cannot meet you, so I could only meet with you in this way."

Ji Qiuyu still coldly watched Lu Chen, and she finally understood why Lu Chen had said he was cultivating a certain Cultivation Technique and couldn't engage in the matters of Daoist couples.

She also realized why every time she cuddled and hugged Lu Chen, his body felt somewhat strange, and she had never felt Lu Chen's heartbeat.

It turned out that the person she had been hugging and kissing wasn't a real person at all, but a puppet. The thought that she had devoted all her passion to a puppet made Ji Qiuyu feel immensely ashamed and furious.

Seeing that Ji Qiuyu did not speak, Lu Chen did not continue speaking, merely looking into her eyes.

After what felt like an eternity, Ji Qiuyu finally spoke again, "From today onwards, we are no longer Daoist couple!"

Ji Qiuyu naturally believed what Lu Chen had said, but she couldn't accept engaging in talk of love with a puppet.

Hearing Ji Qiuyu's words, Lu Chen sighed and said, "I understand. I will leave Black Moon City now and not appear before you again."

With these words, Lu Chen turned and left.

Lu Chen had many wives and concubines and had dealt with women for many years, so he naturally knew how to handle the current situation. He checked the system to see that Ji Qiuyu's favorability toward him remained, but Ji Qiuyu felt deceived and was a bit angry, which is why she had said those words.

If he continued to pester her now, it might actually cause Ji Qiuyu's favorability toward him to keep reducing. Leaving now was the best choice.

Of course, he wasn't truly leaving.

Seeing Lu Chen's retreating figure, Ji Qiuyu was momentarily stunned. She couldn't accept Lu Chen's "deception," but her intention was only that they would no longer be Daoist couple, not that she wanted Lu Chen to leave Black Moon City!

Ji Qiuyu quickly realized that it was she who had asked Lu Chen to stay initially.

Now that she and Lu Chen had ended their relationship as a Daoist couple, Lu Chen naturally had no reason to stay in Black Moon City since she was the proactive party and Lu Chen the passive one.

Watching Lu Chen's figure getting farther away, Ji Qiuyu felt a piercing pain in her heart, immensely uncomfortable.

Although she couldn't accept this deception, it was a fact that Lu Chen had saved her. Without Lu Chen, she would most likely have been devoured by demons long ago.

Moreover, her feelings for Lu Chen were genuine, even though he was only a puppet. She could truly feel the love conveyed by the person behind the puppet.

For a moment, Ji Qiuyu felt as if her heart was being torn apart.

Seeing that Lu Chen was about to walk out of the courtyard, Ji Qiuyu could no longer hold back, "Wait..."

Lu Chen stopped in his tracks but did not turn around.

Ji Qiuyu asked, "Did you really ever like me?"

Without turning his head, Lu Chen said, "If I didn't, I wouldn't have agreed initially to stay in Black Moon City."

Ji Qiuyu said, "You did have ulterior motives."

"But you shouldn't have lied to me."

Lu Chen said, "If I had told you from the start that I was a puppet, we might not have become Daoist couple."

Chapter 1049: Are you asking me to wait for you for a hundred years?

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Ji Qiuyu fell into silence.

Indeed, had Lu Chen told her from the beginning that he was merely a puppet, she might have suspected that the puppet Lu Chen had some ulterior motives and would not have invested so much emotion in a puppet.

She certainly would not have harbored thoughts of becoming Daoist couple with a puppet.

At this moment, Ji Qiuyu didn't know what to do; she had just spoken those words, and now if she continued to hold on to Lu Chen, how would he see her?

And with what identity should she continue to hold on to Lu Chen?

Both remained silent, and as time ticked by, after an indeterminate period, Lu Chen decided it was time to speak, "Qiuyu, I did conceal some matters from you, but my feelings for you are real, and I wish to be your Daoist couple."

"However, my status is special, and my true self cannot come to Black Moon City for now. My original plan was to be honest with you when my true body arrived in Black Moon City, but I did not expect my puppet to be destroyed by an assassin."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Ji Qiuyu did not respond and continued to remain silent.

After another long period, Ji Qiuyu finally asked, "Do you really have to leave?"

Lu Chen said, "I stayed originally because I liked you. Now that we are not in a relationship of Daoist couple anymore, it makes no sense for me to stay here."

Upon hearing this from Lu Chen, Ji Qiuyu clenched her fists slightly and then, gritting her teeth, asked, "When will your true body come to Black Moon City?"

Lu Chen said, "I do not know."

Ji Qiuyu asked again, "Your puppet possesses the power of the Genesis Realm, so your true body must be very powerful. Would such a powerful being really care for someone weak like me?"

Ji Qiuyu was no fool. If the controlled puppet had the power of the Genesis Realm, then Lu Chen must at least possess the power of the Yin-Yang Realm, or even above the All Law Realm.

Such a powerful being was likely an old ancestor or a Supreme Elder of some force. Such beings wouldn't lack beautiful women around them; how could he possibly care for her?

Hearing Ji Qiuyu's query, Lu Chen said, "My true body is in the Yin-Yang Realm of cultivation state and is not very powerful. Moreover, in my eyes, you have never been weak. You would rather sacrifice yourself for humanity and safeguard Black Moon City. If such a brave person like you is considered weak, then those hiding behind you aren't even worth as ants."

Ji Qiuyu fell into silence again, lost in thought.

Her mind was a mess now; she could not tolerate Lu Chen deceiving her, yet she could not bear to see him leave like this.

At that moment, the puppet Lu Chen suddenly appeared before Ji Qiuyu. She was momentarily stunned, and before she could react, she was pulled into Lu Chen's embrace.

"You!"

Ji Qiuyu hadn't expected Lu Chen to do this; she wanted to say something, but the words died on her lips.

At that moment, Lu Chen whispered in Ji Qiuyu's ear, "Qiuyu, I will never lie to you again. Can you forgive me?"

Hearing this, Ji Qiuyu's heart began to beat wildly; though she knew the Lu Chen before her was just a puppet, her heart was still incredibly restless.

She did not respond to Lu Chen immediately, and after a while, Lu Chen again whispered in her ear, "Within a hundred years, my true body will definitely come to Black Moon City to see you."

Hearing this, Ji Qiuyu finally spoke, "Do you mean to ask me to wait for you for a hundred years?"

Ji Qiuyu's tone had softened a lot, clearly no longer as angry as before.

Lu Chen hurriedly said, "I didn't say you should wait; am I not here with you right now?"

Hearing this, Ji Qiuyu snorted coldly, "Do you think I'm so easily deceived? That a puppet can pacify me and make me willingly wait for a hundred years?"

Lu Chen said, "I have no other option, my true self indeed cannot come to Black Moon City now, but once it arrives, I will surely make it up to you."

At this moment, Ji Qiuyu pushed Lu Chen's puppet, and since Lu Chen wasn't holding on very tightly, the two of them separated with just a push.

Ji Qiuyu looked into Lu Chen's eyes and said, "Are you sure your true self can come to Black Moon City within a hundred years?"

Lu Chen affirmed, "Yes, definitely."

Hearing this, Ji Qiuyu sighed lightly, then said, "Then let us be Daoist couple for another hundred years. If after one hundred years, your true self still hasn't come to Black Moon City, our relationship will end."

Seeing Ji Qiuyu relent, Lu Chen quickly said, "Qiuyu, rest assured, I will do everything I can to be by your side within a hundred years."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Ji Qiuyu looked at him skeptically, wondering why she always felt like Lu Chen's true self might have encountered some trouble.

If Lu Chen could send his puppet so quickly, then Lu Chen's true self should also be able to arrive at Black Moon City in a short time. There was no reason for Lu Chen to delay for a hundred years.

There was only one possibility, that he was trapped somewhere and couldn't leave, so he could only send a puppet.

Ji Qiuyu then asked, "Lu Chen, tell me the truth, is your true self trapped in some dire place?"

Lu Chen answered, "No."

Ji Qiuyu reminded, "You just said you wouldn't lie to me again."

Lu Chen looked troubled, then sighed and said, "Qiuyu, I can't tell you the specific reason right now. If I did, it would surely bring great trouble to you and to the whole of Black Moon City."

"My identity is quite special, with far-reaching implications."

Hearing Lu Chen's answer, Ji Qiuyu's eyebrows slightly raised.

Special identity?

Just how special?

Just as Ji Qiuyu was about to continue questioning Lu Chen, she suddenly remembered the incidents that had happened in the Zixiao Dynasty over the years.

The internal strife in the Zixiao Dynasty had been severe recently, and it was said that some of the Princes of the Zixiao Dynasty had been forced to flee and wander.

Ji Qiuyu wasn't thinking that Lu Chen was one of the Princes of the Zixiao Dynasty, but she suspected that Lu Chen might share a similar fate to those princes, which is why he couldn't reveal his identity.

If someone knew his true identity, it could likely invite countless assassins.

With this in mind, Ji Qiuyu decided not to pursue Lu Chen's identity further.

At that moment, Ji Qiuyu continued to ask, "Then, the people who came to the City Lord's Mansion to assassinate you this time, are they your enemies?"

Lu Chen answered, "No, they are assassins from the Blood Rainbow Pavilion."

Lu Chen of course knew who had sent these assassins, but he chose not to say explicitly that they were sent by Bai Wenbin, as Ji Qiuyu might wonder how he knew.

Hearing the words "Blood Rainbow Pavilion," Ji Qiuyu was taken aback.

Blood Rainbow Pavilion was the largest assassin organization in the Ziyang World, daring to take on any business if the price was right. They would even dare to make a move against the Emperor of the Zixiao Dynasty.

So, someone had hired the Blood Rainbow Pavilion's assassins to get rid of Lu Chen?

Chapter 1050: You... Stop Talking

Ji Qiuyu pondered for a moment and instantly thought of Bai Wenbin.

When it came to who wanted Lu Chen gone the most, it was probably Bai Wenbin. Bai Wenbin's last visit to Black Moon City might have revealed his relationship with Lu Chen.

Even though she and Lu Chen hadn't been intimate, they often spent nights together. There was no wall without wind, and Bai Wenbin likely knew about it. That's why he left in such a hurry, anxious to get the Blood Rainbow Pavilion's assassins to eliminate Lu Chen.

Thinking of this, Ji Qiuyu felt a trace of guilt—if not for her, Lu Chen might not have faced an assassination attempt.

At the same time, she also felt a sense of relief, grateful that it was only Lu Chen's puppet body present. If it had been his real body here, he might have met with disaster.

With this thought, the resentment Ji Qiuyu held in her heart towards Lu Chen mostly dissipated.

At this moment, Ji Qiuyu said, "I think I might already know who wants to kill you."

Lu Chen feigned curiosity and asked, "Who is it?"

Ji Qiuyu sighed lightly and replied, "Bai Wenbin."

Lu Chen acted surprised and said, "So it's him, he indeed has reasons to want me dead."

As he spoke, Lu Chen's gaze swept over Ji Qiuyu's graceful figure. Being ogled so blatantly by Lu Chen made her feel her body heat up for a moment.

Ji Qiuyu quickly steadied her mind, reminding herself that this was just one of Lu Chen's puppets—how could she harbor such thoughts towards a puppet!

Lu Chen then continued, "What should we do now? Since he has sent someone to assassinate me, it's highly likely he knows about our relationship."

"I don't mind, I'm just a puppet clone. Even if he kills this clone, I have others."

"But what if he becomes bitter from unreturned love and sends an assassin after you?"

Ji Qiuyu said, "He wouldn't dare to attack me. I'm assigned by the Zixiao Dynasty to guard the Demon-Sealing Sacred Land. If anything happens to me, the Zixiao Dynasty will know immediately. Besides, I have the Soul Chasing Curse on me. Once someone kills me, a mark will be left on that person, and then the Ji Family and possibly the Zixiao Dynasty might send people to take revenge on my assailant."

Though the Zixiao Dynasty hadn't sent anyone to the Demon-Sealing Sacred Land in years due to internal struggles, it didn't mean her special status with the Zixiao Dynasty was no longer important.

After all, she was here representing the Zixiao Dynasty to monitor the Demon-Sealing Sacred Land. If anything happened to her, no matter which prince came to power, they would still seek vengeance for her.

Even if Bai Wenbin recruited Blood Rainbow Pavilion's assassins, it would cost him dearly, and he might not be able to afford it.

Lu Chen said, "That may be true, but nobody can be certain if Bai Wenbin will go to extremes."

Ji Qiuyu continued, "He is a very selfish man. He runs away at the first sign of a significant Demonic Tide. To ask him to jeopardize himself by striking at me—he wouldn't do such a thing."

Lu Chen said, "That's also true. In that case, I can rest easy. As long as you're safe, that's all that matters."

With that, Lu Chen once again wrapped his arms around Ji Qiuyu's waist. Her delicate body trembled slightly under his embrace, but quickly she reminded herself again that the Lu Chen before her was merely a puppet.

Ji Qiuyu asked, "Is your puppet body the same as your real body?"

Lu Chen replied, "My puppet is a replica of my true self, identical in appearance."

Hearing Lu Chen's response, Ji Qiuyu's heart relaxed again. As long as they were identical, meeting Lu Chen's true self in the future would allow her to quickly accept him and not feel uncomfortable.

Then, Lu Chen whispered in Ji Qiuyu's ear, "Qiuyu, your body smells so good. I really wish I could be by your side right now and engage in Dual Cultivation with you."

Upon hearing this, Ji Qiuyu's cheeks instantly became unbearably hot, but she quickly recovered.

Scent?

The one in front of her was merely a puppet after all, how could it possibly smell the scent on her body? With that thought, Ji Qiuyu huffed, "Sweet talker, your true form isn't even here, how could you possibly smell anything on me?"

Lu Chen laughed and said, "Although my true form isn't here, a strand of my Divine Sense resides within this puppet avatar. Whatever the puppet perceives, my true form can also sense through the connected Divine Sense."

This...

Ji Qiuyu thought to herself, does this mean, despite facing a puppet, Lu Chen's true form also experienced the touch of her body?

At this thought, Ji Qiuyu's face flushed with increasingly deep blushes.

Initially, she struggled to accept that Lu Chen was a puppet avatar because she felt she had poured all her emotions into a mere object, a puppet that was lifeless, and that Lu Chen's true form hadn't felt any of it, rendering her efforts futile.

Now, thinking that Lu Chen's true form could perceive her body through the puppet, she realized that her efforts might not have been in vain after all.

Seeing Ji Qiuyu's face filled with bashful crimson, Lu Chen continued, "Qiuyu, rest assured, the day my true form comes by your side, I will certainly satisfy you."

Hearing Lu Chen's overt words, Ji Qiuyu hastily said, "You... you should stop talking."

Lu Chen didn't continue, instead, he held Ji Qiuyu's body tightly in his embrace.

At that moment, Lu Chen's true form's desires were thoroughly aroused by Ji Qiuyu, and without any hesitation, he immediately returned to the Black Dragon City Imperial Palace.

Su Hanyan lay on the soft couch, her gaze fixed on the yellow bed curtains, lost in thought.

Suddenly, a voice rang out, "Apologies for making my lady wait."

Hearing Lu Chen's voice, Su Hanyan's delicate body involuntarily shuddered. She then turned her head to look toward the side of the bed, only to see Lu Chen lunging straight at her.

Before she could even ask him anything, she felt Lu Chen straying off the path. Su Hanyan bit her silver teeth and struggled to control her own pent-up emotions, accepting Lu Chen.

At that time, Su Hanyan curiously asked, "Your... sss... Majesty, where were you just now?"

Lu Chen, with one arm wrapped around Su Hanyan's waist, his chest pressed against her jade back, truthfully replied in her ear, "I had just sent a puppet to the neighboring Ziyang World."

Su Hanyan forced herself to control her inner turmoil and continued to ask, "Your Majesty plans... mmhmm... when do you plan to conquer that world?"

Lu Chen said, "There's no rush. That world is vast, and I haven't fully grasped the situation there yet."

Having said that, Lu Chen changed the subject, "Hanyan, your Misty Immortal Sect is establishing a Cultivation Academy, do you need any... huh... assistance?"

Su Hanyan quickly said, "Many... many thanks for Your Majesty's kind offer, but we can manage on our own, Your Majesty need not trouble yourself. You just need to... ai ai... allocate us some slots from the Misty Immortal Sect."

Lu Chen's favors weren't so easy to ask for. If they let Great Sum assist in setting up the Cultivation Academy, who knows what terms this fellow might impose.

Just to get a few slots, she had already lost her purity twice; she literally had no more purity left to lose. If she were to ask Lu Chen for help again, who knows what kind of methods he might resort to using on her.

Seeing how swiftly Su Hanyan refused, Lu Chen slightly lifted his chest, gripping Su Hanyan's willowy waist, "If Great Sum helps build your Cultivation Academy, it might make the cultivators feel that your academy is endorsed by the Daxia Imperial Court, thereby attracting more talents."