

Es. Benefits 991

Chapter 991: How... How could this happen?

If Han Yuankai wasn't a demon cultivator and hadn't used the Bloodthirsty Great Formation, with his current strength, Lu Chen might have actually not been his match.

But unfortunately for Han Yuankai, he was a demon cultivator, and his strength mainly relied on the enhancement of the Bloodthirsty Great Formation. For demon cultivators, Lu Chen was like their nemesis.

Han Yuankai was still intoxicated with his own power, completely unaware of what he might face next.

However, after seeing the smile on Lu Chen's face, Han Yuankai felt a bit confused, knowing that his strength had reached the Myriad Laws Realm, and with the enhancement from the Bloodthirsty Great Formation, his strength was at least above the Myriad Laws Realm Fifth Layer.

Could the Sum Emperor still afford to smile under these circumstances?

Could he have been frightened into stupidity by the aura he himself had released?

Seeing that Han Yuankai intended to strike at Lu Chen, Ji Hongwen and the Great Elder of Wanxian Sect quickly flew to the front of the Immortal Boat, blocking Han Yuankai's path.

Seeing the two of them, a look of disdain appeared on Han Yuankai's face.

Han Yuankai then raised his hand, and within the Bloodthirsty Great Formation, a giant blood sword appeared again, which immediately charged towards Lu Chen.

Ji Hongwen and the Great Elder of Wanxian Sect were about to act in defense, but then they heard Lu Chen's transmission, "Step aside, I have my own way to break through!"

Seeing Lu Chen say this, Ji Hongwen and the Great Elder of Wanxian Sect looked at each other, quickly collected their wits, and immediately stepped away from in front of the Flying Boat.

Seeing that Ji Hongwen and the Great Elder of Wanxian Sect did not intercept the blood sword for Lu Chen, Han Yuankai furrowed his brows, a bad premonition arising in his heart.

Could it be that Ji Hongwen and the Great Elder of Wanxian Sect knew they couldn't take this sword, so they decided to abandon the Sum Emperor?

But the identity of the Sum Emperor shouldn't be simple, if they truly abandoned the Sum Emperor, and something happened to him, wouldn't they fear the punishment from the super force behind the Sum Emperor?

Or did the Sum Emperor have other tricks up his sleeve?

Han Yuankai now feared that Lu Chen might have some other ace in the hole, or perhaps there was an even stronger Protector behind him.

As Han Yuankai was lost in his chaotic thoughts, the blood sword had already appeared in front of Lu Chen, but Lu Chen didn't dodge, and no powerful Protector appeared by his side.

Han Yuankai was even more puzzled, could it be that he was overthinking it? Could it be that the Sum Emperor had no trump cards and there were no stronger Protectors behind him, and Ji Hongwen was simply too scared to defend the Sum Emperor from his attack?

The Sum Emperor hadn't even moved his body, could he have been intimidated by his own momentum, scared stiff?

Just when Han Yuankai thought he was going to dispose of Lu Chen, suddenly, the aura around Lu Chen surged and bursts of golden light radiated from him.

Lu Chen then channeled the cultivation technique, Demon Burying Spell, and the next moment, golden symbols flew out from his body, continuously revolving around him, forming a protective barrier.

At the same time, a flag emitting golden light appeared in Lu Chen's hand, and the moment the flag appeared, Han Yuankai's pupils suddenly constricted, his body instinctively freezing, feeling an overwhelming fear.

Han Yuankai didn't recognize the Demon-Expelling Banner in Lu Chen's hand, he just instinctively felt fear, immediately feeling that this item could threaten his life.

Han Yuankai's eyebrows tightly knitted together, his expression becoming extremely serious. At that moment, the blood sword had already made contact with the defensive barrier of the Feihong Immortal Boat, but the barrier of the Feihong Immortal Boat hadn't activated, and the blood sword continued to stab towards Lu Chen.

Lu Chen was channeling spiritual power into the Demon-Expelling Banner and then swung it, a stream of white spiritual power surged from the banner, and when this white spiritual power made contact with the blood sword, the sword seemed to dissolve, dispersing in a very short amount of time.

Seeing this scene, Han Yuankai was completely stunned.

"How... How could this be!"

Han Yuankai found it hard to believe that his strongest attack after triggering the Bloodthirsty Great Formation was so effortlessly neutralized by someone in the Genesis Realm!

No, it probably didn't have much to do with the Sum Emperor himself, it was all because of that flag in his hands.

Han Yuankai immediately realized that it was all the work of the Demon-Expelling Banner.

He couldn't help speculating, as it had so easily blocked his attack, the grade of this spiritual artifact must be extremely high. Thinking this, the greed in Han Yuankai's heart surged, having been influenced by the Bloodthirsty Great Formation, his personal negative emotions, as well as various desires, had been amplified.

At this moment, Han Yuankai greatly desired the Demon-Expelling Banner in Lu Chen's hand.

Han Yuankai once again gathered Spiritual Power, preparing to attack again.

However, at this moment, Lu Chen swung the Demon-Expelling Banner again, and a majestic white Spiritual Power transformed into a river flowing from the banner towards the Bloodthirsty Great Formation below.

Seeing this scene, Han Yuankai hastily accelerated the conjuring of the blood sword, and moments later, a huge blood sword appeared in the air again, soaring directly towards Lu Chen.

However, the white Spiritual Power that surged from the Demon-Expelling Banner easily melted the blood sword.

Watching the white river getting closer, Han Yuankai's heart turned extremely fearful. He had not anticipated that the Spiritual Power released by this banner would possess such terrifying power.

Han Yuankai was unwilling to accept this; he did not believe that even with the power of the All Law Realm, he could not defeat a cultivator from the Genesis Realm.

Then, Han Yuankai waved his fingers and further accelerated the extraction of power from the Bloodthirsty Great Formation. If his current power was still insufficient to deal with the Sum Emperor, then he would become even stronger.

As long as he could defeat the Sum Emperor and seize the Immortal Boat to leave this world, he would not even mourn sacrificing the entire Misty Immortal Sect.

For him, the disciples of the Misty Immortal Sect were merely his pawns, his offerings.

Now was the time for these offerings to serve their purpose.

As the power of the Bloodthirsty Great Formation's formation further increased, more and more disciples of the Misty Immortal Sect turned into a mist of blood, and soon even the Genesis Realm Elder of the Misty Immortal Sect turned into a mist of blood, absorbed by Han Yuankai.

Su Hanyan, with slightly furrowed brows and a pale face, also faintly felt the Spiritual Power within her being absorbed by the Bloodthirsty Great Formation.

Although Su Hanyan wanted to break the Bloodthirsty Great Formation from the inside, given her current Cultivation State, it was difficult to get close to Han Yuankai, and she also had to constantly fend off the erosion of the Bloodthirsty Great Formation.

At this time, the white river in the sky had already reached the front of the Bloodthirsty Great Formation. Han Yuankai shouted loudly, and a surge of blood qi directly met the white Spiritual Power released from the Demon-Expelling Banner.

However, when the blood qi made contact with the river-like white Spiritual Power, it immediately dissipated, and Han Yuankai finally realized the situation.

It was not that the opponent's Spiritual Artifact was so powerful, but rather the Spiritual Power it released was specifically designed to counteract Demon Cultivators.

Thus, no matter how much he empowered himself using the Bloodthirsty Great Formation, he would be harmed by the Spiritual Power released from the Spiritual Artifact.

Realizing the terrifying aspect of the Demon-Expelling Banner, Han Yuankai's heart became filled with immense panic. This was the first time he had encountered such a Spiritual Artifact that could so effectively counteract Demon Cultivators.

No! He cannot confront the Sum Emperor head-on!

Continuing like this, his death was certain!

He still had to return to the Bixia World; he did not want to die in this inferior world!

Thinking this, Han Yuankai once again gathered blood qi, and the next moment, a blood-colored giant hand appeared above the Bloodthirsty Great Formation, attempting once more to block the wave-like white Spiritual Power emitted from the Demon-Expelling Banner.

However, when the Spiritual Power of the Demon-Expelling Banner made contact with the blood-colored giant hand, it still easily dissolved the blood qi. Immediately after, Lu Chen raised the Demon-Expelling Banner in his hand, once more infusing Spiritual Power into it, and once again, a wave-like white Spiritual Power surged out.

The white Spiritual Power released from the Demon-Expelling Banner, like two rivers, charged towards the Bloodthirsty Great Formation, and at the moment the "river" of Spiritual Power made contact with the Bloodthirsty Great Formation, the entire formation's barrier instantly collapsed.

Inside the Bloodthirsty Great Formation, the Misty Immortal Sect disciples were abruptly freed from control, and for a moment, they felt incredibly relieved.

At this time, the blood qi on Su Hanyan also dissipated, and her body returned to normal.

With the disappearance of the Bloodthirsty Great Formation, everyone in the Misty Immortal Sect turned their gaze towards Han Yuankai.

Su Hanyan also clenched her sword; she now dearly wished to personally finish off Han Yuankai.

At this point, Han Yuankai's power rapidly declined; the disappearance of the Bloodthirsty Great Formation caused him to suffer a backlash, and he once again fell back to the Cultivation State of the Yin-Yang Realm.

Seeing the murderous gazes of the disciples and elders of the Misty Immortal Sect, Han Yuankai sneered and said, "You think you have what it takes to kill me?"

"If I cannot live, then neither can you all!"

While speaking, Han Yuankai once again raised his sword and thrust it through his own chest.

Chapter 992: I am quite curious to see what the Heavenly Demon you speak of looks like

Seeing Han Yuankai stabbing himself again, people were somewhat puzzled. What was he doing now?

The Bloodthirsty Great Formation had already been broken. Could it be that he still hadn't given up and wanted to reconstruct the Bloodthirsty Great Formation again?

Just as people were confused about what Han Yuankai was trying to do, Han Yuankai laughed and said, "You might not know yet that there exists a Heavenly Demon in the Tianchen World."

Upon hearing this, the cultivators from the Misty World were rooted to the spot in shock.

Heavenly Demon!

There was actually a Heavenly Demon in the Tianchen World!

Wasn't this just a lower world? What was a Heavenly Demon doing in such a world?

That was every cultivator's nightmare!

A single Heavenly Demon could destroy a cultivation world, let alone a lower world.

At that moment, Han Yuankai turned to look at Lu Chen, and then continued, "If you don't let me go, I will sacrifice myself right now and summon the Heavenly Demon!"

"The moment the Heavenly Demon appears, all of you will be killed by it!"

Han Yuankai, as a demon cultivator, had already sensed the presence of the Heavenly Demon while in the Misty World. Thus, he was certain that the Heavenly Demon was in the Tianchen World, although he did not know what it was doing in a lower world. All he needed to do was use an array to summon the Heavenly Demon, and it would surely appear.

If the Heavenly Demon saw so many cultivators here, it would definitely go on a killing spree. By then, none of the cultivators present would survive.

Hearing Han Yuankai's threat, everyone turned their gaze toward Lu Chen.

The people from the Misty Immortal Sect naturally did not want to just let Han Yuankai go, but they were still enemies of the Great Sum Dynasty currently, and did not have the standing to make demands to the Sum Emperor.

Moreover, if there truly was a Heavenly Demon in the Tianchen World, then with Han Yuankai's Yin-Yang Realm cultivation, he indeed might be able to summon it.

For a time, the entire area around Black Dragon City became incredibly silent. The cultivators of the Misty World were all waiting for Lu Chen's decision.

Most cultivators from other forces hoped that the Sum Emperor would let Han Yuankai go. Han Yuankai only had a vendetta against the direct disciples of the Misty Immortal Sect, and those forces that had been absorbed by the Misty Immortal Sect from the Misty World did not hate him so much.

Most of the Misty World's cultivators thought, since the situation had gone this way, why not just directly pledge allegiance to the Daxia Dynasty? After joining the Daxia Dynasty, they could still stay in the Tianchen World, which would not have much impact on them.

Whether they were disciples of the Misty Immortal Sect or subjects of the Daxia Dynasty did not make much difference to the cultivators from the Misty World.

Seeing that Lu Chen had not responded for a long time, Han Yuankai threatened again, "If you don't believe it, then let's perish together!"

As he spoke, a huge blood-red array appeared under Han Yuankai's feet. Seeing this scene, the cultivators present began to panic.

It was over; that demon Han Yuankai was really going to summon the Heavenly Demon!

Now they were doomed. They would all likely become food for the Heavenly Demon!

Unexpectedly, although Han Yuankai looked like he was about to summon the Heavenly Demon, he did not directly sacrifice himself to activate the summoning array.

The array under his feet was just in a recently constructed state and needed a sacrifice to activate further.

Seeing that Han Yuankai had not activated the sacrificial array, Lu Chen said with a smile, "A Heavenly Demon? I am quite curious to see what this Heavenly Demon you speak of looks like."

"Since you said you would summon the Heavenly Demon, then summon it for me to see!"

The Heavenly Demon of this world had already been eradicated by Lu Chen; he was not worried at all about Han Yuankai summoning another Heavenly Demon.

Even if a new Heavenly Demon appeared in this world, with the Demon-Expelling Banner in hand, Lu Chen would still not be afraid.

Lu Chen was not concerned about Han Yuankai's threat in the slightest.

Seeing Lu Chen's indifferent demeanor, Han Yuankai became somewhat anxious and scoffed, "Do you think I dare not? I warn you one last time, if you dare attack me again, I will immediately summon the Heavenly Demon!"

During his speech, the array patterns under Han Yuankai's feet started emitting a strong red light, appearing as though it was about to be activated.

For a moment, the atmosphere on the scene became extremely oppressive.

Lu Chen continued, "I said, I am very interested in the Heavenly Demon. If you can summon it, then summon it for me to see."

"Sect Master Han is late to activate the summoning array. Could it be that he is afraid of death and dares not summon the Heavenly Demon?" Lu Chen remarked.

"If that's the case, then I shall assist Sect Master Han!" he declared.

As the words fell, Lu Chen pinched a spell with his fingers. The next moment, the Demon-Expelling Banner flew close to Han Yuankai and soon released rings of multicolored light once again.

When the multicolored light shone on Han Yuankai, his body ignited as if it were on fire, and he instantly felt immense pain.

Seeing that Lu Chen had truly made a move against him, Han Yuankai shouted loudly, "This is too much! Since you refuse to spare me, let's die together!"

The next moment, the array beneath Han Yuankai's feet emitted a bright red light.

Then, a burst of red mist exploded, making it look as though Han Yuankai had really sacrificed himself to activate the Heavenly Demon summoning array.

However, Su Hanyan immediately spotted the problem. She distinctly sensed Han Yuankai's aura rapidly moving towards the Misty World.

Su Hanyan turned her head to look but did not see Han Yuankai's figure. She quickly realized what was happening.

Han Yuankai did not wish to die. He had merely intended to frighten others and shift their attention, all to prepare for his escape.

Not only had Han Yuankai caused their Honored Master's death, but he had also caused the Misty Immortal Sect to be divided. Such a demon, Su Hanyan could not possibly let him escape.

Immediately, Su Hanyan flew on her sword, transforming into a blurred shadow as she chased in the direction Han Yuankai had escaped.

Lu Chen, naturally, also sensed that Han Yuankai was not dead. The demonic qi on Han Yuankai had not dissipated, and the Demon-Expelling Banner was particularly sensitive to demonic qi, enabling Lu Chen to easily detect Han Yuankai's movements through it.

Seeing that Han Yuankai intended to escape using the Tunneling method, Lu Chen merely smiled faintly.

He was not in a hurry. No matter how fast Han Yuankai was, he could not be faster than the Immortal Boat.

The Immortal Boat could reach any location in the Tianchen World in the blink of an eye.

Currently, Han Yuankai, having been severely injured by the Demon-Expelling Banner and with Tunneling consuming a large amount of spiritual power, was not escaping as fast as when using his sword.

Before long, Su Hanyan caught up with Han Yuankai and flew in front of him, directly blocking his retreat.

Su Hanyan gripped her sword tightly and swung it. Instantly, over a dozen waves of Sword Qi cut countless trenches into the ground, and Han Yuankai was forced out.

After leaping out, Han Yuankai spat out a mouthful of fresh blood. Seeing Su Hanyan blocking his path, Han Yuankai sneered, "Junior Sister, I am your Senior Brother, and this is how you treat me?"

Su Hanyan said coldly, "A demon does not deserve to be my Senior Brother!"

"Since the Honored Master was killed by you, you shall not escape today!"

Han Yuankai scoffed and said, "Junior Sister, do you really think you can match me just because I'm severely injured?"

"How ludicrous!"

As he spoke, a surge of blood qi burst forth from Han Yuankai's body. The next moment, his body transformed into a remnant shadow, charging directly towards Su Hanyan.

Han Yuankai did not intend to waste much time with Su Hanyan. He needed to escape quickly. If the Sum Emperor caught up, his death was certain.

Seeing Han Yuankai rush towards her, Su Hanyan tightened her grip on her sword, gathered all her spiritual power, and then swung her sword.

Wind-Thunder Sword!!!

Seeing Su Hanyan use the Wind-Thunder Sword against him, Han Yuankai's lips curled slightly.

The next moment, a huge sword sparking with electricity stabbed towards Han Yuankai.

Han Yuankai did not retaliate but instead said to Su Hanyan, "Junior Sister, thank you!"

"Thunderclap Step!!!"

Han Yuankai's body was not struck by the Wind-Thunder Sword. Instead, his body instantly transformed into a bolt of lightning, flashing past Su Hanyan from the side.

Su Hanyan clearly had not anticipated this. Only after Han Yuankai had escaped did his voice reach her from behind.

"Junior Sister, I taught you the Wind-Thunder Sword. Did you think I wouldn't know how to counter it?"

Chapter 993: Heavenly Demon... Why Hasn't It Appeared...

Han Yuankai not only was unharmed by Su Hanyan's Wind-Thunder Sword but also used the air's Thunder attribute Spiritual Power with his Thunderclap Step to rush toward the Misty World instantaneously.

In Han Yuankai's view, as long as he could enter the Misty World, he would hide anywhere, and the Sum Emperor would never find him.

Furthermore, the space within the Misty World was extremely unstable; especially after the constraints of the Misty World disappeared, the space started to show signs of collapse, leaving no reason for the Sum Emperor to risk venturing into the Misty World for him.

Seeing Su Hanyan turn into a bolt of lightning disappearing from his sight, Su Hanyan furrowed her brows, absolutely unwilling to let the man who killed her Honored Master escape from her sight so easily.

The next moment, Su Hanyan once again commanded her sword to chase in the direction Han Yuankai had fled.

Leveraging the lightning Spiritual Power of the Wind-Thunder Sword, Han Yuankai's speed was incredibly fast, nearly reaching the boundary between the Misty World and the Tianchen World in the blink of an eye.

Watching the Misty World drawing nearer and nearer, Han Yuankai felt ecstatic, believing he had successfully escaped.

At that moment, he fantasized that after some time, he would emerge from the Misty World, then devise a plan to assume a new identity to get close to the Sum Emperor; for him, a Demon Cultivator, changing his appearance to someone else was rather easy.

By then, he might be able to use the Sum Emperor's Immortal Boat to leave this place.

Just as Han Yuankai was figuring out whose appearance would be least likely to be noticed by the Sum Emperor, suddenly, a massive shadow appeared in the sky.

Before Han Yuankai could react, a Sword Qi descended from the sky, striking directly at him.

Just as the Sword Qi was about to hit Han Yuankai, he timely halted his movement, not continuing forward; he quickly took a step back to dodge the attack.

At that moment, he looked up into the sky and saw the giant Immortal Boat and the Sum Emperor now at the bow of the boat.

Han Yuankai, with a darkened face, said, "Sum Emperor, must you really be so ruthlessly thorough!"

Lu Chen smiled and said, "Had you been just the Sect Master of the Misty Immortal Sect, I might have spared you, but unfortunately, you are also a Demon Cultivator, so I cannot let you go."

Overwhelmed by rage and an intense fear of death which left no room for fear in his heart, only the thought of dying together with the Sum Emperor remained.

Han Yuankai coldly said, "Since you are determined to be so ruthlessly thorough, let us be buried together then!"

Han Yuankai realized that he couldn't outrun the Immortal Boat, regardless of how he tried to escape now.

He didn't want to die, but it was clear that the Sum Emperor didn't intend to let him live, so if the Sum Emperor didn't want to let him live, he thought they might as well all die together.

The next moment, Han Yuankai plunged his sword into the ground, and a red Array Pattern emitting Array immediately appeared on the ground.

When Su Hanyan arrived, she saw Han Yuankai triggering the Sacrificial Array and stood frozen, not expecting that Han Yuankai had actually activated the Sacrificial Array.

With the formation of the Sacrificial Array, Han Yuankai spewed out a mouthful of fresh blood and burst into laughter, "Sum Emperor, this lowly one does not care if you are a favored son of any power; today, you will perish in this inferior world and accompany me in death."

"Right before my death, I will still be able to bring a favored son of a great power down with me, which makes it worthwhile!"

Although he wasn't aware of Lu Chen's true Identity, just by the presence of the Immortal Boat, it was apparent the Sum Emperor was no ordinary person; what Han Yuankai hated the most were those favored sons.

In his heart, all his suffering was caused by those favored sons.

To have a favored son accompany him in death made him ready to die peacefully.

However, Han Yuankai soon noticed a problem; the Sacrificial Array had been completed, and his life was nearing its end, but the Heavenly Demon had yet to appear.

Han Yuankai spit out another mouthful of blood, his body falling in the middle of the Sacrificial Array, his eyes wide in disbelief as he said, "How... How could this be..."

"Heavenly Demon... why haven't you appeared..."

He didn't believe there was a mistake in his senses; Demon Cultivators were highly sensitive to the aura of Heavenly Demons, and the aura of that Heavenly Demon was particularly strong; he had sensed it more than once in the Misty World.

Yet, after he had used his Sacrificial Array and his life was nearly extinguished, the Heavenly Demon still had not appeared!

Seeing the rapid absorption of Han Yuankai's blood essence by the Sacrificial Array, and his visibly aging body, as his skin became more and more wrinkled like the bark of a withered old tree, Lu Chen laughed and said, "Sect Master Han, where is the Heavenly Demon you summoned? Why hasn't it appeared yet?"

Hearing Lu Chen's mockery, Han Yuankai spat out another mouthful of fresh blood, "How is that possible..."

When Lu Chen saw that Han Yuankai's blood essence was almost drained by the Sacrificial Array, wanting him to die "with his eyes closed," he simply said, "I suddenly remembered that a few years ago in the Great Qian Dynasty, I killed a Heavenly Demon. The one you summoned, could it be that very same Heavenly Demon?"

Hearing this, Han Yuankai, unwilling to accept defeat, raised his hand and pointed at Lu Chen in the sky, "You..."

Before Han Yuankai could finish his sentence, his body was left with only a layer of skin.

Seeing the Sacrificial Array still running, Lu Chen's brows slightly furrowed. Logically speaking, all the Heavenly Demons of this world were already killed by him, so why was the Sacrificial Array still functioning when used by Han Yuankai?

If there were no Heavenly Demons, the Sacrificial Array shouldn't actively suck the blood of the sacrificer, should it?

At this moment, the system notification sounded.

"The Demon Cultivator's ritual to summon Heavenly Demons calls for Heavenly Demons from all worlds. Although the host has annihilated the Heavenly Demons of this world, those from other worlds require a considerable amount of time to arrive in Tianchen World. However, the Sacrificial Array has already been activated, and there's no way to retract the sacrifice."

Hearing the system's explanation, Lu Chen realized what was happening.

Lu Chen thought to himself, "So, other world's Heavenly Demons might still come to this world after sensing Han Yuankai's Sacrificial Array?"

The system responded, "Yes."

Lu Chen frowned, sensing trouble ahead, but fortunately, he had his Demon-Expelling Banner, though he wasn't sure if it could manage Heavenly Demons from other worlds.

The Heavenly Demon he had killed last time in the Great Qian Dynasty was only an injured one. If a stronger Heavenly Demon were to come, he might not be able to handle it.

With that thought, Lu Chen thrust his sword towards Han Yuankai's Sacrificial Array, and with one swing, the whole Array was thoroughly destroyed.

After destroying the Sacrificial Array, Su Hanyan stood expressionlessly, staring at the dried-up corpse.

Her mind went blank, not knowing what to think.

She had always believed Han Yuankai was a kind and amiable senior disciple, but he turned out to be the mastermind behind their Honored Master's death and even caused a split in the Misty Immortal Sect. Just now, he plotted to enhance his strength by setting up the Bloodthirsty Great Array to absorb the blood essence of fellow sect disciples.

Gradually regaining her senses, Su Hanyan felt immense regret. Why didn't she see the true nature of this demon, Han Yuankai, earlier?

If she had discovered it a day sooner, perhaps none of the subsequent events would have occurred, and even her Honored Master might still be alive.

But now it was all too late.

Luckily, Han Yuankai, the demon who killed her Honored Master, was dead.

Seeing Su Hanyan standing motionlessly, just quietly looking at Han Yuankai's corpse, Lu Chen couldn't help feeling some emotion.

The Cultivation World was full of deceit. Indeed, one should not trust others easily; Su Hanyan had trusted Han Yuankai, her senior disciple, too much.

Lu Chen then waved his hand, and a fireball flew out from his palm, igniting Han Yuankai's body which quickly turned to ashes, then he directed the Immortal Boat towards Black Dragon City.

He didn't force Su Hanyan to leave with him, but before leaving, he left her with a remark.

"The responsibility for the Misty Immortal Sect's invasion of the Daxia Dynasty can all be attributed to Han Yuankai."

Although Lu Chen didn't specifically mention how to deal with the Misty Immortal Sect, Su Hanyan also understood from his words, that Lu Chen intended to absorb the entire sect.

The Misty Immortal Sect was clearly no match for the Daxia Dynasty; if they chose to continue opposing the Daxia Dynasty, they would only meet a dead end. By placing all the blame on Han Yuankai, it essentially gave the remaining members of the Misty Immortal Sect a way out.

If they still chose to oppose the Daxia Dynasty, then they truly did not recognize favor when shown it.

Su Hanyan sighed softly. She hadn't expected it to end this way, but it was quite good too. Not only did she learn how her Honored Master had died, but it also allowed the disciples of her sect to see Han Yuankai for the demon he truly was.

Chapter 994: Arrangements for the Cultivators of Misty World

When the cultivators of Black Dragon City noticed the Feihong Immortal Boat flying back, they were all incredibly tense.

Although the Feihong Immortal Boat had just left, not a single cultivator present dared to make a rash move. They knew that if they dared to flee, it could very well mean a death sentence.

Now that their way forward and retreat were both blocked, their only chance at survival was to submit to the Daxia Dynasty.

Most cultivators in the Cultivation World had rather low loyalty to their sects, of course, there were sects with strong cohesion, but clearly, the powers of the Misty World were not among them.

As the Feihong Immortal Boat slowly flew to hover above Black Dragon City, some stewards from the Linghu Sect descended from their own flying boat, directly flying on their swords to outside the gates of Black Dragon City, and then knelt down.

"The Linghu Sect wishes to submit to Your Majesty! To serve Your Majesty! We hope Your Majesty will accept us!"

No sooner had the words of the Linghu Sect's stewards fallen than an authoritative voice came from the sky, "Granted!"

Hearing this, all the cultivators of the Linghu Sect immediately spoke in unison, "Thank Your Majesty, long live Your Majesty, long, long live Your Majesty!!!"

Seeing that the Linghu Sect had already submitted to the Daxia Dynasty, the forces under the Misty Immortal Sect became restless too. They were part of the Misty Immortal Sect but had been annexed by them, and they certainly did not wish to be destroyed alongside the Misty Immortal Sect.

Quickly, the leaders of these powers subordinate to the Misty Immortal Sect stood out, intending to submit directly to the Daxia Dynasty like the Linghu Sect had.

However, before these cultivators could step forward, a purple afterimage flashed across the sky, and moments later, the figure of Su Hanyan appeared outside Black Dragon City.

Seeing Su Hanyan's return, the people of the main branch of the Misty Immortal Sect were also relieved. With Han Yuankai's betrayal, Su Hanyan had become their mainstay.

If anything were to happen to Su Hanyan, then those cultivators who had followed Han Yuankai and left the Misty Immortal Sect would disperse completely.

Su Hanyan arrived outside the gates of Black Dragon City, bowed towards the Feihong Immortal Boat in the sky, and said, "The Misty Immortal Sect wishes to submit to the Daxia, to serve Your Majesty. From now on, the Misty Immortal Sect will follow all commands of the Daxia Dynasty, and we hope Your Majesty will accept us!"

Seeing Su Hanyan take the initiative to say this, the cultivators of the powers under the Misty Immortal Sect heaved a sigh of relief. Thankfully, the Misty Immortal Sect had also surrendered voluntarily; now they should be safe.

As Su Hanyan's words ended, an authoritarian voice once again came from the sky.

"Granted!"

Su Hanyan immediately led the way, saying, "Thank Your Majesty, long live Your Majesty, long, long live Your Majesty!"

All the cultivators of the Misty Immortal Sect followed Su Hanyan in kneeling towards Lu Chen.

Sect cultivators generally carried a certain pride and often looked down on mundane royal dynasties. Some cultivators, when going to royal dynasties, behaved condescendingly.

But at this moment, the cultivators present understood that the Daxia Dynasty was not a mundane dynasty at all, but a cultivation dynasty, and submitting to the Daxia Dynasty was not shameful.

In some higher realms of the Cultivation World, there were cultivation dynasties established by cultivation families, which often had great authority over the sect forces within the dynasty's realm. Some of the cultivators from the Misty World came from such cultivation dynasties.

For most cultivators, being governed by the Daxia Dynasty was not much different from being governed by sect forces. Perhaps the only downside would be more rules and less freedom in the future, but that was still better than losing one's life.

Even Han Yuankai, the great devil, after using the Bloodthirsty Great Formation, was no match for the Sum Emperor. These cultivators were even less a match for the Sum Emperor.

Surrender would cost them half, but it wasn't dishonorable.

At this time, Lu Chen stood at the bow of the Flying Boat, sweeping a glance at the flying boats in the sky and the cultivators from the Misty World. Most of the cultivators had low loyalty, which was expected.

Having low loyalty now was of no consequence; loyalty was something that could be improved.

Since the forces of Misty World had already surrendered to the Great Sum Dynasty, the next issue was how to handle these powers.

Several years ago, the Great Sum Dynasty had dissolved all Sects apart from the Mysterious Moon Palace. Although those Sect powers still existed in other forms, such as corporations, they no longer had such strong independence.

Now that so many forces from Misty World had arrived, they were nominally swallowed up by the three major powers, but internally they were not fully integrated; they remained a loose collection of individuals.

If these forces were allowed to continue existing in the form of Sects, perhaps in a few years, the troubles caused by the Sects would arise again.

But if all Sect powers were dissolved, then the Cultivators would lose restraint. At present, the Daxia Dynasty lacked clear legislative provisions for Cultivators, and it was also difficult for the dynasty to manage all Cultivators.

How to handle these Cultivators from Misty World was a difficult problem for Lu Chen.

After thinking for a while, Lu Chen decided to let these Sect powers continue to affiliate with the three great powers for now, until he came up with a suitable solution to address this matter.

Having witnessed the upper echelons of Cultivators from the Misty Immortal Sect and Linghu Sect being eliminated by the Great Sum Dynasty, the Cultivators of Misty World wouldn't dare to act rashly for a short time.

Feeling that there was nothing pressing, Lu Chen convened the high-ranking Elders of the Ten Thousand Immortal Sect in the meeting hall of the Immortal Boat.

When Ji Hongwen and others came into close contact with Lu Chen for the first time, they were all incredibly excited. They had gotten in touch with Lu Chen long ago, and only today had they finally seen their emperor.

Ji Hongwen, leading the Elders, bowed to Lu Chen and said, "We greet Your Majesty, long live, long live, long live!"

Lu Chen replied indifferently, "All rise."

"Thank Your Majesty!"

Immediately, everyone stood up and looked at Lu Chen. With a smile, Lu Chen said, "Sect Master Ji, you have worked hard these past years."

Hearing this from Lu Chen, Ji Hongwen quickly responded, "It's my duty."

Lu Chen continued, "Now that the greatest threats of the Misty World have been dealt with, the Cultivators of Misty World have become another issue. Sect Master Ji, do you have any way to arrange these Cultivators?"

Hearing Lu Chen's question, the Elders present fell into thought; indeed, the biggest challenge for the Daxia at the time was how to manage the relationship between Cultivators and ordinary people.

If those Cultivators were allowed to freely enter the cities of ordinary people, some Cultivators might continue acting haughtily based on their previous habits, bringing a lot of trouble to the common folks.

After thinking for a while, Ji Hongwen spoke up, "Your Majesty, forgive my bluntness, but I cannot think of a good solution at the moment."

"However, I believe we can temporarily disband the Misty Immortal Sect and the Linghu Sect, and allocate the former territories of Black Dragon County to the various powers of the Misty World, strictly forbidding them from entering other counties of the Great Sum Dynasty without permission."

"Of course, what I have suggested is just a temporary measure."

Lu Chen thought about it and felt that doing so was feasible. Placing all powers of the Misty World in one area, then selecting loyal Cultivators to enter Tianchen World, could lead to the formation of an even more formidable War Dragon Army.

The number of Celestials in the Misty World was countless; in the future, the War Dragon Army could directly use Celestials for military expansion. Celestials wielding Rune Weapons could unleash the full potential of these weapons.

Lu Chen said, "Sect Master Ji's suggestion is good. I will leave the matter of settling the powers of Misty World to Sect Master Ji, to the Ten Thousand Immortal Sect."

Ji Hongwen immediately bowed and said, "Thank Your Majesty for your trust, I shall not fail your expectations."

Lu Chen continued, "The order of the Cultivator gathering area will also be managed by the Ten Thousand Immortal Sect. If there are still those who are blind enough to seek privilege and dominance in other counties, you no longer need me to explain how to deal with them."

Ji Hongwen continued, "Your servant understands. I will manage the Sect powers of the Misty World well, ensuring that those Cultivators dare not venture beyond the former Black Dragon County."

Chapter 995: I Don't Know When Your Majesty Plans to Deal with Our Honored Master

After deciding how to settle the cultivators from the Misty World, Lu Chen immediately issued a proclamation.

Soon, the proclamation of the Great Sum Dynasty was disseminated throughout all the factions in the Misty World, and when people saw the content of the proclamation, they finally felt at ease.

Although they were confined to a specific area, Black Dragon County was large in itself and could accommodate the cultivators from the Misty World.

As for the dismantling of the Misty Immortal Sect and the Linghu Sect, the vast majority of the cultivators voted in favor with both hands and feet; originally, they were not disciples of the Linghu Sect or Misty Immortal Sect. When the three major forces of the Misty World united to exterminate other factions, most of the cultivators had been forced to join one of the three powers.

For them, this division actually meant a return to freedom, but of course, it was not good news for the Misty Immortal Sect and Linghu Sect.

Especially for the Linghu Sect, as most of its elders had been dealt with and there were hardly any strong cultivators left.

Once the Linghu Sect was disbanded, it would likely dissolve.

The Misty Immortal Sect, comparatively, was still faring better, with disciples from the actual sect still present, and with Su Hanyan, a Yin-Yang Realm cultivator, still alive, the Misty Immortal Sect would not dissolve for the time being.

On the Misty Immortal Sect's flying boat.

Su Hanyan, looking at the proclamation in her hand, fell into deep thought; presently, the Misty Immortal Sect's own cultivators, the ones who had originally followed Han Yuankai to leave the Bixia World, were on the deck of the flying boat.

An outer sect elder then spoke, "Elder Su, now that the... demon has died, our sect cannot be without a sect master for a day. You are the only Yin-Yang Realm cultivator, and the position of sect master rightfully belongs to you."

Upon hearing this, Su Hanyan did not immediately respond. The other cultivators of the Misty Immortal Sect also began to speak up.

"Elder Su, now that the Great Sum intends to split the Misty Immortal Sect and the Linghu Sect, and the Linghu Sect has suffered heavy losses, it will likely disband, but we still have you. With you here, even if our Linghu Sect is split, it will still be stronger than other forces."

"Elder Su, you must take up the position of sect master. You are the direct disciple of the Tianqiong Peak Master, and whether by strength or identity, the position of sect master should be yours."

...

Listening to the remarks of the cultivators, Su Hanyan finally spoke, "No need to say more. Since the new Misty Immortal Sect was originally established by myself and Han Yuankai,

and since Han Yuankai is dead, it is natural that I take up the responsibility of managing the entire sect."

"From today onwards, I am the new sect master of the Misty Immortal Sect."

The moment her words fell, the cultivators of the Misty Immortal Sect knelt down in unison, exclaiming in one voice, "Greetings, Sect Master!!!"

Su Hanyan said indifferently, "Stand up."

"Thank you, Sect Master!"

Su Hanyan then continued to look at the proclamation in her hand. Her concerns were not about the position of sect master, but rather about her two direct disciples.

The Misty Immortal Sect had previously been the most powerful force in the Misty World, and even though it had been severely damaged now and Han Yuankai, the demon, was dead.

But even if the Misty Immortal Sect was split and the absorbed forces were made independent, the strength of the Misty Immortal Sect could still rank second in the Tianchen World.

Therefore, the Sum Emperor might not trust the Misty Immortal Sect, especially since a demon cultivator had once emerged as a sect master among them. The Sum Emperor might always be cautious towards the Misty Immortal Sect and even harbor some suspicions.

Su Hanyan knew that her two direct disciples would definitely speak for her and for the Misty Immortal Sect, and this was precisely her concern.

If Wu Junwan and Li Qianrou spoke overly much in support of her and the Misty Immortal Sect, would the Sum Emperor feel that her two direct disciples were influenced by her, or that she had told them to say such things?

This could potentially affect their statuses by the Sum Emperor's side.

Su Hanyan thought to herself that she needed to find an opportunity to remind her two direct disciples to avoid mentioning the Misty Immortal Sect in the future as much as possible, and preferably to completely sever their connections with the Misty Immortal Sect, for their own good.

...

A few days later.

Inside the Feihong Immortal Boat.

In Lu Chen's bedroom.

At this moment, Lu Chen was holding the soft body of Wu Junwan, and Li Qianrou sat beside him; the scene looked very harmonious.

At this point, Li Qianrou asked, "I wonder when Your Majesty plans to deal with our honored master?"

Hearing this question, with a slight smile, Lu Chen's hands kneaded on Wu Junwan's body as he said, "Why would I deal with her?"

"You wouldn't want me to deal with her, would you? That would be rather unfilial of you, considering she is, after all, your honored master."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Li Qianrou inwardly chuckled. She didn't believe this man had misunderstood her words, as her notion of dealing with her was certainly not ordinary.

She and Wu Junwan unanimously believed that Lu Chen would eventually bring their Honored Master into his harem too, so the question she asked was about when Lu Chen planned to make their Honored Master his woman.

Lu Chen continued, saying, "Now that your Honored Master is the Sect Master of the Misty Immortal Sect, without her, the entire sect would fall into disarray. Let her stay in the Misty Immortal Sect for now."

"When we find a way to handle these sect powers, we will consider what to do with her."

As he spoke, Lu Chen's hand tightened slightly, causing Wu Junwan, nestled in his arms, to uncontrollably let out a soft moan. Lu Chen then turned his head to look at Li Qianrou beside him, "Your Honored Master has been in the Tianchen World for many days now. Why haven't the two of you visited her?"

On the day the Misty Immortal Sect entered the Tianchen World, Li Qianrou saw Su Hanyan briefly. In the following days, both Wu Junwan and Li Qianrou had stayed on the flying boat tending to Lu Chen, never once visiting the Misty Immortal Sect's flying boat.

Li Qianrou said calmly, "Your Majesty hasn't spoken, how would we dare to associate with the forces invading the Tianchen World?"

Hearing this, Lu Chen smiled and then said, "She is your Honored Master. You can visit her whenever you want."

"The Misty Immortal Sect has now pledged allegiance to the Great Sum Dynasty, making it part of the Great Sum Dynasty."

Li Qianrou then said, "Thank you, Your Majesty."

At that moment, Wu Junwan, with seductive eyes, also spoke weakly from Lu Chen's embrace, "Thank... Thank Your Majesty!"

Both women had longed to reunite with their Honored Master. They had been attending to Lu Chen on the immortal boat these days, to gauge his stance.

Now that Lu Chen had spoken, they could confidently head to the Misty Immortal Sect's flying boat to meet their Honored Master.

At this moment, Lu Chen flipped Wu Junwan over and gently pressed her beneath him. He stroked her silky hair and gazed into her sentiment-filled eyes, saying, "Wanyan, your resistance is getting weaker."

Seeing Wu Junwan, once a powerful Princess, reduced to this state, ignited a strange sense of pride within Lu Chen.

After Lu Chen spoke, a blush appeared on the beautiful Wu Junwan's face. She had never imagined that one day she would become like this.

After giving birth, her addiction to Lu Chen intensified, and she became more dependent on this man. Every touch from Lu Chen left her completely weak, yearning to lean into his embrace.

Seeing Wu Junwan's state, Li Qianrou felt a myriad of emotions. Both had once thought themselves to be high and mighty, responsible only for keeping male pets, but they had not expected to end up conquered by the same man.

Lu Chen then slowly leaned down. Wu Junwan tenderly embraced him, while he continued his activity and said, "Ladies, I just remembered something."

Li Qianrou asked, "What is it?"

Lu Chen breathed heavily and said, "Your Honored Master comes from the Bixia World. I want to meet her alone to learn about the Bixia World before the Misty World cultivators' conference."

Hearing this, the two women felt a shock in their hearts.

Indeed, this lecherous man was aiming for their Honored Master.

Li Qianrou said, "If Your Majesty desires our Honored Master's body, why beat around the bush? The Misty Immortal Sect has already surrendered. You only need to issue a decree, and you can have our Honored Master by your side."

Lu Chen, while continuing his actions, looked at Wu Junwan's beautiful face and laughed at Li Qianrou's remark, "Look at what you're implying. Do you see me as the kind of lecher who just wants to possess any beautiful woman he sees?"

Li Qianrou, catching a glimpse of the busy Lu Chen, chuckled and said, "Isn't that exactly what you are, Your Majesty?"

Lu Chen said, "Well... since you're accusing me of that, I'll just declare it. I am indeed captivated by your Honored Master and would like to have a heartfelt talk with her, to discuss poetry and romance of the seasons."

...

Seeing that Lu Chen had openly expressed his thoughts, Li Qianrou found herself at a loss for words.

A woman who caught Lu Chen's eye never escaped his grasp, and Li Qianrou had no intention of helping Su Hanyan escape his clutches.

Her current thought was about how to lessen Su Hanyan's resistance. Their Honored Master had remained chaste, focusing on her cultivation without any interest in men.

If Lu Chen were to force their Honored Master to become his woman, it might lead her to despise him.

Li Qianrou glanced at the humming Wu Junwan and then said, "My Honored Master has always stayed away from men. How does Your Majesty plan to take her virginity? Will it be through the threat of power or by forcible strength?"

Having always been ruthless in obtaining the women he desired, Lu Chen had taken virginity from both her and Wu Junwan directly, so Li Qianrou was curious about his approach to their Honored Master.

Lu Chen did not answer this question. He turned his head to look at Li Qianrou, smiling as he said, "Qianrou, why do I feel that you still harbor a lot of resentment over me forcibly taking your virginity?"

Li Qianrou, with a calm expression, said, "At that time, I was merely a prisoner; losing my virginity was nothing unusual."

"That's because I failed to take care of you."

As he finished speaking, Lu Chen reached out, pulled Li Qianrou closer, and kissed her red lips.

Chapter 996: Su Hanyan's Suspicions

With Lu Chen's current strength, dealing with Li Qianrou and Wu Junwan at the same time was no big deal. Of course, Lu Chen was no longer solely interested in offspring and pleasures as he had been. He was more focused on cultivation.

After cultivating with the two women for several days, they headed together to the Misty Immortal Sect's flying boat. Before the Cultivators' Conference began, all the cultivators in the Misty World were waiting in place.

On the way to the Misty Immortal Sect, one could see cultivators meditating everywhere.

Although the spiritual energy in the Tianchen World was not as dense as in the Misty World, it was safer. Cultivators no longer had to fear sudden death from being swept into spatial turbulence while cultivating.

In such a safe environment for cultivation, the speed at which the cultivators practiced increased significantly.

At this time, Su Hanyan was also meditating and cultivating on the flying boat of the Misty Immortal Sect. Due to Han Yuankai's Bloodthirsty Great Formation, her body had suffered serious injuries and needed time to recover.

Misty Immortal Sect, flying boat.

Su Hanyan's body was frantically absorbing the surrounding spiritual energy, continuously repairing her internal injuries, when a steward from the Misty Immortal Sect approached her and said, "Sect Master, your two direct disciples have arrived!"

Hearing this, Su Hanyan's heart skipped a beat, and her beautiful eyes instantly opened with her eyebrows arching slightly.

The current situation of the Misty Immortal Sect was somewhat awkward; she actually did not want her two direct disciples to have too much contact with the Misty Immortal Sect.

After all, they were now women of the Sum Emperor. If they were seen in close contact with the Misty Immortal Sect while speaking on behalf of the sect at the Sum Emperor's side, the Sum Emperor would eventually grow discontented with them.

Su Hanyan composed herself and said to the steward, "Let them up."

She had previously been considering how to remind them to keep their distance from the Misty Immortal Sect, but now that they had come of their own accord, it was a good opportunity to speak with them about it.

Moments later, Wu Junwan and Li Qianrou appeared in front of Su Hanyan. Seeing them, Su Hanyan immediately took out several spirit stones, tossed them around them, and promptly set up a soundproofing formation.

Within the soundproofing formation, whatever they said could not be heard from outside.

After the formation was set, Su Hanyan opened the conversation with Li Qianrou and Wu Junwan, "Qingrou, Junwan, you should not have come."

Li Qianrou and Wu Junwan were startled for a moment, then Li Qianrou asked, "Why would you say that, Honored Master?"

Su Hanyan said, "You are now women of the Sum Emperor, and Misty Immortal Sect is considered an invading force. If the Sum Emperor were to see you being so close to the Misty Immortal Sect, it might raise some doubts. This is not good for you."

Hearing Su Hanyan's words, the two women instantly realized she was afraid that Lu Chen might misunderstand them.

Wu Junwan then said, "Honored Master, rest assured, we came to the Misty Immortal Sect under His Majesty's instruction."

Hearing this, Su Hanyan asked curiously, "Under the Sum Emperor's instruction? He allowed you to come?"

Li Qianrou replied, "We wanted to visit you, Honored Master, but we also mentioned it to him and got his approval."

With the response from Li Qianrou, Su Hanyan did not dwell on the matter further. As long as they had the Sum Emperor's approval, that was all that mattered. The last thing she wanted was for them to secretly visit the Misty Immortal Sect and then be discovered by the Sum Emperor later on.

Su Hanyan eyed Wu Junwan and Li Qianrou. Both of them had reached the Heavenly Human Realm and had officially begun their cultivation journey.

Su Hanyan, as their Honored Master, always took her role as the mentor of her two direct disciples very seriously.

At that moment, Wu Junwan asked, "Honored Master, you were inside the Bloodthirsty Great Formation when the Sect Master used it. How do you feel now? Is there any discomfort in your body?"

Su Hanyan replied with a smile, "I've only suffered some minor injuries, nothing serious."

As soon as Su Hanyan finished speaking, Wu Junwan moved to her side, took her jade hand, and without hesitation, Su Hanyan felt a moment of surprise, not understanding what Wu Junwan was doing. However, the next moment, a cool spiritual power flowed into her body, rapidly healing her internal injuries and making her feel incredibly relaxed.

This...

Surprised, Su Hanyan asked, "Junwan, who taught you this cultivation technique for healing others?"

While cultivators also had some ability to actively recover from injuries, none were as effective as this. Wu Junwan's spiritual power entered her body and almost immediately, her wounds had nearly healed.

Clearly, it was a special cultivation technique. Su Hanyan did not recall ever teaching such a technique to Wu Junwan, nor did she possess it.

Wu Junwan replied, "This is a cultivation technique taught by the Sum Emperor. It is known to all his wives and concubines."

Su Hanyan said, "I see."

It made sense why Wu Junwan had such an effective healing art—it was from the Sum Emperor. Considering both the Immortal Boat and the cultivation technique the Sum Emperor had taught Wu Junwan, it was clear his identity was far from simple.

In that moment, Su Hanyan's curiosity about the Sum Emperor increased once again. She was eager to know which power the Sum Emperor came from and how he learned about Han Yuankai's matters.

If the Sum Emperor had not taken the initiative to reveal Han Yuankai's affairs, it is likely that she and the people of her own sect at Misty Immortal Sect would still be unaware that their honored master had been killed by Han Yuankai, the eldest senior brother.

At this time, Su Hanyan let out a slight sigh and then said, "Junwan, Qingrou, thanks to you both, I was able to survive. Without becoming the Sum Emperor's women, perhaps I would have been gone from this world as well."

In Su Hanyan's view, the Sum Emperor had not taken action against her probably because her two disciples had said something in Lu Chen's presence, interceding on her behalf, which is why Lu Chen did not strike against her, a cultivator of the Yin-Yang Realm.

After all, Misty Immortal Sect was the invading party. Her continued presence in Misty Immortal Sect, a strong cultivator of the Yin-Yang Realm, posed a great threat.

Upon hearing Su Hanyan's words, Li Qianrou suddenly thought of something and immediately said, "Honored Master, even without us, the Sum Emperor would not possibly kill you."

Su Hanyan asked in confusion, "Why is that?"

Li Qianrou said, "Because the Sum Emperor has taken a fancy to you."

This...

Both Wu Junwan and Su Hanyan were stunned. Wu Junwan did not expect Li Qianrou to come out with such a statement. She had initially planned to do more groundwork, to give her honored master some time to accept it.

Speaking directly, their honored master might not be able to accept it.

And Su Hanyan equally had not expected the Sum Emperor to actually covet her beauty. She was not without pursuers in the Cultivation World, but she thought that the Sum Emperor was someone from a great power gaining experience, so his main focus would be on cultivation, with little interest in female charms.

Why would the Sum Emperor be interested in her?

Coming to her senses, Su Hanyan immediately said, "Qingrou, don't speak nonsense. I am your honored master, how could I become the Sum Emperor's woman!"

Su Hanyan also realized that Li Qianrou and Wu Junwan had come today probably on behalf of the Sum Emperor. Otherwise, the Sum Emperor likely would not have sent the two of them to Misty Immortal Sect.

Seeing Su Hanyan indeed exhibiting an averse expression, Li Qianrou said, "Honored Master, the Sum Emperor wouldn't care about these things. He is a lascivious man. Any woman he fancies eventually becomes unable to escape his palm."

Hearing Li Qianrou's description, Su Hanyan felt a shock in her heart. She then glanced at Li Qianrou and Wu Junwan and said, "In that case, you two were also forced by him..."

Su Hanyan didn't continue.

Seeing that Li Qianrou had bluntly spoken about the matter, Wu Junwan no longer kept it hidden. She spoke up, "Honored Master, initially we were indeed forced by the Sum Emperor, but after becoming his women, he didn't restrict us in any way. In the end, we fell in love with him."

This...

Su Hanyan found it difficult to understand. If they had been forced by the Sum Emperor to become his women, how could they have fallen in love with him?

Li Qianrou nearby said, "Disciple knows that Honored Master must find it hard to understand how we could fall in love with him, this lascivious man, especially since it began with coercion."

At this, Li Qianrou continued, "The Sum Emperor's greatest flaw is his love for beauty. Apart from that, he nearly has no other faults in our eyes. He treats all his wives well, provides them with cultivation techniques to practice, actively helps them enhance their strengths, and takes great care of all his women. Furthermore, he is handsome and powerful—who wouldn't fall in love with him in the end?"

"Even women born without feelings, after becoming the Sum Emperor's women, gradually regain their emotions."

Hearing Li Qianrou's words, Su Hanyan quickly responded. Indeed, the Sum Emperor was clearly the scion of a great force in the Cultivation World, and such a figure was already very attractive to women from a lower world.

If the Sum Emperor was even slightly better to his women, it was natural that Li Qianrou and the others would helplessly fall in love with him.

Women admire strength, and the Sum Emperor was not only formidable but also good to his women, and handsome to boot. What woman would not love such a man?

However...

Su Hanyan said, "Although I do not know how the Sum Emperor treats you when he is with you, I must remind you that the Sum Emperor's identity must not be simple. Behind him certainly stands a great sect or super force of the Cultivation World."

"Such an exalted person never lacks for women; why would he take interest in women from a lower world? If he is good to you, it is very possible that it's an act, or maybe he has some ulterior motive."

Su Hanyan, a cultivator from the High-Level Cultivation Realm, had broad knowledge. She had seen many cultivators deceive others' feelings, some cultivating special paths, then deceiving feelings, willing their Daoist couples to die for them, thereby helping them achieve their path.

The Sum Emperor, such an esteemed person, being actively good to his own women, was obviously problematic.

Ordinary disciples of a great sect, even the most common, were haughty, considering themselves superior. Not to mention someone like the Sum Emperor, who could bring out such a luxurious Immortal Boat.

Su Hanyan now seriously suspected whether the Sum Emperor considered her two disciples as Furnace Cauldrons or as sacrifices for achieving his path.

Chapter 997: Perfect, your master also wants to see what kind of person the Sum Emperor is.

Upon hearing Su Hanyan's reminder, Li Qianrou and Wu Junwan were slightly taken aback. At first, they hadn't considered these things; when they first became Lu Chen's women, they just thought that Lu Chen was a lecherous person by nature.

However, after later discovering that Lu Chen's strength was even more terrifying than they had imagined, they knew that Lu Chen must have come from the High-Level Cultivation Realm and had an extraordinary identity. It was then that they wondered why Lu Chen was so good to them.

Of course, at that time, they had only occasionally thought about it and had not pondered the specific reasons. They simply assumed that was just the kind of person Lu Chen was.

Su Hanyan continued to remind Li Qianrou and Wu Junwan, "Qianrou, Junwan, having come from a lower realm, you might not realize the immense value of the Immortal Boat owned by the Sum Emperor and thus cannot comprehend the prestige of his identity."

"Let me put it this way," she said, "in the High-Level Cultivation Realm where I come from, even the rulers controlling entire worlds can hardly possess an Immortal Boat of this caliber."

"Judging from the array patterns on the Immortal Boat, it's very likely that its grade has reached the Heaven Rank, or perhaps even the Saint-grade."

In Su Hanyan's view, Li Qianrou and Wu Junwan, as people from a lower realm, couldn't understand how noble Lu Chen's identity was, and thus they didn't see why Lu Chen was so good to them, really thinking him to be just a lecher.

Upon hearing Su Hanyan's words, the two women felt a jolt in their hearts.

They were only aware that Lu Chen's identity might be very noble, and the Immortal Boat very precious, but they had not realized that the Immortal Boat Lu Chen had produced could be of Heaven or even Saint-grade quality.

Thinking this way, could Lu Chen's identity be even more noble than they had speculated?

Seeing that her two disciples were lost in thought after hearing her words, Su Hanyan sighed softly. She knew they had never considered these things.

Then, Su Hanyan continued, "If he is really as you said, treating his women very well, then you must be careful. He may be paving the way for his own great dao, wanting you all to fall in love with him, and then willingly sacrifice yourselves for his sake."

"When you go to the High-Level Cultivation Realm in the future, you will understand that this sort of thing is very common in the Cultivation World. I have seen many people deceive their daoist couples' emotions, whether male or female, it's all the same."

Upon Su Hanyan's reminder, the two women indeed began to doubt Lu Chen, but soon they came back to their senses. At that moment, Wu Junwan spoke up, "Honored Master, even if the Sum Emperor is truly deceiving your disciples' feelings, I have accepted it. Now that I

carry his child and cannot leave him, if one day he truly needs me to die for him, I will not hesitate at all."

This...

Su Hanyan's brows furrowed; she hadn't expected her disciples to love the Sum Emperor to this extent.

Even knowing that the Sum Emperor might be deceiving their feelings, they were still willing to die for him; the Sum Emperor had made them fall to this degree.

The more this was the case, the more it proved that the Sum Emperor considered them some kind of sacrifice, and now Wu Junwan was no different from a dead soldier.

The thought of her two disciples being used by the Sum Emperor as Furnace Cauldrons or some kind of sacrificial offering made Su Hanyan feel extremely distressed.

She knew that whatever she said to Li Qianrou and Wu Junwan now would probably be useless. The two had fallen in love with the Sum Emperor and were deeply entrapped.

No matter how much she tried to persuade them to leave the Sum Emperor, they couldn't. And if she kept trying to convince them, she might even turn them against her.

The best course of action was to get the Sum Emperor to let them go.

With this in mind, Su Hanyan formed a plan.

As their Honored Master, she couldn't stand by and watch them become sacrificial offerings. She had to find a way to save them and help them escape the sea of suffering.

With this in mind, Su Hanyan looked at Li Qianrou and asked, "Qingrou, the Sum Emperor allowed you to come to the Misty Immortal Sect's Flying Boat; he must want you to convey some message to me, right?"

Li Qianrou didn't hide anything and directly answered, "He wants to meet with you alone and ask about some matters concerning the Bixia World."

Su Hanyan said, "Good, I too wish to see what kind of person the Sum Emperor is."

"Tomorrow, I will accompany you to Black Dragon City."

Su Hanyan didn't plan to continue discussing sacrificial matters; she had seen many cultivators who sacrificed themselves for their daoist couples and knew that continuing would not change anything.

The root of the problem was with the Sum Emperor; to save them, she needed to find the Sum Emperor.

Afterward, Su Hanyan changed the subject, inquiring about the Daxia Dynasty from Wu Junwan and Li Qianrou, and listened to their stories of how they had gradually become the women of the Sum Emperor.

After listening to Wu Junwan and Li Qianrou, Su Hanyan grew even more curious about Lu Chen. Many things Lu Chen had stirred up seemed to be unrelated to the world of cultivation.

However, it cannot be denied that he was indeed a qualified Emperor.

This further confirmed her speculation, such an ambitious emperor didn't seem at all like a lecher. He must be plotting something.

In the end, the mentor-disciple trio talked for a whole day and night within the soundproofing formation. The next morning, Su Hanyan followed Wu Junwan and Li Qianrou to Black Dragon City.

As the first Cultivator conference was to be convened, Lu Chen also descended from the celestial boat in the sky to the ground. The former imperial palace of Black Dragon Country was still there, which was precisely where Lu Chen settled down.

A ray of sunshine entered through the window sill and shone on the snow-white skin of the beauty, the warm sunlight awakened Yun Xianxian, who was deep in sleep.

She opened her eyes and discovered that she was lying on top of Lu Chen's body, the two still maintaining their cultivation stance. Feeling the heat from Lu Chen's body and recalling the happenings of the previous night, a slight blush appeared on Yun Xianxian's cold cheeks.

At this moment, Lu Chen also opened his eyes, and seeing Yun Xianxian looking down at him, he smiled slightly, "Honored Master, why don't you sleep a little longer?"

Yun Xianxian said with an expressionless face, "There's nothing good about sleeping."

Cultivators don't really need to sleep every night. When she was at the Mysterious Moon Palace, she also hardly ever slept. Ever since she became Lu Chen's woman, she had developed the habit of sleeping.

But to say she was sleeping, in reality, it was still engaging in that kind of activity.

At this time, Yun Xianxian sat up, looking like she was about to get off Lu Chen's body. As soon as she got up, Lu Chen's other hand gripped her waist and pulled her back down, firmly pressing her body against his, not allowing her to separate from him.

Yun Xianxian gave Lu Chen a glare immediately. Everything that needed to be done had been done, yet this guy still liked to keep her close.

Lu Chen didn't care about Yun Xianxian's gaze at all.

Yun Xianxian then asked, "How do you plan to deal with the forces of the Misty World?"

Seeing that Yun Xianxian didn't have the intention to get up, Lu Chen gently caressed her jade back while saying, "I plan to absorb these cultivators into the Daxia Dynasty and transform them into Daxia soldiers."

Yun Xianxian said, "Cultivators always love freedom and are mostly wild and unruly. It might not be easy for them to join the Daxia Army."

Having been with Lu Chen for so long, Yun Xianxian was very familiar with the situation in Great Sum. She knew the Daxia Army's military discipline was strict and took even minor matters seriously.

And typically, disciples from sect powers were not obedient; imagining them joining the Daxia Army and adapting to militarized management was hard to envision what the Daxia Army would turn into.

After Yun Xianxian finished speaking, Lu Chen's hand wandered towards her buttocks. She still paid no attention to Lu Chen's subtle movements.

Lu Chen spoke up, "As long as the conditions are good, there will always be people who join. What do you think of that Spirit Rice?"

Upon hearing this, Yun Xianxian remembered the Spirit Rice she had been eating lately. Lu Chen had planted those quite early, and she was aware of it. However, at that time, the world's spiritual energy was not abundant, so although the Spirit Rice that was cultivated could enhance one's strength, the effect was very average, not as effective as the common spiritual plants in the Cultivation World.

But ever since the resurgence of spiritual energy in the Tianchen World, the spiritual power contained in the Spirit Rice became richer, and its effect on enhancing cultivation state became more noticeable. The overall cultivation state of the Daxia Army's soldiers was improving so quickly because they consumed Spirit Rice in the barracks from time to time.

Yun Xianxian then said, "Spirit Rice indeed has a significant attraction for the average cultivator, but if we use benefits to attract them to join the army, even if they join, it's difficult to form combat power. They won't truly fight for you, for Great Sum."

Lu Chen smiled and said, "If you say so, then most people in this world join some forces because of various benefits and don't really fight for a person or a group."

"Everyone has personal interests. This is normal. Let's first have them join the War Dragon Army. As long as there are enough benefits, they can be made to fight for Great Sum."

"Loyalty is always a rare commodity. I haven't planned on pursuing it excessively. I only need my core subordinates to remain loyal."

Yun Xianxian thought for a moment and felt that Lu Chen made sense but still reminded him, "Then you better keep your eyes open, don't make the same mistake as I did by promoting a group of ingrates to Elder positions."

When she founded the Mysterious Moon Palace in the Tianchen World, she also didn't care about the loyalty level of those disciples. As a result, a group of Elders she promoted ended up defecting to the previous Emperor.

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Of course."

As soon as the words fell, Lu Chen's other hand also went around Yun Xianxian's waist. Then he slightly moved his body, and Yun Xianxian immediately gave Lu Chen a glance, disapproving of his frivolity so early in the morning.

Just as Lu Chen intended to continue his joyous time with Yun Xianxian, Bai Qingqing's voice came from the door, "Your Majesty, the new Sect Master of Misty Immortal Sect requests an audience."

Chapter 998: I Can Make a Deal with Your Majesty

Hearing Bai Qingqing's words at the door, Lu Chen was slightly stunned and stopped the movements he had just started; he had intended to continue exercising to rejuvenate himself.

Yun Xianxian looked at Lu Chen with a regretful expression and said emotionlessly, "It seems your harem is about to gain another woman."

Hearing Yun Xianxian's words, Lu Chen looked down at her cold and frost-like face and said with a smile, "Xian'er, why do I detect a whiff of sourness? Do you smell it too?"

"What sourness? I haven't sensed any," Yun Xianxian replied indifferently.

Lu Chen asked teasingly, "Are you jealous?"

"Why would I be jealous? If I were, considering the women in your harem, I'd have to live in a vinegar vat day in and day out," Yun Xianxian said nonchalantly.

Although Yun Xianxian had always wanted to monopolize Lu Chen, with strong possessiveness, she also knew she couldn't hog him all to herself.

If she did manage to monopolize Lu Chen one day, she'd probably be the first to suffer from it. Yun Xianxian had come to terms with that realization.

It was good enough for her to merely have usage rights to Lu Chen; the ownership belonged to all the mistresses in his harem—sharing wasn't such a big deal.

With the other women in Lu Chen's harem around, his attention wouldn't always be on her, and she could occasionally rest, which was quite nice.

At that moment, Yun Xianxian propped herself up, intending to get off Lu Chen, but his hands remained firmly on her waist, so she couldn't separate from him.

Yun Xianxian looked into Lu Chen's eyes and said, "Your new plaything has arrived—aren't you in a hurry to find her? Why cling on like this?"

Smiling, Lu Chen replied, "Since we've already started, we should finish properly."

As he spoke, Lu Chen hugged Yun Xianxian, turned over, placing her delicate body beneath him, and continued with his business.

To get Lu Chen to finish up quickly and meet his new lover, Yun Xianxian immediately activated the Mysterious Female Technique.

Meanwhile.

Wu Junwan and Li Qianrou brought Su Hanyan to a courtyard and quietly awaited Lu Chen's arrival.

The three women waited nearly two hours without seeing Lu Chen. Li Qianrou and Wu Junwan naturally suspected what Lu Chen was up to.

Aside from when occupied with certain activities, he was always able to appear immediately at any other time.

As they waited for Lu Chen's arrival, Li Qianrou warned Su Hanyan, "Honored Master, no matter how you feel about Lu Chen, he presents himself as a lecher. When he meets you, he might grope you—if you are unwilling, try to keep your distance."

Li Qianrou knew Su Hanyan believed Lu Chen's lecherous behavior was an act, so she reminded her to be cautious, even if it was indeed a pretense.

Lecherous behavior could be faked, but Lu Chen's actions were real. Upon seeing a woman he liked, he never hesitated to make a move and claim her as his own.

So no matter if Lu Chen was truly a lecher or not, if Su Hanyan didn't wish to become one of his women, it was crucial to distance herself from him and avoid provoking him, lest she couldn't leave Black Dragon City intact today.

Hearing her disciple's advice, Su Hanyan was curious whether the Sum Emperor was as lecherous as her disciples claimed, being so readily handsy upon first meeting—it seemed rather overzealous.

In the world of cultivation, only demonic cultivators practicing Yin-Yang Balance would grope a woman on sight. The cultivators from the great sects would at least put on a facade.

As Su Hanyan's impression of Lu Chen deteriorated, a voice sounded.

"Qianrou, what are you saying? Your Honored Master is also my Honored Master. How could I possibly disrespect my own master?"

Hearing this voice, the three women looked towards the courtyard entrance and saw Lu Chen, clad in a Black Gold Dragon Robe, slowly walking toward them.

Seeing Lu Chen approach, Li Qianrou said with a composed face, "We are all too aware of the kind of man you are."

"You've been absent for so long, you've probably been bullying your Honored Master."

Laughing, Lu Chen responded, "Bullying? I've been assisting her in her cultivation, don't think so ill of me."

Seeing Li Qianrou speak so bluntly to Lu Chen, Su Hanyan was taken aback. Leaving aside that Lu Chen was a cultivator from a Great Sect, he was now the Emperor of the Daxia Dynasty. Despite being his Noble Concubine, Li Qianrou dared to speak to him so forthrightly.

The key point was that Lu Chen appeared so affable and not the slightest bit angry. It seemed Lu Chen was just as his women described, treating his mistresses extremely well, indeed indulging them.

The more it seemed so, the more it proved Lu Chen was intentionally nurturing these women's affections, possibly intending to have them willingly sacrifice themselves to aid him in achieving the great path someday.

Thinking this, Su Hanyan firmed her internal resolution—she must help her two disciples leave Lu Chen's side and not allow them to become sacrificial offerings to his grand path.

At that moment, Su Hanyan stood up from the stone bench, turned towards Lu Chen outside the pavilion, and greeted him with a bow, "Greeting Your Majesty!"

Lu Chen replied with a smile, "There's no need for formalities, Sect Master Su. You are Junwan's and Qianrou's Honored Master, which makes us practically family."

Then, Lu Chen said to Li Qianrou and Wu Junwan, "Junwan, Qianrou, I'd like to have a private talk with your Honored Master."

Upon hearing this, the two women knew what Lu Chen was planning to do, and they immediately grew a touch more worried in their hearts.

However, both of them still rose from their seats and left the pavilion.

Once Li Qianrou and Wu Junwan had both left the courtyard, Lu Chen went inside the pavilion and sat opposite Su Hanyan, saying with a smile, "Sect Master Su, please have a seat."

Su Hanyan said, "Thank you, Your Majesty."

Then she slowly sat down, while Lu Chen took the moment to assess her.

Su Hanyan was stunningly beautiful, exuding an ethereal grace, much like a fairy descending to earth, clad in a purple dress that radiated the charm of a mature woman.

Seeing Lu Chen staring at her, Su Hanyan was initially taken aback but soon realized what was happening. She still believed that Lu Chen's lechery was just an act.

Afterward, Su Hanyan took the initiative to ask, "May I know why Your Majesty sought to meet?"

Lu Chen didn't answer immediately but picked up the teapot on the table and poured a cup of tea for her.

"This tea is quite nice and can aid in cultivation as well, Sect Master Su might want to try some."

Without overthinking, Su Hanyan said, "Thank you, Your Majesty."

The tea had been prepared by the maids before Lu Chen's arrival, and she had drunk some earlier; hence, Su Hanyan didn't suspect anything amiss with it.

After pouring the tea, Lu Chen finally spoke, "Sect Master Su, Junwan and Qingrou must have told you about my situation already, right?"

Su Hanyan replied, "They have indeed, which has raised many questions for me."

Lu Chen took a sip from his teacup and replied, "Oh? Questions? What kind of questions?"

Su Hanyan said, "With Your Majesty's status, any woman would be yours with just a word. There's no need to be so good to your own women; Your Majesty's concern for them makes people think you have ulterior motives."

Hearing this from Su Hanyan, Lu Chen was taken aback for a moment before he smiled and responded, "Ulterior motives? What do you think I am scheming?"

Su Hanyan said, "Your Majesty's affairs are unclear to me, but in the Cultivation World, it is very common for one to deceive others emotionally, then let the other die for oneself, all for one's own greater path."

Lu Chen instantly understood Su Hanyan's meaning; it seemed she believed he was good to his women to prepare them as willing sacrifices for his own path to greatness.

With a slight smile, Lu Chen put down his teacup and looked into Su Hanyan's beautiful eyes, "It seems there are many misunderstandings about me, Sect Master Su."

Su Hanyan replied, "Whether they are misunderstandings, Your Majesty knows best. Based on Your Majesty's Immortal Boat, one could surmise you are not merely a Prince of some empire, but perhaps the Saint Heir of a great sect."

"I have never heard of an empire's prince or the Saint Heir of any major power treating their consorts so well. To them, women are but playthings."

Seeing that Su Hanyan's misconceptions about him ran deep, Lu Chen knew it would be difficult to change her perception; therefore, there was no need for excessive verbal explanations.

Lu Chen directly said, "Given this, why would Sect Master Su still wish to meet me?"

Su Hanyan answered, "Junwan and Qingrou are my Direct Disciples, and I do not wish to see them become sacrifices for someone else's path to greatness."

Lu Chen stated, "You must understand they can no longer leave me."

Su Hanyan responded, "That is why I am here."

"Your Majesty is the root cause, and only by meeting Your Majesty can there potentially be a way to save them."

Lu Chen looked at Su Hanyan with a playful expression, "So it seems, Sect Master Su, you want to kill me?"

Su Hanyan replied, "I do not have that power."

Lu Chen asked, "Then what purpose does your visit serve?"

Su Hanyan stated firmly, "I propose a transaction. If Your Majesty agrees to leave Junwan and Qingrou unharmed, I am willing to do anything for Your Majesty."

Lu Chen's eyes narrowed slightly. He did not immediately respond but took up his teacup again, sipped the tea, seemingly deep in thought.

After a long moment, Lu Chen put down the teacup and looked again at Su Hanyan's exquisite face, "Sect Master Su, you also realize my identity may be that of a prince of some empire or the Saint Heir of a great sect."

"Do you believe there is anything you have that I would find desirable?"

"If you have nothing I need, how can we possibly strike a deal?"

With that...

Su Hanyan was taken aback in her heart, indeed, she had nothing of value to offer Lu Chen in exchange.

Chapter 999: Su Hanyan's Inner Struggle

Seeing Su Hanyan completely stunned, Lu Chen continued, "Sect Master Su, I can make a deal with you, but you'll have to go back and think carefully about what you have that you can trade with me."

As soon as Lu Chen finished speaking, he stood up and walked towards the outside of the pavilion, saying as he went, "Let's leave it at that for today."

Seeing that Lu Chen had left so abruptly, Su Hanyan wanted to say something but found herself unable to speak.

Although Wu Junwan and Li Qingrou were her direct disciples and she had deep affection for them, that affection did not extend to the point where she would sacrifice herself for them.

And aside from herself, she truly did have nothing of value to offer for the trade.

As Lu Chen left the courtyard, he happened to see Li Qingrou and Wu Junwan. They hadn't eavesdropped on the conversation between Lu Chen and Su Hanyan, knowing that Lu Chen's perceptive abilities were strong, and that he would have noticed if they had.

Seeing Lu Chen come out so quickly left the two women very confused; they were eager to know what had been said between Lu Chen and Su Hanyan.

Wu Junwan looked at Lu Chen and asked, "What did Your Majesty and Honored Master discuss? Why did it end so quickly?"

Lu Chen had initially said he wanted to inquire about the Bixia World, and there should have been quite a lot to ask about. It hadn't even been half an hour; how could he have finished so soon?

The quicker the talk ended, it suggested the less pleasant their conversation was. Both women feared that Su Hanyan may have angered Lu Chen, which might be why he didn't care to continue speaking with her.

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Nothing much, I just directly asked her if she wanted to be my woman, and she said she'd consider it."

This...

Hearing Lu Chen's words, the women were taken aback.

That direct?

But then again, Lu Chen had always been quite forthright, which indeed was his style.

However, what surprised them today was that Lu Chen hadn't been forceful, which seemed out of character for him. In the past, he was known to take what he wanted by force; Wu Junwan and Li Qingrou themselves had been taken by him in that manner, and they did not expect him to show such a gentle side to a surrendered enemy.

At that moment, Lu Chen added, "I have other matters to attend to; you go inside and keep her company."

After he spoke, Lu Chen turned and headed for the room where he and Yun Xianxian had been intimate.

He guessed that Yun Xianxian might not have woken up yet, which would be perfect for him to continue his cultivation.

Once Lu Chen had left, Li Qingrou and Wu Junwan immediately entered the courtyard. Su Hanyan was sitting on a stone bench in the pavilion, her expression incredibly conflicted.

The women approached Su Hanyan, and Wu Junwan asked, "Honored Master, what did you discuss with Lu Chen?"

Su Hanyan came back to her senses, sighed lightly, and then said, "It was nothing."

She didn't want Li Qingrou and Wu Junwan to know about the trade with Lu Chen, as it would surely put a great deal of pressure on them if they found out.

Shortly thereafter, Su Hanyan rose from the stone bench and glanced at Wu Junwan and Li Qingrou, "I shall return home today. I will come to see you again when the Cultivators' Conference is convened."

Su Hanyan immediately mounted her sword and left the Black Dragon Empire Palace, the sight of her lonely departing silhouette led Wu Junwan and Li Qianrou to exchange glances.

They couldn't help but wonder, could Lu Chen have threatened her Honored Master just now?

Lu Chen always liked doing things like that.

Even if they knew Lu Chen had done so, the two of them were helpless; they were now Lu Chen's women, naturally, they were on Lu Chen's side.

If Su Hanyan was unwilling, they could only advise Lu Chen to give up, but if Lu Chen insisted on forcing Su Hanyan to become his woman, they wouldn't intervene to stop him either.

That's just the way the era was: follow your husband no matter what. Moreover, they couldn't separate themselves from Lu Chen neither spiritually nor physically, their stance was naturally on Lu Chen's side.

On her return journey, Su Hanyan thought a great deal.

Lu Chen must be aware that it was highly unlikely she had the object he desired. For someone who owned Heaven Rank, even Saint-grade Immortal Boats, they might not even spare a second glance for Heaven Rank magic treasures—how could she, a mere cultivator from an ordinary Sect, possibly produce something remarkable enough to catch Lu Chen's eye?

Since Lu Chen knew she didn't have any treasures of interest to him and still offered a trade, that indicated one thing: Lu Chen was interested in her.

Linking this to what her Disciple had told her, it became even more evident that Lu Chen probably wanted to make her a Furnace Cauldron, or a sacrifice like his other two Disciples.

With this realization, Su Hanyan's heart struggled tremendously.

To be honest, though she held deep affection for her two Direct Disciples, their bond was not yet strong enough for her to die for them.

If Lu Chen truly intended to use her as a bargaining chip in exchange for their freedom, a part of her was still reluctant.

But Su Hanyan also realized something else—if she refused to trade with Lu Chen, judging from what her Direct Disciples had conveyed about him, any woman Lu Chen took an interest in would not be let go so easily; he would likely employ other means to make her his woman.

So regardless of her response, she actually had no choice.

At this thought, Su Hanyan sighed once more, unsure of what to do next, currently unable to leave this world.

To leave this world, one would need the aid of Lu Chen's Immortal Boat. In the end, she would still need to get close to Lu Chen. If she did not improve her relations with Lu Chen and instead found a place to hide, it wouldn't be easy to depart this world anytime soon.

Only when one advanced to the All Law Realm could they possess the means to open interworld passageways. Already a Yin-Yang Realm Cultivator, it seemed she needed only a breakthrough to the All Law Realm to have the capacity to leave this world.

However, the gap between the Yin-Yang Realm and the All Law Realm was a mere step, yet breaking through was incredibly challenging. Furthermore, even if she found a place to hide, Lu Chen might still manage to find her.

For some reason, whenever she thought of escaping, her mind was flooded with visions of being captured by Lu Chen. She now felt as though she was entirely under Lu Chen's control.

After much contemplation, Su Hanyan finally came to a decision. Since escape was impossible, she might as well use herself as a bargaining chip to secure her two Direct Disciples' freedom first.

Once she left Tianchen with Lu Chen, she would find a way to leave him, at most sacrificing her body.

For cultivators without a Daoist couple, the older they were, the lesser their moral scruples. While they sometimes held chastity in high regard, in the face of substantial benefits, they would still opt for the practical route.

Su Hanyan considered her conditions: she had no Daoist couple and no man she was fond of. Even if she became Lu Chen's woman, her Dao Heart wouldn't be unsettled, nor would she develop inner demons.

Chapter 1000: She Definitely Can't Fall in Love with the Hypocrite Lu Chen

Cultivators first consider whether making a certain decision will destabilize their Dao Heart or breed any inner demons.

Su Hanyan was certain that even if she became intimate with Lu Chen, it wouldn't spawn any inner demons; Lu Chen's handsome appearance would rank highly even in the upper reaches of the Cultivation World.

Besides his appearance, Su Hanyan also pondered another aspect; with Lu Chen's identity, he surely had a plethora of cultivation resources. If she could obtain more cultivation resources through Lu Chen and swiftly enhance her power, she would later have a chance to escape from his side.

Lu Chen sought her for one of two reasons; one was to have her serve as a Furnace Cauldron, and the other, to make her fall in love with him so that in the future she might die for him and become a sacrificial offering to shield him from tribulation.

Since Lu Chen intended to nurture a willing sacrificial offering, he would certainly treat her well, attempting to make her fall in love with him. This way, she could leverage this opportunity to acquire more cultivation resources from Lu Chen and become stronger.

Cultivators who needed to transcend tribulations generally required a late stage in their cultivation state. Although Lu Chen was powerful, the oppressive aura he exuded suggested that his cultivation state was at most that of the Genesis Realm.

With Lu Chen's cultivation state in the Genesis Realm, reaching a realm needing to transcend tribulations would be impossible without at least tens of millions of years.

The scenario Su Hanyan could envision that would require her willing sacrifice would only be necessary at the moment Lu Chen became an emperor. Before Lu Chen's ascension, she would have plenty of time to plan her escape from this man.

As for whether she would end up falling in love with Lu Chen, she deemed that completely impossible.

In her view, Wu Junwan and Li Qingrou fell for Lu Chen because they didn't initially realize he had ulterior motives; they merely thought Lu Chen was a lecher who coveted their beauty.

By the time those two realized that Lu Chen might want them to willingly face tribulation for him, they had already fallen in love with Lu Chen and couldn't extricate themselves. Thus, even upon learning the truth, both would unequivocally remain with Lu Chen.

But she was different. From the outset, she knew Lu Chen was not a mere lecher, desiring her body only to cultivate someone to face tribulation. This was all about interests, so she absolutely couldn't fall for this pretender, Lu Chen.

Having thought through all of this, Su Hanyan decided to meet with Lu Chen after the convening of the Tianchen World's Cultivator Conference and agree to a transaction with him.

Meanwhile,

In a cosmic space, an Immortal Boat was silently navigating among the various fractured world barriers.

At that moment, a man approached the deck of the Immortal Boat, then lifted his finger and began to write something in the air; the next moment, those golden characters turned into a clump and flew towards the rear of the Immortal Boat.

Afterward, the man said to the person piloting the Immortal Boat, "Increase the speed!"

"Yes, Elder Song."

Some time later,

Within a certain cosmic space, a boat with Yin Fire flames quietly progressed.

Its hull resembled an ancient stone tablet eroded by the years, its surface covered with mottled symbols and mysterious patterns, emanating a faint cold light. A thick black mist enveloped the boat like the cloak of the Grim Reaper, shrouding the Immortal Boat in a chilling and terrifying atmosphere.

The prow of the boat was carved with a ferocious beast's head, its eyes flickering a ghostly green, as if it could devour the soul of every living being.

As the Immortal Boat navigated through the stars, the beast's eyes seemed to come alive, unleashing a chilling pressure that made the surrounding stars tremble.

The interior of the Immortal Boat was even more horrific, with dim lighting casting shadows on walls and floors covered with blood-red runes. These runes seemed alive, pulsating within the cabin and emitting a low, eerie sound.

The air within the cabin was thick with a suffocating stench of blood, as if countless beings had been brutally slaughtered here.

At that moment, a burst of golden light flew from the expanse of space ahead, landing on the deck of the Immortal Boat, where it was seized by a gaunt elder who was all skin and bones.

After reading the message sent from ahead, Sima Haoyan said with a smile, "It seems the vigilance of the Mysterious Moon Palace Master is quite strong. Fortunately, the Mysterious Moon Palace has our people in it."

At this time, a man clad in blue garments asked, "Elder Sima, what's the situation?"

Sima Haoyan replied, "According to the intelligence sent back by our scouts, the Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace intentionally led us in this direction. They have now changed course, and I estimate the true location of the Tianchen World is in the northwest direction of this star map."

As his voice faded, Sima Haoyan immediately used Divine Sense to communicate, sending the situation here through a strand of Divine Sense back to Lu Yanghua, who was still in the Qianyuan World.

After Sima Haoyan had sent the message back to the Qianyuan World, the man in blue spoke again, "I heard the Tianchen World might contain some treasures, though I don't know if that's true or false."

Sima Haoyan said, "True or false, we'll find out once we get there. King Jin would certainly not deceive us."

Lan Huai said, "To tell you the truth, I still have some doubts about King Jin's words. The Yin Fire Sect belongs to the Demon Sect, how could he possibly trust us so much and even hint that there are treasures in the Tianchen World?"

"If there really are treasures in the Tianchen World that can move even an Imperial Son like him, he would have gone to the Tianchen World first, instead of seeking us out from the Yin Fire Sect."

Sima Haoyan said with a sneer, "You don't understand. The Tianchen World is the training ground of a certain Imperial Son. As an Imperial Son himself, how could King Jin dare to go to the Tianchen World?"

"If he appeared in the Tianchen World and disrupted the training of that Imperial Son, the latter might hold him accountable."

Initially, Lu Yanghua had considered going directly to the Tianchen World, interested in its treasures. However, in the end, he chose not to go directly and assigned the task to the Yin Fire Sect.

Although Emperor Shenwu had already given up on Lu Chen, Lu Yanghua dared not commit the taboo of brothers directly harming each other.

The Yin Fire Sect was the largest Demon Cultivator sect within the Shenyue Dynasty. The Shenyue Empire had sent troops to eradicate the members of the Yin Fire Sect multiple times, but they were never able to completely destroy it.

The Yin Fire Sect was like a small flame that kept burning. Even if the Sect Hierarchy was extinguished, they would soon reignite and grow stronger than before.

Letting the Yin Fire Sect kill Lu Chen would allow all the blame to be placed on them.

At this time, Lan Huai asked, "If King Jin has us solve the matter with the Tianchen World's Imperial Son, wouldn't he be in trouble if that person finds out?"

Sima Haoyan said indifferently, "As long as there's no direct confrontation between the Imperial Sons, that person will not intervene. Perhaps, in his eyes, our taking action may also be seen as part of that Imperial Son's training in the Tianchen World."

"You know what kind of person he is."

Hearing Sima Haoyan say this, Lan Huai felt there was some logic to it. Given Emperor Shenwu's temperament, even if an Imperial Son died, he would only think that the son was not strong enough, a waste, and his death would be inconsequential.

Then, Sima Haoyan lifted his hand, which looked like the bark of a withered tree, and infused Spiritual Power into the control Formation of the Immortal Boat, personally steering the ship toward the astral coordinates sent by Song Yuan.

While controlling the Immortal Boat, Sima Haoyan laughed in a sinister tone, "I can hardly wait to taste what the blood of an Imperial Son is like."