

F Disciples 81

Chapter 81 Experiment I

Zhou Ziyun helped set up the experiment but had to leave for other matters. Thus, Lin Qingcheng alone was responsible for carrying it out. In addition to the experiment, Zhou Ziyun also planned some additional considerations into her arrangements.

The House of Paradise had expanded greatly from its humble beginnings in one short year. The fame of the Golden Madam and her benevolent treatment of her women had spread throughout the lower districts and even the middle districts of Moonlight City. It's momentum was growing steadily and it was starting to gain the attention of some of the lower nobles. It was not time for Lin Qingcheng and the Zhou clan to fight against the true adversaries that stood in their way and Zhou Ziyun placed this experiment within her plans.

Out of the ten that answered the madam's call, there were a few familiar faces. They gathered within a private suite in the Zhou Branch mansion, far away from prying eyes. Aside from one director left to manage the house, all the other high ranking women had gathered plus a few others. Besides Lin Qingcheng, all her employees residing within the House of Paradise had been forced into prostitution at some point and were all very experienced in the realm of sex. Even the directors were common prostitutes before being given the chance to showcase their leadership or management abilities. As the saying goes, the cream rises to the top.

Huang Ruyan was here as expected. She was Lin Qingcheng's most trusted subordinate ever since she swore loyalty from the beginning. Mo Yanmi was also here. She was not among the women who swore an oath of loyalty but she was a capable woman. Among the women at the house, they were generally split into two groups. The first group led by Huang Ruyan came from very poor backgrounds and saw Lin Qingcheng as their savior and were fiercely loyal. The other group stayed after being rescued due to the amazing benefits and work environment that the house provided.

Lin Qingcheng didn't realize it but there was already some friction emerging between these two factions. A house divided could not fight against outside enemies and this was also within Zhou Ziyun's considerations.

"We servants greet Madam Lin!" The women bowed in respect.

The ten women varied slightly in cultivation but they were all in the low tiers of the Mind Focusing Realm. Most commoners could train to somewhere within the Body Refinement Realm. Being able to breakthrough to the next realm with no background was really a testament to their talent and handwork.

They all understood the importance of cultivation and strength and most likely spent their hard earned money on lessons from local sects. It was very ineffective and extremely expensive. Lin Qingcheng had a much better offer for them but that would come later...

"At ease, ladies." Lin Qingcheng waved her hand. "I've called you here today because I have hit a bottleneck in my training and require your assistance."

"Madam! How can we help, we shall put forth all our efforts!" Huang Ruyan bowed again.

A few other women immediately bowed with her while some others reluctantly followed suit.

"Hehe, it's nothing too difficult." Lin Qingcheng said, "How many of you know what edging is?"
All of the women raised their hands.

Lin Qingcheng nodded in satisfaction, "Good, how many of you have done it?"

Six out of the ten raised their hands. The two who hadn't tried it looked a bit left out.

"Don't worry," Lin Qingcheng spoke to them, "It's very simple, even for first timers. Did you all bring your own toys?"

"Yes madam!"

"I'm sure you've noticed the ten beds placed around the room. The first experiment is for all of you to masturbate and practice edging. But you are all not allowed to orgasm until I tell you to. Understand?"

"Yes!"

"I know you're curious so I'll explain slightly. My cultivation technique is related to orgasms and I want to see if I can sense your orgasm and the pleasure you feel. This is why we're doing edging. There would be a higher chance for me to sense something when it is a powerful orgasm. I will also be walking around and observing each of you so don't be distracted by me." Lin Qingcheng explained.

"Understand?"

"Yes!"

They went to pick out their beds before starting to prepare.

"Relax, this will be a long day. There will be food and drink during the breaks. The first round, we shall go for about fifteen minutes. Are you all ready?" She saw the nods of affirmation from everyone,

"Start!"

Ten pairs of hands started their work in unison and the room soon filled with the expected sounds of masturbation and uncontrolled moans of pleasure.

Lin Qingcheng stood up and walked around the room, studying their methods. Some preferred their own fingers, either with oil or with their own lubrication. Most others chose vibrators or dildos. They were all well versed in masturbation as it was a common request from their customers. They were in various states of undress, some were completely naked while others were in their negligee.

Lin Qingcheng walked up to a woman who had the highest cultivation at the 4th Level of the Mind Focusing Realm and tried her best to sense the building pleasure within. The woman was named Qin Yan. She was not within management but was in her late thirties and approaching retirement.

Performing in front of an audience was no trouble a veteran like her. Qin Yan diligently ignored Lin Qingcheng peering at her and continued to thrust an ivory dildo in and out of her slick folds. Her pleasure slowly built up from a dull buzz to a roaring wave. Right as it was about to crest, she pulled her dildo out and tried to calm her rushing heartbeat. She looked up at Lin Qingcheng who had her eyes closed in concentration.

Lin Qingcheng opened her eyes to see Qin Yan staring at her intently. She smiled at her and patted her shoulder, "Keep going, you're doing great!"

She then moved on and walked around the room, searching for the next woman that was getting close. Subconsciously, she had started to pick up some habits that Chen Wentian had when teaching her and other disciples. With a sideways pursed lip and her hands crossed together, if her sisters saw her like this they would no doubt tease her forever.

The first fifteen minutes came quickly to an end.

"You can come." She called out.

In quick succession, the women let themselves go and arrived to very loud and vocal orgasms. Most of them had only been able to get to the edge once within that time while some were still struggling with their first. Lin Qingcheng spread her spiritual sense around the entire room but wasn't able to feel the prior sensation or anything else out of the ordinary.

Lin Qingcheng watched them quiver on the bed and realized too late that most girls took a longer time to orgasm than she did and it seemed their intensity was also lower. Still, with the experience with Chen Wentian fresh in her mind, she was not disheartened. She let them rest for a few minutes before starting a new session with a time limit of thirty minutes. Hopefully, the more times they could edge the stronger their orgasms would be.

Chapter 82 Experiment II

After several sessions, food and drink was brought in for a lunch break. The women parted into their own natural groups to eat and chat about their experience. Four other women joined Huang Ruyan, all of them part of the faction that swore loyalty. Another group of four including Mo Yanmi chatted among themselves. Qin Yan was older than the rest and not really familiar with them so she sat alone.

Lin Qingcheng frowned slightly upon seeing this scene. If Zhou Ziyun hadn't told her to watch for this, she wouldn't even have noticed. This wasn't what her house was supposed to be like. The house was supposed to be a refuge, a paradise. Yet even here, not everyone got along and it was over such petty things as a loyalty pledge or age.

Lin Qingcheng sat up from her table and took a plate of meat dumplings with her to Qin Yan. She sat down next to her on the bed and offered the plate. "Qin Yan, eat more. You've worked hard."

Qin Yan was startled but quickly took several dumplings into her bowl before taking a bite. Qin Yan found the dumpling much more delicious than ordinary pork dumplings. They were fatty and savory and yet she couldn't stop eating. In the blink of an eye, all the dumplings in her bowl were gone.

"Good isn't it? I really like it as well." Lin Qingcheng said, also downing a dumpling.

"Madam, what kind of dumpling is this? This is so delicious!" Qin Yan asked.

Lin Qingcheng looked around and saw that the dumplings were similarly popular among the other women and she signaled the servants to quickly bring more in. She turned to Qin Yan, "Eat more! This is made with the meat from an eight horned babirusa that's at the upper Mind Focusing Realm. Not only is it good for energy recovery of your mind sea, it will also help when you cultivate."

These were especially prepared for the women, as it would help them perform better in the experiment. It wasn't often that the women got to experience such high quality cuisine. A single dish like this would cost them a week of salary at the House of Paradise. While the women were modest at first but they abandoned that after hearing Lin Qingcheng's description of the dish. Naturally, they all desired to increase their cultivation and the dumplings quickly disappeared into their stomachs. The atmosphere within the room instantly got better as the women laughed and ate together.

It was all business once again after lunch and a short rest. The longest session so far had been one hour and it was still unsuccessful. An hour was a long time to be at the edge of orgasm and it wasn't useful to extend the time even longer. Although Chen Wentian might have thought he was being teased for an eternity for him it was actually less than thirty minutes. Edging for more than an hour also didn't necessarily mean the final peak was stronger. The women might get bored as well.

"The next step of the experiment will be special." Lin Qingcheng said as brought out a glass bottle of pills. "This is a harmless but strong aphrodisiac. It will increase your pleasurable sensations greatly. How many are familiar with this?"

She wasn't very surprised when six of them raised their hands. Aphrodisiacs were a common tool of the trade. It was no secret that a lot of the customers were terrible at sex and it could be very dull and uncomfortable for the women if they were stuck with a bad one. The proclivity towards sex varied between women. Some were able to orgasm easily regardless of the man but some had trouble and needed to take aphrodisiacs.

"This specific one is about three to four times as potent as the ones we provide through the Zhou Clan pharmacy. This one is also more effective for those in the Mind Focusing Realm. It should allow you to reach the edge much faster and the effects lasts about an hour. Understood?" Lin Qingcheng said.

"Yes madam!"

The women each received a pill carefully and swallowed it. Many were eager to experience the effects of such an expensive medicine. The pharmacy sold medicine to the women at half price compared to elsewhere but it was still very expensive. They didn't dare to imagine how much this specific pill would cost.

All the women got to work once again. The aphrodisiac was incredibly powerful and many women were soon approaching an orgasm in only a few minutes. The air was soon filled with sensual moans and wails of pleasure. Through force of will or their respect or adulation for Lin Qingcheng, they all dutifully followed the plan, coming right to the edge before reluctantly pulling back from the reward.

This session was much more intense than any previous one. Being powered by energy from the meal and the aphrodisiac, they tortured themselves until the bed sheets were completely soaked with their arousal and the room smelled completely of sex and sweat.

As the pleasure built up and up into what should be a momentous orgasm, Lin Qingcheng started to feel a few sets of prickling sensations within her mind sea. She closed her eyes to study the sensations. She soon realized it was a very familiar sensation and the same one she should have felt before Chen Wentian's orgasm. It felt similar because Chen Wentian's immortal energy had assaulted her middle, upper, and lower dantian all at once. His immortal energy was a rich blend of energy from all three while the women's energy was focused in their mind sea.

The sensation was strange and mysterious, like nothing she had every felt before. It was like her mind sea could sense ten distinct and shining stars of pleasure in the night sky. Even with her eyes closed, she could still sense the exact locations of the tiny pinpricks of light. She could even tell that one of them was brighter than the rest. She opened her eyes and sure enough, it came from Qin Yan.

As the time ticked away and it was approaching an hour, Lin Qingcheng observed the constellation of minute stars within her mind sea grow visibly brighter. It wasn't by much but she could definitely tell the difference from ten or twenty minutes ago. Her spirits were high and she was extremely excited. Her mysterious power once again showed her the way towards another amazing ability.

"It's time." Lin Qingcheng said while still keeping her eyes closed.

The women had been aroused and tormented for close to an hour so they frantically started to pleasure themselves, seeking the reward that had been denied. A slightly plump but beautiful woman was the first to pluck that reward. She came with one hand pinching her nipple while the other was buried within her folds. Her hips bucked in the air as her entire body seized up from the most powerful and mind numbing orgasm of her life.

Lin Qingcheng didn't see any of this, but what she did see within her mind sea amazed her. One of the ten dim lights within the sky above her mind sea suddenly shined bright. It was perhaps more than a hundred times more bright than before. She stared in wonder as she started to feel a minute strand of energy flow down from it. It was merely a drop in the ocean to her current cultivation but the mere fact she could sense it was amazing.

After a few seconds of brightness, the star vanished and she was left with nine.

Chapter 83 Experiment III

Lin Qingcheng didn't have to wait for long as the next star soon followed and burst into light. Another burst out right afterwards, then another, and yet another. The shining lights reflected onto her mind sea. She felt the familiar feeling of her mind sea forming a conduit across the starlight, resonating with the outside sources of energy. As they connected, they let in small streams of energy into her mind sea and increased her cultivation by a minuscule amount. The experiment was a resounding success and it opened up all the doors of possibilities. It was time to implement the next step of the plan she had prepared with Zhou Ziyun.

The sounds of pleasure died down as the last twinkling star vanished from her mind sea. Lin Qingcheng opened her eyes to look around the room. All the women were still recovering, eyes glazed over and panting for breath. She returned to her seat and waited for them to come out of their haze of passion.

As the women came to, they looked around the room and at each other. Each of them were amazed at the sensations they had felt, not believing it was possible until having experienced it. They looked over at Lin Qingcheng, who merely gave them a smile.

"Great job everyone. The experiment was a success for me. Now you can all get dressed." Lin Qingcheng said.

They quickly dressed and fixed their makeup before lining up in the middle of the room. Lin Qingcheng stood up and paced in front of them a few times before stopping and looking at them.

"The experiment was a success but its only an experiment. I was able to sense something as you all orgasmed that last round. There's still a long way to go until it can become something that is useful for my cultivation." Lin Qingcheng said.

The women looked at each other in confusion. It was expected as they were complete novices in the area of high level cultivation.

"Hehe, don't be so tense. What I ask is very simple." Lin Qingcheng said, "I need women of much higher cultivation. Only then will there be a chance this experiment can become something tangible..."

"But I don't want any women. I want you all. You might have realized from your time here, House of Paradise is able to succeed because it has a supremely powerful benefactor. He is someone who holds the lives of every single mortal of this province within his hands. Of course, I'm speaking of my master, Immortal Blue Dragon Chen Wentian."

Many women in the inner circle already knew of this fact but other women didn't and only knew of Chen Wentian as a patron who was a powerful cultivator. However, it was the first time that Lin Qingcheng had openly declared this fact to them. The smarter ones realized this was a completely new shift in attitude by Lin Qingcheng and it was a sign of things to come.

"I am the first disciple of Ten Thousand Flower Valley, the immortal sect founded by my master. I'm sure you've all heard of it?"

All the women nodded their heads.

"As the prime disciple of an immortal, my dream is to follow his footsteps and tread the path towards immortality. As prime disciple, it gives me a lot of power and ability to make certain decisions. Thus I have decided to start my own faction with the sect. I will only accept women from within the House of Paradise. I want you all to be my first batch of disciples. I'll help you all raise your cultivation and in turn, you'll be able to help me with my future cultivation."

They all looked at her in shock. This was completely out of their expectations. Although it was quite common for Spirit Initiate Realm cultivators to start their own sect, they did not expect Lin Qingcheng to be so generous as to accept women like them.

"That's right, you are all women I have chosen. You don't have to worry." Lin Qingcheng said in response to their reactions and their visible doubt, "The cultivation resources available to me, I can use however I see fit. Cultivation manuals, access to herbs and pills, money for the best diet, I have all of them in abundance. Will you accept? You all can have some time to think about this..."

"Madam, I am willing!"

"I am willing!"

"Madam! Me too!"

It only took one woman to call out for the rest to follow. There was no more hesitation from the women as this opportunity was simply too great to pass up. From women of the lowest status, they would now become grand-disciples of an immortal. It was like suddenly transforming from a chicken into a phoenix.

"Good, the House of Paradise will remain as it is but from today forth, it will also be the name of the brand new branch sect of the Ten Thousand Immortal Valley. You may continue to refer to me as madam as it is suitable for both."

"Yes madam!"

"As a brand new organization, we will have to start from the ground up. We have no rules and no structure. I'll seek all of your assistance with this."

"Yes!"

Lin Qingcheng drew out ten silver badges from her spatial bag and handed them over. Each one had the woman's name carved on it as well as the image of a bird of paradise flower. She then drew out another bird of paradise badge which was pure gold.

"The golden bird of paradise will be the symbol for the master of the House of Paradise branch sect. Your silver bird of paradise badges are a proof of membership as well as your position as branch sect director. It grants you authority within the branch sect that is only below mine."

"Thank you, madam!" The ten women bowed again in gratitude.

Lin Qingcheng nodded her head as she looked around at their eager faces. Huang Ruyan looked extremely happy at being able to continue to faithfully serve by her side. The enigmatic Mo Yanmi who was keen and ambitious was no doubt already thinking of plans for the new sect. Qin Yan also looked ten years younger from the excitement and energy she radiated.

Lin Qingcheng was satisfied with her first batch of disciples. She wanted to say a few words of encouragement to them to raise their spirit like her master did but she found herself at a loss for words. She thought with chagrin that she had a long way to go before becoming a great master like Chen Wentian.

However, she would try her best and take up the challenge head on. The past year of overseeing the House of Paradise had helped her gradually assume a position of leadership. While she came from humble beginnings, so did all the women in the House of Paradise. Their lives all depended on her. Her junior sisters depended on her. Her master also depended on her. She would not let them down.

With the establishment of the branch sect, she had taken another important step towards an immortal future. This was her right and destiny as the first disciple of Chen Wentian.

Chapter 84 Branch Sect, House of Paradise

The House of Paradise was now officially the first branch sect of Ten Thousand Flower Valley. It was a suitable addition to the sect, a small step to eventually living up to its dramatic name. Since Chen Wentian was stingy in accepting disciples, it was up to Lin Qingcheng as the first disciple to set an example for any that would follow. Perhaps other branch sects would be established in the future.

She sat at the head of the room, looking over at each of the women who were now her disciples. Their names were Huang Ruyan, Liu Ling, Chen Wangyin, Yuan Qiaochu, Tang Mingtian, Mo Yanmi, Zhang Lili, Wang Yuyan, Xie Yuxin, and Qin Yan. They were all pretty and took care of themselves well, as was standard for women in their trade. They were all experienced and intelligent women in their late twenties or above and well respected by their juniors within the house.

Lin Qingcheng spoke up again, "You all had a chance to leave in the past but for one reason or another, you've all chosen to stay. I'm glad. My branch sect requires women like you who embrace sex and sensuality. While society may shun you and look down upon you, I do not. My unique cultivation

method requires you. If in the future I am able to distill a set of secret arts to pass down, it will also have the same requirements. As my master likes to say, we are fated to be master and disciple."

"Thank you, madam!"

"First things first..." She took out a piece of paper and read from it. "These are the principles of the sect that all disciples must adhere to. The first one is family. The House of Paradise will still remain a place of paradise for prostitutes. Those that don't cultivate, those that do cultivate, it doesn't matter. You are all one family in this house. Do not mistreat the women who are weaker than you. Do not shun the women who are different from you. Understood?"

"Yes!" The women replied.

Lin Qingcheng continued to read from the list she prepared beforehand with Zhou Ziyun. The other principles were sacrifice, commitment, and sexuality. All disciples would be asked to continue to sacrifice their body to provide funds to the house. While senior members could choose to retire from active duty so to speak, all other members still had to work to support the organization.

The principle of commitment was very straightforward. Lin Qingcheng required all member's commitment to help her future cultivation. While she would raise their cultivation, it was ultimately for her own gain. Just like the prior experiment, there would be many more instances in future requiring their cooperation.

The final principle of sexuality was perhaps the most important. Lin Qingcheng's dao was based on sex and orgasms. She loved it, she craved it, she lived it. Similarly, all disciples had to embrace sex and sexuality just like their master. There was no other principle more critical as it tied directly to the future success of the House of Paradise.

"Madam, disciple swears to abide by the principles of family, sacrifice, commitment, and sexuality." The ten women knelt to the ground and bowed to their oath.

"Good, get up." Lin Qingcheng said, "Next order of business, we need to discuss our future plans. My master's Ten Thousand Flower Valley is still a small sect, with only eight disciples. It also doesn't have a lot of rules. Therefore, we have a lot of freedom in how to organize the branch sect. For the following topics, you all can propose your ideas..."

Lin Qingcheng and her council debated several topics deep into the night. She mostly sat back and let those more experienced with management discuss the details. She would make the final decision on everything based on their ideas. The discussions went smoothly. The women were bonded together by their new equal status as her disciples and the prior divisions completely vanished.

The overall day to day operations of the House of Paradise would not be changed. However, disciples of the branch sect would also be responsible for cultivating in addition to taking customers.

Having too many customers would no doubt interfere with their cultivation so the minimum quota was decreased by half. Disciples would also receive double the normal rate for their work.

All cultivation resources for the disciples were funded by Lin Qingcheng's wealth which came from Chen Wentian. All meals for the disciples would be enhanced and more chefs would be hired to prepare them. Mind Focusing Realm disciples would receive meat from Mind Focusing Realm beasts and Body Refinement Realm disciples would receive meat from Body Refinement Realm beasts. They would also get a variety of cultivation pills as needed such as the Bone Strengthening Pill, Body Washing Pill, and Marrow Bonding Pill.

Lin Qingcheng was responsible for guiding them in cultivation with regular lessons. Having been guided similarly by her master, her understanding of the three mortal realms was much more profound than any average mortal cultivator. While she could not bestow the immortal Nineteen Demon Subduing Palms as it was too special, she gave them access to a large collection of mortal level martial arts manuals. All the manuals were temporarily housed within the Zhao branch until a more permanent spot could be found.

Cultivation arts for the women was much simpler. All Body Refinement Realm disciples would be taught the Twelve Meridians Body Tempering. It would immediately improve their cultivation base, wiping away years of deviations and damage from trash tier cultivation methods. Mind Focusing Realm disciples would be given 'A Cultivator's Guide to the Mind' to study and reach their own insights and paths with mind arts. With these two semi-immortal level arts, their path to the Spirit Initiate Realm would be unimaginably smooth.

Another topic of discussion was recruitment. Lin Qingcheng's desire was to gather as many disciple as fast as possible as she had an instinctual feeling that she needed many more women for her orgasmic secret art. In order to accomplish this the ten directors would have to work hard in the next few days to identify all possible disciples and recruit them.

A person's talent for cultivation was not created equal. Even though the cultivation talents of all the women at the house could be considered poor by any immortal's standards, there were still differences between them. While every mortal could increase their cultivation gradually, those with the absolutely lowest talent would never be able to break past the Body Refinement Realm without exorbitant resources that didn't exist. It was simply not possible to accept them into the sect.

Lin Qingcheng was very unsatisfied upon hearing this assessment.

"Really..." She frowned, "I guess the only way is to add more women to the house..."

She thought about it for a little while then balled her hand into a fist, "Alright! I will continue my campaign within the city. You all, work with the Zhou You to identify two buildings within the lower district for expansion as well as one building within the middle district."

"The middle district building needs to be much larger as I will move our headquarters there soon. Prepare for an influx of new women tomorrow. I will be back by nighttime but in the meanwhile, read through 'A Cultivator's Guide to the Mind'. Discuss it amongst yourselves and help each other."

"Yes madam!".

Chapter 85 Operation Spring

In River East City, within the Zhou clan headquarters, two middle aged men were having tea. By their rich robes and the servants that tended to their every need, they were obviously senior members of the prestigious business clan. The older of the two had had a full head of grey hair and let out a tired sigh as he put down his cup.

"Wanli, what's wrong? You don't like the tea?" The other man asked?

"Brother Liang, no. The new tea from the Cloudy Mountain Province is indeed amazing... But it's aflame with a monster invasion, why is Little Yun heading there again?"

"Wanli, don't let her hear you calling her that. She might take away your businesses."

The older man's frown deepened. "Zhou Wangliang! Don't joke about stuff like that!"

Zhou Wangliang smiled wryly at his brother Zhou Wanli and kept drinking. They were both elders within the Zhou clan in the same generation as Zhou Ziyun's father. The Zhao clan was now by far the greatest clan within River East City and within the past year it had rapidly expanded into new ventures. Zhou Wangliang and Zhou Wanli also reaped the vast benefits that came along with it but it seemed more wealth caused more problems.

Zhou Wangliang spoke again after a time, "I no longer have any strength to question her decision. Her growth is simply beyond our realm of comprehension. Didn't you hear? She broke through to the Spirit Initiate Realm the other day."

"Sssss... that fast? How?" Zhou Wanli was shocked.

Zhou Wangliang waved to the servants who left the room. Afterwards, he looked around before leaning forward and whispering, "From my informants, it was red spiritual crystal. A massive amount at that."

Zhou Wanli's eye's bulged. While he was a mortal cultivator, he knew what kind of treasure red spiritual crystal was. "Monstrous... but considering her recent project, I guess it is to be expected... Do you know how much that teleportation array cost?"

"How much?" Zhou Wangliang asked.

Zhou Wanli held up five fingers. "Five, five hundred thousand gold taels."

Zhou Wangliang shook his head in amazement. One year ago, the entire Zhou clan could survive off of a few thousand gold per year. Now, they had no idea what the real how much the money was flowing into the clan except that it was over the hundreds of thousands. Zhou Ziyun had taken over all business operations as the chief executive and elders such as them were relegated to smaller business projects.

This was a simmering issue within the Zhou clan that some of the elders were not being given meaningful positions within the new hierarchy. Sure, Zhou Ziyun promoted some elders but left others like them on the sidelines.

"Sigh... we can only hope our sons can develop faster and create some accomplishments. Otherwise, our families will slowly lose our status. In this operation, I hope they will not let us down." Zhou Wanliang said.

Zhou Wanli nodded in agreement, "Brother Liang, let us hope..."

Dawn broke at the Ten Thousand Flower Valley and the servants awoke to begin their day. As they shuffled out of their rooms to clean, cook, and handle their daily chores they saw a familiar sight. Zhou Ziyun was practicing her martial arts in the central courtyard. From the sweat on her brow, she had already diligently trained for a while.

She was hard at work stabilizing her cultivation. Indeed, Zhou Ziyun had achieved a miracle that was on par with Lin Qingcheng, Spirit Initiate Realm before the age of twenty! She had never expected to cultivate so quickly, yet the Mind Focusing Realm was completely mastered due to the innate quality of her mind.

Chen Wentian had returned to help her set up a spiritual crystal formation powered by ten kilograms of red spiritual crystal. Her cultivation was relatively traditional compared to Lin Qingcheng but all it took was one day in the runic formation to easily breakthrough. The magical ability of spiritual crystal was no joke. There was also enough power left in it for her to continue to use it for a few months.

Zhou Ziyun ignored the servants and continued to go through all of the forms of the Nineteen Demon Subduing Palms once again. The wind howled around her as spiritual energy shot forth from her hands and her feet. She felt the fundamental change in the power of her strikes and reveled in it. The palm arts held even more secrets than she originally thought and her mind was a buzz with excitement as she studied every aspect of it.

After another half and hour, Zhou Ziyun finished her practice. She was quite satisfied as she felt she had picked up some additional insights. Next time she sparred with master, he would surely be surprised!

She returned to her room and saw a few servants walk out of it. They bowed upon seeing her.

"Mistress! The bath is ready."

"Good, you can leave."

She waved them off before finishing her morning with a nice hot bath as was her custom. She spent time reading the morning reports while soaking away her tiredness. A variety of events and news were consolidated by her people and delivered to her every day. This was one of many reforms she had put in place which gradually bore fruit.

She laughed as she read a particular report about Moonlight City. "Looks like Chengcheng is going crazy again. Hmm, three gangs in one day, she's also working hard."

After finishing up, she dressed in her Flying Sentinel armor before rushing out of the room. She left a note with commands on the table for her secretary to pass down to the rest of the Zhao clan. She arrived at the front gate that already had horses ready. There were also four female bodyguards that were on horses as well.

Zhou Ziyun leaped onto the lead horse, a majestic black stallion, and took the reigns. "Lets go!"

The party of five quickly dashed out of the sect complex and along a stone paved forest road. Occasionally they would pass scouts along the road who all stopped to bow and let their mistress pass. Since Chen Wentian refused to have men inside the sect grounds, all of them were female of various ages, hired to keep random people from encroaching on the sect's territory.

Zhou Ziyun arrived at the town at the mouth of the valley. What originally was a tent city setup by construction workers for the sect had transformed into a small town called Dragon River Town. It was mainly occupied by the Zhou clan and temporary residents who were hired to continue construction projects within the sect. The wide river right next to it provided transportation for goods and materials to flow in and out of the valley.

A large group of over a hundred men were waiting in the town square. They had armor and weapons and carried travel bags. They were all Zhou clan members of various ages, selected to participate in the operation. The older ones were reserved and calm while the young men were energetic and anxious for adventure.

"Mistress!"

The men all bowed in respect as Zhou Ziyun stopped her horse in front of them. She inspected each of them for a brief moment before nodding in approval. They looked ready.

"Zhou Lai, everything has been prepared?" She asked.

A venerable old man who was leading the troop bowed again, "Mistress, everything has been done to your instructions. All materials are prepared and already at the teleportation array."

"Good!" Zhou Ziyun said.

Zhou Ziyun did not need to doubt Zhou Lai. He was her granduncle and personally promoted by her after seeing his ability. She held some doubt about some of the others within the party. Such a large operation needed a lot of manpower and the Zhou clan was still small. Various branch families had talked their way into having their young generation participate and she didn't have a good reason to refuse. She would have to keep an eye out for any incompetence.

She turned to the rest, "We have prepared for this for over a month. This is very important for the future growth of Ten Thousand Flower Valley. It's still a long ride to the teleportation array. Lets go! Operation Spring begins now!"

She turned her horse and dashed towards the south, her troop following behind.

Chapter 86 Onward to Cloudy Mountain

Zhou Ziyun and her troop galloped along the dirt road, following the river that got wider and wider. Eventually the woodlands gave way to open farmland as signs of habitation appeared. Small villages and houses appeared along the road and grew more and more numerous. Finally, they arrived in the farming town, which contained the newly constructed teleportation array.

The teleportation array was constructed this far away from the sect by design. Zhou Ziyun anticipated constructing a brand new city around this array as the sect grew larger and this area would allow it room to grow. It was also better to prevent unwanted visitors from arriving too close to the sect territory.

Zhou Ziyun led her men into the farming town, which was about the size of Lin Town. She came to a stop at the town square where she was met by more men and carts filled with supplies. These men were in two distinct groups. One wearing tidy grey uniforms she recognized as the Zhao family guard, one hundred of male servants that were trained from young in combat. The other group was disorganized and carried a variety of weapons. This group eyed her with interest as she rode up to the commanding elder who bowed respectfully.

"Zhou Weizi, good job. Time is of the essence. Have they all been briefed?" She asked the middle aged man.

"Yes, mistress! All one hundred family guards and one thousand mercenaries are at your command." Zhou Weizi said.

"And the supplies?"

"Yes, we have gathered the following..."

While Zhou Ziyun conversed with Zhou Weizi, many of the mercenaries looked at Zhou Ziyun in surprise. While Zhou Weizi was a respectable cultivator at the upper levels of the Spirit Initiate Realm, this young lady was only at the first level. While she looked like some young mistress of the clan, how dare she command them with her puny cultivation? Quite a number of mercenary captains were stronger than her!

"Who is that bitch?" An unintelligent mercenary muttered to his companion.

His friend was a lot smarter than him and tried to nudge him to shut up but it was too late.

Boom!

"Ahh!!"

A powerful strike arrived in an instant and flattened the unfortunate man into the ground. The surrounding mercenaries all retreated quickly as Zhou Ziyun landed in front of her target. She placed her boot on his chest, causing him to scream in pain again. She didn't cause permanent injury as she still needed these mercenaries but she applied enough force to keep him in agony.

She looked around menacingly at the other mercenaries. "Follow orders, do your job, get paid. Get in my way, and there will be no mercy. Understood?"

It wasn't only the mercenaries that were astonished by Zhou Ziyun. Many of the Zhao family members all looked at her in a completely new light. While they knew of her intelligence, this was the first time they saw the disciple of an immortal in action! Naturally, she was much more powerful than the average Spirit Initiate Realm cultivator.

There was silence for a few seconds before everyone in the square bowed to her in unison, as if compelled by a mysterious force.

"Yes mistress!"

Zhou Ziyun frowned and looked around, searching for something. She didn't see or sense anything but her analytical mind came to the only conclusion possible.

"Master, you can come out now." She said, with a wry smile.

Zhou Weizi, Zhou Lai, and the other elders tried to search but couldn't find Chen Wentian and neither could the other men. There were a few more seconds of awkward silence before Chen Wentian gave up hiding and appeared. He floated down from the sky and landed behind her on her horse.

"Greetings immortal!" The Zhou family elders around Zhou Ziyun bowed to Chen Wentian.

Chen Wentian ignored them and instead gave Zhou Ziyun a hug. "Ziyun! You're spiritual sense improved so much in one day, amazing!"

"No master, you were too obvious." She muttered, before turning to Zhou Lai, "Don't be distracted. Begin the operation."

"Y... Yes!"

Zhou Lai understood, having taken part in planning the operation from its inception. He quickly gave orders to Zhao family members while letting Chen Wentian and Zhou Ziyun continue their private conversation.

The Zhao family members and soldiers divided up the mercenaries and divided the supplies. There were food, medicine, clothes, and tools. It was enough to feed several thousand people. The first group got ready and arranged themselves on the teleportation platform.

The raised platform was constructed of marble and had four runic pillars carved out of a mysterious jade stone. There was enough room for four carts and about twenty people to fit onto the platform at any one time. As the final person squeezed onto the platform, the entire array lit up with light and spiritual energy and they were sent away in a flash.

"Next!"

The process repeated itself as one group after another disappeared.

"Why did you need to hire those mercenaries?" Chen Wentian asked as he watched the procession.

"I need them. The Zhou clan doesn't have that many guards to begin with." Zhou Ziyun said, "It's only a short term investment.

"Well, they have to pay for their way back. I'm not giving them a free ride again." Chen Wentian muttered in complaint.

He said this because teleportation arrays required spiritual energy to operate. For Spirit Initiate Realm cultivators, only higher level ones could teleport anything other than themselves. They would have to expend a majority of their spiritual energy to do so. Another option was to use spiritual crystals to power the runic inscriptions. This method was expensive and cost upwards to ten taels of gold per person. The last option was what Chen Wentian was currently providing; he was powering the array

using his own vast stores of spiritual energy. This method allowed Zhou Ziyun to transport everything from an army to supplies to horses for free. However, an immortal's time was not free and actually the most expensive of all.

"Don't worry. I have more business opportunities for the mercenaries so they wouldn't want to come back even if you forced them." Zhou Ziyun said.

She looked around and noticed all the group had gone. "Master, our turn. Let's go."

Chen Wentian nodded and gathered everyone left onto the platform and teleported them away to the Cloudy Mountain Province. They were gone in a flash of light and it only took a few seconds for them to arrive in a crowded city square.

"Mistress is here!" "She's here!" Several Zhao clan members called out upon seeing Zhou Ziyun appear.

Zhou Ziyun opened her eyes and took in the situation. They were in a strange looking city which was constructed out of black stone. The air was cold and there were a few snow flurries drifting down from the cloudy skies. Her men were already organized into their groups, awaiting her command.

She rode in front of them to give a final speech, "Quiet! I am Zhou Ziyun of the Zhou Clan. Listen to my commands!"

Her voice enhanced by spiritual energy spread across the square. The attention of everyone in the city square was soon focused on her. She looked dashing and eye catching atop of her black stallion with her red Winged Sentinel armor, like a beautiful female general ready to lead her troops into battle. There were many young men who couldn't help but have idle and improper thoughts about her.

"Operation Spring is simple. Millions of people are fleeing westward from the monster invasion. They will seek refuge in the neighboring provinces as it is the only option for survival they see. They will be at the mercy of the lords of those provinces will never be able to regain their original lives. There, they will be oppressed, enslaved, or even killed."

"Our goal is to provide another escape route for people fleeing the chaos, somewhere where they will be able to thrive. Our Dragon Flower Province will welcome all refugees from this province and other

one's under attack. They will be given land grants or resources based on their ability and talents, all completely for free. They will also be provided free teleportation to the Dragon Flower Province which is completely safe from the monster invasion."

"You all have been separated into five groups that will spread into five directions to find refugees. No amount of refugees is too much. We will accept all. Aid the refugees with the supplies on hand. More supplies will arrive when you run out. Protect the refugees from harm. Guide them back here to Black Rock City. The refugees will be citizens of our province so you absolutely cannot mistreat them. No robbery, extortion, sexual assault, murder, or anything else!"

"This operation will last until there are no more refugees. Those that perform well will be rewarded. Those that break the rules... will be punished with extreme prejudice. Understand?"

"Yes!"

"Good!" Zhou Ziyun pulled out her Flying Swallow saber and brandished it towards the city gate. "Set forth!"

Chapter 87 Master is Reliable After All I

Chen Wentian watched the twelve hundred men file out of Black Rock City and split into five before streaming into the wilderness. They were on their own now and they had to fend for themselves against any possible monsters that slipped through the front lines.

He didn't give them any more thought and instead turned his attention back to Zhou Ziyun. He didn't see her for a day after the breakthrough and felt she spiritual ability had improved a lot in a short amount of time. Out of his three disciples, Zhou Ziyun's rapid progress was the most surprising to him. She had no special ability that he could sense and her progress through the Body Refinement Realm was mediocre. His original estimate was for her to spend at least a couple years in the Mind Focusing Realm and yet she steamrolled through it within a single year.

Lin Qingcheng's heaven defying constitution was indeed amazing but Chen Wentian had heard some stories recently about similar cultivation speeds among the truly powerful immortal clans. The Eastern Sanmu Subcontinent was merely a small fringe region with no real powerhouses. He had spent his entire life within its borders and only after reaching the immortal realm had he gradually received bits and pieces of information about the wider world.

The possibilities were endless in this vast cultivation world. He decided that as soon as the monster invasion was settled, they would find some time to travel outside of the subcontinent and experience the new lands.

"Ziyun? Hey, Ziyun?"

"Hmm?" She muttered but continued observing her troops march out.

"How do you feel? Do you feel feverish? Are you eating well?" He pinched her arm and her waist, as if checking up on her like a doctor.

"Hey!" She tried to shove his hands away. "So annoying."

"Haha, I was wondering where my disciple went. I thought she'd been replaced by a stern and sullen old general." He then asked, "Are you sure you don't need my help later with the operation?"

"No, it will waste too much time for you. Plus, don't you have to get back to Sister Qianyu?" She asked.

"Not yet, she's still out on a mission... Hey! You just broke through, of course I'm staying with you. I'm not thinking about anybody else." He said.

Zhou Ziyun scoffed and continued to look towards the horizon until all of her men were gone from view. She then let out a sigh of relief and relaxed into his embrace. She had been alert and tense ever since the beginning of the operation and she could finally relax for a little while.

She was fatigued from overtaxing her spiritual energy but soon felt a familiar warmth seep into her as Chen Wentian helped her recover. He then hugged her tight and flew into the air. She barely had time to react before she found herself in a cozy bedroom. The outside was chilly but the room was warm with a lighted hearth.

Once away from prying eyes, Chen Wentian let his desire free. His naughty hands started to roam, unclasping her armor piece by piece as they scorched across her body.

"You've worked so hard the last two days, I believe that... you deserve a little reward..." He said as he traced burning kisses up her neck.

"Bastard..." Zhou Ziyun mumbled as her lips were finally taken by him.

She let him vent his desire as his tongue raked hers. One of his hands found its way down until it was rubbing and pinching her sensitive button. Her tiredness washed away gradually as her desires lit up in response. She returned the favor by dipping her slender hand down and saying hello to his little dragon while eagerly returning his kiss.

"Hey baby... missed me?" Chen Wentian laughed as he felt her tug on his rod.

"Yeah..." She breathed. "Give it to me..."

Their lips connected once more as both of them were consumed by their desire. They didn't know when all the clothes were gone or when they had fallen onto the bed or when they had finally joined together.

Chen Wentian thrust into her with lustful abandon, his hips slapping against hers and driving her into the bed. His pace was fast and brutal and it caused her world to turn into a white blaze of pleasure. She screamed out in ecstasy as each powerful thrust filled her completely and rocked her core.

Zhou Ziyun was so wet and so aroused and so in tune with him. Perhaps it was because she could let go of all the stress from the breakthrough and the operation. Maybe it was due to her breakthrough and her new spiritual senses. Whatever the reason, it normally took longer but she very quickly reached a shattering climax. It was hard and fast, just like the rough pounding she received.

Her shuddering and tightening tunnel soon drove Chen Wentian over the edge as well, and he roared in satisfaction as he collapsed on top of her, releasing his seed deep inside her.

Zhou Ziyun must have fainted for a few seconds. First thing she sensed again was Chen Wentian's body on top of her and his wet lips around one of her breasts, his tongue licking and teasing her nipple. Her insides felt extremely wet, as if filled to the brim. His little dragon was still sheathed within her, although a little limp after the exertion.

"Baby, you're back." Chen Wentian teased, moving back up to give her a peck on the lips.

"Mmm... yeah..." She grinned at him as she embraced him, her hands pulling him in as she spread her legs wider, inviting him once more.

She sighed with pleasure as she felt him harden inside her and he very quickly starting thrusting once more. It was slow and sensual the second time around. They were both awake and savored every moment. The way her folds expanded around him as it slowly slid into her was exquisite. The tip of his dick kissing the deepest part of her as he bottomed out gave them both toe curling pleasure.

If the first round was a battle, then this second time was a peace treaty. It was like they were both in tune with each other's spirit, in perfect harmony. Even the orgasm was different, the first was forceful explosion while the second was a gentle wave that gradually grew into a tsunami before crashing through her body. She felt an innate pride as she felt his release one again.

They cuddled and reveled in the feeling of complete satisfaction. Zhou Ziyun sucked on his lips for a while longer before finding a pillow and propping herself up, her mind turning to important matters. She thought of something and looked at Chen Wentian who was still occupied with her breasts.

"Shouldn't you be teaching me about the Spirit Initiate Realm now?" She asked.

"So eager! You want to catch up to Qingcheng, huh?" He chuckled.

"Maybe... but I'm more curious about what I should study for my immortal Dao." This issue had started to creep into her mind ever since Chen Wentian mentioned Wu Qianyu's journey towards immortality.

Chen Wentian was surprised, "Thinking about the immortal realm already? You still have plenty of time."

"Master, but..."

"No buts. Don't jump too far ahead. You should focus on understanding spiritual energy first. Since you are so eager, lets begin the first lesson." Chen Wentian said and got up from the bed.

He walked to the center of the room and began drawing a runic circle on the floor. He then grabbed a couple of cushions and pulled Zhou Ziyun over, sitting down together in the middle. It was a rough replica of the spiritual crystal formation he created in her room but there was no need for spiritual crystals since he was here.

After sitting down, Chen Wentian let out his spiritual energy to envelop them both and began to teach her about his insights into the Spirit Initiate Realm.

Chapter 88 Master is Reliable After All II

The Spirit Initiate Realm was fundamentally different from the previous two realms. It represented the first real step towards a greater power while utilizing the mysterious concept of the spirit. What was the spirit? Was it merely the existence of the middle dantian, or the spiritual sea, which was created as one broke through? What was spiritual energy and how did it exist?

Chen Wentian let his spiritual energy peacefully envelop Zhou Ziyun, allowing her to easily sense it as he slowly taught her.

Why spiritual energy existed is still a deep mystery and even the strongest immortals in the world didn't know. However, they all understood the simple fact that every single element, every being, everything physical and ethereal, all contained spiritual energy. In its natural state, it is invisible and undetected. Reaching the peak of the Mind Focusing Realm meant a person had met the requirements to start unlocking the spiritual energy that was naturally within themselves.

The spiritual sea within a person was there from birth, slowly spinning and growing slightly larger as they aged. It was a magical gift from the all mighty gods and it is what allowed people to cultivate their body and mind in the first place.

Once unlocked, a person could use the spiritual energy from their spiritual sea. However, this took training and a lot of practice. The spiritual sea could also be used to absorb the spiritual energy in the environment and from other sources. This was the reason why elemental arts were popular such as the Eternal Winter Sutra and the Blazing Sun Art. Its practitioners could pull in ice or flame spiritual energy into their spiritual sea and then expel them through special martial arts as powerful attacks.

There were also arts that compressed spiritual energy to explode like bombs or sharpened them into blades that could cut through steel. These arts were less flashy and colorful than elemental arts but no less difficult to train and often times much more deadly.

While spiritual energy could be used for martial arts, there were more direct uses of spiritual energy that involved enhancing a person's own body and mind with special properties. The Beast God Sanctum's various beast transformation arts involved injecting spiritual energy into their muscles, organs, and bones. On the other hand, Immortal Gentle Lotus Gong Liyun's illusion arts dealt with affecting the mind through spiritual energy.

There were also other aspects not related to combat that used spiritual energy including inscription, crafting, smithing, alchemy, and many many more. Spiritual energy was truly the key to unlocking the myriad world and the possibilities were endless.

Cultivation within the Spirit Initiate Realm simply involved increasing the spiritual sea through absorbing spiritual energy. This is why spiritual crystals were priceless as they gave a constant and easy source of spiritual energy. Once the spiritual sea increased by a certain amount, it would result in a breakthrough. The individual levels within the Realm were not too difficult to break through, only that it required massive amounts of spiritual energy. For those without resources, gathering spiritual energy was a slow and arduous process that could last most of their life.

"But, levels and the size of the spiritual sea aren't everything in this realm." Chen Wentian warned, "A person can have a high cultivation level and yet be trash in actual combat."

Chen Wentian described several key aspects of spiritual energy that required training within the Spirit Initiate Realm to increase a person's mastery over their spiritual sea. The first was spiritual sense, or the ability to sense sources of spiritual energy large or small around them. Spiritual sense could be developed to sense far distances and sense minute details. It also played a part during battles to sense enemies, their attacks, and the surroundings.

The second was spiritual control. This dealt with a person's ability to manipulate spiritual energy within and around them. Strong control meant faster, more accurate, and sharper attacks. It could also be used to control their own body and mind, enhancing their capabilities. For natural energy within the environment, mastery of control allowed one to absorb it faster and speed up their cultivation.

The third and last aspect was spiritual strength. It dealt with the fundamental quality of one's spiritual energy when directly clashing against another spiritual energy. This manifested in the spiritual aura around a person that could suppress others or be suppressed in return. Spiritual strength had to be trained step by step and there were no shortcuts. In fact, increasing one's cultivation level too quickly only meant more difficulty raising their spiritual strength later on.

"Thus, a few red spiritual crystals are actually not that important for your cultivation." Chen Wentian concluded.

Zhou Ziyun opened her eyes after absorbing the information. It was very thorough and much better than the books about the Spirit Initiate Realm she had read before.

"I guess you can be reliable after all." Zhou Ziyun said flatly.

"Hey! Who said I wasn't..." He then saw she was teasing and huffed in response.

"Anyway, what's next then?" She asked.

Chen Wentian rubbed his head and thought about it before answering. "Er... continue practicing the Nineteen Demon Subduing Palms. It has a spiritual component to it that can train all three aspects. But just that is not enough, spiritual sense and spiritual control can be trained even when you are not cultivating. You can train it while walking, talking, and doing normal things. Spiritual strength is best through some sort of cultivation art. I'm not sure on that yet so I will have to look around."

"What art does Chengcheng use?" Zhou Ziyun asked.

"I've tested it with her, her special constitution takes care of cultivating spiritual strength surprisingly well." Chen Wentian chuckled as he recalled the 'tests' that were wonderfully naughty.

Zhou Ziyun frowned. "Hey! Why don't you teach me your secret cultivation art? You mentioned it had something to do with the soul."

"Oh, umm... well..." Chen Wentian was caught off guard. "..."

He was pretty sure he should say no. Yet her amazing comprehension ability gave him an interesting thought and there was a minute possibility. However, the secret art had a very strict barrier to entry and high possibility of failure. He thought about it in silence, which Zhou Ziyun took as refusal.

He looked up to see she had left to get some air. He followed and found her on the balcony.

"Hey." He said lamely.

"Hey..." She replied, continuing to look towards the city below.

"Ziyun, it's not that I don't want to teach you my secret art. It really isn't." He saw that she didn't look convinced so he delved into a bit his past, "It's really dangerous and you could lose your soul and go crazy if anything goes wrong. It requires a heaven defying amount of luck... and the desperation of facing certain death. Also, to even begin cultivating the art, we will have to find an extremely, extremely rare fungus..."

"Look, all I am saying is, you have so many other options available. I'll make sure of it. I'll find you a perfect cultivation art. I promise."

Zhou Ziyun looked up at him and smiled, "You're quite reliable, after all."

She wasn't really sad or angry at his initial refusal. It was expected and she was still a novice with spiritual energy, there was plenty of time. She also appreciated him finally opening up a little about his past so she leaned over and rewarded him with a sweet kiss.

Chapter 89 Leaderboard

Five colorfully dressed women rode out of a bamboo thicket, back onto the dirt road, meeting a large column of traveling people. There were carts pulled by oxen and carriages pulled by horses. Those not as fortunate brought whatever they could carry. There were several thousand commoners and they snaked along the dusty road for miles and miles. Among them were the old and the young and entire families, all making their way slowly westward.

An elderly man in a green robe rode up to meet them. His hair and thin beard was pure white, but he looked energetic and alert. He was the mayor of the town from where these refugees came from. They had been on the road for a week of arduous travel but there were among the lucky ones, having cultivators to protect them.

"Heroines!" He cupped his fists and bowed upon meeting them, "Thank heavens you are alright. May I ask, how did it go? I hope you were successful."

"Mayor Zhang, rest assured. Your people are safe to continue. The goblin raiders have been eliminated." Li Yuechan greeted him.

"Don't worry old man, a bunch of goblins are not a problem for us!" Su Xue added while twirling her sword.

Mayor Zhang looked closely and saw that they carried the marks of battle. There were bits of blood splattered on their robes and armor. He couldn't help but bow and thank them. "Heroines, bless you. I cannot thank you enough. If it were not for your efforts, countless lives would have been lost."

Li Yuechan nodded. "Let's go, there's still a long way to travel."

"Yes!"

The six of them rode back to the road and joined the convey. Those in the crowd that saw them return cheered for their saviors, buoyed by the excitement of escaping certain death. There were no decent cultivators within Mayor Zhang's people. If it were not for Li Yuechan's group, the two hundred or so goblin raiders at the peak of the Mind Focusing Realm would have decimated them.

Despite this attack, Red Bamboo Province as a whole in the last few weeks was faring better than compared to the beginning of the monster invasion. Perhaps it was due to the two famous sects, the Glacier Sect and Divine Blazing Mountain, ramping up their efforts. Or it may simply be due to the first wave of attacks running out of steam. Regardless, the front line stabilized with no large scale monster waves and the commoners were able to flee with less dangers. This was excellent news for everybody except the cultivators competing against each other to climb the competition leaderboard. Fewer immediate threats for the time being meant that a lot of missions dealt with helping people retreat west and protecting those convoys. These missions were long, boring, and did not help their cultivation. There were also less points as there were less monsters to slay.

Li Yuechan and her sisters were currently on such a mission. All five of them had stayed in Red Bamboo Province since the start of the monster fighting competition. While they had not made much progress on the mission given by Immortal Gentle Lotus, they were doing well in the competition with all of them currently in the top one thousand.

Chen Wentian would visit them once every two weeks or so but he mostly let them be. There was no worry about their safety, after all. Before leaving he told them to focus on these convoy missions and try to implement Zhou Ziyun's recruitment operation in Red Bamboo Province as well.

This was also the reason their convoy was headed towards Crystal Bamboo City instead of directly west. Gong Liyun had set up a series of zones along the entire theater of operations. Escort missions were considered complete if the people were escorted into the safe zones. Most cultivators in the competition took the shortest route to a safe zone to maximize their efficiency. Li Yuechan would instead have to take her people all the way to Crystal Bamboo City which was deep within the safe zone.

"Wushuang, do we really have to follow these people?" Xu Lanyi complained, "We could be getting more points instead!"

She was quite unsatisfied with the possibility of falling out of the top one thousand leaderboard. Song Wushuang was also a bit unhappy but she accepted Chen Wentian's plan while Xu Lanyi obviously was having trouble.

"Lanyi, Master already explained it. We need to help them teleport to Dragon Flower Province. Didn't you ask this an hour ago?" Song Wushuang was exasperated.

"I'm just saying... plus, this is boring. We could be grabbing more points!" Xu Lanyi then had another thought, "Hey! What do you think about the latest leaderboard? What happened to senior sister Qianyu? She's fallen from first place. What is master doing!"

"Yeah..." Su Xue said, "Her points haven't gone up in a week."

At the top of the leaderboard, Wu Qianyu had held onto first place for four straight weeks. It was a source of pride for the girls whenever they met members of other sects. It was a testament to the strength of their sect, and it saved them a lot of trouble. They were quite shocked when she quickly fell out of the top ten within a week of inactivity. It wasn't just them, everybody else in the competition were also wondering what was going on. In that time, Long Yifei had taken the lead, followed by cultivators from other top sects including Peng Xiling from the Tower of Swords.

They tried asking Chen Wentian about what happened with Wu Qianyu but he didn't disclose much, only that she was in secret training. He also stayed for a few hours with them before rushing back to Cloudy Mountain Province. It made them wonder about what was going on.

"Bastard... He obviously shows way more favoritism towards her and the other two senior sisters." Xu Lanyi huffed, "What do they have that we don't, that lecher."

"Sigh, why do you always speak of master like that? He treats us very well." Song Wushuang said.

Xu Lanyi snorted. "Hmph, don't talk like I'm that close to him!"

"You sure? I think you two were pretty close, many times." Song Wushuang replied.

Su Yue couldn't help but spit out the water she was drinking in laughter. Su Xue giggled as well.

"You guys!" Xu Lanyi yelled, turning red.

They argued and chatted while they rested on their horses. Soon, it was time for patrols again. Since there were only five of them, they could not protect everyone at once. The best strategy was to fan out on patrols to find threats long before they could approach the convoy.

Li Yuechan directed them to their assigned routes. "Three more days of travel to Red Bamboo City. Let's get them there safe and sound. Head out!"

"Yes!"

Chapter 90 First Lesson I

Chen Wentian did indeed have a very good reason for hurrying back to the Cloudy Mountain Province. He had given the 'Pain and Pleasure' book to Wu Qianyu last week and it was now time to see if she would agree to his training method.

At Zhou Ziyun's advice, he did not immediately pressure Wu Qianyu to start trying anything out. Instead, he gave her the book and several additional reading materials for reference and let her be. The week of time let Wu Qianyu digest the information and study the various aspects of the book which may be shocking and uncomfortable. She would be able to mentally adjust and prepare.

Chen Wentian arrived to see her lying on a sofa, still reading the book.

"Master," Wu Qianyu heard him and sat up, "You're back."

He sat down next to her and she asked about how Li Yuechan and her sisters were doing. They chatted for a little while and then fell into a comfortable silence.

He turned his head to find she was looking at him expectantly. He chuckled and asked, "So... did you make up your mind?"

Wu Qianyu blushed, "Yes."

"And?"

"Master, I'm willing!" Wu Qianyu said.

"Very good. I'm glad." He said and gave her a hug. He saw how eager she was and knew she was ready. "Do you want to start now?"

"Yes!" She said.

He nodded, "Alright, the first lesson can be done anywhere so we can do it here. Now, stand up."

Wu Qianyu obediently stood up. Chen Wentian took out a silk cloth and tied it around her eyes, making sure she couldn't see anything. Humans were extremely reliant on their sight and it was an important sense to take away for enhancing the other senses such as pain.

"Before we begin, what is our safe word?" He asked.

The safe word would stop the lesson immediately without question. It was in case anything went beyond what she could handle.

"Giant dire wolf." She said.

"Good. Lets begin. Training will go on from now until I say its over or you say the safe word. Just a couple rules first. You are not allowed to use your spiritual energy at any point, doing so will be punished. If you disobey any command, you will be punished."

"Yes, master."

"Now, take off your clothes." Chen Wentian commanded.

Wu Qianyu quickly took off her gown and her underwear. She then remained standing, shivering slightly from the cold air and icy stone floor. She could hear him slowly walk around her and she could almost feel his eyes roam across her naked body. She trembled slightly in excitement as well as trepidation.

Both Chen Wentian and her knew roughly how the first session would go. They had read about it from the book and had discussed it extensively in the last week. Chen Wentian explained to her that while the book was not completely suitable for her, the sections about pain were useful and provided a remarkable insight. It seemed that an important step to understanding pain was to understand one's own pain first before understanding the pain in others. In other words, she needed understand how to react and how to cope when faced with personal pain.

The second part of this insight was that the pain had to occur while she had no control. Feeling pain while in control, such as through harsh training or suffering wounds in combat, were good but not severe enough. The book made it clear that one had to suffer pain while being completely helpless. Removing her sense of sight was an important part of losing control.

It made sense that only pain in such a situation would allow her to improve. Already, Wu Qianyu could easily deal with pain of wounds and deadly combat because she was in control during those moments. The only time she was completely helpless was when her sect was destroyed. The pain she felt during that event still shook her mind and her spirit even to this day.

The problem was that she couldn't get into such situations all the time, it was simply impossible. However, the book provided the perfect method to but it required her master's help. Chen Wentian and her discussed it for a long time before she finally felt ready.

Wu Qianyu wasn't exactly sure what he would do first and she was tense and prepared for anything. For this exact reason, Chen Wentian refrained from doing anything, letting her thoughts wander wildly. Eventually she started to relax and as a natural reaction to being naked in front of her lover, she started to become aroused as her thoughts wandered into certain areas. He soon noticed her uptick in body temperature and the moistness on her pussy lips.

"Well, aren't you getting a little too excited?" Chen Wentian said.

"No..." Wu Qianyu shook her head in embarrassment.

"I think you need to be punished." He muttered and brought his hand down on her smooth round butt.

Slap!

"Ahhh!" Wu Qianyu screamed at the sudden assault.

She had expected this but she found she had still been unprepared. Without protection from her spiritual energy, the force of the slap reverberated across her body and the painful sting followed.

Slap!

"Ahhh!" She cried out again.

Chen Wentian didn't pause and continued to give forceful slaps on each snow white cheek. The sensation of slapping Wu Qianyu was a little different from Lin Qingcheng. She was much rounder and fuller than Lin Qingcheng so his hand felt amazing when it sank into her soft butt.

But unlike Lin Qingcheng, Wu Qianyu definitely was feeling pain and not pleasure from this. She wailed at the sharp pain from each slap and her entire body tensed up in panic. This kind of pain was

completely different from anything she had ever experienced before. Her mind didn't know how to handle it and she became overwhelmed with emotion.

Chen Wentian saw a few tears flow down her cheeks and he stopped. It had only been about ten or so slaps but he didn't want to push her too hard in the beginning. He gave her a hug and rubbed the red marks he had created. He captured her quivering lips with his in a gentle kiss, if to silently say he didn't mean to hurt her.

Wu Qianyu heartbeat gradually calmed down from his soothing lips and his warm comforting hands. Her butt was still filled with a dull aching pain but the gentle rubbing made it much better. She eventually let out a sigh and a giggle. "Master, thank you. Lets continue."

"Okay."

Chen Wentian let her go and pulled out a contraption that looked like two clamps connected by a steel chain. It was a pair of adjustable nipple clamps, a special instrument described in the book and one of many that he had spent a long of find searching for.

He also took out another silk cloth and tied her hands together behind her back before turning his attention to her breasts. He needed to get her nipples erect first so he started to rub and tweak her breasts with his hands.

"Mmmm..."

Wu Qianyu loved it when he teased her breasts soon became very aroused.

"Aaa... Ow!"

Wu Qianyu was enjoying the sensations when she felt a kaleidoscope of pain assault her left nipple. It was sharp and explosive at the same time. It felt as if it had been squeezed tight in a vice. She was given no time to rest as her other teat was soon also captured by the wicked instrument as well.

"Owwwww!" She cried out.

Chen Wentian ignored her wails and admired his handiwork. Seeing a naked Wu Qianyu with those steel clips around her tits and the long chain that dangled between... he had to admit that this was extremely, extraordinarily erotic.