

Firmament 1241

Chapter 1241: Dowry; Dispute; Query

"What Elder Shuang and Elder Han mean is that... we need to make the wedding grand-scale. I don't see a problem with it. But... The dowry..." The Moon Queen blandly said, "Shuang and Han suggest that we should give some specialties to the bride as the dowry, including a hundred Qiong-Hua Pearls, a hundred Pure Lotus Seeds, a hundred piece of Ice Essence Soul..."

She paused to see how the others would react but surprisedly found that nobody seemed to care about it. Nobody cared.

The Moon Queen was surprised, so was everyone else. [The numbers were mentioned yesterday. Why do you have to repeat? What's the point? To emphasize it?]

[You are the Prime Master... You make the decision...]

[It has nothing to with me, has it? Stepping out to disagree may not lead to deduction of the gifts, but surely will offend Shuang and Han... They are distant to others but never hurt anybody. Besides, they are so powerful that none of us dare to go against their will. The best thing to do is to wait and see others step out...]

That was the common thought in everybody's head. Everybody was waiting for others to stand up, so nobody did!

Some elders who really didn't care started to sit in meditation...

For them, the priority was to cultivate themselves.

The Moon Queen was angry. She said, "It seems everybody is happy for this suggestion. Good. I guess the suggestion is accepted. We are going to give Yue Gongxue a hundred Qiong-Hua Pearls, a hundred of Pure Lotus Seeds, and a hundred pieces of Ice Essence Soul... Anything more to discuss? You may all go home and continue your cultivation if not."

She decided to talk plainly.

That was obvious kicking the can down the road though!

[You are all keeping your heads hidden and leaving me to face the suppression from Shuang and Han... Am I a fool to you?]

[Do you think I became Moon Queen without a scheming head?]

[Let's see how you live with this.]

[Even if you all decide to let it happen, those treasures are going to end up in my girl's hands after all. That could at least be favoring my side!]

[Cultivate? Go on then!]

[Humph!]

As expected, the crowd burst into an uproar. Nobody expected the Moon Queen would accept that ridiculous suggestion.

[No way!]

"Prime Master, that can't be done!" The Second Elder, who had nearly lost in meditation suddenly stood up and said, with a red face, "Qiong-Hua Pearls, Pure Lotus Seeds and Ice Essence Soul are the prime treasures of Qiong-Hua Palace! They are the foundation of our sect! One piece of any would be too much of a blessing and a great loss of our sect which might take ten thousand years to make up, let alone one hundred pieces! Prime Master, please think again!"

The Third Elder seemed to worry too. "That's true! In the first place, in the history, no Saintess of our sect ever got married. Yue Gongxue is allowed to leave for marriage; That has broken our rules. Although it is reasonable that the sect gives her something as her dowry, we could give her many other things... How could we give her almost all the best treasures of the sect... No way..."

"That is right! We can't let that happen..." The other elders were all in haste.

Most of them started to protest against Shuang and Han's suggestion.

Everybody knew that what the two ladies suggested was going to take away over eighty percent of Qiong-Hua Palace's storage...

The palace might not be able to maintain regular cultivation conditions!

Qiong-Hua Palace could totally stop dreaming about making any progress if all those treasures were gone...

What was the point if the Qiong-Hua Palace was going to collapse soon?

The Moon Queen felt pretty happy with it though. She pretended to be in thoughts and then said after a while, "I understand that you guys are worrying about our situation, however... Nobody said anything to turn down what Yue Shuang and Yue Han suggested after all. I thought you guys were all that kind and generous to Yue Gongxue, so I made a decision to let the treasure go as a part of her dowry..."

"We... We were seriously considering the pros and cons in our minds... We were simply lost in our thoughts... Nobody said yes to it after all... Absolutely none..."

"That's right... Prime Master, you know us. We are all cultivators... You know how we would be trapped in our own thoughts..."

"No matter what, I will not agree on that suggestion to give away one hundred of each of the three great treasures! Absolutely not!"

The crowd had burst into a wave of chaos. None of the those who were in the meeting agreed to accept that suggestion.

Yue Shuang and Yue Han did not say anything at this particular moment. If they insisted on giving Yue Gongxue those treasures, it might drive all the others to their opposite side and made the problem utterly challenging to resolve!

In another word, to stay silent at this moment was to show the people their respect on one hand, and to wait for better timing to speak out their mind on the other hand!

The Moon Queen finally felt relieved, but still pretended to be worried, frowning and speaking, "I get it. You all disagree on that. Well, can anybody tell me what we should give her as the dowry? What is the proper number? We should at least decide a number for it before the day ends, shouldn't we? Are we going to keep such a small problem unsolved forever? Besides, Elder Shuang and Elder Han have been waiting for a long time here."

That was quite frankly speaking... [If you can not give me a practical plan to solve this problem right now, Shuang and Han are really going to take away all those they suggested to Yue Gongxue! If it causes any conflicts even fights within the palace, I will not take the responsibility to cease the chaos. If any of you confidently believe you can take care of the sisters Shuang and Han, you are free to make any attempts you want...]

"Fine... Okay... We are going to figure something out... It is necessary to give a girl enough gifts as the dowry, but we can not spend every single penny on it, can we?" An elder grumbled with a complaint.

"That is right... One hundred of each of those treasures are definitely unacceptable... We can not afford it..."

"Do not even mention one hundred! One of each could be too much! We needed to seriously discuss the pros and cons even if we are talking about giving away one of each of the three treasures, let alone one hundred... Those are rare and precious treasures we are talking about..."

...

Suddenly, it became a sharp and intense discussion.

In the tens of thousands of years of history of Qiong-Hua Palace since it was founded, none of its people had ever been so enthusiastic and passionate when having a discussion in a meeting. Everybody was eagerly expressing the voice in mind, as if there was no second chance for any of them to talk again.

Yue Shuang was annoyed after listening to the others' opinions. She finally couldn't endure, so she shouted loudly, "Ladies! You all! Listen! Listen up! It is reasonable that you all want to express your own thoughts in the discussion. I admit that you all have the right to say your opinion in this matter. However, don't you think you should at least consider we sisters' feelings a little bit? We did suggest to give Yue Gongxue a hundred each of the three treasures, and I know it was too much... We never expected our sect will genuinely give her as many. Even Prime Master approves to, we won't let her..."

"However, you all know we two have suggested one hundred, yet still said that we should not even give away one... Isn't it smacking us on the face? Don't you think you should at least show us some respect?"

Yue Han stood up angrily and said, "Whoever truly want to smack the two of us on the face should stand out and show herself! We sisters never fear any fights!"

The enthusiastic crowd suddenly paused.

They all felt pavid facing the two ladies' overwhelming questioning.

Nobody in the entire Qiong-Hua Palace could surely win a fight against the two sisters. Nobody dared to fight against them.

The First Elder, who had been pretending calm and steady suddenly coughed and spoke gently, "Yue Shuang was right. We are all sisters here. We can not give away all the treasures of our sect. Absolutely not. But there is no need to make this discussion so violent. The problem is nothing but merely the number of the treasures we should give our girl as the dowry. All we need is to figure out a number that both sides will be happy with... We can not give out every penny, but we cannot be stingy either. After all, we should not let Sister Shuang and Sister Han's be embarrassed... I will not let that happen... Listen up, ladies. Just go down this direction. Figure out a way to satisfy both sides. Harmony is the priority! Take it easy! Take it easy..."

The Moon Queen was sitting on her throne, coughing heavily, staring at First Elder with a weird look in the eyes. [What a goddamn genius, First Elder!]

She couldn't help but praising the First Elder in her heart. However, even though what the old woman said were a bunch of meaningless words, it had indeed chilled the fiery atmosphere down a great deal...

"We sisters care about our dignity, our faces. We would like to get things done in a decisive and fast way." Yue Shuang took a step back a little bit and said, "Between fifty to ninety, just decide a number. Go on and discuss it quickly and give us the decision. We will accept whatever number you come up with."

"What the hell? No way! That is impossible!" Over twenty ladies shouted in a fury at the same time.

Another person asked Yue Shuang with annoyance in the face, "Yue Shuang, do you have any idea how many of those treasures you are suggesting there are in Qiong-Hua Palace in total?"

It was the elder who was in charge of Qiong-Hua Palace's financial affairs and storages. She looked pretty awkward and didn't know whether she should cry or laugh at the moment.

"How many?" Yue Han innocently asked.

"Qiong-Hua Pearls, one hundred and three!" The elder solemnly replied with a deep voice, "That is all. We collected only one hundred and three Qiong-Hua Pearls in about eighty thousand years... These are all we have after collecting generation after generation! As for the Pure Lotus Seeds, we have only seventy-five in total! Not a single more! You were asking for one hundred, weren't you? You are never going to get that many even after killing us all! Impossible! As for the Ice Essence Soul...For eighty thousand years, generation after generation our people have been collecting it. After all the hard works that we have done, forty-nine pieces are all we have in total. Fifty to ninety? That is impossible!"

The elder looked at Yue Shuang and Yue Han with helplessness in her eyes sighed and said, "You girls... You two... You two are selling the entire palace out for Yue Gongxue. Do you truly want us to give away every penny we have to support one person with her wedding? What about we pack up the entire palace and give it to the bride as a dowry? Huh?"

The others burst into waves of laughter after what the elder said.

[Qiong-Hua Palace does not even have enough storage of those treasures to meet your inquiry! What? And you are telling us we should give out twice of the things we have? What a joke!]

[Are you not imposing the entire sect? Yes! Of course! You are imposing the sect to do what we only can not, but you wish!]

Yue Shuang and Yue Han blushed all of a sudden, so they said, "Are these three specialties of Qiong-Hua Palace? How come we just have so a few of it..."

The two ladies had been obsessed with their own martial art cultivation, so they undoubtedly had not paid any attention to things that were relevant. They only got to know that those treasures were Qiong-Hua Palace's specialties when they were on the way back to the palace this time because they were asking around about what gifts the palace could give to Ye Nantian and Yue Gongxue. That was why they had no idea how many of those treasures the palace honestly had. As they heard the elder speaking out the truth, the two of them realized they had made a show of themselves. What they wanted the palace to give was way too much unreasonable.

However, it didn't matter.

[What we want is to bring up a sky-high price, an unacceptable request to the discussion... What we need is to wait for their response.]

After the waves of laughter, the atmosphere had become more relaxing and harmonious inside the main hall.

The Moon Queen was sitting quietly on her chair up on the stage. She felt that it was a good time to speak again, so she said, "Sister Shuang and Sister Han have been wrapped up in cultivation. It is not a surprise that they barely know anything about the storage of our palace. Qiong-Hua Pearls, Pure Lotus Seeds and Ice Essence Soul are the first treasures of our sect, which decide the foundation of Qiong-Hua Palace. That is why we can't give Yue Gongxue too many. I will roughly make a range between two numbers. Since Elder Shuang and Elder Han have made a good suggestion, we must show them respects... However, we can not afford giving out too many..."

She thought for a while and continued, "How about this? Let's decide a number between one and ten. It should be more than one, but less than ten of each of the three treasures. We must make a decision today soon, so let's stop kicking the can down the road."

Yue Han twisted her lips and was going to say something. Apparently, she still wanted to argue for more. However, Yue Shuang dragged her sleeve and held her back immediately, gave a hint through the eye contact to tell her not to do anything reckless.

In fact, getting more than one of each of the treasures was already an incredible achievement. If they kept blindly asking for more and more, it might lead to a worse situation! They might fail to get more for Yue Gongxue, only less!

Ye Nantian and Yue Gongxue were going to get more than one of each of the three tremendous treasures. In fact, even if they could only get one piece of any the three treasure, it would be enough for them to enhance the low, cheap, powerless Ye Clan into a small Qiong-Hua Palace in Oracle District...

Besides, they were going to get the treasures for free.

Yue Shuang and Yue Han were only asked to help Ye Nantian and Yue Gongxue reunite, nothing more. However, because of their efforts, Ye Nantian and Yue Gongxue were going to get more than they had

ever expected. What a wonderful surprise! They wouldn't mind how many they could get. All they wanted was to leave safely without making any trouble.

Yue Shuang and Yue Han were merely suggesting a random amount in the first place; all they were doing was making noises...

They never expected Qiong-Hua Palace would accept the suggestion.

No matter how it would end, Qiong-Hua Palace would have to give the bride something as a dowry considering the reputation of the palace...

In fact, if the palace were going to give the couple the primary treasures, they wouldn't mind giving them more of other valuable things... They wouldn't want to be offensive to the two sisters for some much cheaper objects after giving out their best treasures... It would be foolish...

"That's too much... Still too much to give away..." The Second Elder kept shaking her head. She seemed distressed about the incoming loss.

"Ten are obviously too many to give away..." Another elder was shaking head too. "Eight... Maybe seven... No... Still too many..."

"Six? Maybe five... No... Can't be that many..." An elder rolled up the eyes in annoyance.

"Four? Three? ... Is it ok? It sounds unnecessary though, doesn't it?" One more elder stood out and spoke. She sneakily looked at Yue Shuang and Yue Han, grumblingly said without confidence, "What about... What do you say... If... What do you say if we give them two of each?"

"Hmm... I don't know... No no no... Still too many... Too many..." Another elder replied.

Yue Han finally lost control and shouted loudly to ask those elders, "Enough is enough! What the hell? What about zero? What about we give them nothing? Would that still be too many to you? I do not understand what the hell is in your minds! How could you be so stingy? Yue Gongxue is our former Saintess! Our former Saintess is going to get married! We are going to give her something as the dowry! Two of each of the treasures? And you still think that is too much? I... I can not tolerate the nonsense anymore... Shame on you! It is not your own daughter who is going to get married! That is why, isn't it? You cold-blooded worms of the cold world... I just can not bear it..."

What Yue Han said was rude, uncomfortable, incoherent, but so obviously ironic and satiric that sounded so sharp in others' hearts.

The other elders were lost in thoughts, and then realized they were wrong to lower the number too much. The Moon Queen had set a range between one to ten, but they actually thought that even two was too much to give away. That would be a disrespect to not only Yue Shuang and Yue Han, but also the Moon Queen. However, they just couldn't be reconciled to give in at this moment! It was a great deal of some precious treasures they were talking about after all!

"Listen! What about this? Six Qiong-Hua Pearls; Five Pure Lotus Seeds; Four pieces of Ice Essence Soul. What do you think? Is it good enough?" Yue Shuang made a suggestion to cover for everybody, sounding like she was compromising a great deal. "We did not know the storage of the treasures before, so we suggested a hundred of each. You did not agree, because you were right. We don't have that amount to

give away. The Moon Queen decided a range between one and ten, so we chose the number roughly in the middle. That should be quite a compromise if you are aware. I do not think you should still have a problem with it. Am I right? I believe my sister and I are respected to make this happen, aren't we?"

The other elders felt it pretty tricky to answer the question.

If they disagreed, that meant they were declaredly disrespecting the two ladies. Truth to be told, none of them dared even to mention something like that, no matter what they truly had in their minds.

Whoever made that statement was going to be deadly enemies to the two ladies.

It was obviously besotted to become an enemy to Shuang and Han! Nobody would do it.

Eventually, the First Elder, who was incredibly good at saying something the least meaningful but the most reasonable suddenly opened her eyes, speaking to Yue Shuang and Yue Han, "I am afraid that may still be too many..."

For the first time in a long time in the history of Qiong-Hua Palace, the old lady, expert of reasonable useless words, actually said something that meant something.

The others could not believe what they just had heard, only kept their eyes wide open staring at the First Elder. They were going to accept the suggestion before the First Elder suddenly spoke. Now they had someone to depend on.

"You..." Yue Han stood up and was ready to rage up in anger.

[What the hell? First Elder? Do you think you are really this important? How dare you so declaredly, publicly, boldly object to our suggestion and disgrace us? Do you think we would hesitate on starting a fight against you?]

Yue Shuang hastened to hold Yue Han back and said, "No, don't be mad... Control your anger... She may only say something that means something for once in her life. It may never happen again before she dies... Let's not go harsh on her. We should be respected. She should be respected as well..."

Yue Han sat back with annoyance in her heart.

Yue Shuang blinked her pretty eyes and softly said, "Since First Elder has made her point, I must show respect to her as well. Let me make a step back a little bit, a compromise. Four Qiong-Hua Pearls, three Pure Lotus Seeds and two pieces of Ice Essence Soul, let's make it nine in total! Nine is a number with a good meaning for the couple. What do you think? Have I compromised enough?"

Yue Han didn't seem to be happy with it. She said in an angry voice, "Let me make this clear to you all now. This is the bottom line. We will not accept any lower amount. You better not push any further again! I am warning you!"

The other elders were all wordless.

[Well... To be honest... That is still... much more than we can afford...]

[However... Yue Han has said that it is the bottom line, hasn't she?]

[What else can I say? What else can I do?]

[I can't disagree with that, can I?]

"Heh heh... Well... Ladies, listen... I would love to say something. Ladies, show me some respect. Let's give her four of the Qiong-Hua Pearls, and I will add one more Pure Lotus Seed to the three, which makes it four in total. However, as for the Ice Essence Soul... It is the most important material that supports Qiong-Hua Palace. I think we should reduce one piece of it, which makes it one. The total number will remain unchanged. It is still nine, which still has the good meaning."

The Moon Queen interrupted in time to cover for everybody in this conflict.

The others were all shocked. They understood why she reduced the amount of the Ice Essence Soul; it was the most essential material for Qiong-Hua Palace after all. One piece of it was already a great fortune for Ye Nantian and Yue Gongxue. What surprised the elders was that the Moon Queen actually was willing to take out one of her own Pure Lotus Seeds! The Moon Queen was always proud because she had some Pure Lotus Seeds. Every one hundred years, she could get only one from the palace storage. It was unbelievable that she would truly give away one of her own! How generous!

The Moon Queen had ended the conflict by making the final decision. Yue Shuang and Yue Han definitely accepted the Moon Queen's decision. The other elders didn't dare to disagree as well. They understood that if they kept pushing, it might become an embarrassing fight within the palace. They might have to deal with not only Yue Shuang and Yue Han, but also the Moon Queen. It was the Moon Queen's decision after all!

Although the elders still thought it was too much to give away, none of them dared to say anything. They were not fools after all. However, they all had the same thought in the heads. [It seems Yue Shuang and Yue Han were right about the Moon Queen. She favors her own disciple!]

Nobody dared to challenge the Moon Queen's decision. The discussion was ended with a final decision of the Moon Queen!

Many people were still feeling displeased in the hearts. [If only I can get some of those treasures too... Maybe I should marry somebody...]

The Moon Queen peacefully called an end to the meeting.

She left the main hall with both delight and some kind of complicated emotion in her heart.

As the decision was made and the discussion was done, after the Moon Queen left, when the elders thought about what had happened in the meeting, they still felt weird somehow.

[Well, after taking a second thought of it... I realized the Moon Queen was actually standing on Yue Shuang and Yue Han's side... We were all able to sense it in the meeting... What confused us is... The Moon Queen obviously objected to the marriage of Ye Nantian and Yue Gongxue. Why would she suddenly change her mind? How come she suddenly becomes so supportive to them?]

[She has put Yue Gongxue in prison for many years... We all know it is true...]

[But... It is so confusing that she would act like that... Yue Shuang and Yue Han were pushing her indeed, but they were not strong enough to force her to make such a compromise...]

[I am truly confused by what is going on here.]

When the elders were lost in confusion, the Moon Queen suddenly returned fast. She said, "There is one thing I would like to hear your voice. I have been having this frightening shocks in my heart. It feels like something unfortunate is going to happen to us... It feels terrible, and it is strong. Unbelievably strong. I am wondering if any of you have the same feelings in your hearts in recent days?"

If an ordinary person expressing the personal feelings in a formal meeting about something private, asking for opinions, people might think this person was insane.

However, if the Moon Queen of Qiong-Hua Palace said it, that must be something important. The others were all alerted immediately.

Cultivators were different from ordinary people. One thing that they were different on was that when a cultivator reached a certain level in cultivation, he or she would have a marvelous spiritual sensation. It was like an instinct, mysterious, unspeakable, indescribable and powerful. Such spiritual sensation always played an essential part in a cultivator's life, especially for the superior cultivators.

"If you didn't mention, I may continue believing that I am having this restless feeling because I am too old..." The First Elder first replied, "That's it. I had a strange feeling quite often recently. I felt restless in the heart, cold on the back... It feels so real, but there doesn't seem to be any evidence of its existence..."

After the First Elder, several others started to go along with the conversation. Apparently, many of them had such a feeling. It was not an individual case.

"If we all have this feeling, something must be wrong. That is weird." The Moon Queen said, but kept observing the people who were talking among the crowd...

After a while, her face suddenly turned dark. She spoke in a deep voice, "The Prime Enforcer and Vice-prime Master have taken over a dozen of our disciples to Heaven's Terrace earlier. As I can remember, they have been gone for quite some time now... It is reasonable that they haven't make it back yet, but... how come we never received even a message from them?"

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[Realms In The Firmament](#)

Chapter 1242: Eventful; Family

The Moon Queen looked around the crowd again and again. Eventually, she had confirmed that all the people who had the same terrible feeling were those who were close to the Prime Enforcer and the Vice-prime Master.

In the first place, since the meeting started, the Prime Enforcer and the Vice-prime Master were the only two of the leaders who didn't attend this meeting.

The Moon Queen couldn't help coming up with a terrible thought in her mind. Her face turned dark all of a sudden.

The others looked at each other with confusion in their eyes. They didn't understand why the Moon Queen, who always kept calm and steady in any problematic situations, suddenly looked so embarrassed and worried.

However, it also came to their minds that something must have gone wrong for some reason, so they started to ask around, exchanged information, and eventually went to the same conclusion.

"After leaving the palace, the Prime Enforcer and the Vice-prime Master did send a message back a few days ago. The message only says that they have been quite close to Heaven's Terrace already... However, no more words from them afterward..."

"It is pretty weird indeed..."

"What on earth... What happened?"

An elder frowned and said, "Did the Prime Enforcer and Vice-prime Master break the rule of the sect and go for the Divine Yin Yang Fruits? I hope they didn't..."

As she said so, the others all looked sullen and embarrassed in the face at the same time.

Deep in their hearts, they all believed that to go after the Divine Yin Yang Fruit was the same as to suicide.

Disciples of the dominant sects, especially those in the leadership, would never take the risk to get the Divine Yin Yang Fruits. It seemed like a shortcut on the difficult path of cultivation, but really was a one-way ticket to death!

However, if the Prime Enforcer and the Vice-prime Master had truly lost their minds for the baits, it explained the truth that they hadn't sent any more words back. Dead people could not send messages, could they?

"Impossible!" The Moon Queen decisively said, "The Prime Enforcer and the Vice-prime Master are always rational and calm, who would never do anything reckless. It was impossible that the two of them would try to take that stupid shortcut. Besides... many disciples have gone with them. If something as horrible as that happened, at least some of them could send a message back."

The others nodded to agree. It was true. If something had happened the Prime Enforcer and the Vice-Prime Master, words should be sent back even faster by the other disciples.

"As far as I am concerned... if all of them have been lost in contact with us... there is only one possibility... I guess they all encountered the same thing at the same time and every one of them has been trapped into it. None of them are available to send the message back!"

The Moon Queen looked worried in the face and said, "However, I wonder what they have encountered. What was it? What happened that would trap all of them in?"

The others all looked pretty concerned.

Apparently, the Moon Queen didn't want to speak out the worst part of the possibility to the others. She didn't want to cause panic among the crowd. In fact, the Prime Enforcer, the Vice-prime Master and the disciples who were sent out for the mission might all have died far outside the palace!

The Moon Queen thought quietly for a while and then spoke in a deep voice, "Second Elder, Third Elder, send messages to the other sects. Ask them if their people have returned from the Heaven's Terrace or not. I need every trace of the up-to-date information from now on!"

"Yes! We will get it done as soon as possible." The two ladies stood up, responded humbly and politely, and hurriedly left the main hall.

They all knew why the Moon Queen gave such an order, so they felt even more depressed now.

If people of the other sects had returned or at least had sent messages back to their sects and Qiong-Hua Palace was the only sect that hadn't received anything from the Heaven's Terrace, it meant somebody was pointing against Qiong-Hua Palace.

If there was a force that could secretly kill the Prime Enforcer, Vice-prime Master and a lot of disciples of Qiong-Hua Palace, that must be somebody tremendously powerful. If Qiong-Hua Palace were going to fight against a force like that, it would be a disaster.

It might become a catastrophe.

Maybe not long after this, it was going to be a horrible war to Qiong-Hua Palace.

However, if the other sects didn't get their people back or receive a word from their people either, it must be something much bigger... It would be more than just a war against Qiong-Hua Palace...

Instead, it would be some unbelievably powerful organization that had been working under the table starting a hostile move against all the sects in Qing-Yun Realm. A disaster was going to wreck the martial world! It might be a war that could stain the sky with blood in Qing-Yun Realm!

Whatever the truth was, neither possibilities were good things for Qiong-Hua Palace!

There was undoubtedly the third possibility though, the one the Moon Queen wished the best; Their people might have been trapped and whatever happened stopped them from sending messages back to the palace! They might still be alive, and the message from them might arrive at any second!

However, none of them truly believed in the last possibility. The martial world was never a world of good will after all. Suddenly, the atmosphere in the main hall seemed to freeze. It became incredibly silent.

No matter how worried they were, there was nothing they could do. It took time to exchange information with the other sects. That meant they were not going to have any progress in a short time.

"What do you say if we go out and inquire about it? The news out there may be incorrect, but it transmits fast. Maybe there is news about what happened in the Heaven's Terrace spreading out in the martial world." Yue Shuang frowned and came up with the idea.

In fact, though it was not a reliable source to get information from, it was the only way they could get at least get something soon!

"No! We should not do that. What we need is the truth. We have to make sure the source is reliable. The news always gets changed and exaggerated while being spread in the martial world. It won't do any good for us." The Moon Queen hastened to refuse, "What we should do is to wait till the message from

the other sects. We will make further plans after that. If they haven't received anything from Heaven's Terrace either... I am afraid... The entire Qing-Yun Realm is..."

She looked sullen in the eyes, spoke word by word with deep concern, "Nobody in Qing-Yun Realm will be able to get away from this! We will all be involved in this calamity..."

Suddenly, as she realized something, she froze. What suddenly came across her mind was... [If Xue-er goes with Ye Nantian now, maybe... maybe she will be safe from this calamity!]

[After all... Ye Clan is merely a powerless ant that was the least valuable force for any dominant sects!]

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That night.

The Moon Queen asked Yue Shuang and Yue Han out to somewhere private and had a conversation with them.

"You two sisters, just be honest with me already. What is going on? What happened?" The Moon Queen frankly asked.

"Nothing happened." The two ladies answered at the same time.

[Good... As expected... I knew you wouldn't tell me the truth...] The Moon thought, and then said, "Fine. Now, tell me everything about your trip to Ye Clan. I need every specific detail."

As experienced as the Moon Queen, it wasn't difficult to make the two ladies talk.

The two ladies were indeed brilliant in cultivation, but pretty weak in social experience. Deep in their heart, they thought they only needed to keep the secret of Ye Xiao being their brother, so they told the Moon Queen everything, exactly every detail, except Ye Xiao being their brother!

They mostly talked about how difficult it had been for Ye Nantian and Ye Xiao, particularly emphasized the hardship. They told her how hard Ye Nantian had been working in the twenty years and eventually reached Dao Origin Stage, and how his son, Ye Xiao was talented and potential with a kind heart. They told her that they liked the young man since the first sight because he was such a genius. They believed the father and the son were both utterly potential in cultivation, and it would great for Yue Gongxue to marry Ye Nantian. They tried to convince the Moon Queen on believing the marriage of Ye Nantian and Yue Gongxue was good for both sides because Qiong-Hua Palace could get better relations with Misty Cloud Palace and Cold Moon Palace at the same time! What a great deal!

The Moon Queen felt weird when she was hearing Yue Shuang and Yue Han describing the details.

[Do they have to give such an excessive compliment to Ye Nantian and his son? Isn't it too much? They are merely two low-level Dao Origin Stage cultivators. Why would they praise them so exaggeratedly? That is definitely puffery, isn't it?]

Aside from that, the Moon Queen didn't hear anything abnormal, because Yue Shuang and Yue Han were telling the truth. When they talked about getting better relationships with Misty Cloud Palace and Cold Moon Palace, it did draw the Moon Queen's attention. It was indeed a benefit to Qiong-Hua Palace. It would be even better if they could become allies to each other. Ye Clan being a bridge to connect

Qiong-Hua Palace to the other two dominant sects was something only brought advantages to Qiong-Hua Palace...

However, what interested the Moon Queen more was something else...

"It seems to me... that you too have a pretty striking impression about Ye Nantian and Xue-er's son. Am I correct?" The Moon Queen asked.

"That is... correct." Yue Shuang was mealy-mouthed about it.

"I heard that his name is also Ye Xiao? If I remember it right." The Moon Queen curiously asked, "What does he look like? Is he handsome? Does he have a pretty face?"

She actually sounded pretty hastening.

Yue Shuang and Yue Han both raised up their heads looking at the Moon Queen. They just felt weird about it.

The Moon Queen realized she had been acting improperly, so she coughed and said, "I just want to... I meant... That boy is... weird, isn't he?"

Yue Shuang and Yue Han both twisted their own lips and said nothing to respond.

[Screw you... He is our brother. He is not weird at all. Do you know what is funny? Your attitude, Moon Queen!]

The Moon Queen stood up and started to pace around with her hands behind her back, murmuring with thoughts in mind, "According to what you said... this young man Ye Xiao must be a secret genius. He is the key to connect the three forces with a friendly relationship. This young man did it all...

"He is also the most talented and important disciple of Cold Moon Palace, the inherited personal disciple of the three grand elders, whose name is Ye Chongxiao. Correct? When he returned to Ye Clan, bold changes were made inside Ye Clan. He swept off those who stood against him, and became the one who really controls the entire clan... After that, Ye Clan was significantly boosted in power...

"Besides, Ye Nantian reached Dao Origin Stage in a short time after his son was back...

"I have heard... this young man, Ye Xiao is in his late teens? Is it true? Was he only sixteen and a half years old when he arrived Qing-Yun Realm from Land of Han-Yang? It has been one and a half year since he came to this world, yet he has become a Dao Origin Stage cultivator. Isn't it too soon? What a marvelous improvement! No wonder you two have such a high comment about this man! It should greatly console Xue-er to have such a capable son!"

Yue Shuang and Yue Han kept slightly nodding while the Moon Queen was talking.

The Moon Queen's eyes shined with the gloss of joy, and she tried to hold her strong emotion down a bit and maintain calmness at least in her face. Blandly, she said, "Well then, this young man is a super genius, isn't he? According to the current cultivation improvement rate of his, he should be able to reach the peak of level nine of Dao Origin Stage within a hundred years. Isn't it true? Isn't he going to be one of the most powerful figures in Qing-Yun Realm?"

Yue Shuang and Yue Han looked at each other and said together, "A hundred years? Definitely no need for that long! In our opinion, this man should be able to climb to the top of Qing-Yun Realm within ten years!"

The Moon Queen took a long breath out. She appeared to be a bit tired, but she also looked happy and consoled. At the same time, deep in her heart, she felt a little bit regretful... Suddenly, she lost words. There was nothing she could say.

After a while, she took a long deep breath with a sigh again, waved her hand and wearily said, "Thank you. Bot of you, elders. You can leave for some rests now..."

Yue Shuang and Yue Han exchanged looks, still didn't understand what the Moon Queen made this conversation for.

However, it would be pretty depressing to keep staying around. They did feel uncomfortable, so as they heard the Moon Queen, they hurriedly left the place without saying a word, as if they were seizing the time to run for life.

After Yue Shuang and Yue Han left, the Moon Queen sat in front of a window by herself. In the silence, she kept looking at the bright moon in the sky for a long time.

After staring at the moon in the night for a long time, a drop of tear silently flowed down on her cheek.

She stood up, hesitated for a while, eventually pushed the door open, and walked out.

She was heading to the Floating Flower Lodge, where Yue Gongxue currently lived in.

...

In Floating Flower Lodge.

Yue Gongxue had no idea what was going on in the world. Since the day when Jun Yinglian came to see her, she had been moved to Floating Flower Lodge from the Moon Punishment Cave. During the days in Floating Flower Lodge, she never stopped having more than enough food and clothes, even cultivation resources. More or less, she had gotten back the supplies she used to have.

However, deep in her heart, she understood that she was treated as an ordinary disciple, the lowest one. In fact, what she had was all given because of Jun Yinglian.

There was a problem being put under captivity in Floating Flower Lodge—there were always disciples wandering around this place. Everybody looked pretty annoyed and disgusted when eyeing this place. Sometimes there would be rumor and gossip spreading away from those people. However, Yue Gongxue had lived in Moon Punishment Cave alone for over ten years with silence and vapidly. Therefore, her patience, willpower, and mindset was unimaginably unrivaled. Nothing affected her easily. She just ignored whatever people said about her and lived her own peaceful days.

However, for the recent few days, she surprisedly realized that she was given even better treatment! Much better! Things were utterly changed!

Comparing to the life she had lived, what she had now was clouds in the sky while the past old days were specks of dirt in the ground.

Her furniture including beds with beddings and mattress, chairs, tables, desks, shelves, were all moved out and replaced with luxurious ones that were made from jade. Under the floor, there was a layer of full top-class warmth jade plates. Lots of bearskins covered her chairs...

Lots of chests full of spiritual jades which were used for cultivation were moved into her room. All the spiritual jade were high-class, glowing purple lights.

Her clothes were replaced with those made from Ice Soul Silk, giving her such a comfortable touch on the skin. Those were all kinds of clothes in different colors and styles...

The pieces of jewelry were all top-class in Qiong-Hua Palace too!

Yue Gongxue was totally shocked when she saw all those supplies. She couldn't believe it.

[I... These... I wasn't qualified to have such a treat even when I was the Saintess of the palace. This is totally the standard for elders in the palace. Elders in practical power.]

[What is going on?]

During the days, when people delivered her supplies to the lodge, they all looked extremely careful and respectful to Yue Gongxue. She couldn't even think of any words to correctly describe these cautious people except the word maid, or eunuch...

It felt like they were so terrified that they might get themselves beaten to death if carelessly displeased Yue Gongxue...

"What is this about?" Yue Gongxue stopped a disciple, who was coming into the room with some warmth jade plates in her hands...

"I don't know." The young disciple looked scared. She was so cautious when she answered.

"Who told you to send these over?" Yue Gongxue frowned and asked.

"It... It is... Elder of Public Affairs..." The young girl answered in a panic. At least she had said something useful this time.

"Fine. Off you go now..." Yue Gongxue frowned. [Elder of Public Affairs is in charge of distributions of all supplies in the palace. She definitely has the power to arrange these things for me. It should be pretty easy. However, we are not so close to each other. We never are. Even when I was the Saintess, I was in a much lower position to her. I can't think of any reason why this elder with practical power would do this to fawn on me!]

[I can be sure about one thing though. I am sure something must have happened recently, and it must be related to me. It must be something special.]

[What... What is it? What could it be?]

After a while, Cheng Bingmei came over accompanied with a bunch her people, showing exaggerated smiles in the face, talking regardful words, as if she and Yue Gongxue were dearest sisters who hadn't been in touch for too long.

Yue Gongxue was totally lost.

[This woman... Since we both were lowest disciples in the palace, she has been an overt enemy who has always been hostile to me. She wouldn't even disguise her hostility. Even when I became the Saintess, she never showed kindness to me. She always hates me. When I was living my darkest days, she used to humiliate me again and again in different ways. The conflict between us is impossible to cease!]

[What is happening today?]

[She actually comes to me with an attitude of a penitential.]

[Is anybody going to tell me what is going on? What happened?]

[Isn't it too unbelievable? Too magical? Too weird?]

Cheng Bingmei looked at Yue Gongxue, who had changed into snow-white clothes and looked elegant and charming. It seemed the over ten years prison life hadn't left any trace on the beauty. Cheng Bingmei felt like there were ten thousand worms of jealousy crazily biting her heart, ripping it into pieces.

[How could she?]

[How could Yue Gongxue have such a blessed life?]

[When we both first came to Qiong-Hua Palace, I am far better than her as a disciple in the sect. We were both beautiful girls back then. I was even more beautiful than her! Why? How could she? Why did she become the favorite of the Moon Queen and become the Saintess?]

[How come she could be sitting up there beyond us all?]

[Why? Why did she get the chance to become the future Moon Queen?]

[Everybody was taking care of her when we were all out for practical cultivation. Fine. She was the Saintess. I understood. Why was she always so lucky? Why did she always find something remarkable and I never did? Which part of me is weaker than her?]

[The most unacceptable thing is... I met a liar who nearly put me into the end of my life, yet she actually got to meet Ye Nantian, a man who has always been loving her so much, a real heroic man in the world! Why?]

[Nobody can get all the advantages in the world. It must be her fortune to meet Ye Nantian, but it was also the beginning of her suffering. The rules in the palace are strict. No disciples are allowed to fall in love, not to mention getting married. I am the one who exposed her secret of losing her virginity to a man. That's right. I did. More than that, I made a few elders focus on it and made her filthiness a more significant impact than it should be to the sect. They were broken. She lost her position of the Saintess, imprisoned for years. I thought things would be ended just like that.]

[But... Jun Yinglian came for a visit and helped her out of prison. Things in Ye Clan started to change substantially. I went to Ye Clan myself but failed to fulfill my intent. Yue Shuang and Yue Han were asked out to take care of Ye Clan after me, yet they actually became friends of Ye Clan. Unbelievable! Now, this is what it becomes!]

[Maybe Ye Nantian is never bad luck to Yue Gongxue... instead, he is her best fortune!]

[Otherwise... how could she... How could she rise up beyond me again within one single night?]

[Why would Yue Shuang and Yue Han support her so recklessly?]

[Why couldn't they support me instead?]

Deep in Cheng Bingmei's heart, these questions had been haunting her, driving her mad!

When she saw the elegant and charming Yue Gongxue, she saw the clothes on the lady were all made from Ice Soul Silk. She had a few Ice Soul Silk clothes too, but all undergarments, and she always grudged wearing them because they were too good... However, as she saw Yue Gongxue, she saw every piece of Yue Gongxue's clothes was made from Ice Soul Silk. In the opened wardrobes on the wall, there were all kinds of Ice Soul Silk clothes in different colors. [Come on! Really? Is she even able to wear every piece of those in her life?]

Yue Gongxue's pieces of jewelry, the Qiong-Hua Phoenix Hairpin, the earrings... were all made from the Misty Gold of the Solar Cold Lake. When she moved, the jewelry shined in a beautiful glow. She walked like a moving flower, exuding the charm of her elegance...

Everything in her room had made her beautiful face look even more gorgeous and incredible as if she was a real fairy from heavens... [I don't have any of such pretty pieces of jewelry...] Cheng Bingmei thought with the grudge.

She was nearly pissed to explosion... [Why? How could she... She is a traitor of Qiong-Hua Palace. How come she can enjoy such high-level treatment in the palace... Are the ladies in the leadership all crazy?]

When she decided to come and pay a visit to Yue Gongxue, she meant to make peace. However, when she saw everything Yue Gongxue had, her face looked dark. After a few meaningless words, she left, with a full face of hate and envy...

...

The night was a sleepless night for Yue Gongxue. She turned and turned on the bed, but couldn't fall asleep.

She just couldn't think it through. What had happened recently were unbelievable and unreasonable. She couldn't help thinking about it all night!

The moon was high in the dark sky. The Floating Flower Lodge was like a paradise under the hazy glow of the moonlight.

Looking at the shadows of the flowers under the moonlight, Yue Gongxue made a few sighs. She didn't know whether what happened was a good thing or not.

Suddenly, she was suddenly shocked. Wiping her eyes, she looked out the window...

Before her window, there was a white shadow standing under a flowering tree.

The white shadow was right there, staring at her through the window with the hints of warmth.

Having eye contact with that shadow, Yue Gongxue shook. She hurriedly opened the door and walked out of the room.

"Master..." Yue Gongxue stared at the white shadow with fear and spoke cautiously, "Master, why haven't you taken rests in your place yet. It is late at night... Why are you here instead? I should be informed, and humbly greet you with respect !"

The Moon Queen looked back her and sighed.

"I am just here to see you." She lightly said, "What? Are you not going to let me in?"

"Of course I will! Please, Master. Let's get inside." Yue Gongxue hurriedly let the Moon Queen enter her room, and said, "Master, please have a seat. I will make some tea."

After a while, a cup of hot tea was done and put on the table.

The Moon Queen looked blank and lost, murmuring, "It has been over ten years... You still remember my favorite tea, Misty Ice Tea."

"I will always remember. I won't forget all that you have taught me, Master. I won't forget the favorites of yours." Yue Gongxue quietly said.

The Moon Queen gently took a sip of tea and then her eyes lit up bright. She gladly said, "You are the only one who can make the perfect Misty Ice Tea..."

Yue Gongxue lowered her head and said, "I am flattered. I am certainly not good enough!"

"Come over here, Xue-er." The Moon Queen seemed to be sad, but gentle and soft, "Let me have a look at you..."

She just quietly observed Yue Gongxue's face for a long time after that.

After a long while, she finally spoke again with a deep sigh, "Xue-er, after all the isolate years in prison... Do you hate me?"

"Hate?" Yue Gongxue bit the lips and coldly said, "I dare not, Master."

She said she dared not to hate her. That was far from not hating her. Over ten years prison life didn't mean anything for her though. However, what had been torturing her was being separated from her husband and son for such a long time. She could have heard about her husband and son's death at any moment during those years. How could she not hate it? How?

The Moon Queen felt pain in the heart, self-mockingly said, "That's right. Anybody would hate me if they were you. That was such a dumb question. I was having a wishful hope in vain... How could I expect a person who is definitely supposed to hate me to hate me any less... This is my fault..."

She looked away absentmindedly and vaguely said, "But... Xue-er... You must know that I... I hate you too... Maybe I hate you more than you hate me..."

Yue Gongxue raised up her head in fear and said, "Master?"

Apparently, she was surprised. She never thought that her master would be so frank all of a sudden. Besides, what her master said didn't seem to make sense! She was confused!

The Moon Queen realized she was talking something inappropriate. Her facial expression became complicated. She wanted to say something else to skip the topic, cover it up but had nothing in mind to say.

"Girl, it doesn't matter now. Hate me or not, it is not important now. Your happiness, the day you have been dreaming for, is coming. You are going to live the life you are yearning for soon." When the Moon Queen said so, she sounded full of comfort.

"My happiness? The life I am yearning for?" Yue Gongxue was confused, big eyes looking at the Moon Queen.

"Ye Nantian has come for you." The Moon Queen said it out frankly, "He is in Qiong-Hua Palace at the moment, waiting for the reunion with you."

"Ah?" Yue Gongxue was shocked. Her limbs became stiff all of a sudden, and tears couldn't help flowing out her eyes. "He... He... He is here... He came... Master! Please! Don't hurt him! It wasn't his fault... It was..."

She was still trying to protect Ye Nantian, even willing to give up on herself. The Moon Queen heard it and truly wanted to rage up in a fury. However, she took a deep breath to calm down, holding down the flame of anger in her chest. Coldly, she said, "How do I dare to mess with him. He has done what I asked. He is a Dao Origin Stage cultivator now. I made a promise after all... Besides, Yue Shuang and Yue Han have been supporting you two with full efforts... What left for me to do is to break the rules and wish you two happy marriage... not because I am happy to do it though..."

Yue Gongxue felt the joy suddenly filled her heart. She started to shed tears of joy and said, "Oh... This is great... He... He is a Dao Origin Stage cultivator now... The two honorable elders are helping us... There is always kindness in the world..."

The Moon Queen heard it, and she felt utterly pissed, so her mouth was twisting.

She understood Yue Gongxue didn't mean to satirize her, but still, she felt the sarcasm. [You damn wicked girl... Are you saying that I am the bad guy? So do you think that I am the one who should be blamed? Do you think I am the one who put you into the current situation?]

The Moon Queen opened her eyes wide, and she really wanted to aggressively added, 'If I don't approve it, you won't stand a chance even the rest of the world support you. My word is the only thing that matters!! I can take that away from you with one word if I want...'

However, she didn't actually say it.

It was easy to say something when driven by emotions, but it was too difficult to make it up when what was said had led to a wrong result!

After a while, Yue Gongxue finally calmed down a bit. She spoke to the Moon Queen excitedly, "Master, what are these..." She looked around the new supplies she had gotten in the room and started thinking...

"Since Ye Nantian has done what I asked, I have to keep the promise I made. In another word, you are going to be the bride... and marry the man you love..."

The Moon Queen sighed. She seemed pretty depressed, "This is going to be your wedding room... No matter what wrong you have done, you are a disciple of Qiong-Hua Palace after all. You have two elders backing you up there, but that's not why we decided to do this... You are our girl. No matter how unwilling I am, I have to make sure you have a decent wedding; otherwise, we will be mocked and teased by Ye Clan and all the others in the world. Qiong-Hua Palace will not bear the shame."

"Master..." Yue Gongxue's eyes were full of gratitude. She wanted to rush over and give the Moon Queen a hug.

Ye Nantian loved Yue Gongxue because she was not only beautiful but also intelligent. She knew that her master was the absolute ruler of Qiong-Hua Palace. Her decision meant final. If the Moon Queen disagreed with the marriage, Yue Gongxue could do no better than escape from the palace after marked as an abandoned disciple.

Now she became the first bride in Qiong-Hua Palace's history, enjoying such high-standard treatment, because of the support from the two elders, and mainly the permission from the Moon Queen.

Her master's word was the most significant reason why she could have such preferential treatment and exclusive privilege.

Looking at Yue Gongxue's face, the Moon Queen realized that her disciple knew how much she had done for her, so she was consoled, but also grieved. She sighed and finally opened her arms toward Yue Gongxue, warmly said, "Girl, you are going to be his woman after the wedding. When a woman gets married, she starts a second life... Come here... Let me hold you one more time. I am afraid there will not be many chances for us to hold each other like this in the future."

"Master!" Yue Gongxue burst into tears, wailed out the cry, rushed forward fast to the warm hug that she had missed for the past eighteen years. She finally wept aloud, tears dripping down like two strings of pearls. After a moment, the Moon Queen's sleeves were already soaked with her tears.

The Moon Queen was holding Yue Gongxue, who was shaking in her arms. She couldn't help shedding tears too. She tried to hold it back but turned out unable to stop sobbing.

"The entire palace is busy discussing the business of your dowry..." The Moon Queen smiled with tears in the eyes, "In fact, I was too stubborn. I should... I should have let you marry the guy long ago... Eighteen years... You two are still deeply in love, but all the days you have suffered... Gosh!"

She made a long sigh and felt terribly sad in her heart.

"I don't want any dowry." Yue Gongxue made a sigh with satisfaction. "I don't need it. I mean it. Today, I already got the only thing I want in my life. Master, your kind wish and your forgiveness are more than enough to my satisfaction. I don't need anything more."

The Moon Queen sighed and thought, [You don't need it? Somebody else needs it after all...]

[It is not only for you to have a better life after marrying that man but also for the sect to show our pride. You can't turn it down...]

The two of them continued the conversation quietly, and it was unwittingly late in midnight.

They felt the warmth that both of them had been longing for. The feeling of home was filling their hearts. Whatever stood between them was all gone from this moment on...

Yue Gongxue was happy now. She couldn't help imagining what it would be like to meet her beloved one again... She wanted to look at his face closely. [I wonder whether he still looks the same... Maybe he has changed a bit in the appearance... And our son... Does our son look more like his father or me...]

The Moon Queen looked peaceful in the face, but deep in her heart, she wasn't quite in peace.

Sometimes the Moon Queen didn't understand her own thoughts. She didn't know why she would think and feel the way she did.

Was it real? Somebody could actually be so self-contradictory?

It seemed absurd, but it was the truth about the Moon Queen...

When the Moon Queen first got to know what happened between Yue Gongxue and Ye Nantian, she was so mad, sad, disappointed, desperate... Actually, she was still the same even after eighteen years. Now that Yue Gongxue was going to embrace the happy life she had been dreaming for, the Moon Queen actually felt sad and disappointed again. She was even jealous. She even wanted to break her own promise and ruin the marriage...

She felt like the most precious treasure that she had been guarding for all her life was going to be taken away by somebody else! How could she not be reluctant about it?

[What is happening to me... How can I have such stupid idea... I... No...] The Moon Queen was questioning herself in her heart. Suddenly, an enlightenment stroke over her mind. She finally realized it.

[Is it real? I... Am I jealous? I envy my own daughter? Because she is having a better life than me?] Deep in her heart, she sighed, got lost in her thoughts. Suddenly, she didn't even know where she was at this particular moment...

Many years before this...

When the peach flowers were blossoming everywhere, the Moon Queen was still a young girl. She was on her way to the south of the world, and met a man in a lakefront under the moonlight...

After that, she fell in love with that man, just like Yue Gongxue did with Ye Nantian...

Six months after that, one day, lured by the man's sweet talks, she couldn't help giving herself to him in the bed.

However, that man was not as responsible as Ye Nantian at all...

It turned out the man had been married before the Moon Queen. When the Moon Queen told the man she was pregnant, the man actually attempted to kill her along with the baby inside her, only because he didn't want troubles from Qiong-Hua Palace. He failed several times trying to murder, and gave up in the end... She had never heard from him ever after...

If the man attempted murder only to protect his family, his kids, she might forgive him and spare his life, even though with the grudge in her chest. However, the man was selfish. All that he wanted was to keep himself safe. He did abandon not only the Moon Queen, but also his wife and kids, just to escape from the Moon Queen's revenge!

She finally realized how filthy and despicable the man was, so she was furious, but also grieved. With the baby inside her, she traveled thousands of miles to track the man down and chop his head off with one sword! In the end, with a broken heart, she hid in a valley until Yue Gongxue was born to the world.

Several months after Yue Gongxue was born, the Moon Queen returned to the palace with her daughter in her arms. She went to her master and confessed. After hearing what she said, her wise master only punished her privately and kept her blunder a secret to the others in the palace. They sent Yue Gongxue somewhere safe to be raised by somebody trustworthy. One year later, Yue Gongxue took the little girl back to the palace and became the girl's master...

The Moon Queen's master died in an accident. She had kept the secret of the Moon Queen and Yue Gongxue for her entire life. She hadn't mentioned even a word to others after she died.

The Moon Queen hated all men in the world because of what happened. She believed there was no good man in the world. All men were despicable creatures with a full mouth of sweet lies that only waited to lure young girls!

Now that she thought of it, reconsidered what she had been believing, she realized it was wrong...

So many times she wanted to tell Yue Gongxue the truth, but she would always hold the impulse down...

[It must be a lot easier for her to be unaware of our relationship...] The Moon Queen made a sigh in her mind.

When she knew that her daughter had slept with Ye Nantian and carried a baby of his... she felt like a bolt of lightning was striking on her heart on a sunny day!

She never thought that the same fate would happen on her daughter!

That was why she tried everything she could to stop the relationship. She sent people out to beat Ye Nantian, and even kept her daughter in prison...

When Yue Gongxue was begging her with painful tears, she didn't change her mind. She believed Ye Nantian would fight his own way up to Dao Origin Stage if he truly loved her daughter. If he couldn't reach Dao Origin Stage, it meant he wasn't meant to be her daughter's husband. She would never accept a useless son-in-law!

Not until this moment...

Ye Nantian had indeed become a Dao Origin Stage cultivator. It was her turn to fulfill her promise now!

A lot had happened to the Moon Queen during those years. It was hard to imagine how her thoughts had changed again and again!

However, what impressed the Moon Queen most was the persistence of Ye Nantian's loving heart. After eighteen years, Yue Gongxue and Ye Nantian were still deeply in love with each other. The Moon Queen realized that there was nothing to worry about putting her daughter's hand into this man's hands...

[I never had the chance to pursue happiness in my life...]

[Now my daughter has it...]

[I should be proud and glad she does...]

[Yet... I am actually jealous about it...]

She was lost in her minds, having her thoughts, as if she was in a dream.

Time flew.

Yue Gongxue had fallen asleep in the Moon Queen's arms with hints of satisfaction in her face... She felt safe, comfortable, happy and warm... like... like she was back to the embrace of her beloved mother... whom she had never met but only dreamt about in her life...

...

No message from Heaven's Terrace yet. However, the Moon Queen had sensitively realized how dangerous the current situation was.

Something horrendous must have happened in the martial world of Qing-Yun Realm.

A catastrophe was coming soon.

[Perhaps it is a good time for Xue-er to marry the man now. It could be the best for her.] The Moon Queen sighed in her mind and thought, [She might be able to seize the opportunity to get rid of this falling martial world... She will be living a peaceful life in the future, far away from the chaos. That is, however, all I want for her. I will be free of the everlasting anxiety, and do whatever I should to deal with what may be coming to us.]

[If the world is going to be a chaotic mess, Qiong-Hua Palace... It is possible that Qiong-Hua Palace will fall at some point, considering the current situation of the palace. This may be the most dangerous moment in history... Xue-er will be on her own to make her happy life ever after...]

[Just... kept it a secret to her. Let her believe that she has always been an orphan...] She held Yue Gongxue even tighter in the arms and continued the thought, [If she knows the truth... If she knows I am her mother... She will never stay away from the palace when the disaster hits over.]

After thinking for a while, she eventually made a long sigh.

[I have been paranoid in recent years... Maybe I am just too afraid of what may happen to her... because what happened to me didn't end up enjoyable... My mind was ill because of it... One is scared by a rope after being bitten by a snake. It should be a true story...]

[I was actually jealous of my own girl... I can't believe I was... Unbelievable...]

Looking at Yue Gongxue's pretty face in her arms, the Moon Queen had an impulse to cease the plan. [I am still unwilling to part with my girl...]

[Oh!]

A peaceful night had passed just like that.

The next day, when Yue Gongxue woke up, she was lying on her own bed in the room. Her master had long gone.

She had slept over the most comfortable, safest, warmest night in her life.

She couldn't help feeling a bit reluctant to leave this place, where had been her home for her life. With a smile on her face, she gently touched the quilt, and she found that the quilt was a bit soaked. She was moved.

Touching the tears on the quilt, she felt like crying out loud.

[Is this... Is this a stain of Master's tears?]

"Master..." She called the Moon Queen below her breath, eyes turning red with grief.

Suddenly, all that filled her chest were guilt and sadness.

The Moon Queen had been saying the same words to her since she was a little girl. 'Xue-er, you must take good care of yourself. You are going to become the new Moon Queen after me someday. You have to hold up your responsibility on your shoulders in Qiong-Hua Palace for me... Don't let me down...'

The Moon Queen had a clear plan on Yue Gongxue since the very beginning. She wanted Yue Gongxue to take over the crown and become the leader of Qiong-Hua Palace someday.

However... what Yue Gongxue did after meeting Ye Nantian—falling in love with him and giving herself to him, had extremely disappointed the Moon Queen...

It wasn't exaggerated to say that all the Moon Queen had done in her life was ruined when she found out Yue Gongxue was in love with Ye Nantian and pregnant...

All that she had been planning ended with nothing!

Countless days of hard work on the girl were gone in vain.

[All these years, the only thought in my mind is to blame Master for ruining my happiness, taking Nantian and my son away from my side... All I have kept in mind is hate, grief, and the grudge. Yet I never thought about how much Master has done for me and how little she has gotten from me in return.]

Yue Gongxue was shaking, tears shedding out.

[Master... forgave me in the end... She is taking the bitter fruit to her own...]

"Master..." She was sobbing, "I... I... am so sorry..." Touching the corner of the quilt, where there were tears from the Moon Queen's grief, Yue Gongxue felt like her heart was broken into pieces, couldn't stop the tears.

...

[Realms In The Firmament](#)

Chapter 1243: Route of Retreat; Resolve

On the next day.

The Moon Queen convened another high-level meeting to confirm and announce several matters officially.

"First, as the Saintess of Qiong-Hua Palace, Yue Gongxue knowingly violated the rules of the palace, and secretly gave her virginity to Ye Nantian. Eighteen years of imprisonment is merely a meager punishment for that sin. Since she intends to break away from the palace, we shall not waste any more time trying to ask for her stay. From this day, she is no longer a disciple of Qiong-Hua Palace. The rules of the palace do not have the power to restrain her will. From now on, Yue Gongxue and Qiong-Hua Palace are no longer related. What has happened is done. We shall all let it go!"

The first announcement was a matter of extreme severity and firmness. She didn't show any hesitation but only pursued to the brutal end.

Yue Shuang and Yue Han both thundered up in anger, nearly started a big fight right away. Luckily, the others kept holding them down and made them calm down. The two ladies managed to hold down the anger in their hearts in the end after all. [We wonder what else the Moon Queen could possibly say after the fxcking bullshxt she just let out! She better understand that we two are willing to start a fight inside the palace!]

"Yue Gongxue was, after all, born and raised in Qiong-Hua Palace. She used to be our Saintess. Even though she will no longer be one of us after marrying her man, Qiong-Hua Palace should not show any narrowness and indignity on this matter. Before the wedding ends, Qiong-Hua Palace isis still Yue Gongxue's family.

"The wedding should be held under the direction of the ancient tradition! No detail should be missed! Dowry, includes four Qiong-Hua Pearls, three Pure Lotus Seeds, one piece of Ice Essence Soul, ten thousand pieces of spiritual jade! Other than these, Yue Gongxue has the right to choose any three pieces of Qiong-Hua Palace's treasures, and take her maids away with her..."

The second announcement was also pretty mind-blowing.

Comparing to the strictness of the first, this one was extremely favoring. These two announcements had two completely different meanings, like one was heaven while the other was hell.

"After the wedding, Yue Gongxue is nobody else but the wife of Ye Nantian, daughter-in-law of Ye Clan. She is no longer a member of Qiong-Hua Palace. She has no relation with the palace, and should never make use of Qiong-Hua Palace's name to travel the martial world. Once caught in violation, she should be sentenced in the severe penalty!"

The third one was pretty confusing though. People had no words to say about it, except Cheng Bingmei. She must be quite happy about it at the moment.

After all, the biggest enemy in her life, Yue Gongxue, was going to disappear in her sight forever.

Not just that, the enemy was going to disappear in the rest of her life!

She wouldn't bother noticing if Yue Gongxue was alive or dead anymore.

Nor would she spend time on plotting and scheming anymore...

[What a stupid woman! She actually gave up on the crown of the Moon Queen for the so-called true love that only considered meaningful for mortals. She was so close to becoming the new queen. How foolish!]

"Four! The wedding should be the most significant event in a person's life. Thus, I hope that everyone in Qiong-Hua Palace can be happier to enjoy the joyous occasion and give our girl, Yue Gongxue, the warmest wishes!

"This is the first time, also the last time Qiong-Hua Palace ever holds a wedding! This shall be the only exception!"

When the Moon Queen said so, her face was seen in a big smile, but the elders all clearly felt the worry and anxiety were deep behind her eyes.

The elders were surprised about the Moon Queen being anxious, because they did have the same anxiety in their minds. [The Vice-prime Master and the Prime Enforcer haven't sent back a word. There is going to be a disaster in the martial world. What is the point to keep eyes on the petty things at such a critical time?]

[Since Yue Gongxue was determined to leave... we shall just let her go.]

[Nobody has the time to bother thinking more on this matter now...]

That was why nobody stood opposed to the wedding anymore. Even those who had strongly objected to it chose to remain silent at the moment.

What they were having in mind was wondering what was going on in the martial art at the moment.

They wonder to what end this unpredictable calamity would lead the world into.

After done with all the announcements, the Moon Queen uncurled the roll of paper in her hand that she had been holding tight since the beginning, blandly said, "Those who have no more duties to this meeting should be off. Now!"

The elders were all shocked when they saw the scroll in the Moon Queen's hands.

After a few seconds, all those stood below the position of elders were gone. Whoever stayed were at least elders of Qiong-Hua Palace.

The Moon Queen was sitting the highest spot on the chair, casting a look around the leaders of the sect. She was worried and heavy-laden. Suddenly, the mountainous stress was hovering down on everybody's heart.

They were all holding their breaths, waiting for the Moon Queen to speak.

The Moon Queen looked around their faces and finally said, "Here. I have some news from the replies of the two great halls, the two other great palaces, and the seven great sects."

The others were all frightened, ready to hear what came next at the same time.

"The West Hall says... None of their people has sent a word back. Nobody has made it back to their sect yet."

The Moon Queen finally continued talking, yet what she said had drawn the atmosphere into darkest hell.

Suddenly, they felt like a massive wave of murder came from nowhere suppressing them all.

Their eyes started to glow in dim lights, and everybody began to breathe heavily.

"According to the East Hall, no message received from their people in Heaven's Terrace. Nobody returned... To the date they sent the letter, their people had been missing for twenty-three days!"

The Moon Queen's cold eyes cast around the others' faces, and she blandly said, "The Prime Enforcer and Vice-prime Master lost contact twenty-four days ago. They were lost on the same day... Is it a coincidence or..."

Nobody made a sound.

"Cold Moon Palace has sent a message too. Their Prime Master, Yue Changtian led sixteen disciples to Heaven's Terrace, end up missing. No more message from him. None of them returned. Twenty-seven days already!"

"Saint Sunlight Sect says that their Prime Master Wu Huitian..."

The Moon Queen shared the replies from all the other dominant sects to everybody in the meeting. Two great halls, three great palaces, seven great sects... Nobody had returned from Heaven's Terrace! None of these sects had ever received a word from Heaven's Terrace!

Finally, all the messages were finished.

The Moon Queen was pacing around her armchair, blandly said in a cold tone, "I think you all heard clearly what the messages say. I believe you all know what is happening and how serious it could be..."

"Qing-Yun Realm has been in peace for tens of thousands of years indeed, but... maybe it is time for the world to be reformed, isn't it?" The Moon Queen asked, but had the answer in her heart. She laughed in self-mocking, and then started to speak in a furious tone, "I don't care what is going to happen in Qing-Yun Realm! I don't care how it will change! Qiong-Hua Palace will always be the same Qiong-Hua Palace!"

That was like bolts of lightning striking around the hall!

Everybody else was shocked and frightened.

"If Qiong-Hua Palace has to be involved into the calamity, we shall face it with all we have full-heartedly!"

The Moon Queen was casting cold and frosty light out of her pretty eyes.

"If Qiong-Hua Palace was doomed to end up collapsing in this disaster, I don't want any of you to beg for survival!

"We have always been ruling a piece of the land for centuries! We are beyond mortality! Even if the world is going to become the territory of one, we should still be the second reigning force in the world! If we can't achieve that, we should at least keep our dignity and not to bring shame to our forefathers!

"We would rather die with the palace!

"We live and die with the palace!

"Qiong-Hua Palace stands, our honor shining upon the sky; Qiong-Hua Palace falls, our dignity casting light in the history!

"Qiong-Hua Palace will never surrender!

"This is the attitude that we should hold up to from the beginning till the end!"

The Moon Queen's speech had boil everybody's blood!

"No more words to be said. All is clear. From now on, I will have only one answer to any question about the coming calamity we are about to confront."

She cast a look around everybody's face with cold eyes, spoke out word by word, "We give all in to fight!"

"We give all in to fight!"

All the ladies gave a loud positive response at once!

Although they were all women, at this moment, the rising aura of them all was more shocking and heroic than any men, strong enough to move anybody in the world!

"Prime Master, as it is what it is now, should we put off the arrangement of the wedding, or maybe we should scale it back. I am sure Xue-er will show her understanding when she realized what we are going through at the moment..." The Second Elder said, brows frowning.

Everybody else was enlightened.

[We are currently at a critical moment. If we are making such a huge event for Yue Gongxue's wedding, wouldn't it be too much of putting the cart before the horse? Maybe it is quite the opposite to what we should do at the moment, isn't it?]

The Moon Queen made a sigh lightly.

She blandly said, "What I am going to say, is absolute classified. None of you are allowed to leak the information in any way! If we can get through the calamity safe, what I am going to say will only be an unnecessary statement. But if we can't... Listen. If anybody dares to leak out anything about this, she will be expelled from the palace, and none of her relatives will hold the right to sleep their long sleep in our Divine Cemetery ever!"

The ladies were shocked.

"There was nothing about this calamity heard in the world. Suddenly, it started. For some days, nobody even noticed its existence. Whoever is performing it must be powerful enough even to turn the world upside-down... Therefore, even though having faith in our sect Qiong-Hua Palace, I still can't be certain for a positive result. Nor can I face it with a relaxed mood."

She blandly continued, "In this critical time, I insist that we should hold a big wedding ceremony, because first of all, we need to show the world our unquestionable dominant power, to tell the world how destructive our counter-attack can be to those who dare to offend us, and second, we should tell the entire world that Yue Gongxue is no longer a member of Qiong-Hua Palace!"

"We may get through the calamity till things were settled, and by then, Yue Gongxue won't be one of us anymore. It is reasonable that we hold a proper wedding for her before anything unfortunate happens. If... If Qiong-Hua Palace doesn't get the fortune to survive the disaster..." The Moon Queen spoke in a deep voice, "If we all die before the end... Yue Gongxue, whom we are expelling from the sect, will become... the only remaining seed of Qiong-Hua Palace... She used to be our Saintess. Maybe she is weak in cultivation, but what she has mastered were all the best parts of Qiong-Hua Palace's martial arts. We all know that this is why I wouldn't let her go with Ye Nantian. I would never take the risk of leaking our secret martial arts to the world! However, things have changed. We may need her to keep the continuity of the great Qiong-Hua Palace!"

"No matter she is or not resentful and full of grudge about the palace, what she has... the significant knowledge in her head..." The Moon Queen took a long breath and said, "...is always the heritage of Qiong-Hua Palace!"

"That would be the last step we make! The most helpless one!"

The elders all took a tumble. They never thought that the Moon Queen would have had such a profound view of the future.

No matter what the calamity in the future would bring to Qiong-Hua Palace, the Moon Queen had prepared for it.

The inheritance of a great sect always went beyond the vicissitude of it, because it was much worse to lose inheritance than to end in collapse. If the inheritance were cut, the sect would lose the possibility to last any longer!

"I am afraid I am not the only person in the palace who are making way open for the future..." The Moon Queen spoke in a deep voice, "I hope that... what I said will be the what happens in the future."

The others nodded, with sullenness in the face.

It was an important issue for the palace to protect the inheritance. Whoever leaked the information would definitely become a sinner in the history of Qiong-Hua Palace, that would be ironed with the mark of a traitor for a lifetime!

"From now on, all members of Qiong-Hua Palace, including the elders and the grand elders... must keep in mind the names of the people to whom you have the most to complain about... because for the coming days, you will be practicing with the people you hated the most in the palace so that we can be

more and more in unity and harmony. We shall give up all the personal animosity against any others, and prepared both your souls and bodies to confront the calamity before us!" The Moon Queen sounded strict. "Whoever dares to haggle over every petty thing during this critical time... I will be happy to see her death!"

The main hall was in sudden silence.

"Ladies, let's wait for more messages to come!"

The Moon Queen looked around the ladies with a profound look in the face and then walked away.

"The wedding is tomorrow. It is a good day! All must join the ceremony! We don't need the other sects to come for congratulation. Just cut it."

The last few words were resounding in the hall, yet the Moon Queen had already gone.

The ladies in the hall all looked sullen and anxious. Nobody dared to leave even after a long while.

...

When Yue Shuang and Yue Han arrived at the Moon Queen's residence, the Moon Queen was staring at the ice and snow of the mountains in the distance. All that filled her sight was desolation.

"Yue Gongxue will leave for Ye Clan with Ye Nantian. You two will protect them on the way... I am afraid there will be troubles... Please, elders, go with them on the same way back to Ye Clan. Make sure everything goes right." The Moon Queen didn't turn to look at them.

Yue Shuang nodded and said, "We certainly will. However..."

"What?" The Moon Queen blandly asked. That was just one word, yet it sounded powerful like the abruption of a volcano.

Yue Shuang hesitated and said, "We, all that have attended the meeting, understand what you have in your mind as we all heard your words... However, Yue Gongxue, as the bride, doesn't know a word of it. She will become an abandoned disciple, leave the sect to marry a man... Isn't it unfair for her to keep the truth from her?"

The Moon Queen fast turned around and stared at Yue Shuang.

In her eyes, there seemed to be tears, but also the flame of anger.

Yue Shuang was frightened, so she said, "Moon Queen! Why? Did I say anything wrong?"

The Moon Queen couldn't bear the emotion anymore, so she grabbed Yue Shuang's clothes and spoke in a sincere voice word by word, "Elder Shuang, I know you are asking this dumb question for the sake of her... even for the sake of Ye Clan... But... you know what..."

She paused and spoke in a low voice, but with the voice growling through her teeth, "Yue Gongxue... is my daughter!"

"She is my daughter! I brought her to the world after ten months of difficult pregnancy... I am her mother! Elder Shuang, I will give up everything to protect her! How would I do anything to hurt her?"

Her voice was no longer elegant and imposing as usual. She was more like a wounded animal, growling in pain for her beloved child.

Yue Shuang and Yue Han were both stunned!

[Yue Gongxue... is the Moon Queen's daughter?]

[What...]

[Is this even possible?]

[Isn't it unbelievable? Isn't it scary?]

"You have all the rights to have doubts about it, but I won't waste my time explaining it. I can only assure you that all I am doing is merely the best way to protect Xue-er. Don't you agree, elders?"

The Moon Queen bitterly laughed and continued, "Two halls, three palaces, and seven great sects have sent people to Heaven's Terrace. It made an incredibly powerful team... All these people together must be even stronger than the entire Qiong-Hua Palace. So many superior cultivators... actually all have gone missing at the same time... We can't be careless on this, can we? Isn't it obvious? Don't you see what is going to happen?"

"I am surely not as good as you at shouting out for fights and acting on impulse without consideration!" She fiercely said, "But when we are talking about self-protection, protecting the inheritance, playing schemes, cutting our hearts to achieve the greater thing for the palace..."

"You have to know that you are not a patch on me!" She shouted out the last words.

Yue Shuang and Yue Han both lowered their heads.

"Grievance... they say... Well, who can really escape from grievance in the history?" The Moon Queen furiously said, "Is there anybody who actually had a successful and fortunate life? If we can not even endure such grievance, then Qiong-Hua Palace deserves to die, and the only people we can blame are ourselves!"

"Yue Gongxue is my daughter! And she has to accept the fate to be a daughter to me!"

"She was the Saintess, so she had to bear the responsibility!"

"In the past, at present, or in the future... she has to bear it!"

"No excuses!"

"Do you understand?"

"Do you?"

She tried to lower her voice down and growled through her teeth like crazy. Finally, she got the opportunity to vent out all the grudge and sadness that had been buried inside her for all those years!

The growl of her made every of her word sound like bursting out from deep inside her heart with blasting!

She didn't know why she would lose control either. Nor had she thought that she would expose the biggest secret in her heart to someone else!

After all, she needed to let it out!

If not... she might never be going to have the chance anymore.

...

The next day.

It must be the most memorable, enjoyable, and cheerful day in Ye Nantian and Yue Gongxue's lives!

Qiong-Hua Palace had approved the marriage due to the Moon Queen's promise. Yue Gongxue was going to marry Ye Nantian officially.

The entire palace would wish them all the best!

However, they would also expel Yue Gongxue on the same day. Yue Gongxue and Qiong-Hua Palace wouldn't be related anymore after the wedding. Even though she would still be in touch with Qiong-Hua Palace, the palace would never admit her!

That meant Yue Gongxue got to do whatever she wanted after leaving Qiong-Hua Palace.

No matter what happened afterward—maybe she would become wealthy, powerful, dominant, or world-reigning... Qiong-Hua Palace would share no joy of it.

No matter what happened to her, death or life, honor or shame, she would never get any warmth from Qiong-Hua Palace.

She was no more than a stranger to the palace.

When Yue Gongxue heard the announcement, she nearly freaked out because of the sadness.

She was still recollecting the warmth of her master's arms... enjoying the tenderness...

Yet after just one night, her world was turned upside-down. She was no longer close to the Moon Queen anymore. In fact, she felt like just a stranger to her master and the palace!

...

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Chapter 1244: Tied the Knot

Yue Gongxue was begging the Moon Queen, but the Moon Queen was cold and indifferent. She would not give in, not even talk to Yue Gongxue face to face.

"You have chosen your beloved husband over the sect's anticipation and failed the people of Qiong-Hua Palace who have done so much for you. When you made the decision, you knew what was going to happen. One can never get all the advantages in the world! When you get something, you must give up something else!" The Moon Queen let somebody else deliver these cruel words.

"From now on, Qiong-Hua Palace will be the same Qiong-Hua Palace, yet you, Yue Gongxue will never be the same Yue Gongxue anymore! You are an orphan, who has no family name, so we won't stop you from using Yue [1] as your surname!

"You should be grateful that we allow you to marry somebody as a girl named Yue! It is more than you deserve!"

Such words broke Yue Gongxue's heart—she was hopeless!

When she saw Ye Nantian, she had a feeling that was strongly filling her heart. [In this complicated world, only this man will never give up on me, no matter whether I will become poorer or richer, sick or healthy, no matter how time will change my face, no matter how life will become difficult... he will unswervingly stay with me.]

[No matter how the storm strikes our life, he will stay by my side.]

[No matter what hardships fall on us, he will confront them with me and never leave me!]

[Only he!]

[Only he!]

"I will accept this!"

"Thank you! Master!"

"Thank you! Qiong-Hua Palace!"

She was on her knees, with her forehead touching the floor, sobbing.

However, she didn't know that the Moon Queen was also bearing the sadness behind the curtain before the throne. She seemed determined, yet her two hands were holding together so tight that the nails were sticking deep in the skin. She was gritting, biting her own lips and her lips were bleeding.

She clearly realized that from that moment on, she didn't have her daughter around anymore.

Her beloved disciple was going to be with that man.

The couple's life never had anything to do with her anymore!

She never had the chance to quietly get into her daughter's room in the night and checked if she was sleeping well...

At this moment, the pain that was sharp enough to tear her body apart kept expanding in her heart.

She was heartbroken.

The phoenix coronet was ready, as so was the wedding clothes. The Qiong-Hua Palace, which had been clean, plain, and snowy for ten thousand years, for the first time, became an ocean of wedding red!

It was soaked in a warm atmosphere.

Yue Gongxue didn't feel the warmth and happiness as she expected. Instead, she felt cold in her heart. Although she was going to marry the man she loved for the rest of her life, the loneliness and loss had filled her heart, and she knew that nobody could share with her and help her out!

She dazedly walked on the red carpet, driven by only instinct.

Ye Nantian was right on her side. She could definitely feel the joy and excitement from deep inside his heart. In his heart, there were excitement, encouragement, relief, and extreme happiness.

She knew she should be having the same feelings with her husband, yet the sorrow in her heart had diluted the happiness a lot.

The red bridal veil, which was a symbol of a wedding, had been put on her head.

The only thing she could see with her eyes was the red carpet under her feet. It was so red... just like blood!

Blood!

It was a wedding ceremony! All that surrounding her was blessing from others and jollification that rarely happened in this place. However, all that she felt was blood... A lot of blood...

[Why?]

[How come?]

[Why am I having such a feeling? Why am I so weird?]

[I feel like... I feel like walking on a path to death... to hell... I feel like they are all dead... that they are a crowd of people killed blessing me!]

[I feel incredibly uncomfortable... I feel choked... Where does this feeling come from?]

While she was lost in confusion and questioning herself, the sound of percussion and talks suddenly stopped.

Everything became silent.

After that, a voice sounded.

"It is time!"

It was the First Elder's voice. She was surely qualified to be the host of the ceremony.

"The newlywed, to bow to the sky and the earth!"

As the First Elder spoke it out loud, the cheering sound burst again all of a sudden.

Yue Gongxue was still blank in the head, just followed Ye Nantian and bowed to the sky, and then she heard First Elder's voice sounding again. "To bow to the parents!"

Silence stroke the atmosphere again all of a sudden.

The Moon Queen's voice sounded, full of joy and happiness, "As we all know, Xue-er has been working so hard in the sect. She is one of the best disciples of Qiong-Hua Palace... We also know that she is an orphan. I found her in the snow storm outside... Nobody knows who her parents are. That is a tiny bit of a pity, to be honest. After all, this is such a special day..."

Her voice suddenly stopped weirdly, but then she went on, "However, in this great moment, we can't skip any of the important steps of a wedding. I am the person who has raised her and taught her all she had learned. We are master and disciple, and we are like mother and daughter... Today, I am not the Prime Master of Qiong-Hua Palace, no the Moon Queen, not Xue-er's master... but her mother!

"Now, let me sit here, embrace the couple, accept their bow, and watch my daughter... marrying the man she loves! I would like to watch her catch the happiness of her life!

"I hope... that everyone in Qiong-Hua Palace would bless my daughter... congratulate her with the best wishes... We wish her a peaceful, healthy, and happy life! I hope that her life will have no more twists and turns... She has suffered too much more than she deserves!

"I wish her a beautiful, enjoyable, happy life afterward!"

She didn't sound peaceful, calm and elegant as usual, but emotional. For several times during the speech, she nearly stopped because her voice was shaking badly.

Yue Gongxue started to sob.

She could hear the blessing and the love of her master!

Nobody could fake it. She was sure that every word of her master came from deep inside her heart!

Bing Xinyue and Ye Nantian slowly got down on their knees.

"Get up, my child." The Moon Queen's gentle voice sounded again.

Yue Gongxue had a strange feeling. She felt that the Moon Queen didn't want her to leave. The next moment, she felt two shaking warm hands holding her up.

"Listen, girl. Being expelled by your mother in Qiong-Hua Palace is the last thing you should keep in your heart. It doesn't mean anything. Seize the day. Seize what you have in your life. From now on, enjoy every second of your life. Live well. Live happily. There should be nothing more you need to worry about. You don't need to take the burden as the Saintess of Qiong-Hua Palace anymore..."

She was playing the role as Yue Gongxue's mother at the moment—at least the others thought so, so she talked just like a mother. However, she didn't need to really act like Yue Gongxue's mother, because she was. For the first time, she got the chance to talk to her daughter as a mother.

"From now on, you belong to Ye Clan... You can't get into a huff just as you like. Remember, harmony and peace are the most important. Don't ever think that you are more important than others just because you are the former Saintess of Qiong-Hua Palace... No matter what happens, you should talk to Nantian, listen to him..."

"My child, I hope... I hope that you can... you can have a happy life... enjoy every second of your days... be together for the rest of your life in this wonderful marriage..." Finally, she couldn't help starting to get

sentimental, nearly shed tears in front of all the others... She hurriedly operated her spiritual qi to hold the emotion down to calm down.

"Master..." Yue Gongxue was sobbing too much to speak, and her body was shaking.

"That is not right." The Moon Queen joked on it, "Today, you can't call me master... You should call me... mother..."

"Mother..." Yue Gongxue finally burst into tears and was choked with sobs. She got down on the knees again and crawled forward a few steps, holding the Moon Queen's legs and cried, "Mother... you have always been my mother..."

The Moon Queen was shaking. She nearly passed out because of what her daughter just said. With the shaking voice, she said with a bitter smile, "My silly child... You should have been married eighteen years ago if not that I stopped you... Don't be childish now... You are a mother yourself after all..."

Even though she said so, deep in her heart, she felt so painful that she nearly passed out.

[Today... I am finally a mother.]

[Today, my daughter finally call me mother in front of everybody else...]

[Today, I finally sit here as the girl's mother to witness my daughter's wedding, and accept the bow from her and her beloved husband!]

[Today, I watch my girl marry somebody...]

[It's enough!]

[I am satisfied enough!]

[There is nothing more I would ask for!]

"To bow to each other!" The First Elder spoke loudly, even though she didn't know if it was appropriate to do it at this particular moment!

"I announce you, husband and wife!"

...

The wedding ceremony, which was eighteen years late, was finally done.

Yue Gongxue, who had been feeling the sadness in her heart since the beginning finally came to joy and happiness after all that was spoken.

The Moon Queen said, "Twenty years afterward, Yue Gongxue will not be allowed to step into Qiong-Hua Palace any more!"

Yue Shuang, who stood beside the Moon Queen couldn't help but asked, "Your great Moon Queen, what about twenty years after?"

The Moon Queen said, "I won't be the Moon Queen of Qiong-Hua Palace after twenty years. Yue Gongxue will be not the disciple of the Moon Queen, or the heir of the Prime master anymore, but only

the daughter, the beloved disciple of an old lady in the palace. It is reasonable that she comes to see her master. I don't think anybody will stand on her way. It will only be a personal affair. It won't violate any rules of the sect."

What she said had eventually calmed Yue Gongxue down.

She finally understood that as the Prime Master of the palace, her master had to do this, no matter how she loved her disciple. Yue Gongxue was the Prime Master's disciple, the former Saintess, so she should have obeyed the rules of the palace more strictly than others... However... she chose to marry Ye Nantian. What her master had done was only what she was required to do as the Moon Queen.

[Master is still the Prime Master of Qiong-Hua Palace. What she has done for me are already against her responsibility. When I was imprisoned, I actually hated her for what I suffered. In fact, I never tried to see things on her perspective. I... I was too unfilial to her!]

[Master, you are always my master!]

[Master, you are always my mother!]

[Not to mention twenty years, even two hundred years, even two thousand years, as long as I can still move, I will come back for you!]

[I will!]

Yue Gongxue, the former Saintess of Qiong-Hua Palace, had been prisoned for violating the rules of the palace. When Ye Nantian reached Dao Origin Stage, the Moon Queen agreed on the marriage as promised, so Yue Gongxue and Ye Nantian eventually got married. In the end, Yue Gongxue was expelled. That was all had happened.

Yue Gongxue and Qiong-Hua Palace were no more rated afterward!

Qiong-Hua Palace announced it to the world.

...

The news spread fast in the martial world.

People had different opinions on whether it was good news or not. The entire Qing-Yun Realm was in a discussion of the matter.

The news emphasized the words 'eighteen years'... and the promise of the Moon Queen...

...

"The couple has been loving each other from the beginning, and they were forced to be apart because of you, Moon Queen. The lady has been prisoned for eighteen years, during which she didn't even have a chance to see her husband and son. She has all the rights to hate every single person in Qiong-Hua Palace. Now her husband is a great man who has achieved greatness in cultivation. That is the only reason why the couple could finally be together. That is the blessing from heavens. I don't think Qiong-Hua Palace can actually stop them from leaving the palace... Yet the Moon Queen said the lady was expelled... What a joke! Qiong-Hua Palace truly cares too much about their stubborn pride."

"That's right. If I were Yue Gongxue, even though not powerful enough to burn the palace down, I would have left that merciless place as soon as I could. Expelled huh? Really? She would have left that stupid place if she could!"

"Well, Qiong-Hua Palace did hold a great wedding ceremony for the lady, but so what? If not for what they have done to the poor couple, how would the eighteen good years be wasted in nothing? A hypocritical wedding is all you can do to cover your shame, isn't it?"

"I guess the biggest enemy of Yue Gongxue and Ye Clan afterward will be Qiong-Hua Palace... Expelled? Come on... Leave it to yourself, Qiong-Hua Palace!"

...

These were what people said in the martial world. Gossip never died...

However, what they said were pretty convincing to the world. Almost everybody in Qing-Yun Realm agreed on the opinion above because it genuinely made sense!

What they believed was simple.

[If I were Yue Gongxue, I would never stop hating Qiong-Hua Palace...]

[The hatred will always remain in my heart for all the days to come in my life!]

...

In Qiong-Hua Palace.

"Please be careful on the way, dare elders. It is a practical time. We can't put her in any risk." The Moon Queen was holding Yue Shuang and Yue Han's hands, said, "Please, sisters."

"Don't worry, Prime Master. We will do our best to keep them safe." Yue Shuang nodded to agree.

"When you arrive, please tell the couple that they should not show themselves to the public for the shortcoming future when they reach Ye Clan. The best they should do is to live their life..." The Moon Queen was smiling, yet her eyes were red, "Maybe we will meet again someday. Tell them not to worry. Things will get better."

"Yes, we will."

"Tell them not to get involved in trouble. Don't stand out for justice for somebody else. No matter what happens in the future, they should be out of it. They can just stay out of it."

"Okay."

"If somebody mentions Qiong-Hua Palace, mention me to them, tell them to think about the eighteen years... Tell them to hate me... curse me... They have all rights to do so after all."

The Moon Queen blandly said, "Only you two have the chance to tell them these words. After all, you two support Ye Clan the most among us. I believe you sisters can find the best way to deliver the message I want to send them."

"Okay."

"One more thing, tell them, that no matter what happens... they should always save their lives first... Tell them to have their happy life."

The Moon Queen took a long breath and finally said, "Now you are free to go."

In fact, she still had a lot of words in her heart, but she decided not to say it.

"By the way, I have a question, Moon Queen..." Yue Han suddenly looked at the Moon Queen and said, "There are so many elders in Qiong-Hua Palace. Why would you only trust us on this matter? You know... What you have just said have shocked us both! What you said should be a secret of yours, that nobody, not even us, should know any of it."

Apparently, what the Moon Queen said was so frank that even the two sisters were shocked!

The Moon Queen remained silent.

She did not say a word after that.

When the two ladies believed the Moon Queen wouldn't answer the question and were ready to leave, the Moon Queen suddenly sighed and said in a low voice, "Because... in Qiong-Hua Palace, you two the only people who are nice to the couple... You are protective to them. I don't know why you treat them this well, but I know I can count on you."

"That is why you two are the only people that I can trust on this matter. If I am wrong, then there is nobody in this world that I can count on anymore!"

The Moon Queen sounded sad and bitter in the heart.

...

Yue Gongxue and Ye Nantian's wedding was a big ceremony indeed.

However, there were only four people to accompany them back to Ye Clan after the wedding.

Yue Shuang and Yue Han, and Yue Gongxue's two maids. That was sad.

The two sisters volunteered to go with the couple. Qiong-Hua Palace never sent anybody to do it.

The two ladies had tried to make the palace arrange a big team of people to carry all the dowry for the bride, yet they apparently failed. All the dowry were inside Yue Shuang's space ring.

If not for the ring, they might not even have a way to take the dowry back with them!

The palace offered eight treasures, and the Moon Queen personally provided one. Other than these, each of the elders offered one gift. Shuang and Han had spoken loud to everyone that everybody should give something to the couple as a wedding gift and also a sign of respect to the two sisters. Everybody knew that the Moon Queen gave the couple a Pure Lotus Seed. That was extremely valuable. So none of them dared to stingy on this. Ye Nantian and Yue Gongxue did have gained a lot of treasures from the wedding though!

However, when they left the palace, Yue Gongxue nearly passed out because she cried with tears so bad. She kept looking back at the palace while holding Ye Nantian's hand, but the gate of the palace remained closed.

Nobody opened the gate and watched them off.

Not a single person of Qiong-Hua Palace showed up to say goodbye.

Yue Gongxue had thought about seeing her master for the last time before she left, but she didn't have the chance!

The coldness and resolution of the palace made Yue Shuang and Yue Han who knew the truth feel cold in the hearts. If they were the Moon Queen... they wouldn't be so coldblooded.

Yue Gongxue's face looked pale. She just walked on Ye Nantian's side like a person without the soul.

The temporary warmth at the wedding was gone. All that filled her heart was disappointment and sorrow.

When they took a turn at the foot of a mountain, Yue Shuang finally couldn't help speaking blandly, "We are going to leave the palace's territory. We will arrive safely. There is no need to keep following us like this anymore, Prime Master."

She looked at the dark forest behind them and spoke in a bland voice. Her voice was like a beam of light shooting into the woods.

Yue Gongxue was shocked, with her eyes open, staring at the forest where the last bit of hope remained.

A sigh sounded inside the forest.

"Yue Shuang, I was wrong to trust you. You didn't keep my secret!"

Yue Gongxue was shaking. Tears rushed out her eyes, and she kneeled down at once, choked in sobs and tears.

[It is master's voice!]

[She has been watching me all the time!]

[She never truly broke with me! She is always still my master!]

The wind blew the leaves of the forest. A white shadow suddenly appeared, looking at Yue Gongxue in the distance, warm and soft in the eyes.

However, when Yue Gongxue was about to rush over, the Moon Queen shook her head and made a wave of gentle power to push Yue Gongxue away!

"My child... You will understand why I would do all that I have done to you. Remember. Stay away from Qiong-Hua Palace. You are not a disciple of Qiong-Hua Palace anymore. Do not forget..."

The Moon Queen looked at Yue Gongxue and spoke in a low voice, "I... I know you will be happy. Do not let your mother down!"

The shadow flashed and then disappeared.

This time, she was gone.

Yue Gongxue couldn't help bursting into tears.

Yue Shuang sighed. She knew that the Moon Queen was gone this time...

"Let's go."

Yue Gongxue still kept looking back, hoping that she could see the Moon Queen again.

However, she was disappointed again and again... However, she didn't feel hopeless anymore...

What the Moon Queen said to her had been resounding in her heart.

Especially the word, mother.

...

She had been thinking of the last few words in her heart even when they were already over a thousand miles away...

[Master...]

[Master seemed different...]

...

[Realms In The Firmament](#)

Chapter 1245: A Calamity Began

...

Because Ye Xiao was the brother of Yue Shuang and Yue Han, the two ladies treated Ye Nantian and Yue Gongxue intimately with respect. However, the respect was hidden deep inside their hearts, because they were senior to the couple in the martial world after all. If they acted too respectful, Ye Nantian and Yue Gongxue might panic. Aside from that, because of the two sisters' effort, the four of them got along well with each other like real families. Nobody felt overcautious anymore. Yue Gongxue felt the difference, so she implicitly asked the ladies about it, but Yue Shuang and Yue Han didn't mention a word about Ye Xiao.

They only answered with the same words.

"Your master would never set you up."

"Just do as your master wants you to."

"The only thing that matters is that you should work on your own happiness. That is the only thing your master wants."

"As long as you are happy, your master will be happy too!"

“The relationship between you and Qiong-Hua Palace is over. You don’t need to keep thinking much about it!”

“Just be a good wife in Ye Clan. That is all that matters for the rest of your life!”

...

Sometimes, people are helpless facing their sentiments. There is always something unspeakable in people’s hearts that make people feel heartbroken. Who could tell? Nobody could truly make it clear.

People couldn’t even understand their own feelings... There must be a long list of people in the same situation...

...

As they went farther on the way, Yue Gongxue was becoming happier. The Moon Queen’s appearance had driven away most of the negative feelings in Yue Gongxue’s heart. Besides, she got Ye Nantian, the man she loved on her side all along. She started to enjoy the pleasant views of the mountains and rivers along the way.

The spring wind breezed, and the soft sunshine splashed over the world. In her mind, even the grass and flowers on the roadsides were full of liveness and hope.

“Where is our son?”

“Why isn’t Xiao Xiao with you?”

These are the two questions Yue Gongxue kept asking again and again.

After the sadness in the beginning, her role shifted from a daughter, a disciple, a wife to a mother. The love to her son that had been deeply hidden in her heart for eighteen years was now rising up.

“How does he look like? Does he look more like you or me? Is he handsome? Does he look well? How tall is he? Is he a bit overweighted or just slim?”

The questions made Ye Nantian feel awkward.

He had been loving his son, spoiling him like he was the most precious treasure in the world. For eighteen years, he had been working so hard to be an excellent parent to Ye Xiao. He absolutely had loads of compliments for him.

As he kept commending Ye Xiao again and again in all kinds of ways, Yue Gongxue became happier and happier until her eyes turned into two narrow lines because of her smile. She wished she could see her beloved son at once.

“He is tall, not overweighted or skinny, looks slim when the clothes are on, but muscular when clothes are off, with a strong back and a well-shaped waist. He is handsome, elegant, decent, and pretty. What a pretty young lord in the mortal world, an elegant and beautiful man!” Ye Nantian was also smiling with narrow eyes.

“Great.” Yue Gongxue kept nodding, with the eyes shining, “What else?”

“He has a beautiful face, looks like you, but also a bit like me. His face looks like a warm jade, with two sharp eyebrows and two clear eyes, and a nose that stands high-bridged. His eyes are just like a pair of glaring stars in the night sky with a significant glow. When he smiles, the small dimples on his cheeks are adorable...” Ye Nantian just couldn’t stop talking.

“Really?” Yue Gongxue’s eyes were full of shining stars too.

Ye Nantian nodded against his conscience...“Of course! I raised him by myself. I know every single bit of him!”

Shuang and Han had been enjoying the compliments about Ye Xiao because he was their beloved brother after all. Although what Ye Nantian said was exaggerated, it was not too unreasonable. However, as Ye Nantian said more, the two ladies felt it become more irrational. They knew that their brother was a good man, but what Ye Nantian was describing just didn’t sound real at all!

[Warm jade? His face? Come on! His eyes? Two glaring stars in the night sky with a significant glow? No way!] They just couldn’t accept the lies. [Since when does our brother have dimples on his cheeks? That doesn’t sound like a tough man! Come on! Uncle Ye, are you sure you are talking about our brother?]

However, the two ladies didn’t know that what Ye Nantian was talking was the younger Ye Xiao—the seven or eight years old boy. When he was a child, he was indeed adorable with two dimples on the warm-jade-like cheeks.

As for the present... well... it was complicated. He definitely didn’t have the cute dimples anyway...

“Is it true that he looks like both of us? He must be handsome. I am sure!” Yue Gangue sounded full of longingness and sighed emotionally, “I must make it up for him after we are finally together... Poor son... He hasn’t seen his mother for eighteen years...”

As she spoke, she started to sob.

Ye Nantian hurriedly stopped her. It was such a great day that he finally could bring her home, yet his wife just couldn’t stop sobbing and feeling sad all the way along. They should be talking about something happy, yet she still wept. [Women are genuinely made of water!]

The two ladies had been staying with them all along and had seen how the couple act like crazy. Sometimes, they laughed like two blossoming flowers, yet sometimes, one was trying to stop the other from sobbing in tears...

They just kept doing it again and again... never stopped...

[For eighteen years...] The two ladies thought in the heart and sighed.

Thinking about how hard life must have been for the family in the eighteen years, the two ladies felt gloomy. That was why after being close to the couple at the beginning, they started to try to keep a distance so that Ye Nantian and Yue Gongxue could have enough private space...

They didn’t move too slowly, but absolutely not fast either.

They never flew at all, just kept walking on the road, enjoying the views along the way, as if they were having a honeymoon.

After three days, they had only moved about four thousand miles.

During the three days, the entire Qing-Yun Realm fell into a real mess!

The reason was simple and violent... All the dominant powers in the world, including the dominant sects, had lost their people that had been sent to Heaven's Terrace... Every single one of them disappeared just like they hadn't been there before.

Even the Prime Master of West Hall, Zong Xingyu, was missing.

Zong Xingyu had led over a dozen good men including his two Prime Guardians and three elders to Heaven's Terrace. Even such a powerful group was missing.

The West Hall was in a mess because they had been leaderless for a long time.

The other people that were missing were not ordinary people either. There was the Second Prime Master of the East Hall, the Second Prime Master and the Prime Enforcer of Qiong-Hua Palace, the elders of Misty Cloud Palace, the Prime Guardian and Elders of Ice Cloud Palace... Yue Changtian of Cold Moon Palace, Wu Huitian of Saint Sunlight Sect, Yun Xiran of Saint Starlight Sect...

These were super influential figures in the realm that people could hardly see their faces in regular days, yet they were all gone missing at the moment!

Aside from these people, many leaders of other important sects were missing too...

All these people were traceless, like muds that sunk in the water.

Nobody saw them alive, but nobody saw their dead bodies either!

...

The different sects had started to communicate with each other and sent out their men to search for the lost people. The sky of the realm was full of flying carrier birds that nearly covered the sun and the clouds.

Everybody was anxious.

[Where are they? Why can't we find them? Why isn't there even traces of them?]

[What is going on? How could it be so weird?]

[Qing-Yun Realm... is going to fall to a calamity...]

That was the common thought in people's minds.

Who was missing? The Prime Master of the West Hall, Prime Masters of Saint Sunlight Sect, Saint Starlight Sect, and Cold Moon Palace, elders of Misty Cloud Palace, Qiong-Hua Palace and Ice Cloud Palace... These people made the most powerful force in the entire Qing-Yun Realm. If any other force could defeat such a dominant team, it must be a force that nobody in Qing-Yun Realm could rival!

The power of the enemy might be horrible, but the mystery of the enemy was even more horrible!

All the dominant forces in Qing-Yun Realm had been working together on the event, but still, even with such a powerful intelligence jointed-network, no useful information was found. The enemy must be marvelous in hiding traces!

Knowing that the enemy was strong and not knowing how powerful the enemy could be, aroused the fear for this mysterious force from the bottom of everybody's heart in Qing-Yun Realm!

Because of the fear, when everybody noticed how dangerous the current situation could be, each of them couldn't help imagining the worst case that could happen. All men shared the same thought.

All the cultivators were terrified, waiting for the arrival of the calamity!

Maybe there would be a sudden thunderclap that stroke the entire martial world and brought the world into endless storms of blood.

However, all they could do was waiting...

...

Yue Gongxue and the others in this group had just walked out a huge mountain.

They were currently four thousand and eight hundred miles away from Qiong-Hua Palace.

What lay ahead of them was a peculiar place of Qing-Yun Realm—the Dark Forest. The forest was thousands of miles wide, covered in shadows and darkness. It was the fairyland of the spiritual beasts of Qing-Yun Realm. In the forest, there were lots of powerful spiritual creatures, and that was why ordinary cultivators didn't dare to enter this place recklessly. However, it was where the great sect would send their young disciples to be trained.

A few years earlier, in the war between Xiao Monarch and the Three Factions, they happened to have a battle in this forest. Those who were qualified to join the group to fight Xiao Monarch must be pretty good. When they fought against Xiao Monarch and moved past the woods, over half of the wood was ruined by their destroying power. They had collapsed several mountains in that battle. After that, the Dark Forest became a little bit brighter.

The forest was still full of big trees with big leaves covering the sky, but some places in the forest finally got the sunshine. It made the forest eventually not so creepy.

"After the Dark Forest, we will walk two more days to approach Oracle District." Yue Gongxue was excited at the moment. She couldn't wait to see her beloved son.

"When we are back to Ye Clan, we won't leave our home if nothing went wrong." Ye Nantian put his hand on Yue Gongxue's waist, holding her, speaking with hope, "We have been parted for eighteen years. It is time to enjoy some peaceful days..."

Yue Gongxue softly leaned on his chest and nodded. "Yes."

They slowly walked over to the Dark Forest.

Yue Shuang and Yue Han suddenly stopped.

They stared at the forest which was covering the sky, and then they were alarmed. They had an uncomfortable feeling of danger about what lay ahead of them.

The dark woods seemed to be full of... killing intents! It was like the entrance to hell.

They felt like they would put their lives in great danger if they entered the forest!

They weren't familiar with such kind of feelings, because it hadn't been there for a long time. Powerful cultivators as they were, there were very few people in the world could cause such feeling in their hearts!

They had passed the Dark Forest many times, but never had such undesirable feelings before, even though they did hate the sunless and dark environment!

"It doesn't feel right here." Yue Shuang was murmuring, exchanged looks with Yue Han.

"Maybe you are just over thinking about it..." Yue Han blandly said, "Things changed fast in martial world... Hidden flows are everywhere... Many people are missing. There must be something big happening... But we don't have to be overcautious. This Dark Forest is full of negative power. It is reasonable that we will have some negative feelings about it..."

"At the very least... Even if there is some deadly danger hidden in the forest, how bad could it be? You and me, we are powerful enough to handle anything. Cultivators should confront all difficulties with confidence and never fear to move on. We shouldn't be frightened." Yue Han was confident, "As long as it is not Zong Yuankai, Xuan Bing, or Wu Fa... I don't see the reason we should be scared!"

The two ladies were born with a strange condition, who had suffered significant damage when they were babies. Gradually, with their efforts, they got rid of the sickness and became two of the most influential figures in the world. However, after cultivating for all those years, they had hidden wounds indie them too.

When they went to Ye Clan and met their brother Ye Xiao, he gave them lots of supreme dan beads which were enough to purify all hidden sickness inside them. He even shared what he had learned from his martial arts to them so that they could be better improved. At the moment, the two ladies were in their most potent status both physically and mentally!

That was why they were pretty confident. In fact, the two of them didn't care about a possible ambush ahead of them—they might intentionally go somewhere there was an ambush to sweep off the enemies!

Not that they were arrogant, they did have their own point...

The martial world was in disturbance... Dangers were hidden under the table... If there were enemies ahead of them, they would love to catch a few and ask some questions to figure out the truth.

They thought they could probably get to know something about what was really happening.

Anything was better than nothing.

The two ladies had a short conversation discussing the next step, and finally decided to stick to the old plan to get past the Dark Forest!

They would love to figure out how dangerous it could be!

Yue Gongxue and Ye Nantian were both in low levels of Dao Origin Stage. That meant they could protect themselves in most circumstances... After all, if Yue Shuang and Yue Han couldn't preserve the couple in the Dark Forest, they wouldn't do any better in other places.

"There might be dangers in the forest ahead of us." Yue Shuang talked to Yue Gongxue and Ye Nantian.

"Dangers?" The couple was much weaker than Yue Shuang and Yue Han in cultivation. Besides, they had been soaked in their own romance all the way along, so they were much less alert. As they heard what Yue Shuang said, both of them were shocked.

"That's right." Yue Han frowned, "Something doesn't feel right in there."

"To keep away from entering a forest is always a safe solution. Maybe we should go around the forest to the other side..." Ye Nantian said after thinking for a while, "We can walk along the edge of the Dark Forest... take a turn near the three forbidden areas and then come back to the route... It will take longer time, but also get us out of many dangers..."

He was an expert in battle strategy, who knew that the dangers in Qing-Yun Realm were much more dangerous than those in the Land of Han-Yang. Even though Yue Shuang and Yue Han, the two domineering cultivators would protect them, he still suggested a safer solution.

"If we go around the forest like that, we will have to walk nearly thirty thousand miles more!" Yue Gongxue was anxious. She couldn't wait to see her son and hold him tight in the arms, so she wouldn't agree to waste time to wait. "Doesn't it mean we have to walk for one month more? Besides, it is a long and difficult way to go... Do we really have to?"

Ye Nantian understood the feeling of his wife, but for safety, he still insisted they should choose the longer path even after thinking for a while.

"Nantian, Qing-Yun Realm is different from Land of Han-Yang. Cultivators here are mostly beyond your imagination. If they can set up an ambush here, they can do it anywhere else... No matter where we go, they will set up traps ahead of us. If we spend more time on the way, they have more time to prepare the ambush. It seems safer to choose the other route, but it may not be really as safe as you think." Yue Gongxue used to be the Saintess of Qiong-Hua Palace after all. She was well informed.

"If they decided to come against us, no matter where we go, we will have to confront the battle!"

Yue Gongxue continued, "Since we know that there is an ambush in the forest ahead of us... we should think of some ways to defeat the enemies once and for all. It should be more efficient than going a long way and staying in a negative position all the time."

"We sisters have the same thought. To face the enemies, we may have the chance to figure out what they have been hiding." Yue Shuang and Yue Han exchanged looks and spoke proudly, "The battle is ahead of us. No matter what it is ahead of us, we should confront it with confidence. No matter how difficult it may be, we will go through it with courage!"

"We go ahead to solve the dangers, not to avoid them!"

“Ladies, you have a strong point. I won’t deny it. Maybe I have been fighting in the Land of Han-Yang for too long and couldn’t get rid of the influence of the old days. Anyway, I was wrong. However, battle strategy plays the same role no matter what war we are fighting. Since we are going to go through the danger bravely, we have to do our best in preparation before we confront it.” Ye Nantian said, “We must think of some schemes that could increase the chance to win the battle.”

“Alright, Commander Ye. You know it. The schemes in the land of Han-Yang are not useful in here. I don’t think we should waste time on thinking.” Yue Gongxue smiled warmly. “I know you are a general, an expert in martial strategy and battle schemes, but the problem is we are a six people team including two maids of mine, Qingxue and Wuxue. No matter how good you are at fighting a battle, your strategy is limited.”

Ye Nantian smiled and said, “All that matters in martial strategy is what we keep in mind. There are schemes that could be proceeded by only a few people. My strategy will still work. Sometimes, fewer people may make a better opportunity...”

Aside from Ye Nantian, Yue Gongxue, Yue Shuang, and Yue Han, there were two maids in the group, one was Qingxue, while the other was Wuxue.

“Qingxue and Wuxue were only level nine of Dream Origin Stage. Wuxue was a little better, but still only in the top of Dream Origin Stage. They are my maids, as people know, but in fact, are like my sisters...”

Yue Gongxue knew that Ye Nantian would want to know the real power of the six of them to make a plan of battle strategy, so she started to introduce the others. “Yue Shuang and Yue Han are honorable elders of Qiong-Hua Palace, who are two of the most powerful figures in Qing-Yun Realm. I don’t think I need to say more about them, do I?”

Ye Nantian nodded and said, “Ok. I now know about our force here... There are a few things we can do afterward.”

He thought for a while and continued, “Since the enemy chose to set up the ambush here, they must know well about us. We don’t know who they are yet, but I am sure they must be powerful. They know that we have Elder Shuang and Elder Han on our side, yet still dared to set up the battle. They may have lots of superior cultivators this time. At least they believe their people together can defeat the two ladies. They may even have some equally powerful figures to rival Elder Shuang and Elder Han. We must be cautious.”

“Maybe they are from that secret organization which Xiao Xiao told me before...” Ye Nantian frowned and said, “This is unavoidable. Xue-er is right. No matter where we go, we will have to confront the same danger.

“According to what we can see right now, I think they have at least thirty level nine Dao Origin Stage cultivators. Otherwise, they won’t be able to rival the two elders.

“Besides, they must have been arranged to stay in certain spots. Over thirty persons fighting together in the forest, they have to wait in certain positions... Only when they cooperate well with each other, they could do the best they could in the battle, to fight against the two ladies.

“However, that means they have a fatal weakness. No matter how well they prepared for this attack, as long as any of them makes one tiny mistake, we will have the chance to destroy them all. In front of powerful cultivators like Elder Shuang and Elder Han, a tiny mistake of the enemies is enough for them to win the battle.

“Environments in the forests are always the same, no matter in Land of Han-Yang or Qing-Yun Realm. They just have different plants. In fact, what matters in the forest while there is a battle are the trees, grasses, and shadows.”

Ye Nantian found a quiet place and told everybody to sit down. He said, “Listen. Let me talk about the situation inside the forest before we enter it. Let’s assume I am the one who has arranged this ambush... If I were the enemy, I would do this...”

...

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Chapter 1246: Plan; Forest; Ambush

Ye Nantian drew a circle on the floor and said, “Let’s say this is the area of Dark Forest.”

“Since what they prepared for us is an ambush, a sneak attack, what they want is to kill us! With such purpose... they will do whatever they can to start all kinds of attacks and play their battle schemes on us.” He drew a few lines crossing each other inside the circle and told the others that those lines indicated the plants in the forest.

“First, if I were the enemy, I wouldn’t hide in where there are too many trees, because these areas are where we will pay extra attention to. That means if they sneak in those areas, it is easier to expose their positions.

“As I said earlier, to deal with Yue Shuang and Yue Han, such two dominant cultivators, any small mistakes could lead them to destruction. Therefore... I would choose somewhere not so full of trees, where the trees are not so big. I would hide behind the regular-size trees, and I wouldn’t even arrange people to hide behind the thick crowns of the trees.

“There are surely not many of such trees, which are all over the forest, but not thick. They could arrange sixteen people in eight directions to make the first wave of attacks. When the first wave of the sixteen people attacks, it won’t affect the two elders but will cause fatal damage to the rest of us. We will surely move backward to keep away from the attacks... We may have a chance to fight back, but we won’t do it, because we have to spend time on checking the environment around us. The enemies could start the second wave of attacks while we are busy watching around, right here.”

He pointed a place in the circle and continued, “If they arrange somebody to hide under the ground—let’s say ten, when they suddenly show up from now where with the dust as their cover to attack us with poisoning flying weapons, or poison mist, they may not be able to kill any of us, but we will be terrified in a muddle.

“That is the end of the second wave of attacks. What is able to honestly cause damage to us is the third when they approach us and start to fight face to face. After the two waves of attacks, their people are all shown before our eyes. All of them can begin their murderous attacks in person... That is the third step. I

believe when they start the third step because we will be in a muddle after being shocked by the first two waves, it may be quite difficult for us to face the attacks from dozens of superior cultivators at the same time while we are panicking. What we will do is to do our best in answering their attacks...

“The enemies will operate the most powerful and ruthless skills to attack us. They may even damage themselves to achieve the most significant success in the attack. We will feel too busy to answer all of their attacks by then.

“Over thirty superior cultivators attack at the same time. I think even Elder Shuang and Elder Han won’t feel comfortable to deal with such a battle. Am I right?”

“However, after the third wave, they still haven’t operated their last strike. The killing strike will be ready by then.

“If the two elders miss anything... make any tiny mistakes... the hidden people of the enemy will show up right away from where they have been hiding to attack the one who has made a mistake...

“The last hidden cultivators are their last strike, which will only aim at taking our lives. When the battle is in the most critical moment, they will suddenly show up and make the most damaging attacks to kill us! I am afraid these enemies won’t be weaker than either of Elder Shuang and Elder Han. Otherwise, they won’t be able to finish the plan!

“In an ambush, never show the enemy the most strong move before they die!

“Once the last strike is made, make sure it wins the victory!

“We must remember that the power we will see is not the best they have!

“That is a perfect ambush ahead of us.”

Ye Nantian said, “Since the enemy had made such a great effort to set up such an ambush against us, they should be able to make a plan as I said. Otherwise, they wouldn’t be able to be so mysterious and create such a disturbance in the world without being noticed...”

“All in all, I guess they have at least four groups of people. Because they knew how powerful Elder Shuang and Elder Han are, they will make their best to arrange four groups of people that cooperated the best with each other.”

He thought for a while and continued, “This is the end of my analysis. What I can think of is the most possible plan they will use. As for what level the enemies will be, what level their poison will be, or how they will start their attacks, I have no idea. After all, I am limited in cultivation. I don’t know much about how the dominant cultivators fight against each other. As for hidden weapons and poisons that could affect dominant cultivators like the two ladies, I am absolutely blank.”

“What I mean is... ladies, you have to think of the possibilities of what poison they may use on us. There is one thing I am sure—do not underestimate the enemies; Instead, we should try our best to overestimate them. What could most possibly threaten your lives should definitely be considered. We have to assume that the enemy could do anything dangerous and vicious to us!”

He emphasized the word vicious.

Even though Yue Shuang and Yue Han had lived for hundreds of years, they still felt chilled in the backs when hearing what Ye Nantian said.

At this moment, they finally had another opinion about Ye Nantian.

[He is indeed a great commander who used to lead millions of people in the war in Land of Han-Yang!]

[How accurate that everybody has advantages! We should never underestimate a person by what he or she looks like!]

Ye Nantian had just made a perfect assumption of the battle that they were going to encounter. It was flawless. What he said had made the two ladies vividly feel the danger ahead of them in the forest. Now they knew that what they were going to face was murderous.

Now, they had to consider something the two of them were afraid the most.

Only after that, the plan would become perfect.

“We don’t fear for any kind of poison. I am serious. We can absolutely handle it...” Yue Shuang said, “We have some supreme dan beads that can cure poison. All poisons in the Qing-Yun Realm are noneffective on us! We won’t get affected at all!”

When talking about the dan beads, the two of them thought of their beloved brother at the same time. They were sincerely grateful to Ye Xiao.

The two ladies should be fearless for any regular poisons in the realm, because of the dominant power they had. However, they were never believed to be able to survive the extreme poison from the two great halls and three great palaces. Qiong-Hua Palace’s martial arts didn’t have a good solution to fight against poison. However, with the dan beads from their brother Ye Xiao, they were safe from any kinds of poison!

Those supreme dan beads were indeed excellent. One day, Yue Shuang had taken some drastic poison which could kill a prime level Dao Origin Stage cultivator in half a day. After she got poisoned, she hurriedly took one of the dan beads from Ye Xiao. Then she was healed. Nothing went wrong on her. Well, the only thing that happened to her was that she got scolded by Yue Han for swallowing poison.

Yue Shuang was definitely making fun by risking her own life. Even though she was the older sister, she got punched really hard by Yue Han.

Ye Nantian’s eyes lit up when he heard that the two ladies were confident in surviving any kind of poison.

“Well, the enemies may not be able to see such a stunning fact. I am not sure they will use poison attack, but if they do, we can make use of it. It may give us a good chance to cause great damage to the enemy...” He said.

“I have made an assumption of what battle strategy the enemy will use. Now, let’s talk about what we could do to prepare for the battle.” He continued, “In my opinion, we could...”

The six of them got together—Ye Nantian did the talking while the other five were listening carefully.

After hearing what Ye Nantian said, each of the five showed their shining eyes. They felt like no matter how powerful the enemy was, they could easily get past the forest without getting harmed...

“However... a plan is always just a plan. Things always change unexpectedly. No matter how thoughtful we think we are before the battle begins when we truly get into it... I am afraid... There may be a sacrifice to make...” Ye Nantian sighed.

[But... Xue-er, the two girls, and I... we are too weak. It is very possible that some of us will... die!]

Looking at the Dark Forest ahead of them, Ye Nantian knew that they were going to step into a fatal trap. He honestly didn't feel reconciled about it. [I have only met my beloved one a few days ago! I can't die in this place! None of us can!]

[However... who are they? Who are the enemies that want us dead so badly?]

[Are they here for me? Are they here for Elder Shuang and Elder Han?]

According to what happened in Qing-Yun Realm, Ye Nantian felt... that the enemy was most likely on their way for Yue Shuang and Yue Han!

“We are too weak.” Ye Nantian made a long sigh and seriously spoke to Yue Shuang and Yue Han, “Honorable elders, I have a request.”

Yue Shuang softly said, “What is it please, Clan Chief Ye?”

Ye Nantian said, “If things go absolutely unsolvable... If there is a time when we can not keep things in full... I ask for your help, elders. Please leave if things are out of your control! Don't waste time on my wife and me... Just go and find another solution!”

“Absolutely not! No way!”

Yue Shuang shook the head and said emotionally, “We will never leave you to the enemy! Your safety is the priority! We will stay here and fight with our lives until both of you get out of this place safely!”

Yue Gongxue was enlightened, so she said, “Dear elders, Nantian is right. The enemy is probably using you to set up this trap. They know you won't leave. They want you to stay and fight until the last minute... If you can't let go, but fight till the end instead, you may likely die in this battle... and we will die too!”

“Even if you are right, even if we are going to die... there is no way we would leave you behind for life!” Yue Shuang was decisive.

Yue Han proudly said, “Even though we have concerns in our hearts, even though they know what we have in mind... In Qing-Yun Realm, nobody could get us killed without paying a price they couldn't afford!”

She sounded proud and heroic because she had absolute confidence in her heart.

She believed that nobody in the world could prove her wrong about what she just said.

If anybody wanted to let Yue Shuang and Yue Han die in a battle, he or she or they would have to pay an unbearable price!

Ye Nantian knew that he couldn't change the sisters' mind in any way, so he gave up. Instead, he started to detail the plan, trying to make it perfect in every step, and hoped that they could have more chance to survive the battle!

After the discussion was done, according to Ye Nantian's arrangement, Yue Shuang moved in front of the others while Yue Han stayed in the back. Ye Nantian and Yue Gongxue stayed close behind Yue Shuang, while Qingxue and Wuxue stayed behind Yue Gongxue.

The six of them started to walk in the Dark Forest, not too fast, not too slow.

Qingxue and Wuxue hadn't said a word along the way.

No matter how proud and arrogant Yue Shuang and Yue Han were, they kept holding their swords, ready to start a fight at any second!

However, after eighty miles, still, nothing happened.

Birds kept hovering and tweeting over their heads. Such quacking sounds didn't drive away the deadly silence in this place. Instead, it added an even horrible sense in the shadow of the dark forest.

The sound of the leaves waving kept flicking their ears. The six of them felt like they could hear their own heartbeats.

- Pang, pang, pang... –

"This isn't right. Something doesn't seem right..." Ye Nantian warned the others with a low voice, "We must talk when we are walking... We must make the enemy believe that we are not alert... Keep the cautions inside... It is unreasonable that we don't talk when walking along such a weird silence. Our plan is to let them do the first wave of attacks. Otherwise, we won't have a chance to proceed with the next step."

"Well... What should we say?" Yue Gongxue frowned.

It was difficult to chitchat and laugh in such a nervous situation. Besides, they had to act like nothing was happening. That was nearly impossible.

Ye Nantian laughed loudly and then started to speak, "Walking in the shadow of this forest, I can't help recollecting the memory of me leading two hundred and fifty thousand men to hunt the grassland wolves in Land of Han-Yang... Ooh, that was truly... a great battle..."

Ye Nantian started to talk in a peaceful voice, but with emotions, as if he was wholly soaked into the memory of the old days. He told the story of him being the general in Land of Han-Yang and didn't hesitate to show his pride and honor.

Yue Shuang, Yue Han, and Yue Gongxue were impressed.

Commander Ye might not be impressively powerful in cultivation, but his confidence, knowledge, and wisdom made him a unique figure in Qing-Yun Realm.

As Ye Nantian kept singing his own praises, telling the stories of his glory days, the intension was loosened.

The six of them kept walking ahead, going deep into the forest. At the moment, they had gone three hundred miles in the woods.

What they saw were visible signs which showed that there used to be a great fight.

The trees were cut because of the fight. Broken parts of the trees were everywhere. Some trees had withered all around the place. Many big pits on the floor indicated how brutal the fight was.

“It seems... this is the place where the Three Factions fought against Xiao Monarch... one of the most important battles of the war... Isn't it?” Yue Gongxue asked in a low voice.

Yue Shuang and Yue Han humphed and said in gloomy faces, “Saint Sunlight Sect, Saint Starlight Sect, Cold Moon Palace are three shameless sects. They only won the war by outnumbering Xiao Monarch. There is nothing good of them! Humph! Yet people call them great sects of Qing-Yun Realm.”

“Back to the days, Xiao Monarch fought against hundreds of Dao Origin Stage cultivators of the Three Factions right here...” Yue Gongxue looked around the miserable place and made a deep sigh, “Xiao Monarch was such a hero. However, he was bounded to fall in that war. This place is where he started to lose.”

Yue Shuang didn't feel comfortable about what Yue Gongxue just said.

[Xiao Monarch... Oh... You don't know yet, but... Xiao Monarch is exactly your son... Ye Xiao...]

At this moment, something eventually happened...

With a sound of boom, in the middle of this area, the floor actually collapsed and became a pit which was more in-depth than they could tell. Dust rose up in the air, and the six of them couldn't even see their own figures in the rolling dust. Rocks and dust kept flying and shooting around them. What they could hear was the sound of shooting weapons...

Countless flying weapons started to shoot over them from all direction, like heavy rain that covered every inch of the space!

In the dust, there were two string of bright sword lights shining over from each of the eight directions. Suddenly, the thunderclaps started to sound in the air.

Sixteen streams of sword lights were approaching. The sixteen persons all operated sword-person mergence skill!

They were all aiming at the same target!

Yue Shuang half closed her eyes and drew out her sword at once! – Clang! –

The first wave of attacks! Ye Nantian was totally right about it!

That meant they had a plan to deal with the attacks!

“Ladies, don't forget what I have told you! We let them lead the way!” Ye Nantian warned the others in a low voice.

The six of them drew out their weapons at the same time.

At the moment, Yue Shuang, who was in front of the others, swung her sword and her sword shot a glaringly bright light. From left to right, the sword light made a perfect semi-sphere! The sword light stayed in the air and became a shield of energy.

Yue Han, who was on the back of the others also operated the same skill to make the same perfect semi-sphere. The two sword light together made a round shield that covered the six of them inside the light. The sword light didn't stay long, but long enough to keep all the attacks of the first wave away perfectly!

The rolling dust, the flying rocks, even the shooting weapons, were all spinning after touching the child of the sword light. Nothing shot over the six people anymore, because nothing could do that under the force of the sword light.

“Go!”

Yue Shuang and Yue Han made a successful move, and then both of them shouted at the same time.

- Puff! – The rocks, dust, and weapons that were moving around the sword light sphere shot away back to where it came in rapidly.

At the same time, Yue Shuang pointed at the right with her sword, while Yue Han pointed at the left, and both of them raised up their free hands to face each other. Two flows of exploding spiritual qi appeared from two sides and joined together in a powerful way.

They made a palm hit to each other and then suddenly, both of their swords left their hands and shot away.

The two swords in the air got together and became a vast stream of blinding sword light, like a long dragon descending the world. The dragon was over a thousand meters long!

The dragon was shooting rapidly toward two enemies from one direction.

Sixteen people approaching from eight directions, yet the two ladies only attacked the two of them in one direction. They just ignored the others from the other seven directions!

The two cultivators who were hit by this dragon-like sword light attack were absolutely having their worst day. With a scream, their sword-person mergence attacks were ruined. The joined sword light of the two ladies powerful attack was as powerful as an ultimate attack of Wu Fa. The two persons were definitely too weak to endure it. The dragon-like sword light attack went through them fast, and what left of the two men was only some raindrops of blood.

That was why they screamed. The two men instantly became the rain of blood in the air after touched by the dragon-like sword light! They didn't even finish screaming before they were over!

Their body and soul were both destroyed!

Yue Shuang and Yue Han's first sword light attack succeeded, but they didn't continue the sword light attack. Instead, right after the two men were dead, the sword light turned around and made a new sphere shield of light to cover the six of them inside.

After that, the sound of something getting hit started to sound from different directions...

The first wave of flying weapon attacks which were bounced back by the first sphere hit back on their owners!

The dust and rock rolled in the air and covered their sight, and the sounds of the flying things also distracted their hearings. It was already difficult to see things clearly in the Dark Forest, as the rolling dust added one more layer of distraction, it became more difficult to defend the attack from far away!

The hidden weapons were shooting among the dust and rocks, through the trees and leaves, to hit off the fourteen other men from the other seven directions.

It might take ages to describe what happened in the duration of the marvelous attack, but as a matter of fact, it only finished within a few seconds. The dust, rock, and flying weapons approached at first, so Yue Shuang and Yue Han operated their sword light to keep them away and even bounced them back. After that, before the flying weapons hit the enemies, the two ladies had made their first attack on two of the enemies and killed them instantly. Aside from that, they even operated a second sphere shield of sword light before the first wave of flying weapons hit anybody. That was such an intense and significant fight that happened within an unbelievably short time!

“Yue Shuang and Yue Han, two swords join. Power of the sisters looks down upon the heavens! Great! Shuang and Han of Qiong-Hua Palace, you are just as powerful as they say. Bravo!” A weird and cold voice was sounding somewhere.

The dust fell to the floor, while the enemies started to show themselves from everywhere. They were all wearing in black clothes with masks on their faces. Some of them looked slim and well-shaped—must be ladies.

Those ladies were all covered in cold and scary qi, like many ice mountains gathering together in this place.

“Cold Ice Qi?” Yue Shuang blandly asked, “Who are you? How dare you make such a foolish attack against us? You must also be some dominant figures since you are brave enough to mess with us. Why do you hide behind your masks? Isn’t it despicable? What? Are you too degraded to show yourselves?”

[Realms In The Firmament](#)

Chapter 1247: Twin Swords Blast; Cold Ice World!

The vicious voice sounded again, “Elder Yue Shuang, you are wrong. If we dare to show our faces, why would we work so hard to hide ourselves?”

Yue Shuang coldly nodded, “That’s right. I was asking a dumb question. Whether you dare or not to show yourselves, it doesn’t matter. You are going to die anyway. It makes no difference to show your faces. Nothing will be changed. Who you are is not an issue at the moment.”

That person coldly laughed and said, “Elder Yue Shuang is indeed a heroic and tough lady. However, nobody knows how this will end. I would love to see how powerful Yue Shuang and Yue Han can be. Are you really as good as they say?”

After that, that person’s eyes shined with killing intent. The vicious voice sounded in the end, “Broken Jade Strategy!”

The fourteen people who had just been hit by the reverse shooting weapon attacks only stood stable and calm on the ground, but then they started to show an enormous intent of killing at the same time!

Broken Jade Strategy was actually a suicidal plan in the battle!

The target might not get killed, but the ones who operated such plan would definitely die! It was an extreme method to sacrifice one's own life to damage the opponent!

The key to the Broken Jade Strategy was to sacrifice oneself to create an opportunity for the others to kill the opponent.

"Broken Jade?" Yue Han was sneering with a big smile, "Look at you... A bunch of useless junks with your pathetic martial arts... and you call yourself jade? You are just a bunch of broken tile when you are dead!"

In the sound of the sneer of Yue Han, the fourteen men had flown over to her, willing to sacrifice themselves and bring their enemies to death with them.

The somber and dullish forest was suddenly brightened by the sword lights from the attacks. The light was so glaring that it nearly lit up the entire firmament. In the bright light, countless small black dots appeared and moved around the battle, crossing each other.

"Piercing Gold Needle!" Yue Han angrily shouted, "That... That is... the unique martial art of... Wait! Are you from Ice Cloud Palace?"

The man with the vicious voice seemed to be their leader. He was wearing black clothes too, speaking with a wicked smile, "Elder Yue Han is such a knowledgeable lady. You are right about the weapon. However... do you think nobody else in the world except Ice Cloud Palace people can use this gold needle?"

He denied it.

The tough battle was started again.

Yue Shuang and Yue Han, one stayed in the front while the other on the back, waving their swords again and again. Sometimes they moved toward each other and switched positions. It would make a half round rotation of the sphere. Sometimes they became two iron walls protecting the others from any attacks...

The fourteen men of the enemy's side had started a suicidal attack. However, none of them genuinely caused any damage, because the two ladies were doing such a great job.

Ye Nantian and Yue Gongxue didn't have a chance to do anything at all because they were so well protected.

Only a while after the battle restarted, somebody finally screamed in blood.

A woman in black, who was one of the fourteen superior cultivators, was bleeding on six places of her body. She was hit away and spinning in the air. As she was flying in the air, there was more blood splashing onto the floor.

“Soul Chasing Snowy Blast!”

- Bang! – A woman suddenly arrived at the left side with her human-sword merge attack. While she was about to hit Ye Nantian, a shadow flashed quickly, and after a second, Yue Shuang was standing right before the woman’s eyes.

The woman’s sword attack seemed to be dense and overbearing, but Yue Shuang just lifted a foot and kicked out fast. Her foot got through the sword light of the woman’s attack and hit her stomach severely!

That woman started to exclaim, and her sword move was broken down. She was hit away flying backward, spitting out blood in the air with some broken pieces of her inner organs. Apparently, she was going to die.

“Yue Shuang and Yue Han are indeed two dominant cultivators. You deserve the compliments.” The person with the vicious voice was controlling the gold needles in the air, but when he saw what Yue Shuang just did, he realized it was impossible to defeat the two ladies. He finally understood that he was sacrificing his people for nothing.

If the battle kept going longer, he might lose every single one of his people.

Suddenly, he shouted to the sky in grief.

- Shoot shoot shoot... –

Right after he shouted, over a dozen more people showed up and approached in all directions.

These newly arriving people were also wearing black suits and mask on their faces. In the darkness of the forest, they looked even more horrible than they should. As they showed up, they didn’t say a word, but only joined the fight fiercely.

The new group of enemies showing up in the battle made it more stressful for the two ladies. The sisters were not so casual and confident anymore.

They looked at each other within a short moment and instantly understood what each other thought. In fact, what had happened were all under Ye Nantian’s expectation.

That meant the two ladies knew what would happen all the time. Even though they were more stressful, they didn’t feel any more terrified. Suddenly, their sword lights became brighter, and the sword light sphere became much more significant. After that, the two ladies started to fight back the nearly thirty Dao Origin Stage cultivators immediately!

Their sword light was like a rainbow reaching the sun, splashing glaringness all around inside the dark forest. Their swords moved like two long dragons flying everywhere. The strong counterattack from the twins actually forced all the enemies to step back again and again.

The two ladies didn’t show weakness, but kept pushing ahead until the enemies moved backward over one hundred meters!

Facing such an overwhelming sword attack, every one of the enemies started to sweat! Their masks were soaked by the sweats!

At this moment, that leader of the enemies suddenly made an abrupt shout.

Hearing the shout, the nearly thirty superior cultivators in black suits felt like it was blessing from heavens. They started to move retreat fast.

However, when they started to turn around and retreat, they showed the biggest weakness in the battle to the two ladies. Yue Shuang and Yue Han humphed and made another sword light blasting attack without hesitation. Three people screamed one by one, dead with their bodies chopped into halves.

They were spreading out while retreating, so only three were killed. If they stood together, more would be chopped!

At this critical moment, something happened that revealed the reason why they would suddenly retreat. – Boom! – The ground abruptly collapsed down.

Countless flying weapons shot out from beneath the floor.

At the same time, a massive horrible power burst out from under the ground.

The power was aiming at the six of Ye Nantian and the others who were about to fall into the pit.

Yue Shuang made an incredibly fast reaction. With a clear shout, she moved her sword and splashed the light again. The sword lights rolled up like a dragon, wrapped the six of them up, and took them all out of the pit. The six people rose in the air for nearly a hundred meters high. Meanwhile, Yue Han's sword light became a shield of qi which blocked all the flying weapons away.

Nine people showed up under the ground, who were also wearing black suits with masks on the faces. They looked like ghosts, horribly appeared in the darkness, making gloating laughter.

“That’s all you’ve got, Yue Shuang and Yue Han.”

Yue Han coldly responded, “You are nothing but a bunch of sneaky rats. Do you really think you are good?”

The leader of the enemies giggled weirdly and said, “Whether we are good or bad is never the point of this battle. We are the ones who will go home alive, while the good ones, like Yue Shuang, Yue Han, who were hit by our rare poison, will never return to your beloved Qiong-Hua Palace alive anymore. Beauties become skeletons. What a shame!”

Yue Han sneered, “Really? With all those kid’s tricks you’ve got? Nice dream...”

Then her facial expression changed all of a sudden.

Yue Shuang led the others down to stay behind a big tree. She looked around the enemies and then talked to Yue Han in a deep voice, “Yue Han, are you hit?”

Yue Han's face looked pale. She answered in a deep voice, “Nothing serious. I can at least slaughter every single one of these motherfxckers before anything really happens to me!”

After a while, her face started to look slightly green.

Yue Shuang turned over and looked at Yue Han's face. She frowned and shouted angrily, "What poison is it? How come it is so overwhelming?"

The leader of the people in black blandly said, "We would never be any careless on preparing some efficient poison to deal with the famous Yue Shuang and Yue Han... I can assure you that it is not any ordinary poison. We know that traps won't work on you. Poison fog won't work. Shooting weapons won't work either. Ambush, surrounding attack... I know these are useless when fighting against you. Well then, do you know why we still came and did this?"

"Hahahahaha... Do you think we are here to get ourselves killed? We wouldn't come if we didn't have the confidence, would we? We showed you a weakness so that you would think you got the chance to kill us. You bit the bait! Elder Yue Han, you got poisoned, just as I expected!"

"This poison is powerful enough to drag you, two dominant cultivators in the world, down to the taste of failure!"

Yue Han looked pretty pissed and said, "When did you do it? I did show a flaw earlier, but I have been staying under my energy shield all the time. Do you mean you poison could still hit me over the shield? How is it possible?"

"I would love to explain it to you. You don't need to ask. After all, it is such a great honor to successfully poison Elder Yue Han, a dominant figure of Qing-Yun Realm..." He was apparently stalling for time, waiting for Yue Han to get invaded by the poison, so he was glad to spend time explaining. "When the first wave of attacks started, we let out not only the flying weapons but also some Thousand-mile Invisible Powder. The powder is colorless and tasteless, also poison-less. Normally we only use it to track people. It is merely something harmless to people. I knew you wouldn't notice it."

He complacently continued explaining, "However... when the second wave of attack started, we finally got the chance to hit you with Qianji Powder. It is also colorless, tasteless and poison-less... Elder Yue Shuang was up in the sky at that moment, so we could only put it on Elder Yue Han..."

Yue Han showed an angry face, but only made a sigh and said, "I guess the two poison-less powders together made a poison."

"Heh heh. The mixture of Thousand-mile Invisible Powder and Qianji Powder was poisonous indeed, but such a poison would not make an impact. A poison that would not be activated was surely safe from your notice..." The leader black-suit man said.

"Oh? A poison that would not be activated? That was why we didn't notice it? Interesting! I guess there should be a third material other than the two powders. Am I correct?" Yue Shuang coldly said.

The man in black with a mask on the face viciously smiled and said, "Of course there is a third material. Do you know why we would show your our weakness on purpose? We want you to make your killing attack! They swallowed Ice Saliva Juice. Ice Saliva Juice is poison-less. In fact, it is a great detoxicating material. However, when it is merged into the blood and splashed out with the blood in the air, it will activate the poison of Thousand-mile Invisible Powder and Qianji Powder! Now, with the three different kinds of materials, we make the best poison in Qing-Yun Realm's history! Nobody has ever survived it! Frozen Land Frost!"

He then started to laugh unscrupulously, staring at Yue Han's face which was turning worse and worse, said, "Elder Yue Han, do you feel the cold around your body right now? I do admire you, Elder Yue Han. According to our experience, ordinary people should have been broken and lying on the floor already. However, you are still standing there toughly. Impressive! Hahahahaha..."

Yue Han blandly said, "Frozen Land Frost... What kind of poison is it? I guess it is merely some weak children-play poison. And you actually expect that it would cause damage to me? You know what, I am not cold. Instead, I feel a bit hot!"

"Hahahaha... Hot! That is right!" The man in black with a mask on the face made loud laughter and said, "Such an extreme poison works under the power of mutual promotion and restraint between different materials! When this special poison gets into the body and affects the inner organs, it is impossible to cure. When a person is hit by such poison, his or her skins will look frosty... Those who got killed by it always appeared as killed by freezing! I think you are not a special case on this, Elder Yue Han. I was hoping that you could be different, but it appears that you ladies are just nothing! Hahahaha... Yue Han, your sister will die after you soon. She won't survive this without you. Yue Shuang and Yue Han, you are done!"

...

After laughing boldly, the man waved his hand to give the order to the other people in black suits. They started to move over and make attacks. However, this time, they seemed to be proceeding with a different plan. Every one of them only made attempt attacks. They attacked and then moved away quickly. Obviously, they were trying to consume Yue Han's energy. They just wanted the poison inside Yue Han's body to accelerate. If Yue Han fell, Yue Shuang would have to do something to protect her poisoned sister, then the group of people in black could easily win the battle.

Yue Shuang's face was cold like ice. Her sword was splashing lights. She had been taking responsibility for blocking most of the attacks. She glanced at Yue Han and realized her sister was still moving her sword to fight the enemies, so she was anxious. "Just think about curing the poison first! Do not waste your energy in the fight... I am able to block their attacks on my own!"

Yue Han was sweating, gritting her teeth and then replied, "I tried. It didn't work."

The leader of the people in black cracked loud laughter with pride, "We have been planning for such a long time, sacrificed a lot of people for this. If you can cure the Frozen Land Frost, I will cut my throat here and feel too shameful to live in the world. Hahaha... hahaha..."

He sounded so confident and inflatable.

All the other enemies saw the difference, and it spirited them up much. They were capable of sensing the variation of powers. Yue Shuang and Yue Han became slower in their match-up. In fact, they became slower and slower.

The two ladies had a feeling like they could never make a fluent attack anymore. Actually, not only the two ladies but also the others in the battle realized it.

Ye Nantian had held his sword in hand, standing with Yue Gongxue back to back. The couple had made a few strikes to block the attacks from different directions. However, after two blasts from the enemies, they both spat out blood. They were too weak to fight anymore.

After all, they were only low-level Dao Origin Stage cultivators. In a battle of so many superior cultivators in Qing-Yun Realm, they were powerless. Qingxue and Wuxue were even weaker. They didn't dare to step forward. The implicative impact from the fight between others could have killed them because they were below Dao Origin Stage.

As things turned worse and worse, Yue Shuang looked more and more anxious. She smashed out her sword light as much as she could. Yue Han's face looked more and more bloodless. The sword in her hand seemed to be more and more powerless. She gritted her teeth and said, "It is really Frozen Land Frost, the most powerful poison in Qing-Yun Realm... Ice Cloud Palace's unique poisonous technique! Good... Now I am sure you are from Ice Cloud Palace!"

- Pah! – She spat out a mouthful of blood, staggering, couldn't even hold her sword in hand. Her sword pointed down and touched the floor. She was using it to support herself. However, it seemed difficult for her to keep stable. The sword was bent.

It looked like she was going to fall down at any second. Her long smooth hairs got off the knot and hung down, covering her face. Her heavy gasps could be heard.

The leader of the enemies laughed loudly again and said, "Fine. You know the truth now. So what? Guys! Let's go! Do your best and finish them as quickly as you can! Let's end this battle and return with victory!"

All the other people in the black suit with the mask on the face felt the powerlessness of Yue Han and the helplessness of Yue Shuang. They all shouted at the same time, rushing over fiercely. Every move of them was murderous! Every sword move of them was aiming at the two ladies' lives!

Every one of them believed this was the end, and they were on the winning side. The two ladies couldn't hold on a perfect defending energy shield anymore. One of the ladies had fallen down. The perfect defending sphere was gone. The other four were all weak cultivators. If Shuang and Han were defeated, the others would be knocked down at any second!

About thirty superior cultivators who were in high levels of Dao Origin Stage all rushed over with viciousness on their faces.

However, at that critical moment, Yue Han suddenly raised her head, even though she seemed to be too weak to do so. Her hairs flew up again and her pretty face shined with elegance again. She didn't look like sick at all, did she? The bright glow started to burst in her eyes! Her stunning vigor broke into great exploding power all of a sudden.

It was her killing strike! She had been saving energy and time to prepare for this strike!

At the same time, Yue Shuang suddenly flew up with her sword in hand. Her power was exploding too. The sword splashed lights that shined in the air and formed a huge glowing sphere. Yue Han's sword was lifted up from the ground with a blasting sound which made the strike sound invincible.

An even greater beam of splendid sword light from Yue Han shot over Yue Shuang's sword light!

The two sisters, one on the left while the other on the right, one on top while the other on the ground, made a massive storm of sword breaths and sword lights. The world suddenly became cloudy and full of striking lightning!

The thunderclap and the lightning strikes seemed powerful enough to break the entire world into pieces!

“The twin swords howl till the end of the frost and ice of the world!”

Yue Shuang and Yue Han became two shadows which flashed in the air and disappeared. The two of them actually became a part of that enormous, invincible, overwhelming sword light.

After that, the light exploded and started to shot countless beams out to all directions!

Explosion!

“How is this fxcking possible?” All the enemies were shocked by what had suddenly happened!

[Isn't Yue Han poisoned and powerless? Didn't she lose power to fight anymore?]

What astonished them was that they knew the poison, Frozen Land Frost truly had hit Yue Han, and she was alright!

The poison hit her—that was why they dared to start a surrounding attack and make attempts to capture the two sisters at the same time! However, unexpectedly, Yue Han was well! How was that possible?

[What... What the fxck is going on?]

[Is this a joke?]

[We have been risking our lives to build up a surrounding attack, yet when we finally reach this far, at this critical moment, that woman started her most powerful strike back on us?]

[Isn't it a joke? Isn't it playing us around? Isn't it leading us to death!]

All the superior cultivators on the enemy's side had the same thought!

“How is this possible? The poison... Frozen Land Frost... failed on you? How come?” The leader of the enemies exclaimed loudly with astonishment in the eyes. He spent the last second before the sword light hit him to shout out the question.

“All poisons have cures. Extreme poison is never a poison. I am well now, lively appearing before your eyes. It is time for you to keep your words, you dxckhead! Cut your throat huh?” From the blinding sword light in the sky, Yue Han's cold voice sounded. After that, a huge beam of bright white light covered the entire place!

All the people in black clothes with masks on the faces were hit by this attack of area!

It was a murderous area attack!

Twin Swords Blast was the most powerful sword attack of the two ladies when they fought together. Meanwhile, it was also the riskiest move which might put the two sisters in danger!

This move was so incredibly powerful that the two ladies could fight against Wu Fa with it!

However, it wasn't a perfect technique after all. First, one of the two ladies had to gather enough energy before the sword light was released. In fact, when they truly were fighting some crucial battles against some really dominant enemy, they wouldn't have the chance to gather enough energy. After all, any mistake could get them killed.

Second, because this move was to obtain the extreme offending power in order to cause the greatest damage to the opponent, the two ladies had to lower their defense to the lowest level. That meant if anybody got a chance to attack them while they were operating the Twin Swords Blast, they would definitely get severely hurt. If somebody knew the secret and attacked them at that very moment, they would get beaten really hard!

That was why it was the extreme technique of the ladies. It killed the enemy, but might also kill themselves!

Back to the battle in the forest, when the enemy intentionally stalled for time to let the poison make a more significant impact on Yue Han, they were actually giving Yue Han time to gather the energy she needed. After all the time the enemy had wasted, the last move went unbelievably smooth.

With all kinds of screams, blood splashed everywhere.

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Chapter 1248: The Bandit and the Sheep

- Puff, puff, puff... –

The leader of all the people in black suits was apparently the strongest. He struggled hard to protect himself from getting harmed by the Twin Swords Blast, but his sword was broken into ashes just half a second after he raised it up. Countless streams of blood shed out from all over his body. His left arm was chopped off and cut into pieces when the sword was gone.

However, his excellent cultivation capability helped him survive. He eventually rushed through the enormous sword light blast, went out about a hundred meters, turned around, and shouted, "Retreat!"

Then he awkwardly fled away.

Nearly thirty of the enemies wearing black clothes got hit by Yue Shuang and Yue Han's joint sword attack. Seventeen of them were killed in an instant, all of them level nine Dao Origin Stage cultivators the ladies focused on. The rest of the enemies were all severely injured. Some of them got both of their arms chopped off, but they still tried to run away with their feet. When they left the effective range of the sword light, they started to flee in all directions.

- Shoot, shoot, shoot... – The sound of people thrusting up to the sky continued.

Even though the enemies were such an influential group of capable cultivators, they were defeated within such a short time, and every survivor fled away and disappeared at once!

In the forest, the leaves finally stopped waving. Everything returned to peace again.

In the battle, the mist of blood was still floating in the air.

Yue Shuang and Yue Han didn't go after the enemies. They just held their swords in hand, kept their hearts in peace, withdrew the raging devil in their heads, made a long sigh out, and finally opened their eyes. In the end, they exchanged smiles while looking at each other.

Operating the Twin Swords Blast in such a situation was truly disadvantageous. It was such an excessive and bloody technique. After they used it to kill their enemies, they had to spend a while to rest in case the evil occupied their minds!

The battle was over. The two ladies both got injured in various degrees. However, such injuries didn't actually do any harm to the two great cultivators.

"Very lucky!"

Yue Shaung laughed, and Yue Han nodded. Apparently, they were both beaming with a smile.

The enemies they confronted in this battle were incredibly powerful. If they had chosen to fight those people face to face, they might still win the tough fight and stay alive. However, they might get hurt badly if they did. Ye Nantian and the other three ladies might die in the battle.

If the two ladies had to take care of the other four people when they were fighting a face-to-face battle, they might even fail it!

While the two sides of the battle were in such different power levels, Ye Nantian had contributed a perfect and profound plan to proceed with a counterattack which eventually destroyed the enemies by the last strike.

The two ladies did everything they could to stall for time, gather energy, start a counterattack, and ultimately defeat all the enemies at once. Within just a short time, they won the battle over dozens of superior cultivators. Over half of the enemies were dead! What a marvelous victory!

However, looking at the dead bodies on the ground in the forest, the six people still felt frightened.

Even though Yue Shuang and Yue Han were both dominant figures in the realm, they both still felt fear after what had happened!

"If not for the brilliant plan Chief Ye has given to us, I am afraid... we might have lost a lot." Yue Han looked at Ye Nantian with respect and admiration in the eyes. "The enemies' moves, their plan, their motivation... You knew them all. You are such a stunning sage. How incredible!"

Ye Nantian laughed and modestly said, "I simply assumed that I was the enemy's head, and it must be my good luck that I guessed it right. I am flattered, Honorable Elder Han. Aside from that, I have a warning that I think we all should keep in mind. We should not lose alert even though we have won the battle. The enemy did such a great plan in the ambush, so it is very likely that they have set up other ambushes somewhere. They were defeated so quickly and surprisingly, so they didn't have time to change plans... There should be many stronger cultivators they haven't sent to us yet... They will make even stronger attacks soon. We must be prepared for it, and we can't be careless."

"That is right." Yue Shuang and Yue Han both nodded in agreement.

Before what happened, the two ladies respected Ye Nantian because of their brother, Ye Xiao. Now, however, they appreciated Ye Nantian because of his intelligence, strategy, and experience! They were totally convinced!

That showed what a great person Ye Nantian was. As the best commander in the Land of Han-Yang, he had never lost any battle in the world. He was indeed an invincible battle god!

Ye Nantian was a great man himself, not just the father of Ye Xiao!

“We should go back and stay somewhere to discuss it. It should be better to face the next battle later...”
Ye Nantian said and then turned around.

The blood in the air smelled so bad that they all felt uncomfortable.

Yue Shuang and Yue Han were entirely impressed by Ye Nantian, so they surely followed him back.

Yue Gongxue and her maids went after them too.

...

Somewhere else.

A big tough man was striding from the small path of the mountain to the big main road. Every step that hit on the ground seemed to shake the world.

The man had a face full of beard, and a pair of sharp and wild eyes looking around, with natural arrogance like he was a king descending the mortal world!

On his shoulder, he carried a massive sword with a single blade—a saber. The edge was brilliantly sharp, and the back of the saber was extremely thick...

It was not just thick... It seemed to be a huge hammer!

The saber must be at least five hundred kilograms!

This man was exactly Li Wuliang!

The Fierce Blade!

That was right, Fierce Blade had finally shown up in the world!

The saber on his shoulder was the legendary Sky Saber! It was made from spiritual ocean steel. Spiritual ocean steel was over ten times heavier than ordinary steel in the same size! That was why this black, special-shaped huge saber weighed a horrible six hundred kilograms!

However, Li Wuliang just put it on his shoulder as if it was as light as a wooden sword.

He surely had his own space ring, but he never put his beloved saber into the ring. He just kept carrying it on his shoulder all the time. As a saber user, he would never leave it behind!

His soul vibrated along with his saber all the time.

He was communicating with the saber all the time!

He kept the saber in his hand, even when he was severely injured and had become a wasted man for those years. His hand never left the handle of the saber!

A six hundred kilograms weight meant nearly weightless to Li Wuliang at the moment.

The Sky Saber in his hand was like a part of his arm that had grown out from where his fingers stood. It moved as he wished, and he never felt the weight.

After Li Wuliang left that snow valley, he had planned to go directly to Oracle District. It was the only possible place where he would find Ye Xiao. However, halfway to Oracle District, he changed his mind.

He changed the plan because he met an interesting bandit on the way.

That day, when the famous Fierce Blade was walking on the road, he felt something wrong under his feet—there was an obvious trap under the ground. He was curious, so he decided to see what would happen if he fell into it. That was what he casually did.

After that, when he looked up, there was a slim guy looking down at him from outside the trap as expected. The guy seemed pretty excited, like a hunter staring at a beast in his trap.

“Hey! You, tough man, give me all your valuable stuff. I, your dear grandpa, may consider sparing your life. Otherwise, embrace death!” The guy was quite arrogant and had the appearance of a sneaky man.

[Grandpa?]

Li Wuliang couldn't remember the last time somebody was so bold to claim to be his grandpa. It must have been such a long time. In the bright daylight, under the clear sky, there was actually a man who actually dared to do so.

“Valuable stuff? I am afraid I have none,” Li Wuliang answered politely. He just casually sat inside the trap while looking up at the guy.

“Listen... I, your grandpa, really don't want to kill you. Look at your unfortunate look. You must have been through some really bad sh*t...” The guy sounded persuasive to Li Wuliang. “Well, I may give you some money instead if I weren't getting through such unlucky days. I really need some money to get on my way. I don't need any treasures from you. Just a few pieces of silver will do.”

Then he continued threatening, “Look... Do not make the wrong choice. Your life means more than your money. If I don't set you free from this trap, you won't be able to spend your money no matter how much you have with you... Listen to me... An honorable man gives away his money in the right way. We are destined to meet here. There is a long life ahead of you. My friend, come on. Hey, are you even listening to me here...”

Maybe because Li Wuliang didn't seem to care much about being stuck in the trap, the guy started to talk nice after the threat. What a funny guy!

However, Li Wuliang didn't listen to a word of what the guy had just said—he was lost in thoughts of what the man had said earlier!

It was killing him!

[Do I look unfortunate? Really?]

He touched his own face and felt speechless. [How unfortunate do I look? Even a bandit... who has to rob on the road for a living... actually looks down upon me...]

“What is your name?” He was quite interested with the guy who set up this trap. Maybe he didn’t think that the guy was a completely evil person, and the guy absolutely didn’t want to hurt anybody. Li Wuliang didn’t want to kill him, so he just said, “Tell me your name, tell me what you are going to do... where you are going... Maybe I will give you some money as a support.”

Li Wuliang had seen through it.

The guy was no older than thirty-five years old but was already in level five of Dream Origin Stage. Reaching such a cultivation level at such a young age was pretty fast for ordinary people.

He didn’t show any sign of any sect, so he was apparently a rogue cultivator.

For a rogue cultivator to reach this level at such a young age, he must be a talented and hardworking person. The compassion in his eyes when he realized Li Wuliang wasn’t in a good condition wasn’t fake. Li Wuliang was sure this man must be a good man.

The man said, “Screw this! Fine! I am done. You just want me to drag you out and then you can just go away, don’t you? Forget it. Look at you. What a miserable man! I don’t think you have any money with you. I guess I will just take this as a failed attempt. Climb up now and off you go.”

Li Wuliang was speechless.

[I don’t have money?]

[How come? Why would you have such a conclusion?]

[What do you see on me?]

[I am the famous Fierce Blade! And... you actually look down upon me like that? Mocking me like that...]

[Nobody has ever humiliated me like this! Do you know that?]

[Do you understand?]

The guy’s face didn’t appear in his sight anymore. Maybe he was gone. However, after a while, he showed up again over the trap.

“Hey, listen up. You can’t come out by yourself, can you? You said you could give me money only because you wanted me to drag you up, am I correct?” He was surprisingly concerned for Li Wuliang.

Li Wuliang didn’t know what to say. He was totally shocked.

[A less than ten meters deep trap... You think I am unable to get out of this stupid trap... really? Did you mean I need you to drag me out?]

[Holy hell! Who is this guy? Why can’t he stop mocking me like this? He has done it several times now!]

[What a filthy mouth! What an overbearing mouth! How dare him mock me, the Fierce Blade?]

[What a sharp tongue!]

While he was thinking about it, a rope was thrown down from above. The bandit seemed pretty speechless as he said, "Fine. I guess I should be a good man today. Just... grab the rope... grab it, dude... Hey! Why don't you grab it? Come on... I don't get all day... Forget it... Just wrap your waist with the rope. I will drag you out. Quick!"

Li Wuliang stared at the rope before his eyes. It was pretty oily. He wondered what the guy used the rope for earlier. It just didn't smell right.

"This rope... my friend... it is a treasure... It was special before I did something to make a huge change in it... I even put it into a pot of pig oil and fried it for three full days... Look at it. What a lovely rope... It is tough. No swords can cut it apart..."

The guy continued bloating, "Oh wait. Hey, are you an idiot? Why didn't you get up here already? Didn't I tell you that I don't have all day to play with you! Grab the rope you fool... Holy f*ck... Look at your stupid face..."

[Fried in a pot of pig oil for three full days?]

Li Wuliang was speechless all of a sudden. He felt like he could still smell the pork. After hesitating for a while, he decided to grab the rope and acted like he wasn't a martial art cultivator. That guy dragged him up in the end.

"Holy hell... why are you so heavy?" The man gritted his teeth and said, "You do look pretty big and tough... but you are unreasonably heavier than a bear I caught not long ago..."

Li Wuliang was utterly wordless.

[Wait and see, you foolish prick... I can't believe you compare the famous Fierce Blade to a bear...]

Before the man had time to say anything, Li Wuliang kicked him down to the floor. With a casual move, he had already put his Sky Saber on the man's neck. Li Wuliang fiercely shouted, "Tell me your name! Say it! Why do you rob? What are you going to do with the money?"

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Chapter 1249: Mind the Business of Others

That guy immediately froze!

He froze because of shock!

[When he kicked me, I didn't even realize what was happening until I was down. Maybe I wasn't cautious enough while dragging him up, but... but I should have realized it at least, shouldn't I?]

[Unless... Unless this man... whom I saw as a fat sheep turns out to be a great cultivator living in seclusion!]

The cold edge of the saber emitted frosty qi on his neck—at the moment, he couldn't think of a word to speak. Not that he didn't want to say something, he just couldn't say anything under the suppression from the great Fierce Blade.

After a while...

"I... I have kids, and my mother is too old to live alone... Please... Mercy... Hero..." The guy started sobbing with snot and tears shedding out. "My name is Liu Changjun... I am from Guanchang... I have an eighty years old mother and four kids who are still babies... I have no choice... I just want to go home... That's why I rob... Please, hero. Please show mercy... Spare my life..."

Well, guess who he was—Liu Changjun.

Li Wuliang found it hilarious when he saw Liu Changjun change attitude so quickly, so he slightly lifted the saber. It was still on Liu Changjun's neck, but it didn't press so heavily on his shoulder anymore. When he was just about to say something, the situation changed...

The saber was still touching Liu Changjun's neck, but he actually got rid of it instantly.

Before Li Wuliang noticed, Liu Changjun made a weird posture. He bent his body ninety degrees down to get his neck away from the saber. After which, he quickly drew his sword and thrust up like lightning—he actually made a fierce counterattack!

Just how good was Liu Changjun?

His cultivation was still quite low, far from a superior cultivator in this world, but he had a great assassin's mindset and experience. He was still able to tell the pros and cons of the current situation. His sharp awareness was one of the best among the cultivators in Qing-Yun Realm!

As a brilliant assassin, he was good at hiding himself. While he was talking nonsense with his mouth, he had been preparing an overbearing attack in order to kill the enemy in one strike!

In the beginning, he didn't prepare anything against Li Wuliang because the latter had hidden his own vigor, which made him look like just a weak ordinary person. That was why Liu Changjun had been so nice to him and didn't raise his alert at all.

When Li Wuliang was fooled by Liu Changjun's words, a good chance showed up for Liu Changjun!

The counterattack was a silent move, which aimed at killing the opponent!

Li Wuliang hadn't thought that he would get attacked by such a sharp attack. If he hadn't met Ye Xiao back in the snow valley, he would definitely get injured by Liu Changjun's sword attack at this moment. If he was the level nine Dao Origin Stage cultivator he used to be, he would probably be able to dodge away and even fight back immediately, but Liu Changjun's attack would definitely hurt him. Now, however, he was not the same Fierce Blade anymore. He was stronger than he had ever been in the old days. At this moment, he was no weaker than any cultivator in the world!

This time, he came back to the martial world much earlier than Ye Xiao and Erhuo had expected. That was reasonable. He had been used to the two adverse powers inside his body. After Ye Xiao's East-rising Purple Qi absorbed eighty percent of the power, Li Wuliang had become better and better at taming and

absorbing the twenty percent that was left in his body. Not long after that, he had already digested all the power left in him, so he had already reached his prime condition!

Liu Changjun's attack was indeed surprising, and Li Wuliang was defenseless and careless. However, just before the sword hit him, Li Wuliang reached out one finger to hit the middle of Liu Changjun's sword! The sword immediately became ashes in the air!

That was such a distinguished finger attack! After he completely merged the two different powers inside him, his cultivation power was dramatically improved. Because he learned about the Tittle Phase from Ye Xiao who was told by the three Great Elders, he had entered this level before Ye Xiao. He was in Tittle Phase now! That was why he could stop Liu Changjun's attack with only one finger tap!

Li Wuliang stopping Liu Changjun's sword attack with one finger seemed incredibly impressive, but Liu Changjun's attack was more impressive in his mind!

The first reason out of two was that the attack was made in such perfect timing, angle, and power status. That was an ideal assassination move.

Li Wuliang believed he himself would not be able to make a sword attack that was as good as this sword attack of Liu Changjun. If Liu Changjun wasn't too weak in cultivation, if he was also in level nine of Dao Origin Stage, Li Wuliang might not be able to block that attack, even though he was in Tittle Phase!

The second reason was that the sword attack, each and every subtle movement of the sword attack, was obviously Ye Xiao's unique sword move!

[Who is he? Why does he know Ye Xiao's unique move?]

If he hadn't met Ye Xiao earlier and got to know that the latter was still alive, he might guess that Liu Changjun must have luckily learned Ye Xiao's martial art from some books that Ye Xiao left behind. However, Ye Xiao was still alive, and he never had any disciple brothers. Li Wuliang was sure this man must have a connection with Ye Xiao!

Liu Changjun hadn't had a good time after ascending to Qing-Yun Realm. His life was tough. There were always people trying to catch him, and he was always running, robbing, and messing around. However, he had improved a lot under such a miserable life...

After spending all the time in fleeing, he had reached level five of Dream Origin Stage. That was such a marvelous improvement. Aside from that, he had found a treasure map by luck, so he started to go on the journey of treasure hunting. In the days after he decided to get the treasure, he kept robbing around for a living. When he came to this place, he finally ran out of his last bit of resources. His space ring was empty, and he had gone broke.

When he first saw Li Wuliang, he thought that the latter was a fat sheep that would bring him a great deal of money. He even praised the heavens for giving him the opportunity. However, it turned out that the fat sheep was one of the most robust and most influential people in Qing-Yun Realm.

Liu Changjun was a nice guy. Usually, he would never rob a man who looked so miserable. However, after what he had been through in Qing-Yun Realm, he was a changed man. He had one idea in his mind that he would never forget—no matter what, nothing was important than being alive!

When he was in the Land of Han-Yang, he would never be as undignified as telling a lie about having kids and old parents to feed. However, he was in Qing-Yun Realm. The world was different. A bit of acting would bring him a great chance to make an attack which might assure his survival. If Li Wuliang wasn't that good, he should have been injured pretty badly by that sneak attack!

Liu Changjun's sneak attack must be the best sword strike in his life. When he made sure that the sword attack was made and was ready to celebrate it, a finger suddenly showed up and casually blocked the sword before his eyes. The sword was even broken into countless pieces!

He knew that he was done. He had sensed that this big man with a big beard might be an astonishing superior Dao Origin Stage cultivator. That feeling revealed the truth. When the finger crushed his sword when he had just operated the best sword attack in his life, he realized that he was too weak to rival the man in front of him. The finger attack was even powerful enough to kill him instantly!

However, after the sword was broken, nothing happened. Unexpectedly, Li Wuliang didn't attack him!

Instead, he was staring at Liu Changjun like looking at a gorgeous piece of treasure!

Liu Changjun was surprised to see Li Wuliang's greedy eyes. He started to feel cold on the back, and immediately squeezed his thighs together. He thought, [What the hell is that look in his eyes... He is not into that thing, is he? Oh no... I prefer being chopped into halves... than... No... Oh no...]

He couldn't go on imagining it!

Was Li Wuliang into Liu Changjun?

That was right! He was into Liu Changjun! Hmm... Just not the kind Liu Changjun imagined. But Li Wuliang liked Li Changjun for sure.

Wait. Like was not the right word. Anyways, Li Wuliang didn't hate Liu Changjun. He had a simple reason for it. Liu Changjun was weak in cultivation, which meant Li Wuliang could probably kill him by just whistling. However, Liu Changjun's last sword attack had amazed Li Wuliang!

Liu Changjun's sword attack had reached a marvelous level regardless of its power. Li Wuliang believed that even Xiao Monarch himself couldn't do any better than Liu Changjun on this Xiao Monarch's unique sword move. He was amazed that Liu Changjun had actually done it so perfectly at such a young age!

Who didn't like a talented young cultivator?

In fact, Liu Changjun had built himself a pretty strong martial art skill foundation when he was in the Land of Han-Yang. That was why he could make such a perfect sword attack after practicing in Qing-Yun Realm. Cultivators in the Land of Han-Yang were limited by the environment and endurance of the mortal world, so it had been pretty difficult for Liu Changjun to improve more in his core power. That was why he had focused on practicing weapon skills instead of cultivation capability. Regardless of his cultivation limitation, his sword move was excellent. In Qing-Yun Realm, only those who were in Tittle Phase or beyond could rival people like Ning Biluo, Zhao Pingtian, and Liu Changjun on sword move skills!

What happened was much more straightforward. Li Wuliang confirmed that Liu Changjun was operating Ye Xiao's unique sword move, so he told Liu Changjun who he was. Liu Changjun told him the story

down in the Land of Han-Yang in return. He had heard Ye Xiao talk about Fierce Sword back in the old days. As Li Wuliang and Liu Changjun told each other more, they became pretty close to each other.

“Master Two.”

That was what Liu Changjun decided to call Li Wuliang.

Li Wuliang was pissed about it, yelling furiously, “I mean, Liu, do you know I am older than your master? How could you call me Master Two? Call me Master Superior!”

“No... Master... You may be one thousand years or ten thousand years older than my master, but it won’t matter to us. You are always our honorable Master Two...” Liu Changjun wouldn’t give in on the matter of principle.

Li Wuliang was angry about it. Besides, he had been mocked by Li Wuliang again and again earlier. That pissed him up badly too. Thus, he beat Liu Changjun up real hard, but Liu Changjun just wouldn’t change his mind.

[Kill me if you dare! Come on! I won’t change my mind even if you beat me to death! You won’t kill me for real anyway...]

Li Wuliang had to give up in the end.

Li Wuliang had a great impression of Liu Changjun, so he decided to accompany him to find the treasure that was marked on that map. With the support of Fierce Blade, the treasure hunt became much easier.

It took them over a month to find the correct location though. When they got the treasure, Li Wuliang didn’t take a bit of it. All that was inside that treasure chest belonged to Liu Changjun, including some guidebooks of martial arts.

After that, he led Liu Changjun to a safe and quiet place, left him there to focus on cultivating the martial arts, and eventually left for Oracle District again.

Thinking about what had happened in several months, Li Wuliang became sentimental. It looked like Liu Changjun had taken quite a lot advantages by using Li Wuliang’s power, but deep in Li Wuliang’s heart, he knew that he had learned a lot from Liu Changjun’s amazing skills. In fact, after those days, he had been improved in the Tittle Phase!

Therefore, he felt that he had taken a significant advantage from Liu Changjun!

After saying goodbye to Liu Changjun, Li Wuliang was alone again. He felt lonely.

He even looked around while walking on the road just to see if there was a trap or something.

Maybe somebody would see him as a fat sheep again...

That would be fun, wouldn’t it?

After he merged the two different attribute powers, he had been improving significantly. At the moment, he still had the potential to develop a lot more. After staying with Liu Changjun, he started to make progress in cultivation again. He continued to absorb the spiritual qi and essence energy from the

world, the moon, and the sun. He moved slowly, but he didn't waste even one second on the way... He got improved everyday...

That day, he arrived at the Dark Forest by coincidence.

He looked at the vast forest with shadows and darkness, and then he walked into it with big strides.

[The road is under my feet when I walk. The horse is right with me when I ride. No matter how big the world is, I go anywhere I want to go!]

When he entered the forest, he immediately felt that something was not right...

He entered the Dark Forest from a different side, about one and a half day later than Ye Nantian and the five ladies.

Li Wuliang was walking in the forest with big strides, looking around while trying to find out what made him feel something was wrong. Suddenly, he felt a strong power shooting over to him.

"Wait! Is this another bandit who wants to rob me?" Thinking of that, he smiled excitedly.

[Finally... Something is going to save me from getting bored...]

However, the next moment, he found that...

[Holy f*ck! Why are there so many superior cultivators in this place?]

He sharply sensed power fluctuations from different directions. His eyes opened wide because he recognized one person that he was pretty familiar with.

"Wait! There are people from Saint Sunlight Sect and Saint Starlight Sect..." His eyes shined with the flames of anger. "Bastards... They are moving fast, wearing masks... They must be in a hurry to do something evil..."

"The enemy of an enemy is a friend! No matter what this is about, I am definitely going to get involved!"

[Realms In The Firmament](#)

Chapter 1250: A Terrifying Conjecture

Li Wuliang made up his mind and started to follow those people.

Since they were not here for him, then they were definitely here for somebody else. The problem was... Li Wuliang had great hostility to the two sects, so even though it had nothing to do with him, he had to get involved in their business.

He followed the people for one and a half day.

Unexpectedly, he found out something weird.

[Wait a minute... These bastards are actually able to cover their real power by operating some weird technique... Wait... They are disguising themselves with the martial arts of Ice Cloud Palace... They are pretending to be people of Ice Cloud Palace!]

[They are going to attack somebody and frame Ice Cloud Palace for it, aren't they?]

[Well, then I absolutely can not just stand aside.]

[It have to get involved in this mess...]

He became more cautious while carrying his huge saber. He sneakily moved toward the center of those people.

...

When he moved over a dozen miles ahead, he surprisingly sensed an extraordinarily dominant power flying in the sky. [Oh my soft bleeding heart...] He exclaimed in his mind and hid away hurriedly before looking up to the sky.

The overwhelming power was terrifying. He thought more in-depth about it and realized that he could never make such a suppressive power stream even if he used up every bit of his energy. [Who is it?]

Over the dense forest, a bunch of people wearing black suits with masks on the face was flying over with some terrifying power like wild wind.

These people all had scary appearances, and each of them was a superior cultivator. There were over sixty of them who were all flying in the sky!

– Shoot! – They all fled away over Li Wuliang's head and disappeared in the distance.

[Who are they going to get on?] Li Wuliang was curious. [What a powerful team... They are strong enough even to defeat me right now... Whoever they are targeting must be somebody important! Would it be Ye Xiao, the girly prick? Did he do anything too attractive?]

Although he wasn't sure about it, he still hurried up and tried to catch up with those people.

[If it is Ye Xiao, I will definitely be scolded for being late...]

Somewhere in the sky at least three kilometers high from the ground, the golden hawk was thundering ahead, making a long dark mark which felt like a narrow line-shaped dark hole. It was moving so fast that the space behind was broken into a fissure!

Ye Xiao proudly stood on the golden hawk's back, with his clothes flickering in the strong air flow. His clothes seemed unable to bear the speed, but his tough body stood straight up like a spear firmly sticking between the sky and the earth, not moving a bit!

His face looked cold and solemn, with two frosty and sharp eyes, shining with glaring lights. A mass of undisguised killing intent was spreading out from him to the ground!

Wherever the golden hawk went over, people on the ground would suddenly tremble. Even though they didn't know why, they felt frightened, and their bodies started shaking.

At this moment, the anxiety in Ye Xiao's heart was almost beyond his endurance.

He was almost mindless.

Only one thing stayed in his head.

What if something happened to Ye Nantian...

If Ye Nantian died, slaughtering all the people of the two sects wouldn't make it up for the loss of Ye Xiao.

If anybody or any force in the martial world dared to defend for the two sects...

Ye Xiao would sacrifice anything to fight against them!

In fact, at this moment, he even had the thought of killing every single living person in Qing-Yun Realm!

He couldn't lose Ye Nantian or Yue Gongxue. He couldn't lose the twin sisters, Shuang and Han. He knew he wouldn't be able to live with such a loss!

The golden hawk sharply sensed the anxiety and fury in Ye Xiao's head, so it had boosted up to its fastest speed. In fact, it had been trying every method it could including consuming its life energy to accelerate. As a result, it was fleeting in the sky almost as fast as lightning!

When they saw something in the distance, the next moment, they would have already arrived. It moved a hundred miles each time it waved its huge wings. Ten thousand miles felt like only inches because it flew so fast. It was like the word 'long-journey' never existed in its world.

Han Bingxue was wearing his all-white clothes, standing right behind Ye Xiao with his hands clasped behind his back.

In his eyes, there was also a sense of disdain and killing.

The sword on his waist seemed to smell blood in the air and started to howl along with the wind. Apparently, it was yearning to drink the blood of its enemies!

"The path in the martial world is always the most difficult way. Just like the way to justice!" Ye Xiao looked cold and bland in the eyes while speaking coldly, "There are too many songs of the heroes to sing, heads of the evils to chop off!"

Han Bingxue blandly said, "There are too many heads to cut off, so what? Our swords are never just decoration on the waist. We shall keep cutting off the evil's heads one after another until all is done!"

Ye Xiao cracked a bloody and terrifying smile on his cold face and slowly said, "Not only in this world... Somewhere beyond this realm too. We will go there someday soon."

"Bingxue." He looked calm and sounded cruel. "You have to understand. Our true battle... is up there!"

"I know." Han Bingxue's eyes burst out with clear fighting intent.

"There is a sworn enemy of mine waiting for me up in Human's Realm Upon Heavens." Ye Xiao smiled and said with concerns in his eyes, "I can feel his solitude."

"When we get there, he won't feel lonely anymore." Han Bingxue laughed and said, "Is it Master Bai of the House of Chaotic Storms? The story of the House of Chaotic Storms does not only spread in the Land of Han-Yang, but also in Qing-Yun Realm!"

Ye Xiao smiled and nodded.

The imposing image of Master Bai whose face always looked calm and steady with a pair of confident eyes seemed to show up in Ye Xiao's mind.

In fact, after ascending to Qing-Yun Realm, Ye Xiao had been wondering one thing.

Qing-Yun Realm was a higher realm beyond the Land of Han-Yang, which meant it shouldn't be as peaceful as it appeared to be.

Many years earlier, there was a story of the House of Chaotic Storms in Qing-Yun Realm. There was even a war in which Wan and Xiu had taken a great victory with glory in this realm. However, there was not much about the House of Chaotic Storms being told in the realm. Master Bai was never mentioned in this world.

The House of Chaotic Storms once nearly conquered the entire Qing-Yun Realm, but in the end, it seemed completely dead in history, leaving no more information to the world.

That was weird! It didn't make sense!

Ye Xiao knew why things would go this way though. Master Bai never cared about the gains and losses in the worlds below. He was just used to establishing a dominant power when he was in a world which he tried to collapse.

Qing-Yun Realm and the Land of Han-Yang were the same.

There were many people who were working or had worked for Master Bai. Many of them were amazingly talented. However, under the great fame of Master Bai, these brilliant cultivators seemed to be ordinary.

Even though Master Bai would leave the world after causing them to collapse, some of his people would be too unreconciled to go with him. There were definitely people who didn't like to be nameless!

That meant there was always a group of brilliant people who stayed when Master Bai left.

How would such a group of amazing cultivators like to be nameless in the world?

However, that was exactly what was happening in Qing-Yun Realm. The House of Chaotic Storms was more like just a fairytale. There was nothing, nobody in the world that could prove its existence.

Ye Xiao knew about the House of Chaotic Storms very well. He knew that it was unreasonable.

In history, when the head of a great force died or left, his power which was represented by his people might gradually disappear as time passed by. However, the House of Chaotic Storms was a different story. Whoever was qualified to be recruited by Master Bai must be a dominant figure in the world!

Even though Master Bai had left, people that he left behind would never just disappear or die.

Some people indicated that those men Master Bai left behind were killed by other cultivators in Qing-Yun Realm. Ye Xiao didn't believe a word of that bullsh*t!

Nobody in Qing-Yun Realm had the power to wipe out Master Bai's people!

Well, the problem was, what made those men disappear? Why were they traceless?

Suddenly, Ye Xiao's heart beat heavily as he thought deeper into it!

He had come up with an idea about something that might concern the entire Qing-Yun Realm!

Thinking about how dangerous it could be to the world and how terrible the possible results could be afterward, he was so terrified that his face turned pale.

"The secret organization that has been wracking the entire Qing-Yun Realm... the massive plan... the enormous number of people... the incredible wealth and power... they must have an enormous foundation and a long history in the world."

The idea kept shocking Ye Xiao's heart, [Isn't it telling us that this secret organization is run by those people who were left here by Master Bai years ago?]

[Master Bai has a broad and profound sight. I don't think he would do such evil plots. Qing-Yun Realm is too weak and low for him to waste time making schemes like these. Besides, he is too highly-born to use such a despicable method. Such ignoble things are simply something he wouldn't even think of.]

[Maybe... his people changed?]

[Master Bai wouldn't bother to make such a big plan in Qing-Yun Realm, but those people who used to follow him... To rule the world is still a lifetime goal for these people, isn't it? They could have spent many years and sacrificed many lives for the plan...]

[There is one problem. These people should be utterly dominant in the world. Why would they hide so deep and wait so many years to proceed with the operation? Even the seven great sects together would never be able to rival that incredible group of people, would they?]

[They have been hiding, staying so low in Qing-Yun Realm. Even none of their names are known to the public... They don't have to fear any other forces in Qing-Yun Realm... They are too powerful to be afraid... Does it mean... they are actually afraid of Master Bai?]

[Master Bai would never allow his House of Chaotic Storms to become a cause of ruin to the world after he left. If he found out what these people were doing, Wan of Clouds and Xiu of Heavens could sweep off every single one of the secret organization. Master Bai wouldn't even need to show up.]

[That is why these people don't dare to show themselves.]

[That is why they keep running the organization under the ground. They don't want to be exposed to Master Bai...]

[But... Master Bai has been back to his world with Wan and Xiu. He won't care about the weak and low realms such as Qing-Yun Realm or the Land of Han-Yang anymore. It seems only people in the Land of Han-Yang know that Master Bai is gone, but the truth is that these people know it too. They must have their subbranch in the Land of Han-Yang, just like the three factions!]

[Master Bai has gone back to his home with Wan and Xiu, which means the threat to the organization is gone. They have been staying underground for such a long time, and now they finally have the chance to proceed with their great plan. Who in this world has the power to stop them anyway?]

[Well, only Heaven's Terrace can make anybody powerful enough to rival that secret organization within one night. That is why when the world knows somebody has taken many of the fruits, the organization decided to send their people to kill all the possible targets in Heaven's Terrace. They don't want anybody else in this world to become super powerful cultivators, do they? They would do anything it takes to kill every cultivator who might stand against them in this world!]

[If I am right about this, it means the world is having a big problem...]

Ye Xiao took a deep breath and tried to calm down a bit. Apparently, he was terrified by the conjecture he just made!

Ye Xiao never underestimated himself. After eating and digesting the purified Divine Yin Yang Fruit, he had returned to his prime cultivation status, which was as powerful as Xiao Monarch in his previous life. Aside from that, he had learned a lot more from the three Great Elders of Cold Moon Palace and knew about the three ultimate phases of Dao Origin Stage.

Maybe he was still weaker than some people such as Wu Fa, Xuan Bing, and Xue Danru. These were the top cultivators in the realm after all. However, he was at least in the same league with these ones. What he needed was only experience and time to catch up with them.

If what he conjectured was true that the leaders of the secret organization were former House of Chaotic Storms members who used to follow Master Bai in the old days, nobody would dare to challenge such an organization. Those people were all great cultivators with dominant powers! Any of them could be a super-level Dao Origin Stage cultivator!

However, it was his conjecture after all. There was no evidence to it. Maybe Ye Xiao was overthinking too much!

Maybe he was lost in his great imagination. The powerful secret organization, Master Bai, former House of the Chaotic Storms members, Heaven's Terrace, one person, two great halls, three great palaces, seven great sects... He just connected everything.

[Heaven's Terrace is a game that is designed by somebody in some higher realm. That realm may not be as high as where the Wizard and the others live, but at least on the same level as the Human Realm Upon Heavens... where Master Bai lives...]

[The first Prime Master of the West Hall is Zong Yuankai, who ate the first Divine Yin Yang Fruit and became an ultimate cultivator... The current most potent cultivator Wu Fa became this powerful because of the fruits too.]

[Before anybody knew their names, they were both nobodies... Hmm. There was a third person who took the fruits but disappeared. Nobody knows who that person is...]

[Why? How come the three of them could succeed in taking the fruits? Was it just good luck?]

[Divine Yin Yang Fruits are from some upper realm. I am told by Erhuo... That's for sure...]

[Erhuo knew about those fruits... and it moved super fast. The others could never be as fast as Erhuo. They must know something about the fruits if they can succeed. Wu Fa has always been the most potent

cultivator in the world. West Hall has a great force. Wu Fa and Zong Yuankai are both wise men. They don't look like two desperados at all...]

[They are not desperados, and they can live with their fame and power. They must be wise. Wise men always take steps. They don't take risks...]

[Why would they risk their lives to try the fruits which is obviously a bait?]

[The only explanation is... that they know some trick about taking the fruits off the hook! Maybe there is a secret about that hook! If I am right that there is a secret about that hook, then how did they get to know the secret?]

[Divine Yin Yang Fruit are from a realm which is in the same level with Human Realm Upon Heavens... One man in Human Realm Upon Heavens definitely knows the secret... Master Bai!]

Bits by bits, the disordered and confusing thoughts kept hitting his head. He realized that Master Bai seemed to be the key that linked every isolated piece together.

He took a long breath with a sigh.

[If this is the truth, then the truth is way too much terrifying than it should be.]

[For so many years, they secretly built resource network. How many dominant cultivators have they recruited during these years?]

[It must be an enormous number that could kill the hope that people finally got!]

[When I was in the Land of Han-Yang, I fought against Master Bai by coincidence. Because of my good fortune, I never had to face the true battle power of the House of Chaotic Storms. I never needed to experience their destructive power... What a great luck of mine... Maybe the heavens don't like me, so after the Land of Han-Yang, they arranged me through the power of the House of Chaotic Storms in Qing-Yun Realm. Am I going to confront the incredible House of Chaotic Storms? Maybe I have to win this war before I got the chance to leave this place for Human Realm Upon Humans and fight against Master Bai face to face!]

[Three worlds... Three tests... Three wars...]

Ye Xiao took in a cold breath and said, "Is this a joke of the heavens? Or is it my destiny? The man seems to be my destined enemy. Why? Can't I just keep away from him... Why can't I just get away?"

Maybe he was too shocked to keep it to himself, so he directly said the words out.

The strong wind was howling in this height. Han Bingxue didn't clearly hear what Ye Xiao just said, so he asked curiously, "Destiny? Destined enemy? Boss? What are you talking about? Why are you mumbling? Are you okay?"

Ye Xiao looked solemn. In a low voice, he said, "It isn't sure to be a destiny yet. Something may be changed."

However, in his heart, he almost confirmed that it was his destiny. All the things that happened recently pointed out the truth that the horrible secret organization, which only brought despair to the martial

world, was very likely the former House of Chaotic Storms run by Master Bai many years earlier when he was in Qing-Yun Realm!