

Chapter 2741: The Fall

She walked a few more steps and then stopped. Looking up, she noticed two cultivators ten steps ahead brandishing their swords as if possessed by demons and shouting, "I'll stab you to death! I'll hack you to death!"

The fierce breath flew everywhere and dissipated in the air. Some cultivators who had climbed up with them staggered ahead. Some of them were unable to avoid the sword intent and were injured.

Feng Jiu noticed Old Patriarch Xie standing about 30 flights of stairs above her, looking ahead as if lost in thought. He abruptly turned around and moved off to the side, his gaze losing focus. Since the situation was a little odd, she moved forward right away. As soon as Old Patriarch Xie took a step into the air, she reached out and pulled him.

"Old Patriarch."

Feng Jiu called him with a voice that carried the pressure of a strong exponent. When the voice reached Old Patriarch Xie's ears, it jolted his mind and brought him back from the illusion.

"You are..." He turned his gaze to the young man in red who was holding him. When he looked down and saw that his foot had almost stepped on an empty space, his heart palpitated.

"Take care, Old Patriarch." Feng Jiu said this while releasing her grip on his robe.

"Are you... Feng Jiu?" The Old Patriarch thought that this voice sounded vaguely familiar, so he could only ask with hesitation. However, when he saw the red-dressed young man's handsome face, he became unsure.

Feng Jiu smiled slightly. "I am."

The Old Patriarch was surprised after hearing her answer, and then he said with a smile, "I didn't think it was you at all. I really...really couldn't recognize you!" She seemed to be a completely different person. Without her voice, he would not have recognised her.

"Do you want to go up the Immortal Ascension Ladder? Let's go together!" Feng Jiu said as she took a step up.

Old Patriarch Xie was stupefied, but then hurriedly followed her. However, his path was not an easy one. Every time he took a step, illusions clouded his emotional and mental state. When he looked ahead, Feng Jiu's figure vanished and was replaced by a ferocious tiger pouncing down on him with its mouth wide open.

The tiger's menacing vigour, bloodthirsty and razor-sharp mouth and the fact that danger was close by made him scream and back away. A moment later, he rolled down several stairs.

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Feng Jiu stood above him on the stairs, her eyes flashing. She only noticed when the Old Patriarch suddenly screamed and fell. She did not know precisely what he saw.

She narrowed her eyes as she looked at the ladder. It's said that various illusions appeared on the ladder, but when she arrived, she didn't see anything and had no idea what the so-called illusions were.

She did go up when she saw Old Patriarch Xie start climbing it again, but instead stood there waiting for him. When she saw him stop and gasp for air, she asked, "Are you alright?"

"Mm, I've walked up to this part before, but I was surprised to see an illusion. Everything is fine. I can proceed slowly." Old Patriarch Xie exclaimed, gasped for air, rested briefly, and then continued walking.

Feng Jiu walked leisurely beside him, not a drop of sweat dripping from his brow, but the old man beside her was drenched in sweat. His steps had gradually slowed as if every step had been strenuous.

She saw the elderly man's torn-open robe, his face cut by the wind blade, and his inability to take another step after raising his foot for a long time...

Chapter 2742: Illusions

Even though he had lifted his foot, Old Patriarch Xie was unable to step up the ladder. He sighed after staring at the stair in front of him for a long time. He drew his foot back and looked at Feng Jiu. "I can only seem to get here. I'm only going to do what I can, so I won't go up."

After a pause, he looked at Feng Jiu. "You still have a long way to go. Be careful."

"Yes." After giving this reply, Feng Jiu turned around and continued to walk ahead.

From behind, the old man observed how she walked with ease, never stopping, as if nothing could stop her. After she passed those cultivators and her figure faded away, he exhaled softly and went down.

After reaching this stage, his mental state seemed to shift to a higher level, and the spirit energy in his body surged. Even if he did not reach the top of the Immortal Ascension Ladder, this journey was fruitful for him.

The higher Feng Jiu went, the more she couldn't see the path ahead of her. She had no idea how many more steps were left. As she had not yet reached the top of the ladder, she had to continue walking. For some reason, she was unable to see the individuals in front of and behind her. No other voices could be heard as if she were alone on this path.

She walked slowly, and all of a sudden, a strong gust of wind hit her so hard that she couldn't open her eyes and her body seemed to be blown down. She stopped for a moment, and when she looked ahead, all she could see was the gale blowing in all directions.

The gale brought a severe downpour. When the wind-driven rain fell, it felt as though stones were crashing down on her body. She was in pain and her spirit energy breath appeared to be ineffective at the time. She was unable to shield herself from the wind and rain.

She was only aware that as the heavy rain was pouring down, her black hair stuck to her cheek and her red robe clung to her body. It was much more difficult for her to walk because her clothes were drenched.

However, she did not stop because, at some time, the steps behind her began to vanish, and it appeared that if she stopped, she would fall. So, even though she wasn't climbing quickly, she kept walking step by step.

After an unknown amount of time, the gale and the storm ceased, and a searing sun took their place. She had the impression that the sun was shining right on top of her head. The scorching heat baked the moisture out of her clothes and hair, and the water evaporated into the air.

The clothes that had been wet and stuck to her body were now dry, but sweat ran down his back and soaked her clothes. She was so thirsty that she reached out into space to get some water. However, she found out that she couldn't get anything.

She was just baffled for a moment, but then she continued walking. On this path, there didn't seem to be any night. She had been walking for what seemed like a long time, but she still hadn't reached the end of the path.

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She used up a lot of physical strength so her pace gradually slowed. At this point, the weather on the Immortal Ascension Ladder changed again. Earlier, the sun was so bright that she couldn't open her eyes, but after that, she seemed to have landed in a world of ice and snow. Snowflakes were fluttering in the cold wind.

The snowfall was getting heavier, the temperature plummeting to such an extreme that even the road beneath her feet had been blanketed in snow. She could not resist reaching down to take a handful of snow as she was parched. However, before she could put the snow in her mouth, she saw it vanish in her hand.

Chapter 2743: The Immortal Path

She froze in her tracks. As her heart started to stir, she kept her limpid eyes on the empty palm of her hand. All of a sudden, her heart became clear. "There is a way to heaven inside the heart. Why fear that snow or wind may block the immortal path?"

As soon as her voice faded, the floating snow vanished and the environment appeared to restore to its previous state. She pulled herself together and took a good look at herself. She's still dressed in her previous red robe, which was now fluttering in the wind, with no snow on her body. Her fatigue and thirst had vanished as if they had been her delusions and never existed.

"Young Master Jiu? Young Master Jiu?"

"Young friend? Young friend?"

Hearing those voices brought her to her senses. As she turned around, she saw the elderly man and He Shu shouting at her from a distance of approximately ten metres. When they noticed her looking up, they asked her again.

"What are you doing up here? Aren't you here to see the fun, why are you also going up?"

Feng Jiu smiled as she heard this. "I have nothing to do, so I come up and take a look," she said as she took a step forward. "Perhaps the scenery above will be more attractive."

The sounds around her entered her ear. She could hear fighting and exclamations behind her as well as several figures walking slowly through the mist ahead.

The elderly man and He Shu were taken aback to see her going up slowly, step by step, with ease. When she reached the two men, the elderly man sighed and said, "Young friend, you keep your strength under wraps!"

Feng Jiu smiled. "I have not yet made it to the top. How do you know if I keep my strength hidden?" She moved up and said, "Let's go!"

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When the two men saw her walking upward, they paused for a moment before following her. They had already walked nearly half the distance, and the higher they went, the more challenging it became, especially for He Shu, who gradually looked unwell and his breath became erratic.

Sensing that his body had reached its limit, He Shu stopped and told them, "I've reached the limit. I'm afraid I can't bear it any longer."

Feng Jiu and the elderly man looked at him, nodded, and then walked away without saying much. Then, He Shu went down.

"Young friend, don't you feel anything?" The elderly man was compelled to ask. It struck him as odd because Feng Jiu always wore the same expression and showed no signs of discomfort.

"I do!" Feng Jiu sighed.

As soon as the old man heard this, he looked at Feng Jiu with bright eyes and asked quickly, "What do you feel?"

"Why is the road so long? How many more steps must I take to reach the top?" Feng Jiu muttered, her words tinged with helplessness. The elderly man was taken aback.

After a long time, the elderly man drew a deep breath. "I want to know about other feelings. Don't you feel unwell? Don't feel the pressure on this Immortal Ladder? Don't you feel your blood and vital breath boiling inside your body?"

Feng Jiu stopped all of a sudden, and after a short pause, she turned to the old man and said, "Not at all. I just feel like the road is too long and the climb is difficult." She answered as she took two fruits from the space and handed one to the old man. "Here, eat a fruit to moisten your throat."

The elderly man moved his lips, but he couldn't think of anything to say, so he just took the fruit, said thank you, and walked away.

Feng Jiu was walking while enjoying the fruit. She had no idea how much time had gone, but there was no one at the front...

Chapter 2744: Reaching the Peak

When she looked back, she saw a vast expanse of mist, and she couldn't see the elderly man or others. Was it possible that she had re-entered an illusory realm? She considered it in her heart but dismissed it

because the location where she was at the time was already in the final steps of the Immortal Ascension Ladder. Not many people would have reached this place. The elderly man should have descended the ladder by now, right?

As she climbed, she pondered. According to reports, this Immortal Ascension Ladder connects to another location. If she really went up, wouldn't she...

When she thought about this, her heart tingled. Since none of her family or friends were here, she didn't want to go off on her own.

Why exactly did Old Man Tianji tell her to come here? She had already climbed the Immortal Ascension Ladder, the Golden Lotus had also... That's not right. The Golden Lotus! Could the Golden Lotus in her space pool be the one of the Ancient Golden Lotuses that Mo Chen mentioned?

She stopped walking as though she had suddenly realised something. This Golden Lotus was probably the most important reason she came to Immortal Ascension Ladder, right? Even if he told her to come to the Immortal Ascension Ladder, which she had already gone up now, there appeared to be nothing unusual about it.

Looking ahead, the stairs in the immortal path continued and she kept walking, gradually getting closer and closer to the top peak. But when she reached the end and saw the final staircase and the ethereal door beyond, she paused and did not take the final step.

"This must be the top of the Immortal Ascension Ladder, right? It's nothing special." She muttered in a low voice and looked through the ethereal door in front of her, but she couldn't see anything in the white expanse.

She had no idea that behind the ethereal door, where she couldn't see, several figures were sitting on the clouds, staring at Feng Jiu, who was standing by the door.

One of the elderly men, who was stroking his beard, could not conceal his surprise. "How unusual! How unexpected! Someone has successfully gone up the ladder this year and he is still so young."

"It's obvious that your vision has deteriorated with age. It's obviously a little girl. Why did you see a young man?"

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A cultivator next to him who appeared to be only six or seven years old spoke. Although he looked like a child, he was actually the oldest of those few people. Yet, the higher one's cultivation was, the longer he could stay at one age at will, so he appeared to be a child.

"A woman?"

A beautiful woman next to him remarked. After looking at the young man in red carefully for a while, she was surprised and said with a smile. "She's a woman, indeed. Finally, this year, my sect will be able to claim this one."

"Hahahaha, how many years has it been since such an exceptional cultivator has appeared here? These days, it is uncommon to find such a beautiful young man. In any case, this person should belong to my sect."

“Don’t fight over her. I want this girl.”

“No, that won’t do. I want her, I want her.”

“How can that work? I said it first.”

“I could tell she was a young girl, so if she joins an immortal sect, she should join mine.”

Several of them started arguing. But, one person with sharp eyes spoke up. “Stop arguing. Why is the girl turning around and walking away?”

Chapter 2745: At The Other Side of the Immortal Door

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When they heard this, they were flabbergasted and quickly looked at the other side of the door. But when they did, they saw the figure clad in red turn around and walk back after taking a look around. She went down the stairs in such an unusual manner.

“She, is she leaving? She’s already climbed the Immortal Ascension Ladder, so why hasn’t she come up?” An elderly man stuttered and opened his eyes wide.

“She has no idea where she is, does she? Why did she leave when all immortal cultivators should know that this is the only path? What exactly is going on?”

He’d been guarding this door for many years, and it was the first time he’d seen a cultivator who had stepped to the top of the Immortal Ascension Ladder simply stand there, looking around indifferently, before turning around and leaving.

Several old monsters were struck dumb and forgot to react for a moment, so they only watched helplessly as the figure disappear from the other side of the door.

“Just, she’s just left like this?”

They exchanged glances. They’d never seen anything like it before. Among them, the old monster with a childlike appearance immediately unleashed his divine consciousness, and a voice with a powerful pressure was heard.

“Little girl, aren’t you coming up?”

When Feng Jiu, who was heading down, heard the sound, she stopped for a moment, looked back, but saw nothing, and continued walking.

“I’m talking to you, little girl! Why don’t you come up?” The old monster yelled with exasperation in his voice.

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Feng Jiu confirmed that the voice was talking to her this time, but she couldn’t see who was speaking, so she returned her gaze to the door and said, “I’m here to get a look around, but I don’t want to go inside.”

Hearing this, the eyes of the childlike old monster widened, and even the others stared with shock and bewilderment.

“What are you doing here then? Are you mocking us?” The old monster spoke indignantly.

Feng Jiu’s eyes flashed with surprise. Us? Clearly, more than one old monster immortal cultivators with formidable strength were behind that door! So she said, “As I just stated, I simply came up to have a look. I was unaware that you were hiding behind that door, so I’m not mocking you.”

Several old monsters were speechless for a moment, but they had no idea what the little girl’s mind was thinking.

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Finally, one of them inquired, “What is your name?”

“Feng Jiu.” She responded without hiding anything.

“Feng Jiu? Hmm, We’ll certainly remember you.”

After hearing this reply, Feng Jiu said, “Farewell,” and continued down the stairs.

Several of them didn’t say anything as they watched her figure fade away as she left without stopping. Finally, one of them said, “We have rejoiced too soon.”

“This girl is not a person with no aspirations. She will return.” Someone else said, and added. “Don’t fight over her. I’ve booked this Feng Jiu.”

“What do you mean that you are booking her? I chose her first.”

“She is a woman disguised as a man, and I saw right through it, so she should belong to me.”

“What’s the point of arguing? You’re all getting on in years, but you’re not embarrassed. The little girl has already left. What is there to argue? If you want to argue, wouldn’t it be better to let her choose when she returns?” The childlike old monster said. He looked at the door and sighed. “This appears to be the case this year.”

What they were squabbling about was unknown to her. When she got down, she only saw the elderly man laying on the ground, dying.

Chapter 2746: If My Strength Allows It

But the atmosphere around the old man seemed unusual. Some cultivators surrounded the family of the elderly man quietly, among them were He Shu and some others who were protecting the elderly man. The situation seemed to have reached its boiling point.

Aside from the group of people who surrounded the old man and He Shu, some others had already left after noticing the abnormal situation. Xie Yan, Old Patriarch Xie, and other members of the Xie family stood nearby, observing the situation. When they saw her walking down the stairs, they approached her joyfully.

She averted her gaze and looked around. She moved slowly toward the dying elderly man and noticed that half of the elderly man's people were fighting each other with equal ferocity as if they wanted to use the elderly man's injury to take his life.

"Did he fall?" Feng Jiu raised her eyebrows as she looked at He Shu.

"Young Master Jiu, you came down?" He Shu was overjoyed as soon as he saw her. "I was afraid you'd fall off the top, so it was good to see you were safe."

As he talked, he recalled Feng Jiu's question and hurriedly answered. "Senior fell. But, when he fell, his clan members were fighting among themselves. Some wanted to pick him up, while others tried to stop it. I couldn't stand by and watch, so I gave him a hand. I had no idea that these people would attack us."

Feng Jiu nodded. So, that's how things went.

"Little Jiu." Old Patriarch Xie and Xie Yan came over and stood beside her.

"Why haven't you returned home?"

Feng Jiu asked. After all, if the people here started fighting, they might suffer the consequences. Some clans who could read the situation had already left, but they still stayed.

"We decided to wait until you come down safely," said Xie Yan. "Do you know them?" He worriedly asked Feng Jiu.

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Feng Jiu glanced at the dying old man. "Enough already!" Her gaze flitted over the cultivators around her. "Aren't you leaving?"

Strangely, as they observed the young man in red ask these questions, the cultivators felt somewhat nervous, as though a terrifying killing intent awaited them if they chose the incorrect option. The breath of death was so potent that their hearts palpitated in response to the words of the young man. For a moment, they felt a brief hesitation.

"Kid, don't be nosy...ughh!"

One of the elderly man's clan members gave Feng Jiu a vicious look and started to say something, but before he could finish, a cold glint flashed and the man fell to the ground with a groan. This scene took place in the blink of an eye. This was the end of the life of an Immortal Sacred Peak cultivator.

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The surrounding immediately became quiet. No one spoke, but everyone stared in awe. Several cultivators around them retreated discreetly and fled quickly.

"Come back!" When one of the old man's clans noticed this situation, his expression changed dramatically. He took an unintentional step back while glancing at Feng Jiu with vigilance and terror.

The dying old man could not help but sigh as he saw Feng Jiu intervene. "Young, young friend, you are only inviting trouble to yourself, why bother!" They were neither a relative nor a friend, so why bother getting herself into trouble?

“If my strength does not allow me to help, I will not,” she replied with a smile. “However, because my strength allows and I am able to save your life, why should I stand by?”

Chapter 2747: Helping Each Other

The basis of helping others was that one had the capacity to help and bear the consequences. Since she met this condition, why should she stand by idly and do nothing?

The path to immortality and the path of the strong was not cold-blooded and ruthless, nor was it detached from the world. However, strength might solve any problem when necessary. This was the root of her immortal cultivation as well as her initial intention to get stronger.

It’s fine if others called her meddling in other people’s affairs or inviting trouble. She didn’t care what others thought; all she knew was that when she had the willingness and the ability, she would follow her heart.

The elderly man was taken aback upon hearing her words. He coughed twice and then used his fist to wipe the blood from the corner of his lips. “Thank you, young friend,” he stated solemnly.

His voice was weak and shaky, and his face was as white as paper. The man seemed like a candle in the wind that could blow out at any time.

“I thought you were coming down, but I didn’t expect you to come down like this.” She went over, knelt next to him, and took his pulse. “Given your nature and wits, you shouldn’t have ended up this way.”

The elderly man could only muster a feeble smile as if he lacked the strength to speak. His eyelids gradually closed.

“Old Patriarch, Old Patriarch!”

“Hahahaha! The old bastard has finally died! Hahahaha!” Half of the cultivators over there guffawed, convinced that the old man would not survive.

“You, you shut up!” The middle-aged man who was holding the elderly man turned around and yelled angrily.

“There will be a change in the family as soon as this old man dies. What’s the point of several of you protecting him? Now is the time to give up and renounce him. When the Fourth Master takes over, you will benefit.”

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“Kill them and avenge the Old Patriarch!” The middle-aged man yelled. He laid the elderly man down, then drew his sword and charged toward those men. When other people saw what he was doing, they also joined the battle. In a short period of time, a previously unified group began to kill each other.

Feng Jiu just took a quick look and didn’t pay any more attention. She was not interested in getting involved in this sort of family feud. However, the elderly man had spent a lot of time with her, and she couldn’t bear the thought of him dying like this.

So, she took a medicinal pill from the space and placed it in the mouth of the unconscious elderly man while her palm gushed the spirit energy breath to help bring out the medicinal pill's effect.

He Shu, who was standing next to her, was taken aback when he noticed the medicinal pill. He cast a glance at Feng Jiu, surprised that she had taken out such a valuable pill for the elderly man. What surprised him the most was that the previously dying elderly man's breath gradually stabilised after only half the time it took an incense to burn. The elderly man also started to open his eyes after he had been unconscious for some time.

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"Young friend?" The elderly man looked at Feng Jiu with surprise, sensing changes within his body.

"Your life has been saved, but I assume it will take some time to adjust your body after returning home." Feng Jiu stood up, dusting off her hands.

He Shu, noticing the elderly man staring at Feng Jiu, said, "Young Master Jiu just gave you a sixth-grade medicinal pill, which is a treasure-grade internal alchemy."

Hearing this, the elderly man looked at Feng Jiu with shock. "Young friend, you..."

"Since we're acquaintances, I should lend you a hand. However, I can't help you with your other problems." Feng Jiu gestured behind her.

Chapter 2748: Taking a Different Route

When he saw them fighting, the elderly man just spared them a glance and told Feng Jiu, "I'm not going to bother you, Young Friend, with their problems." With the help of He Shu, he stood up and gave a salute to Feng Jiu. "Thank you for saving me. I, Ye Huai, will never forget it as long as I live."

Feng Jiu did not reject it and instead accepted his salute. She turned to face the Xie family's father and son without saying anything more. "When are you going home, Old Patriarch?"

Old Patriarch Xie responded, "I'm all set to go. So, how about you? When are you going to leave?"

"Tomorrow." She stated.

"Shall we go together?" Old Patriarch Xie asked.

Feng Jiu shook her head. "No, the place I'm going takes a different route." While she was talking, her face changed all of a sudden. Her gaze shifted and fell into the distant woods.

Others saw this and looked in the direction she was looking, but all they saw was the quiet rustling of leaves.

"It's getting late, so let's take a rest here and leave together tomorrow." Looking at the Xie father and son, He Shu said, "I have not yet introduced myself. He is my surname, and Shu is my given name. So, how about the two of you?"

"Xie is my last name, and Yan is my given name. This is my father." Xie Yan replied, introducing himself briefly.

“But what kind of trouble are you in, Young Friend?” The elderly man, Ye Huai, inquired. After all, he had been in a lot of different situations. That small movement just now had caught his attention.

“Just some minor issues. Nothing of any significance.” Feng Jiu said, showing that she did not take it to heart.

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Gradually, the result of the battle there was apparent. However, after killing those people, the remaining eight or nine men were also injured and in a mess. They wiped their swords clean and put them away before approaching the elderly man. When they observed that the elderly man’s spirit had much improved, they were astounded.

“Old Patriarch?”

“I was rescued by this young friend. I’m fine now.” The elderly man replied, looking at Feng Jiu.

Those eight or nine men immediately stepped forward and saluted Feng Jiu with gratitude. “Thank you for saving our Old Patriarch!”

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“Your Old Patriarch has already thanked me, so you don’t have to thank me anymore.” Feng Jiu waved her hand.

Several of them looked at her intently. Among them were people familiar with medicine. They had already seen the Old Patriarch’s earlier condition. Now the elderly man could stand up, his breath had now been smooth and steady, and there was no longer any concern for his survival. Her method was obviously exceptional.

However, they were astonished that she had saved their grandfather without asking for anything in return. Is there such a person in the world who saves people without expecting a reward?

The three families, the Ye, the He, and the Xie, along with Feng Jiu, sat in a circle. As a group, these people’s combined strengths and numbers were rather astounding.

Someone in the dark stared at Feng Jiu and then quietly disappeared as if he had never appeared.

People sat around and talked in the dark night. Due to their connection with Feng Jiu, the three families who were previously unfamiliar with one another became acquainted. They agreed to leave together.

It was a quiet night. The people who hid in the darkness did not appear, allowing them to rest well. The following morning, more people arrived one by one to go up the Immortal Ascension Ladder.

Feng Jiu, who had no plans to travel together with them, also bid everyone farewell at this time.