

## Honoured 451

### Chapter 451: Vacation [6]

It was already night and the stars were shimmering in the skies as the faint glow of the moonlight enriched the land beneath it.

"Come on, quick!" Zhao Ying's excited voice broke the calm as she looked over at Fei Ziyu, who was busy manipulating the sand with her earth elemental powers.

Fei Ziyu's hands glowed faintly as she molded the ground, creating a hole.

After a few moments, she stood up with a satisfied smile. "Lady Ying, it's ready."

With a nod, Zhao Ying glanced at Chi Miya who came there with a wooden pole and placed it firmly on the hole making it stand straight.

Fei Ziyu quickly closed the sand hole with her Earth elemental, making sure the pole was firm

At this time, Ning Yueli came there with a long white cloth like a bedsheet.

Together, they stretched the cloth over the wooden frame, attaching it at both ends of the pole's arms, forming a makeshift movie screen.

It fluttered slightly in the breeze, but it was stable enough for what they had in mind.

"Now," Ning Yueli said with a playful smirk as she stepped back to admire their handiwork, "if we get the projector ready... we can finally watch a movie."

Hearing this, Zhao Ying smirked "How about we watch a horror movie?"

Zhao Suyin panicked and hurriedly shook her head "No, no! Not a horror movie! Please, let's watch something lighter... maybe a romance or fantasy film?"

"Hahaha..."

Zhao Tian was sitting on the couch as he watched the women preparing for a late-night movie, a smile dancing on his lips.

As he gazed around the women gathered there, a frown creased his eyes 'Where is Zhilian?'

Hm? As he used his astral sense, he stopped Ning Zhilian at the far end of the beach and raised an eyebrow in amusement.

He then turned to Ning Xue who was sitting beside him on the couch and asked "Zhilian... doesn't like movies?"

Ning Xue blinked her eyes "I.. we, have never seen modern movies like this. This is the first time."

Zhao Tian gave a faint nod and Ning Xue tapped his shoulder "Go and hit on her as she is wandering there alone."

Chuckling, Zhao Tian kissed her forehead and stood up, walking towards Ning Zhilian.

Yu Hua who was sitting beside Ning Xue was dumbfounded "Sister Xue... you are asking tian to hit on Sister Zhilian?"

Upon hearing this, Ning Xue leaned back on the couch "Yeah... I am not doing this for Tian. I am doing this for Big Sister."

"Hua'er, soon we will leave this star and I don't want to leave Big Sister alone here... And even if we brought her with us, there would surely be awkwardness between us."

"Big Sister walked in two times while Tian was making out... so it would make her feel distant. I am sure she feels a bit out of place."

Yu Hua covered her mouth, trying to hide her embarrassment. "I didn't know she had seen that..."

Ning Xue gave a faint, dry smile. "Exactly. That's why I thought it would be good if she and Tian became closer. I've noticed how she looks at him, and Tian... well, he said that he is interested in her too."

Yu Hua's gaze lowered and she nodded her head "But Sister Zhilian has to agree on that."

"Oh, don't worry... this guy's charm is unmatched."

...

Zhao Tian's foot sank into the sand as he walked toward Ning Zhilian who was sitting on the shore looking at the endless night sky above the skies.

"Zhilian..."

Hearing a voice, Ning Zhilian turned her gaze to the right and saw Zhao Tian walking towards her.

"Tian?" She was quite surprised and Zhao Tian gently settled beside her on the shore.

"You don't like watching movies?"

Hearing his question, Ning Zhilian chuckled softly, a small smile playing on her lips. "No, it's not that," she replied, shaking her head slightly. "I actually enjoy watching movies. I've seen quite a few while I was traveling in the Western nations."

"However, this time... you all are watching as a family, you with your women... so I didn't want to disturb that."

A sigh escaped her lips as she turned her gaze to look at the galaxy's rift, which is spread across the sky. "As you said once, the sky looks really stunning in this galaxy."

"So, I came to get a breath of fresh air and stargazing."

Zhao Tian gave a faint nod "I see..."

Ning Zhilian curled up her legs and hugged her thighs "What about you? Are you not with your women... watching the movie?"

"Haa... they are still preparing for it, so I have time."

"Hm.." Ning Zhilian hummed, a small smile playing at the corner of her lips.

Both of them sat there silent as only the noises of the crashing waves and the gentle breeze were heard.

As a few moments passed, Zhao Tian asked "Did Xue'er... talk with you about dissolving the royal family?"

Huh? Ning Zhilian was taken aback to hear this and mumbled "Dissolving the royal family... I didn't hear anything about it."

With a sigh, Zhao Tian began to explain Ning Xue's plan and after hearing it, Ning Zhilian's eyes condensed.

"If the Emperor of Ebon Luohe Star has already accepted the deal..."

After some moments of thinking about it, she took a deep sigh "If that's Xue'er's wish... then it's okay."

Nodding his head, Zhao Tian muttered "Yeah, Xue'er is really worried about you"

She gave a nod and soon another silence followed as both of them simply sat staring at the skies.

After a little hesitation, Ning Zhilian scratched the back of her head and spoke "There's... something else," she began, her voice quieter now, almost shy.

"It might be awkward to bring this up, but... I think I should apologize."

Zhao Tian turned to her, raising an eyebrow in curiosity. "Apologize? For what?"

Ning Zhilian's face turned slightly red, and she cleared her throat. "For, um... disturbing you and your women... you know, when you were... getting intimate."

Zhao Tian blinked, and then a chuckle escaped him. "Oh, that?" He shook his head. "You don't need to apologize for that."

Hearing his reply, Ning Zhilian pouted her lips as she huffed "Hmph, But still... I didn't expect you to be a naughty guy like that."

"Doing it on the open and even g-grabbing my back out of nowhere... Bastard."

Zhao Tian couldn't help but laugh softly at her reaction and he leaned over placing his hand over hers, their fingers brushing lightly against the sand.

"Zhilian, I won't touch any random woman whom I am not interested in."

Huh? Hearing this, it took a second for Ning Zhilian to understand and she blinked her eyes.

EH?

Chapter 452: Vacation [7]

"Zhilian, I won't touch any random woman whom I am not interested in."

Huh? Hearing this, it took a second for Ning Zhilian to understand and she blinked her eyes.

It took her a moment, but when it finally sank in, her entire face flushed a deep red. EH?

She opened her mouth, ready to respond, but her embarrassment got the better of him and she hurriedly looked away, biting her lip.

"W-What are you saying, Tian?" she stammered, her voice shaky, trying to play it off, but her trembling hands and the heat on her face betrayed her.

With a light chuckle, Zhao Tian leaned back lying on the sand, his hand behind his head "You know what I meant Zhilian..."

Ning Zhilian's eyes trembled upon hearing this and her heartbeat raised as she mumbled in a soft tone "How should I.. take this?"

"That you like me?"

Zhao Tian gave a faint nod "Yeah..."

Ning Zhilian placed her palm on her beating heart and a growing smile appeared on her lips "Then... let me be honest."

Taking a deep breath, she spoke her honest feelings "I am also pretty interested in you... ever since you helped Xue'er during the coup. I thought you were cute... and cool."

"But... this is so sudden. And.. you are Zui'er and Little Xue's husband... it would be really inappropriate"

"It would be quite uncomfortable to face them.. if I became your woman.."

She turned her purple eyes to look at him "But... it is true," she continued, her voice quieter now.

"I have a crush on you, or maybe it's more like infatuation, but it's real." She swallowed hard, her lips curving into a nervous yet genuine smile.

"Thank you. I am really happy about your feelings... even now, my heart is beating so quickly."

Looking into her eyes, Zhao Tian's gaze softened a gentle smile spreading across his lips. He didn't rush her, nor did he interrupt.

A faint sigh escaped her lips "Can you give me some time to think about this?"

Zhao Tian kept his smile and replied "Sure, it is an important matter after all..."

Ning Zhilian gave a nod because this one decision would change the entire course of her life.

She had always found Zhao Tian to be charming—a bit of a flirt at times, sure, but undeniably likable.

After spending some time with him, she understood how he has so many women and they are all willing to share the same man.

Because he wasn't just strong and reliable; he was also caring and attentive in ways that made people feel valued.

In her eyes, Zhao Tian was the kind of man you couldn't help but be drawn to.

He was confident yet kind, mischievous yet compassionate, and attractive in a way that wasn't just about his looks. It was his energy, his presence.

Sure, he was a bit of a pervert—she had seen his playful side more than once—but that didn't take away from the fact that he has a good heart.

She had an undeniable attraction toward him. She couldn't deny it any longer, especially not now, after he had openly admitted his feelings for her.

She thought back to the time they had spent together—not just with him, but with the other women in his life.

Over the days, she had grown to appreciate the soft, familial atmosphere they shared.

They weren't just his women—they were like sisters to one another.

And truth be told, Ning Zhilian liked being around them.

There was a warmth to their group, a sense of belonging that she hadn't experienced in a long time.

Sure, there were moments of banter and playful teasing, but it was all in good fun. They genuinely cared for each other, and Ning Zhilian couldn't help but feel drawn into that circle.

The thought of joining them... It wasn't as frightening as it once seemed.

But still... she needed time. Time to figure out what she wanted, and how to approach Ning Xue and Ning Zuiye, to make sure this wouldn't strain their relationships.

With a deep breath, she looked back at Zhao Tian, her voice soft but steady. "Thank you for understanding," she said, her lips curving into a small but genuine smile.

"I'll need some time to think, but... I'm glad we had this talk."

Zhao Tian smiled gently and turned his gaze to look at the stars.

As they stayed silent, Ning Zhilian glanced at him in the corner of her eyes and reached out grabbing his left hand.

Hm? Zhao Tian raised an eyebrow as she moved his hand placing it over the sand.

With a smile, she leaned down, using his arm as a pillow, lying beside him on the sand and raising her head to look at the stars.

Zhao Tian slowly pulled her closer and Ning Zhilian couldn't suppress her giggle "pervert..."

Hearing this, Zhao Tian smiled dryly "Why are you calling me a pervert? ahem, I just thought... since it's night, it's cold... so pulled you closer so you can get some warmth."

Ning Zhilian gave a knowing nod "Yeah, yeah... it is cold" smiling, she placed her arm on his chest.

"The stars really look beautiful..."

A mutter escaped her lips and Zhao Tian gave a nod "Yeah, they do..."



Ning Zhilian glanced at his face and asked "I know very little about you... Tian, so tell me more about you..."

"What are your likes and hobbies? Like... maybe how you were back in school and University, tell me something about you."

And they began to talk... with star gazing.

...

Rubbing her stomach, Zahra Ashante came to the campsite after taking a nap and saw that the women were preparing for a movie.

She looked around searching for Zhao Tian and her gaze narrowed, glancing at him at the end of the beach.

Smiling she ran towards him "TIAN!"

"Bitch!"

However, suddenly someone grabbed her mouth and put her in place as Hun Xiang grabbed her waist and Ning Xue clutched her neck.

What? She was startled and looked at the three women who just pinned her down.

Ning Xue let out a sigh "Don't cause trouble again and disturb their peaceful moment..."

Hm? Zahra Ashante moved her eyes and glanced at Ning Zhilian who was with him lying on the sand.

"Hm.." She nodded her head and the three of them let her go.

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Zhao Suyin was looking through the movies searching for what to play "We need a good romance movie..."

With a chuckle, Zhao Ying glanced over at Zhao Tian "My little brother is doing a good romance movie there."

Hm? Zhao Suyin flowed her gaze and giggled "Hahaha..."

Chapter 453: Vacation [8]

Zhao Tian is sitting on the couch under the night sky, as the cold gust of wind brushes past the women sitting there.

Ling Xin and Chi Miya were sitting beside him, and Ling Chen was sitting on his lap as the movie began to play.

At this time, Fei Ziyu and Fei Lingxi came there to give popcorn and drinks to everyone.

Zhao Tian had his arm around Chi Miya's shoulder as both of them were reading through the article on her mobile released by the government about the peaceful negotiations.

Reading through that, Zhao Tian raised an eyebrow "I am surprised they actually said everything without hiding anything."

"Considering it's the government, I thought they would try to hide some things."

Chi Miya pecked his lips and nodded her head "Hmm... they should also know that they are in a tough situation right now and shouldn't lie to people."

"And they must be afraid of you too..."

Hearing this, Zhao Tian gave a nod and Chi Miya again kissed his lips "Tian..."

Zhao Tian also reciprocated the kiss, gently sucking on her lips before letting them go.

Ning Zhilian who was sitting beside Ning Xue on the couch gently moved forward to take a glimpse at Zhao Tian, however, as Ning Xue turned her head to her... she averted her gaze

Seeing this, Ning Xue laughed in her mind and leaned to her, whispering "By the way... sister, what were you taking with Tian a while ago?"

Ning Zhilian panicked upon hearing this and smiled dryly "N-Nothing big... just talking about the High Stars and uh."

"By the way... Little Xue, you didn't say you were going to dissolve the royal family," she asked trying to divert the topic.

Ning Xue raised an eyebrow "So, he was talking about that?"

"Yeah, yeah... about that."

"You know, Sister," Ning Xue continued, her voice barely above a whisper...

"Dissolving the royal family isn't just about stepping away from the throne. It's about letting go of all the burdens that come with it—political alliances, expectations, the weight of generations before us."

She paused, looking at Ning Zhilian more seriously. "We have carried that burden long enough."

Ning Zhilian exhaled softly, her gaze drifting down to the glass of wine in her hands. "I know... but it feels strange, you know?"

"Letting go of something that's been in the family for so long. Little Xue, this is not just a matter of power. Our ancestors worked so hard to build Zhenzhu."

Ning Xue nodded. "I understand. But times are changing, Big Sister."

"The world is different now, and I feel like we have done more than enough for Zhenzhu. Sometimes, the strongest thing we can do is move on and allow for a new future."

She smiled warmly. "And besides, you won't be doing this alone. I'm here. Tian is here."

At the mention of Zhao Tian's name, Ning Zhilian's gaze flickered toward him for a moment.

He was still sitting comfortably with Chi Miya, his arm resting protectively around Chi Miya's shoulder as they exchanged soft words between themselves.

Her thoughts drifted back to their earlier conversation on the shore. The unexpected confession, the way he looked at her with those calm yet intense eyes.

His words echoed in her mind: "I won't touch any random woman whom I'm not interested in."

Even now, just thinking about it made her face warm up.

"Big Sister...?" Ning Xue's voice pulled her back from her thoughts.

She turned her gaze back to her younger sister, whose expression was now a bit more teasing, a knowing glint in her eyes. "You're blushing."

"I-I am not!" Ning Zhilian blurted out, flustered, as she quickly turned away to hide her face, realizing how obvious it must have been.

"It's just... it's a lot to think about..."

Ning Xue chuckled softly and patted Zhilian's arm. "I'm just teasing you, don't worry."

Her tone softened as she leaned back against the couch leisurely. "But seriously, Tian cares about you."

"If you feel something for him... you don't have to hold back. We're family, and I think you'll find there's more room for love than you might expect."

\*gasp\* Ning Zhilian was shocked and slowly turned her head to look at the smiling eyes of Ning Xue and stuttered "L-Little Xue..."

With a chuckle, Ning Xue leaned forward, kissing her cheek "Come on, Big Sister... do you think I don't know about you..?"

The blush on Ning Zhilian's face deepened, heavily embarrassed that her sister found out about this "Was I that obvious?"

Ning Zhilian swallowed hard, feeling a surge of emotions. "A-Are you okay with it, Little Xue? W-Wouldn't it be awkward? I mean, you and the others... you're all so close to him. I wouldn't want to come between that."

Ning Xue shook her head with a chuckle "What are you saying, Big Sister? You have been staying with us for days now... There's no competition here. We're all close to Tian because he has earned our love and respect in different ways."

"If you choose to be with him, it's not like you are stepping on anyone's toes. It's just finding happiness in a life that we're all building together."

She paused and gave Zhilian a meaningful look. "And I've seen the way he looks at you. You already have a place here, Big Sister."

Ning Zhilian's gaze trembled and she smiled in her heart 'He has already confessed to me... but Little Xue doesn't know that.'

Letting out a soft breath, "I just... I never imagined it would be like this," Ning Zhilian admitted softly, her voice barely audible under the sound of the movie playing in the background.

"I always thought I'd have to give up on finding love for the sake of duty. And now... things are changing so fast."

"They are," Ning Xue agreed, her hand still resting on Zhilian's arm.

"But that doesn't mean it's a bad thing. And besides, you deserve to be happy too. You've spent so long putting others first, Big Sister. Maybe it's time to think about what you want."

Upon hearing this, Ning Zhilian stayed silent and Ning Xue didn't disturb her, giving her time to think.

As moments passed, she muttered "Maybe it's really time I stop holding myself back."

As the movie played, Ning Zhilian glanced over at Zhao Tian who was teasing Ling Chen.

The idea of being with him, being a part of his life in the way Ning Xue and the others were... it didn't seem as impossible now as it had before.

Perhaps, just maybe, she could find a place there too.

With that thought lingering in her mind, Ning Zhilian leaned back against the couch, her heart a little lighter as the wind continued to sweep across the beach.

'I won't hold back... but it will be fun to tease him.'

Chapter 454: Training!

It's been two weeks since then~

The sun hovered low on the horizon, casting a warm light over the grass field where Zhao Tian and Shi Yixian stood, their wooden swords in hand.

The gentle breeze rustled through the tall grass, and the peaceful quiet of the late afternoon was broken only by the soft sounds of their footsteps.

Gripping her sword, Shi Yixian asked with a serious expression on her face as she took her stance "You ready, My Liege?"

Zhao Tian also took a fighting stance and gave a nod "Yeah..."

\*swoosh\* With that, she lunged forward, her wooden sword slicing through the air.

\*clak\* Zhao Tian quickly parried, his muscles tensing as he tried to match her pace, but her movements were fluid and graceful... her years of mastery evident in each swing.

Even though Shi Yixian has lost her cultivation now, she is still a force to reckon with.

Her body has been tempered by astral energy for years, so she has great physical strength.

And sword intent doesn't require astral energy, so she can still use it.

\*clak\* Their swords clashed, the sound of wood striking wood echoing through the quiet field.

Zhao Tian focused hard, his eyes following her every movement, but despite his best efforts, Shi Yixian remained several steps ahead of him.

Her blade brushed past his defenses, stopping just short of his shoulder. "You're leaving yourself open, My Liege..." she said, her voice steady as her sword hovered inches from him.

"Focus more on your stance, your footwork."

Zhao Tian smiled looking into her serious eyes. "Maybe I'm just distracted by your beauty."

Huh? Shi Yixian was taken aback by his sudden praise, a soft blush crept across her cheeks.

"Stop it... My Liege..."

Letting out a chuckle, Zhao Tian attacked again, his swings more aggressive.

But Shi Yixian effortlessly deflected each blow, moving in perfect rhythm as if the wooden sword was a part of her body.

While Zhao Tian's movements are instinctual, Shi Yixian's movements are calculated and precise.

\*swish\* Zhao Tian lunged toward her, and Shi Yixian easily sidestepped, bringing her sword down toward his exposed side.

\*clak\* He barely blocked in time, and before he could regain his balance, seizing the opportunity, Shi Yixian knocked the sword from his hand, sending it spinning across the field.

Zhao Tian let out a chuckle and she pressed the tip of her sword gently against his chest. "Got you, My Liege."

Zhao Tian looked into her eyes and a playful smile appeared on his lips as he quickly closed the gap between them.

Huh? Before Shi Yixian could pull back, he leaned in, capturing her lips in a tender kiss.

Wha- Her eyes widened in surprise, and a deep flush spread across her cheek.

Quickly pulling back from the kiss, "You're using unfair tactics," she muttered, her voice soft.

Zhao Tian laughed lightheartedly, his hand brushing a stray lock of hair behind her ear. "I'm just improvising."

Shi Yixian regained her composure, stepping back and pointed her sword at him again. "Improvisation won't save you on the battlefield. Pick up your sword, My Liege."

Zhao Tian smiled and took his wooden sword from where it had fallen.

His lack of mastery compared to Shi Yixian was clear, but he had spirit, and more than anything, he enjoyed these moments with her.

They resumed their practice, the sound of their wooden swords clashing once more.

"You're too stiff, My Liege."

"Relax your shoulders, focus on your footwork."



"The realm of the swords... It is not just about wielding a blade, My Liege. It is to merge with the sword, becoming one with it until your intent flows through the steel as naturally as your breath. To reach that realm, you must not think the sword is merely a tool."

"This cannot be achieved through muscle memory or brute strength alone."

\*clak\* Zhao Tian lunged at her again, and for a moment, their swords locked in a steady back-and-forth.

He could feel the strain in his muscles as he tried to keep up with her, but every time he thought he had an opening, she would block or dodge, always one step ahead.

And yet, there was something in the rhythm of their sparring that felt more like a conversation than a fight.

The subtle shift of her feet, the way she angled her sword... it was all like a communication, a language he was slowly beginning to understand.

Shi Yixian narrowed her eyes, as with time, she could feel that he was easily adapting to her and was counter-attacking.

His level of comprehension is outstanding...

As their swords clashed again, Zhao Tian, dropped his guard and before Shi Yixian could react, he leaned in, kissing her again.

Eh? The unexpected move startled her, and for a second, her sword paused mid-air as she blinked, her cheeks flushing at the kiss.

Pulling back his lips, Zhao Tian chuckled looking at her face. "Gotcha."

"That's cheating..."

Zhao Tian just smiled and both of them again took a stance to face each other.

"I think I somewhat understand, Yixian..."

Shi Yixian tilted her head in confusion "Understand what... My Liege?"

"The way of the swords..."

As he uttered, a white glint passed through his eyes, and he dashed toward Shi Yixian, \*swoosh\* and with a blur, he appeared in front of her, slashing his sword at her.

Shi Yixian barely had time to react as she quickly raised her own sword to parry his attack.

\*clak\* A flash of surprise passed through her eyes feeling the raw power behind his attack just now...

'And the energy...'

Her gaze squinted as she pulled back her sword and Zhao Tian too, stopped his attack.

"Yixian?" He reached out, his fingers delicately caressing her cheek.

She raised her gaze to look into his eyes "My Liege... you just had a moment of awakening and trespassed into the realm of swords."

Hearing this, Zhao Tian raised an eyebrow in curiosity "Moment of awakening?"

With a nod, Shi Yixian replied, "Yeah... everyone who trains sword intent will have their first moment of awakening in their life."

"That is experiencing the spark of sword intent for the first time..."

"For me to feel this spark, it took three months of rigorous training and dedication... but you just did it in one day."

Zhao Tian smiled faintly "That is thanks to this physique. I have good comprehension skills... that's how I learned space and time energies."

"And, what more... after reading through the books I got in the Black Pagoda, I realized that the first Honoured One is also a sword user."

"By this blade, I swear my path, unyielding before the heavens. With thee, the sword of my soul, I carve my fate, defying all who stand before me."

Chapter 455: Training [2]

\*swoosh\* \*clak\* Zhao Tian quickly parried Yu Hua's sword and a smirk appeared on Yu Hua's face as she pushed forward "Tian, I heard... you just got an awakening minutes ago."

Smiling Zhao Tian pushed her back as she took two steps back "Yeah..."

Yu Hua played with the sword in her hand as she rolled her eyes "How envious... it took me a year of training to feel that spark."

"Well, I don't have any teachers... I am self-learned."

Keeping his smile, Zhao Tian replied "Oh, that's amazing..."

"Hehe... let's train more."

As they were training, Shi Yixian was standing on the sidelines with Ling Meiying beside her watching them train.

At this time, Ning Zhilian and Ning Xue also came there and were amazed to see Zhao Tian's training.

Ning Xue blinked her eyes "Why is he training? This is the first time I have seen him train... instead of flirting and playing around with his women."

Hearing this, Ling Meiying giggled "Husband is practicing sword intent."

"Ohh..."

Shi Yixian commented "And he is making quick progress."

Letting out a yawn, Zahra Ashante came there tying her hair into a ponytail. "Oh, are they fighting?"

"Let me join too..."

\*flick\* A pair of gleaming daggers appeared in her palm but in the next instant, she felt a cold metal near her neck.

With a wry smile, she turned her head to Shi Yixian who had her sword near her neck "Um?"

"Don't disturb My Liege's training..."

"Okay..."

...

A few more minutes passed and as Zhao Tian's sword broke away into splinters, Yu Hua stopped and retracted her wooden sword.

Yu Hua let out a soft sigh and spoke "You are gripping the sword way too tightly... and you don't have a proper technique."

"Well, it is to be expected because you have just started learning it and you can't learn everything in a few hours."

"Though I am still surprised you got the spark so easily..."

At this time, Ling Meiying walked toward them with a white towel in her hand "Husband..."

Hm? Zhao Tian turned to look at her and a smile appeared on his lips "Meiying..."

With a soft chuckle, she raised the towel wiping the beads of sweat from his face "My poor husband is training so hard..."

Hearing this, Yu Hua smiled dryly "He should at least do this... he crossed all these stages by cheating with his physique."

Ling Meiying glanced over at her "You also cheated with him... Now you are in Half Empyreal stage after having sex with our Husband."

\*ahem\* With a cough, Yu Hua glanced away "No comment..."

Ling Meiying delicately wiped the sweat as she muttered "Once other sisters learn to control the astral energy efficiently, they can remove the seals and enter the Half Empyreal stage."

"Well, I hope they can do that before Husband enters the closed cultivation with that artifact."

She unfastened two of his buttons and wiped the sweat from his neck as he gently hugged her waist.

Smiling, she leaned to him "I have baked a cake for you... after bathing come to me."

Zhao Tian hugged her closer "And here I was hoping I can take a bath with my wife..."

Ling Meiying giggled and kissed his lips "What a troublesome Husband I have... guess I got no other choice but to bathe with him now."

...

\*pakh\* \*pakh\* Pushing Ling Meinying on a nearby rock in the waterfall, Zhao Tian grasped her ass tightly while ramming his dick into her pussy from behind.

"Haangh~~~ Husband... y-you liar.. Mngh~~ you said.. we are going to bathe.... Angh~~ Husband..."

Feeling her mussy pussy walls coiling around his cock, Zhao Tian let out a pleased grunt "How could you believe a pervert like me, dear..."

With a smirk, he gripped her ass tightly spreading it open, and smiled seeing her cute asshole "And I am sure... you were expecting this...."

Ling Meiying was ashamed as he spread open her ass buns and nodded her head "O-Of course... haangh~ haangh~~'

He pulled his dick out and Ling Meiying was surprised "Husband.." she turned to look at him and saw the playful smile on his face.

Looking at her ass hole, Zhao Tian caressed the tip of his cock into the opening of her butt hole "You enjoyed it the last time.. right, dear?"

The blush on Ling Meiying's face deepened and Zhao Tian smirked "Be honest..."

Ling Meiying took a deep breath, 'H-He is my husband.. so it is okay to show this side of me to him.'

She reached out to her ass and slowly slid her middle finger into her butthole "Actually.. Husband, I liked it very much the last time when we had sex in this h-hole..."

"B-But... I am so embarrassed to ask to have sex in that hole... if I asked you, would you think of me as a pervert?"

Zhao Tian leaned forward kissing her lips "Dear.. it is my duty to satisfy you to the fullest, so don't hide your desires from me."

Ling Meiying's heart softened upon hearing this and spoke "Thank you Husband, t-then... have sex with me in this hole too..."

"As my wife wishes..."

As she retracted her hand, Zhao Tian slowly pushed his cock into her tight asshole and instantly felt her ass muscles clench on his cock.

"Urghhh! Meiyong.."

"H-Husband..."

Slowly sliding in his dick, Zhao Tian sighed in satisfaction and Ling Meiyong's eyes widened as a smile spread across her face "Y-Yes, Husband... this is it.. I like this very much."

Zhao Tian also felt the pleasure hit him as her ass hole twisted and crushed his cock "Haah.... dear."

\*pakh\* \*pakh\*

"Haangh~~ haanghhhh I love you, Husband..."

...

Zhao Tian is sitting on the couch with Ling Meiyong sitting on his lap as she feeds him the cake "Here..."

Munching the cake, Zhao Tian smiled softly "It's great..."

Ling Meiyong smiled showed a cheeky grin "Hm, it is my first time baking cake... seeing Ying's mobile.. Ntube was it?"

Hearing this, Zhao Tian chuckled and suddenly a beep sound was heard startling him and Ling Meiyong.

"E-Eh? Husband? What was it?"

A sigh escaped Zhao Tian's lips "Seems like the Ebon Luohe ships are back..."

Ling Meiying frowned to hear this "Then, soon you are going to enter closed cultivation?"

"Yeah..."

Chapter 456: Zhenluo?

\*swoosh\* Zhao Tian dashed towards space and glanced at the large ark that was slowly drifting towards Earth.

Recognizing Zhao Tian, the ark's pace slowed a bit and Zhao Tian floated towards the front deck of the ark.

\*swish\* The deck's door slid open and as Zhao Tian entered in, a guard standing there gestured his hand "This way, Mr.Zhao Tian..."

Zhao Tian glanced around the interior and saw that this ark was quite different from the previous ones that have seen.

The guard quickly escorted Zhao Tian to the front deck and as he entered, he raised an eyebrow in surprise.

The room buzzed with activity as nearly twenty people were working at the panels and consoles, their hands moving rapidly over glowing screens as they maintained the ark's systems.

There he saw Zarek Talon speaking with two men, one of them was an old man wearing a research coat while the other was a middle-aged man wearing a sleek black cloak.

Noticing Zhao Tian, Zarek Talon smiled faintly "Mr.Tian, welcome aboard.."

Zhao Tian showed a polite smile and walked to him "Mr.Zalek..."

Zarek Talon gestured to the other two men "Allow me to introduce them. This is Kristian Jarred, one of the powerful Retainers in my command."

"And this is Herman Claus one of the lead researchers in our star."



"It's a pleasure to meet you.."

"No, the pleasure is mine."

Zhao Tian reached out and shook their hands in a formal manner.

Glancing at Zhao Tian, Zarek Talon spoke "Mr.Tian, as we agreed we will teach your people about the technology and give protection."

Zhao Tian gave a faint nod and smiled at them "Come and take a seat... we can talk further."

...

The ark glided smoothly through the Earth's atmosphere, descending over the dense forests surrounding Zhenzhu.

The view from the control room's wide windows was breathtaking, a sweeping sea of green, broken only by the construction work underway below.

Looking through the ark's window, Zarek Talon glanced at all the construction work happening around Zhenzhu.

As per Ning Xue's idea, the forests surrounding Zhenzhu will be cleared and rebuilt to occupy the 'awakeners' of this Earth.

This is not only for them but also for the new people from Ebon Luohe who will be settling here.

Zarek Talon let out a soft sigh and glanced over at Zhao Tian "By the way, Mr. Tian, you mentioned that you were dissolving the Zhenzhu royal family... has it been done?"

Zhao Tian nodded calmly. "Yes. It has already been disbanded. The sects have taken over now, and the authority has been passed into their hands. Zhenzhu is no longer ruled by a single lineage."

"As we agreed, we can form an organization with people from both forces as top rank."

Zarek Talon raised an eyebrow and muttered "Hm... and so, I thought of a new name for this organization. Let it be Zhenluo organization."

Eh? Zhao Tian stared at him blankly 'Did he take Zhen from Zhenzhu and Luo from Ebon Luohe for this name?'

Letting out a soft chuckle, Zhao Tian asked "Is Lyra the one who came up with the name?"

Wha- Zarek Talon was dumbfounded to hear this "How did you..."

Zhao Tian laughed softly, shaking his head. "I just had a feeling. It sounds like something she would suggest."

Hearing his laugh, Zarek Talon was quite embarrassed and tried to cough it off to hide it "Uhm.. yeah it was her who came with this name. A bit simplistic, don't you think?"

"Childish, even," Zhao Tian teased, grinning

Zarek Talon slightly glanced around at the people in the control room and saw that everyone's eyes were fixed on him.

His image as a powerful Emperor is going down the mud because Zhao Tian is teasing him so openly.

With a dry smile, Zarek Talon trying to save face, leaned in and whispered "Um, Mr.Tian... can you stop teasing me... you see, I am a powerful Emperor of an Apex High Star."

Zhao Tian nodded his head "Of course, of course. I wouldn't dream of damaging your reputation as the mighty Emperor of Ebon Luohe."

Hearing this, Zarek Talon sighed with a smile "Good..."

Zhao Tian was amazed as he thought Zarek Talon was kind of a strict guy, but rather he is quite funny to talk to.

As the massive ark hovered above the clearing, preparing to land, Zhao Tian asked in a faint voice "And how is Lyra, Mr.Talon?"

Zarek Talon rolled his eyes at him "Are you eyeing my daughter... Mr.Tian?"

Shrugging his hands casually, Zhao Tian replied "Maybe..."

Zarek Talon's lips twitched but an amused smile came upon his lips seeing Zhao Tian's confidence "You are a cheeky brat.."

"Oh, some people say that... thank you."

"It is not a compliment, you brat..."

Kristian Jarred and Herman Claus were surprised to see their Emperor talk to the young man so carefreely.

They have known Zarek Talon for many years now and he only talks to his daughter like this but it seems like this young man is good friends with him.

"No wonder... I am honestly surprised when His Highness said he would come with us to the star."

"Seems like the kid is his friend."

"Then we also have to show our respects."

...

\*tap\* Zhao Tian, Kristian Jarred, and Herman Claus were walking through the large building in Zhenzhu and they quickly entered a big conference room-like setting.

As they entered, everyone's eyes fell on Zhao Tian and stood up to greet him.

The room itself was vast, shaped like a massive amphitheater, with an enormous circular table in the center where the most important people sat.

Surrounding them were tiered seating areas for advisors, officers, and assistants.

The Sect masters of top sects in Zhenzhu, the world leaders and faction leaders all across the globe, and leading researchers in the world were all seated there.

Before the meeting commenced, Herman Claus, leaned over to Zhao Tian. "Mr. Tian, shall I begin bringing the researchers back to the ark?"

That enormous ark will be staying on Earth from now on for protection purposes and to teach about technological advancement.

Zhao Tian nodded thoughtfully, gesturing with a casual wave of his hand "Go on, Mr.Claus."

After a bit of talking, Hermes Claus brought the bunch of scientists and researchers back to the ark.

Kristian Jarred is one of the strongest Retainers and under him, he has 10 squads totally consisting of thousand people.

They will be also staying in Earth from now on for protection purposes and while some will be dispatched along with the cultivators on this Earth to teach new awakeners and help the Earth to grow.

Days are really going to be hectic for a while, it seems...

Chapter 457: With Ning Zhilian!

A few more days passed~

Zhao Tian walked to a door in the Zhenzhu palace and knocked on it.

"Ah, wait Tian..."

Hearing a knock, the woman inside quickly opened and a smile appeared on Zhao Tian's lips looking at the beautiful woman, who looks extra beautiful today.

There was a faint touch of makeup on her face, just enough to highlight her natural beauty. Her lips were a soft rose color, and her cheeks had a light blush, whether from the makeup or the excitement of seeing him,

Ning Zhilian smiled softly and without a word, Zhao Tian stepped inside and gently closed the door behind him.

Before Ning Zhilian could react, he grasped her wrist and, with a firm but gentle pull, pressed her back against the door.

\*thud\* "Ah... T-Tian?"

Ning Zhilian was startled and raised her gaze to look at the playful glint in Zhao Tian's eyes.

Zhao Tian leaned forward, bringing his lips closer to her face but Ning Zhilian turned her face avoiding his lips, a faint blush painting her cheeks as she uttered softly...

"I still haven't.... accepted your love... bastard..." her voice trembling slightly, betraying the nervous excitement building inside her.

Zhao Tian didn't listen to her words as his hands traveled to her waist relishing her delicious curves.

"And...?" he muttered caressing his face on her cheek.

Ning Zhilian's breath hitched as her body reacted involuntarily to his touch and she turned her head slightly, exposing more of her neck, her heart racing as she tried to gather her thoughts.

"W-What do you mean, and? You're touching me without my consent... Y-You're harassing me."

Her words were a weak attempt at protest, but even she couldn't deny the way her body responded to him.

Her hands rested against his chest, fingers curling into the fabric of his shirt, unsure whether to push him away or pull him closer.

Zhao Tian ignored her feigned resistance, his lips finding the sensitive skin of her neck as he kissed her softly, inhaling the sweet, intoxicating scent of her perfume. "You smell so good... Zhilian,"

Ning Zhilian's face flushed deeply, her knees feeling weak as he pressed closer, his strong arms wrapping around her.

She could feel his heartbeat against her as his lips trailed up from her neck, brushing along her jawline, and then found her cheek.

"Haa..." A soft exhale escaped her lips, betraying her enjoyment of his touch.

Her body is not loyal to her, leaning into him, craving more despite her words and she bit her lip, trying to hold back a moan as his kisses grew bolder.

"You know..." Zhao Tian began, his voice filled with a mix of tenderness and teasing as his hand slid along her waist, pulling her even closer. "I've been pretty busy with Zhenluo affairs..."

As he squeezed her waist, Ning Zhilian's body squirmed, her fingers clutching his shirt "Don't change the topic... I am not your woman..."

"T-Take... your hands off me," she stammered, though she made no effort to pull away. Instead, her hands gripped tighter, as if she feared he would actually listen and let go.

"Ha..." Ning Zhilian's breath hitched, her body trembling as he kissed her ear, sending a wave of warmth flooding through her.

"And I am going to close cultivation today..."

Huh? Ning Zhilian was taken aback to hear this and her eyes quivered "That was... today?"

Zhao Tian's lips found her cheek once again, his hand caressing her waist as he spoke, "So, I wanted to see you before I go..."

Her fingers clutched his shirt tightly as she bit her lips 'Isn't that too soon... we have just started to become lovers... understanding each other..'

'i-I want to spend more time with him...'

\*smooch\* He peppered kisses on her cheek and Ning Zhilian closed her eyes, enjoying the fondness of his touch.

Zhao Tian raised his left hand, gently grasping her arm, which was still clutching his shirt.

He brought her hand to his lips, kissing her fingertips before intertwining his fingers with hers.

"Zhilian..." he whispered, his voice a gentle caress that made her heart flutter.

"Bastard..." Ning Zhilian muttered, her voice soft and barely audible, but there was no anger in her words. It was a quiet surrender.

Kissing her neck, Zhao Tian slowly let go of her fingers as a shining ring appeared in his palm.

As she felt a cold metal, Ning Zhilian's eyes fluttered open to gaze into his blue eyes.

With a soft smile on his face, Zhao Tian placed the ring on her palm "You are not my woman yet."

"Keep this ring with you... if you ever made a decision while I was in closed cultivation, you can wear this..."

He paused, his thumb gently brushing the back of her hand as he gazed deeply into her eyes.

"And if you decide not to be my woman... you can give it back to Shenyi."

Ning Zhilian glanced at the palm and she instantly recognized it, as she had seen a similar ring worn by all the women in the artifact and she also knew it was the key to entering the artifact.

She gripped the ring in her palm and stored it in her storage ring as she turned her eyes to look at his face.

Letting out a sigh, she grabbed his collar and pulled him closer "You know what will I decide... right, bastard?"

With a chuckle, Zhao Tian kissed her cheek "I have a guess..."

Seeing his playful smile, she gently hit his chest and leaned forward, pecking his lips.

Zhao Tian was quite surprised, as this was their first kiss.

Smiling, he moved forward to kiss her again, but she stopped him and closed his mouth with her palm "No... you can't kiss me."

Huh? Zhao Tian was dumbfounded to hear this and as she retracted her hand, he tried to kiss again but she stopped him this time too.

With a teasing smile playing on her lips, she pinched his lips pulling it "My dear bastard... first finish your close cultivation and I will kiss you after that."

"And I want you to wear that ring on my finger..."

Hearing this, Zhao Tian smiled "Alright..."

"Hmm... now go and cultivate, and come back quicker."

Chapter 458: Entering Seclusion!

"Wai-ahaha..."

"No, me next..."

"Move..."



"I also want to kiss Husband..."

"Me, Me..."

"Brother Tian..."

Zhao Tian was swarmed by beautiful women in his bedroom as they took turns kissing his lips, cheeks, and forehead.

Their playful yet loving voices filled the room with warmth, but there was a bittersweet undertone in the air as they prepared for Zhao Tian's upcoming seclusion.

Zhao Tian, surrounded by the affection of his wives and beloved women, chuckled softly.

He didn't resist their attentions, instead allowing them to pull him in various directions.

It was as if they were clinging to him, trying to steal as much time and intimacy as they could before he left for seclusion.

"Come here, dear," Zhao Suyin said with a tender smile, pulling him into her embrace. She buried his face in her ample bosom, stroking his hair affectionately before pressing a kiss to his forehead.

"Haa... I'll miss giving you blowjobs, Tian'er..."

Eh? Some were dumbfounded while others laughed upon hearing Zhao Suyin's words.

"Mom..." Zhao Tian let out a soft chuckle and at this time, Zhao Ying hugged him from behind crushing his head in between her chest.

"It is just some months... we need to tolerate this."

In the corner of the room, Yao Lian, was curled up on the bed, her foxy tail wrapped around her like a fluffy ball. She drifted in and out of sleep, her ears twitching slightly as she listened to the conversations.

Zahra Ashante fell back on the bed as a sigh escaped her lips "Ahhh, what am I going to do without Tian in my life..."

Yu Hua rolled her eyes and kicked her leg "Don't jinx it like he's going away forever. It's just a few months, maybe seven months at most. We can hold on until then."

The others nodded their heads, but they were also disheartened because they can't see Zhao Tian for some months.

Xia Shenyi started at them blankly "It is just some months... why are you making a big deal out of it?"

Huh? Everyone turned to look at her with an expression of 'Seriously?'

Xia Shenyi smiled dryly, waving her hands. "Now, now, don't look at me like that. I mean, I understand... it's going to hurt to be without him for a few months, but it feels like you're overreacting a little."

Chi Miya let out a sigh and shook her head "No, Sister Shenyi... since you are from the High Stars... a year is like a month to you."

"But for us, seven months is a long time..."

Xia Shenyi stayed silent after hearing this and Ning Xue spoke "We shouldn't hold on him forever, let him enter Seclusion and cultivate."

All of them nodded and again began to swarm him, showering him with kisses.

"Tian'er.. come with me... I shall give you a blowjob and you can leave."

"We will miss you, husband..."

"En, I will also miss you..."

"Let's have anal before you leave hehe..."

"You perverted bitch..."

"Huh? Who are you calling bitch?"

Xia Shenyi giggled to herself looking at the scene and glanced at the large dainty silverish-red chamber which is on the edge of the room.

The chamber is big enough for a person to sit inside and move around slightly.

It is enclosed on all sides in the shape of dome with some strange rune patterns drawn on the outside of the dome.

It is giving of an eerie golden light as golden energy is pulsating around it.

With a thoughtful expression on her face, Xia Shenyi uttered, 'Hmm, the Honoured One made this artifact as only Zhao Tian could use it... and it is only a one-time use. After that, the runes will lose its powers.'

This artifact has the same function as the array that Zhao Tian used in the past to cultivate quickly.

It gathers the astral energy in the air and pumps it inside the artifact at an enormous speed making it easier for the person inside to cultivate.

However, this artifact is better than those arrays.

For Zhao Tian, with his physique, it would take at least three years if he used arrays to cultivate to reach his goal, which is the Soul Refine Stage.

But with his artifact, he assumed that he could complete it within like 7 months.

The Transient realm till now is just like a tutorial, the real game begins after entering the Empyrean realm.

To cross each level in the Empyrean Stage, you would need a humongous amount of astral energy to break through.

That's why it takes a lot of years for the people in Empyrean Realm to break through...

Even Xia Shenyi, after nearly five thousand years of cultivation, is in the Eternal Paragon stage.

Xia Shenyi's gaze drifted toward Zhao Tian, who was still surrounded by his affectionate wives "If those in the High Stars knew he was crossing four stages in the Empyrean Realm in just seven months..." she smirked,

"...they'd cough up blood in disbelief."

She let out a soft sigh, shaking her head. "This guy is truly cheating his way through cultivation..."

After some minutes of bantering, everyone let him go and Zhao Tian walked towards the artifact, before opening it and stepping in.

As the small door closed, the golden runes around the artifact began to glow brightly.

Zhao Tian, who was sitting cross-legged inside the artifact could feel the extraordinary flow of astral energy swirling into the artifact and a smile appeared on his lips.

Taking a deep breath, he closed his eyes with the resolve that when he open his eyes the next time, he should be in the Soul Refine Stage.

...

Meanwhile, the women outside smiled faintly looking at the artifact glowing brightly.

Xia Shenyi glanced at the women and spoke "Let's leave the room.. and let him cultivate in peace."

"It is just seven months, you have to endure till then."

Everyone nodded their heads and Chi Shui went to Yao Lian, picking the fox up from the bed  
"Come on Lian'er... we should not disturb Brother Tian..."

And like that, seven months passed quickly...

Chapter 459: Everyone is gone?!

It's been seven months since Zhao Tian entered seclusion~

\*flick\* The eerie golden light around the chamber began to dim faintly and the runes also lost their color after seven months of usage of the artifact.

\*swoosh\* The small door of the chamber slid open and steam fizzled up from inside as Zhao Tian stepped out beads of sweat drenching his whole body.

"Haa... Haa..."

He took deep breaths as beads of sweat dropped from his face and it rippled on the floor.

His blue eyes wandered around the room and he quickly unfastened his buttons removing the shirt from his body, which was fully wet with his sweat.

Throwing the shirt on the floor, he stretched his body feeling his tight muscles twist after sitting in the same position for seven months.

"Fuck.. uhhh."

\*creek\* "Tian..."

Sensing his presence, Xia Shenyi quickly entered the room, and a flash of surprise passed through her eyes looking at Zhao Tian's face.

Her gaze swept over his ripped muscles and was astounded to see his handsome face which was refined even more because of the Honoured One Physique cultivation technique he was practicing after reaching the Empyrean realm.

Earlier, he looked like a handsome young man.. but now his face seems quite mature, and his hair has also grown taller.

Snapping out of her daze, she quickly walked toward him "Tian... is everything all right?"

Zhao Tian glanced at her, a soft smile appearing on his face "Yeah... it is just that I am quite sweaty."

Xia Shenyi's eyes glowed faintly as she looked through his cultivation and a smile appeared on her face "This is great.. Tian..."

"You have reached the 6th level of the Soul Refine stage..."

Looking at her, Zhao Tian gave a faint nod "Yeah... I feel great and I can feel my control over the astral energy has also been improved."

Smiling, Xia Shenyi spoke "Come on, let me wash your body first..."

With a shake of his head, he replied "No, before that I need to meet everyone..."

Zhao Tian used his senses to look through the artifact and a slight frown crept over his face "Where are the others?"

Hearing the question, Xia Shenyi lowered her gaze "Um.. that's Tian."

Hm? Seeing her hesitation, Zhao Tian's gaze narrowed "Shenyi, what happened? Where are they?"

Xia Shenyi took a deep breath and turned to leave the room "Come with me, Tian..."

...

Huh?

Standing inside another room, Zhao Tian's gaze trembled looking at the number of chambers in the room, all the chambers pulsating with golden runes.

"What is... "

Letting out a soft sigh, he turned to look at Xia Shenyi who had a guilty look on her face "Shenyi..."

Xia Shenyi hugged him and kissed his lips "Tian... listen to me."

With a nod, he hugged her back "Tell me, I am listening..."

Patting his head, Xia Shenyi began to speak "Tian... after some days of you starting your seclusion, Ning Xue thought of completing the black pagoda and on completion, she also received awards."

"In the last 9th level she also got the same artifact as you... and only she can use that artifact."

Zhao Tian's gaze squinted upon hearing this and he turned to look at all the chambers in the room "So they all decided to... enter seclusion?"

"But... why do they have to do this? It's only 7 months... and after I come out of the cultivation, I can have dual cultivate with them and easily increase their cultivation."

"Then... why?"

Xia Shenyi's eyes condensed as she replied "Idiot... Entering the Empyrean realm is not as easy as you think it is."

"Because of your physique... you are spoiled and think everything is so easy."

"You can control and flow the astral energy in your body easily because of your physique, but it's not the same for others..."

"They have to train hard to control their astral energy and absorb it properly in their body, stabilizing the energy."

"That is the whole reason why we put seals on Ning Yueli and Chi Shui... because you had sex with them while you were on Half Empyrean Stage..."

"So, their bodies that is new to cultivation, is filled with the energy of the Half-Empyrean stage..."

"We used, layers of seal to slowly train them and learn to control this energy."

"That is the same now, if you are in Empyrean Realm and had sex with them.. sure, their cultivation will skyrocket.. but their control over the humongous astral energy will be disrupted..."

"In the worst scenario, that could even break their cultivation base... straining their meridians."

"So... they have to practice to control these humongous amounts of astral energy."

"It is best for them to cultivate through the starting stages of Empyrean realm..."

"When they come out, they will have good control over their astral energy and you can have sex with them however you want and they can stabilize the energy in their body."

Looking at his disheartened face, Xia Shenyi kissed her lips "Forgive me Tian, I was the one who forced them to enter seclusion..."

"They all wanted you to come out and ask your opinion. But I know... you wouldn't want to leave them and you will most likely not agree..."

"I know how possessive you are..."

"And Tian, if you have all the wives here... you have to give attention to all of them and you can't really concentrate on your affairs in the High Stars."



"So, I came up with this idea..."

"Forgive me."

Zhao Tian rubbed his temples as he took a deep breath hearing her explanation, but it did make sense.

He glanced back at the number of chambers and his eyes trembled "I will... miss them."

"How long will it take for them? They will come out in 7 months?"

Hearing the question, Xia Shenyi shook her head "No... at least four years."

Huh? Zhao Tian was shocked to hear this and Xia Shenyi replied "You can complete it in 7 months because of your physique..."

"But they are not Honoured Ones..."

Zhao Tian's heart tightened upon hearing this "Then... I can't see them for four years?"

Xia Shenyi hugged him closer and kissed him "I am sorry... Tian."

Chapter 460: After four months!

\*splash\* The warm water rippled as Zhao Tian leaned back into the spacious marble bathtub, lost in his own thoughts and beside him, Xia Shenyi was sitting silently, a pang of guilt on her face.

"Tian..." She moved closer to him as he wrapped his arm around her shoulder.

"Are you... mad at me?"

Shaking his head, Zhao Tian looked at her, a soft smile spreading across his lips "No... I understand what you meant, Shenyi."

"I am not angry at you..."

Xia Shenyi leaned forward kissing his cheek "This is for just a few years... you have to work hard and after that, you can enjoy as much as you want."

"Just these few years, work hard for yourself and us..."

With a nod, Zhao Tian leaned forward, kissing Xia Shenyi's lips "Thank you, Shenyi..."

Xia Shenyi blinked in mild confusion, pulling back slightly to look into his eyes. "Thank me?"

"Yeah..." His voice trailed off as he leaned backward on the bathtub...

"I was quite disheartened that I can't see my wives for four years... but after hearing your words, I remembered again."

He turned his head to look at her again, his eyes soft yet determined "I have to work hard and need to become powerful enough so that my wives can live happily..."

"By the next time they come out, I should be powerful enough to protect them in these High Stars."

Xia Shenyi's lips curled into a soft smile as she listened to his words, her heart swelling with affection

Then, as if remembering something important, Zhao Tian's eyes widened slightly. "Wait, Shenyi... Time flows differently inside the artifact, doesn't it?"

Hearing this, Xia Shenyi chuckled "Yeah, it should be only two years in the outside world..."

Zhao Tian let out a small sigh of relief, realizing that the time away from his wives wouldn't be as long as he initially thought. "I see... that's good to know."

"And Tian... only three and half months passed in the outside world... for the seven months you were in seclusion inside the artifact."

"Zhilian has been waiting for you..."

His eyes softened at the mention of Ning Zhilian. "Zhilian... she didn't enter seclusion with the others?"

Xia Shenyi gave a nod "Yeah... she said that she promised you something..."

Zhao Tian couldn't help but chuckle upon hearing this as his eyes softened and muttered "So there are you, Zhilian, Yixian, Ziyu, Lingxi, and Lian who are left."

"Hmm," Xia Shenyi murmured, leaning her head on his chest. They sat in comfortable silence for a moment, letting the warmth of the bath and each other's presence calm their thoughts.

Suddenly, the peace was interrupted by the sound of the door to the bathroom slamming open.  
\*thud\*

"My Liege!"

Looking at Shi Yixian, Zhao Tian smiled faintly "Yixian.."

Shi Yixian hurriedly walked to him "I went into your room to see you, but you are not there..."

As she reached the bathtub, without hesitation, she began removing her clothes, her hands moving swiftly as she disrobed and in moments, she was naked, and she quickly hopped into the bath beside him.

\*splash\* The water rippled as she submerged herself, immediately wrapping her arms around him. "My Liege..." she breathed, her body pressing against his as she embraced him tightly.

"Yixian..."

She leaned forward, taking his lips in a sweet kiss and proactively slipped her tongue into his mouth.

Zhao Tian also reciprocated her intense kiss and intertwined her tongue with hers.

When the kiss finally broke, Shi Yixian rested her forehead against his, her breathing heavy as she looked into his eyes.

"I missed you, My Liege," she whispered, her voice filled with longing.

Hugging her waist, he smiled tenderly "Me too..."

Xia Shenyi who was leaning on his shoulder uttered "I asked Zhilian to stay outside of the artifact because if she is outside... we just need to wait 3 and half hours."

"Hm? She is in the Zhenzhu palace... but that place?"

"No, Tian... she is."

...

"Haha..."

A soft chuckle escaped Zhao Tian's lips as he glanced at the large house in front of him "It's really been a while since I came back to my own home..."

Walking to the front door, he knocked on it.

Wearing a pink tank top and shorts, Ning Zhilian, who was watching TV in the living room, was startled by the sudden knock as no one came to Zhao Tian's home.

Placing the remote on the couch, she stood up and went to the front door.

As she looked through the peephole, she saw an incredibly handsome man standing outside.

Seeing Zhao Tian, her heart raced and she hurriedly opened the door, an excited smile appearing on her face.

"Zhi-"

"TIAN!"

She threw herself around him and hugged his neck tightly, as tears moistened her eyes.

Zhao Tian sighed and hugged her waist, pulling her closer "I missed you, Zhilian."

"Me too.."

Gently pulling back from the hug, Ning Zhilian cupped his cheek and leaned forward kissing him, as a drop of tear dribbled down her cheek.

Zhao Tian's left hand traveled to her neck as he closed his eyes letting himself sink in the kiss.

After a minute of kissing, Ning Zhilian slowly pulled back from the kiss, her gaze lingering on his lips.

Not being able to control herself, she kissed him but this time more fervently as she sucked and bit on his lower lip, her fingers caressing his jaw.

"Haa..."

Retracting the kiss, Ning Zhilian gaze grew gentle "It's been only four months.. but I feel like I have been waiting for so long."

Zhao Tian let out a chuckle and she gazed at his face "You have gotten even more handsome..."

Smiling, Zhao Tian let his hands get lower as he cupped her ass cheeks and lifted her off the ground.

She obediently wrapped her legs around his waist as they entered in and the door closed. \*thud\*

Her hands were securely around his neck as she spoke "Little Xue and all of your wives... went into seclusion."

Zhao Tian nodded his head "Yeah..."

"Sister Shenyi... asked me to enter the seclusion too, but I refused... because I made a promise... that I will accept you and want you to wear this ring for me."

As she spoke, a beautiful ring appeared in her hand.