

## Immortal 1631

### Chapter 1631 – Sword Destroyed

Pei Mianman shouted lightly, and a dragon made of black flames wrapped around her longsword. Then, she attacked her opponent again.

The heat of the black flames spread outward. Even the air around the entire stage began to ripple. As the powerful heat spread throughout the entire place, even the people on the other eight stages began to feel its destructive power.

All of the disciples were horrified. Pei Mianman hadn't been using all of her black flames' power at all!

At first, most of the disciples had just been enjoying the view of Pei Mianman's movements, but the fact that they could participate in this competition meant they were their clans' elites. There was no way they would only think about romance. As such, they had all been studying the essence of the two opponents' fighting skills while continuing to admire the beauty of her 'movements'.

After learning his lesson, Zhi Yin didn't dare to underestimate his opponent's attack. The golden radiance of earth elemental power surged around him, then gathered around his palm. His hand became as tough as a weapon, quickly blocking the black flames around him.

After her earlier attacks, which had been for the sake of testing out her opponent, Pei Mianman didn't hold back anymore. She immediately used her ultimate skill, calling out, "Flaming Rose!"

Roses made of endless black flames blossomed like celestial flowers on the stage. Every single one was just like Pei Mianman herself, beautiful and dangerous.

"This attack really is too beautiful..." Xie Daoyun muttered to herself, looking dazzled.

Zu An recalled seeing Pei Mianman use the skill previously in Brightmoon City, but Flaming Rose was now countless times stronger.

When she heard the gasps coming from all directions, Elder Huo Ling stuck out her chest proudly. This disciple she found really had exceptional talent. There was even a chance for her to become the best among the younger generation one day.

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Wang Wuxie secretly sent Yan Xuehen a ki transmission, saying, "These black flames are a bit strange. What does Sect Master Yan think about them?"

He naturally wanted to just call her Xuehen, but he had been bluntly corrected when he did so in the past. He didn't want to increase her negative impression of him, so he changed back to a proper form of address.

Sure enough, Yan Xuehen still responded to him, saying, "Don't know."

Even though it was just two words, Wang Wuxie was already perfectly satisfied. He had been scared that she would distance herself from him because of what had happened in the past, but the fact that she had replied meant that there was still a chance in the future.

Then, he discussed the situation with the other sect masters. The others were also surprised, and couldn't see through the origin of the black flames. They just thought of it as a powerful variant of fire elemental energy.

Only Master Jian Huang had a pensive expression, muttering, "Could it be..."

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In that time, the battle had already taken a different turn. Zhi Yin's entire body surged with earthen yellow light as he used the power of the earth element to face the black roses. The earth element was known for its defensive characteristics, and was quite sturdy. However, as the black roses exploded one after another, the yellow barrier around him began to tremble. Eventually, it couldn't hold on anymore and shattered, sending smoke and dust into the air.

"Did Zhi Yin lose?!"

Many people stood up out of concern, trying to see what was happening inside. However, judging from Pei Mianman's serious expression, the more intelligent onlookers could tell that it was nowhere near that simple.

Suddenly, a sphere flew fiercely out of the smoke and dust, as fast as an artillery shell. The black roses were all destroyed when they made contact with the sphere, which didn't stop at all and continued straight at Pei Mianman. She hurriedly raised her longsword to block the sphere, but with a loud noise, she was blown back more than ten meters before finally stabilizing herself. When she saw the small nick in her sword, her expression became extremely grave.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

Heavy collisions rang out again and again. Each sound seemed almost to strike against the audience's hearts. Even the contestants of the other eight stages couldn't help but stop. They felt their internal energies stir and couldn't keep fighting at all.

Forget about the surrounding competitors, those with lower cultivations vomited blood on the spot. The elders all used their skills to protect their disciples, and only then did the weaker spectators return to normal.

A figure slowly stepped out from amid the smoke and dust. His figure was tall, and his hair was graceful. He was dribbling a ball in his hand. The same terrifying noise resounded whenever the ball made contact with the ground.

The spectators' expressions changed. Just the sound of the ball hitting the ground alone was so powerful; just how terrifying would it be if that ball made contact with one's body?

Even Wu Xiaofan and Wan Guiyi, who had just been watching the battle with amusement, now straightened up. They looked at the ball in Zhi Yin's hands with serious expressions. Was this his trump card?

"I originally prepared this for the others, but I didn't expect you to force me to bring it out ahead of time. Now that you've made me use the Shadowless Ball, you can be proud of yourself even if you lose," Zhi Yin said, starting to feel annoyed. However, when he saw the charming and delicate woman on the

other side, he really couldn't bring himself to get mad. Still, he didn't dare to hold back now. The ball in his hand vanished as soon as he spoke.

Pei Mianman was alarmed. Her body flickered as she left her original location.

Boom!

A huge crater appeared in the ground where she had just been standing. The black ball that had been in Zhi Yin's hand was rapidly spinning inside.

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"This power seems to be on par with an immortal-grade weapon!"

The sect elders were all knowledgeable and immediately recognized that the Shadowless Ball in Zhi Yin's hands was extraordinary. They all gave Guan Chouhai looks of admiration and envy. After all, even with the resources at a daoist sect's disposal, immortal-grade weapons were still extremely hard to obtain. They hadn't expected him to find one for his disciple.

Guan Chouhai's expression was conflicted. He couldn't bring himself to feel happy at all. He had initially planned for Zhi Yin to catch Wu Xiaofan off guard in the following struggles between the representative disciples. He hadn't expected that trump card to be revealed ahead of time so early! Now that Wu Xiaofan could prepare himself, it wouldn't be as effective.

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Meanwhile, Pei Mianman seized the chance to thrust her sword at Zhi Yin. She wanted to take the opportunity to defeat him while he wasn't in control of his weapon. However, as soon as she carried out her attack, she suddenly sensed danger.

Zu An also sent a frantic warning through ki transmission: "Be careful!"

Pei Mianman didn't take the time to think and dodged to one side. A terrifying wind brushed past her. Fortunately, her body was extremely flexible, allowing her to carry out a difficult evasive movement. Her posture made many of the spectators' eyeballs almost pop out of their sockets.

However, Pei Mianman wasn't in the mood to pay attention to these things at all. Instead, she clutched her arm with an expression of pain on her face. She hadn't been able to completely avoid the attack, and the Shadowless Ball had lightly brushed her arm. Even so, she felt half of her body turning a bit numb. She couldn't help but feel alarmed by the Shadowless Ball's power. Furthermore, the sound it made when it hit the ground could make one's internal energies stir and one's ki distribution unstable, so the opponent's reactions would also become slightly slower.

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Zu An's expression grew stranger and stranger as he watched the skinny, tall, and handsome man continue to dribble the Shadowless Ball, sometimes even between his legs. Is this guy also a transmigrator?

However, his thoughts quickly changed direction, because he noticed that Zhi Yin wasn't just dribbling the ball, but actually adjusting his position for the best opportunity to attack.

Soon afterward, the black ball shot out without any warning, slamming toward Pei Mianman. At first, she tried to use the black flames to guard against the Shadowless Ball, but it was just too ferocious. The black flames broke apart as soon as they made contact with the ball. She didn't dare to take a hit from it head-on, so she could only do her best to evade.

Her opponent clearly kept dribbling the ball, but it seemed to be sending countless shadows at her. Furthermore, the ball could return like a boomerang, which was really hard to defend against.

The entire stage was quickly filled with balls. However, Pei Mianman seemed to have a kind of intuition that could only have been polished on the battlefield, constantly allowing her to just barely avoid it at the last moment.

Boom!

On several occasions, the ball slammed into the defensive barrier around them, causing the barrier to flicker and eventually producing cracks, as if it would break at any time.

Wang Wuxie's expression changed a bit. He reached out his hand and sent out some violet ki, gradually stabilizing the stage.

The sect masters thought to themselves that Wang Wuxie's cultivation seemed to have only grown harder and harder to measure. However, the most shocking thing was that Zhi Yin's attacks with the Shadowless Ball were so terrifying that not even a barrier created by so many elders could withstand them.

The proud Wan Guiyi's expression changed a bit as well. He had to admit that he had looked down on this pretty boy. If they really fought, he wouldn't necessarily be able to win easily.

"Manman, you should just admit defeat!" Elder Huo Ling called out as she stood up nervously. The armrest of her chair had been unwittingly crushed to pieces already.

As Pei Mianman's master, she naturally knew what kind of situation her disciple was in. Even though she looked as if she could avoid the attacks at the moment, she would be hit sooner or later. Furthermore, how could an immortal-grade weapon be so easy to endure? Elder Huo Ling knew that with Pei Mianman's talent, the only thing she lacked was time. Losing to Heavenly Sorrow Sect's representative disciple wasn't too embarrassing.

When the others heard the usually unyielding Elder Huo Ling speak that way, they all assumed that Pei Mianman had no chance of making a comeback. However, Pei Mianman bit her lip and stubbornly shook her head. Right at that moment, the Shadowless Ball roared toward her. She could no longer evade and could only raise the longsword in her hand to face it head-on.

Crack!

The longsword that had already been full of cracks shattered into several pieces on the spot. Meanwhile, the Shadowless Ball continued to rush at her chest without any signs of stopping.

## **Chapter 1632: Falling Out**

"Ah!" Elder Huo Ling cried out in alarm.

She quickly stood up, but Guan Chouhai took a step forward and ended up right in front of her, saying, "Elder, I don't think we seniors should participate in the battles between juniors."

Elder Hou Ling's expression became unpleasant. However, what he said was reasonable and she couldn't retort against it. Furthermore, if she really wanted to go against Guan Chouhai, she wouldn't be able to take him down in a short amount of time. Meanwhile, Manman would already be seriously injured by that time.

Zu An also suddenly got up, intending to save her, but he suddenly thought of something and sat back down.

Yan Xuehen, who had always been secretly watching Zu An, also retracted her gaze. She thought to herself, This Miss Pei seems to be quite important to Zu An.

Many disciples who were watching couldn't help but cover their eyes. All of them had seen the power of Zhi Yin's Shadowless Ball. If not for the seniors protecting this place, even the stage would have been destroyed. Now, it was going to slam straight into Pei Mianman's chest, so how could she possibly take it? Most importantly, even if she survived, would those breasts be okay? If not, what would be the point then?!

Many men cursed Zhi Yin! This guy normally seemed elegant and graceful, but why hadn't he struck anywhere else this time and gone for her chest? Would he be able to compensate her for her loss?

In contrast, some female cultivators were really excited. The pressure Pei Mianman had given them was way too great. They wanted their big brother Zhi Yin to teach this vixen a lesson.

However, the moment the Shadowless Ball was about to hit Pei Mianman, a large bronze cauldron projection surrounded her.

Bang!

With a loud noise, the bronze figure trembled slightly, and the Shadowless Ball was sent flying back. Zhi Yin caught the Shadowless Ball as it returned. He was full of shock. What is this situation?

It wasn't just him; even the sect masters were all moved. They all stuck out their necks to see what was going on.

The projection wasn't actually a large cauldron; rather, it was a strange bird with gorgeous patterns around it. It looked a bit like a cauldron, because the bird's legs and tail appeared to form the supports of one. It looked somewhat similar to an owl, but it was much stranger and more ferocious-looking. Its eyes in particular almost seemed to be alive. They were full of a strange, mysterious air.

What kind of weapon was this? It could actually block the attack of an immortal-grade weapon! That was what the spectators were puzzled about. They all looked at Wan Tongtian and Elder Huo Ling.

Wan Tongtian was also stunned. This wasn't something Jadedfall Palace had given her. He gave Elder Huo Ling an inquiring look.

However, Elder Huo Ling was also completely confused. But if she as the master admitted that she didn't know, wouldn't the others all laugh their heads off? As such, she stuck out her chest, looking extremely proud.

When the others saw that, they felt even more admiration. They thought to themselves, Elder Huo Ling really did hide her strength well! In the future, they had to try and build a relationship with her for sure.

Qiu Honglei asked Yun Jianyue, "Master, just what is that? It looks so strong."

"I don't know," Yun Jianyue said, shaking her head. "But that kid definitely knows, so you can just ask him later."

Qiu Honglei followed her gaze and saw the smile on Zu An's lips, as if he had already known that this would be the result.

Of course Zu An knew what it was. The object was Fu Hao's owl statue, which Big Manman had obtained from the Yinxu secret dungeon. He hadn't expected her to activate its protective effect.

Suddenly, Fu Hao's Owl transformed, actually taking the form of a giant owl. As it appeared, the entire stage was surrounded by a black, ink-like darkness. The disciples outside couldn't see what was happening inside at all.

Wang Wuxie and the others were all shocked, thinking, What is this? They all extended their auras to sense what was going on. They discovered that their ki, which could normally pass through most things, became incredibly sluggish in the darkness. They could only reach in a bit, even after a long time. With their cultivation, if they were standing at the edge of the stage, they would naturally be able to see what was happening inside; however, with their status, how could they bring themselves to do that?

They were all shocked. The darkness was already approaching the grandmaster level! What kind of incredible weapon was this?

Only Guan Chouhai was worried. He reflexively wanted to move toward the stage. However, Elder Huo Ling moved in front of him with a smile and said, "Sect Master Guan, I don't think we seniors should participate in the battles between juniors, now, can we?"

Guan Chouhai choked. He hadn't expected his words to be so quickly sent right back at him.

Suddenly, several roars emerged from the stage, accompanied by heavy impacts at an urgent pace. It was clear that Zhi Yin was sending the Shadowless Ball in every direction. The formation around the stage flickered crazily, clearly on the verge of collapse because of the Shadowless Ball.

The disciples were all incredibly shocked. Zhi Yin's Shadowless Ball was just too strong, right? One would be seriously injured by a mere brush from it!

Only Wu Xiaofan, Wan Guiyi, and a few others' expressions grew grave as they muttered, "Zhi Yin might be defeated here."

Even though Zhi Yin's Shadowless Ball was powerful, it was still something they could understand; however, this domain of darkness Pei Mianman displayed was completely outside their comprehension. They didn't even think they could do much better than Zhi Yin. Zhi Yin could rely on the Shadowless Ball to defend himself through offense, but what about them?

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Meanwhile, on the stage, Zhi Yin was extremely alarmed, because he discovered that he couldn't see a thing. Normally, when one's cultivation reached a certain point, there was actually no need to use one's eyes anymore, as they could use their senses to perceive their surroundings. But he couldn't sense a thing! There was only extremely thick darkness.

Helpless to do anything else, he could only frantically send out his Shadowless Ball, hoping he could hit his opponent by chance. It was just too quiet for him, and the dead silence was absolutely frightening. He could only show his fighting spirit through shouting.

Meanwhile, Pei Mianman was hiding only a few meters away from him. The reason why it had been so hard for her to evade the Shadowless Ball was because Zhi Yin could see her. Now, however, it wasn't hard for her to avoid these aimless attacks. In such darkness, she reigned supreme.

She silently waited for an opportunity. Sure enough, it was difficult for one to show no openings in a place where they couldn't sense anything, and she soon found one.

Jadefall Haze!

A terrifying wave of heat spread outward. It was like a mist, but also like the sunset; it was beautiful and dangerous.

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Outside the battlefield, Elder Huo Ling's eyes lit up. She could sense her own absolute skill's aura. Furthermore, whenever that skill was used, it could often decide victory and defeat.

Sure enough, with a loud noise, a figure flew out of the stage. They were completely scorched black, and their hair was also a mess. Their clothes were tattered like that of a beggar on the street.

"Zhi Yin?"

There were only two people on the stage. It was clear that it wasn't Pei Mianman, whose body would have surged with waves, so it could only be the other one. Even though they couldn't associate this sorry figure with the handsome and noble prince they had seen before, this was the reality! The spectators were left in disbelief.

"Zhi Yin actually lost?"

"And he lost so badly?"

"I knew that this pretty face didn't have much skill. He only knew how to act cool all day. Now, he's become history's fifth representative disciple to be upset."

All sorts of gossip surrounded him. Zhi Yin was already seriously injured, so how could he still endure such a thing? Blood sprayed out of his mouth, and he passed out.

"My disciple!" Guan Chouhai cried out and quickly rushed to Zhi Yin's side. When he checked Zhi Yin's condition, he discovered that many of his bones were broken, and his meridians were in an even worse state from the power of the fire element. He couldn't help but roar furiously at the stage, "How dare you attack so mercilessly!"

The darkness on the stage gradually scattered. Pei Mianman's figure rocked back and forth as she appeared. When she heard that, she opened her mouth, as if she wanted to defend herself, but for some reason, she said nothing.

Guan Chouhai was shocked and furious. He had never expected Zhi Yin to lose! After all, Zhi Yin was Heavenly Sorrow Sect's best disciple, someone who represented the dignity of both Heavenly Sorrow Sect and himself! Heavenly Sorrow Sect had been truly humiliated by this event.

Not only would Zhi Yin be nailed to the pillar of shame for the rest of history, as his master, he would also follow in that humiliation. Furthermore, he would become an eternal sinner to the Heavenly Sorrow Sect. Just from the thought that hundreds of years later, Heavenly Sorrow Sect's disciples would still be blaming him, he felt a chill run from head to toe.

When he saw that Pei Mianman didn't respond to him, he was even more furious, roaring, "You witch, just what kind of sinister thing did you use to scheme against Zhi Yin?!"

He had already made up his mind that he absolutely couldn't acknowledge the battle's results. Furthermore, he believed that Pei Mianman's true strength was indeed lower than Zhi Yin's. She must have won purely through that strange bronze statue, as a fluke.

Elder Huo Ling retorted furiously, "Guan Chouhai, what kind of bullshit are you uttering out of that mouth of yours right now? So if my disciple wins, it's a scheme, but if your disciple wins, it's right and proper?" Her nature had always been fiery to begin with. Now, she couldn't hold back her curses anymore.

Guan Chouhai was a sect master; when had he ever been cursed at before? He glowered and responded, "What is that ink-like darkness? Don't tell me it's a skill from your Jedefall Palace."

"Is it your business as to whether we have such a skill or not?" Elder Huo Ling retorted. In truth, she was actually really curious about what that move was. Of course, there was no way she would give in here.

Guan Chouhai sneered and shouted, "It had no sign of an orthodox sect's righteous display of strength at all! It was like some treacherous trick of the Devil Sect. If you don't explain this properly, for all we know, some damned bastard ended up in our daoist sects to cause trouble!"

### **Chapter 1633: Making the Whole World His Enemy**

Yun Jianyue was furious when she heard that. What's wrong with the Devil Sect? Did the Devil Sect eat your food or something?!

She was about to say something in protest when Qiu Honglei, who was familiar with her temper, quickly grabbed her and said, "Master, calm down, calm down!"

If they got involved now, wouldn't they be attacked from all sides? After all, Golden Peak was full of daoist sect experts. The two of them, who were from the Devil Sect, would be torn apart.

Yun Jianyue finally calmed down, but she glared at the distant Guan Chouhai, clearly remembering this grudge.

Guan Chouhai was confused. What did I do to offend Emptiness Isle? However, he had more important things to worry about. He criticized Pei Mianman for using a dishonest weapon and not fighting in a proper way. In response, Elder Huo Ling naturally showered him with criticism.

However, the other sects all speculated wildly. They had never seen Fu Hao's Owl either. They wanted to take the chance to use Guan Chouhai to get more information on it.

As for Yan Xuehen, she didn't care too much about worldly affairs anyway, so she had no reason to speak up in such a situation.

Guan Chouhai said to Pei Mianman, "Lady Pei, bring out your bronze owl for everyone to examine. That way, we'll know if it's some kind of sinister object. This is for your sake too, or else you might be carrying something evil without even knowing it. If something bad happens, you might not be able to turn back."

Pei Mianman tightly pursed her lips. She couldn't explain the origins of Fu Hao's Owl Either, and who knew what they do with their examination? Would they just use the pretext of finding an evil object to confiscate it from her? Furthermore, it was a symbol of her having been married to Zu An for several decades in Yinxu. How could she let someone else mess with it?

When he saw her remain silent, Guan Chouhai's smile grew colder and colder. He continued, "Are you not speaking because you're lacking in confidence?"

The disciples all had strange expressions. The male disciples all thought, Anyone who looks like Lady Pei is definitely innocent! But they were scared of Guan Chouhai's reputation, so none of them dared to say a thing.

The female disciples, on the other hand, had different thoughts. They felt that this woman was a vixen, that someone so big could never be honest. They felt a natural hostility toward her. Furthermore, some of them were fangirls of Zhi Yin. When they saw him in such a miserable state, they immediately directed their anger at her, so they immediately voiced their support.

Elder Huo Ling snapped furiously "That weapon is my disciple's personal object; how can it be brought out for everyone to examine? I think Zhi Yin's ball or whatever is more evil. Why don't you have him hand over his weapon for us to examine?"

Guan Chouhai reached out his hand and summoned Zhi Yin's Shadowless Ball as soon as he heard that, saying, "The ball is right here. This one has no objections to all of you examining it at all."

Elder Huo Ling choked. She hadn't expected her impulsive action to end up doing her in. However, as Guan Chouhai took the chance to walk onto the stage, she blocked his path and protested, "Either way, I will not allow you to bully my disciple!"

Guan Chouhai's expression darkened as he replied, "Elder, please do not be confused. If that is an evil object, it will not only harm your Jaded Palace, but also bring danger to all of the daoist sects."

Elder Huo Ling said furiously, "Don't give me that bullshit. Either way, I won't let you touch Manman."

Guan Chouhai said coldly, "Elder seems to be obstinately persisting on the wrong path. Then, don't blame this one for offending you."

The two were about to clash when Wan Tongtian also took a step forward and called out, "What, could it be that Brother Guan believes our Jedefall Palace doesn't have anyone left in it?"

In that instant, Guan Chouhai was flanked from two sides. As long as he acted, a fierce battle would definitely follow.

Elder Huo Ling's previously fierce expression became a bit gentler. This was the first time she found Wan Tongtian a bit pleasing to look at in decades. So senior brother still cares about me...

The White Jade Sect's Elder Li chuckled and walked over, saying, "How about we have a discussion? Let's not ruin the mood here." Despite those words, he stood in between Guan Chouhai and Wan Tongtian; he was clearly trying to help Guan Chouhai.

His choice was unsurprising. Jedefall Palace's Wan Guiyi was already a famous genius, while this Pei Mianman had suddenly come out of nowhere and defeated the famous representative disciple Zhi Yin. Jedefall Palace's future prospects were limitless, which meant there was a danger of the other sects being forced to bow down to them in the future. No other sect was willing for such a situation to appear. They naturally wanted to take the chance to pressure Jedefall Palace.

Wan Tongtian naturally saw through his intention. He was shocked and angry, replying, "What is the meaning of this, Brother Li?"

Li Changsheng smiled, saying, "We're all old acquaintances, so I didn't want our relationship to sour. How about we all take a step back and have this valiant female disciple bring out that weapon for us to take a look? I promise that as long as it isn't some evil object, I'll definitely return it to its rightful owner."

Wan Tongtin and Elder Huo Ling's expressions were both ugly. The condition of 'as long as it isn't an evil object' was very vague. Who knew what they'd say once they got their hands on it? However, it was two against two right now, so they didn't have the advantage. They could only wait until the other sects voiced their opinions.

Kunlun Void Sect's Elder Xuan Dou stroked his beard and said, "This old one believes that there is no harm in checking either. After all, the innocent are without guilt, so it can also appease people's curiosity."

Kunlun Void, Jedefall Palace, and Heavenly Sorrow were the sects with the greatest histories, and had been the most powerful once upon a time. The longer their history was, the more entangled their grudges had become. They all hoped the others would have a bad time so that they could completely dominate their rivals. Even though the three sects had all fallen and were far from their past glory, that habit, which had been etched into their bones, was still there.

Mount Luofu's Elder Xu, Purity Temple's Vice Manor Lord He Yuan, and Supreme Mystery Cave's second cavern master all voiced their agreement. They all naturally spoke some seemingly high-sounding words. However, they all had their own thoughts. They were all lower-ranked among the nine sects. Their strength had always been beneath that of Jedefall Palace, so they naturally hoped for their rival to be weakened, so as to be able to take their place.

When she saw that, Qiu Honglei couldn't help but say, "Master, I've discovered that these orthodox sect's people are even more shameless than the Devil Sect. Our side is clearly bad, while these people have endless vicious schemes inside, and yet they always speak as if they're righteous."

Yun Jianyue sneered and replied, "You've only realized this now? Compared to our Devil Sect... Ahem, our Holy Sect, there's no real difference inside. The only part we're lacking is that we're not as good at this superficial stuff, which is why we're always cursed by others. On the contrary, they've completely fooled the dumb masses."

Qiu Honglei muttered, "But from what I've seen, master is pretty proud of that. You've never made us change either."

"Of course I'm proud of it! If we were also that fake, wouldn't we be just as bad as them?" Yun Jianyue replied, as if that were only proper and to be expected.

Qiu Honglei was speechless. It seemed that the Holy Sect's situation couldn't be changed for some time.

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Wan Tongtian and Elder Huo Ling were both shocked and furious. Their sects' strength alone naturally couldn't face the cooperation of all of the others.

As such, Wan Tongtian said to Wang Wuxie, "Brother Wang, you are the official host here. Are you not going to say something?"

Wang Wuxie didn't actually care. Either way, the Righteous Sun Sect was the strongest. However, seeing as the majority supported an examination, he didn't want to make them all upset. Furthermore, Li Changsheng was also in support of an examination. Li Changsheng was an elder of the White Jade Sect, and he was also Yan Xuehen's senior. In Wang Wuxie's mind, his will naturally represented Yan Xuehen's will.

As such, he said with a smile, "Seeing as everyone feels like there should be an examination, I do not think there is any harm in it either. Sect Master Wan, Elder Huo Ling, there is no need for the two of you to be worried. We are all people with our own pride. We would not be so corrupt as to desire your treasures in front of so many disciples' faces."

Wan Tongtian's expression darkened when he heard that. Sigh, as expected. As such, he secretly asked Elder Huo Ling, "Junior Sister, should we just let them examine it? Either way, we're here; if they really want to pull something, it won't be too late for us to fall out then."

Elder Huo Ling looked extremely unhappy. Even though she was normally rather irritable in temper, she wasn't the type to be completely devoid of logic. She knew that at the moment, because of the difference in strength, there would be no benefits for Jadedfall Palace if things really turned sour.

Still, she felt that it would be really humiliating if she really let them examine that object. Her disciple had won against a representative disciple, and yet what she had obtained wasn't glory; instead, she had only encountered doubts.

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While they were stuck in a dilemma, a cold voice suddenly called out, “None of you seemed to have asked me for my opinion.”

The spectators followed the source of the sound and saw Zu An. At that moment, he seemed to be harboring some kind of hidden rage.

When she heard Zu An speak, the previously apprehensive Pei Mianman smiled sweetly. But she quickly began to worry again. After all, the ones here were all sect masters! Even though Ah Zu is strong, he’s still too young compared to them...

Yun Jianyue harrumphed. “I was just about to say... That womanizer of yours definitely wouldn’t give up the chance to be a hero.”

Qiu Honglei was worried that her master would get upset, so she quickly said, “I only admire him more for that. Even if the world is against him, he’ll still protect his women.”

“Are you really not jealous at all?” Yun Jianyue asked, looking at her in shock.

“What do I have to be jealous about?” Qiu Honglei replied, her eyes sparkling. “In my eyes, if I were the one on the stage, he would definitely make the whole world his enemy for my sake.”

Yun Jianyue was stunned. She opened her mouth, but didn’t say anything.

Mount Luofu’s Elder Xu harrumphed. “This is our daoist sects’ internal affair. Why would we ask for your opinion?”

#### **Chapter 1634: You Overrate Yourself**

The two sides had already been unhappy with each other because of the injuries inflicted by Peng Wuyan, leaving Elder Xu with pent-up anger he hadn’t been able to vent out. Now that Zu An had stepped forward, he finally saw a means of venting his frustration. He felt incredibly refreshed!

“I don’t really care about your daoist sects’ affairs, but what I see is someone who lost but isn’t willing to admit it, and is instead trying to use other methods to slander the winning disciple. As a judge, how can I not do a thing?” Zu An replied with a sneer.

“Well said!” Elder Huo Ling loudly voiced her agreement.

To be honest, she had actually looked down on Zu An a bit. After all, the world of warriors and the court were somewhat at odds with each other. In the eyes of the world of warriors, Zu An couldn’t help but appear like a hired thug. Furthermore, he didn’t even have any cultivation, so they assumed he was just a pretty boy who had gotten his position through nepotism. Right now, however, when they were completely surrounded on all sides, it was actually the very same pretty boy she had looked down on who was supporting her disciple. She felt both moved and ashamed.

As Zu An spoke, he walked directly onto the stage. He supported the somewhat weak Pei Mianman and asked, “How do you feel? Hurry and get some rest. I’ll take care of the rest.”

“Okay~” Pei Mianman replied, giving him a deep look. The emotions in her eyes looked as if they were about to spill out.

Even though she had won against Zhi Yin, in terms of real cultivation, she was still lacking. His frantic retaliation had left her with injuries too, and her ki had been exhausted severely. Unfortunately, the sect masters wanted to examine her, so she hadn't gotten a chance to rest.

As expected, it's still Ah Zu who cares the most about me.

"Ah, my goosebumps are about to fall off," Yun Jianyue muttered, making a show of rubbing her arm and shivering. "Do they think everyone here is dead or something? They're still showing each other a public display of affection."

Qiu Honglei explained, "Others don't know about their relationship. I don't think they'll notice anything."

Yun Jianyue couldn't help but shoot her a look, saying, "Sometimes, I really wonder whether you're going to get jealous."

Qiu Honglei smiled and replied, "Witches such as us, who wish for the entire world to be in chaos, are the ones who should make others jealous. Being jealous of others is a sign of powerlessness. Isn't that what master taught me before?"

Yun Jianyue was speechless.

...

Meanwhile, the other disciples didn't think too much of it because they didn't know about Zu An and Pei Mianman's relationship. Still, many of the male disciples were incredibly jealous. Helping Lady Pei when she was in such a hopeless situation would definitely win a good impression from her, right?

However, they knew themselves. In such a situation, they wouldn't dare to step forward for her even if they had three gallbladders in their body.

Elder Xu said with a sneer, "This is no longer merely about the competition, but rather concerns the safety of all the daoist sects, and perhaps even the common people. Once, a long time ago, a disciple of the daoist sects stumbled upon a treasure and their cultivation advanced greatly. However, no one expected it to be an evil object. One day, all of the blood essence of the sect's disciples was swallowed up, creating a great tragedy. Afterward, the experts of the different sects had to rush to seal that evil object, and paid a great price to do so. We are merely doing this to avoid repeating that disaster."

The sect representatives inwardly nodded. Apart from making things difficult for Jadedfall Palace, they had also expressed their agreement because they thought of that event.

Still, now that it involved Big Manman's interests, how could Zu An entertain such a claim? He retorted, "Isn't that a completely groundless accusation? In my experience, there have always been people in the world who hypocritically talk about compassion, duty, integrity, but in reality are nothing more than treacherous bastards."

Elder Xu roared furiously, "What did you say?"

You have successfully trolled Xu Chuan for +711 +711 +711...

The other sect masters who had supported the examination of Pei Mianman's treasure became unhappy as well.

"Whoever is getting worked up right now, that is who I was talking about," Zu An said with a smile, staring directly at Elder Xu.

The nearby younger disciples couldn't help but laugh. They could only lower their heads and hope their smiles wouldn't be seen.

"Disrespectful!" Xu Chuan snapped, practically about to explode from anger. The insults commonly used on the forums of another world were absolutely lethal against the inhabitants of this world.

"Who's disrespectful?" Zu An quickly replied.

"You are the disrespectful bastard!" Elder Xu instinctively replied. However, when he saw people's strange expressions, he immediately realized that he had fallen for Zu An's trick. His face turned dark purple.[\[1\]](#)

You have successfully trolled Xu Chuan for +888 +888 +888...

Just then, one person stood up and said, "This brother over here, there is no meaning in just being all talk. This is a world that relies on cultivation. Mount Luofu's Luo Dongjiang wishes to ask you for an exchange of pointers."

That person was Mount Luofu's representative disciple, Luo Dongjiang. When he saw that his elder was about to faint from anger, he stepped forward to help Elder Xu out of embarrassment.

With that reminder, Elder Xu finally came to his senses. Right, what kind of status do I have? And yet I'm trying to argue with a youngster. It just lowers my status.

Worried that Zu An wouldn't accept, he even tried to provoke him. "Rather than saying that this old one is bullying you, how about having Dongjiang exchange some moves with you? Don't worry, he will make sure to hold back and not endanger your life."

Even though there wouldn't be danger to Zu An's life, superficial wounds were still completely expected. Luo Dongjiang naturally picked up on that implication and nodded slightly toward Elder Xu.

The disciples all looked at Zu An sympathetically. A hero who saved a damsel in distress wasn't an easy role to play. This pretty boy didn't even have the slightest ki fluctuations coming from him and seemed just like a normal person. Any normal disciple could crush him, let alone a representative disciple. He had probably stepped forward previously because he was relying on his identity as a court official, right? But in this world of conflict, people only respected the strong. Who cared about one's status?

Many disciples from Heavenly Sorrow Sect cheered loudly. They wanted Luo Dongjiang to properly discipline Zu An. The first reason was that the two sides already had a grudge from the events at King Yan Manor, and the second was that the situation involved Zhi Yin and their sect's glory, so they naturally viewed Zu An as the enemy.

Only Zhao Xiaodie muttered, "You're all looking down on him too much..." She had faced Zu An before. Back then, he had been able to toy with her easily. Even now, she could still feel a throbbing from her bottom that reached all the way to her soul.

“What did you say, senior sister?” a gloomy-looking young man asked, turning around. He was the ninth junior disciple, Cai Yu. He had previously challenged Zu An, but nothing had been settled then, so he held a grudge.

“Nothing,” Zhao Xiaodie said with a forced smile. No one would believe her even if she said anything, so she could only let them see it for themselves.

...

Zu An gave Luo Dongjiang a look of disdain and remarked, “You? You’re not qualified.”

The entire place rose up into a commotion. This level of confidence really was something else! Even Wang Wuxie and the other sect leaders were a bit confused, thinking, Is this kid really that awesome, or does he only know how to shoot his mouth off? But isn’t this going a bit too far even for bragging?

Tranquility Temple’s fatty Jie Se asked Master Jian Huang, “Master, what do you think?”

Master Jian Huang said slowly, “The way he spoke was extremely calm, without the slightest bit of cowardice. There wasn’t even the slightest sliver of emotion, almost as if he were merely stating the obvious.”

The little monk Jie Se replied in surprise, “Could it be that he is actually a hidden expert?”

“We’ll find out soon,” Master Jian Huang said, staring at the stage.

Luo Dongjiang’s entire face was red as he drew his sword and thrust it at Zu An, exclaiming “Then let me see if your distinguished self’s skills are really as formidable as your mouth!”

You have successfully trolled Luo Dongjiang for +444 +444 +444...

In his rage, he completely forgot about Elder Xu’s warning. He didn’t hold back in the slightest.

Qiu Honglei nervously grabbed Yun Jianyue’s elbow and asked, “Master, is he really as awesome as you said he was?”

Yun Jianyue was getting a bit annoyed. She brushed Qiu Honglei’s hand away and snapped, “Are you doubting your master’s judgment?”

Qiu Honglei chuckled awkwardly. She normally had a hundred percent confidence in her master, but when it came to Zu An, she couldn’t help but become a bit flustered.

Luo Dongjiang’s sword was about to hit Zu An, but he didn’t move at all. Many people sneered in disdain, thinking, Looks like this guy has already lost his wits. Still, they figured that made sense. Luo Dongjiang’s full-power attack wasn’t something too many of them could react to.

Just then, a white figure flickered and Luo Dongjiang’s sword was deflected by a gentle force. He looked up in shock to see Wang Wuxie at the center of the stage.

Wang Wuxie said, “This matter is something that can be considered at length. There is no need for it to become a life and death conflict.” He still had his identity as the State Teacher, after all. If a court Imperial Envoy died here and he didn’t do a thing, things would become much more troublesome.

With Wang Wuxie stepping forward, Luo Dongjiang naturally didn't dare to disrespect him. He could only glare hatefully at Zu An.

Zu An said indifferently, "You should thank the State Teacher for saving your life just now."

Luo Dongjiang was stunned. That was actually what he had wanted to say. He hadn't expected the opponent to say it first. He thought, Does this guy have absolutely no sense of shame?

You have successfully trolled Luo Dongjiang for +999 +999 +999...

Everyone else present thought the same thing. Wang Wuxie twitched. He felt a bit of regret for saving Zu An just then.

Even after thousands of years pass and this brat's tomb is opened up, everything else will have already rotted, but his mouth will definitely still be fine.

Elder Xu was about to explode from anger. He spat, "You little rascal... Seeing as you say that Dongjiang isn't qualified to face you, I will impart my teachings to you. I just hope that you will not hide behind Sect Master Wang!" He didn't even care about being a senior who bullied juniors anymore. He seized Zu An's response as a pretext to lash out.

You have successfully trolled Xu Chuan for +999 +999 +999...

Zu An gave him a look and shook his head, saying, "You overrate yourself too much. I don't even need to use my hands to deal with you."

Elder Xu was speechless.

### **Chapter 1635: Golden Peak's Silence**

Zhang Zijiang couldn't help but remark to Xie Daoyun, "Lady Xie, say, why are there so many stupid people in this world? Sir Zu is clearly speaking the truth, and yet not only do these people not feel grateful, they are all rushing at him for a beating."

He was starting to feel a bit of regret. Just now, he had been a bit frightened by the sect masters' prestige and hadn't remembered to promptly praise Sir Zu. He had missed such a great opportunity for nothing!

When she saw how this man was about to smack his thigh rotten from regret, Xie Daoyun had a strange expression. She replied, "It's normal for them to misunderstand. After all, big brother Zu's situation is a bit special." If she hadn't personally witnessed big brother Zu fight, even she wouldn't have been able to imagine how his seemingly powerless appearance could hide such strength.

Tranquility Temple's little monk Jie Se tugged on Master Jian Huang's sleeves, saying, "Master, I feel that great senior brother's name isn't a good fit for him anymore."

Master Jian Huang remained silent for a long time. In the end, he sighed and said, "Once we return to the temple, help your master change his name."

Jie Se's great senior brother's Buddhist name was Jie Kuang, because he was just too arrogant and egotistical. However, compared to this guy, he didn't even have the right to call himself arrogant anymore. [\[1\]](#)

"Xu Chuan, you are a power form stage master rank cultivator, and yet you have the nerve to bully a youngster? If you want to fight, I'll fight against you!" Elder Huo Ling roared furiously. Even though she also felt that Zu An's words were way too egotistical, he was still helping Manman, so she couldn't just stand by without doing anything.

Elder Xu was about to die from resentment. Are you blind? Just who was bullying whom just now? Still, he knew he wasn't a match for Elder Huo Ling, so he ignored her challenge and just looked at Zu An. He asked, "Are you planning to hide behind a woman again?"

Zu An said indifferently, "I've been waiting for you to make your move. It's you who doesn't seem to have the courage."

"Damn it all! None of you had better stop me!" Elder Xu yelled, his eyes erupting with red light. He rolled up his sleeves and jumped onto the stage.

The sect masters nodded inwardly. This brat really was too infuriating. We couldn't take it even as spectators.

The disciples were even more excited. They had thought that they were only going to watch disciples fight, but now, they would be able to see the judges face each other! This trip really hadn't been made in vain! The only regret was that one of the judges was a bit too weak, so the fight could end too quickly.

Elder Huo Ling panicked and wanted to rush forward, but she was stopped by the other sect representatives.

"Elder, as Sir Zu has already spoken such words, he clearly has some confidence. There is no need for you to worry about him."

Even though that was what they said, they were clearly happy to see this unfortunate situation. They didn't think Zu An really had anything to rely on.

Now that she had been stopped, Elder Huo Ling couldn't go over there even though she wanted to.

Elder Xu walked over to Zu An and stopped in front of him, saying, "You can make your move first."

He cared about his status, after all. Even though he was furious, he still couldn't make the first move against a junior. It was more appropriate for the other party to attack first, and for him to retaliate after.

"If I make my move, you might not have a chance anymore," Zu An said with a calm expression.

"Besides, I've already said that I don't even need to use my hands to deal with you."

Elder Xu was so angry he laughed. He replied, "Fine, then I want to see how you wouldn't give me another chance if you moved first!"

You have successfully trolled Xu Chuan for +666 +666 +666...

The surrounding sect masters, and even Huo Ling, felt that Zu An really was going too far in terms of exaggerating his own abilities.

Elder Xu couldn't be bothered with the world of warriors' rules. His fist slammed toward Zu An. As a power form master rank cultivator, this fist had the power to uproot mountains. The surrounding disciples all clutched their ears in pain because of the sound waves from his punch... no, from the blinding flash of power created by the friction of his fist moving through the air. The boundaries around the stage began to split apart, and the entire stage was eventually brought to the edge of collapse.

When they sensed that terrifying power, the few master rank sect elders, as well as Wu Xiaofan and Wan Guiyi of the younger generation disciples, were horrified. Was this the strength of a power form master rank cultivator?! If they were hit directly by such a fist, not even fragments of bone would remain, right?

Even Zhang Zijiang and Xie Daoyun both felt nervous. They had seen Zu An fight before, but back then, it had only been against a hero form master rank cultivator, Scarface Yang Shen. Right now, this Elder Xu was three whole cultivation realms above, at the power form stage! His attack's strength far, far exceeded that of Yang Shen's.

Only Yan Xuehen and Yun Jianyue remained expressionless. They felt completely calm.

A huge explosion erupted. The stage Elder Xu was on completely collapsed, and even the surrounding stages were affected, several of them breaking down. Fortunately, Wang Wuxie and a few others acted promptly, forming a new barrier and preventing the blast waves from harming all of the disciples.

"That Zu guy is dead, right?"

"If he doesn't die from this, what is he, a god?"

"Still, he is a court official, after all. Mount Luofu's future seems a bit troublesome."

Zhao Xiaodie voiced her alarm. She nervously looked at the smoke and dust, with an expression that seemed to carry a mix of anxiety and relief.

The ninth disciple Cai Yu remarked, "Junior sister cares about senior brother after all. That pretty boy is dead for certain. In a way, that is also a form of justice for senior brother."

Zhao Xiaodie forced a smile, her expression extremely conflicted. Shouldn't I be happy that that bastard died? But why do I just feel empty inside?

However, she keenly sensed the sect masters all staring at the stage with grave expressions, as if they had seen something appalling.

"Look, there's golden light in the sky!"

No one knew who shouted, but everyone present looked up. They suddenly saw golden ripples appear one after another. Furthermore, there was a figure floating in front of those ripples.

Who else could it be but Zu An?! He was holding Pei Mianman, as well. Perhaps because she had fainted or because she was embarrassed, her head was buried into his chest.

“He doesn’t even let a single chance to flirt with a woman go,” Yun Jianyue cursed. She clearly looked down on his actions.

Meanwhile, Yan Xuehen also looked down slightly, her expression seemingly becoming thirty percent colder than normal.

Xie Daoyun had been worried at first, but when she saw that Zu An was fine, she sighed in relief. But when she saw him carrying Pei Mianman in his arms, she felt sour inside. Still, she quickly remembered that he had carried her just like that before, and her mood quickly improved a lot.

He actually escaped that attack and even had the leisure to save Pei Mianman?

Elder Xu was completely shocked. He had clearly locked onto Zu An, but had suddenly lost track of him in an instant.

“That guy was pretending to be a pig to eat a tiger!”

Wan Guiyi, Wu Xiaofan, Lou Wucheng, and the other representative disciples’ eyes all shone. They all felt a strong fighting spirit surge within them. They had never expected that there would actually be a peer with such profound cultivation on Golden Peak! As for the other disciples, all they had left now was jealousy, envy, and hatred.

“If I could be saved by a heroic young master like this one day, it would be worth it even if I died!”

Many female disciples were afflicted by starry-eyed infatuation.

The other male cultivators cursed inwardly. Why don’t you all look in a mirror? Still, their hearts were also pounding in their chests. They were all young men; which one of them hadn’t dreamed about becoming unmatched heroes who descended from above to save their sweethearts?

However, as they grew older, they had all come to believe that that was nothing more than an illusion. They hadn’t expected to witness it for themselves today. There really was light in this world!

Just then, the golden ripples gradually condensed into shining longswords. Every single one of them released pressure at least on par with the heaven-grade.

“How does he have so many incredible weapons?” Wang Wuxie and the others wondered. Now, even they were flustered.

Meanwhile, Elder Xu, who was at the center of it all, realized that something wasn’t right. He wanted to run, but he discovered that he had already been locked onto by a terrifying aura. He couldn’t escape at all! In that instant, the golden longswords all flew forth. They were like streaks of flowing light, instantly enveloping him within.

“Mount Luofu Defense!” Elder Xu cried in horror, quickly using his most powerful defensive skill. A projection shaped like Luofu Mountain surrounded his entire body and released a sturdy aura. At the same time, he took out his greatest weapons and treasures, seemingly not even caring about money anymore.

Unfortunately, the golden light in the sky seemed to purge everything in its path. All of his treasures and weapons shattered one by one. In the end, the mountain projection completely collapsed...

“Sir Zu, please be lenient!” Wang Wuxie quickly advised.

While carrying Pei Mianman in his hands, Zu An turned around slightly and replied, “Can you give me a reason to do so?”

Wang Wuxie wanted to say ‘do it to give me face’, but he suddenly realized that his face wouldn’t necessarily be suitable. He was suddenly moved and quickly said, “He held back when he struck you before and didn’t plan to kill you!”

Whether it was because of the unwritten rules of the orthodox sects or because he didn’t want to kill a court official, most of Elder Xu’s power had been directed at the surrounding stage. Of course, if Zu An couldn’t block it, he would have been seriously injured. However, there would have been no danger to his life.

Zu An nodded when he heard that. The sword light closest to Elder Xu suddenly stopped just an inch from his forehead.

Elder Xu gulped. He released the breath he had been holding, then fainted on the spot. Only then did the spectators see just how bitter of a state he was in. He didn’t have a single piece of clothing intact, and there were bloody sword scars all over his body. It was clear that if Zu An hadn’t held back, Elder Xu would already be nothing more than a pile of mincemeat.

It had to be stated that a master rank cultivator at the power form stage had both ridiculous strength and constitution. Meanwhile, Mount Luofu Defense was Mount Luofu’s most powerful fighting skill, known as the greatest defensive skill of the daoist sects, and yet Elder Xu had actually still been injured to such an extent!

No one knew who spoke up, but that person said, “He really didn’t seem to have used his hands from start to finish...”

Whether it was the young disciples of Golden Peak or the aged sect masters, all of them were silent.

### **Chapter 1636: Message**

Wan Guiyi, Wu Xiaofan, and Lou Wucheng all lowered their heads in shame and sat down. They seemed to have every ounce of strength sucked out of them. Several seconds before, they had still had the burning fighting spirit and the will to challenge Zu An. They had felt that he was worthy of being their opponent. Now, however, they discovered that they were far from that.

At the same time, they were a bit alarmed. They were all known as the ones with the greatest talents, the greatest geniuses among the younger generation. They had believed that they wouldn’t lose to any of their peers, and that even if there was a difference, it would be close. And yet they had ended up encountering Zu An...

Is this monster still human?!

“Ah Zu is so handsome!” Qiu Honglei cried, grabbing Yun Jianyue’s arm and shaking it excitedly. She was so excited that she seemed almost to be trying to share her pride in her man.

“It’s nothing surprising. It’s still not as special as when your master slaughtered her way in and out of Violet Mountain,” Yun Jianyue said with a hint of disdain, but inwardly, she thought to herself, That kid

is indeed a bit handsome. However, as far as she remembered, Zu An's sword ki had been blue. Why had it become gold?

Zu An was also confused about that. After he passed Level 70, his sword formation's color had changed on its own. However, he hadn't looked too deeply into it, seeing as it still looked cool.

Meanwhile, Yan Xuehen's expression moved a bit. She was a bit regretful, thinking that she shouldn't have made Chuyan cultivate in seclusion. Once she found out that she had missed this scene, she'd definitely be really upset.

But I'm doing this for her sake. Otherwise, if she had seen Zu An carrying Pei Mianman so intimately, she might have just died from anger.

...

Amid the court's ranks, Zhang Zijiang proudly told the other soldiers, "Don't you remember what I said? Our Sir Zu's strength is unparalleled. It's just some trifling sect elder; how can he be Sir Zu's match?"

Xie Daoyun thought to herself, That's not what you said earlier. You were clearly so worried. However, she wasn't in the mood to argue over such things. She rested her chin on her hand and looked at that man with a smile, thinking, Big brother Zu is so handsome. Of course, if he didn't have that woman in his arms, he would be even more handsome.

"Why is this guy so strong?!"

Compared to the others' excitement, the Heavenly Sorrow Sect's disciples were all deeply distressed. After all, they had been opposed to Zu An before.

Cai Yu had looked down on Zu An for not accepting his challenge, but now his face fluctuated between red and white. In the end, he threw the sword in his hand onto the ground. Zu An's cultivation was higher than he could possibly have imagined! What was the point of even training in the sword anymore?

...

Tranquility Temple's little monk Jie Se turned to Master Jian Huang and asked, "Master, would you be able to receive that attack?"

Master Jian Huang smiled and replied, "I share no grudge with Benefactor Zu. Why would I need to consider something like that?"

"Master, you're cheating."

"It's called being resourceful."

...

Zu An landed on the ground again. He brought the completely red-faced Pei Mianman in front of Elder Huo Ling, saying, "Elder, Miss Pei has exhausted her ki quite severely and needs rest." They were in front of too many people, so it wasn't too appropriate to expose their relationship.

"Alright. Thank you, young master," Elder Huo Ling said, snapping out of her daze and quickly receiving Pei Mianman. At the same time, she took out a pile of Jadedfall Palace's medicines for Pei Mianman to take. She secretly gave Wan Tongtian a look. In the past, if he had done that for her, they wouldn't have had to carry such bitterness against each other.

Zu An then turned around to look at the crowd, saying, "I feel that Lady Pei won in an honorable manner and there is no need for further investigation. What do you all think?"

All of the sect elders' expressions immediately became conflicted. The ones who had supported Guan Chouhai began to hesitate. Now that Jadedfall Palace had Zu An's support, it would be hard to predict who the final victor would be. After all, this Zu An's cultivation was unexpectedly strong. Furthermore, he represented the court, so there was no need to make an enemy out of him.

Guan Chouhai's expression changed several times. However, this was related to Heavenly Sorrow Sect's glory, so there was no way he would back out. He thought to himself, That move was formidable, but I refuse to believe that you can defeat a grandmaster at your young age!

He was about to say something when Yun Jianyue said with a smile, "I agree with what Sir Zu says. Everyone saw Miss Pei win against Zhi Yin, so there is no need to argue about anything else."

Guan Chouhai's expression changed. Emptiness Isle had never said anything, but now that they did speak, it was actually in support of Zu An. However, it was merely Emptiness Isle. He didn't have to fear them.

He was just about to speak when an icy voice called out, "Let us let matters on the stage be decided on the stage. If a senior stepped forward every time someone lost, this competition would completely lose its intended meaning."

The others were all shocked. None of them had expected Yan Xuehen, who was as cold as a frozen mountain, to speak. Furthermore, she had voiced a different opinion from Elder Li, who was also from the White Jade Sect!

There's something strange! Isn't that stone cold woman treating Zu An a bit too well? It's not like her at all, Yun Jianyue thought as she stared at Yan Xuehen with a pensive look.

Qiu Honglei couldn't help but grumble, "Why do I feel as if master treats Ah Zu even better than I do? It's not like you! For example, just now, you spoke out for Ah Zu even before Sect Master Yan did."

"Is that the same thing? Aren't I just doing that for you?!" Yun Jianyue cried, almost jumping.

"Really? I thought it was because, after you and Sect Master Yan made that trip around the Fiend Races, you ended up becoming friends," Qiu Honglei said with a big smile.

"That's part of the reason too, I guess," Yun Jianyue said, feeling a bit guilty. She avoided eye contact and changed the topic. "Let's just wait and see how things end up."

...

Just then, Wang Wuxie stepped forward and said, "What Sect Master Yan says makes sense. This is a competition, so we as seniors should indeed refrain from interfering. Brother Guan, have worthy nephew Zhi Yin rest for now. With his strength, he should be able to obtain a quota later."

Even after witnessing Zu An's strength, he had been a bit hesitant at first, but now that Yan Xuehen had spoken, he naturally pushed the boat with the current. At the same time, he secretly implied to Guan Chouhai that the Heavenly Sorrow Sect still had a chance.

Now that the host had spoken, the ones who supported Guan Chouhai all changed sides and echoed what he said. Guan Chouhai cursed them for being opportunists, but he knew that with the way things had turned out, there was no meaning in persisting with the issue. He could only harrumph and storm off in a huff. The other disciples quickly carried Zhi Yin away.

While leaving, Zhao Xiaodie couldn't help but give Zu An a look. She felt as if she hated him, and yet didn't. She was starting to become really confused.

...

Guan Chouhai and the others left. Meanwhile, because most of the stages had been destroyed, there was clearly no way of continuing the competition. As such, Wang Wuxie declared that the competition would be stopped briefly and would continue the next day.

The crowd gradually dispersed, but they were all excitedly discussing the previous fights. Zu An's battle in particular was just too spectacular, leaving all of the disciples filled with endless envy.

However, the older generation's sect masters were a bit more composed. They had been extremely shocked at first, but they quickly realized that Zu An hadn't revealed any trace of a domain in his attack. He clearly hadn't reached the grandmaster rank yet. Furthermore, even though that attack was formidable, they could tell that it was a long range attack. If Zu An had to fight in close combat, things could become troublesome for him.

After thinking through those things, the sect masters sighed in relief, recovering their usual cheer. At the same time, they explained the situation to their disciples to calm them down. That task was quite important. The ordinary disciples were one thing, as they had just been enjoying the drama. However, the mental shock the elite disciples had experienced was extremely great! If they ended up developing inner demons and self-doubts, that would really be bad.

...

After she returned to Jedefall Palace's side, Pei Mianman wanted to find Zu An to tell him about everything she had gone through, but everyone from Jedefall Palace took up too much time congratulating her on her feat of defeating the Heavenly Sorrow Sect's representative disciple. Furthermore, Elder Huo Ling was very worried about her injuries, and almost always remained at her side to help with her treatment. There was no chance for Pei Mianman to privately seek him out at all.

When Yan Xuehen returned, Chu Chuyan quickly asked her what happened. She had seen a huge burst of golden light and felt as if she had sensed Zu An's aura. Helpless to do anything else, Yan Xuehen could only tell her about what had happened. Chu Chuyan listened, her eyes sparkling.

"Those people looked down on Ah Zu way too much! Master, you haven't seen Ah Zu really fight yet. I can still clearly recall the magnificence of his sword right now!" Chu Chuyan exclaimed. She was no longer ice-cold like before; instead, she was like a little girl showing off her favorite toy. She continued to tell her master about all sorts of different things related to Zu An.

Yan Xuehen sighed and thought, You silly girl, I know way more than you... She didn't want to continue talking about the subject and said, "That brat is good in every other way, but he's just a bit too fickle in love. You didn't see how he was carrying Pei Mianman in front of everyone else. That little lady was probably so happy she was going to faint from excitement."

Chu Chuyan laughed helplessly and said, "That guy is really annoying in that respect; almost all of the women around me have something to do with him. If you weren't my master, he might already have gotten his hands on you too."

"Cough cough!" Yan Xuehen had been leisurely sipping on some tea, but she choked as soon as she heard that.

Chu Chuyan was startled and quickly patted her back apologetically, saying, "Master, I was just giving an example! Please don't be angry..."

Yan Xuehen wiped at the corners of her lips and replied without batting an eyelid, "Weren't you curious as to who gave you that warning? I have deduced that it might have been Ah... Ahem, one of that Zu brat's lovers. However, I still have not found anyone who fits the bill. Now that I think about it, could it be Pei Mianman?"

Chu Chuyan shook her head and replied, "It shouldn't be her. We were close friends when we were in Brightmoon City. I understand her personality well..."

"She is your close friend, and yet she is still fighting over your man?" Yan Xuehen suddenly retorted coldly.

Chu Chuyan was a bit at a loss for words. Only after a moment did she say, "Manman is someone who dares to love and dares to hate. Even if she liked Ah Zu, she would fight against me overtly and not do such a despicable thing."

Yan Xuehen wanted to say something else, but she suddenly felt that she wasn't in the position to talk about such things with her status. As such, she got up to leave, feeling grumpy as she said, "You should just continue cultivating in seclusion."

Chu Chuyan looked in the direction of where Zu An was staying through her window. Her gentle expression carried a hint of hesitation as she muttered, "I wonder what Ah Zu is doing, is he with Manman right now? Hmph!"

...

Zu An naturally wasn't carrying out romantic endeavors at the moment, though. His expression was grave because he had just received a secret message from the Embroidered Envoy.

### **Chapter 1637: Wishes Fulfilled**

The Embroidered Envoy had specialized ways of exchanging messages. Lower-level information would be passed along through relay stations or flying pigeons. Meanwhile, Golden Token Envoys could transmit messages through their golden token, which was similar to a pager from Zu An's previous world. However, there were limitations to that. The first was that the amount of information that could

be sent was limited, and the second was that it took a lot of resources to send a message each time. Only extremely urgent reports would be sent through that method.

Zu An looked at the message he had received. Zhang Zitong had sent it to him through Yi Commandery's Embroidered Envoy channel. Because of Golden Token Seven's death, coupled with the fact that she had the highest status in Yi Commandery's Embroidered Envoy system, she had the ability to use it. It was against the rules, but it wasn't too difficult for her to do.

The message said that they had found out that Sir Huo would leave the manor today. She wanted to take the chance to arrest Sir Huo, then interrogate him about the death of Golden Token Seven. Because they couldn't find Zu An, they could only use such a method to contact him.

Zu An was speechless. He thought to himself, Where did this woman get the confidence to arrest Sir Huo? Didn't she already suffer enough last time? Still, he realized that it was indeed a good opportunity. After all, Sir Huo had always remained in King Yan Manor without ever coming out. Now, he had finally left, so it was no wonder that Zhang Zitong couldn't hold herself back.

As such, he found Zhang Zijiang and Xie Daoyun to tell them a few things, then secretly left the mountain. After the first day of competition, it was already dark. He wasn't too scared of people noticing him. As soon as he left Violet Mountain's territory, he got onto the Wind Fire Wheels to rush toward Yi Commandery.

...

On Violet Mountain, Master Jian Huang opened his eyes. He looked toward a small fiery light departing over the horizon, remarking, "A shooting star approaches the earth, the sign of a big disaster. That day is quickly approaching after all."

A little baldy stuck his head in from outside, replying, "Sign of big breasts? Master, are you talking about Jedefall Palace's Lady Pei?"

Master Jian Huang picked up the wooden fish and struck his head, snapping, "Make another hundred copies of the heart sutra as punishment!"

"You were the one who said it..." the little monk Jie Se said, clutching his head and running away while defending himself. However, what he got in return was an even stronger beating.

...

Zu An continued flying. With the Wind Fire Wheels' speed, he arrived at Yi Commandery soon after. He went directly to the Embroidered Envoy's secret meeting place, and saw that they were preparing something inside and were about to head out.

However, Zhang Zitong was an exception. She wasn't dressed in her usual Embroidered Envoy uniform or her all-black garb; instead, she was wearing an extremely revealing outfit. Her legs were in full view, and there was a veil covering her face. Her clothes were covered in sparkling decorations, which made her look like the Western dancers from China that Zu An had seen before. Meanwhile, Xiao Jianren and the other Embroidered Envoys' eyes couldn't help but dart across Zhang Zitong's body. Her appearance was clearly quite deadly against them.

Several people inside were startled when they saw Zu An arrive, calling out, "We greet Sir Eleven!"

Zhang Zitong thought to herself, He always comes like a ghost. She wondered just how high his cultivation was.

Zu An gave the entire place a look. He saw that Xiao Jianren and the others looked as if they were ready to go and frowned. Then, he asked Zhang Zitong, "Did you not learn your lesson when you almost lost your life in King Yan Manor?"

Zhang Zitong bit her lip, but her stubborn expression remained as she replied, "I was a bit too reckless last time, but it's different this time. We can ambush him, seeing as he's alone. If we miss this chance, who knows how long it will be before any more clues about Sir Seven appear? I was the one who asked them for help, so please don't blame them, Sir Eleven."

Zu An said with a snort, "I fought against that Sir Huo before. It doesn't matter how many you have; you'd just be throwing your lives away."

Zhang Zitong's face turned pale. She opened her mouth to defend herself, but she also felt that she couldn't.

Zu An asked, "Where is that Sir Huo going after leaving the manor?"

Zhang Zitong's expression turned a bit strange. Xiao Jianren helped her by replying, "He's going to the city's largest Wishes Fulfilled."

"Why isn't he going to the Hub of Freedom?" Zu An asked curiously. Just the name alone sounded like some place for prostitution. However, the best place for that in Yi Commandery was supposed to be none other than the Hub of Freedom. However, he quickly realized that King Yan and Hub of Freedom didn't seem to really get along. As a follower of King Yan Manor, it made sense for Sir Huo to not go there.

"He hasn't been doing anything for so long. Why would he suddenly go to Wishes Fulfilled? Is there something wrong here?" Zu An continued. They had spent a lot of effort investigating Sir Huo. If he was a fan of brothels, they would have found that out a long time ago rather than just now, right?

Xiao Jianren sounded a bit upset as he replied, "It's because that old thing's preferences are rather special. He likes them a bit y... younger. A batch he likes finally seems to have arrived."

"Human filth!" Zhang Zitong couldn't help but curse.

Zu An shot Zhang Zitong an angry look and said, "The court clearly prohibits such things. Your Yi Commandery's Embroidered Envoy dares to play around with these things?"

Zhang Zitong looked a bit ashamed too, replying, "In the past, when Sir Seven was here, there were strict investigations. After Sir Seven passed away, the Embroidered Envoy system slowed down. Furthermore, Wishes Fulfilled has its own backing too..."

Zu An took a deep breath and said, "After we catch that old bastard, this Wishes Fulfilled can just be shut down too."

"Understood!" Zhang Zitong replied excitedly. With the support of a Golden Token Envoy, they naturally didn't have to worry so much anymore. After a while, she suddenly realized what he had said and asked, "Is Sir Eleven going to get involved personally?"

Zu An replied impatiently, "If I didn't, could it be that I'd let one of the court's glorious Silver Token Envoys impersonate a Western dancer to seduce him?"

Zhang Zitong's face turned completely red. That had indeed been her plan.

Xiao Jianren immediately sighed in relief, saying, "Things will definitely go smoothly with Sir Eleven here."

"I don't want to hear so much flattery. Hurry up and tell me the details." Zu An harrumphed.

"Let me explain. I know more about Yi Commandery's situation..." Zhang Zitong said, moving closer to him and opening a map. She explained things in detail. They were so close to each other that Zu An could feel how soft her skin was. The air nearby was filled with her body's fragrance, too.

Zu An carefully listened to the entire plan, asking some questions about the details. When they were about to leave, he said to Zhang Zitong, "Go and change your clothes. Embroidered Envoys don't need to sell their bodies to complete their missions."

Zhang Zitong's face was a bit red as she replied, "Understood!" She quickly hid inside the room and began to change her clothes. A few minutes later, she came out again, having recovered her usual valiant appearance.

Xiao Jianren and the others were full of admiration. As expected of Sir Eleven! He wasn't shaken at all even by such temptation, unlike how useless we are.

...

Under the cover of darkness, the group quickly approached Wishes Fulfilled. The others all got into position, while Zu An silently watched everything from above. Xiao Jianren and Zhang Zitong couldn't sense where he was at all. They once again sighed in admiration at how profound and mysterious he was.

Roughly an hour later, Sir Huo appeared in their field of view. He had clearly deliberately changed his appearance, most likely because he didn't want King Yan Manor's people to find out either.

The Embroidered Envoys couldn't carry out their plan on the main street. After all, a place such as Wishes Fulfilled had people coming and going all around it. It would be practically impossible not to alert them that way.

Just then, Sir Huo arrived at Wishes Fulfilled. Soon after, the brothel madam welcomed him in and invited him to a private room.

"Sir, please wait a bit. Your young lady will be here soon," the madam said, picking up the silver ingot and leaving happily while shaking her plump bottom.

Sir Huo felt disgusted looking at that. He harrumphed and remarked, "How can a fat woman like that compare to a thin and delicate little girl?"

He couldn't help but lick his lips as he spoke. He took out a pink pill and tossed it into his mouth. Then, he picked up the teacup on his table and finished it in one go. Soon after, he felt a warm feeling spread through his stomach. A satisfied smile appeared on his face. He'd be able to show his manhood to that little girl soon.

However, his expression suddenly changed. He looked at the teacup and exclaimed, "Poison!"

He quickly got up. Suddenly, the window next to him opened and Several Embroidered Envoys rushed in. In an instant, Soul Reaping Chains wrapped around his arms and legs.

Normal Embroidered Envoys would have been useless against someone like Sir Huo. The ones who had come along were Zhang Zitong, Xiao Jianren, and the two other Silver Token Envoys from Yi Commandery. Their cooperation was tightly-knit, and they didn't even give Sir Huo a moment to respond.

The Embroidered Envoy's Soul Reaping Chains were infamously formidable. If ordinary cultivators were restrained, they wouldn't be able to use any of their ki. They could only await their fate. Sure enough, Sir Huo's entire body trembled, and he seemed to grow weak.

Suddenly, however, the patterns on his forehead activated. They almost seemed to have become a living eye.

"Don't look at his eye!" Zhang Zitong cried out.

However, it was still too late. The four Silver Token Envoys' expressions immediately lost focus. Just like that, they stood in place rigidly, falling into an illusion.

Sir Huo sneered. He leisurely removed the Soul Reaping Chains around him, then shook his entire body. He opened his mouth and spat out a mouthful of tea, forcing out the poison he had just swallowed.

"It's just some trifling Silver Token Envoys, and yet you actually think you can catch this old one?" he remarked as he walked up to Zhang Zitong. He frowned when he looked at her from up close, saying, "You have some looks, but you're a bit too old..."

The pink pill he had just taken began to activate. He suddenly licked his lips, saying, "I've never tried a Silver Token Envoy before. You have some long and pretty legs, so this old one will make a special exception for you to celebrate this great day."

He was about to touch her when a mocking voice suddenly called out from behind him, "Do you know? Those who celebrate prematurely have never experienced good consequences."

### **Chapter 1638: An Impossible Mission**

Sir Huo turned around. He suddenly saw an Embroidered Envoy sitting by the window, whose outfit didn't look quite the same as those of the other Embroidered Envoys. When he examined the patterns up close, he discovered that they were actually dark gold.

"Golden Token Envoy!" Sir Huo muttered, his pupils narrowing. With his status, he naturally knew about the prestige of a Golden Token Envoy.

"I came here to ask you a few questions this time. I hope you will cooperate," Zu An said casually, as if he were talking about something absolutely trivial.

Sir Huo laughed out of annoyance, retorting, "What, you think I have to answer just because you ask a question?" An ordinary person would indeed fear the Embroidered Envoy, but people like him always wandered along the border of darkness. He even had the support of King Yan, so why would he be scared?

"I am only informing you. You do not have the privilege to refuse," Zu An said, glancing at the other Embroidered Envoys. Their expressions continuously changed, but apart from being unconscious, everything else about them was completely normal. They seemed to be experiencing some kind of nightmare.

Sir Huo roared with laughter, as if he had heard the funniest joke in the world. He said, "You should have moved together with them just now. Then, I might really have been taken down."

Now that it was just one-on-one, he wasn't scared of anyone. Furthermore, this person didn't seem to have any great ki aura coming out from him, so he was probably one of the weaker ones among the Golden Token Envoys.

"There was no need," Zu An said indifferently. The main reason he had done so was because he had wanted to personally witness the mental attack first. Otherwise, if he encountered someone who specialized in this field in the future, he could end up being caught off guard. Furthermore, he had really wanted to know whether or not Sir Huo had the ability to subdue Golden Token Seven.

"How arrogant!" Sir Huo snapped. The patterns on his forehead activated again, forming a vertical eye. It released a strange light in Zu An's direction.

Zu An felt his vision blur. The interesting and appealing environment of Wishes Fulfilled was replaced by several massive concrete buildings. All sorts of cars filled the roads, and from time to time, he could even see trams moving in his direction from afar.

The streets were so packed with pedestrians that shoulders often brushed and feet were stepped on. Women were dressed in light and fashionable clothing, while men... well, in comparison, they seemed not to care that much about their outfits.

Nearby, commercials depicting all kinds of celebrities played on the digital screens of shopping malls. Even Zu An's favorite, Xiaolongnu, was there...

This illusion really is formidable; it can even make these things? Zu An thought with a sigh. He said, "This world really is nostalgic... If I hadn't been prepared for this, I might have been completely lost here."

As soon as he spoke, he drew his sword and brandished it. Sword ki slashed outward and covered the entire world. The entire world began to shatter, and Wishes Fulfilled reappeared in front of him.

Sir Huo's eyes were filled with alarm. He clutched the eye on his forehead, and blood seeped out between his fingers. His other hand shook as he pointed at Zu An, muttering, "You... Just who are you?"

The power of that sword had actually destroyed the illusion he created! Just what level of cultivation was this? Since when did Golden Token Envoys have that kind of ability?

With a flick of Zu An's finger, several streaks of energy struck Sir Huo, completely restraining his movements. He said, "I am the one asking the questions now."

Sir Huo's eyes darted from side to side as he said, "Apologies, great sir, but there seems to be a bit of a misunderstanding here... I am King Yan Manor's guest, and I normally respect the law greatly. I have done nothing bad!"

"Don't try to control me with King Yan's name," Zu An said, giving him an indifferent look. His gaze was so sharp, it almost seemed to sting.

Sir Huo shivered. This person in front of him was just too mysterious. He asked, "May I ask what this sir wishes to know? This old... This one will definitely tell you everything I know."

Zu An chuckled and remarked, "To be honest, I liked that arrogant act of yours from earlier more."

Sir Huo laughed apologetically and said, "I wouldn't dare to act arrogant in front of great sir."

"How exactly did Golden Token Seven die?" Zu An suddenly asked.

At first, Sir Huo's expression froze before changing a bit. Then, he said, "I was also quite curious about that. Actually, even the king was also curious. He has been investigating how Golden Token Seven died this whole time."

Zu An said with a scowl, "It seems you're the type who won't cry until you see a coffin."

Sir Huo urgently replied, "Sir, I really didn't fool you!"

"If you still won't talk about it, I'll have to resort to torture," Zu An said coldly.

"What does your respected self want me to say?" Sir Huo replied. He wanted to cry, and yet no tears came out. At the same time, his eyes secretly darted around. He clearly felt that there wasn't much that could be used for torture in the area.

Zu An didn't waste any time with words. He immediately used the Ikuu Experience Card on Sir Huo.

If your back hurts, it might not be because of a blade. If you are screaming your heart and lungs out, it might not be because of pain. What rests on your shoulders might not necessarily be responsibility. Things you are forced to learn might not be a lesson!

Skill effect: Only effective on men. Once a target is selected, it will force them to experience a woman's perspective. They will feel as if they were being powerfully filled by a strong and robust man. One of the four scenarios above will be chosen, and they will continue to scream 'Ikuu ikuu~'.

Note: This skill is ineffective against those without any intimate experiences.

The Embroidered Envoy's torture methods were more thorough, but there was no time to return. Furthermore, it would be hard to ensure that there weren't any spies from King Yan's side. As for this old bastard, he deserved to be punished for his disgusting fetish. He had to have a taste of being bullied by others.

"Ahhh!" Sir Huo screamed miserably. In his mind, several large and burly men suddenly appeared. They held his arms down, then tore off his pants...

“Ikuu ikuu!”

Soon after, Sir Huo’s entire body was shaking on the ground. He mumbled all sorts of unclear words.

Zu An was stunned. Why is this guy so disappointing? He already came that fast? As such, he stopped the skill. He looked at the old man, who was curled up into a ball, and asked, “Are you going to talk now?”

Sir Huo trembled as he clutched his bottom. Then, as if he had been burned, he quickly pulled his hands back. His face was a bit unnaturally red as he said, “Sir, I really wasn’t lying to you.”

Zu An glowered and said, “It seems you still haven’t had enough.” As such, he activated the Ikuu Experience Card again.

“Noooooooooooo!”

Another round of miserable screams emerged.

Zu An gave him a look. He really found the sight a bit harsh on the eyes, so he went over to the window to get some fresh air. A while later, he asked, “Are you going to talk now?”

“I don’t know what to say...”

“Ikuu Experience Card!”

...

A while later, Zu An asked again, “Now?”

“I won’t talk, I absolutely won’t!” Sir Huo replied; surprisingly, his attitude just seemed to have become tougher and tougher. “Why don’t you do that again to me if you have the skill?!”

Zu An’s expression quickly turned incredibly strange. When he saw that the old guy’s expression was gradually starting to turn into one of pleasure, he wondered whether Sir Huo was just struggling to hold on, or if he had actually changed...

When he thought about what Sir Huo did to little girls normally, disgust appeared on Zu An’s face. He didn’t use the Ikuu Experience Card anymore, and instead raised his hand. A small black hole appeared in the center of his palm and he said, “Last chance. If you still won’t speak, I’ll suck all of your cultivation away, then throw you out on the streets.”

When he saw the black hole in Zu An’s palm, a hint of fear flickered across Sir Huo’s face. He cried, “I’ll speak, I’ll speak!”

In this world, there was nothing more important than cultivation. Cultivation was money, cultivation got you beauties... If he became a cripple, King Yan would definitely abandon him. Furthermore, with all the enemies he’d made over the years, he would absolutely wish he were dead. More importantly, once one had a taste of what it felt like to be at the top, they wouldn’t be willing to stay at the bottom.

When he saw Zu An staring at him coldly, Sir Huo gulped and quickly said, “Golden Token Seven was investigating King Yan Manor’s military supplies, so King Yan wanted to get rid of him.”

“King Yan Manor’s military supplies?” Zu An exclaimed in surprise. No wonder Golden Token Seven’s mood had been so grave; it turned out he had been investigating something related to a king and didn’t dare to recklessly make a report without proper evidence. Zu An continued, “Be more specific!”

Once he began to speak, Sir Huo let go of his earlier misgivings. He explained, “Over the years, King Yan has secretly raised several personal troops and roped in many powerful experts. In order to accomplish that, he needed a huge amount of money. As such, he was secretly doing business with the Fiend races, sending the court’s military supplies and some standard goods to the Fiend races for money, precious ores, medicines, and other such things. Golden Token Seven apparently caught onto some traces of that exchange, so King Yan was furious and said he had to be eliminated.”

Zu An finally understood what was happening. Previously in Cloudcenter Commandery, he had found out that the Pegasus Merchant Group had King Yan behind it.

Now, after combining all of this information together... All of the private industries in Cloudcenter Commandery were related to King Qi, so King Yan wanted to borrow someone else to do his dirty work. If King Qi’s forces were driven out, he could then take their place. Unfortunately, I ruined everything right when he was on the cusp of success, so it’s no wonder he hates me so much.

As for Golden Token Seven finding out about these things, he was no doubt horrified. After all, a king was doing business with the enemy and raising a personal army, which are clear signs of rebellion. That’s why he didn’t dare to say anything before he found concrete proof. Otherwise, if he falsely accused a king, that would only bring his own clan a great disaster. Still, he never expected King Yan to strike first, and so viciously!

“How many private troops has King Yan raised?” Zu An asked.

Sir Huo shook his head and replied, “I do not know. All of those things are top-level secrets. A follower like me does not have access to much information.”

“Do you really not know, or are you just pretending?” Zu An asked, bringing the Heaven Devouring Sutra closer to Sir Huo’s head.

Feeling as if his cultivation was about to leave his body, Sir Huo was horrified. He replied, “I really don’t know! But I know that King Yan has an account book that records his trade with the Fiend races, as well as the people involved.”

“Where is that account book?”

“It is in a private room behind King Yan’s study. There are many layers of mechanisms, but there is no way any outsiders could obtain it.”

### **Chapter 1639: Fishy**

“Why?” Zu An pressed on.

Sir Huo replied, “King Yan Manor’s security is strict, and King Yan’s study is even better guarded, being a place of the utmost importance. Furthermore, King Yan has roped in formidable individuals from all over the world of warriors, and set them to stand guard near the study. The study has heavy layers of defenses as well, so there is naturally no way to obtain the account book.”

“What kind of mechanisms are there?” Zu An shouted.

Sir Huo’s expression changed. He replied, “Don’t tell me that you really are going to go after that account book? It’s impossible.”

“I ask, you answer. I don’t need anything else from you,” Zu An said coldly.

Sir Huo swallowed and said, “The exact mechanisms are a secret, held to the highest level of confidentiality, so I do not know. However, I know that the account book’s storage has a self-destruct mechanism in place. If anything unusual happens, the account book will be destroyed. This is something King Yan accidentally revealed when he drank too much one day.”

Zu An figured that, considering how the account book practically carried all the evidence of King Yan’s conspiracy, it was only natural for him to guard it so carefully. Afterward, he asked a few more questions. When there was nothing else he could get, he knocked Sir Huo unconscious.

Then, he started waking up the other Embroidered Envoys. However, after being trapped in the illusion, they couldn’t be woken up by normal shouts, so he could only use his Hundredwarble skill a bit to rouse them.

“Don’t look into his eyes!”

When they woke up, they all rushed to the corners of the room. However, when they saw the situation, they were all stunned. Zhang Zitong’s expression was full of disbelief as she looked at Sir Huo on the ground, exclaiming, “Sir Eleven has already subdued him?”

Zu An didn’t reply. Xiao Jianren immediately flattered him by saying, “Sir Eleven truly is profound and unfathomable! Even someone as formidable as Sir Huo was so easily subdued!”

...

Zhang Zitong had a conflicted expression. She had believed herself to be one of the best among Yi Commandery’s Embroidered Envoys, and yet even she hadn’t been able to do a thing against Sir Huo.

It seemed that Sir Huo hadn’t used all of his strength in King Yan Manor! However, under threat of losing his life, he hadn’t held back at all just now. Zhang Zitong had immediately entered the illusion and couldn’t escape at all.

“I’ve already asked him practically everything I had to ask. I’ll task you with watching over him,” Zu An said, then repeated the intelligence he had received to them.

Xiao Jianren exclaimed in shock, “King Yan is actually plotting a rebellion?!”

Whether it was the smuggling of military goods to the Fiend races or the raising of private troops, they were both huge crimes! The Silver Token Envoys all looked at each other in dismay, because they knew what that signified.

“No wonder they would take such a huge risk and kill Sir Seven!” Zhang Zitong said through clenched teeth.

Those present nodded inwardly. They hadn't been able to figure out just why someone would so brazenly kill a Golden Token Envoy. The risk and reward hadn't lined up at all! Now, they finally understood. King Yan had found out that Golden Token Seven was investigating him, so he'd had no choice but to kill him.

"Sir Eleven, we'll immediately report this discovery to the higher-ups," Zhang Zitong said with an expression full of hatred.

Zu An shook his head and replied, "We don't have conclusive proof. That's also the reason why Golden Token Seven didn't report this matter."

"Isn't there a human witness right here?" Zhang Zitong asked, pointing at Sir Huo on the ground.

The normally imposing Sir Huo now looked more like a worn-out old man. His pants were pulled slightly down with half of his goods exposed. They looked seriously ravaged. Zhang Zitong's expression immediately became a bit strange. Could it be that Sir Eleven always remained indifferent to me because he likes this type?

Zu An didn't know that his image was breaking down in the heart of a young lady. He explained, "A human testimony isn't enough to bring down King Yan. He could just deny it flatly, and then there would be no real way to get revenge for Sir Seven."

Xiao Jianren was startled, asking, "Could it be that Sir Eleven plans to find that mysterious account book?"

Zu An nodded. Finding the account book wasn't enough, either; he had to investigate and find other conclusive proof according to the information recorded on it.

"Could this be a trap?" Zhang Zitong asked worriedly.

"That's why I need you to investigate a bit, and find me everything you can about where that account book is stored," Zu An ordered.

"Understood!" Zhang Zitong, Xiao Jianren, and the others cupped their hands and accepted the order. Normally, such a secretive affair was something that outsiders had no way of investigating. But they were the Embroidered Envoy, so they had their ways.

"Right, this matter is extremely important, so be sure not to leak any information. Otherwise, you might quickly follow Sir Seven to the grave," Zu An warned them. If King Yan became vigilant, getting rid of a few Embroidered Envoys in his territory wouldn't be too difficult.

Zhang Zitong and the others shivered. Their expressions became grave.

Zu An nodded. He was about to leave when he suddenly remembered something and turned around, saying, "This Wishes Fulfilled can't be allowed to continue. Be careful while taking care of this. Don't let King Yan notice anything."

"Don't worry. This is our area of expertise. We won't let King Yan suspect anything," Zhang Zitong replied.

Zu An thus felt relieved, and quickly disappeared into the darkness.

...

He hurried through the night. By the time he returned to Violet Mountain, it was already very late in the evening, and Xie Daoyun was sleeping soundly in the outer room. When she was awake, she was like a gentle and refined lady, but she wasn't so honest when she was sleeping. Half of the covers were about to touch the ground, exposing her thin undergarments. Her fair skin was faintly discernible.

Zu An couldn't help but chuckle. This silly girl really didn't have any sense of vigilance. He carefully walked over to properly cover her up again.

"Who?!" Xie Daoyun cried as she suddenly woke up.

Their eyes met. Zu An couldn't really lower the covers in his hand, but he couldn't raise them any higher either. He replied awkwardly, "Would you believe me if I said I was helping you with your covers?"

Xie Daoyun's fair skin immediately turned red. She snatched her sheets from his hands and replied hurriedly, "Thank you, big brother Zu!"

Zu An thought, What is going on? The gentlemanly image I took so much care to craft is completely ruined now! If he had known it would end up like this, he wouldn't even have bothered. In order to ease the awkwardness, he asked, "Did anyone come looking for me tonight?"

"No," Xie Daoyun said, shaking her head. She suddenly remembered something and added, "Right, Jadenfall Palace's side sent over some gifts as thanks, and they came with a message from Lady Pei saying that she's recovering with the help of her master right now. She'll come over a few days later to personally express her gratitude."

Zu An was moved. He figured that Big Manman was probably with her master all the time and couldn't come over, and she was worried that if he headed over now, he could bump into her master, so she had sent the message to warn him.

"Big brother Zu, did you finish what you had to do?" Xie Daoyun asked. She felt that it was rude to be lying down, but when she thought about standing up, she realized that she wasn't dressed appropriately.

"More or less. I might have to run around a few more times," Zu An said. He noticed her awkwardness and got up, adding, "Little sister Ling'er should sleep well. I won't be disturbing you." Then, he went into the inner room quickly, practically running inside.

"Ah... That was so embarrassing!" Xie Daoyun muttered as she grabbed her blankets and buried her head under them. "Big brother Zu won't think I was trying to seduce him on purpose, will he?"

She had actually always dressed formally due to nervousness. But how could a pampered daughter like her endure something like that? She knew that her big brother Zu was a gentleman, and as he had said that he was leaving tonight, she had changed back into more comfortable clothing to sleep in. She hadn't expected him to just happen to see her like that!

She was ashamed and annoyed when she thought of that. She wasn't upset at Zu An, but rather at herself. She didn't know how to clear things up at all.

...

When Zu An returned to his bed, his mind was filled with the sight of that 'sleeping beauty'. However, he quickly shook those thoughts out of his head and began to think about King Yan's account book. Was he supposed to report it if he got his hands on it? After all, the enemy of his enemy was his friend, right?

However, the memory of fighting alongside Golden Token Seven appeared. The hesitation in his mind gradually disappeared.

It seems I need to find a time to contact Yi Commandery's governor.

But running back and forth really is too tiring. It would be great if I had a cloning skill.

Wait, if I cloned myself, would I end up cucking myself?

...

By the next day, the Righteous Sun Sect already finished repairing the arenas. The sects continued the competition.

At the end of the day, the nine groups' first place members had been decided. Apart from Zhi Yin's group being upset, the other eight groups all had representative disciples leading them. The eight individuals with the best achievements apart from those first place winners thus began their brutal competition.

Zhi Yin had become one of them as well. After an entire night of treatment from Guan Chouhai using all sorts of spiritual herbs, he had barely managed to recover a bit of fighting strength. Meanwhile, his opponent came from Kunlun Void Sect. He initially planned to take advantage of Zhi Yin's seriously wounded state, but he ended up exposing an opening.

Zhi Yin seized it and left him confused with a Push of the Iron Mountain, then the Shadowless Ball brutally took down his opponent. He was full of resentment from his previous loss, so he used the Shadowless Ball at its full strength. Each dribble was terrifying, and it always attacked unpredictably.

The other disciples clicked their tongues when they saw the fight. Even the seriously injured Zhi Yin had such ridiculous strength! It was easy to see just how much of a difference there was between the representative disciples and other disciples. At the same time, they felt even more admiration for Pei Mianman. She had actually defeated Zhi Yin at his best! Just what kind of a monster was she?

Apart from Zhi Yin, the Heavenly Sorrow Sect's Zhao Xiaodie also successfully seized a spot. Her figure that was as beautiful as a butterfly left Golden Peak's spectators with a deep impression. Between that and her status as a princess, her reputation climbed higher and higher, to the point where it was on par with the two publicly acknowledged goddesses, Chu Chuyan and Pei Mianman.

The last two spots were both seized by the Righteous Sun Sect. One was the disciple who had been welcoming guests by the gate, Zhang Xi, while the other was the chief disciple of Thunderous Peak. The spectators sighed in admiration once again; the Righteous Sun Sect was the most powerful, as expected. Out of the thirteen spots, they had actually seized three!

Over the next few days, the competition would decide who the number one among the youngest generation was, so the four who had made it out of the group stage wouldn't join. After all, the reason

why they had taken second place in their groups was that they had already lost to the ones in first place. In order to become the true number one of the daoist sects, one couldn't afford even a single loss.

Thus, the nine combatants were set to draw lots to see who they would face. One of them would draw a bye, while the others would face each other viciously.

The results of the lot drawing were revealed:

Righteous Sun Sect Wu Xiaofan versus Mount Luofu Luo Dongjiang;

Jadefall Palace Wan Guiyi versus Purity Temple Qiu Chanzi;

White Jade Sect Lou Wucheng versus Supreme Mystery Cave Shi Dingtian;

Kunlun Void Liang Ling versus Emptiness Isle Peng Wuyan.

Meanwhile, Pei Mianman luckily drew a bye!

Yun Jianyue was really annoyed by the result. She muttered, "There's definitely something fishy about that big-boobed woman getting a bye! That rascal probably messed with the results!"

#### **Chapter 1640: Luring a Tiger from Its Domain**

Qiu Honglei rolled her eyes and replied, "It's not as if he picked these lots for us. We picked them ourselves, so what could he have done?"

Yun Jianyue harrumphed. "Either way, there are more than enough ways to fix the results. I'm sure he saw that the big-boobed woman was injured and that fighting in her state would be disadvantageous, so he gave her a bye for more time to recover."

"Master, why do you keep calling her 'big-boobed woman'? You're clearly not that small yourself," Qiu Honglei replied with a strange expression. "Besides, I feel as if you're a bit too nervous for no reason."

Yun Jianyue was alarmed, but she quickly said, "Hmph, look at this heartless disciple of mine. Your master is clearly worrying for your sake, and yet you're saying things like this."

Qiu Honglei wrapped her arm around Yun Jianyue's with a big smile, replying, "Master is the best~"

Yun Jianyue released a deep sigh and said, "In the future, you'll find out that your master isn't actually that great."

Qiu Honglei was stunned. But she quickly said, "I don't care. Master is definitely the one who's been the best to me ever since I was little."

The other disciples all glanced in their direction. This Peng Wuyan was clearly so ugly, and yet she was still trying to act cute and throw a tantrum? They really found it a bit hard to watch.

...

Now that the competition for the day had finished, all the sects returned to their temporary quarters. The sect seniors helped their disciples review the matches that had happened, going over what went well, what didn't, and how to improve. However, representative disciples were given preferential

treatment by their sect leaders or elders. They analyzed their opponents' condition and put together battle plans.

As a judge, Zu An had much more leisure time. When he had some free time, he went directly to Jedefall Palace to reunite with Big Manman after such a long time. They still hadn't had a proper conversation yet.

When he arrived at Jedefall Palace, the disciples at the entrance immediately became much more respectful when they saw him. After Zu An expressed his intentions, they didn't stop him and let him enter.

Zu An chuckled in self-mockery. A few days prior, these disciples definitely wouldn't have been so agreeable.

His arrival immediately created a disturbance. Many disciples came out to secretly observe him. After all, they were similar in age, to the extent that Zu An was younger than some of them, and yet he had been able to defeat a master rank cultivator at the power form stage! That was just way too shocking. Furthermore, Zu An had helped out Jedefall Palace, so most of them had a good impression of him.

The female disciples in particular were starry-eyed when they looked at him. Some of the more daring ones even tried to start a conversation, but they were quickly stopped by the ones around them.

"What are you doing?!"

"Can't I just say hi?"

"Tsk, we all know what you're really thinking. But he clearly came for junior sister Pei. Do you think you're better than junior sister Pei?"

When they recalled Pei Mianman's stunning features and domineering chest, the excited and high-spirited female disciples immediately felt as if they had been splashed with cold water. They completely gave up on their plans of talking to Zu An.

...

When he saw the discussions all around him, Zu An couldn't help but chuckle. Suddenly, a young man with a wild and arrogant expression blocked his path. He saw that it was Jedefall Palace's representative disciple, Wan Guiyi, and asked, "Can I help you with something?"

This person always has his nose pointed at the sky; he's not here to challenge me, right?

Wan Guiyi's expression changed. In the end, he said with a conflicted expression, "Just how do you cultivate?"

That was what he just couldn't figure out. They were clearly similar in age, and he was the sect's publicly acknowledged genius. In the past, he had thought that he was number one among his peers. He could never have imagined that the difference between him and Zu An would be so big.

"Guiyi, you must not treat Sir Zu with disrespect," Wan Tongtian spoke up just then.

He had received a report from the disciples and quickly arrived to welcome Zu An. However, he just happened to see his son stop Zu An, which made him break out into a cold sweat. He knew what his son was like better than anyone else. Wan Guiyi loved to challenge strong individuals; things would become really troublesome if he said something wrong. That Zu An always had a smile on his face, but he was extremely ruthless when he took action. If Wan Guiyi got seriously injured from issuing a challenge, that would end up affecting his match later.

“Palace Lord Wan!” Zu An said, cupping his hands toward Wan Tongtian.

When he saw Zu An’s friendly expression, Wan Tongtian felt rather overwhelmed by favor, replying, “The favor Sir Zu showed us earlier will be remembered by this one.”

A few days prior, he had actually looked down a bit at this pretty face. He had thought that the court was simply becoming more and more corrupt, letting a youngster without any skill take on such an important position. Now, however, he just sighed at the court’s power. They really had a galaxy of talent under them! The gap between the court and the sects from the world of warriors was growing larger and larger.

...

The two exchanged some greetings, then Zu An left to find Pei Mianman. Before leaving, he stopped and replied to Wan Guiyi, “Maybe I’m just lucky?”

Wan Guiyi was stunned. What kind of a reply is this? Then were all my years of hard work a joke?

Zu An didn’t realize that something he had said without much thought would make this youngster question life. Right now, the only thing on his mind was Big Manman.

When Pei Mianman saw him, she was happy and surprised. After all, she had even sent a message telling him to only come after some time had passed.

“Miss Pei, how is your recovery going?” Zu An asked. Because Elder Huo Ling was watching vigilantly nearby, he didn’t dare to act too familiar.

After all, Chu Chuyan and Yan Xuehen were both here too. The rumors about him and Chuyan had already created such a huge commotion; if people found out that he also had a relationship with Pei Mianman, the whole place could turn into a hellish battleground.

“Thank you, Sir Zu. I’ve recovered around sixty to seventy percent,” Pei Mianman replied politely. She knew that her master hated romantic talk the most, and was worried that Elder Huo would be hurt if she found out. Thus, with the two’s tacit teamwork, neither one of them exposed their real relationship.

“Only sixty to seventy percent?” Zu An replied. He couldn’t help but frown. Even if she had two extra days to rest compared to the others, sixty to seventy percent was bad news against the other representative disciples.

Elder Huo Ling sighed and said, “Heavenly Sorrow’s Zhi Yin is still a respectable genius, after all. His final strike left Manman with a serious injury. The fact that we were able to get to where we are was already the best result after doing everything we could.”

It was only because Zu An had helped them before that she had such a good temper right now. If another male disciple had tried to approach Manman at any other time, they would already have been chased away.

Zu An said to Pei Mianman through ki, "Manman, I'll come and help you at night."

Pei Mianman's face turned red. She quickly replied, "No, don't! Master will still be here."

Zu An frowned. That was a problem. If Elder Huo Ling and Manman were going to stick to each other that way, he really wouldn't have any way of meeting her. However, he suddenly thought of something and asked, "Do you have Wan Tongtian or Elder Huo Ling's handwriting?"

Pei Mianman was confused for a moment, but she replied, "I do. In the past, Palace Master Wan and master wrote some cultivation tips for important disciples like us."

Zu An smiled and replied, "Then that makes things easy."

He found a chance to distract Elder Huo Ling, then secretly received a small booklet from Pei Mianman. Afterward, he got up and bade them farewell. He left in a light and cheerful manner.

As Elder Huo Ling looked at him, she looked a bit confused, remarking, "Why do I feel that this Sir Zu is acting a bit strange?"

"I don't think so. I think he's quite a good person," Pei Mianman replied with a guilty conscience.

"Hmph, that kid is probably just after your looks. You should stay some distance away from him in the future." Elder Huo Ling suddenly harrumphed.

Pei Mianman grimaced inwardly before replying, "Master, but he helped me!"

"If he hadn't helped you, do you think I would have let him even come that close to you?" Elder Huo Ling replied with a stiff expression. "That brat had a really treacherous smile on his face. He was probably thinking of something filthy."

Pei Mianman's face reddened. She thought to herself, My master clearly doesn't have much relationship experience, so why is she so sharp?

"Just remember this. All men in this world are trash," Elder Huo Ling said resentfully.

Pei Mianman wanted to say that there were still good men in this world. But knowing her master's past, she didn't want to anger her any further. She was really worried, thinking, If Zu An really is going to come at night, and my master finds out, what am I supposed to do...

...

Meanwhile, Zu An hurriedly returned to his own courtyard. He took out Wan Tongtian's letter and began to copy its style.

'Junior sister, in the past, accidents arose from many causes, and there were quite a few misunderstandings. I have always felt ill at ease, and have many things I wish to say to you... Let us meet under the willow tree under the moonlight by the edge of the heavenly lake after dark. Under the flowering tree, I will wait until we see one another...'

Then, he took out another letter.

'Senior brother, at midnight, let us talk at the peak of the heavenly lake. There is something I want to tell you...'

Elder Huo Ling looked strict and unreasonable, but Zu An knew that those kinds of people only became that way because of hatred born of unrequited love. Inside, she was probably still like a young girl who definitely longed for love. As long as Wan Tongtian stepped back a bit, she would most likely accept him.

In contrast, Wan Tongtian was a bit more troublesome. After all, his child was already so big. If Zu An wrote in a way that was too romantic, firstly, that wouldn't sound like Elder Huo Ling's style at all, and secondly, Wan Tongtian could just refuse to go out of anger. He would be easier to convince with official business.

Zu An finished preparing everything. However, when he saw the two letters, he still couldn't help but shake his head. Even though he had learned how to draw from Yu Yanluo and made good progress, his writing was still lacking in maturity. It could be enough to fool normal people, but it was a stretch to think his forgery would convince two grandmasters.

Suddenly, Xie Daoyun gently called out by the entrance, "Big brother Zu, what are you busy with right now?"

Zu An's eyes lit up. There's a way!