

Immortal 771

Chapter 771: All Alone

Zu An felt goosebumps when he heard those words. He really had been too careless this time! He had been appreciating Concubine Bai's scent just now, yet he was getting punished for it so soon afterward.

However, he had already been through many tough situations, so he reacted quickly as well. He immediately said with a sigh, "I think it's the fragrance of that southern border expert Jia Sili. Her Spirit Master technique really is hard to deal with. I was almost done in by her illusion!"

"Spirit Master?" Sure enough, Chu Chuyan's attention was redirected as she said, "Spirit Masters are a kind of expert found in the southern border, and they're unpredictable and hard to deal with. They're capable of silently taking a life."

"Indeed, when our Great Zhou fought against the southern border in the past, we suffered severe casualties because of their Spirit Masters," Murong Qinghe said. She had spent a lot of time in the army, so she knew some of these things. "The name Jia Sili sounds a bit familiar. I think she made the court's experts suffer considerably. Big brother Zu, you were actually able to survive after facing her?!"

Her eyes sparkled. She had always revered the strong. Whether it was the time she had faced Zu An herself or his various accomplishments as of late, all of it left her in awe.

If big brother Chu were strong like this, how great would that be? Murong Qinghe thought to herself. Ah! What am I thinking? Big brother Chu is best just the way he is, pretty and gentle. I'll do all of the fighting and dirty work.

Chu Chuyan quickly asked Zu An about his battle against Jia Sili. Zu An gave them a rough summary of what had happened, because he was worried that she might be at a disadvantage if she faced a Spirit Master in the future. That was why he emphasized Jia Sili's attack methods. Of course, he changed the female lead Yun Yuqing to Chu Chuyan. Sigh, I need more practice cultivating the playboy arts...

Sure enough, when she heard that Zu An had made the entire world his enemy in the illusion, and that he had even fought against the emperor, Chu Chuyan was incredibly moved.

Chu Youzhao's face was red from excitement. My brother-in-law is so awesome! He's the best and strongest person in the world!

Even Murong Qinghe's eyes began to be dazzled, darting toward Zu An from time to time, and then back to Chu Chuyan. A slightly conflicted expression flickered across her face momentarily.

Zu An secretly wiped his cold sweat. He had worried that these girls who were raised as faithful patriots would feel that his behavior was disgraceful. But he hadn't expected these types of love stories to be so potent against women. No wonder Yun Yuqing had been so moved when she had heard such stories back then... Pah pah pah! Why am I still thinking about other girls right now? I'm fucking trash!

Zu An suddenly noticed some luggage off to the side. He was stunned and asked, "Why do you have all of this with you? Are you going on a trip somewhere?"

Chu Chuyan's expression grew sad as she answered, "It's not a trip; I have to go back to Brightmoon City."

"What?" Zu An exclaimed, agitated.

Chu Chuyan said, "I just received news from my mother that something major happened back home in the Chu clan. That's why I have to go back and take care of it."

Chu Youzhao added, "Even though there wasn't much time left, big sis still wanted to say goodbye to you first. When she heard that something happened to you, she could no longer remain calm and was pacing back and forth nervously here. I've never seen her so nervous in my life!"

Chu Chuyan harrumphed. "She's exaggerating."

Zu An laughed, and then pulled her over by the waist. "Isn't it natural for a husband and wife to be worried for each other? Give me a kiss."

Chu Chuyan's ears turned red. "There are still people here."

"Go, leave, get out of here. Stop getting in the way of our lover's world." Zu An waved his hands, impatiently chasing away the two third wheels.

"You guys are so embarrassing!" Chu Youzhao and Murong Qinghe giggled as they ran out. Despite having said that, they were actually jealous of such a relationship.

They had seen many cases of husbands and wives treating each other with superficial respect their entire lives, acting proper and courteous. There was nothing wrong with that; it was what they had been taught growing up. However, as women, they always felt that such relationships were missing a bit of passion and affection.

On the contrary, Zu An's entirely different style was extremely fresh to them. They could sense the passion and brilliance of life emanating from him.

The two peeped into the room after walking out of the door. Murong Qinghe couldn't help but ask quietly, "Say, do you think your brother-in-law is going to do that to your sister..." A pink blush appeared on her tanned skin halfway through her sentence. It was clear that the scene she had accidentally seen that night had left her with quite the impact.

She often dreamed about that scene at night. Only, the female lead would sometimes be Chu Chuyan, and sometimes herself. The male lead would sometimes be Zu An, and sometimes Chu Youzhao... She became extremely embarrassed whenever she thought about it. Why the hell would I dream about another man? I can't let big brother Chu know...

Chu Youzhao also had a strange expression. "Probably not, right...?" She wasn't so sure, though. She knew what kind of pervert her brother-in-law was.

"Should we go and take a look?" Murong Qinghe was rather bold to begin with, so she was eager to give it a try.

Chu Youzhao jumped in fright. "You'd better not! No way!" She wasn't worried about her big sister, because they were all girls, so she didn't care if Murong Qinghe saw that. She just felt it would be really bad if Murong Qinghe saw her brother-in-law.

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While the pair was whispering outside, the two inside weren't doing what they had imagined. Instead, they were just embracing each other affectionately.

"Chuyan, what's so important that you have to go back?" Zu An asked reluctantly. Once Chuyan left, he really would feel like a complete foreigner here.

Chu Chuyan leaned against his chest. "I don't know exactly either, but mother definitely wouldn't speak without thinking. Something major has definitely happened back in the Chu clan."

Zu An's voice rose as he asked, "Is someone targeting the Chu clan? For better or for worse, I'm a rising star in the capital. Just let me know and I'll get rid of them."

"I know, you're amazing." Chu Chuyan couldn't help but laugh. "But as for what it is exactly, I'll only know once I go back and take a look myself."

"Okay. I really can't bear to see you leave..." Zu An looked at her sadly.

"Ah Zu, I don't want to leave you either." Chu Chuyan looked back reluctantly.

The two kissed each other passionately, as if they wanted to completely assimilate the other party into themselves.

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By the time Zu An saw Chu Chuyan out of the city outskirts, the redness on her face still hadn't faded. She said, "Ah Zu, I'll come back to see you as soon as I finish what I need to do in Brightmoon City."

"Okay. Let me know as soon as you return. I have some resources I can use in the capital now, so we don't have to be bullied like before anymore," Zu An reminded her.

Chu Chuyan voiced her acknowledgment. Then, she said to her little sister, "Youzhao, you have to take good care of your brother-in-law while I'm gone."

Zu An was stunned. "Aren't you getting the order wrong?"

Even Murong Qinghe was confused. Her big brother Chu was a gentle and beautiful man. Why did he have to take care of this thick skinned fellow?

Chu Chuyan shook her head. "Youzhao grew up under the care of his grandfathers, and he has Qinghe to help him as well, so I'm not too worried about him. But you've always been in danger during your time in the capital. You won't be so lucky every time."

Chu Youzhao became excited. She stuck out her chest and said, "Big sis, don't worry! I'll definitely take care of brother-in-law."

Zu An smiled. He took Chu Chuyan's hands into his own when he sensed her concern. "Chuyan, thank you."

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They had originally planned to separate in the city outskirts, but they walked another several dozen li together beyond that. In the end, they still had to separate.

When he returned to the capital, Zu An's mood wasn't too great. Chu Youzhao knew that he wasn't in a good mood, so she didn't bother him either and left with Murong Qinghe to give him some space.

Zu An sat on his bed in a stupor. Big Manman had left, Snow had left, Zheng Dan had left, Qiu Honglei had left, and now Chuyan had also left. He felt all alone in this world.

"Do you need someone to drink with?" said a chilly voice by the window.

Zu An turned around. The first thing that met his eyes was a pair of long, stunning legs. "Principal Jiang?"

Chapter 772, Part 1: The Royal Academy's Eighth Senior

Her thighs were thick, but her calves were slender, drawing a perfect curve. Together with her fair and smooth skin, it formed a powerful contrast.

But Zu An wasn't in the mood to admire any of that. He gave the mature and sophisticated woman seated on the windowsill a look of surprise and asked, "Principal Jiang, what are you doing here?"

"I heard you were ambushed, so I came to take a look. The Xie siblings wanted to come as well, but Xie Daoyun was instructed to practice rune drawing by her teacher, while Xie Xiu's teacher made him play chess with him. They're quite busy, so they entrusted me to visit you." Jiang Luofu's fine black hair was held up with a jade hairpin, making her long and slender neck appear even more graceful. She was wearing a pair of elegant flat-framed glasses today as well.

If Zu An had seen her at any other time, videos of sexy teachers, secretaries, and office ladies might have already filled his head. Even now, he was dazed as he looked at the familiar figure in front of him. It was as if he had returned to his old world.

"Did you hurt your head? Your face looks pretty stupid right now." Jiang Luofu grinned.

Zu An was upset. "You aren't acting like a caring visitor at all, but more like you came here to make fun of me."

"Don't you look fine?" Jiang Luofu leaped down from the window and walked over gracefully, her long and slender legs on display.

Zu An had to admit that just watching this woman walk was the most delightful scene. Not many of the girls from the media he used to watch could compare to this principal.

"There's quite a bit of dust on your window. You should clean it sometime," Jiang Luofu said, frowning slightly while patting away some dust from her bottom.

Zu An said a bit apologetically, "It hasn't been long since I moved into this place, and there's no one around to help me clean it up. Only a few servants were added recently." He couldn't help but think of Chu Chuyan when he thought of that. She usually seemed cold and aloof, but she was the one who cared the most about him.

"Why didn't you come in through the front? Why did you have to jump in through the window?" he asked. Even though there were simple defensive formations in place around this residence, they clearly couldn't stop true experts.

Jiang Luofu said with a gloomy expression, "I did try to go in from the front, but those servants said that you weren't in a good mood, and that you weren't taking guests. What else could I do but break in then?"

"Sorry." Zu An chuckled in embarrassment, now remembering his earlier discouragement. That was why he had indeed warned those servants beforehand.

"Looks like your mood really wasn't too great today. If it were any other day, you would have already said a bunch of nonsense to me. What happened?" Jiang Luofu was a bit surprised.

"Nonsense, am I that type of person?" Zu An replied, standing up. However, he quickly became listless again as he said, "Chuyan went back to Brightmoon City."

Jiang Luofu voiced her surprise. "I didn't expect you to be someone so affectionate."

Zu An was stunned. He replied, "Sis, you're praising me, but why do I feel like you're mocking me?"

Jiang Luofu laughed, but as she approached Zu An, her expression turned serious. "I heard that you might have been hit by a siege crossbow. How's the injury now?"

"It's fine—" Zu An began, but he was interrupted before he could even finish.

Jiang Luofu cut him off. "Take off your clothes and let me take a look."

Zu An was speechless. Are these mature big sisters all so aggressive? Why do I feel like I'm losing my place as the protagonist?

While Zu An was hesitating, Jiang Luofu had already walked over to his side. She took off his clothes without any explanation.

Zu An was stunned as he asked, "Principal Jiang, are you trying to assault me?"

"Why would I assault a brat like you?" Jiang Luofu laughed and said, "Also, I'm no longer a principal, so you don't need to call me that anymore."

"You're not a principal anymore?" Zu An asked, stunned.

"Did you already forget that I told you I was transferred back to the capital's Royal Academy? The principal is now Libationer Chen," Jiang Luofu explained while examining his body. "Hm? It really did penetrate your chest! But why did this wound heal so quickly?"

No matter how fast Zu An's recovery was, the wound was extremely massive. The color of the newly replaced skin was still a bit lighter, and there were signs of scabbing.

"It's not as if you don't know what kind of crazy abilities I have." Zu An chuckled. Either way, the other party had never seen anyone else with transcendent level aptitude, so she couldn't prove him wrong.

Jiang Luofu propped up her chin with one hand and said to herself, "The transcendent level aptitude has such strong regeneration abilities? That's too ridiculous! No wonder there weren't many of them, and yet eventually, all of them became legendary figures."

Zu An really couldn't take it anymore. It was one thing for her to be all dressed up like an office lady, but now, even her current posture was incredibly seductive. Sigh, aren't these women just baiting me into doing something bad?

Jiang Luofu snapped out of her daze shortly after and said, "Right, apart from checking up on you, there was something else I wanted to say to you today."

"What is it?" Zu An's frivolous smile faded when he saw that Jiang Luofu was serious.

"According to what I found out in these past few days, I discovered that you've already suffered several assassination attempts since you arrived in the capital. Furthermore, there are several powers who are opposed to you, both in the open and in the dark." Jiang Luofu's gaze revealed a bit of concern.

Zu An sighed. "What can I say? I always draw attention wherever I go, and all men become jealous. They naturally wish I were dead."

"Your mouth is always the same after all." Jiang Luofu chuckled and asked, "Do you still remember your identity as a teacher in Brightmoon Academy?"

"Yeah, but that was just a temporary post," Zu An muttered.

Jiang Luofu was silent for a moment. Eventually she said, "I'll try to see if I can get you the title of a teacher in the Royal Academy again. This way, with the identity of a Royal Academy teacher, I believe those powers will have to have more misgivings before doing anything to you."

Zu An was a bit surprised. "Principal Jiang, why are you so good to me?"

"Maybe we were brought together by fate." Jiang Luofu smiled and said, "But don't think anything strange. This is purely out of favor for you, as well as your transcendent aptitude that has raised my interest. I want to see for myself just how far you'll go."

"There's not even a speck of love?" Zu An asked, sounding a bit disappointed.

Jiang Luofu's expression darkened. "Get lost!"

A while later, she said, "Follow me to the academy. We'll pay Sir Libationer a visit. If you want to become a teacher in the academy, you need his approval." Jiang Luofu got up from her seat. Her long legs truly were fair and dazzling.

"Okay." Zu An had already wanted to pay the libationer a visit to get some answers to his confusion.

"Then let's leave now." Jiang Luofu gestured with her fingers, and then turned around to leave.

When the servants saw Zu An follow her out, their eyes widened in shock. The group of maids and servants began to whisper among themselves.

“Her legs are so long! Isn’t this too much?”

“Hmph, she’s dressed so frivolously. How can she compare to our first miss?”

“But how long has it been since the first miss left? Yet the young master is already meeting other women! Pah, a playboy!”

“What do you understand? That only proves the young master is extremely charming.”

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The Royal Academy was located west of the city, at the foot of Mount Yuquan. There weren’t many places in the capital with mountains.

The most majestic and elegant mountains were Mount Zijin and Mount Yuquan. Mount Zijin was near the imperial palace, while Mount Yuquan was beside the Royal Academy. It was easy to see just how high the status of the academy was.

Zu An followed Jiang Luofu to the foot of Mount Yuquan. He saw a grand memorial arch, large vermilion pillars, and a blue backdrop. Three characters were written in bold calligraphy: ‘The Imperial College’.

When she saw the confusion in Zu An’s eyes, Jiang Luofu explained, “The Royal Academy was called the Imperial College at first, and then it was changed to the name Royal Academy afterward. However, because this placard was written by the first generation libationer and is related to the academy’s mountain protecting formation, this placard had been left behind all this time.”

“Why was its name changed?” Zu An was confused. The new name was so modernized. Had a transmigrator come up with it?

Jiang Luofu was stunned. “You really asked a good question; even I’m stumped. I don’t know why it was changed either. Maybe everyone just eventually started calling it the Royal Academy.”

“Oh?” Zu An began to think to himself.

Past the memorial arch was a perfectly straight path. The trees on either side were tall and ancient, further illustrating the academy’s history. Then they arrived at a grand gate; written on it were the words ‘Royal National Academy’. Judging from the calligraphy, it didn’t seem to have been written by the same person as the previous placard.

Perhaps because they saw Jiang Luofu, the guards at the entrance didn’t stop the two of them. Zu An followed Jiang Luofu inside, and he discovered that the interior felt completely different from Brightmoon Academy.

Brightmoon Academy was somewhat brighter. Whether it was the trees or the buildings, everything seemed newer. The Royal Academy was somewhat darker. The trees reached into the skies, and the buildings looked somewhat more aged. The walls were also covered in vine-like plants, conveying a sense of the passage of time.

Zu An suddenly sensed something strange. Some students were looking in his direction from time to time.

Chapter 772, Part 2: The Royal Academy's Eighth Senior

He wasn't so brazen as to think that they were looking at him this time. Jiang Luofu's legs were just too eye-catching. Furthermore, even though the Great Zhou Dynasty was more open-minded than any ancient era, there weren't many who dressed like her in this world.

There were a few bold students who even catcalled Jiang Luofu.

"You guys, come quick! Look at those legs! Oh my god, if they pressed up against me, I don't even think I could even last three seconds!"

"Pah! As if you can even last longer than three seconds normally anyway."

"Have you seen the stockings she normally wears? From black to white to skin tone, it's a different type every day. Ah, even talking about it makes me go crazy..."

"Are you tired of living? She's the academy's new Ms. Jiang! I heard that she used to be the principal of a commandery's academy."

"She was a principal? I'm getting even more excited now!"

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A group of male students whispered among each other in the distance. Even though they were trying to be as quiet as possible, their discussion didn't escape Zu An and Jiang Luofu's high cultivations. They heard every word clearly.

Zu An had a strange look on his face. "And here I thought that these students' way of thinking was on a higher level. I didn't expect them to be just as... perverted."

Jiang Luofu smiled. "All of them are young and vigorous. It would be more strange if they didn't have such thoughts."

Zu An was shocked. "You're not upset?"

"Why would I get upset?" Jiang Luofu looked at him strangely. "I'm all dressed up like this because I want others to see it. If they like it, that means I look good, which I'm more than happy to hear. Why would I get angry?"

Zu An was speechless. You make so much sense I don't even know what to say.

Sigh, a mature big sister really is different from a naive little girl after all. If it were those underripe little girls, they would have already been extremely embarrassed in this situation. Maybe this is also the charm of a mature big sister?

Though if we had known it was like this, Wei Suo, you shouldn't have snuck around like that. You could have just stared all you wanted!

Jiang Luofu didn't pay much attention to this brief episode. She continued to walk inside while explaining, "The academy is divided into the front mountain and rear mountain. The front mountain is

what you've seen so far; it's more or less the same as Brightmoon Academy. Students are taught all kinds of different subjects.

"The rear mountain is where the libationer's core disciples cultivate and learn. Furthermore, if there are any outstanding students in the front mountain who set themselves apart from others, they may become the mentees of those core disciples and be taught by those teachers one on one."

Zu An thought to himself, Isn't this the same as the difference between an undergrad and a research student? Hm, so in a Xianxia novel, that translates to outer and inner disciples?

"Being accepted into the rear mountains is the second greatest objective of the Royal Academy's students," Jiang Luofu continued.

Zu An was stunned. "And the first is?"

Jiang Luofu replied, "Becoming the libationer's direct, core disciple, of course. However, the libationer has only accepted twelve disciples, so that objective is quite tough to reach."

"Only twelve, huh?" This wasn't the first time Zu An had heard that the libationer had twelve disciples.

"By the way, does the academy have a pill furnace?" he asked. He had always wondered how he was going to get his hands on a decent pill furnace. Normal medicinal furnaces couldn't be used to refine pills. However, after asking around, everyone had said that he could only get such a thing from the academy.

"Pill furnace?" Jiang Luofu was confused. "Why would you need a pill furnace?"

"I just wanted to play around with some pill refining," Zu An replied.

Jiang Luofu's eyes widened in shock. She couldn't help but raise her voice. "You know how to refine pills?"

Zu An replied gloomily, "Why are you looking at me like that? Can I not know how to do that?"

"This is indeed quite the surprise. There's quite a high skill threshold for that profession, after all. Kid, you're always bringing me surprises," Jiang Luofu said with a smile. "No problem. We'll head over to Shen Xuzi and grab you a pill furnace after we visit Sir Libationer. He has no match in alchemy, even throughout the entire capital."

"Shen Xuzi?" Zu An was shocked. There was someone with such a crazy name?[1]

Jiang Luofu smiled, clearly guessing what he was thinking. She explained, "It's 'Shen' as in 'Shenzhi'[2]. He admires history's greatest alchemists a lot; for example, Chong Xuzi, Xuan Xuzi, Qing Xuzi, and the like, so he gave himself a similar name. Unfortunately, those alchemy masters all had similar thoughts, so all of the good names with 'Xu' were gone. Out of helplessness, he decided to take a different route and give himself the name Shen Xuzi. That way, even if his alchemy didn't reach great heights, he could still leave that name behind."

"An interesting fella." Zu An couldn't help but smile. He thought to himself, This fella's name really will be left behind in history, but maybe as a joke.

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Meanwhile, a luxurious carriage arrived at the highest peak of Mount Yuquan, Dong'e Peak.

"Halt. I'll walk the rest of the way alone to avoid disrespecting Sir Libationer," said a pleasant sounding female voice from inside the carriage.

A maid opened the door and helped the person inside out. An extravagant dress emerged, accompanied by the sounds of exquisite bells. A stunning beauty slowly walked out of the carriage.

"Crown princess, be careful," a maid warned. It turned out this group of people belonged to the crown princess.

Bi Linglong smiled. "Don't worry, I'm not delicate to that extent."

She looked at a nearby pond. She saw the clear water, the green lotus leaves, and the lotuses of many different colors that decorated its surface, from pink, to light yellow, to snow white... Together, they formed a beautiful scene that pleased the heart and spirit.

The crown princess sighed in praise. "This mountain peak is a bit chilly, so it isn't suitable for the growth of lotuses, yet this pond of lotuses is still so beautiful. Sir Libationer truly is mysterious and incredible."

"So the crown princess was someone who appreciated flowers," said a deep voice from inside of the pine forest. No emotions could be sensed within it, so the crown princess couldn't tell his current mood.

The crown princess greeted the libationer respectfully. "Linglong has arrived to greet Sir Libationer."

There was no reply, only a creaking sound. It was the sound of the entrance opening. The crown princess was happy to see that; after all, the libationer rarely received guests. The fact that he was willing to meet with her was a good start. She gestured for those at her side to remain in place and wait for her, and then entered on her own.

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On the other side of the mountain, as Zu An and Jiang Luofu passed by an open area, they saw that some young students were currently arguing with each other.

"Nonsense, how can fire not be hot?"

"Of course fire can be not-hot as well. We use the word 'fire', but that's different from being hot in reality. 'Fire' doesn't mean 'hot'. If 'fire' were hot, then one's lips would start burning as soon as one said the word. If one's lips don't burn when one says 'fire', fire obviously isn't hot."

"You're just twisting words to suit your logic!"

"Then do you think I'm wrong? If you think I'm wrong, point out where I'm wrong. You can't. But you don't have to listen to my logic. Teacher, what does your respected self think?"

The student bowed toward a stout, seated man. Even though this fatty's physique was quite... wide, he wore a scholar's outfit and had a long mustache. This gave him quite a unique appearance.

The fatty replied, "Pu Guochang's words are spoken with reason; the logic is profound."

The student who had been speaking confidently gave the other students a provocative look when he received the teacher's praise. Those other students became discouraged. After all, they had embarrassed themselves in front of their teacher and had even become the stepping stone of another.

Zu An couldn't help but glance at Jiang Luofu, asking, "Is this really okay?"

Jiang Luofu chuckled and said, "This is the dao of logic. They're all like this. That fatty is the libationer's core disciple ranked eleventh, Yin Shi."

Zu An thought to himself, Aren't they just annoying bastards who get a kick from proving people wrong? Wait, this guy is also the eleventh... Why the hell do I share karma with this annoying bastard?

The fatty named Yin Shi seemed to have sensed something. He subconsciously looked in Zu An's direction.

Jiang Luofu's expression changed. She immediately grabbed Zu An's hand. "We need to get out of here!"

Zu An was baffled. Why do we need to leave? Don't tell me we'll experience danger in the glorious Royal Academy? And yet, the force being exerted on his arm told him that Jiang Luofu wasn't kidding. He almost tripped from her strength.

Zu An quickly increased his vigilance in preparation for battle, but his eyes suddenly blurred. A ball of meat rolled up in front of them. When the meatball unfolded his limbs and stood up, only then did they discover that it was that Yin Shi from earlier.

Yin Shi stroked his mustache while saying with a big smile, "Ah, so it was eighth senior sister. Why are you running away as soon as you see me?"

Zu An looked at Jiang Luofu in shock. "Eighth senior sister?"

Chapter 773: Paying Respects as a Disciple

Meanwhile, Zu An was completely baffled. Jiang Luofu was also that libationer's disciple? Why had he never heard about this before?

After all, her strength had left him with a deep impression back in Brightmoon City. He hadn't expected her to be the libationer's disciple as well, and ranked eighth no less. It was easy to guess how extraordinary the libationer was based on that.

Jiang Luofu seemed to have snapped out of her daze and replied to Zu An with a smile, "Oh, did I forget to mention that?"

Zu An was speechless. Jiang Luofu was a bit embarrassed as well. She chuckled and said, "It's just that you never asked. If I talked about it first, it would seem as if I were showing off or something."

The fatty's eyes lit up. "Eighth sister's words truly inspire me as a logician! Why don't you transfer to our department? I can give senior sister my position and become the number two here. Of course, if you're willing, we can get married too, and both occupy this top position together..."

Jiang Luofu's reply was straightforward. "Get lost!"

The chubby Yin Shi didn't get mad, and instead said with a smile, "Eighth sister's words aren't too precise. In which direction do you want me to leave?"

"Back to wherever you crawled from." Jiang Luofu's eyes twitched. She was clearly getting more and more irritated by the second.

"To go where I came from? Eighth sister really is wise. You really have karma with our logician department!" Yin Shi exclaimed with a deep sigh.

Zu An said with a smile, "I finally understand why you wanted to run earlier." This fellow really loved to argue, and he was incredibly hard to get rid of too. Who could handle such a thing?

Only now did Yin Shi notice Zu An and ask, "Hm? And this one is?" Then, his eyes shifted to Zu An and Jiang Luofu's clasped hands. His mustache almost jumped up to his eyes. "Oh? Eighth sister actually found a lover? Everyone knows how you've rejected every man all these years. We almost thought that you had a birth defect down there or something. Now, all of us brothers can finally feel relieved."

Jiang Luofu's face darkened. Her fists clenched so tightly they began to crack. "Damn fatty, are you asking for a beating?"

Yin Shi hurriedly waved his hands. "A gentleman uses his hands, not his fists. Violence would really be too uncouth."

Jiang Luofu laughed coldly and retorted "I'm a woman, not a gentleman."

"The academy strictly prohibits fights. Especially with statuses like ours, it would cause too much of a commotion if we really fought. Teacher might put us in detention! With my personality, I really wouldn't be able to tolerate an isolation room where I had no one to talk to!" Yin Shi exclaimed.

Jiang Luofu's expression changed. She clearly had some lingering fears toward that isolation room too.

"How about this? I've been quite distressed about something. If eighth sister can answer my question, then I'll willingly go back to where I came from, and I won't bother you anymore," Yin Shi said with a giggle.

Jiang Luofu's eyes twitched. "Compared to debating you, I think the isolation room might be a bit better."

"Come on, you're exaggerating! Who knows, you might be able to help me with my problem quickly." Yin Shi was scared that she would refuse and quickly said, "I've been studying a theory recently... A bird's shadow never moves. Does eighth sister feel that my statement is reasonable?"

Jiang Luofu's expression was stormy. "Like hell it's reasonable; of course a bird's shadow moves! Wherever the bird moves, its shadow naturally follows it wherever it goes."

Zu An couldn't help but laugh. It seemed Jiang Luofu really was annoyed to death by this guy. She never spoke like this usually.

"Oh, but that may not be, you see." Yin Shi had a complacent smile on his face. He shook his head and said, "The bird's shadow isn't moving, because the bird and the shadow are linked together. New shadows are produced, while old shadows fade. It merely creates an illusion of moving."

Jiang Luofu's eyebrows rose. She really wanted to curse at him, but she knew that talking was this guy's forte, and she would be the one to suffer more. As such, she took a deep breath and calmed down, saying, "Alright, then what you said makes sense. This research topic is also extremely valuable. We'll leave first." She pulled Zu An over behind her and began to leave.

However, Yin Shi stopped them. "Eighth sister, please don't be in such a hurry! Please tell me which parts are reasonable. I still haven't figured out how this theory can be used in practice."

Jiang Luofu was stunned. Zu An quickly rushed out to stop her when he saw that she was on the verge of erupting. He looked at the fatty in front of him and said, "Um... This brother over here has a similar question for you."

Yin Shi's eyes lit up as he said excitedly, "Little brother, please ask."

Jiang Luofu frowned. She transmitted her voice and said, "Stop arguing against him, you won't win."

Zu An gave her a look that suggested 'don't worry', and then continued, "When you walk by the lakeside in the evening, a bright moon hangs overhead. You'll find that the inverted image of the moon in the lake follows you as you walk. Are there countless figures in the lake, or is there only a single moon that follows you?"

Yin Shi replied, "Of course it's a single moon. According to my theory just now, the moon's reflection has never even moved."

Zu An smiled and said, "Suppose that there's only one; then what about the person on the other side of the lake? Can it be that he won't be able to see the same inverted image? In his eyes, that moon has always been following him, and the position of that moon is different from the one you see."

"Hm? Interesting..." Yin Shi continued to stroke his beard. "Then are there many of them?"

"Then if we say that there are many, why can you only see one?" Zu An asked.

"This..." Yin Shi was at a loss.

The surrounding students' eyes widened in shock. Even Jiang Luofu found it inconceivable. This was the first time in all these years that she had seen Yin Shi stumped. When he saw that, Zu An smiled. He grabbed Jiang Luofu's hand and left with her.

Jiang Luofu's face turned red. This kid really has no respect! She had only grabbed his hand just now because she'd wanted to avoid this terrible situation. Now, they were just leaving normally, so why was he holding her hand?

Yin Shi scratched his head in frustration. When he saw the two of them were already getting away, he could no longer hold himself back. He rushed over to Zu An's side and said, "Kid, then how many moon reflections are there? If you don't know either, you were just messing with me! I won't forgive you easily for that!"

Jiang Luofu took a step forward to protect Zu An. "Damn fatty, who are you trying to intimidate?"

Yin Shi immediately smiled and said, "Eighth sister, please don't take offense. It's just that I really am curious and hope that your little brother here can give me an answer. Otherwise, my pride will really be hurt here."

Zu An patted Jiang Luofu's hand, gesturing to indicate that it was okay. Then, he walked forward and said, "According to Quantum Bayesianism, whether the reflection exists or not relies on whether there's a person there to observe it. If you're the only one there, then there's one reflection. If there are multiple people, then there are many reflections."

Yin Shi was stunned. "Who is 'Quantum Bayesianism'?"

Zu An said, "Quantum theory comes from a great genius. In this universe, there are many things that exist in a certain and uncertain state simultaneously. As for which form they will show themselves in, that depends on the observer..." He gave this fellow a rough account of everything he had learned from the web about quantum theory.

Yin Shi was frowning at first, but soon afterward, his eyes shone brilliantly. He mumbled to himself, "So that's what it is, so that's what it is... I seem to have new ideas about many things that have stumped me for so long..."

He put away his mischievous smile and cupped his hands in respect to Zu An. "If I ever gain enlightenment one day, then it will definitely be because of sir today. Please receive three kowtows from me." Then, he kowtowed three times in respect.

Those students who had wanted to join in on the liveliness felt their eyes almost pop out of their sockets. What the hell is going on? Mr. Yin Shi is the libationer's core disciple! He has tremendous status in the academy, yet he actually bowed as a disciple toward this young fella?

The students began to whisper among themselves.

"Where did this guy come from?"

"I have no idea. I only know that he came with Ms. Jiang."

"Then is he Ms. Jiang's newest disciple?"

"That's impossible! Not even Ms. Jiang can win in a debate with Mr. Yin, so how could her disciple win?"

"You're right... Then is he Ms. Jiang's lover?"

"Look, they're even holding hands. I didn't expect Ms. Jiang to be such a cougar..."

"Sigh, if she is, then I want her to come after my young self too..."

The students were whispering all types of things, but Jiang Luofu couldn't be bothered to get upset right now. Instead, she looked at Yin Shi in shock, asking, "Have you gone mad? Why would you bow toward a kid younger than you?"

Yin Shi said with a firm expression, "In the path of pursuing the truth, those who have greater achievements come first. Why is there a need to cling rigidly to age?" Then, he gave Zu An an eager look. "May I ask sir what your name is? If there is a chance, I wish to consult sir for more guidance."

Chapter 774: Seventh Brother

Zu An worried that this might lead to too much trouble, so he had initially planned to give a random name and leave. However, Mi Li had told him that he had to increase his prestige. Furthermore, he had finally confirmed his own dao a few days ago, that he was going to become the world's most powerful man. Hiding and evading really didn't match his style. As such, he smiled and said, "Your respected self speaks too seriously. This humble one is Zu An."

Yin Shi was a direct disciple of the libationer. His status in the Royal Academy was extraordinary. If this had been Zu An's previous world, then he would at the very least be a professor of Tsinghua or Peking University, and moreover, one of those who taught doctoral students. Having connections with such a person would always be a good thing.

"Zu An, why does this name sound so familiar?" Yin Shi muttered. Then, his eyes suddenly lit up. "Might you be the one who offered up the method of immortality to his majesty, and then ended up ruining the schemes of various powers? The outstanding hero Zu An who then rose up in the eastern palace?"

Zu An was stunned. He suddenly felt that he kind of liked this place. The people here were so nice, and they spoke so well. Their statuses as logicians really were well deserved. If you praise me like this, even despite how shameless I am, I'll still blush, you know?

The surrounding students all suddenly realized who he was when they heard those words.

"So it was Chu First Miss' husband!"

"I guess he looks pretty good. No wonder Chu First Miss ended up liking him."

"You think? I don't think he looks like anyone special."

"I didn't expect the academy's publicly acknowledged beauty teacher would like him too! Why don't I have such luck..."

Zu An replied, "Brother Yin is too polite. The things I've done aren't worth mentioning."

"Your looks are handsome, and you're so humble. No wonder eighth sister favors you." Yin Shi cupped his hands. "I'm in a hurry to think over the enlightenment sir has brought me, so I won't bother you anymore. I must consult you for more wisdom at a future date." After he finished speaking, he turned into a ball and rolled off into the horizon along a shaded path.

The surrounding students quickly followed behind him. "Teacher, teacher! Wait for us!"

Jiang Luofu used this chance to leave with Zu An. When they left the group of students, she suddenly became a bit hesitant.

Zu An chuckled and asked, "Gorgeous principal, what are you thinking about? This isn't like you."

Jiang Luofu then said, "Don't take those students' words to heart. I have no feelings for you; we're just friends."

Zu An looked disappointed. "Sigh, it really hurts if you put it like that. I thought you at least had a bit of a positive impression of me."

Jiang Luofu explained, "I do have a good impression of you, but it's not the type that exists between men and women..."

"I know." Zu An cut her off. "We have a pure male and female relationship."

Jiang Luofu blinked. She just felt as if something was wrong with what Zu An had just said, yet she couldn't really put her finger on it. However, she was more curious about another matter right now. "That quantum, bay something, what was all of that about? Why were you able to make Yin Shi like that?"

"I have no idea either; it was just a bunch of nonsense. Who could have expected that the guy would actually believe me?" Zu An thought to himself that he had learned the Bayes formula before, but he had pretty much forgotten all of it.

As for the quantum stuff, it was just some random articles he had read online as a keyboard warrior, so he would have more ammunition to use on his friends. If he really understood quantum mechanics, why the hell would he just be a stupid keyboard warrior?

Jiang Luofu was speechless. She had thought of countless possibilities, but she had never thought that this would be the answer. In the end, she could only say helplessly, "That damn fatty might just end it all if he finds out he was just conned by you."

Zu An asked shyly, "Big sis, you won't sell me out, right?"

The other party was already no longer a principal. Calling her 'gorgeous principal' didn't seem suitable anymore, so he could only change it to something else.

Jiang Luofu liked the sound of being called 'big sister'. She replied, "Don't worry, I get a huge headache whenever I meet that guy. I'm already busy enough trying to avoid him; why would I tell him that?"

Zu An said with a chuckle, "That's good, then."

The two of them continued to walk together. But suddenly, Zu An voiced his surprise. He almost thought he had been sent into another illusion by Jia Sili.

The peaceful soft meadows and towering trees of the campus environment were nowhere to be seen; instead, they were suddenly replaced with lush green farms. There were wheat sprouts and rice paddy shoots, as well as all kinds of fruits and vegetables. There were many farmers brandishing hoes and doing manual labor. It was as if they had arrived on a huge ranch.

"What's all of this?" Zu An gave Jiang Luofu a look of disbelief.

Jiang Luofu smiled. Then, she walked straight to the biggest paddy field and greeted a dark skinned elder dressed in an ash gray gown. "Seventh senior!"

"Seventh senior?" Zu An was confused. This was someone who couldn't look more ordinary. He looked like an experienced farmer no matter how you looked at him! Yet he was actually Jiang Luofu's senior, a core disciple of the libationer!

When he recalled that annoying Yin Shi from earlier, Zu An really began to wonder about the libationer's tastes. What kind of disciples were these? It was Jiang Luofu who seemed the most normal out of them all.

"So it was eighth sister." That old farmer tossed his hoe aside and wiped his sweat with the towel over his shoulder. He gave her a simple and honest smile.

"Is eighth brother researching a new crop?" Jiang Luofu looked at the lush green crops around her with curiosity. "Are those chives?"

Zu An's eyes widened. He began to question life at that moment. You call those chives?

The farmer said quietly, "Those are wheat sprouts..."

"Ah?" Jiang Luofu blushed. She really wanted to hide out of embarrassment just then. She was the distinguished daughter of a great clan after all, so her usual studies were far from this field. That was why it was hard for her to distinguish between different crops.

The old farmer smiled. "Eighth sister, pay it no mind. It's understandable if you don't recognize these plants."

Jiang Luofu's redness finally withdrew a bit. She did her best to calmly ask, "What is seventh brother researching?"

Zu An was surprised. She clearly didn't know much about these things, yet she was still chatting with him so enthusiastically. It was completely different from her attitude with Yin Shi.

The old farmer pointed at the nearby green seedlings and said, "Wheat usually takes a lot out of fertile land. After planting it, the land needs to rest for one to two years before wheat can be grown again. However, the efficiency of that is too low. Furthermore, if we always irrigate the earth, it will easily cause the soil to erode. That's why I've been trying to find a replaceable solution. I discovered that rice paddies don't need rest and plowing, and can even yield two to three harvest each year in suitable locations."

Jiang Luofu said with a smile, "That's great news. Why does seventh brother have a worried frown then?"

The old farmer sighed. "I wish it were as easy as having the best of both worlds. Soon afterward, I discovered the disadvantage to using rice paddies. The Great Zhou Dynasty has prospered over these past few years, and so the population has increased. Rice paddies have already reached their limit. If we do not find a new solution, these paddies won't be able to keep up with the population growth rate in fewer than twenty years. There will definitely be a great famine then."

Zu An had originally just been looking around randomly. When he heard those words, he couldn't help but feel admiration for this man. In that instant, he already understood why Jiang Luofu treated this old farmer completely differently from Yin Shi.

Yin Shi's light intellectual conversation might be popular among nobles, but it was completely useless for commoners. On the contrary, this old farmer's thoughts were for the entire nation's people. Regardless of which world it was, those who devoted themselves to the common people deserved respect.

The old farmer said, "There's also another issue with the rice fields, which is that it's too easy for the crops to develop illnesses. A single mistake and the crop will fail, and then not a single grain can be harvested from that land. In that case, the common people could work for an entire year without anything to show for it."

Jiang Luofu frowned. She wanted to say words of consolation, but this really wasn't her field of expertise. She didn't know what to say.

A voice suddenly chimed in. "Then why don't you try a hybridized rice field?"

Chapter 775, Part 1: This Dungeon Is Indecent

The old farmer raised his head in shock, looking toward Zu An. "This one is?"

Jiang Luofu helped introduce Zu An. "He is my friend, Zu An."

"Oh, so it was eighth sister's friend. It's nice to meet you." The old farmer smiled sincerely.

Judging from his reaction, it didn't seem as if he had ever heard Zu An's name before. Not only did Zu An not feel a trace of dissatisfaction, he instead respected the man even more. After all, it was because the farmer was completely devoted to helping the common people that he paid no attention to outside matters and didn't know about the disturbances in the court.

"Ah Zu, this is my seventh brother, Wang Shuyang." Jiang Luofu told Zu An in secret, "He's a virtuous and prestigious elder. You absolutely can't trick him like you did Yin Shi." She was worried that Zu An might do something similar to the previous incident and gave him a warning ahead of time.

Zu An couldn't help but laugh inwardly as he asked, "Am I that type of person to you?" At the same time, he replied to the old farmer, "So it was Senior Wang. It's an honor."

Wang Shuyang smiled, clearly not caring much about Zu An's flattery. He asked, "What did this little friend mean when you suggested a hybridized paddy field?"

Zu An said, "Elder Wang, you mentioned that rice paddies had two major issues. The first is the output ceiling, while the second is the lack of resistance toward plant diseases."

"You're right. This is actually a problem that has troubled me for many years. No matter which choice I make, I can only improve things slightly. I can't make any substantial improvements."

Zu An said, "To be honest, solving this problem can be challenging if you think it's challenging, but it can also be quite easy if you change your perspective."

"Oh? Then may I ask what this little friend has in mind?" Even though Wang Shuyang's words sounded polite, he couldn't help but frown inwardly when he saw Zu An's age, as well as his clean fingernails. This youngster had clearly never lived the life of a farmer. There were some calluses, but that was clearly from training with the sword. No matter how he looked at it, this shouldn't be someone who knew anything about farming.

"Ah Zu!" Jiang Luofu gave Zu An a look. She didn't believe that he knew about such things either.

Zu An said with a smile, “Elder Wang must have traveled extensively over the years in search of seeds. Have you ever found any wild crops?”

“I have indeed.” Wang Shuyang had almost thought that Zu An had some enlightening remarks. Yet when he heard him say this, he couldn’t help but feel a bit disappointed. “But those wild crops are dry and shriveled; they can’t be treated as foodstuffs or planted.”

Zu An countered, “The disadvantage to wild crops is a lack of flesh, and so they can’t be used as food. However, they have an advantage, which is that by growing in the wild, their vitality is extremely strong. They have powerful resistances against various illnesses, and they have higher tolerance against temperatures than paddy crops.”

“Hm...?” Wang Shuyang was moved. He felt as if a spark had gone off in his head, yet he couldn’t fully grasp it yet.

Zu An continued, “The advantages of wild crops are precisely the weaknesses of grown crops. Meanwhile, their disadvantages just happen to be the advantages of the other. If we could hybridize these two types of crops, then wouldn’t they balance each other out perfectly?”

Wang Shuyang’s eyes immediately widened. He was extremely excited as he exclaimed, “Wonderful, wonderful! Why have I never thought of this before? Why haven’t I?! Hahaha! The people are saved, they’re saved...”

Jiang Luofu jumped in fright when she saw her usually quiet and gloomy seventh brother suddenly becoming lively like a child. She quickly asked Zu An, “What’s wrong with him?”

Zu An said with a smile, “I think he’s just excited.”

Hybridized rice fields had only been made possible through generations of scientific research in Zu An’s old world. All of that knowledge had only provided results because of Mr. Yuan Longping’s consolidation. As someone who devoted himself to farming, how could Wang Shuyang not see the value in it?

If it were someone else, Zu An might have held back a bit and used that as a scheme, but even in his few minutes of interaction with Wang Shuyang, he already understood that this person truly lived for the people. Handing such new technology to people like him was the best choice for the people of the world.

Furthermore, he only knew a bit about the concept. As for how it could truly be put into practice... um... If he really were that awesome, then he wouldn’t have wasted his time every day arguing with strangers online.

Wang Shuyang finally snapped out of his daze. He grabbed Zu An’s hands excitedly. “Little friend Zu, um... no, Sir Zu! Please receive three kowtows from me.”

Zu An jumped in fright. “Senior, you mustn’t!”

Jiang Luofu was also stunned. What was up with her fellow disciples these days? Why were all of them bowing to Zu An all of a sudden? It was one thing with Yin Shi, as that fellow was a bit weird. But what

was happening to her seventh brother? He had always been upright. He would never willfully produce nonsense like Yin Shi.

Wang Shuyang said seriously, "There's nothing improper about this. The first kowtow is for the common people of the world. Once the hybridized rice field concept bears fruit, then you will be the savior of millions and millions of lives! Forget about three kowtows, even if it were three hundred, three thousand, thirty thousand... It would still be worth it."

Jiang Luofu was stunned. She hadn't really felt anything after hearing about Zu An's plan. What he had said was actually that important?

After Wang Shuyang completed his bows, he gestured toward her. "Eighth sister, you should come and kowtow to him too. Thank this hero for saving the lives of millions and millions."

Jiang Luofu was speechless. Seeing her in a daze, Wang Shuyang didn't explain further and tugged on her sleeves to make her kneel down.

Jiang Luofu remembered that this senior brother had taken good care of her when she was little, and she had always admired his character, so she couldn't really be disrespectful right now. She could only pout while kowtowing to Zu An.

You have successfully trolled Jiang Luofu for +58 +58 +58...

Zu An broke out into a sweat. He quickly helped Jiang Luofu back up and said, "Big sis, you don't need to do this."

Unfortunately, Jiang Luofu was quite upset. If you don't want me to do it, then I'm going to freaking do it! We'll see how you'll pay for this later.

Zu An began to panic when he saw the resentment in her eyes. He quickly said, "Stop already, stop! I'll return the favor!" He kowtowed as he spoke.

His actions drew the attention of the surrounding farmers. Rather than farmers, they were all Wang Shuyang's students. They couldn't help but whisper among each other when they saw what was happening here.

"Huh? Don't those two look like they're bowing to each other in marriage?"

"Is Mr. Wang the wedding witness?"

"Wait, isn't that Ms. Jiang? Who is that pretty boy she's kowtowing to?"

Jiang Luofu's long legs drew a lot of attention to begin with; anyone would recognize her from a single glance. When those students recognized her, their expressions were filled with jealousy as they looked at Zu An.

Teacher Jiang was incredibly beautiful, her gorgeous legs deeply engraved in the mind of every single student. Together with her cold demeanor, there were just too many students who dreamed about her...

She had always treated other men coldly, and there had never been any rumors of her being affectionate with another man, so everyone was still equal in this regard. However, they had discovered that the woman of their dreams was kowtowing with another man! How could they not become depressed?

You have successfully trolled the surrounding students for +444 +444 +444...

Zu An jumped in fright and turned around. He saw a group of male students staring daggers at him.

Jiang Luofu immediately jumped to her feet as if she had touched something hot. She was quite hard pressed here as well, and hadn't expected the students to misunderstand like this. To be honest, they really did look like they were kowtowing to each other in marriage. Sigh, what the hell was I thinking?

"Nonsense! Hurry and bow to Sir Zu." Wang Shuyang had clearly heard the whispers as well. He gave his disciples a fierce look.

"Sir Zu?" The students' reactions were identical to those of Yin Shi's disciples.

"His knowledge is enough for him to be the master of you all! Why is it hard for you good-for-nothings to call him sir? Hurry and kowtow already!" Wang Shuyang's personality had been quite old-fashioned to begin with. Now that he was glaring at them like this, the students didn't dare to retort.

One after another, all of them greeted Zu An unwillingly. "We greet Sir Zu!"

What was the most painful thing in the world? It was seeing the woman of their dreams enter the arms of another man. What was even more painful than that was that they had to bow to that man in respect!

You have successfully trolled the surrounding students for +666 +666 +666...

Chapter 775, Part 2: This Dungeon Is Indecent

Zu An felt amazing when he saw the endless Rage points flow in. Looks like having a beauty at your side is always the best for drawing hate.

Wang Shuyang frowned. Even though he couldn't see the Rage points, he could sense that his disciples' attitudes weren't quite right. He was worried that they might offend Zu An, so he had them withdraw for now. Then, he said apologetically to Zu An, "This humble Wang didn't teach them well. They still don't understand your respected self's greatness."

Zu An was embarrassed now, too. "You're too courteous, Senior Wang; you can just call me Ah Zu. Furthermore, it's people like you who really do the work that are worthy of respect. I was merely shooting my mouth off a bit."

Wang Shuyang shook his head. "There are many people who can work in this world, but once we talk about the greater good, everyone becomes lost. Many strive to work hard their entire lives, yet everything they aim for is useless. On the contrary, if they can receive the correct principles from someone, that's far more useful than endlessly, blindly trying to force their way through."

Now, Zu An was really a bit embarrassed. “Actually, I wasn’t the one who came up with the hybridized paddy theory. I just happened to stumble upon a book that mentioned it in the past, that’s all! Also, I only understand the theory; I have no idea about the crossbreeding, the most suitable breeds, and all of that stuff. I’ll have to rely on your experience to test these things out.”

“Sir, please don’t worry. If I still can’t come up with the correct crossbred paddy crop after receiving your pointers, then I’ve lived this life of mine for nothing.” Wang Shuyang’s voice carried a bit of pride that clearly came from his many years of diligence in the field.

Inside, Zu An couldn’t help but think, Reality might not be so kind. It might not be so easy for you alone. After all, the scientists of his old world had spent endless amounts of time and effort before they managed to successfully crossbreed these crops.

Wang Shuyang smiled and said, “Haha, you’re so young, yet you aren’t arrogant with your accomplishments. You really are a rare man of character. Eighth sister didn’t choose the wrong person after all.”

Jiang Luofu was speechless. Was there a misunderstanding here somewhere?

Wang Shuyang cupped his hands and said, “I need to return and study the hybridized paddy crops, so I won’t disturb the two of you anymore. I’ll visit sir again for guidance if I have a chance.” He left happily with a handful of sprouts. Each step took him several dozen zhang into the distance.

Zu An clicked his tongue in wonder. At first, he had thought that this was just an old farmer, but he actually had this level of cultivation! The core disciples of the libationer were all exceptional after all.

Jiang Luofu brought him further inside. She finally couldn’t hold herself back and asked, “What’s going on? Why do you know that hybridized paddy stuff?”

Zu An said with a smile, “Didn’t I already say it earlier? I stumbled upon it in some book I found. I think the author was surnamed Yuan.”

Jiang Luofu didn’t question him anymore after hearing his reasonable explanation. She said with a sigh, “It seems ancient civilizations really were developed. I accidentally stumbled upon these stockings and clothes in a secret dungeon, and then tried to mimic their style. I really was curious as to what kind of civilization it was when I saw such pretty clothes.”

Zu An was extremely interested. “Can you describe to me what that dungeon was like? What kind of things were there?”

Jiang Luofu began to recall old memories. “It was a secret dungeon I accidentally stumbled into. I remember that apart from these clothes, there were some human models. Those people were similar to real people, even...” Her face suddenly became red, and she changed what she had intended to say. “There were also some strange things that seemed like human skins.”

“Human skins?” Zu An jumped in fright.

Jiang Luofu agreed. “The human skins were a bit strange. There were holes that seemed like air should be pumped into them. Then, they would become like a person. They even made some weird sounds... They reminded me of puppet arts, but there didn’t seem to be any ki around them.”

Zu An's expression became strange. Doesn't this sound like a blow-up doll? "Do you still have those human skins?" he quickly asked. He wanted to verify if those things from the dungeon were from his old world, to see if this world had any connection with his Earth.

Jiang Luofu shook her head and said, "I don't. There were some others in the dungeon back then. We accidentally destroyed those human skins while fighting."

Zu An was stunned. He asked, "Do you have anything else from that place?"

Jiang Luofu nodded. "I found a few flesh spiritual roots."

"Flesh spiritual roots?" Zu An was stunned. What the hell is that? When did we ever have anything like this?

Jiang Luofu agreed. "They look like spiritual roots, but the material is like flesh, similar to human skin; and yet they aren't. I asked many people about them, but I don't know what kind of material they're made of."

"Can you give me a rough description of their shape?" Zu An's tone became stranger and stranger.

"Um, I think they were round cylinders, around this size..." Jiang Luofu gestured as she spoke.

Zu An's expression became more and more conflicted the longer he listened. Why did this dungeon sound so indecent? Had she ended up barging into an adult toys store or something? No wonder the stuff she wore was just like the office ladies and teachers from those porn videos... Pah pah pah! Those girls are nothing but dirt compared to her! Forget it, I think it's better if I don't tell her what those things are, or else she might not be able to take it.

Zu An wanted to find out more about that world, but he heard a nearby laugh.

"Hah! You lost again."

"Teacher, how can I possibly beat you?"

"It's fine, I just wanted to bully you a bit for fun."

"Teacher, is it too late to change courses?"

...

Both of them turned around when they heard a familiar voice. They saw that two men were currently playing Go in a gazebo. The younger one had pretty features, to the extent where he even seemed a bit androgynous. Who else could it be but Xie Xiu? He was currently playing Go with a miserable look on his face.

Meanwhile, the middle-aged man across from him looked much more relaxed. He was dressed in a black and white checkered outfit. There was some gray hair around his temples, but it didn't make him look old at all. He had a lean face. Together with his wide sleeves and robes that touched the floor, he had a graceful appearance. This man had clearly been quite the looker when he was younger. Even now, he had looks that would be fatal for many younger girls.

Zu An looked at those floor-length robes. He had only seen such clothes in dramas. With clothes this long, aren't you basically sweeping the floor while you walk? Wouldn't the bottom get really gross?

"This is my fifth brother Hei Baizi." Jiang Luofu quietly introduced him to Zu An. "He's the teacher Xie Xiu took on as his master."

Zu An thought to himself, Looks like this Xie Xiu was still hiding quite a bit. He was always talking about how the Xie clan's influence in the capital wasn't great, how he was just a trifling governor's son. Yet look at him now! Entering the academy was already a huge feat in itself, yet he had gone straight into the rear mountain. It seemed the Xie clan's background was nothing to scoff at.

Just then, Xie Xiu saw them as well. He immediately sighed in relief, as if he had seen his saviors. "Ms. Jiang, Ah Zu!"

Jiang Luofu nodded slightly toward him, and then she stepped forward to give a respectful greeting. "I greet fifth senior."

"So it was eighth sister." Hei Baizi turned around to give the two of them a look. He gave a casual reply, and then his eyes fell upon Zu An. His eyes immediately became bright. "You're that Zu An from the eastern palace who came up with that five-in-a-row game?"

Zu An subconsciously nodded. "It's nothing but a small, unrefined game."

Hei Baizi stroked his goatee and said with a serious expression, "How can it be called just a small game? Anyone who can reinvent a way for Go to be played, and furthermore greatly reduce the barrier of entry, is definitely someone of great achievement. After all, I've flaunted myself as a chess saint all these years, yet I've never been able to come up with a game myself. Your distinguished self's five-in-a-row seems simple, but there are many intricacies behind it. It really has left me in admiration."

Zu An said in embarrassment, "I don't deserve such praise." What the hell... It's because I don't know how to play Go that I learned five-in-a-row. How can I dare to boast before a true Go master?

Hei Baizi grabbed his hands and dragged him inside. "Come, come, come, let's play a round. Xie Xiu, you trash, hurry and get out of the way. Watch carefully and see how true masters play."

Zu An was alarmed. Even though he hadn't been on his guard, the other party was able to immediately grab his hands, meaning that his grasp over timing and strength were both top notch. This person's cultivation was definitely nothing to scoff at.

Xie Xiu wasn't unhappy to hear those words at all, and instead moved aside excitedly. "Senior Zu, hurry and come sit over here!"

There was finally someone who could bring him out of this suffering. Even though he wasn't great at cultivation, for the sake of chasing after girls, he had become quite good at the four arts of zither, Go, calligraphy, and painting. He didn't dare to claim to be number one at Go in Brightmoon City, but he was definitely in the top five, maybe even the top three.

Unfortunately, he had ended up being dragged here to play Go every single day by Hei Baizi. He had been pretty happy at first, because he'd felt he could finally display some of his real strength. But who

could have thought that even after this teacher gave him a few pieces as a handicap, he would still be easily crushed?

Losing to the famous Go Saint wasn't that big of a deal. It was within his expectations. But he was dragged along day after day, and he would be abused in all kinds of ways each time, to the point where he began to question life itself. He began to develop PTSD over this stupid game.

There was finally someone here to save him from his suffering, so how could he not be happy?

Hei Baizhi shot him a look. "You cheeky brat, even your master has treated him as an equal. Hurry up and call him your uncle!"

Xie Xiu was speechless.

Chapter 776, Part 1: Profound and Mysterious

Xie Xiu was completely devastated. He thought to himself that he had always treated Zu An as an equal. Even if his big sister ended up dating this man, he still wouldn't call him uncle, but brother-in-law, right?

However, he didn't sell out his big sister in the end. Under his master's intimidating look, he could only unwillingly say, "Uncle..."

Zu An roared with laughter. "Oh my, we're already so close; there's no need for that."

Xie Xiu had a resentful look on his face. Why didn't you freaking say that beforehand!? You're doing this on purpose... I'm going to rat you out to my big sis later. You can forget about becoming my brother-in-law! Hmph!

Hei Baizi didn't care about how Xie Xiu was feeling right now at all and instead looked eagerly at Zu An. "Mr Zu, let's play a round. Anyone who can create five-in-a-row must be incredibly skilled. It's been so long since I've met my match, so my hands are already itching."

Zu An could only give Jiang Luofu a pleading look. Jiang Luofu said, "Fifth brother, I still need to bring him to see our master."

Hei Baizi said, "Don't worry, I won't take too much of your time. True experts only need a few moves to understand the other's skill. With Sir Zu's skills, he might crush me with just a few moves." Even though he sounded humble, his eyes told a different story. He refused to believe that anyone could defeat him in such a short amount of time.

Jiang Luofu asked impatiently, "If you love playing Go so much, why don't you ask junior sister to play?"

Hei Baizi's entire body trembled when he heard the words 'junior sister', revealing a similar expression to Xie Xiu's. It was as if he had heard something terrifying. "No way, I won't play with that little monster. She's not human!" he exclaimed out of lingering fear.

Zu An gave Jiang Luofu a confused look. "Junior sister?"

Even Xie Xiu became excited. What kind of person could scare the Go Saint so badly? I definitely have to get close to her and make her torment Hei Baizi, to let him have a taste of my misery.

Jiang Luofu smiled. "Junior sister spends most of her time studying astronomical phenomena and fortune-telling. She has the ability to discern the future's fortune and misfortune."

"The future? Isn't that a bit too powerful?" Zu An was shocked. In all of those novels and shows he had watched, all abilities that could foretell the future had glaring faults. Sometimes, knowing the future wasn't even a good thing, and would instead cause all kinds of tragedies...

Jiang Luofu replied, "Of course, it isn't the far future. Junior sister's ability is limited; she can only roughly predict the future within a short time frame. Though if she used it to play Go..."

Hei Baizi's face turned overcast. "Whenever I play with her, she knows what I'm going to do ahead of time, so she deliberately plays to counter me. It really is frustrating."

"But that's not the most important part, right? You've never won against her," Jiang Luofu said ruthlessly.

Hei Baizi's face turned red. "She's not playing Go, she's cheating! How is playing against her any fun? Sir Zu over here is much more interesting." He waved his hands afterward. A myriad of light rays appeared in the air, and then black and white chess pieces appeared around them.

Jiang Luofu's expression changed. She said to Zu An with a bitter smile, "You should just play a round with him. He's already turned the surrounding area into a prison. Looks like there's no way to leave unless you play with him."

Xie Xiu's eyes lit up. This is great! I've even begun to question life after playing with him all day. I can't help but feel like master is a crazy old fart who only knows how to play Go. He's never taught me a single useful thing.

If I can learn this trick from him one day... If I see a girl I like, I'll just trap them with this and force them to play chess with me. Yup, with my looks and charm, I can make them fall in love with me in the time it takes to play a single round.

But definitely not Go. I want to throw up whenever I even think of Go.

Xie Xiu was excited, but Zu An was instead conflicted. He hadn't expected this guy to be such a chess addict. He sensed his surroundings with his ki. There was indeed a seal around them, and his ki couldn't leave at all.

As if he sensed what Zu An was doing, Hei Baizi laughed and said, "I didn't expect Sir Zu to already have such profound cultivation at your age. As expected, someone who's excellent at chess will not be lacking in other areas."

Jiang Luofu was speechless. Why do I feel offended for some reason?

Zu An began to think to himself. He couldn't admit that he had no idea how to play Go, but he was worried that the other party might get angry if he said that. At that point, it would be hard to predict what would happen. This was the academy's rear mountain after all, so it wasn't wise to offend the libationer's core disciple.

Of course, what was more important was not looking like an idiot. He really couldn't bring himself to admit that he didn't know how to play. When he saw how eager Hei Baizi was, and even Jiang Luofu

seemingly looking at him with admiration, wouldn't admitting that he didn't know how to play be the end of his social life as he knew it?

His thoughts always moved quickly. He soon found a solution. He replied with a light cough, "How about this? There's no point in playing Go. Let's play five-in-a-row."

"Five-in-a-row?" Hei Baizi frowned. He asked with a bit of hesitation, "Isn't this a bit too easy?"

He admired Zu An for creating a new game, but that was only out of appreciation for his understanding of Go. He thought that Zu An's skills in Go would definitely be extremely high, and that was why he could make such an interesting game.

However, as the Go Saint, he could still tell that five-in-a-row was pretty simple from a glance. It was only suitable for some beginner students or average people. Before a true Go expert, it really wasn't worth mentioning.

Zu An said with a smile, "Even though this five-in-a-row seems simple, there are still many vicious strategies."

"Oh?" Hei Baizi immediately became excited. "Then I really must see it for myself."

If anyone else were to say this, he absolutely wouldn't believe it. He might even spit in their face. But this person was the creator of the game, and he had already become a Go Saint in Hei Baizi's mind. That was why he believed Zu An.

The two of them sat down in the gazebo. Xie Xiu tacitly helped them set everything up. Even Jiang Luofu stood off to the side, watching excitedly.

As someone who came from a distinguished clan, she naturally understood the game of Go. However, she wasn't very interested in that game, and it was instead five-in-a-row's simple rules that were more interesting. Now that she could see two Go Saints face off, furthermore in five-in-a-row, she wanted to see who would win and who would lose.

Her eyes shifted to Zu An's face. Then, she was momentarily distracted. When he was in Brightmoon Academy, this fellow had been a publicly acknowledged good-for-nothing. If not because she had accidentally learned that he had transcendent level aptitude, she might have thought the same thing, right?

Even though he did have transcendent level aptitude, he had been extremely weak back then. She could have killed him with just a single finger. Yet now, he had already grown to this level. His cultivation has almost caught up with mine! He even seems to have a lot of skill in all kinds of fields...

After all, regardless of whether it was Yin Shi, Wang Shuyang, or Hei Baizi, all of them were kings in their respective domains. If one could obtain recognition from any one of them, then they would already be doing extremely well for themselves. However, he had managed to dominate every single one of them? What the heck?

She now had an unprecedented feeling of confidence toward Zu An. She spoke to him through ki transmission, "Ah Zu, if you win against him, it'll be much easier for me to get you a title."

"A title..." Zu An had a weird look on his face. Sis, don't you have too much confidence in me? I don't even know if I can win, myself.

Xie Xiu walked over with the black and white tiles, and he placed the white tiles next to his master.

Hei Baizi frowned. After all, black went first, so the newer or weaker player would start black. He was worried that this would offend Zu An. But with his reputation as the Go Saint, wouldn't it be way too embarrassing to start black? That was why he was quite conflicted.

Zu An saw through his distress and said, "Your distinguished self is already a renowned Go Saint, so you naturally have seniority over me. Of course I should start with black."

He Baizi sighed in relief. He said with a smile, "Sir Zu is open-minded after all. Please!"

Now that he had the black pieces, Zu An felt much more confident. The reason he dared to play against the Go Saint was because five-in-a-row had a sure-win method. Furthermore, the premise was that you had to start black.

He calmly placed the black piece in the center of the board.

Chapter 776, Part 2: Profound and Mysterious

Hei Baizi's expression changed slightly. In the game of Go, it was better to place the pieces around the edges. Placing a piece at the center didn't do much. It really was a waste. That was why placing a piece at the center was more of a handicap.

Was Zu An deliberately going easy on him? After all, between true experts, victory and defeat was only a fine distinction. He actually dares to go easy on me; doesn't that mean that his skills are far beyond mine?

Zu An's seated figure seemed more and more mysterious. Hei Baizi didn't dare to show any carelessness now. He quickly sat up straight and used a hundred and twenty percent of his attention. He had played this five-in-a-row before, so he naturally knew which positions he had to guard against. Also, he had to change from a defensive position to an offensive one, or else he would be constantly pressured.

The two of them played one piece after another. At first, Hei Baizi still seemed rather relaxed, but his expression gradually became grave.

Jiang Luofu had a smile on her face. Even though this wasn't her strong point, she could still tell that Zu An had the advantage. For some reason, she felt more happy than if she had won herself when she saw that Zu An was about to win.

On the other side, Xie Xiu was so happy he almost cheered in celebration. Hei Baizi, you old bastard. Who is laughing now? You kept bullying me day after day, but now, you were done in by a young junior! Let's see how you'll act arrogant in the future! Of course, there was no way he would speak such words out loud. On the surface, he had a look of grief for fear that his master would take his anger out on him.

He sneaked Zu An a few looks in the meantime. This kid is getting more and more formidable! Looks like big sis' eye for men is better than mine...

Pah pah pah, my eyes are only good for checking out girls! Why do I need to be good at evaluating men anyway? For example, Principal Jiang is pretty good. Look at those long legs...

He suddenly felt a wave of killing intent. When he turned around, he discovered that Jiang Luofu was glaring at him with a look that definitely wasn't kind. He quickly shifted his eyes guiltily.

Why don't you glare at Zu An when he looks at you? Zu An can look, but I can't? Zu An already has Chu First Miss, Pei clan's miss, and my big sister... Of course, he only thought about those things. In the end, he became more and more confident that it was better for him to find those pretty daughters from humble families. Those girls were much more gentle and kind. Zu An could have his fun with those tigresses.

After Jiang Luofu shot Xie Xiu a dirty look, she said to Hei Baizi, "Fifth brother, are you going to make your move? Aren't you being too slow? The sun is already about to set."

Hei Baizi's expression paled, and then his face turned red. In the end, he lowered his chess piece helplessly and conceded. "I lose."

Zu An sighed in relief. The Go Saint was the Go Saint after all. He knew the sure-win method, but there were several times where he had almost been done in. He had been extremely focused in the end and hadn't dared to make any mistakes, or else the one who won would have been Hei Baizi instead.

Hei Baizi stared at Zu An in a daze. "Your distinguished self is so young, yet you already play so well. Furthermore, you even gave me a handicap in the beginning. I have no choice but to admit defeat."

Zu An's face heated up. The one who went first clearly had the advantage. The only reason Hei Baizi thought that way was because he was thinking from the perspective of Go. "Senior is being too polite. Actually, victory and defeat were extremely close. There were several times where I almost lost."

Hei Baizi chuckled. "You're still young, yet you aren't arrogant. Not bad, not bad. Eighth sister, your choice wasn't bad after all."

Jiang Luofu felt her veins popping. "Watch what you say; he's just a friend." What the hell is up with all these old farts? Why are they all playing matchmaker all of a sudden?

"Just a friend?" Hei Baizi had an ambiguous smile on his face. Like hell I'll believe that! This woman is extremely fierce; when has she ever gotten close to any man before? Let alone personally bringing him to the academy's rear mountain. Do you think we're blind?!

Jiang Luofu couldn't stand his strange look. She grabbed Zu An and said, "Ah Zu, we're leaving. We're not going to hang around this old thing anymore."

They quickly left afterward. Zu An could only cup his hands apologetically to Hei Baizi. "Senior, we'll meet again." Because he had won the match, the restriction placed around them naturally disappeared.

"We'll meet again for sure. However, I don't dare to call myself your senior." Hei Baizi sighed as he watched the two leave. He felt a strange sense of loneliness.

Even though Xie Xiu was having the time of his life inside, he still looked the part on the outside. He said with feigned sorrow, "Master, you don't need to feel too hurt. Ah Zu was just lucky. His true chess skills aren't as good as master's."

"You don't know sh*t!" Hei Baizi was furious and roared at him, "Only capable people can attribute their success to luck! If your master lost, then he lost! Sir Zu's game skills are the highest among all those I've seen in this life. He even gave me a handicap in the beginning, yet I still lost! I only have admiration towards him; how can I be a sore loser here?"

"You're right, you're right. Teacher really is open-minded." Xie Xiu immediately changed to his flattery tactics.

Hei Baizi harrumphed. "Set up the chess board again and play a few rounds with your master."

"Huh?" Xie Xiu's face immediately fell. He really wanted to throw up whenever he saw a Go board.

"What do you mean huh? Hurry up." With a swing of Hei Baizi's sleeves, the white and black pieces separated into two piles. "We're playing five-in-a-row now. Repeat what Sir Zu did just now. We're going to review that game."

"Okay, no problem!" Xie Xiu's eyes brightened. He thought to himself, I might not be able to beat you in Go, but do you think I never played five-in-a-row before? Zu An didn't seem to have that much trouble just now. I'll just repeat what he did. Just wait, I'll get you good this time... He sat down in high spirits, but he regretted it quickly afterward. He lost after just a few moves.

Hei Baizi criticized him from time to time.

"Idiot, how can you lose so quickly?!"

"What am I going to do with you?"

"Why don't you look at Sir Zu for once? Your ages are similar, yet the difference between the two of you is so great!"

Xie Xiu wanted to cry. That guy managed to get my sister, but I couldn't get his sister. Of course there's a big difference...

...

Meanwhile, Zu An had no idea that his friend had been put in a tough spot because of him. He found a chance to ask Jiang Luofu, "Big sis, who are the other seniors in front of you? Can you tell me about them? That way, I won't run into them without knowing a thing."

He felt as if he had already been hollowed out along the way. The only reason he could deal with them was because of his advantage from being a transmigrator, since he'd had access to millennia of human knowledge.

Even so, in the past, he had just been a keyboard warrior. He knew how to shoot his mouth off online, but he'd be easily exposed in front of a real expert. Just as earlier, he had almost been exposed by Hei Baizi. He really didn't want to experience another situation like that again.

Jiang Luofu smiled. She was quite fond of a handsome young man calling her big sister. She coughed and explained, "You don't need to worry about that. There are no more in front of us."

“No more?” Zu An was shocked. “Doesn’t the libationer have twelve disciples? How many did we even meet?”

Jiang Luofu said, “Among the twelve disciples, three of them have mysterious identities. Not even we are guaranteed to know who they are. At the very least, we’ve never seen them in the academy before.”

“Which three?” Zu An was rather curious. He wanted to use this chance to get some information. Even though he had heard about some of these things, how could it compare to the information one of the libationer’s core disciples provided herself?

After some hesitation, Jiang Luofu said, “The second senior is a doctor. We don’t know his name; we only know that he disappeared many years ago. The sixth senior is an artist who pursues the dao of art. Unfortunately, I’ve never met this person before, nor do I know who she is. Ninth sister is a singer. I don’t know much about her, and she’s always been a mysterious person. When the time comes, you’ll naturally know.”

Zu An was stunned. The libationer’s disciples were all mysterious. Looks like the female to male ratio isn’t low! Together with that junior sister Jiang Luofu had mentioned earlier, didn’t that mean that there were at least four?

Is the libationer an old pervert? Zu An immediately dispelled the thought as soon as it appeared in his head and apologized inside. He had met the libationer before, and he was the very example of someone who stood aloof from worldly affairs, a true elder. Furthermore, he had taken in outstanding disciples from all manner of different fields, so how could he be someone who appreciated such lowly interests? No problem, just leave all of these lowly things to me.

Zu An’s eyes suddenly lit up. “Wait, that second brother of yours is a doctor? He’s not Ji Dengtu, is he?”

“How could it be him? Don’t bring up that guy in front of me.” Jiang Luofu’s face immediately turned cold. Even the temperature around them seemed to drop a few degrees.

Zu An remembered that she was Ji Xiaoxi’s aunt. Ji Xiaoxi mentioned that her mother had passed away at a young age. Jiang Luofu probably hated Ji Dengtu because of her sister’s death. He didn’t want to bring up her sore spot either and quickly changed the topic. “Then what about the libationer’s other disciples?”

Jiang Luofu’s expression finally eased a bit and said, “Third senior calls himself the Drunken Sword Immortal. He wanders the world and isn’t in the academy. Tenth senior specializes in military strategy, so he remains by the border and isn’t here either.

“The remaining senior brother is a rune master. He’s always locked up and studying those scribblings of his. He took in Xie Daoyun recently as well, so we shouldn’t run into him.

“Fourth brother is an alchemy master. If he isn’t hiding in his room and concocting pills, then he’s fiddling with those puppet soldiers of his.”

“That’s why in the end, we’ve pretty much already run into every single one we can possibly run into. We shouldn’t meet any more disciples today.”

Zu An was curious. “The libationer’s disciples seem to have all taken in different schools of thought. Then, big sis, what is your specialty?”

Jiang Luofu touched the rim of her glasses. She said through her red lips, “I’m of the legalist school.”

Zu An’s eyes scanned over her special cold exterior, her office lady outfit, her long legs, and her high heels. His heart began to pound. The profession of a lawyer really did match her perfectly! Teachers, secretaries... That series would obviously include lawyers and prosecutors!

Chapter 777: The Rage of a Side Chick

Jiang Luofu frowned. “What kind of expression is that?”

“An expression of admiration, haha.” Zu An laughed awkwardly.

“Hmph, if it weren’t because my relationship with you isn’t bad, I would have already beaten you up if you looked at me like that,” Jiang Luofu said coldly.

Zu An became a bit gloomy. “Big sis, you didn’t even get mad when those students were talking about you. Why are you getting mad at me instead?”

Jiang Luofu gave him a look. “Those people only had pure admiration, but you were thinking about doing something.”

Zu An was stunned. “You can even tell such a thing?”

“Your eyes were weird.” Jiang Luofu harrumphed. Then, she walked forward and ignored him. Zu An had a bitter smile on his face as he quickly followed along.

The two of them continued up the mountain. When Zu An saw the scenery around them become more and more serene, he sighed in praise. “Sir Libationer’s tastes are quite fine. Every single tree and every single blade of grass seems to carry some sort of pattern, yet when you examine them closely, they look extremely natural and not out of place in any way.”

Jiang Luofu’s expression eased a bit. “This place is called Dong’e Peak, the highest peak of Mountain Yuquan. It’s the place the libationer personally selected as his place of secluded cultivation. What you see was arranged by the elder in his earlier years. They resonate with the great formation that protects the academy...”

The two continued to chat with each other. Soon, they arrived at the mountaintop. Zu An noticed the beautiful lotus pond, and he couldn’t resist the urge to get closer for a better look. The green lotus leaves in it refreshed the mind, as if they could instantly sweep away the fatigue of climbing the mountain. The lotus flowers of all sorts of different colors seemed to bring the whole place to life. Anyone would subconsciously want to pick one and fiddle around with it in their hands.

“I advise you not to pick any of the flowers.” Jiang Luofu seemed to have picked up on something and immediately cautioned Zu An, “Senior eleven picked a lotus flower many years ago, and he was whipped all the way from the mountaintop all the way to the bottom. His screams echoed throughout the entire academy.”

Zu An's hand trembled and he quickly pulled it back. "Am I the type of person who would ruin such a beautiful scene? I merely felt a sense of realization when I saw these lotus flowers."

Jiang Luofu wasn't someone easily deceived. She quickly asked, "What kind of realization?"

"Lotus flowers are grown from sludge, yet they're untainted. They float amid clear waters, yet will never seem garish." Zu An had experienced nine years of compulsory education, for better or for worse. How could he be so easily stumped by this woman?

...

An elder voiced his surprise within the courtyard deep within the trees. The distinguished lady seated across from him was also surprised and asked, "Sir Libationer, is there something wrong?"

The elder smiled and said, "It's nothing much. It's just that it's been a long time since I heard words that have stirred my heart."

These two were precisely Libationer Chen Si and Crown Princess Bi Linglong.

The crown princess tactfully chose not to ask further when she saw that he didn't have any intention of explaining himself. She returned to the previous topic. "Does the libationer have any guidance for us regarding the crown prince's great exam this time?"

The libationer said indifferently, "The crown princess should be aware that this old one has never participated in the court's politics."

The crown princess was in distress. "The crown prince was harmed by a villain when he was young, causing his intellect to be damaged. This kind of great exam is unfair to begin with. That was why I braced myself to consult Sir Libationer for some guidance."

"Harmed by a villain..." The libationer smiled and said, "There's no need for the crown princess to be worried. Even though the crown prince seems a bit old fashioned and slow, he's blessed with deep fortune. He'll naturally be able to turn misfortune into blessing."

The crown princess wasn't happy with his ambiguous words. After all, she was already tired of hearing that all day back in the Eastern Palace.

Unfortunately, no matter how she asked, the libationer only smiled, but didn't say anything. She sighed inwardly. She knew that the other party didn't wish to participate in their struggle against King Qi. She could only ask to be excused out of helplessness.

...

On the other side, Jiang Luofu couldn't help but reveal her surprise when she heard Zu An recite those words of poetry. "I didn't expect you to have a bit of literary talent too. If third senior met you, he would definitely feel close to you."

"Isn't third senior the Drunken Sword Immortal? Why would he do something like that?" Zu An was curious. Even though he could drink, it wasn't really a hobby. As for the sword, he was indeed a bit curious. This fellow was called a sword immortal, so Zu An didn't think his own sword skills were worth

mentioning here. But of course, if we were talking about shamelessness, then he didn't believe he was beneath anyone.[1]

Jiang Luofu explained, "Third senior has always been a weirdo. He claims that he excels in poetry, alcohol, and the sword, with poetry first, alcohol second, and sword techniques third. But all of us know that his poetry is nothing more than some cheap tricks, yet he's still so proud of himself. In our opinion, his knowledge is deepest in sword techniques, alcohol second, and his poetry... is trash. But he just loves poetry the most. That's why if you ever met him, just those two lines alone would make him think of you as one of his own."

"This third senior of yours sounds quite interesting." Zu An pondered. The libationer's disciples all sound like problem children! Tsk, I wonder how he even teaches them.

"Let's go, we'll meet teacher together." Jiang Luofu gestured toward him. Then, she walked into the serene pine forest.

Zu An couldn't help but ask along the way, "Right, the weather up here is a bit cold. It isn't suitable for growing lotus flowers at all, is it?"

Jiang Luofu nodded. "Teacher personally set up a formation nearby that forcibly changed the climate in the area. That's why such a beautiful pond of lotuses could be raised." As she explained the situation, her tone was full of admiration. It was clear that she thought of the deed as a supernatural work of art.

Zu An asked out of curiosity, "Then why did he insist on raising lotus flowers that don't suit the climate? Don't tell me it was just to show off that he had the ability to?"

"Of course not." Jiang Luofu frowned. "How can teacher be the type of person who cares about hypocritical fame? What does he have to prove? We're quite close to teacher's residence now, so you should watch your words, lest you offend teacher."

Zu An could vaguely make out a courtyard within the pine trees. He asked with a smile, "What kind of person is Sir Libationer? He wouldn't bicker with a junior like me over something so petty. Since you said that Sir Libationer isn't the type to show off, then I reckon he probably did all of that in commemoration of an old friend."

The crown princess saw that the libationer had already closed his eyes in rest. She sighed softly, and then bowed respectfully. "Linglong won't disturb Sir Libationer anymore. I'll bid my farewell here."

"Please take care, crown princess." The libationer still didn't open his eyes.

The crown princess was full of anxiety and worry. She had no idea how the crown prince was going to pass the great exam. But just as she was about to leave, she saw the nearby libationer's body tremble, and then he suddenly opened his eyes. She was overjoyed and thought that the libationer had changed his mind, that he had something to tell her.

However, she saw that the libationer didn't have any intention of speaking. Instead, he no longer had his usual indifference that seemed to overlook the entire world, but rather carried some other sort of feeling. He slowly stood up, and then he walked toward a painting on the wall in a daze.

The crown princess was shocked. What is happening to the libationer? He seems to be out of it...? She quickly looked closely to see what was on that painting. Unfortunately, no matter how she tried, she only saw mist around the painting. She couldn't see what was painted on it at all.

Suddenly, a familiar voice entered her ears. She couldn't help but turn to look outside the window in pleasant surprise. "Zu An?"

She had never expected to meet him here. Hadn't she told him to rest at home? What was he doing running all over the place when he was still injured? And who was that woman next to him? Her beautiful brows furrowed when she saw Jiang Luofu's attire. Why is she dressed so provocatively? Is this someone who specializes in seducing men?

However, a thought passed through her mind. She remembered that there was someone who dressed quite unusually. Could this be the Jiang clan's first miss? She had heard that back then, that person was the first choice to be the crown princess. However, she had suddenly gone missing to avoid the marriage, and that was why the royal family had chosen someone else.

This woman clearly hadn't wished to become the crown princess, so what was she doing back in the capital, let alone dressed so seductively? Zu An was no good too. He clearly already had the Chu clan's miss, yet he had immediately taken her bait.

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Chapter 778: Divining Fate

Zu An couldn't help but jump in fright when he saw the string of Rage points. What the hell had he done now that offended the crown princess? She's angry at me all the way from the Eastern Palace? Is someone talking smack about me behind my back?

I'll have to ask brothers Piao Duandiao and Jiao Sigun about it later. I don't want to be stabbed in the back without even knowing who it is.

There was no way he could have known that the crown princess just happened to be here as well.

He suddenly heard a giggle from up ahead, and a voice said, "I was the one who made this road, I was the one who planted these trees. If you wish to pass, then leave behind the toll."

Zu An was incredibly confused. This was the illustrious Royal Academy's rear mountain. There was a bandit all the way here? He raised his head and looked toward the voice, seeing a young lady sitting on a branch. Her thin legs were dangling in the air, as if she were just a little girl next door playing on a swing. She really didn't look like a bandit.

However, her outfit was quite strange. She was dressed in a dark blue top, and the skirt had all manner of white and light yellow star-shaped designs. The diagrams on her clothes looked mysteriously familiar, but he just couldn't recall where he had seen them before. She was also wearing a tall and sharp hat that looked quite similar to the witch hats in the fiction of his old world.

But there wasn't even a trace of wickedness coming from this young lady, and she instead looked extremely sweet. Her eyes were deep and clear like a starry sky. Her skin was incredibly pale, as if she had never walked under the sun.

However, her paleness wasn't a sickly sort, but rather added a delicate air to her appearance. Two quick-witted eyes darted around under her long and graceful brows, and beneath that were two charming dimples.

She really was a cute little girl. But right now, there were two large black circles around her eyes. Furthermore, she was yawning, which affected her image somewhat.

However, Zu An didn't lower his vigilance because of her appearance. Anyone who would stop them and try to rob them here couldn't be a good sort. His entire body was on guard as he secretly prepared for battle.

"Junior sister, what are you doing here?" Just then, Jiang Luofu rushed over happily and excitedly.

"Junior sister?" Zu An remembered that there was a junior sister who researched fortune-telling and astronomical phenomena.

He had been expecting an old lady! After all, judging from the order of the disciples, it wasn't based on age, but rather who had been taken in as a disciple first. There was a chance that those who were ranked later were much older than Jiang Luofu. But it was actually this pretty little girl.

He finally realized what the diagrams on her clothes were. They were a star atlas of the universe! They marked the positions of the stars in the sky at night. The positions of the stars in this world were different from those of his Earth. That was why he hadn't immediately realized what they were.

Although... Even if they had been the same, a keyboard warrior like him still wouldn't be able to tell the difference.

Looking at the little girl's appearance, it really was hard for Zu An to imagine her being capable of astronomical observations. Weren't those who studied such things all grannies or old things like Zhuge Liang?

"Hi, eighth sister." That little girl jumped down from the tree. A star diagram appeared beneath her feet to support her weight as she descended in a leisurely manner.

Jiang Luofu also smiled. She said to Zu An, "Ah Zu, I'll introduce her. This is my junior sister Qi Yaoguang. Junior sister, this is my friend Zu An."

"Qi Yaoguang?" Zu An thought that her name sounded nice, but there were actually people with the surname 'seven' in this world? This world really was quite bizarre.

Jiang Luofu said with a smile, "Do you feel this name is a bit familiar? The Ursae Dungeon in Brightmoon Mountain shares her name. I've always found it quite the coincidence." [1]

Qi Yaoguang said, "I always wanted to take a look, but I've always barely missed the chance for all sorts of reasons."

"By the way, why are you here?" Jiang Luofu asked out of curiosity.

Qi Yaoguang replied, "I was suddenly carried away by a whim and carried out a divination for myself. I learned that teacher would call me here to stop you guys, so I came ahead of time so I didn't have to listen to his nagging."

Zu An couldn't help but smile. It looked like no matter where it was, the youngest would always be spoiled. He could tell from this junior sister's tone that the libationer definitely doted on her greatly. Hm? Wait, she managed to divine that the libationer would call her over to stop us?

"Teacher called you over to stop us?" Jiang Luofu was also shocked. "Why?"

"Oh." Qi Yaoguang nodded. "Teacher has an important guest to meet with first."

Zu An smiled and said, "I can wait." He had too many questions to ask the libationer, so he didn't mind waiting a bit. Though, who was this important guest that was worth a personal audience with the libationer?

Qi Yaoguang sighed. "Senior sister, you guys always say that my emotional intelligence is low, but this guy's seems to be lower than mine? Teacher only said that he has an important guest as an excuse so you guys wouldn't look bad, but it's actually because he doesn't want to see you at all. Yet you just insist on staying."

Zu An was speechless. What the hell? Those words freaking hurt, man.

...

The crown princess was shocked. She gave the mysterious figure a look. "Sir Libationer, why aren't you meeting him?" She had thought that it was because Zu An's status was too low at first, and that was why the libationer wasn't willing to meet him. However, she suddenly remembered that his direct disciple had brought Zu An here. There should have been no reason for him to be this way.

"It is not yet time," the libationer said in a long and drawn-out voice.

The crown princess was stunned. What do you mean, not yet time?! She wanted to ask more, but the libationer didn't pay her any more attention. He only continued to stand in front of that wall painting in a daze.

...

Outside, Jiang Luofu was also puzzled. "Why is the teacher unwilling to meet with him? I brought him here because I have something to report to teacher."

Qi Yaoguang scratched her hair, and then tilted her head before looking at Zu An. "I don't know why teacher would give me such a weird order either. Normally, he could just choose not to meet you if he doesn't want to; why would he call me over here to stop you? How is this fella any different from anyone else?"

"Maybe I'm a bit more handsome?" Zu An asked probingly.

Qi Yaoguang gave Jiang Luofu a look. "Senior sister, don't tell me this is what a higher emotional intelligence is like?"

Jiang Luofu's face darkened. "Don't listen to his nonsense. He's also a model example of someone with low emotional intelligence."

Qi Yaoguang's eyes lit up. She immediately felt a more intimate connection when she looked at Zu An. "So it was a kindred spirit!"

Zu An thought to himself, There are places I can enter, but you can't. Stop trying to act all close.

Qi Yaoguang then said, "Wait, teacher really is acting strange. Let me take a look at your fate."

Even as she spoke, an array of stars had already formed in her hands. She fiddled with the star diagram, and then she twisted something that seemed like a dial. Her eyes began to shine as she looked at Zu An.

Zu An jumped in fright. "What is she doing?" He had experienced Devil's Eye and Jia Sili's illusions before. He was worried that it was something similar and immediately became vigilant.

Jiang Luofu consoled, "Don't worry, this is her ability. She can see a person's future to a certain extent. When I was hesitating about whether I should become the crown princess, she helped me take a look. She told me that my life would be much better if I didn't become the crown princess. Furthermore, I didn't want to become the crown princess anyway. Reality has proven that what she said back then was correct."

...

Bi Linglong was upset as she waited inside the room. Everyone outside thought that she was doing great as the crown princess, but only she alone knew how difficult it was. It looked like an amazing position, but it was actually full of dangers.

Can it be that it's my fate to be ruined... No, as long as the crown prince becomes the emperor, then I'll be the empress! I can change my fate! Her blank expression immediately became firm when she had those thoughts. She didn't see the libationer secretly shake his head behind her.

...

Zu An eased up when he heard what Jiang Luofu said. However, he was still a bit worried. She wouldn't be able to see through his identity as a transmigrator, right?

"Why are you staring at him for so long? What's the result?" Jiang Luofu walked over to Qi Yaoguang. She was also quite curious.

"How can this be?" Qi Yaoguang was puzzled. "I actually can't see through his fate path. I can only see peach blossoms everywhere." [2]

Chapter 779: Teacher Can Obtain Some Guidance Too

"Peach blossoms? What does that mean?" Jiang Luofu frowned.

Qi Yaoguang shook her head. "I have no idea. The only thing I can see is pink everywhere."

Zu An was also confused. Does this little girl really have divination skills, or is she just a little scammer?

"You can't even tell?" Jiang Luofu found it a bit inconceivable.

Qi Yaoguang shook her head. Then, she adjusted her somewhat tilted hat. "It's really strange. I can at least see something in other people, but I actually can't see a single thing from him!"

Jiang Luofu's expression suddenly changed. "Don't the peach blossoms everywhere mean something? Does that mean this fella is going to mess with all sorts of girls his entire life? That he has luck with the ladies?"

The crown princess felt her teeth starting to itch when she heard those words. No wonder that kind of thing happened with him, and even my clothes were gone! This idiot must be the reincarnation of the deity of lust or something.

Qi Yaoguang shook her head. "There are many ways to interpret peach blossoms. It might be a peach blossom tragedy, but it might be something else. However, these have nothing to do with his destiny. What describes one's fate is something else... What the heck is going on?" She walked around Zu An while speaking. Her originally drowsy eyes were now full of curiosity. "Senior sister, I'm becoming more and more interested in your friend."

Zu An was now also completely stunned. He couldn't help but feel like these two were going a bit too far. "I'm a married man, okay? Miss, please conduct yourself with dignity."

"You're married?" Qi Yaoguang tapped at her star diagram, adjusting it by pinching here and there. "That's weird, it says here that you're not married. Wait, you are married, but you aren't... What the heck is this? My head is about to explode!"

Jiang Luofu quickly said, "His situation is a bit complicated. He was married to Chu First Miss, but then for various reasons, they divorced on the surface; still, their affection for each other remains unchanged. There's no difference from how they treat each other normally either."

Zu An's guard rose. The gorgeous principal wasn't spying on him in private, was she?

Qi Yaoguang now understood. "So that was it, so that was it."

The crown princess frowned. His relationship with Chu First Miss is still that great? What in the world is the Chu clan thinking? For better or for worse, they're a powerful clan. Why would they let their daughter follow someone like Zu An?

Qi Yaoguang suddenly stared at Zu An and blinked. "You're not even married anymore, but you're still living with her just like before. Aren't you just scum then?"

Zu An was speechless. Being called scum by such a sweet looking little girl really was a whole different type of pain.

The crown princess secretly gave her a big thumbs up. She suddenly liked this little junior sister much more. Qi Yaoguang's words really did resonate with her soul!

Jiang Luofu gave Zu An an ambiguous smile. It's about time for this kid to suffer for once. Chu First Miss is such a wonderful lady, yet she keeps hanging around this fella. There's quite a bit of gossip going around the capital already.

Of course, that wasn't her objective today. While her junior sister was currently examining Zu An, she took a step forward and waved toward the wooden house. "Teacher, your disciple brought Zu An here and wishes to meet you." Even though she already believed what her junior sister had said, she still had to give it one last try.

A long and drawn-out voice came from the wooden house. "When it is time, we will naturally meet again." His words implied that now wasn't the time.

Jiang Luofu bit her lip and quickly said, "This disciple wishes to obtain a teaching identity for Zu An. I hope that teacher can give your approval."

The crown princess was shocked. This woman had nothing to do with Zu An. Why was she helping him like this?

She obviously understood how useful the identity of an academy teacher would be. There were many people who tried all sorts of methods to try and become an academy teacher. However, the requirements were strict, and only very few succeeded.

This woman had actually come to ask the libationer about this for Zu An's sake? Just what kind of relationship did they have?

The crown princess became unhappy again. It wasn't necessarily because she had ended up liking Zu An, but rather that she thought of Zu An as someone from the Eastern Palace, one of her people. Now, it was as if one of her toys had been stolen by another woman, and that woman was even her past love rival!

You have successfully trolled Bi Linglong for +368 +368 +368...

Zu An was stupefied. How the hell did I offend her now? However, now wasn't the time to think about such things either. He was more concerned about the libationer's reply.

"This is not in accordance with the rules," the libationer said. A period of silence followed from the wooden hut. Then, the libationer spoke again. "However, if you can receive more than half of the remaining core disciples' approval, then an exception can be made."

The crown princess frowned. She had heard about the libationer's disciples before. All of them were strange and eccentric. Many of the capital's bigwigs wanted to approach them and build a relationship, yet the disciples didn't pay them any attention. Making them agree to this exception was definitely a difficult task.

Even though she wasn't all that happy to see Zu An hang around all these pretty women behind her back, she also knew just how beneficial it would be for her if Zu An could become an academy teacher. That was why she still hoped that he would succeed.

Unfortunately, the more she cared, the more worried she became. When she recalled what everyone said about those disciples, she couldn't help but sigh. Looks like there's no hope this time. I'll see if I can help him think of a way next time.

However, just then, a pleasantly surprised voice said, "Sir Zu, Sir Zu! I finally found you!"

The crown princess saw a short and chubby fellow roll over like a ball of meat. Who else could it be but the eleventh disciple, Yin Shi? With the way he looked, it would be hard even if the crown princess didn't want to recognize him.

Zu An cupped his hands and said, "Brother Yin!"

Yin Shi hurriedly waved his hands. "I don't dare to receive that title, I don't dare! Your knowledge is already enough for you to serve as my teacher! I already feel rather apologetic for calling you sir; you can just call me Little Yin in the future."

The crown princess was speechless. She subconsciously rubbed her eyes. Had she gotten up on the wrong side of the bed today? This was Yin Shi, the one famous for being hard to deal with, yet he treated Zu An with respect? He had even called Zu An his teacher? If not for the fact that she had met Yin Shi before, she might have suspected that Zu An had arranged a fraud to come here.

The crown princess suddenly noticed a shadow by her side. When she turned around, she discovered that the libationer was also already at the windowsill, seemingly watching what was going on outside. She suddenly felt like laughing. The libationer had probably become nervous when he suddenly saw his disciple calling someone else his teacher.

Yin Shi continued, "Sir Zu, I received tremendous benefit after listening to your quantum theory! Many of my past confusions have been cleared up. I have a bunch of thoughts I want to discuss with you now..."

Jiang Luofu jumped in fright. Your teacher is right there in that wooden hut; aren't you deliberately provoking him right now? She quickly cut him off. "Junior brother, Ah Zu still has some important matters to take care of right now."

"Is he going to meet teacher? No problem, I'll wait right here." Yin Shi had a respectful expression on his face. "Only teacher has the qualifications to be on equal footing with Sir Zu."

Zu An, the crown princess, and Qi Yaoguang were speechless.

Jiang Luofu quickly said, "The teacher isn't willing to see him."

Yin Shi voiced his surprise. "Did teacher go senile? Sir Zu is a great genius! Perhaps even teacher can gain some enlightenment from talking to him. Even his cultivation might improve..." Before he could even finish talking, he suddenly screamed in misery. An invisible force that seemed to have kicked outward, sending his flesh ball of a body tumbling down the mountain.

The crown princess couldn't help but look at the libationer. He usually seemed aloof and indifferent. She hadn't expected him to be someone who held grudges!

"Huh? What's wrong with eleven?" asked a different voice.

A stern faced old farmer and an elegant scholar arrived together, carrying a ball of meat between them. Who else could it be but Yin Shi? He was about to reply, but he couldn't utter a word no matter how he tried.

That elegant scholar stroked his goatee and said with a smile, "I reckon he was punished by teacher again."

When the old farmer saw Yin Shi's sorry state, his furrowed brows eased up a bit. "Finally, I don't have to listen to eleven's blabbering anymore."

The crown princess was shocked when she saw the two of them. These had to be the libationer's fifth disciple Hei Baizi and seventh disciple Wang Shuyang. It was hard to see either one of them normally. Why had they both gathered here? Was there some major event today?

Chapter 780: More than Enough

Wang Shuyang and Hei Baizi's eyes suddenly lit up as they saw Zu An. They both rushed over excitedly and said, "Sir Zu, we finally found you."

The crown princess was speechless. What the hell is going on? Am I dreaming?

Junior sister Qi Yaoguang finally couldn't stand it anymore. "What the heck is up with you all today? One after another? His future might have peach blossoms, but they're not chrysanthemums!"[1] By her predictions, Zu An might be entangled with a lot of women in his life. But why didn't she see any women, and instead saw a bunch of men rushing at him with infatuation?

Zu An looked at the little girl, marveling. This sweet looking girl could actually talk like that? Furthermore, did chrysanthemums have that meaning in this world too?

Hei Baizi didn't pay her any attention and grabbed Zu An's hands. "Sir Zu, I played another dozen rounds with my disciple. I finally know where I was defeated! Come, come, come, let's play another round! I definitely won't lose so easily this time."

The crown princess began to question life now. If her memory served her correctly, wasn't Hei Baizi the Go saint? She had never heard of anyone in the capital defeating him in Go. This man was incredibly arrogant! Yet judging from the sounds of it, he seemed to have lost to Zu An?

Qi Yaoguang also voiced her surprise. She looked at Zu An with curiosity and asked what the crown princess was curious about. "You won against Hei Baizi?"

Zu An humbly said, "It was just by a fluke, a fluke."

Hei Baizi said with a sigh of admiration, "It wasn't a fluke at all. Only after reviewing our game did I realize that there were dozens of vicious traps hidden behind every single piece played. No matter how I tried to counter them, it would only pressure me closer and closer to defeat. Such a level of chess strategy even leaves me in amazement."

The crown princess' cheeks turned red when she heard that. She had found that the five-in-a-row game Zu An had taught the crown prince was crude and simple, and she had wanted to blame him for leading the crown prince astray, wishing to call him ignorant and incompetent. Who could have thought that Zu An's skills were this great!? Even Hei Baizi felt inferior?

The crown princess came from a distinguished clan. She was different from those noble daughters that loved rebels; she actually liked a man who excelled in the traditional system of values more. Gentle, well-educated and accomplished young masters were what she liked the most.

Zu An met her standards in terms of outward appearance, but he had always carried that stupid unruliness from the streets that she had never really liked. She hadn't expected him to have such talent! Of the four arts—zither, Go, calligraphy, and painting—Go was the most difficult. If he was so formidable in even the most difficult of the four, then how could he be lacking in the others?

She suddenly remembered that she'd had her subordinates look into Zu An's background. He seemed to have been well-known in Brightmoon City for his songwriting and poetry, but she hadn't paid much attention to it back then. She had assumed that he'd merely used that to court girls from the brothel, and that he didn't have any real skills...

But now, she suddenly realized that he was a real genius; it was just that he usually deliberately chose not to show off that side. Instead, he disguised himself with his usual frivolous appearance. Why would he do that?

To begin with, he had been brought to the capital by his majesty because he had obtained the method of eternal life, the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra. Then, he had managed to become hated by King Qi's faction. Pressed between the capital's two powers, he might be crushed if he even slipped up a little bit. He was probably acting like this on purpose to protect himself.

She couldn't help but feel pity when she thought of that. According to the information she read, she remembered that Zu An was an orphan, and the only family he had left, his uncle, had also died. Then, he had suffered all sorts of mistreatment when he was taken into the Chu clan.

Just as he had finally managed to gain a stable footing in the Chu clan, the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra matter had popped up. The Chu clan had then ruthlessly abandoned him. Now, he was all alone in the capital with no one to count on but himself. He was just too pitiful.

I have to do what I can to treat him a bit better in the future... The crown prince suddenly appeared in the crown princess' head. Compared to Zu An, the crown prince was the complete opposite! He was trash who only knew how to eat until the day he died.

...

While the crown princess was lost in thought, Qi Yaoguang asked Zu An with great curiosity, "Even though Hei Baizi can't win against me, his skills are still passable. You actually won against him? Hey, let's play a game too!"

Hei Baizi's face immediately turned as black as a black piece. He was the glorious Go Saint, and yet this stupid girl always left him at such a loss. The worst part was that it wasn't even his skills that were worse! He would always feel wronged when he thought of that.

Zu An said with an embarrassed smile, "Another day, another day."

Qi Yaoguang smiled and said, "Okay, then we'll play another day. It's decided!"

Wang Shuyang finally couldn't hold himself back anymore. He pushed Hei Baizi and Qi Yaoguang to the side. "You're all only talking about trifling things that sap the will! Don't interfere with my important matters."

Hei Baizi harrumphed. "Who said we weren't talking about important matters?" Even though he was a bit upset, he knew that Wang Shuyang was indeed a good citizen who worried for the people. That was why his voice became quieter and quieter, unable to argue with Wang Shuyang.

Wang Shuyang tugged Zu An's arm and said, "Sir Zu, I thought carefully about the hybridized paddy farming you suggested to me earlier. I realized that there was one large issue! After all, rice paddy flowers are all hermaphrodites and they self pollinate. If we wanted to crossbreed them, we would have to cut off their stamens. However, their flowers are so small, it's practically impossible!"

Zu An sighed in relief. Thank goodness he knew the answer to this question. In the past, there had been arguments on precisely this topic. As a keyboard warrior, he had participated in these arguments and read up on some such things during the process. He just happened to know about this problem.

"That's not too difficult of a matter. Look for male rice flowers that grow naturally in the wild. There are issues with their stamens, but the pistils are fine. Won't you be able to crossbreed then?" Zu An replied.

Wang Shuyang's eyes lit up. He couldn't hold back his admiration. "Wonderful! A single sentence from sir is equivalent to a decade of reading! Sir Zu, please accept my kowtow." Then, he bowed to Zu An respectfully.

The other disciples were incredibly shocked. Even though they didn't understand farming, they knew that if this thing really worked, it would have a huge impact on the world.

The key was that Zu An hadn't withheld his knowledge about something so precious at all. If it were anyone else, they would definitely have tried to gain something out of it. Everyone bowed toward Zu An when they thought of that. Jiang Luofu was no exception as well.

"What are you all doing? Please don't do this, please rise." Zu An felt a bit of a headache. He seemed to have gotten himself in too deep this time.

...

The crown princess watched the scene in shock. Then, she looked at the libationer at her side. She decided to test the waters. "Sir Libationer, are you not upset that your disciples are bowing to a young man?"

The libationer said calmly, "There is something I've always taught them. When in a group of three, there will always be one who can be your teacher. It seems they didn't forget after all. I'm extremely happy to see this scene, so why would I be upset?"

The crown princess laughed inwardly. In that case, why did you kick Yin Shi down the mountain?

...

Wang Shuyang used this chance to ask, "By the way, Sir Zu, I have some other question..."

Zu An was starting to get a headache. He only knew some concepts, how could he know anything about the details? He quickly said, "I need you to look into these things slowly on your own. There's a reason why everyone has their own karma and fate; this world has its laws of operation as well. If we rashly try to change them too quickly, we might cause the laws of the world to rebound, and that might instead be bad."

...

"Oh?" The libationer voiced his surprise from inside the wooden hut. His eyes flickered with radiance. As he looked out of the window, his expression became more and more serious.

The crown princess was shocked. She felt that these words were profound and mysterious as well, but she hadn't expected even the libationer to be moved. That meant that this was on a level she couldn't comprehend yet.

So Zu An's level was already so high! It seemed she had still underestimated him. She couldn't treat him like before anymore in the future.

The people outside all revealed looks of shock too. After all, they were all the libationer's core disciples, so they were all at a high level. They all gained a bit of enlightenment after hearing those words.

Zu An thought to himself, No way, right? I just repeated some random words I read from a web novel, and you guys really believed it?

Jiang Luofu saw Qi Yaoguang nodding repeatedly. She couldn't help but smile and asked, "Junior sister, do you understand what he's trying to say?"

Qi Yaoguang replied quietly, "Nope."

"If you don't understand, then why are you nodding?" Jiang Luofu asked in confusion.

Qi Yaoguang replied, "They're all nodding, so if I don't nod, won't I look dumb? That's so embarrassing."

Jiang Luofu was stunned. Girl, you make so much sense right now. She coughed lightly and said, "Fellow disciples, let's not trouble Ah Zu for now. I wish to take him in as a teacher of this academy, but teacher said we must obtain more than half of the votes from the remaining disciples. I must pay great senior and fourth senior a visit first."

The others immediately cried out, "What are you visiting them for!? Aren't we already more than half if we all agree?"

"What kind of joke is this? If a great talent like Sir Zu is willing to teach here, it will be our academy's glory!"

"Forget about having him teach the students, he's more than enough to even be our teacher!"

...

Inside the wooden house, the crown princess was already growing numb from shock. When she saw something that had originally seemed so hopeless being agreed to so easily, she instead nodded as if it were to be expected. She looked at the man outside with a complicated expression. Was this the same man she knew?