#### Martial 2411

## Chapter 2411, Infiltrating Ice Heart Valley at Night

Although he didn't know why Bing Yun suddenly began talking about her past, Yang Kai was sure that there was a reason, so he didn't interrupt her and kept listening.

"After I'd cultivated to a satisfactory height, I founded Ice Heart Valley in the Northern Territory and took in a batch of disciples. Ice Heart Valley slowly grew in strength, eventually becoming what it is today; however, I never forgot the life-saving kindness of that person. Three thousand years ago, I left Ice Heart Valley, pledging to find that Senior even if I had to roam the entire Star Boundary. To repay that Senior, I had to, at the very least, show my gratitude." Bing Yun faintly smiled, "We cultivators are people who should repay every bit of favour we receive, let alone the kindness of saving one's life!"

"Unfortunately, before I could make any significant progress, I was careless and fell into the Solitary Void Sealed World where I remained trapped for three thousand years, until I met you."

After discovering that she was trapped in the Solitary Void Sealed World for so long, Yang Kai was shocked. Bing Yun had been unable to increase her cultivation while in that place, which meant that she was a Third-Order Emperor Realm Master long before falling into the Solitary Void Sealed World. If not for her bad luck, during these three thousand years, she might have been able to comprehend the secrets of the Great Emperor Realm!

"Finding that Senior is a lifelong goal of mine. No matter where, I'll keep looking for that Senior! I still need to express my gratitude!" Bing Yun said resolutely.

Yang Kai said, "Then, Ice Heart Valley ... "

Bing Yun smiled faintly, "Even if I am the founder of Ice Heart Valley, I can't protect the Sect forever. If the disciples are competent and can allow it to prosper, it couldn't be any better, but if they lack the necessary skills, the Sect will inevitably grow weaker. In this world, no Sect or family can stand forever. Just like people, they rise and fall in a perpetual cycle."

Yang Kai nodded, "What Senior says makes sense."

Bing Yun continued, "Back when I left Ice Heart Valley, I didn't feel completely relieved, so I left behind something, an artifact created through a Secret Technique of mine, and told my Disciples that if the Sect ever fell into mortal danger and they had no other recourse, they could use that artifact to contact me, and I would rush back as soon as possible."

Speaking until here, Bing Yun quietly took out a jade token from her Space Ring. Holding it in the palm of her hand, she said, "Just now, I felt an energy fluctuation from that very artifact!"

Yang Kai gazed at the jade token and noticed that a pale light was flashing from it, reminiscent of a firefly.

His expression changed, "Is Ice Heart Valley in danger?"

Bing Yun shook her head, "I'm not sure; however, so many Emperor Realm Masters suddenly appearing in Ice Moon City is far from normal. It likely has something to do with the Sect's troubles."

"Senior, how can I help?" Yang Kai asked. Bing Yun had said all those things and even taken out this jade token, so she definitely wanted him to do something.

"I still need two or three more days to fully recuperate, so I am unable to leave this place for the time being. I want you to go to Ice Heart Valley and find out what has happened."

Yang Kai immediately nodded, "Okay, since Senior has made this request, I will do my best to fulfil it; however, Ice Heart Valley is one of the top Sects in the Northern Territory, so it is not going to be easy to break in. If Junior is slightly careless and touches one of the protective barriers, I'm afraid that with my strength..."

If Yang Kai accidentally bumped into the Sect Defending Array, he would be treated as an enemy by the entire Sect. Even without Bing Yun, Ice Heart Valley had a considerable number of Emperor Realm Masters. As he would be heavily outnumbered at that time, it wasn't certain that Yang Kai would be able to escape.

"You don't have to worry about that, as long as you have my token with you, none of the barriers will hinder you," Bing Yun took out another token. This token was pure white and flawless, just as if it was carved from the most beautiful jade in the world. On its face was engraved the character 'Yun'.

Yang Kai stretched out his hand and accepted the token.

Bing Yun gave him the flashing jade token as well, "With this other token, you'll be able to sense the location of the artifact I left behind. Back when I left, I placed the artifact in Ice Heart Valley's Restricted Area, and it should still be there."

"I understand," Yang Kai nodded with a serious expression before he stuffed the two tokens into his Space Ring.

"Take this as well," Bing Yun suddenly took out a bead, her expression heavy.

Yang Kai's eyes lit up as he exclaimed, "An Emperor Authority Bead!"

He was very familiar with this pill-like item. Back in the Four Seasons Realm, he obtained the Flowing Time Great Emperor's Emperor Authority Bead, which he later used in the Thousand Leaves Sect's small Sealed World. When it was unleashed, Flowing Time Force filled the whole area, obliterating the Third-Order Emperor Realm Corpse Puppet. During that time, Yang Kai had taken advantage of the Flowing Time Force to break through to the Third-Order Dao Source Realm.

Emperor Authority Beads contained a single full-powered strike of an Emperor Realm Master. However, not every Emperor Realm cultivator could refine such a treasure. One needed to be at least a Second-Order Emperor Realm Master to create one, and it required a huge amount of time and energy to do so.

Such items were given to promising Juniors of the younger generation to use as life-saving tools. Each Emperor Realm Master couldn't create too many Emperor Authority Beads, with three being the limit during one's lifetime. If they exceeded that number, they would inevitably damage their foundation.

Yang Kai didn't expect that Bing Yun would be so generous, going as far as to give him an Emperor Authority Bead to protect himself.

"This is the Emperor Authority Bead I refined after reaching the Third-Order Emperor Realm. Inside is sealed a Secret Technique of mine. Use it with caution!"

Yang Kai happily received the bead and stored it away carefully. He then stood up and bowed, "Junior will set out immediately."

"Remember to be careful. If you're spotted, immediately take out my token. If you do that, those little girls won't dare to attack you," Bing Yun urged.

Yang Kai grinned, "With Senior's assurance, I have nothing to fear."

He turned around then and left.

In accordance with Bing Yun's rules, Ice Heart Valley had no male disciples. The situation was the same as Ice Heart Valley on Scarlet Wave Star. When Yang Kai visited that place in the past, he found no male disciples. There were only women, each beautiful in their own right. Every man that stepped in Ice Heart Valley was bound to be dazzled.

Usually, this type of task should not have fallen on his shoulders, but among the disciples Bin Yun currently had with her, the strongest one was Fan Xin, and she was only a Second-Order Dao Source cultivator. Moreover, the difference in strength between her and Yang Kai was immense. For this reason, Bing Yun could only ask Yang Kai for help.

Yang Kai was also clear about this; moreover, other than those tokens, Bing Yun had also given him an Emperor Authority Bead, so it was clear how much importance she attached to this matter. With these various shields protecting him, he shouldn't have too many problems while investigating Ice Heart Valley's situation.

Ice Heart Valley wasn't far from Ice Moon City, and it was possible to reach it after flying for around one hour. Ice Moon City was the hub that the Sect used to keep in touch with the external world and exchange commodities. If it was too far away, it would lose its function.

Yang Kai didn't disturb any of the others and quietly left Ice Moon City, heading towards Ice Heart Valley.

When the sky started to become dark, he arrived at the Sect's border.

Ice Heart Valley was located in a huge mountain valley surrounded by tall hills, which made it easy to defend but hard to attack. The surroundings were beautiful, and the World Energy here was rich. From the looks of it, Bing Yun chose this place very carefully. There was certainly a very good Earth Vein running below this land, otherwise, the World Energy here wouldn't be so rich.

The only entrance to Ice Heart Valley was a thousand meters tall valley mouth; however, the corridor was guarded by female disciples, and it was impossible to get past them undetected.

Yang Kai couldn't use the main entrance to get inside as he was on a secret mission to find the disciple who had contacted Bing Yun and inquire about Ice Heart Valley's situation.

He checked the outer area of the Sect for some time before heading in a certain direction.

After a short while, he stopped, released his Divine Sense, and scanned the place in front of him.

There was an invisible barrier that blocked his way. It was a Spirit Array protecting Ice Heart Valley. If someone touched it, the whole Sect would be alerted. At that time, even Yang Kai would have a hard time escaping.

Yang Kai didn't act rashly, choosing to hide nearby and calmly wait for an hour. After making sure that this place was deserted and no disciples were patrolling it, he took out Bing Yun's token and pointed it at the barrier.

A ray of light shot out from the token, quietly opening a hole in the barrier.

Yang Kai didn't waste time and dashed forward to get inside. Thanks to his mastery of Space Principles, he was like a ghost hiding in the shadows. At the same time, he activated his Nihility Secret Technique, concealing his aura to the limit.

Yang Kai was able to infiltrate easily. It seemed that Bing Yun's token could really render every Spirit Array in Ice Heart Valley useless, a fact that made him feel relieved.

He then took out the jade token and began using it to trace the location of the communication artifact, quietly heading in that direction.

The farther he advanced, the more auras he sensed. They were obviously disciples of Ice Heart Valley. As it was one of the top Sects in the Northern Territory, it was bound to have a lot of disciples; however, no one Yang Kai encountered was too powerful, the strongest of them being in the Dao Source Realm. With his current strength and his aura-concealing Secret Technique, they couldn't detect him.

Around an hour later, Yang Kai was moving past a certain building and was about to head into the depths of the Sect when he suddenly stopped, his expression becoming strange.

The reason was that he heard a man talking.

The voice came from the building beside him; moreover, it wasn't only one person, but rather two men who seemed to be discussing something.

[What are these men doing in Ice Heart Valley?] Yang Kai was stunned. Ice Heart Valley was an all-female Sect, and men weren't allowed to enter it, much less join.

[Is it possible that some of the disciples couldn't bear the loneliness and decided to secretly sneak their lovers inside?] The thought scared Yang Kai. If that was true, Ice Heart Valley's reputation would be ruined!

## Chapter 2412, Zi Yu Again

But after giving it more thought, he concluded that it should be unlikely. Ice Heart Valley was a big Sect with tens of thousands of disciples, so it was impossible to secretly bring men here without anyone noticing. Moreover, marriage wasn't forbidden in Ice Heart Valley. If any disciple found a man they liked, they could get married; it was just that after getting married, they would no longer be considered part of the Sect.

Bing Yun's rules weren't too strict when it came to love as she knew that everyone had desires and emotions, and it was pretty normal that the Sect's disciples would eventually meet a man they liked while wandering outside. The rules were pretty progressive in this sense.

But bumping into men here was surprising nonetheless. Since they could stay here, their background must be far from ordinary.

Yang Kai became curious and wanted to hear what they were talking about, but as he lightly probed the auras of these two, Yang Kai became alert and no longer dared to act rashly.

One of these men turned out to be a Second-Order Emperor Realm Master!

Yang Kai had fought Firs-Order Emperors in the past, and even killed a few of them, but he had yet to fight someone in the Second-Order, so he was unsure as to how strong they were.

Moreover, he had come here with a mission, and he couldn't afford to get sidetracked.

Yang Kai hesitated only for a short moment before fleeing towards a distant place.

"Who goes there!?" Suddenly, someone shouted from the building and a human figure quickly dashed out.

Yang Kai was surprised. It seemed he'd underestimated the perception of this Second-Order Emperor Realm Master. He couldn't even get past the building without getting noticed.

Not hesitating, Yang Kai teleported away, disappearing from where he was standing.

In the next moment, a male figure appeared where Yang Kai had been hiding until a moment ago. The figure's expression was gloomy as he released his Divine Sense, checking all around. However, he didn't sense anyone's presence.

A young man immediately caught up to him, stopping beside the middle-aged man and asking with a frown, "Martial Uncle Yao, what happened?"

The middle-aged man replied, "There was someone here just a moment ago!"

The young man was surprised, "Who?"

The man shook his head, "I'm not sure; however, that person left very quickly... I can even sense fluctuations of Space Principles here."

"Space Principles?" The young man was shocked and blurted out, "Martial Uncle, are you saying that there's someone in Ice Heart Valley that is proficient in the Dao of Space?"

The middle-aged man contemplated for a while before slowly shaking his head, "As far as I know, there is no one in Ice Heart Valley who is proficient in the Dao of Space. The reason behind these remnant Space Principles could be due to some kind of Space Array that had been set up here ahead of time."

Hearing his words, the young man relaxed and smiled, "For a moment, I was worried that there might be some genius in Ice Heart Valley who was able to cultivate the Dao of Space, but it turns out that it was just some kind of temporary Space Array. I wonder who was so bored to create and use such a thing."

The middle-aged man shook his head and said, "Xi'er, you should know that there are many people in Ice Heart Valley who are against this marriage, right? For example, that current Valley Master. Perhaps this was her doing."

The young man faintly smiled, "Even if it was her, what can she do? The wedding is in just two days. At that time, I'll bring Zi Yu back to our Sect and she will no longer have any relations with Ice Heart Valley."

The middle-aged man nodded, "Zi Yu is the best among Ice Heart Valley's younger generation. Actually, even in the whole Northern Territory, there is hardly anyone who can compare to her. Regardless of whether we're talking about cultivation or aptitude, she is not inferior to you. You two are a good match."

Hearing Zi Yu's name, an obsessed expression appeared on the young man's face and he said gently, "That is natural. Otherwise, how could Xi'er take a fancy to her?"

The middle-aged man frowned and looked at him, "Our Seeking Passion Sect's Seeking Passion Supreme Art pursues the Dao of Passion in our cultivation. The higher the passion, the quicker the cultivation speed; however, Xi'er, you have to remember that if the other party does not return your affections, you'll receive a huge backlash the day your Secret Art reaches the grand accomplishment stage. Are you sure you can capture that Zi Yu's heart and make her your own? Back in the day, your father almost died because of this. Luckily, at the critical moment, your mother was moved by him. Martial Uncle hopes that nothing of the sort will happen to you; after all, the future of our Seeking Passion Sect rests on your shoulders."

The young man said confidently, "Martial Uncle, don't worry, as long as Zi Yu returns to the Sect with us, I'm sure I can conquer her body and mind. Xi'er has learned well from Father how to tame a woman."

"It's good that you're this confident. In any case, let's rest now, there are still two days left until the wedding. At that time, even the Sect Master will come here. You must be prepared!"

Hearing his words, the young man was astonished, "Lord Father will come here personally? Isn't that giving too much face to Ice Heart Valley?"

The middle-aged man smiled, "Although Ice Heart Valley is somewhat unworthy of its status nowadays, it is still known as one of the top Sects in the Northern Territory. When their Ancestral Founder was still here, they were on par with our Seeking Passion Sect, so it's fine to give them some face. Moreover, this is your wedding we're talking about, how can the Sect Master, your father, not come personally?"

"That's great," the young man said happily.

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Yang Kai was shuttling back and forth through Ice Heart Valley's barriers and Spirit Arrays. With Bing Yun's token in hand, he didn't have to worry about carelessly touching something and getting trapped.

He kept moving deeper and deeper into the Sect while avoiding all sorts of dangers. After one hour, he arrived at an extremely cold place.

In fact, cold pervaded the whole of Ice Heart Valley, and since its disciples cultivated Ice Attribute Secret Arts and Secret Techniques, they could obtain twice the result with half the effort while cultivating here.

However, this area was far colder than the rest and even Yang Kai had to circulate his Source Qi to resist the chill here.

Unlike the situation outside, Yang Kai could no longer sense anyone's aura after entering this place.

This should be Ice Heart Valley's Restricted Area!

Each Sect had Restricted Areas, most of which contained the memorial tablets of the Sect's Ancestors or special Cultivation Paradises. Usually, only a small number of people were allowed to set foot in such places.

As for Ice Heart Valley's Restricted Area, it was used as a cultivation area for the most outstanding disciples, as well as a confinement area.

If a disciple committed a mistake, they could be locked up here. Even Ice Heart Valley's disciples couldn't bear the cold here for too long.

Ahead was a corridor covered in a layer of ice. Yang Kai held up Bing Yun's token and broke through the barriers here, heading deeper and deeper into the Restricted Area where the Ice Principles became stronger with each step he took.

Yang Kai was amazed, aware that this place was of the utmost importance to Ice Heart Valley. If the disciples cultivated here, their cultivation speed would be astonishing. Of course, they'd first have to bear the pressure of the Ice Principles, otherwise, they would simply freeze to death.

On both sides of the ice corridor were pure-white, mirror-like walls. On these walls were engraved a lot of lifelike figures. When Yang Kai gazed at them, he felt as if they were coming to life in front of him. Each figure was exquisite and graceful, seemingly demonstrating some powerful Secret Technique.

He couldn't help but stare at them as he became somewhat entranced.

However, what he cultivated wasn't an Ice Attribute Secret Art, so even if there was this opportunity in front of him, there was nothing he could do.

He couldn't infer any profound mysteries from these moving pictures, only feeling that they were rather peculiar.

Sighing faintly, Yang Kai was aware that this opportunity had no fate with him so he no longer hesitated and dashed toward the corridor's end.

After a little while, he reached the end, and what appeared in front of him was an open space, as well as an ice lake that released a mind-numbing cold. The ground there was frozen solid, with the Ice Principles all around ready to freeze one's very Soul.

Yang Kai shuddered as he pushed his Source Qi harder to ward off the cold.

Due to the frigid temperatures here, the whole area was filled with white mist, making it impossible to see too far ahead of oneself.

Yang Kai took a look around and saw a small island in the middle of the ice lake where a blurry figure sat cross-legged.

[Is that the Ice Heart Valley disciple who summoned Bing Yun?] This thought flashed in his mind as he quietly released his Divine Sense to investigate. The other party's cultivation was the same as his, Third-Order Dao Source Realm.

What made Yang Kai feel strange though was that this person's aura was familiar, as if he had met her somewhere before.

While Yang Kai was lost in thought, a buzzing sound was transmitted from the island.

His mind shook as he felt as if something on the small island was summoning him.

The discovery left Yang Kai thoroughly puzzled as he wondered what exactly could be calling him.

"Honoured Master?" A pleasing voice suddenly sounded from the small island and called out to Yang Kai, "Honoured Master, is that you? Have you come to see Yu'er?"

From the looks of it, she'd mistaken Yang Kai for someone else!

After hearing her voice, Yang Kai became clear as to why he found her aura familiar earlier; after all, he had met this young woman only a few days ago. Although they only had a brief contact, Yang Kai still remembered her aura and voice.

He coughed lightly and tried to sound as gentle as possible so as to avoid scaring the other party, "Sister Zi Yu?"

On the small island, the girl seemed frightened as she shouted, "Who are you? What are you doing here?"

This was Ice Heart Valley's Restricted Area! Without the permission of the Sect's higher-ups, even someone like her couldn't come here, so how could she not be surprised when a man suddenly appeared in this place?

After seemingly thinking of something, Zi Yu coldly snorted, "Are you from Seeking Passion Sect? Is that you, Feng Xi?"

Her words were full of hostility. It was unknown how this Feng Xi had offended her.

Yang Kai stood in place and said, "Sister Zi Yu, you misunderstand. I'm not Feng Xi, and I'm not from Seeking Passion Sect. I'm here because of Sister Zi Yu's distress signal."

"Distress signal?" Zi Yu was dumbfounded. She then said in a delicate voice, "How do you know about it? The one I summoned was my Sect's Ancestral Founder!"

# Chapter 2413, Seeking Passion Supreme Art

On the small island, Zi Yu was dumbstruck.

After getting locked up here, she followed her Honoured Master's instructions and used the artifact left behind by the Sect's Ancestral Founder to contact her. She wanted to summon their Ancestral Founder, who had been missing for three thousand years, to uphold justice for her.

According to what her Honoured Master told her, if there was someone in this world who could save her from the abyss of desperation, it was their Ancestral Founder.

However, their Ancestral Founder had been missing ever since she left the Sect three thousand years ago, and there had been no news of her since then. In these three thousand years, Ice Heart Valley had encountered many disasters, and during one of the disasters, her Honoured Master had used the method left behind by the Ancestral Founder to connect with the artifact and send a distress signal; however, no one replied back then.

Many of the Sect's higher-ups thought that the Ancestral Founder had died somewhere in the Star Boundary. That was the only explanation as to why she never came back.

Even her Honoured Master was no longer sure if their Ancestral Founder still lived or not; however, this was their only hope.

When Zi Yu used the artifact to send a distress signal, she did so out of desperation and had no real expectations of success.

Never would she have expected that someone would receive the signal and come here. What surprised her even more was that the person who came here was a man!

Wasn't it the Ancestral Founder who left this artifact here? And, wasn't she a woman? So, why was the person here a man? Zi Yu couldn't make sense of the situation.

While she was trying to guess Yang Kai's identity, the latter spoke, "Sister Zi Yu, can I come closer before speaking? Otherwise, I'm afraid we might alert the people outside."

Zi Yu tried to calm down and said indifferently, "If you can bear the cold, sure."

Yang Kai smiled faintly and jumped over towards the lake's centre.

In the next moment, he was standing on the small island, and a familiar face was reflected in his eyes.

[It really is her!]

Yang Kai was puzzled. He met this girl named Zi Yu a few days ago, when she was being besieged by people from Seeking Passion Sect, but after he helped her, not only was she not grateful, she even became vigilant and directly fled.

And now, for some reason, she was locked up in the Sect's Restricted Area.

"It's you!" Zi Yu called out in surprise after seeing Yang Kai. Noticing that her voice was too loud, she hurriedly covered her mouth, her beautiful eyes lightly quivering as she asked, "How can this be?"

She naturally remembered Yang Kai as they had met a few days ago, when he gave her a big helping hand, but what she couldn't understand was how he reached Ice Heart Valley's Restricted Area without getting noticed by anyone.

"Sister Zi Yu, you can rest assured, I don't have any malicious intentions towards you," seeing her vigilant expression, Yang Kai hurried to take a step back, "I'm here because someone asked me to come."

"Someone asked you to come here? Who?" Zi Yu asked skeptically.

Yang Kai smiled, "Take a look at this."

He then stretched out his hand and threw Bing Yun's token to Zi Yu.

Still puzzled, Zi Yu caught the token before glancing up at Yang Kai then down to begin examining the token.

After a short moment, her tender body trembled and her eyes opened wide as she said with an expression of disbelief, "This is... Ancestral Founder's aura!"

Although she didn't recognize this token, she could tell that the wisp of aura on it wasn't fake, and this wisp of aura happened to be the same as the one on the emergency contact artifact the Ancestral Founder had left behind!

She raised her head and looked at Yang Kai in astonishment, saying with both a happy and anxious tone, "Are you saying that the one who sent you here is..."

"Shh!" Yang Kai put his finger over his lips, hinting that she should not speak further.

However, Zi Yu was too happy and clutched the token tightly while almost choking on her sobs, "I knew it. I knew it. Ancestral Founder is alive and well. My Honoured Master can finally rest easy."

She changed the subject abruptly, starting to talk about her Honoured Master.

At the same time, she took out a Communication Bead and released her Divine Sense, pouring it into the bead to relay some information.

Yang Kai frowned, "What are you doing?"

Zi Yu said, "My Honoured Master has always been worrying about the Ancestral Founder's safety, if she learns that she's safe, she'll certainly be delighted."

Yang Kai broke out in a cold sweat, "It's better not to tell your Honoured Master about this matter for now."

# "Why?"

Yang Kai said, "Senior Bing Yun can't come over right now. She'll come here in a few days, and your Honoured Master will get to meet her at that time."

Hearing his words, Zi Yu paused, pondering for a moment before nodding, "Forgive me, I was too excited. Right, I still haven't asked Senior Brother's name."

Yang Kai said, "You can just call me Yang Kai."

"So, it is Senior Brother Yang!" Zi Yu relaxed, putting on a happy face and smiling brightly. This smile of hers almost made the World lose colour and Yang Kai was slightly dazed when he saw it, but he quickly returned to his senses.

Zi Yu noticed his change in expression, praising him inwardly. Very few men could resist her charm, and most of them only had lust in their eyes while looking at her.

Her beauty did daze Yang Kai, but only for a moment. He was obviously a man with great self-control.

"Zi Yu has been rude and failed to thank Senior Brother Yang appropriately for saving her life. I hope Senior Brother Yang does not take offence," Zi Yu said, somewhat embarrassed. After knowing that it was their Ancestral Founder who had sent Yang Kai here, she found him very likeable and didn't have any problem calling him 'Senior Brother'. It felt as if they were really part of the same Sect despite Ice Heart Valley not having any male disciples. Zi Yu never had a Senior or Junior Brother, but Yang Kai gave her the feeling of being trustworthy.

"Don't worry. I'm sure Sister Zi Yu had her reasons." Yang Kai smiled.

Zi Yu slightly nodded, then forced a smile, "As Senior Brother Yang can see, I've been in some trouble lately."

"Sister Zi Yu, did something happen to Ice Heart Valley as of late? If you don't mind, can you tell me about it?" Yang Kai asked. He had come here with two missions. One was to find the disciple who had contacted Bing Yun, and the other was to discover what was going on with Ice Heart Valley.

"Senior Brother Yang, you can directly call me Junior Sister," Zi Yu said gently. The last time, she saw Yang Kai easily defeating Cao Yang, something that was beyond her capabilities, therefore, even if they had the same cultivation, she felt inferior to him.

"But yes, something has happened. Moreover, this matter is related to me," Zi Yu continued, a guilty expression appearing on her face. After taking a short moment to arrange her thoughts, she raised her head and said, "Senior Brother Yang, you know of the Seeking Passion Sect, yes?"

Yang Kai nodded. Although he didn't know much about the scepticallysion Sect, he knew some key information. It was a Sect with considerable influence in the Northern Territory, and they had many strong Masters. To make a comparison, they stood on the same level as the Southern Territory's Azure Sun Temple.

"Seeking Passion Sect's core Secret Art is the Seeking Passion Supreme Art," Zi Yu continued, "This Secret Art is very strange, and it is a big reason as to why Seeking Passion Sect was able to maintain its lofty status in the Northern Territory for so many years. I've heard that the creator of this Secret Art was a Great Emperor. That Great Emperor was called 'Seeking Passion', and those that cultivate this Secret Art use 'passion' as their Dao. The greater the passion, the higher the cultivation speed."

Yang Kai was astonished, "Does that mean that everyone from the Seeking Passion Sect is a Casanova?"

Zi Yu sneered, "Senior Brother Yang, you're giving them too much credit by calling them Casanovas."

Yang Kai frowned, "But didn't you say that they use 'passion' as a path to cultivation? If they aren't highly skilled in the art of seduction, how can they even cultivate this Seeking Passion Supreme Art?"

Zi Yu nodded, "They indeed take passion as their Dao, and they also need to experience unforgettable love while cultivating; however, once Seeking Passion Sect's elite disciples can use their 'Seeking Passion Supreme Art' at will and start looking for a partner, women have a hard time resisting their charm due to this Secret Art. Even casual exposure over enough time is to make these women fall into the abyss of passion."

"This Secret Art is so abnormal?" Yang Kai was surprised. These men were using passion as their Dao to cultivate was one thing, but the fact that they could also use their Secret Art to influence the mentality of their partner was beyond his expectations. This was the ultimate technique to pick up women as it seemed that no woman could withstand the charm of those that cultivated the Seeking Passion Supreme Art!

"The Seeking Passion Supreme Art doesn't only require the user to feel passionate, but their partner as well. If the woman isn't moved at all, the user will receive a significant backlash, and the greater the difference in passion, the stronger the backlash," Zi Yu explained with a disgusted expression on her face, "If that Seeking Passion Sect disciple can win over the woman's heart, then they can live on as lovers and perhaps even have a happy life, but the problem is that very few women can keep pace with someone that has learned this Secret Art. After a few years, the disparity in strength between the two will become so big that the woman will no longer provide benefits to a Seeking Passion Sect disciple in any way. As such, that disciple would have no look for another woman to fall in love with. It's like a never-ending cycle where the disparity between the two keeps growing bigger and bigger."

Yang Kai gulped and said with envy, "Does that mean that every Seeking Passion Sect disciple has a dozen or so wives, and these wives love them so much that they can't bear to leave them?"

Zi Yu looked at Yang Kai and sharply accused, "Senior Brother Yang, why does it look like you're envious?"

Yang Kai wiped the drool from the corner of his mouth and hurriedly waved his hand, "How could that possibly be?? I was just surprised at how heartless and disgusting this Secret Art is. I absolutely loathe this kind of Secret Art that mocks human decency!"

It was unknown if Zi Yu believed him or not, but she didn't dwell on the matter further, "All of Seeking Passion Sect's elite disciples cultivate the Seeking Passion Supreme Art, and they don't just stop at a dozen wives. Some of them have managed to capture the hearts of hundreds of young women while

cultivating. What's worse is that all those women are dead set on them. I'm starting to wonder if they're crazy or something!"

Zi Yu clenched her teeth, clearly disappointed by those women.

# Chapter 2414, Centre of the Restriction

"Love is the hardest thing to forget in this world," blurted out Yang Kai, looking as if he'd experienced something similar.

Zi Yu smiled, "Senior Brother Yang, are you recalling someone?"

Yang Kai said embarrassedly, "Junior Sister Yu, please continue."

Zi Yu became happy when she heard him call her 'Junior Sister Yu'. She continued, "Generally speaking, every woman that attracts the attention of a disciple from Seeking Passion Sect is doomed. After being influenced by that Seeking Passion Supreme Art, the woman will no longer have any interest in cultivating, the only thing on her mind would be that disciple, as if he was her entire world. This is also the reason the difference between the two of them keeps increasing."

Yang Kai nodded, "Compared to the man, who seems pretty much unaffected, the woman falls in the abyss of love, unable to extricate herself." After a short pause, he looked at Zi Yu and asked, "Junior Sister Yu, since you're telling me this, does that mean that someone from Seeking Passion Sect took a fancy to you?"

Hearing his words, Zi Yu's expression darkened and she sighed, "Senior Brother Yang's guess is correct. The one eyeing me is Seeking Passion Sect's Young Sect Master, Feng Xi!"

"Feng Xi?" Yang Kai frowned. He remembered that Zi Yu had mentioned this name when he first came here. She asked him if he was Feng Xi, which he denied. Now, it turned out that this Feng Xi was Seeking Passion Sect's Young Sect Master.

"My Ice Heart Valley and Seeking Passion Sect are both top Sects in the Northern Territory, and the disciples of the two Sects occasionally have the opportunity to meet face to face. Feng Xi and I had heard of the other despite having never met in person, but a few years back, I accidentally met him while I was outside. Since that day, he hasn't stopped pestering me. I was fed up with him and rejected him several times, but it was of no use."

Yang Kai sneered, "That guy sure is shameless!"

Zi Yu continued, "Actually, Feng Xi and I are an appropriate match from a social point of view, and you could even say that I'm the one in the lower position. Although Ice Heart Valley is still considered one of the top Sects in the Northern Territory, everyone knows that it has somewhat fallen from grace. Its strength is no longer comparable to Seeking Passion Sect's. Feng Xi failed to get his hands on me personally, so he shamelessly asked the Seeking Passion Sect to put pressure on Ice Heart Valley,

promising great benefits if they accepted. Under this pressure, some of the Sect's leaders agreed to the marriage. Now, I am to get married to Feng Xi in two days."

"Ice Heart Valley's Elders agreed?" Yang Kai's face darkened.

Zi Yu said in low spirits, "This cannot be blamed on them as we are in a weaker position compared to the enemy. In the past half a year, our Sect's industries were targeted one after another, and my Junior and Senior Sisters were attacked whenever they got out. Some even died. To protect the Sect, they could only agree."

Seeing her helpless expression, Yang Kai sympathized with her. After a short moment, he asked, "What about your Honoured Master? What is her position in Ice Heart Valley? Did she also agree?"

Zi Yu forced a smile, "My Honoured Master has managed Ice Heart Valley ever since our Ancestral Founder left. She's the current Valley Master and has always treated me as if I were her own child, so she naturally did not agree to this marriage. The reason I could escape last time was also thanks to her assistance; however, her hands are tied right now, and she can't help me."

"Since you managed to escape, how did they capture you again?" Hearing that the current Valley Master didn't agree to the marriage, even going as far as to help Zi Yu flee the Sect, Yang Kai felt that Ice Heart Valley's higher-ups weren't completely hopeless.

Zi Yu said dejectedly, "Seeking Passion Sect's Vice Sect Master, Yao Zhuo, came personally. He's a Second-Order Emperor Realm Master, and I had no way to resist him."

"Yao Zhuo!" Yang Kai engraved this name in his mind, guessing that after separating from them a few days ago, Zi Yu must've bumped into Yao Zhuo, who captured her and brought her back to Ice Heart Valley, getting locked up in the Restricted Area.

"Right, both he and Feng Xi are staying as guests in Ice Heart Valley. Senior Brother Yang, they didn't see you when you came here, right?" Zi Yu asked anxiously.

Yang Kai finally understood, "I see, so those two were Yao Zhuo and Feng Xi!"

On his way here, he bumped into two men, with one of them being in the Second-Order Emperor Realm. Back then, he was curious as to why those two were in Ice Heart Valley, but it turned out that they were Seeking Passion Sect's Vice Sect Master and Young Sect Master.

It seemed that Zi Yu's previous escape made them vigilant; after all, the wedding was in two days, and if the bride was nowhere to be found by that time, it would be too much of an embarrassment. To prevent Zi Yu from escaping again, Yao Zhuo and Feng Xi had personally come to Ice Heart Valley, standing guard here.

After becoming clear about the situation, Yang Kai said, "On my way here, I did sense their presence; however, they didn't see me. Junior Sister Yu, no need to worry."

Zi Yu was, once again, surprised.

Yang Kai had the same cultivation as her, but he managed to sense Yao Zhou's presence without getting caught by the latter. How did he achieve this? However, after recalling the scene where he defeated Cao Yang with a single move, Zi Yu realized that Yang Kai wasn't a simple Dao Source Realm cultivator.

"Now that even my Honoured Master is powerless, only Ancestral Founder can save me!" Zi Yu looked at Yang Kai anxiously and begged, "Senior Brother Yang, you have to inform Ancestral Founder as soon as possible and ask her to save me from this crisis!"

If Yao Zhuo managed to bring her back to Seeking Passion Sect, she was doomed to become Feng Xi's plaything. Very few women could resist the effects of the Seeking Passion Supreme Art, and Feng Xi was someone who had captured the hearts of countless women while cultivating. Zi Yu didn't want to become one of the numerous concubines in his harem.

She had a bright future ahead of her, so how could she be willing to become a man's cultivation tool and never advance further on her Martial Dao?

"Don't worry. Senior Bing Yun won't just sit back and watch. I came here because she requested me to check Ice Heart Valley's situation. She's in Ice Moon City at this moment." Yang Kai smiled.

Hearing these words, Zi Yu was overjoyed as she muttered, "That's great... That's truly great!"

If the Ancestral Founder was in Ice Moon City, she could definitely save Zi Yu from this predicament.

At the same time, Zi Yu recalled another thing. When she met Yang Kai a few days ago, she also met some girls who claimed to be disciples of Ice Heart Valley. Back then, she thought that they were working for the Master Sect's higher-ups, so she hurriedly fled.

But in hindsight, she'd never seen any of those girls. Moreover, their cultivations were quite uneven; they obviously didn't belong to the batch of disciples that grew up with her.

[Is it possible that they are disciples that Ancestral Founder took in? That would explain why they said they were from Ice Heart Valley. Since they were on that ship, does that mean that Ancestral Founder was also there at that time?]

Considering all this, Zi Yu didn't know whether to laugh or cry. She was actually so close to the Ancestral Founder but missed the opportunity to meet her. Then, as if that wasn't enough, Yao Zhuo captured her and brought her here. She truly became a victim of her own cleverness!

If she had stayed with the Ancestral Founder, she wouldn't have had to go through so much trouble!

"Senior Brother Yang, you should quickly return to Ice Moon City. If you stay here for too long, someone might see you," urged Zi Yu after returning to her senses.

"Aren't you coming with me?" Yang Kai asked.

Zi Yu forced a smile, "This is the Sect's Restricted Area, and there are countless barriers and Spirit Arrays outside, how am I supposed to leave this place?"

Yang Kai chuckled, "How do you think I got here?"

Zi Yu was dumbfounded for a moment before she looked at the token in her hand, "Are you saying that..."

Yang Kai nodded, "Senior Bing Yun gave me this token, it can bypass all the barriers in the valley. Since I'm already here, it'd make no sense to go back empty-handed. We should head back to Ice Moon City together so that you can explain things to Senior Bing Yun personally."

"Senior Brother Yang, can you really bring me back with you?" Zi Yu was delighted.

"Of course," Yang Kai smiled and nodded, "However, you'll need to wait a moment."

"Why?" Zi Yu asked in puzzlement before Yang Kai brushed past her and headed toward the island's centre.

There was something akin to an altar there, and on this altar was an ice-blue bead exuding cold air.

The bead was longan-sized and seemed to be the source of the cold here. The more Yang Kai approached it, the more he could feel the terrifying power inside this bead.

Zi Yu followed and explained, "That is a treasure the Ancestral Founder left behind. We don't know its name, nor where Ancestral Founder obtained it; however, Ancestral Founder managed to draw out some of its power, creating this ice lake Restricted Area. When disciples cultivate here, they can clearly feel the power of the Ice Principles. According to my Honoured Master, this bead's background must be extraordinary, but not even Ancestral Founder is completely clear of its true purpose."

While explaining, she watched Yang Kai closely, unsure as to why he was so interested in this bead.

She saw him tremble all over from excitement, just as if he'd seen something incredible.

"Senior Brother Yang, you shouldn't approach further or you won't be able to bear it," urged Zi Yu. However, she soon realized that she'd said something stupid. If he couldn't bear the cold, he wouldn't have approached in the first place.

She was amazed because even someone like her, who cultivated profound Ice Attribute Secret Arts, couldn't get too close to the bead. Yet, Yang Kai was able to do so.

[Is Senior Brother Yang the personal disciple of Ancestral Founder? If not, how was he able to get so close to her? Even so, why would the Ancestral Founder accept a male disciple?]

While she was lost in thought, Yang Kai had already arrived at the altar. He couldn't proceed further as if his whole body was freezing. Even pushing his Source Qi wildly was useless against this bone-chilling cold.

Frost had started to form on his head and face, yet he wasn't scared, his eyes shining brightly as he stared forward.

With a flick of his wrist, Yang Kai suddenly summoned a red bead into his palm.

Zi Yu was dazed as she looked at the scene, because aside from the colour, the bead Yang Kai took out was identical to the one on the altar.

Moreover, when Yang Kai took out the red bead, the ice bead on the altar trembled along with the one in Yang Kai's hand, clearly signifying a resonance between the two beads.

"The Bead of Winter!" Yang Kai called out, his excitement palpable, "This really is the Bead of Winter!"

#### Chapter 2415, Zhang Sun Ying

"Bead of Winter? What's that?" Zi Yu looked at Yang Kai in surprise. From the way he spoke, it seemed he knew what this bead was and what its purpose was. Moreover, it should have a deep relationship with the red bead in his hand, otherwise it should be impossible for them to resonate like this.

"I'll explain to you later!" Yang Kai gulped. The huge surprise left him shaken, and he wasn't in the mood to explain things to Zi Yu.

He had never thought he would find the Bead of Winter in Ice Heart Valley's Restricted Area!

Back in the Four Seasons Realm, Yang Kai obtained three beads; the Bead of Spring, the Bead of Summer, and the Bead of Autumn. Each bead contained the power of a different Principle Strength. Yang Kai guessed that there should also be a Bead of Winter that embodied the Principle of Winter. Only after the Principles of Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter were brought together would the Principle of Four Seasons, and subsequently Flowing Time, be revealed. Unfortunately, Yang Kai didn't find the Bead of Winter back then, nor did he know where it was and could only put the matter aside for the time being.

He kept the three beads, and for the longest time, they didn't have any use.

But today, he managed to find the missing one, the Bead of Winter! This was truly an unexpected surprise. He came here only because Bing Yun asked him to check which disciple had tried to contact her, and he didn't expect to find the last bead here.

The happiness he felt was hard to describe.

With the Bead of Winter before his eyes, Yang Kai technically had all four beads and could begin to comprehend Flowing Time Force! He was curious to see what kind of benefits it would bring him.

[Still, why is the Bead of Winter in Ice Heart Valley's Restricted Area?] Yang Kai thought about it for a while and concluded that Bing Yun might have also gone to the Four Seasons Realm when she was in the Dao Source Realm and obtained the Bead of Winter from there. Then, she brought the bead to the Northern Territory, founded Ice Heart Valley, and left it here. Afterwards, the energy inside the Bead of Winter transformed into cold energy, forming this ice lake and Restricted Area.

If that was the case, wouldn't he destroy this entire Restricted Area if he were to take the Bead of Winter away?

Considering all this, Yang Kai began to hesitate.

He felt that if he told Bing Yun the whole situation, she would give him the Bead of Winter; after all, if the Bead of Winter stayed here, it would only allow Ice Heart Valley's disciples to come to this Restricted Area and gain some slight benefits, but if it were in his hands, he could perhaps obtain Flowing Time Great Emperor's Inheritance! That was the essence of a Great Emperor's lifelong pursuit of the Martial Dao, something much more valuable than this Restricted Area.

When Yang Kai was pondering whether or not he should take the Bead of Winter away, the bead suddenly released a pure-white beam of light that shot toward the sky.

"Oh no!" Zi Yu paled and shouted, "Senior Brother Yang Kai, quickly put your bead away!"

Yang Kai also realized that the situation wasn't good. Bing Yun had refined this bead, which allowed it to release some of its power, making it completely different from the beads in his possession, which were basically inert. The reason it suddenly released that beam of light should be because of the sudden appearance of the Bead of Summer.

The beam's sudden appearance was going to alert the whole of Ice Heart Valley, and as it came from the Sect's Restricted Area, many Masters would soon gather to investigate.

Therefore, Yang Kai didn't hesitate. Before Zi Yu's voice could fade, he stuffed the Bead of Summer in his Space Ring then stretched out his hand toward the Bead of Winter.

Since things had come to this, it was better to take the bead first and put the other matters off until later. In the worst case, he could explain things to Bing Yun once they got back to Ice Moon City and ask her formally for the Bead of Winter.

The omnipresent cold turned his hand purple, with frost starting to appear on his skin. Yang Kai immediately lost all feeling in his hand and hurried to stimulate his Source Qi to ward off the cold.

After grabbing the Bead of Winter with much difficulty, Yang Kai quickly put it in his Space Ring. Only then did he start to feel a little better.

In the next moment, he grabbed the dumbfounded Zi Yu and shouted, "Let's go!"

Zi Yu said, still in a daze, "Senior Brother Yang, why did you steal our Ice Heart Valley's artifact?"

She still hadn't returned to her senses after witnessing what had happened. If not for the fact that Yang Kai took out Bing Yun's token earlier and explained why he had come here, she'd have likely attacked him.

He dared to steal a core artifact from Ice Heart Valley's Restricted Area right in front of an elite disciple like her. That was daylight robbery!

"Senior Bing Yun asked me to retrieve this bead. She has some use for it!" Backed into a corner, Yang Kai spouted some random nonsense.

"Oh..." Zi Yu didn't doubt him and no longer dwelled on the matter.

Yang Kai grabbed Zi Yu with one hand and held Bing Yun's token with the other, quickly disabling the Restricted Area's barriers to escape outside.

At this time, Ice Heart Valley was in an uproar. Countless disciples who were either resting or meditating were alarmed by what happened in the Restricted Area and left their rooms, either standing in place absentmindedly or rushing towards the Restricted Area to check the situation.

The quickly approaching wave of weak and strong auras frightened Yang Kai.

Ice Heart Valley was worthy of being considered one of the top Sects in the Northern Territory; even without Bing Yun, it had countless Masters. There were over a dozen First and Second-Order Emperor Realm Masters in this Sect, a force that wasn't too inferior to the Southern Territory's Azure Sun Temple. The only difference was that they did not have a master on par with Wen Zi Shan. From this, it was obvious that Ice Heart Valley's background was really deep.

However, even a Sect of this level couldn't bear the Seeking Passion Sect's pressure and was forced to betroth their best disciple to Feng Xi. It was clear that the Seeking Passion Sect's overall strength was superior to Ice Heart Valley.

The fact that the valley was in an uproar worked in Yang Kai's favour as he carried Zi Yu away. He carefully avoided all the Emperor Realm Masters and wasn't discovered by a single person along the way.

Zi Yu was more anxious than ever. When she escaped the last time with her Honoured Master's help, the experience wasn't this stimulating. Back then, she only wanted to disappear from the Northern Territory and not let anyone from the Seeking Passion Sect find her, but this time, she was running away with a man. It almost felt as if she was eloping with this Senior Brother called Yang Kai.

If someone saw them now, she wouldn't be able to explain the situation no matter how hard she tried. Just the thought of that sent her heart racing.

"Who goes there?!" Someone suddenly shouted from nearby, and in the next instant, a light flashed and peerless Sword Intent fell from the sky, covering Yang Kai and Zi Yu.

Zi Yu's face changed as she realized that it must've been the fluctuation in her mood that caused her aura to leak and expose their whereabouts, a truly great shame.

But then, she suddenly felt a gentle power push her outside the incoming Sword Wave's range. Next, Yang Kai drew his own sword and parried the descending slash.

The sound of metal colliding echoed, followed by a light shout of surprise. The newcomer gracefully retreated, seemingly not intending to go for the kill.

Yang Kai took advantage of this opportunity to gasp for breath. His face became slightly pale, and his body shook as he forcefully purged the ice-cold Sword Intent covering his body.

He rejoiced that the one who had come first was a First-Order Emperor. Otherwise, he might've been unable to resist. He had fought a few First-Order Emperor Realm Masters, accumulating a lot of precious experience, allowing him to put up a decent resistance without immediately falling into a disadvantage.

"Yu'er!" The woman who had appeared frowned and shouted, "What are you doing here?"

Yang Kai relaxed after hearing this. From the way this woman spoke, she seemed to be one of Zi Yu's Seniors. Moreover, she must be someone close to Zi Yu, otherwise she wouldn't call Zi Yu so affectionately. Since she liked Zi Yu, she shouldn't make things difficult for her.

Only now did Yang Kai have an opportunity to take a good look at the other party. This woman had a youthful continence and a petite figure, like a young girl's. She wielded cherry dual swords and

possessed a kind of spring-like beauty. Her tightly wrapped robes emphasized her rather luxurious figure, resulting in a scene pleasing both to the eye and mind.

But as she was someone who had cultivated to the Emperor Realm, her outward appearance couldn't be used to deduce her age. This 'young girl' was obviously a few thousand years old.

"Seventh Martial Aunt!" Zi Yu shouted as she looked at the young woman, begging for her mercy with her expression.

"You actually managed to leave the Restricted Area. Is he the one who saved you?" The young woman that Zi Yu called 'Seventh Martial Aunt' pondered for a moment as she looked at Yang Kai, sizing him up with her pretty eyes, as if she wanted to see through all his secrets.

Her eyes were pure and flawless, clear as water, and when they met with Yang Kai's, he felt as if all the darkness in his heart melted away. This left him shocked, realizing that this woman was cultivating some kind of profound technique that could affect one's Soul.

"Yes, he is Senior Brother Yang!" Zi Yu hurried to nod, "Senior Brother Yang, this is my Seventh Martial Aunt, Zhang Sun Ying. She has always treated me well."

She added that last part to prevent Yang Kai and her Seventh Martial Aunt from falling out.

"So, it is Senior Zhang Sun. Junior Yang Kai greets Senior!" Yang Kai hurried to cup his fists.

Zhang Sun Yin snorted, "No wonder you didn't agree to the marriage, it seems your heart already belongs to someone else."

Zhang Sun Ying's thinking was very simple. Unless Yang Kai and Zi Yu had an incredibly intimate relationship, why would the former risk his life and sneak into Ice Heart Valley? If a man was willing to risk his life for a woman, it could only be for love. Only love would make someone act so foolhardy.

Zi Yu's face reddened as she waved her hands frantically, "Seventh Martial Aunt, this is a misunderstanding. Senior Brother Yang is here on Ancestral Founder's orders."

Zhang Sun Ying's body trembled hearing these words; however, she quickly calmed down and sighed, "Don't deceive me. Honoured Master has been gone for more than three thousand years... Just go... I'll act as if I didn't see you."

## Chapter 2416, We Have Already Pledged our Lives to One Another

Although Zi Yu wanted to explain the situation to Zhang Sun Ying, she knew it wasn't the right time. She could only wait until they met later, saying gratefully, "Many thanks, Seventh Martial Aunt."

She then ran to Yang Kai's side and grabbed his hand, urging, "Let's hurry and leave!"

"It's too late for that!" Yang Kai forced a smile and looked at Zhang Sun Ying helplessly.

Zhang Sun Ying also sensed something and frowned, her face darkening.

When she intercepted Yang Kai and Zi Yu earlier, she did so out of instinct. She was an Elder of Ice Heart Valley, and she couldn't act as if nothing had happened when she noticed someone moving around sneakily.

This event, coupled with their brief skirmish, alerted a lot of people. Yang Kai and Zi Yu lost their only opportunity to escape as a result.

Zhang Sun Ying felt regretful. Had she known earlier, she wouldn't have stopped them.

\*Shua Shua Shua...\*

After a series of light steps, several Emperor Realm Masters surrounded Yang Kai and Zi Yu. There were eight of them in total, and a few others were on their way, with their auras rapidly approaching.

There was no Third-Order Emperor Realm Master among these people, but there were two in the Second-Order while the remaining ones were all First-Order.

In the blink of an eye, Yang Kai was surrounded by several beautiful women. The sight was dazzling.

Beauties were literally raining from the sky, with all sorts of appealing appearances and attributes, making him feel as if he was in the country of women.

However, Yang Kai wasn't the slightest bit happy, his expression turning grave.

It was his first time being surrounded by so many Emperor Realm Masters, and even if he could use Space Principles, he wasn't sure if he could escape unscathed.

"Zi Yu, you sure are bold, secretly meeting with a man, running away from the Restricted Area, and even stealing the Sect's artifact!" When Yang Kai was lost in thought, wondering how he should escape, one of the two Second-Order Emperor Realm Masters suddenly shouted.

This woman was gorgeously dressed up, wearing a light blue skirt. Her face was ice-cold, and she gave off a hostile feeling that made those around her uncomfortable. It was unknown what kind of Secret Technique she cultivated, but when she stood there, her whole body was shrouded in Sword Intent, making her seem incredibly sharp and dangerous.

Zi Yu panicked and waved her hands at the beautiful woman, trying to explain, "Great Elder, that's not it, this is a misunderstanding."

"A misunderstanding?" The beautiful woman snorted, "Do you think that this Queen is blind? You were the only one in the Restricted Area, and the artifact is now gone. Are you really going to argue that it wasn't your doing?"

Zi Yu turned to look at Yang Kai, but she couldn't just say that it was him who stole it, so she kept silent.

"Good, so you admit that you were the one who stole it..." The beautiful woman sneered and turned to the other Second-Order Emperor Realm, "Zi Yu broke the Sect's rules and didn't repent while in confinement. As if that wasn't enough, she stole the artifact in the Restricted Area. I ask Senior Sister to choose her punishment!" Hearing her words, the other Second-Order Emperor Realm Master sighed. She looked at Zi Yu with a complicated expression, her eyes filled with guilt but also affection. After a long time, she said, "Yu'er, that ice bead is something the Ancestral Founder left behind. Why did you take it?"

She also believed that Zi Yu was the one who took the artifact away; after all, she was the only person in the Restricted Area, and the artifact was, now, nowhere to be seen.

Zi Yu said, "Honoured Master, I didn't steal the artifact!"

She just told them that she didn't take the artifact, without snitching on Yang Kai. She didn't want to involve him in this matter.

"In that case, where did the artifact go?" Her Honoured Master asked gently. She seemed to have a far gentler temperament than the other Second-Order Emperor Realm Master, who was hostile and aggressive, her voice as smooth and soft as a whisper.

Yang Kai asked in a low voice, "Junior Sister Yu, who are they?"

Zi Yu hurriedly explained, "One is my Honoured Master, An Ruo Yun. The other is Ice Heart Valley's Great Elder, Sun Yun Xiu, as well as my Second Martial Aunt. My Honoured Master is first in seniority among her Sisters."

Yang Kai immediately understood. The woman who was as gentle as water was Zi Yu's Honoured Master; Ice Heart Valley's current Valley Master, An Ruo Yun. The other woman, who was as sharp as a sword and very aggressive, was Sun Yun Xiu. The two of them, plus that Zhang Sun Ying he met earlier, were all Junior and Senior Sisters.

[Bing Yun really took in some amazing disciples! All of them grew up to become Emperor Realm Masters. Though, I can't say if it was thanks to the good environment here or if it was because she was a good teacher.]

However, it wasn't the time to dwell on this matter. Yang Kai cupped his fists and said, "Junior Yang Kai greets several Seniors."

"Who do you think you are? You actually dared to break into my Ice Heart Valley at night and kidnap one of our disciples!" Sun Yun Xiu reprimanded, a cold expression on her face.

Yang Kai frowned, "Elder Sun, this is a misunderstanding. I'm not here to kidnap Junior Sister Yu. I was entrusted to take her away from this place." Sun Yun Xiu was way too aggressive, which worsened his opinion of her, and judging from her attitude, she didn't seem to like Zi Yu too much. She was likely one of the people that had folded under Seeking Passion Sect's pressure.

"This little brat even dares to talk back!?" Sun Yun Xiu snapped angrily.

At this time, two other figures fell from the sky, one of them focusing on Zi Yu and exclaiming, "Little Sister Yu, what are you doing?!"

He looked greatly disappointed when he looked over at Zi Yu, but when he turned to Yang Kai, his face was full of hatred and murderous intent.

Both newcomers were men, with one of them being a Second-Order Emperor Realm Master and possessing a calm and dignified expression. The other was an outstanding young man in the Third-Order Dao Source Realm, who looked brave and heroic.

Their identities were already clear as only two men were staying as guests in Ice Heart Valley. They were the Seeking Passion Sect's Vice Sect Master and Young Sect Master.

They came here because they were alerted by the sudden movements around them, but when they arrived, Feng Xi saw that Zi Yu was holding Yang Kai's hand, and she was doing so on her own initiative!

The discovery caused his face to darken, and he felt as if someone had just placed a green hat on his head. He was deeply humiliated, which enraged him so much that he could explode at any time. None of the women he had taken a fancy to dared to treat him like this. All of them belonged to him, body and soul, and followed his every order like faithful servants.

Although Zi Yu always used harsh words when speaking to him, Feng Xi didn't pay it any mind, but now, this cheap slut was being so intimate with this unknown man! Was she purposely trying to anger him? If word of this were to get out, would he still have any standing left in the Northern Territory? At that time, he was afraid that every person would subconsciously stare at him in pity when meeting him.

When she saw Feng Xi looking at her hand, Zi Yu realized the inappropriateness of the situation.

As she was trying to flee with Yang Kai from this place earlier, she didn't hesitate to grab his hand, but before they could move, all her Martial Aunts surrounded them, preventing them from leaving. Under the pressure, Zi Yu forgot to let go of Yang Kai's hand.

After finally returning to her senses, she felt how big and warm Yang Kai's hand was and she blushed subconsciously, wanting to let go.

But then, she suddenly thought of something and her jade white hand, which was about to let go of Yang Kai's hand, tightly grasped it once more. This time, she used even more strength, until their fingers were clasped.

Yang Kai looked at her in surprise, a strange feeling welling up in his heart.

Zi Yu blushed slightly, and her tender body slightly leaned against Yang Kai's arm. She then looked at Feng Xi provocatively, "Young Master Xi, please mind your words, I have never allowed you to call me Little Sister Yu. Moreover, I'm free to do whatever I want. None of what I do is your business!"

Hearing her words, Feng Xi's face turned ugly. He was livid and he angrily looked at Yang Kai, clenching his teeth as he shouted, "You! You court death! How dare you try to steal my woman?!"

Yang Kai sneered when he saw this, obviously understanding why Zi Yu was acting so intimate with him. She wanted to let Feng Xi see how close they were. Yang Kai found her method amusing so he played along. Zi Yu was unable to control her future, and this was the only method she could use to save herself, hoping that Feng Xi would give up on her. However, Feng Xi was so enraged that he was now planning to commit murder.

"Who is your woman?! Shameless!" Zi Yu didn't want to leave Feng Xi any face, and seeing him threatening Yang Kai, she openly scolded him.

Feng Xi was so angry that his face turned pale. It was inappropriate to shout curses at Zi Yu, so he could only vent his anger on Yang Kai, glaring at him as he accused, "Boy, are you so weak that you need a woman to act on your behalf?"

Yang Kai grinned, "Young Master Xi, arrangements do not work unless all concerned parties agree; do you really need to go this far? Junior Sister Yu and I are deeply in love and have already pledged our lives to one another, so who is stealing whose woman? This Young Master doesn't want to lower himself to your level, so why do you keep crying 'thief!' when you're the thief?"

Everyone was stunned.

All the Emperor Realm Masters from Ice Heart Valley looked at Yang Kai and Zi Yu with their jaws dropped, finding this revelation inconceivable.

Zi Yu was also stunned. She hadn't expected that Yang Kai would say something like this in front of everyone. What 'deeply in love and pledging their lives to one another'? He was simply tarnishing her reputation beyond repair! Her face became deep red, just as if it was on fire while at this time, she really looked like someone who had done unspeakable things with Yang Kai.

Seeing Zi Yu's red face, the numerous Emperor Realm cultivators from Ice Heart Valley looked at her strangely.

Her Seventh Martial Aunt, Zhang Sun Ying, gazed at Yang Kai and praised him in her heart. It was her first time meeting Yang Kai, so she didn't have much of an opinion of him, but after hearing his bold words, she felt that Zi Yu had chosen the right man.

If it wasn't true love, how could he act so courageously in front of so many Emperor Realm Masters?

On the other hand, Feng Xi's face was so cold that frost could appear on it at any time. He felt extremely uncomfortable. Never would he have expected that the woman he'd taken a fancy to, and used all of his Sect's resources to pressure into submission, had already become someone else's plaything!

He felt as if he'd just eaten a dead fly. He was deeply disgusted, and he looked at Zi Yu with eyes filled with hostility.

# Chapter 2417, Come And Bite Me!

"Don't be fooled, Zi Yu's Primordial Yin is still there. She's still pure!" Yao Zhuo gently whispered in Feng Xi's ear.

Hearing his words, a strange light flashed in Feng Xi's eyes as he swept Zi Yu from head to toe, confirming that Yao Zhuo was telling the truth. Her Primordial Yin was still there, so she had to be a virgin; however, he was unable to get over these negative emotions as Zi Yu was still holding Yang Kai's hand!

The scene unfolding before his eyes was enough to humiliate any man, let alone Seeking Passion Sect's Young Sect Master!

The woman that he had taken a fancy to was being so intimate with another man. This was no longer Feng Xi's personal problem. If word of this were to get out, his Sect's reputation would take a huge hit.

"Boy, who are you? You unexpectedly dare to mess with my Seeking Passion Sect! Aren't you afraid of dying?" Yao Zhuo coldly glared at Yang Kai, his murderous intent seeping out. He knew that today's matter had to be processed well, otherwise not only would it damage the Sect's face, it would leave Feng Xi with a heart demon. The best method to solve this situation was to let Feng Xi kill Yang Kai personally. Still, they were in Ice Heart Valley, and it was inappropriate to take action before getting a better understanding of the situation.

The group of Emperor Realm Masters from Ice Heart Valley looked at Yang Kai with curiosity, wondering about his identity. This man had suddenly appeared in Ice Heart Valley and was now so intimate with Zi Yu. Even Zi Yu's Honoured Master, An Ruo Yun, wasn't clear about the situation.

She'd never heard Zi Yu mention this man.

"I came here to take Junior Sister Yu away. What does this have to do with being enemies with your Seeking Passion Sect? Senior, aren't your words too biased? You're supposed to be impartial!" Yang Kai snorted and continued, "Moreover, this is Ice Heart Valley. How is this matter related to your Seeking Passion Sect?"

"How dare you call her Junior Sister Yu!" Feng Xi was furious.

Yang Kai's eyes stopped for a moment before he said coldly, "It's none of your business what I call her. Why are you barking so loudly?"

The flames of anger in Feng Xi's belly were about to burn his whole body. He looked at Yao Zhuo and boldly declared, "Martial Uncle, I want him dead!"

In his whole life, he'd never felt so humiliated. The woman he liked was grasping another man's hand on her own initiative, and that man was so arrogant. If he didn't kill him, how could he get rid of the hatred in his heart?

Yang Kai sneered, "You want to kill me? There were many like you in the past, but they're all dead now!"

"This brat is certainly arrogant enough!" Yao Zhuo's face darkened, fire almost spewing out from his eyes as he sent out his Emperor Pressure to suppress Yang Kai.

The Emperor Realm Masters from Ice Heart Valley were also surprised. Yang Kai was just a Third-Order Dao Source Realm cultivator, but he dared to be so bold in front of them. It was unknown if he cultivated until becoming crazy, or if he was someone who didn't know the immensity of Heaven and Earth.

Yang Kai stood in place and groaned lightly, seemingly short of breath due to Yao Zhuo's aura. He inhaled through his nose and began speaking politely, "Forgive me. I'm young and ignorant, and not too skilled in the art of conversation."

Hearing his words, all the women frowned. It seemed that Yang Kai wasn't that fearless in the end. When they saw him being so arrogant before, they thought that he was someone with an unyielding spirit, but after Yao Zhuo threatened him, he immediately piped down. He didn't sound like someone you could trust. If he hadn't changed his stance, they might have looked at him with respect, but seeing him compromise so quickly, they all assumed he was the type that bullied the weak and feared the strong.

Some among them sighed faintly, feeling sorry for Zi Yu.

Perhaps she was blinded by love and failed to see his true colours, because compared to Feng Xi, this young man was nothing. At the very least, Feng Xi was Seeking Passion Sect's Young Sect Master, and his status was something ordinary people couldn't hope to match. Even if Zi Yu could no longer advance on the path of cultivation after marrying him, she wouldn't suffer any hardships. Who knew, perhaps she'd even find happiness in the future.

But if she got together with someone like Yang Kai, her future looked bleak...

Yang Kai calmly looked at Yao Zhuo and Feng Xi before smiling strangely and continuing, "My words aren't always pleasant to the ear. If I have offended you just now... You dogs are free to come here and bite me!"

The whole audience was stunned.

Everyone from Ice Heart Valley opened their eyes wide, staring at Yang Kai in disbelief. They couldn't believe their ears. In the meantime, Yao Zhuo and Feng Xi's faces went black as they were absolutely furious.

Yao Zhuo turned to Sun Yun Xiu, "Great Elder, is it a problem if Xi'er kills him?"

He didn't ask Valley Master An Ruo Yun, but asked Sun Yun Xiu directly, as he knew of An Ruo Yun's weak personality, and knew it was useless to seek her approval.

The reason he wanted Feng Xi to take action personally was for the latter's sake. Seeing Yang Kai and Zi Yu like this, a heart demon had already started to form in Feng Xi. Only by killing Yang Kai with his hands could he get rid of this heart demon and prevent it from affecting his cultivation in the future. As the name suggested, Seeking Passion Sect's Seeking Passion Supreme Art revolved around passion. While cultivating, one had to bring out their real feelings to move their partner's heart.

Hearing Yao Zhuo's words, Sun Yun Xiu's face darkened and she coldly snorted, "We are in Ice Heart Valley right now, and we will decide who lives and who dies. There is no need for the Vice Sect Master and Young Sect Master of Seeking Passion Sect to take action!"

Her cold words surprised Yang Kai.

He thought that Sun Yun Xiu was someone who leaned toward Seeking Passion Sect, and had agreed to marry Zi Yu off for benefits. Generally speaking, this type of person would try to please the Seeking Passion Sect at every turn; however, Sun Yun Xiu didn't give Yao Zhuo any face and rejected him immediately. So, what was going on?

But even if Sun Yun Xiu didn't give Yao Zhuo any face, she didn't have a favourable impression of Yang Kai as this whole mess was his fault. When she turned to look at him, her face was filled with murderous intent.

She was about to say something when An Ruo Yun interjected, "Young man... Just now, you said that someone asked you to take Zi Yu away. On whose request are you acting?"

There was no deep meaning behind her words. She asked this question because she knew her Second Junior Sister's personality. If she didn't say something to carry the conversation forward, Sun Yun Xiu would definitely attack Yang Kai.

Given her strength as a Second-Order Emperor Realm Master, Yang Kai would have no ability to defend himself if Sun Yun Xiu decided to attack him.

Whether Yang Kai was here on someone's order or because he loved Zi Yu and wanted to elope with her, An Ruo Yun hoped to see him succeed. Zi Yu was her precious disciple, and she had taken care of her since she was a child. If not because she was forced to, how could she agree to this marriage? She even went as far as to secretly help Zi Yu escape. Unfortunately, fate was not on her side, and Zi Yu was caught and brought back here.

Yang Kai respected An Ruo Yun as she was Zi Yu's Master and Ice Heart Valley's Valley Master, but due to her extremely gentle disposition, she wasn't suitable to lead the Sect.

A real leader had to be impartial, iron-willed, and decisive, yet An Ruo Yun possessed none of these attributes. Perhaps this was one of the reasons Ice Heart Valley was bullied by the Seeking Passion Sect and was unable to fight back.

Yang Kai cupped his fists, "Senior An, Junior is here on Senior Bing Yun's orders. I was entrusted by her to take Junior Sister Yu away from this place."

"What?"

"Boy, what did you just say?!"

All the Emperor Realm Masters from Ice Heart Valley went into an uproar, calling out in alarm one after another. Several pairs of beautiful eyes locked onto Yang Kai's body, trembling slightly. Sun Yun Xiu's body darted forward, appearing in front of Yang Kai in an instant as she grabbed his shoulders, shouting through gritted teeth, "Boy... repeat what you just said!"

"You're hurting me!" Yang Kai glanced at his shoulder and said coldly, his face indifferent, not seeming to be in any kind of pain.

Sun Yun Xiu was enraged and was about to blow her top, but she then thought of something and suppressed her anger. Taking a deep breath and letting go of Yang Kai, she took a step back on her own initiative and simply stared at him with both expectation and anxiety.

The other Emperor Realm Masters were the same.

Yang Kai looked around and said loudly, "I came here on Senior Bing Yun's orders. She asked me to take Junior Sister Yu away."

"Master..." An Ruo Yun was finally able to confirm that she wasn't hearing things. Just now, Yang Kai did really say the name 'Bing Yun'. This name had lingered in her mind for the past three thousand years, along with the memories of her Master leading her on the path of cultivation step by step. Back then, she was free from worries and could find shade under the big tree that was her Master's back. She only had to cultivate and worry about nothing else.

As time passed, the scenery remained unchanged, but the same was not true for the people. Ice Heart Valley was still Ice Heart Valley, but her Master was no longer there.

People in the outside world had started to suspect that her Master had died. Even many disciples in the Sect had tacitly accepted this fact.

But now, she finally heard some news about her Master from Yang Kai. An Ruo Yun felt as if the blood in her chest was rushing to her head as she asked weakly, "Master... how is she?"

Her beautiful eyes looked at Yang Kai with expectation, eagerly waiting for his answer.

Yang Kai sneered, "Senior Bing Yun discovered that you were pushing your best disciple into a pit of fire, so her mood is anything but good at the moment!"

Hearing this, all the women were dejected, guilt filling their faces. They didn't dare to look Yang Kai in the eyes anymore.

"Impossible! Impossible!" Sun Yun Xiu started shouting as if she'd gone mad. Her eyes turned red as she glared at Yang Kai, stepping forward again and roaring, "If Master was really here, why didn't she come here personally? Why did she send a man to Ice Heart Valley? If you're lying, this Queen will kill you!"

"Second Martial Aunt, he's telling the truth. Senior Brother Yang was really sent here by Ancestral Founder." Seeing the murderous intent on Sun Yun Xiu's face, Zi Yu hurried to stand in front of Yang Kai.

This scene left Feng Xi even more heartbroken.

Chapter 2418, I'll Fight You

"Stand aside! You have no say in this matter!" Sun Yun Xiu waved her hand, pushing Zi Yu aside. Fortunately, she restrained herself even though she was angry, and the push did not harm Zi Yu.

In the next moment, Sun Yun Xiu arrived in front of Yang Kai once again, grabbing his collar and easily lifting him up, raising her head to meet his eyes as she sternly warned, "Are you trying to use our Honoured Master's name to deceive us? If that's the case, you will die!"

Despite her fierce shout, there wasn't any murderous intent in her eyes, and her momentum was far weaker than before. She looked like someone who was outwardly strong but inwardly faint of heart.

She obviously had no intention of killing Yang Kai, and her objective was simply to use the difference in strength between them to coerce him into telling her the truth.

Yang Kai immediately saw through her thoughts, and did not resist, simply allowing her to do as she pleased, sneering as he taunted, "Go ahead and kill me then! What's stopping you?"

Sun Yun Xiu clenched her teeth, but she didn't seem to have any intention of killing him, instead just glaring madly.

Seeing this, Yang Kai raised his hand and suddenly slapped her across the face, "Open your dog eyes and see what this is!"

Due to her unstable mood, Sun Yun Xiu was caught off-guard and directly received this slap from Yang Kai, staggering backwards a few steps.

All the women at the scene turned pale, sweat appearing on their foreheads.

Among their various Junior and Senior Sisters, Sun Yun Xiu was the one with the fiercest temperament. With her cultivation at the Second-Order Emperor Realm, she was more than qualified to be Ice Heart Valley's Great Elder, but just now, she was slapped in the face by a Third-Order Dao Source Realm cultivator, a young man on top of that.

How would things end? All of them could already imagine Yang Kai getting beaten to death.

An Ruo Yun's expression changed drastically as she tried her best to think of a way to calm her Second Junior Sister and save Yang Kai. Regardless of why he was bold enough to slap an Emperor Realm Master, An Ruo Yun hoped he could live as he had come here to save Zi Yu, her Disciple.

Completely contrary to everyone's expectations, however, Sun Yun Xiu didn't fly into a rage after getting hit. Instead, she stood there stunned, haltingly reaching her hand up to caress her cheek, finding something in her palm.

It was a token, one that many present found familiar. It was a token they hadn't seen in three thousand years!

"Martial Ancestor's Token!" Sun Yun Xiu looked at the token in her hand, still in a daze, tears forming at the corners of her eyes as she stared at the 'Yun' character engraved on the token.

"What!?" An Ruo Yun's face changed even more drastically this time as she flew over with all haste.

"Eldest Senior Sister, it's Master's Token... It's Martial Ancestor's Token!" Although Sun Yun Xiu was now crying, a big smile had appeared on her face. She held the token and moved it in front of An Ruo Yun as if to present it to her.

As for Yang Kai slapping her, she had completely forgotten about it.

At this time, she no longer had the bearing of an aloof Emperor Realm Master and seemed to have become a little girl who was joyfully celebrating finding a long-lost treasure.

An Ruo Yun's tender body trembled as she picked up the token on Sun Yun Xiu's palm and felt the familiar aura about it. She was also overwhelmed and her eyes too began to redden.

The other Emperor Realm Masters of Ice Heart Valley also crowded around, staring at the token in a daze. Each of them was short of breath, as if they'd seen something inconceivable.

On the other hand, after hearing the words 'Martial Ancestor's Token', Yao Zhuo realized that the situation was turning for the worst. The reason Seeking Passion Sect could suppress Ice Heart Valley was because the latter's Ancestral Founder had been missing for the past three thousand years. A Master like Bing Yun would create waves wherever she went, and rumours would inevitably spread of her presence; however, there had been no news of her for the past three thousand years.

A lot of people started to believe that she had encountered some kind of disaster, and died a long time ago.

Without Bing Yun, Ice Heart Valley was a toothless tiger, one that the Seeking Passion Sect could bully as it wished.

But now, that the Ancestral Founder's Token had suddenly appeared here, didn't that mean Bing Yun hadn't died but was living in seclusion somewhere? If that was the case, Ice Heart Valley's strength would be a match for Seeking Passion Sect's, and whether or not Feng Xi and Zi Yu's marriage could proceed as scheduled was highly uncertain.

The wedding of the Seeking Passion Sect's Young Sect Master would take place in two days, and news of it had already spread throughout the entire Northern Territory, with the invitations having been sent out. Many Masters had gathered in Ice Moon City and would come to Ice Heart Valley in two days to congratulate them. If the wedding didn't proceed as planned, Seeking Passion Sect's face would be completely lost.

And the cause of all this trouble was this young man who had appeared out of nowhere!

If this brat hadn't casually taken out this token, none of this would have happened.

Considering all this, Yao Zhuo concluded that it wasn't the time to let Feng Xi personally kill Yang Kai to purge his heart demon. The best course of action was to kill Yang Kai immediately, and then let Feng Xi and Zi Yu consummate their marriage tonight. At that time, even if Bing Yun really came back, there would be nothing she could do.

Thinking so, Yao Zhuo shouted, "Enough of this nonsense! I suspect he simply picked up that thing and is now trying to pass it off as your Ancestral Founder's Token! None of you should be deceived by him! If your noble Sect's Ancestral Founder was still alive, she would have come here in person. Why would she send some little brat in the Dao Source Realm instead of appearing herself?"

Hearing his words, all the women from Ice Heart Valley calmed down. Seeing the long-lost Ancestral Founder's Token, they were so excited that they became muddle-headed, but now, they felt that Yao Zhuo's words made sense.

If Bing Yun was alive, why didn't she come here personally? She was Ice Heart Valley's founder, and among the dozen or so Emperor Realm Masters here, around half were her Disciples. What stopped her from coming here? As long as she came here in person, there wouldn't be any need for the Ancestral Founder's Token.

Yang Kai, a Dao Source Realm cultivator, suddenly showed up with the token, claiming that he was here on Bing Yun's order to take Zi Yu away.

However, the token alone wasn't enough to prove that he was telling the truth. Perhaps he simply found it somewhere.

An Ruo Yun paled as she looked at Yang Kai and asked, "Little Brother, tell me truthfully, who gave you this token? Where did you obtain it?"

When asking these questions, she was very anxious, afraid that Yang Kai would tell her something she didn't want to hear.

There had been no news of her Master for the past three thousand years, but there was no concrete proof of her death either. If Yang Kai had found this token somewhere, it meant that her Master had died, and this was something she wasn't willing to accept. She had acted as Ice Heart Valley's Valley Master for three thousand years, and while she didn't achieve much, she didn't make too many mistakes, either. The only true disappointment she had was not being able to protect her Disciple. What allowed her to persevere for so long though was the belief that her Master would one day return.

At that time, she hoped to hand over a still intact Ice Heart Valley to Bing Yun. She didn't want to be praised, but to have some peace of mind as she'd done her best to protect what her Master had left behind.

If Yang Kai told her that her Master had died, she would definitely collapse.

"If you dare to lie, I'll make you wish you were dead!" Sun Yun Xiu wasn't as gentle as An Ruo Yun. When she opened her mouth, only threats came out. Her beautiful eyes stared at Yang Kai, trying to catch all the changes in his expression.

Yang Kai said with a cold expression, "If I said that it was Senior Bing Yun who gave it to me, would you believe me?"

An Ruo Yun immediately relaxed and hurriedly nodded, "Yes, I believe you!"

Sun Yun Xiu slumped as if she'd lost all of her strength. A huge weight was lifted off her chest, and her eyes, which were staring at Yang Kai, were no longer fierce. The others were also covered in sweat, just as if they'd fought a great battle.

Although they weren't sure if Yang Kai was telling the truth, they had some hope at least.

"You women are all too na?ve! He's obviously lying! This King will make him spit out the truth!" Yao Zhuo said sternly and released his Emperor Pressure while raising his hand and palming towards Yang Kai.

His murderous intent was soaring. It was clear that he had no intention of making Yang Kai 'spit out the truth', he simply wanted to kill him.

"Old dog, you only know how to bully the weak! Shameless!" Yang Kai's bones were creaking as his pupils slightly shrunk.

In that instant, he tried to teleport away to dodge the incoming attack.

However, the Emperor Pressure of a Second-Order Master turned out to be too strong and it solidified the space around him, causing his movements to become stiff. Yang Kai felt as if he'd fallen into a

quagmire, and despite using all his strength, he was only able to slightly move, nowhere near enough to dodge the attack.

His eyes froze as he felt the aura of death blow across his face.

At this moment, the Emperor Realm Masters of Ice Heart Valley were still in a daze and had yet to recover; none of them had expected that a Master like Yao Zhuo would suddenly try to kill Yang Kai.

When An Ruo Yun and Sun Yun Xiu realized what was happening, it was already too late to save Yang Kai. They could only watch as Yao Zhuo's palm shot toward him.

"Stop!" An Ruo Yun shouted, flicking her sleeve, summoning an artifact that looked like a ribbon made of white silk as she shot it towards Yao Zhuo.

"If you dare to injure him, I'll make you die without a burial!" Sun Yun Xiu was even more direct, summoning her sword and slashing it at Yao Zhuo.

In the next moment, the other Emperor Realm Masters all took action, displaying their Secret Techniques or summoning their artifacts to attack Yao Zhuo.

In the blink of an eye, the scene became extremely chaotic as Ice Principles filled the air, sealing the entire world in ice.

Facing all these attacks, Yao Zhuo didn't relent, however, instead, he became even more determined to kill Yang Kai.

Yang Kai realized that the Masters from Ice Heart Valley had no way to save him. Yao Zhuo would reach him before they could, and even if he didn't die, he would be severely injured.

At this critical moment, he gritted his teeth and summoned a small bead into his hand. With great effort and a pale face, he poured his Source Qi into this bead to activate it and ruthlessly threw it towards Yao Zhuo, shouting, "Old dog, I'll fight you!"

Chapter 2419, Boy, You Dare Blackmail Me?

"Trying to disgrace yourself with these paltry tricks?" Yao Zhuo sneered, reaching out to catch the bead with his hand and trying to crush it, all while ridiculing Yang Kai's futile efforts.

But in the next moment, his expression changed drastically as a terrifying force burst from his palm. This force was so great that even a Second-Order Emperor Realm cultivator like him was shocked.

"An Emperor Authority Bead!?" Yao Zhuo was an experienced man and immediately realized that the bead Yang Kai threw at him wasn't an ordinary one. It was an Emperor Authority Bead!

As the bone-piercing cold covered his body, Yao Zhuo trembled and both his arms and legs felt frozen stiff.

Amidst violent bursts of energy, a beautiful illusory phantom appeared in front of Yao Zhuo.

Seeing this illusory phantom, all the Masters from Ice Heart Valley were dumbfounded and their beautiful eyes were fixated on it as their tender bodies trembled.

"Master..." An Ruo Yun's offensive had already lost its strength as she stared in a daze at that face she hadn't seen in three thousand years. She found it impossible to suppress her excitement.

Sun Yun Xiu, Zhang Sun Yin, and the others were in the same state. All of their momentum was gone and they fell to the ground one after another as they looked at the illusory phantom, continuously calling out their Master's name.

"Bing Yun!" On the other hand, Yao Zhuo seemed to have seen a ghost in broad daylight and stared at the phantom with palpable fear. Thousands of years ago, he had also met Bing Yun, so he immediately recognized her. It seemed that the one who had created this Emperor Authority Bead was none other than Bing Yun.

A low voice echoed at that moment, and although the sound was light, it spread across all of Ice Heart Valley, shaking every person who heard it to the core.

"Pear Flower Ice Snow Sword!"

Along with the sound, a longsword made of pure energy materialized in the hands of the illusory phantom. The pure-white sword shook and locked onto Yao Zhuo's vitals, shooting out like a dragon.

Yao Zhuo's face paled and he roared as he summoned a halberd, mobilizing all of his energy to protect himself.

A series of clanking sounds echoed, Emperor Pressure collided and spread everywhere, and World Principles shattered.

In less than ten breaths, Yao Zhuo was forced to his knees after retreating several hundred meters, gasping for his breath. Bing Yun's illusory phantom put away its sword, and just as if it had spirituality, it turned its head and looked at An Ruo Yun and the others before it started to dissipate, turning into dots of light and disappearing without a trace.

Yang Kai opened his eyes wide in surprise.

He'd used an Emperor Authority Bead in the past. Back when he used the Flowing Time Great Emperor's Emperor Authority Bead, the Four Seasons Principles had spread everywhere, allowing him to comprehend the Heavenly Way and Martial Dao under the effects of the Flowing Time Force. This was what allowed him to break through to the Third-Order Dao Source Realm.

Yet, the difference in power between this time and the previous one was huge.

Although Bing Yun's usage of the sword was extraordinary, her Sword Intent unparalleled, and her Divine Ability excellent, it was still vastly inferior when compared to Flowing Time Great Emperor's Emperor Authority Bead.

Moreover, it lasted only ten breaths of time before disappearing.

Was this the difference between an ordinary Emperor Realm Master and a Great Emperor? However, both of them should have been Third-Order Emperor Realm Masters when they created their Emperor Authority Beads! Theoretically speaking, they should have about the same level of power.

Yang Kai began to check the scene. Although Yao Zhuo was embarrassed due to the attack, there was no trace of injury on him, so Yang Kai could not help but wonder what happened.

Just as Yang Kai was pondering this though, Yao Zhuo's face suddenly turned pale and he let out a snort. Immediately after, every inch of his body was covered in frost as pear flower shaped ice blossoms suddenly began to sprout all over him.

These ice flowers were as white as snow, decorating Yao Zhuo's shoulders, waist, abdomen, arms, and legs. It was as if Yao Zhuo had picked up numerous ice flowers and inserted them into his body.

When these ice flowers started appearing, Yao Zhuo felt his whole body was frozen in place and he could not help but tremble violently as his lips turned blue from the cold.

"Martial Uncle!" Feng Xi was shocked and shouted in a panic.

Yao Zhuo could not even utter a word due to the cold, his whole body encased by the Ice Principles, and it took him a long time before he could manage to let out a scream. With the circulation of his Emperor Qi, he shattered the ice flowers covering his body and slowly restored his freedom.

However, his whole body seemed to be on the edge of falling apart, with a mouthful of blood periodically spewing out. It was clear he had suffered an extremely serious injury.

Feng Xi quickly stepped forward to help.

"Valley Master An, Elder Sun, is this what your Ice Heart Valley calls hospitality?" Yao Zhuo gathered his strength and gritted his teeth while calling out to An Ruo Yun and Sun Yun Xiu.

An Ruo Yun wrinkled her brows as she coldly stated, "If you were a guest, Ice Heart Valley would definitely treat you with care!"

She was implying that Yao Zhuo and Feng Xi were not guests of Ice Heart Valley.

When Yao Zhuo heard this, he became livid and almost spat out blood again. Grinding his teeth, he declared, "In two days, Xi'er and your noble Sect's Zi Yu will be married. You and I will also then be considered family. Valley Master An, must you be this rude?"

"Zi Yu is the disciple of this Queen. Without this Queen's consent, she will marry no one!" An Ruo Yun coldly snorted.

During Yao Zhuo's stay, he had never seen An Ruo Yun take on such a strong stance. He thought of this woman as docile and weak; however, today, she seemed like a completely different person.

Yao Zhuo naturally knew the reason for this change; it was obviously because there was news of Bing Yun still being alive. He sneered in his heart, [What a shameless woman. She only dares to display such a strong attitude because she finally got some backing.] Yao Zhuo continued, "The marriage has already been agreed upon by your noble Sect's Great Elder. If I were to mention how you are acting to the other great Sects in the Northern Territory, that Valley Master An has objected to something already agreed upon, I'm afraid it would make your Ice Heart Valley a laughing stock."

Sun Yun Xiu took a step forward and cold refuted, "I did agree before, but I am now reneging on that agreement. The marriage between Zi Yu and your Young Sect Master is cancelled! This Queen will bear all the responsibility!"

After hearing these words, Yao Zhuo felt a blood vessel popping and he pointed at Sun Yun Xiu with a trembling hand. He couldn't speak for a long time, obviously due to being overwhelmed by rage. He would have never thought that such a ceremonious event would simply be tossed aside by Sun Yun Xiu.

Ice Heart Valley couldn't care less about their loss of reputation, but it was different for Seeking Passion Sect! If the couple did not get married in two days, the entire Northern Territory would see both Sects as jokes.

Feng Xi heard this and could not contain himself any longer, roaring indignantly, "Elder Sun! A man must show proper respect and keep his word! How can you break our trust in you like this!?"

Sun Yun Xiu looked at him with a bewildered expression and stated indifferently, "Does this Queen look like a man to you? This Queen is a woman!"

Feng Xi was speechless. He had shouted off haphazardly due to his anger, but as soon as his words came out, he knew what he said was wrong; still, he couldn't take it back, so he grit his teeth and declared, "Good! I know your attitude well now. In two days, my father will come here in person and I hope that you will all be able to give him a satisfactory reason!"

Having said his piece, he glanced at Yang Kai filled with hatred. Feng Xi helped hold Yao Zhuo up and moved towards the valley's exit. After all that had happened, both he and Yao Zhuo had no face to stay in Ice Heart Valley as guests, so they decided to leave.

When the women in Ice Heart Valley heard that Seeking Passion Sect's Sect Master would come in person two days later, their expressions changed. They clearly feared this man.

Yang Kai stared at Feng Xi and Yao Zhuo with a cold expression and a strong desire for murder. If he hadn't summoned the Emperor Authority Bead given to him by Bing Yun at that critical moment, even he would have been critically injured by Yao Zhuo's attack.

Due to Yao Zhuo's attack, an Emperor Authority Bead had been wasted, so how could he possibly allow these two to leave just like that? They had to pay the price! So, before the two of them turned around, Yang Kai shouted, "You want to leave, now? Na?ve!"

Everyone who heard this had their expressions changed.

The Elders of Ice Heart Valley could not believe that Yang Kai truly did not fear the Heavens and was willing to act recklessly at this moment. Today's incident had already ended, or at least, it should have already ended. It was undoubtedly best to keep quiet for now; however, when they saw Yang Kai's posture, they all knew that he would not allow things to be settled like this.

He was just a mere Third-Order Dao Source Realm Junior, yet he dared to challenge a Second-Order Emperor Realm Master. The people who saw this couldn't help wondering if he had more than one Emperor Authority Bead in hand. But even if he had another Emperor Authority Bead, he should not be able to use it in his current state.

Yao Zhuo and Feng Xi could not even begin to process what Yang Kai was doing, but they still stopped instinctually when they heard him shout. Feng Xi's glare seemed to be shooting out fire, wanting very much to kill this noisy peasant.

Yao Zhuo coldly snorted and asked, "It could be considered to be my loss today. What else do you want?"

Yang Kai smiled coldly, "Vice Sect Master, there's no need to be this angry! You sound as though you want to kill and devour me whole! I just wanted to remind Vice Sect Master of the fact that just now, you shamelessly bullied this Young Master. Your attack has left this Young Master scared to death. Even my soul has not yet returned! I don't know if it will ever return. I'm afraid that even if I was born with nine souls, none of them would have come back. The bright future this Young Master had has now been ruined. Vice Sect Master, you have caused such an indelible trauma to this Young Master!"

\*Haaa!\*

The Ice Heart Valley Elders all started to feel faint as they stared at Yang Kai with weird expressions.

What scared to death? What soul has not yet returned? What indelible trauma? All of this was obviously nonsense! Yang Kai did not even need to directly take on Yao Zhuo's attack! He simply summoned an Emperor Authority Bead and resolved the crisis, so how could there possibly be any trauma? He was speaking such nonsense without a single hint of shame!

All the women had also learnt something today, they all had never known a person's face could be this thick!

Feng Xi furiously roared, "I can see that you are clearly full of life, how could you possibly be traumatized?"

Yang Kai coldly snorted, "Young Sect Master, stop opening your eyes and mouth just to speak nonsense. This Young Master is clearly dizzy and about to faint, can't you see it? Or are Young Sect Master's eyes nothing but a drawing on your face?"

"Y-You!" Feng Xi had never met such a shameless person before and for a long while, he did not know how to respond.

All the women from Ice Heart Valley also blushed, secretly feeling that Yang Kai was too crude, without a single bit of self-respect.

To the side, Yao Zhuo thought for a while, and then seemed to have woken up from a dream, "Boy! You dare blackmail me!?"

Yang Kai explained, "Vice Sect Master, there is no need to describe it as something so unsightly. Pay for murder with one's life is the most righteous method of settling one's debts and is entirely justified! You

have hurt the foundation of this Young Master and caused my path towards the Grand Martial Dao to end! Naturally, you would need to pay your debts to make amends for what you have done, yes?"

"And, to do that, you want to extort me?" Yao Zhuo was furious.

Yang Kai frowned, touched his chin and thought for a moment and before nodding firmly, "Good, let's just say that I'm extorting you. So, what does Vice Sect Master want to do? Come and bite me!?"

Chapter 2420, Only Wants One Thing

"You really are courting death!" Yao Zhuo was livid as blood started to rush to his head. He was definitely seriously injured, but he was still a Second-Order Emperor Realm Master. For someone of his status to be blackmailed and extorted by a mere Third-Order Dao Source Realm Junior so blatantly, how could he possibly bear it? He was so furious that he wanted to slap Yang Kai to death this very instant.

He did not believe that Yang Kai had another Emperor Authority Bead as it was rare for any ordinary person to have even one, not to mention a second.

"How dare you threaten this Young Master? Do you think you won't die here and now?!" Yang Kai warned.

"With just you?" Yao Zhuo coldly sneered with mockery on his face.

Yang Kai turned his head to look at Sun Yun Xiu and reached out, "Give me back the token!"

Sun Yun Xiu did not know what he planned to do, but the token was brought by Yang Kai in the first place, and since he had summoned Bing Yun's Emperor Authority Bead earlier, it was clear that Yang Kai had a deep relationship with her Master. Therefore, Sun Yun Xiu did not hesitate and hurriedly held the token in both hands and gave it back to Yang Kai.

Yang Kai raised the token high in the next moment while sweeping his gaze around and shouted, "In accordance with Ice Heart Valley tradition, the one who possesses the Ancestral Founder's Token will represent the Ancestral Founder herself!"

An Ruo Yun and Sun Yun Xiu were all stunned at his words and they soon remembered that there was indeed such a rule. Therefore, they hurriedly fell to their knees and greeted in unison, "Disciple greets Ancestral Founder! "

Seeing this, Yang Kai's cold eyes landed on Yao Zhuo and Feng Xi and he sternly shouted, "In the name of Senior Bing Yun, I order you to kill these two!"

Yao Zhuo and Feng Xi's faces changed drastically as fear overwhelmed them. Both of them withdrew several steps in unison as they became highly alert.

The trivial Yang Kai was indeed not enough to be placed in their eyes; however, Ice Heart Valley's Elders were not the same. There were as many as a dozen Emperor Realm Masters present, with two at the

Second-Order Emperor Realm! With Yao Zhuo now seriously injured, it was impossible for them to be their opponent.

Once these women executed this order, today would certainly mark the end of their lives.

Ice Heart Valley's Elders were all dumbfounded, but soon, Sun Yun Xiu flew out and landed behind Yao Zhuo and Feng Xi, blocking their path of escape.

The other women saw this and although they felt that this was a bit inappropriate, they still scattered and surrounded the two from Seeking Passion Sect, each of them taking out their artifact as they prepared to make a move.

Yao Zhuo immediately turned pale while Feng Xi was trembling and gulping nervously. As Seeking Passion Sect's Young Sect Master, he had been brought up in a privileged environment and never encountered a life-threatening situation before. This was the moment he discovered what true fear felt like.

Yang Kai was laughing at the side while playing with the token, wearing a villainous expression on his face.

"Youn... Young Master..." An Ruo Yun looked at Yang Kai and in a soft voice asked, "Do you really want to kill them?"

She did not want to kill Yao Zhuo and Feng Xi here; after all, the status of these two was extraordinary. If they really died at the hands of Ice Heart Valley, Seeking Passion Sect would definitely come for retribution. If the two Sects went to war, the entire Northern Territory would be devastated. Even if her Master returned, she was afraid that the Sects would suffer heavy casualties.

As the current Valley Master, An Ruo Yun had to consider this. She was afraid that Yang Kai really planned to order her and others to kill them in a moment of anger.

If that was the case, she would rather disobey such an order from the Ancestral Founder's Token holder, and she believed that even if her Master came to learn of this, she would not blame her.

Yang Kai smiled and lightly said, "That all depends on whether these two are sensible or not."

When An Ruo Yun heard this, she calmed down and began to see that this youth in front of her was not that simple. He gave this order in order to gain some benefits from Yao Zhuo. Otherwise, he would not have continued to explain and would have urged Ice Heart Valley to execute his order.

[As long as no one dies, everything should be fine.] An Ruo Yun thought in her heart and no longer inquired any further. However, she was still curious as to the extent Yang Kai would go.

"Valley Master An, Elder Sun, as Emperor Realm Masters, are you both willing to be ordered around by a mere brat of unknown origin? You two have esteemed status and strength! Aren't you afraid that word would spread and others would start to laugh at you?" Yao Zhuo did not think he could reason with Yang Kai, so he instead turned to An Ruo Yun and Sun Yun Xiu, hoping they would be more mindful about their status and not to act so nonsensically.

Sun Yun Xiu lightly spat out, "The Ancestral Founder's Token is here, and he bears it, so we cannot disobey. Vice Sect Master, if you have a problem with this, you need to go see my Honoured Master and discuss it!"

Yao Zhuo was dumbfounded. Bing Yun's Emperor Authority Bead had nearly taken his life, so if he really saw her in person, how would he dare discuss terms with her?

Yao Zhuo's mood was extremely complicated, he had never been so humiliated before. Worse though, this humiliation came at the hands of a youth whose cultivation was far inferior to his.

However, people under the eaves had to bow down.

After a long silence, he could only take a deep breath and ask, "What do you want?"

Yang Kai grinned, "Vice Sect Master, there is no need for you to be so nervous. Everything in this world is negotiable. I just need to seek some small compensation and this Young Master can pretend that what just happened, never occurred."

"Just spit it out. What do you want?" Yao Zhuo asked.

Yang Kai put up a finger and said with indifference, "This Young Master only wants one thing!

"Fine, what is it?" When Yao Zhuo heard him say that he 'only wanted one thing', he couldn't help but calm down. If that was the case, then there was indeed an opportunity to negotiate.

"Hand over your Space Ring then get the hell out of here!" Yang Kai fixed his eyes on the ring on Yao Zhuo's hand and stated his terms.

"What?" Yao Zhuo's eyes immediately erupted with flames and roared, "Impossible!"

Earlier, Yang Kai said he 'only wanted one thing', so Yao Zhuo assumed Yang Kai simply wanted to save face and to request for something as compensation; however, it was only now that he realized that the words that Yang Kai muttered were not to save face. Instead, he was clearly attempting to make use of this situation to rob everything from him.

He, a Second-Order Emperor Realm Master, naturally had numerous treasures in his Space Ring. Before he left to visit Ice Heart Valley, he had prepared everything for Feng Xi and Zi Yu's wedding in two days. All the gifts from his Sect were in his Space Ring. The Seeking Passion Sect was one of the Top Sects in the Northern Territory, and since it was their Young Sect Master's wedding, naturally they had not been stingy. The bride's price was comparable to what a second-class Sect could earn in ten years; without considering the other gifts that could be regarded as precious treasures.

Yang Kai's face sank and he coldly ordered, "Kill him, but kill the young one first. Don't let him die from a single strike, make sure to slowly chop off his limbs first, and then cripple his cultivation! I want him to taste every possible method of torture before he dies!"

Once his order was given, Sun Yun Xiu's sword swung as she chopped towards Feng Xi.

Feng Xi's face turned white with fear, as he retreated while screaming, "No!"

Sun Yun Xiu was undeterred though. She was extremely hot-tempered, and just like when she first met Yang Kai, as soon as she was given the order, she immediately acted upon it.

"Wait!" Yang Kai raised his hand.

Sun Yun Xiu's sword immediately stopped as it rested on Feng Xi's arm. A sharp chilling sensation enveloped Feng Xi's whole body as he lost strength and immediately fell to the ground, and when he turned his head to look, he saw a deep line of red on his shoulder. If Yang Kai had shouted even a moment slower, his arm would have been cut off.

Yang Kai looked at Feng Xi with a smile, "Young Sect Master seems to have something to say."

"Yes, yes!" Feng Xi heard him and quickly nodded his head.

"Then speak, no one is holding your tongue hostage."

Feng Xi opened his mouth but did not know what to say. He thought for a while before turning his head to Yao Zhuo, "Martial Uncle, give him your Space Ring, we do not need to lower ourselves to his level."

"Nonsense!" Yao Zhuo shouted angrily, "I, the Vice Sect Master of Seeking Passion Sect, would rather live on my feet than die on my knees! Having a desire for this King's ring is no different to slapping this King's face! Xi'er, don't be afraid! This little brat is just trying to scare you, he wouldn't dare take your life! If he dares to, when the Sect Master comes in two days, he will utterly flatten Ice Heart Valley!

"Take my life..." Feng Xi murmured, his face turning pale as deep in his heart a strong sense of fear rushed out and consumed him. He had always been the one who killed others, so when did he ever experience the threat of being killed himself? "No! If I were to die, what use is there for Father to flatten Ice Heart Valley? If I die, what will happen to my sixty-nine wives? Martial Uncle, just give him your ring. I am the Young Sect Master of the Seeking Passion Sect. I will be the one who leads the Seeking Passion Sect in the future and become the ruler of the Northern Territory, how could I possibly die here!?"

"You..." Yao Zhuo did not expect Feng Xi to be so spineless. He had never known that this Young Sect Master was such a coward to be frightened to this extent by mere threats.

Those from Ice Heart Valley also seemed to be seeing the real Feng Xi for the first time and all of them revealed contempt in their eyes. Although it was a matter of life and death, the way Feng Xi acted was nothing short of shameful.

Which cultivator's path was not filled with struggle and danger? It was common for them to face lifethreatening situations along their way. It was now clear that Feng Xi had been too sheltered and when it came to confronting danger, he lost himself. As Seeking Passion Sect's Young Sect Master, he was a disgrace.

Feng Xi was ashamed of himself when he noticed all the contemptuous gazes gathered upon him, but what was face compared to his own life? He kept begging Yao Zhuo to take off his Space Ring.

"Sixty-nine wives... Young Sect Master, you are really fortunate. Many must envy you," Yang Kai coldly said. However, there was not a trace of envy in his eyes, only mockery, "Young Sect Master, you may rest assured, if you were to die here, I will take good care of your sixty-nine wives for you. This Young Master's physical prowess is quite exceptional, so I will definitely not let their bedsides be cold!"

An Ruo Yun blushed and spat out, "Young Master, please show some propriety!"

Zi Yu also glared at him with a strange expression before rolling her eyes.

When he heard Yang Kai would 'take care' of his wives, Feng Xi's eyes turned red and he reached out to Yao Zhuo and ripped off his Space Ring.

It was uncertain if Yao Zhuo was so disappointed in Feng Xi's that he simply gave up resisting, but in that moment he allowed him to easily take off his Space Ring without any resistance.