

Merchant 831

Chapter 831: Beast Head Manifestation

Liu Jie's words made Du Shuo abruptly snap his head up.

"Uncle Zuo, it's not that serious. I just don't want that person lying on the floor to appear at the Guard Ye Banquet."

Liu Jie was not a wicked person and did not even care about the disrespectful way that Du Shuo had just spoken to him.

However, he would not spare anyone who pointed at Lin Yuan insultingly because it not only violated his duty as a retainer knight but also trampled on his faith.

As long as it concerned Lin Yuan's pride and Liu Jie's faith, Liu Jie would sacrifice his life at any time, any place, and no matter who it was in front of him.

Liu Jie, who had been rescued by Lin Yuan and had been by his side all this time, knew what consequences awaited Miao Zhuo if he was tossed out of the Midnight Palace.

However, he refused to go easy on Miao Zhuo.

This was Liu Jie's determination.

Zuo Ming was already boiling with rage and had already decided to use the new batch of Sin Cleansing Weeping Willows to teach these people who had insulted Liu Jie a lesson.

But after he heard what Liu Jie said, Zuo Ming paused for a moment before smiling in resignation.

Why would someone who was willing to stand up in the face of a disaster bother with a few words of disrespect?

Despite gaining a status almost akin to royalty, Liu Jie's character was unchanged.

Naturally, Zuo Ming would not act against Liu Jie's virtuous character.

"Then, it shall be done as you said, Young Liege."

Zuo Ming's gaze flew to Du Shuo, Fang He, Qi Haitao, Zheng Kaiyuan, and the disciples of the veteran and top factions who were standing nearby and barked, "Thanks to the kindness of Young Liege, all of you are saved from repenting under the Sin Cleansing Weeping Willows.

"Usually, outsiders aren't allowed to enter the Midnight Palace, but the Guard Ye Banquet is being held to celebrate Young Liege. Do not forget the manners imparted on you by your elders. If you cautious elders find out that you've slighted Young Liege, it won't be me who you'll be receiving punishment from. Your elders will drag you to the Sin Cleansing Pool themselves."

Zuo Ming's words caused shivers to go up the spines of everyone present, and the disciples of veteran and top factions who were standing slightly closer to Miao Zhuo felt a streak of terror shoot through their veins.

We're innocent! All we did was stand a bit nearer so we could get a better look at the action!

But Zuo Ming's gaze made the gawkers feel as though they had participated in the commotion.

From the rumors surrounding Zuo Ming, it was possible that those people who were only guilty of standing slightly nearer to Miao Zhuo could have also been punished.

The people who had not participated in the commotion looked at Liu Jie with respect and extreme gratitude.

They also looked at the fallen Miao Zhuo with disgust and hate.

Many of them were cursing Miao Zhuo to themselves.

It's all your fault! I was almost locked up in the Sin Cleansing Pool!

After spending one night under the Sin Cleansing Weeping Willows, one would still have to spend five years in recuperation, and that was if they survived the night.

Five years were far too precious for everyone present.

Not every top and veteran faction was like the Gao family, the Long family, or the Sea Bliss Clan.

Many of the younger generation of disciples of veteran and top factions had around five or six direct descendants.

Those who were chosen to attend the Guard Ye Banquet were the favored disciples.

But if Zuo Ming punished them, their position in the faction would plunge precipitously. If they had to spend another five years recuperating, they would never be able to make a comeback.

Du Shuo held Fang He's hands tightly. Fang He subtly signaled to Du Shuo, and they turned to Liu Jie together to bow to him and said, "Thank you for your kindness."

Du Shuo and Fang He's words were like a prompt, after which the people present started to echo their words of thanks toward Liu Jie.

Zuo Ming had arrived in time to hear what Du Shuo had said to Liu Jie.

Even if Liu Jie had said to let Du Shuo go, Zuo Ming had planned on teaching Du Shuo a good lesson later on.

But now that Du Shuo seemed to understand the situation, Zuo Ming decided not to cause trouble for Furnace Stone Metal.

With everyone's gazes on him and thanking him, Liu Jie did not react. Instead, he said, "Let the person on the floor be an example. I hope no one makes the same mistake of pointing at Lin Yuan in a similar manner again."

Liu Jie's words shifted the attention onto Lin Yuan.

Ever since Zuo Ming bowed, the crowd had been guessing about Lin Yuan's identity.

Zuo Ming stretched out his hand, and the spiritual power that flowed from his palm plucked Miao Zhuo from the ground like a ragdoll.

Zuo Ming disappeared from the area outside the Midnight Palace in a flash and reappeared in front of an enormous snakehead in Beast Head Forest.

The moment Zuo Ming's feet touched the ground, the snake came to life and turned into a giant eight-meter-long python.

Zuo Ming said to the giant python, "Old Gang, this fellow crossed Young Liege, Drag him to the Sin Cleansing Pool for me, and some people from Connected Beast Park will collect him later."

A look of hostility came over the giant python.

Shortly after, it seemed as though all the beast heads in Beast Head Forest were coming to life as Old Gang said in a raspy voice, "Someone actually crossed someone as nice as Young Liege, and in the Midnight Palace on top of it. Apparently, the Miao family has a third thearch-class expert this year. It looks like Connected Beast Park is thriving."

Zuo Ming's unassuming face had been cold, but he rolled his eyes when he heard what Old Gang said.

"Old Gang, stop making this about combat power. Even if the Miao family had 100 thearch-class experts, they wouldn't dare to disrespect Lordess Chief Guard. The person leading the Miao family at the Guard Ye Banquet is Miao Qi.

"I wonder if Miao Qi is actually stupid or if the Miao family really has such intentions. Lord Bamboo Monarch is horrible at rejecting women. I heard You Zhe say that Lanya Pavilion had not intended on attending the Guard Ye Banquet, but word was just received that they have already arrived inside the palace."

Chapter 832: Li Changlin! All You Do is Eat!

Old Gang was clearly not paying attention to Zuo Ming and was looking at him with slight vexation.

Zuo Ming, who was usually stoic, was always nosy when he was with friends.

Old Gang did not respond to Zuo Ming. If that person from Langya Pavilion was really here, the matter was serious.

Lord Bamboo Monarch was in deep trouble.

If trouble broke out in the Midnight Palace, no one could do anything about it unless Lordess Chief Guard stepped in personally.

Given Lordess Chief Guard's temperament, she would definitely stay out of such matters.

Old Gang glanced at the unconscious Miao Zhuo and said to Zuo Ming, "Summon the Soul Song Zither Bird and check on this boy's soul. Why did he have to get on the wrong side of Young Liege? Even if his soul is injured severely, he'll wake up after being whipped by the Sin Cleansing Weeping Willows. Let me see how many Sin Cleansing Weeping Willows I should use to teach this boy a lesson."

Zuo Ming shot a look of annoyance at Old Gang. It could have just asked directly instead of questioning how many Sin Cleansing Weeping Willows it would need to teach Miao Zhuo a lesson.

Given the state of Miao Zhuo's soul injury, it would not be able to survive two days under one Sin Cleansing Weeping Willow.

But frankly, Zuo Ming was also curious about what had gotten the well-mannered Liu Jie so furious.

An avian-type fey with a zither-like tail and beautiful colorful crystal feathers was summoned with a wave of Zuo Ming's hand.

There was nothing special about the bird's body, and its white down feathers had no shine to them. However, the beautiful colorful crystal feathers that grew on the bird's zither-like tail looked like multi-colored gems on a pipa.

The Soul Song Zither Bird moved its tail feathers, and a strange and ear-piercing tune was played.

A look of anguish appeared on Miao Zhuo's face, and Zuo Ming used the song to check on the state of Miao Zhuo's soul.

Only Night Leaning Moon knew that Liu Jie was Lin Yuan's retainer knight.

Although Night Leaning Moon did not purposely hide that Liu Jie was Lin Yuan's retainer, she also did not tell Zuo Ming about it.

Thus, Zuo Ming was confused as to why Liu Jie was so protective of Lin Yuan.

Liu Jie's anger was solely because Lin Yuan had been insulted by Miao Zhuo.

Cold sweat started to drip down Zuo Ming's back.

Luckily, Cold Moon and Mystic Moon had accompanied the Moon Empress to the main area inside the Midnight Palace for a meeting. Otherwise, if Cold Moon or Mystic Moon found out that their Young Lord had been insulted, Miao Zhuo would face consequences that were ten times more severe.

The Guard Ye Banquet would not be able to proceed as planned.

Since Miao Zhuo had not just insulted Liu Jie but also the Radiant Moon Palace's Young Lord, Zuo Ming said to Old Gang, "You don't have to send Miao Zhuo to the Sin Cleansing Pool. Just take him to Connected Beast Park's residence in Circle Beast City and tell his grandfather that our Young Liege put his grandson in this state because he had insulted the Radiant Moon Palace's Young Lord. He can decide for himself what happens to his grandson."

Old Gang was slightly surprised as it did not expect the boy on the ground to also have implicated the Radiant Moon Palace.

This was an extremely serious issue.

The giant python swallowed Miao Zhuo and disappeared in a flash.

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At that moment, You Zhe's forehead broke out in a sweat.

Even when he was facing powerful dimensional lifeforms or surrounded by a sea of dimensional lifeforms, he had never experienced the emotions that he was feeling now.

He did not know what to do in the situation he was currently in and dared not act rashly.

All the truly important people were in a meeting in the main area of the Midnight Palace, while the people in the inner area of the Midnight Palace were from top factions and veteran factions.

After winning a game of scissors-paper-stone with Zuo Ming, You Zhe had chosen to manage the inner area of the Midnight Palace because he thought it would be an easier task.

However, he did not expect that person from Langya Pavilion, who had initially rejected the invitation, had decided to attend in the end,

A woman dressed in traditional purple clothes with beautiful purplish-gold bamboo patterns and golden peony embroidery was standing at the entrance to the inner area of the Midnight Palace.

She had demure features and pearls that seemed to encapsulate life adorned her earrings.

A string of pearls with the color of dreamy clouds hung around her neck.

It was the appearance of this woman that had led to sweat breaking out on You Zhe's forehead.

The fashionable woman stole everyone's attention from the moment she arrived.

Previously, the people from veteran factions saw Wang Fuxiang as only the mysterious owner of Lanya Pavilion. There were only a few top factions that knew about Wang Fuxiang and Lord Bamboo Monarch.

Ever since Lord Bamboo Monarch had been stained with bad luck and stopped creating Law Crystals for the major factions, the secret between Wang Fuxiang and Lord Bamboo Monarch had been blown out into the open.

Even the people from veteran factions knew.

Now that the secret was exposed, even the top factions dared not look down on Wang Fuxiang.

Whether it was real or feigned, the leaders of the top factions were all looking at Wang Fuxiang with respect.

Their eyes also looked toward someone else dressed in purple.

This set of purple clothes that Miao Qi was wearing had two red trees with red fruits embroidered on them. There were some faint images of bamboo next to the red trees.

The leaders of the top factions started to grow nervous. What good could come from Wang Fuxiang and Miao Qi clashing against each other?

They did not imagine that the day would come where they could gawk at the Bamboo Monarch.

Long Tu, who was sitting with Li Zhen, checked the time. The meeting that was happening in the main area of the Midnight Palace should have ended by now.

He wondered what expression Lord Bamboo Monarch would have when he came and saw Wang Fuxiang and Miao Qi.

However, this was Lord Bamboo Monarch's personal matter, and it would be up to him to handle the issue.

At that moment, a woman pushed a middle-aged man out of his seat and walked toward Wang Fuxiang.

The middle-aged man was distractedly eating a piece of steamed gyokuro date shortcake while the woman furiously pulled his ear and said, "Li Changlin, all you do is eat! You eat wherever you go! Come with me to greet Sister Xiang now!"

Chapter 833: Tit for Tat

Li Changlin hurriedly stuffed the rest of the gyokuro date shortcake into his mouth and said in a meek voice to the woman pulling him by his ear, "Yingying, you were the one who said that this gyokuro date shortcake tasted pretty good. I wanted to see if I can figure out how it's made so I can make it for you back home!"

On top of his meek and sad tone, Li Changlin deliberately blinked a few times at the woman.

The woman did not buy it and spat, "That was how I was tricked by you all those years ago! If you hadn't blinked at me like that, I wouldn't have run away with you 20 years ago. Don't bother trying this with me. Let's go!"

A clever-looking chubby man overheard the woman's words and thought, "Thank God I'm smart. Nothing good can come out from Senior Brother and Junior Sister being together. Nothing beats how comfortable I am running the Spirit Food Pavilion! Women are the scariest creatures! They can never make me as happy as an iron wok can!"

When he heard what his wife said, Li Changlin's mouth twitched.

How is it the same? I only blinked this time, but I also pouted 20 years ago.

But when he heard that his wife wanted to chat with Wang Fuxiang and even addressed her as Sister Xiang, Li Changlin felt slightly uncomfortable.

Wang Fuxiang was at least 70 years old, while his wife was not even 40 years old yet. She should be calling Wang Fuxiang Auntie Xiang.

But when they approached Wang Fuxiang, Li Changlin still addressed her as Sister Xiang while thinking, "I'll probably get beat up if I call her Auntie Xiang! On the other hand, calling her Sister Xiang makes it seem like I'm of the same generation as the Bamboo Monarch. Hehe! This feeling is pretty good!"

Li Changlin immediately proceeded to call Wang Fuxiang Sister Xiang a few more times.

Zhang Yingying immediately knew that Li Changlin was up to something and quickly pinched his side.

She had heard from her father that the Bamboo Monarch had been courting Wang Fuxiang.

If not for Wang Fuxiang's predicament, she would have become the Purple Bamboo Forest's mistress long ago.

Before Zhang Yingying eloped with Li Changlin, she was the princess of the Kitchen Fragrance Pavilion and often visited Langya Pavilion to buy accessories.

She had met Wang Fuxiang 20 years ago when she was still a young girl.

If not for the advice she had received from Wang Fuxiang at that time, Zhang Yingying would never have eloped with Li Changlin.

It could be said that Wang Fuxiang had been Zhang Yingying and Li Changlin's matchmaker.

However, Zhang Yingying had never told Li Changlin about this.

Not even Wang Fuxiang knew that her words would have such a big influence on Zhang Yingying.

Zhang Yingying greeted Wang Fuxiang in a friendly manner.

When Wang Fuxiang saw Zhang Yingying, her ashen face broke out into a bright smile.

Her smile was so stunning that it was as though a flurry of cherry blossoms had floated into the Midnight Palace's inner area.

A look of nostalgia came over Wang Fuxiang, but her face quickly fell as she said to Zhang Yingying, "Sister Ying, I need to attend to something. I'll catch up with you soon."

Wang Fuxiang strode toward Miao Qi, who was trying her best to put on a strong front.

No one knew better than Miao Qi what the relationship between Wang Fuxiang and the Bamboo Monarch was.

Hence, the pinnacle Class 4 Creation Master Miao Qi was panicking.

When she thought of Wang Fuxiang's bad luck and its impact on the Bamboo Monarch, Miao Qi immediately regained her composure.

Wang Fuxiang trod lightly, and when her skirt swayed, the peony petals seemed to fall onto the floor of the bamboo forest.

She approached Miao Qi calmly, and Miao Qi felt a hint of shame.

No matter what reasons there were, she definitely had less moral ground to stand on than Wang Fuxiang.

Despite being a Class 4 Creation Master or that she was a part of Connected Beast Park, Miao Qi could not start arguing with Wang Fuxiang.

It was not because Wang Fuxiang's Langya Pavilion had a mountain of resources.

When it came to resources, the Miao family still had more than Langya Pavilion.

Miao Qi was afraid because of the adoration that Wang Fuxiang received from the Bamboo Monarch.

Miao Qi could not move freely with Wang Fuxiang around, as the latter had the right to gain the respect of everyone here.

Thus, Miao Qi could only strike first for Wang Fuxiang's weak spots.

"Do you know that after being trapped by your bad luck, Lord Bamboo Monarch can't even create Law Crystals anymore?"

Miao Qi's words caused everyone's gazes to shift.

It was because of Wang Fuxiang that many people were rejected when they asked the Bamboo Monarch to create Law Crystals for them.

A sweet yet stern voice sounded before the crowd could speculate further. "Fu Wenzhu was affected by me and is now trapped by my bad luck. You're right about that."

Miao Qi was delighted by Wang Fuxiang's admittance, and she was about to continue hitting Wang Fuxiang's weak spots when the latter went on to say, "But no matter what, I'm a citizen of the Radiance Federation. If Fu Wenzhu has become a powerless Class 5 Creation Master because of my bad luck, I'm willing to give up my life. His bad luck will be gone after my death."

The leaders of top factions who had negative opinions on Wang Fuxiang now looked at her in astonishment. They did not expect the sweet Wang Fuxiang to be so steel-willed that she would even say that she was willing to die to remove Lord Bamboo Monarch's bad luck.

Fu Wenzhu was Bamboo Monarch's name, and no one, not even Lord Chef Supreme's daughter Zhang Yingying would dare to call him by it.

Since Wang Fuxiang was willing to die for the Bamboo Monarch, she definitely respected him.

This meant that their relationship had progressed to a certain extent.

Miao Qi did not expect that Wang Fuxiang would rebuke her even after she struck first.

If it was anyone else, Miao Qi would have replied mockingly, "It's easy to talk about death, but not everyone has the courage to go through with it."

However, Miao Qi would not dare to say that now.

If she really did say it and Wang Fuxiang ended up dead, Bamboo Monarch would certainly come after her.

He would also go after Connected Beast Park.

While Miao Qi was trying to come up with a way to turn the tables on Wang Fuxiang, the latter said, "Banquets have their own rules. You should be aware of that since you're from a top faction, right?"

Chapter 834: Hello, Master

Wang Fuxiang looked around at the people before saying, "One of the rules of the Guard Ye Banquet is that no one's clothes or accessories can have snake or snake-like patterns. Every guest has to follow this rule. But besides this special rule, have you forgotten about the other rule of this banquet?"

Miao Qi's expression changed.

At that moment, an elegant man took a deep breath and walked through the crowd to Wang Fuxiang. He bowed and said, "Hello, Master."

Xia Chen had seen Wang Fuxiang but did not intend on greeting her.

As the Bamboo Monarch's first disciple, Xia Chen knew that the Bamboo Monarch had been courting Wang Fuxiang.

But as the Bamboo Monarch's disciple and because the Bamboo Monarch's bad luck had come from Wang Fuxiang, Xia Chen, who viewed the Bamboo Monarch as a father, did not like Wang Fuxiang.

Moreover, Wang Fuxiang had been coming up with ways to reject the Bamboo Monarch and never agreed to be together with him.

If Wang Fuxiang denied him when Xia Chen called her Master, she would not be embarrassing Xia Chen but the Bamboo Monarch.

However, Xia Chen knew his Master well and knew that he had to stand up for Wang Fuxiang no matter what.

It was his duty as a disciple.

The way Xia Chen addressed Wang Fuxiang caused a big reaction in the crowd. Even Long Tu and Li Zhen looked shocked.

Xia Chen had always been solemn and helped the Bamboo Monarch to manage the Purple Bamboo Forest.

Now, Xia Chen's words had essentially branded Wang Fuxiang.

He was basically announcing that Wang Fuxiang was the mistress of the Purple Bamboo Forest.

Xia Chen's appearance made Miao Qi's sour countenance drain of color.

Before Wang Fuxiang responded, Xia Chen went on to say, "There are a total of 18 coronation costumes in the Radiance Federation, 13 of which belong to the royal family. The remaining 5 belong to the five Radiance Envoys. Every coronation costume has unique patterns that represent the owner's identity and authority.

"For example, Chief Guard Ye's Night Clear Water Coronation Costume has a body of clear water at night that represents the eternal night. I believe everyone is aware of this. Thus, no one wears clothes with patterns similar to the Night Clear Water Coronation Costume at banquets like the Guard Ye Banquet. Moreover, as a show of respect to Chief Guard Ye, no one tries to recreate the Night Clouds Hundred Beasts patterns on the Night Clear Water Coronation Costume. In fact, everyone stays clear of it."

Xia Chen's words made Miao Qi's face turn even paler.

Every single leader of veteran and top factions looked absolutely astonished.

They all knew why Xia Chen was mentioning this. Initially, they thought that Xia Chen had appeared to brand Wang Fuxiang with her identity as the mistress of the Purple Bamboo Forest.

No one expected that Xia Chen would go on to help Wang Fuxiang fight against Miao Qi.

This move made Miao Qi seem extremely insolent.

Xia Chen stole a look at Wang Fuxiang and noticed that she did not seem to be rejecting the title he had given her. With his worries rested, Xia Chen continued. "Master's coronation costume is the Bamboo Perch Coronation Costume, and the patterns are called the Purple Bamboo coronation patterns. Miao Qi, are those purple bamboo embroidered behind the two goji trees on your purple spirit qi clothes?"

At this point, Xia Chen felt that he had laid good groundwork for Wang Fuxiang and stepped back behind her.

This action made everyone see it as him acknowledging Wang Fuxiang as his elder. Otherwise, the first disciple of the Bamboo Monarch who managed the Purple Bamboo Forest would not have to act in such a humble manner in front of Wang Fuxiang.

Wang Fuxiang felt uncomfortable when Xia Chen called her Master, but she was comforted by what he did for her.

When she had decided to attend the Guard Ye Banquet, she had settled on the status of her relationship with the Bamboo Monarch.

She was now ready to face the feelings between her and the Bamboo Monarch.

She was already old and was no bouncing young girl.

It was extremely difficult to find a real relationship.

The Bamboo Monarch had also said that he would find a way to remove her bad luck and had definitely brought up this issue with the other members of royalty to ask for a solution.

Wang Fuxiang's mind was set. If she could not find a way to remove her bad luck, she would happily sacrifice her life for the Bamboo Monarch.

She was going to wear her favorite jewelry and jump into the Bamboo Monarch's arms.

If she died for him, he would definitely remember her for the rest of his life.

Now that her troubles had cleared, Wang Fuxiang had accepted Xia Chen calling her Master.

She put on a charming smile, turned to the deathly pale Miao Qi who looked pathetic in comparison, and said, "Fu Wenzhu gave me this set of clothes. The large patch of purple bamboo embroidery below the yellow peony patterns used the gold thread from Golden Therach Bamboo. It's the same thread used in the embroidery on Fu Wenzhu's Bamboo Perch Coronation Costume is made from.

“Miao Qi, the faint bamboo stitched on your clothes are so detailed that they’re also made from the gold thread from the Golden Therach Bamboo. You must have spent a tidy sum on this set of clothes!

“You actually managed to find Myth Breed Golden Therach Bamboo and extract gold thread from it to embroider purple bamboo that is so similar to those on the Purple Bamboo Coronation Costume.

“Did Fu Wenzhu give you permission to copy the Purple Bamboo Coronation Costume? Or do you hold the coronation patterns in such low regard that you are fine with casually recreating the coronation patterns on the spirit qi clothes that you wear to the Guard Ye Banquet?”

Miao Qi lowered her head, and not a peep was heard from her.

She was well and truly humiliated.

As a Class 4 Creation Master that also came from Connected Beast Park, she even received respect from top factions. Even the leaders of veteran factions had to lower their heads in front of her. Yet, she was now a public joke.

She never expected Wang Fuxiang to attend the Guard Ye Banquet.

It had been a secret that she was the one representing the Miao family at the Guard Ye Banquet, and the decision had only been made after the Miao family had discovered that Wang Fuxiang had rejected the invitation to the Guard Ye Banquet.

Miao Qi knew that if not for Wang Fuxiang, Xia Chen would never have bothered with her.

Chapter 835: The Most Elite Group

Miao Qi was at a complete loss for words. She dared not take on the crime of disrespecting the coronation patterns.

She had put a lot of effort and money into the spirit qi clothes that she was wearing.

She had done this to make herself seem more esteemed, but it had backfired on her instead.

The meeting that was taking place in the main area of the Midnight Palace was about to end. In order to prevent further commotion from taking place in the inner area of the Midnight Palace, You Zhe quickly walked up to Wang Fuxiang and bowed to her before saying, “Lordess, the meeting in the main area is about to end. Miao Qi has broken the Guard Ye Banquet’s rules by disrespecting the coronation patterns. I will eject her from the premises so the Guard Ye Banquet can proceed smoothly. I will inform the leader of the Miao family of this incident and ensure that they make it up to you.”

Although You Zhe knew about Wang Fuxiang and the Bamboo Monarch, he did not have to address her as Lordess.

Since Xia Chen had branded Wang Fuxiang with the title of the mistress of the Purple Bamboo Forest, You Zhe now had to address her as Lordess even though Bamboo Monarch had not personally confirmed Wang Fuxiang’s identity.

You Zhe felt that Miao Qi deserved the consequences she was facing.

The Bamboo Monarch would certainly learn about this incident. He had already been irked by Miao Qi's repeated attempts to court him as well as Connected Beast Park's hinting.

Even if the Bamboo Monarch decided to look upon this incident of Miao Qi insulting Wang Fuxiang kindly, he would still end up unleashing his fury on Connected Beast Park.

Wang Fuxiang was not an unreasonable person, and she had to have her reason for targeting Miao Qi.

There was no way that Wang Fuxiang would rebuke You Zhe, and she never intended to disrupt the Guard Ye Banquet in the first place.

"Sorry for the inconvenience, Manager You," said Wang Fuxiang.

Wang Fuxiang turned and walked toward Zhang Yingying so they could talk and catch up.

Xia Chen followed behind Wang Fuxiang.

At that moment, Li Changlin met Xia Chen's eyes.

Li Changlin casually winked at Xia Chen, and the latter immediately flushed as he suppressed his anger. *?Damn Li Changlin! How are you still so annoying as a middle-aged man?*

Xia Chen purposely turned his head away from Li Changlin.

When he saw Li Changlin, Xia Chen could not help but think back to when they were children, and Li Changlin had shaved Xia Chen's head before ordering him to use his spiritual power to fry an egg on his head.

Li Changlin had even complained that Xia Chen's spirit qi was so weak that the egg did not taste good.

What a bully!

Regardless, Miao Qi was a pinnacle Class 4 Creation Master, so You Zhe did not use force on her.

Miao Qi followed You Zhe out of the Midnight Palace through a special tunnel.

As they walked, Miao Qi tried to strike up a conversation with You Zhe several times, but he did not entertain her at all.

Miao Qi thought, *?It's already a done deal that I'm being chased out of the Guard Ye Banquet. I'll inevitably be punished when I return home. I can only hope that Miao Zhuo does well and wins one of the top three positions at the Arts Stage. At least, that'll earn Connected Beast Park some glory.*

She thought back to the advice she had given Miao Zhuo and felt that he should have no problem winning one of the top three spots at the Arts Stage since he had the item she had given him.

The main events of the Guard Ye Banquet were the Martial Stage and Martial Arts Stage. Most Creation Masters had impressive fighting abilities.

Thus, most people who even had a shadow of a chance would choose to participate in the Martial Arts Stage to prove themselves.

The younger generation without Creation Master powers but had strong fighting abilities would participate in the Martial Stage.

As a result, the Arts Stage became the weakest of the three Stages.

Miao Zhuo was already a pinnacle Class 3 Creation Master. The precious item that his father had given him to protect his soul could also enable the soul to be used in the concoction of spirit fluids for a short amount of time.

A look of ease came over Miao Qi's face.

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After Zuo Ming picked up the unconscious Miao Zhuo and left the Midnight Palace, Gao Feng patted Lin Yuan's shoulder forcefully and said, "Damn, Lin Yuan, what's up with you? Why didn't you tell me about your identity?"

Gao Feng's actions made Long Tao, Li Xuan, and Liu Jie's eyelids twitch.

Liu Jie would have made another move if anyone else had hit Lin Yuan's shoulder so forcefully. However, Liu Jie knew about the relationship between Gao Feng and Lin Yuan.

Whenever Gao Feng was with Lin Yuan, he would slap Lin Yuan's shoulder constantly.

Lin Yuan laughed and said, "You didn't ask."

Lin Yuan really liked Gao Feng's true personality as he was always forthright and straightforward.

Even when Gao Feng called him, Lin Yuan would listen to Gao Feng complain about the expansion of his faction and the things that happened in his life with a vexed face. However, he was never bored because of how honest Gao Feng was.

Frankly, Lin Yuan had not intended on revealing his identity to Gao Feng, and the latter also had not asked.

When Gao Feng heard what Lin Yuan said, he rolled his eyes in a way that seemed to say, "I want to know now, tell me now."

Lin Yuan looked around and pointed at an empty area not far off, and said, "Why don't we sit there and chat. We can have something to eat too."

By the time Lin Yuan and Liu Jie had arrived, it was already 6:00 p.m., and they had not had time to have dinner.

Lin Yuan was starting to get hungry.

Soon, Liu Jie would have to participate in the Martial Stage and Lin Yuan the Arts Stage. They could not participate in such serious competitions on empty stomachs.

Long Tao, Li Xuan, Liu Jie, Gao Feng, and Lin Yuan walked to the empty area.

Everyone around wanted to follow the group but dared not take a step.

They had all seen what had happened to Miao Zhuo, and taking a step forward now might be seen as an insult that would result in them also being thrown out.

Sun Ningxiang walked up to Lin Yuan and whispered into his ear, "Hello, we meet again. I didn't expect you to look so young without your mask."

Lin Yuan raised his eyebrows and looked at Sun Ningxiang's expression of certainty. He was about to deny what she said but said instead, "Why don't we go over there to chat?"

Sun Ningxiang's eyes lit up. The group consisting of Lin Yuan, Liu Jie, Long Tao, Li Xuan, and Gao Feng was the most elite one currently standing outside the Midnight Palace.

Chapter 836: Fate Sealed With a Few Words

Lin Yuan was the Moon Empress' disciple, while Liu Jie was Chief Guard Ye's disciple.

The two disciples of royalty and the two sole descendants of top factions were destined to take over their families, while Li Xuan was the favored oldest son of Dark Clouds Bird Shrine.

Any casual acquaintance made with this group would bring great benefits for Condense Fairy Orchard.

One of these people might have the item that would heal her grandmother's injuries.

By the time they arrived at the empty area, Li Xuan and Long Tao had already informed Gao Feng of Lin Yuan's identity.

However, Gao Feng did not look at Lin Yuan any differently. He just felt as though he was in a dream.

His brother was so amazing!

But now, Gao Feng knew how Lin Yuan was able to produce Bronze/Epic feys and nurture spotted coral jades that could only be nurtured by pinnacle Class 4 Creation Masters so easily.

After chatting for a while, in the name of his identity as Chief Guard Ye's disciple, Liu Jie became acquainted with Long Tao, who he already knew, Gao Feng, and Li Xuan.

This introduction to someone you already knew based on a new identity felt exceedingly odd.

As he thought of Lin Yuan's three distinct identities, Liu Jie suddenly realized why Lin Yuan found it fun.

Sun Ningxiang was not out of place with the five men and quickly joined in their conversations. She even established a collaboration with Li Xuan and Long Tao.

Dark Clouds Bird Shrine nurtured avian-type feys while Coiling Dragon's Valley nurtured dragon-species feys. Both factions required plant-type feys either as fertilizers or spiritual ingredients.

It would also greatly benefit Dark Clouds Bird Shrine and Coiling Dragon's Valley to collaborate with Condense Fairy Orchard.

While talking to Sun Ningxiang, Gao Feng also decided to work with her privately.

Gao Feng could provide a sea region for Condense Fairy Orchard to expand their aquatic plant-type fey cultivation while Condense Fairy Orchard would supply all the plant-type feys needed to nurture Gao Feng's aquatic feys.

With three collaborations secured and a significant expansion in Condense Fairy Orchard's business, Sun Ningxiang was over the moon.

She felt that being by Lin Yuan's side was almost too incredible as she seemed to have endless benefits as long as she was with him.

Lin Yuan suddenly thought back to what Wen Yu had discovered in her investigation into the Aurora pollen. She had found that Condense Fairy Orchard produced 40% of the Aurora pollen on the market.

Hence, Lin Yuan said to Sun Ningxiang, "Sun Ningxiang, has your Aurora pollen matured yet this year?"

Sun Ningxiang nodded and replied, "The Aurora pollen will be at its cheapest in another two or three months and when the greatest amount will be harvested."

While she spoke, she remembered the collaboration between Lin Yuan and the Sea Bliss Clan.

Sun Ningxiang had noticed Lin Yuan's hostility toward the Sea Bliss Clan and thought about the Aurora pollen. Thus, she had stopped Condense Fairy Orchard's external sale of Aurora pollen.

She had also started to collect Aurora pollen from the over 10,000 stores in the 36 major cities at a steady rate.

This led to a tightening of the supply of Aurora pollen on the market.

In response to this, Sun Ningxiang had injected a large amount of Aurora pollen into the market whenever the price was about to inflate significantly.

If Sun Ningxiang stopped providing Aurora pollen to the market, the almost empty supply of Aurora pollen in the market would immediately lead to high inflation.

Sun Ningxiang had done all this for Lin Yuan as a small gesture.

Lin Yuan had intended to ask Sun Ningxiang to reduce the supply of Aurora pollen she provided to the market. He would compensate Condense Fairy Orchard for the losses they incurred from the loss of sales.

He did not expect Sun Ningxiang to have come to such a decision after overhearing the conversation between him and the Sea Bliss Clan.

Now, Sun Ningxiang had become the weapon that would deliver the final blow to the Sea Bliss Clan.

Sun Ningxiang already controlled 40% of the market on Aurora pollen, and now that she was buying up the remaining 60%, they already controlled about 70% of the market.

Lin Yuan could use the trading of Flower Brocade Pearls to obtain the remainder.

Aurora pollen, which already existed in small supply on the market, had now almost been sucked dry from the market.

Soon, the positive image of Aurora pollen would be ruined, and its price would skyrocket. At that point, the Sea Bliss Clan would be doomed.

Lin Yuan and Sun Ningxiang exchanged knowing looks that sealed the fate of the Sea Bliss Clan.

Lin Yuan looked at Long Tao and asked, "Big Brother Long, is it possible to get eight Emperor Armored Martial God Insects from the four dimensional rifts under Coiling Dragon Valley's control?"

Lin Yuan did not have an immediate answer. Instead, he said, "I'll go and ask."

Long Tao called his elder that was in charge of the dimensional rifts.

Lin Yuan had to have his reasons for mentioning the Emperor Armored Martial God Insects. Thus, Long Tao could not make casual promises.

After talking to his elder, Long Tao said to Lin Yuan, "There are some complete Emperor Armored Martial God Insect corpses in storage as well as Law Source Crystals that were extracted from the bodies of Emperor Armored Martial God Insects."

Lin Yuan hurriedly shook his head. He could not use corpses to pull his fey carriage.

Although Lin Yuan needed Law Source Crystals, there was no difference between the Law Source Crystals from the bodies of Emperor Armored Martial God Insects and other Class 8 dimensional lifeforms.

Lin Yuan wanted living Emperor Armored Martial God Insects.

He asked Long Tao seriously, "Is it possible for me to get 12 living Emperor Armored Martial God Insects from Coiling Dragon's Valley?"

Long Tao's mouth fell open as he tried to figure out why Lin Yuan needed living Emperor Armored Martial God Insects.

The Emperor Armored Martial God Insect was Coiling Dragon's Valley's most disliked Class 8 alien insect.

Their fighting power was too strong, and a pinnacle emperor-class expert was always needed to deal with the Emperor Armored Martial God Insect.

This wasted a significant amount of Coiling Dragon's Valley's top expert resources.

Chapter 837: The Power Lin Yuan Held

Even dead, the Emperor Armored Martial God Insect's armor was extremely solid and could not be used as a metal-type spiritual ingredient.

Its flesh was also so tough that even dragon-species feys had indigestion after eating it.

When expelled as waste, the flesh still maintained its form.

There was a chance for Coiling Dragon's Valley to obtain the living Emperor Armored Martial God Insects that Lin Yuan wanted.

Since there was a chance for him to encounter them, there was no reason for Long Tao to reject Lin Yuan.

"It is possible to get our hands on the living Emperor Armored Martial God Insects, but I can't be sure when they'll appear."

A troubled look came over Long Tao's face.

Although the Emperor Armored Martial God Insect did appear in the Class 4 alien insect dimensional rifts that Coiling Dragon's Valley controlled, and pinnacle emperor-class experts could kill the Emperor Armored Martial God Insects, these insects excelled at fighting and inflicting damage.

It was impossible to control living Emperor Armored Martial God Insects for long. Not even pinnacle emperor-class experts could guarantee that the Emperor Armored Martial God Insects they were controlling would remain unharmed.

Thearch-class experts were required in order to capture a complete and unharmed Emperor Armored Martial God Insect.

Long Tao's grandfather was a thearch-class expert. Still, it was inappropriate for his grandfather to go into a dimensional rift to capture the Emperor Armored Martial God Insect just for Lin Yuan.

Hence, Long Tao said pragmatically, "It's difficult to capture a living Emperor Armored Martial God Insect. Will injured ones do?"

Lin Yuan shook his head and said, "Big Brother Long, if it's convenient, can you notify me when you encounter the Emperor Armored Martial God Insect in a Class 4 alien insect dimensional rift? I'll immediately send someone to capture it."

Lin Yuan felt that although Endless Summer had not transformed into a Creation Breed before the Guard Ye Banquet as per his expectation, it should be able to evolve to Creation Breed within the next few days if he continued to provide it with Law Crystals.

Endless Summer had comprehended the Enlightenment Law that could control the mind. Thus, when the Enlightenment Law turned into the Enlightenment World, the Creation Endless Summer would be able to control the Emperor Armored Martial God Insect easily and bring it back to the Return from Faraway Mansion.

From Lin Yuan's words, Long Tao felt that there was more to Lin Yuan than just being the Moon Empress' disciple.

Although Lin Yuan was the Moon Empress' disciple, he should not be able to order thearch-class experts around casually.

But from the way Lin Yuan spoke, it was clear that he could order thearch-class experts around easily.

Whether this was because the Moon Empress showered love on Lin Yuan or because Lin Yuan himself wielded the power of thearch-class experts, it was absolutely astonishing.

When Gao Feng had heard Lin Yuan and Sun Ningxiang talking about Aurora pollen, he thought back to his conversation with Lin Yuan about buying up all the Aurora pollen on the market.

At that time, Gao Feng had been confused by what Lin Yuan meant, but he had to have had his reasons for talking about it.

Hence, Gao Feng had also bought up a significant amount of Aurora pollen.

Now that Gao Feng had the spotted coral jade Lin Yuan had given him, he could nurture the Angelfish of Bliss in water of better quality and would require a high amount of Aurora pollen.

However, Gao Feng did not expect there would be such serious implications to him buying up Aurora pollen.

Gao Feng could not help but think back to his phone call with Lin Yuan, where they had talked about getting back at the Sea Bliss Clan.

Gao Feng had been enraged ever since he was kicked out of the Sea Bliss Clan's private territory on Star Web.

The role of Gao Feng's private faction overlapped with that of the Sea Bliss Clan. If he ended up fighting with the Sea Bliss Clan, it would not be easy for him because he did not rely much on the Gao family's resources.

But his word of passing to Lin Yuan had resulted in Lin Yuan helping him to fight against the Sea Bliss Clan.

This touched Gao Feng, and he took out the Diamond fey storage box he had prepared and gave it to Lin Yuan.

"Brother, here are the four Titan Giant Boas that you wanted. My elders discovered that besides the benefits I told you about, the Titan Giant Boa also has powerful fighting abilities underwater, almost twice as strong than when it fights on land."

Lin Yuan's eyes lit up in delight when he heard what Gao Feng said.

Lin Yuan intended for Zhang Xiaobai, Tan Ran, Xin Ying, and Lu Pinru to contract the Titan Giant Boas.

The stronger the Titan Giant Boas were, the better it was for the four of them. It would also increase the power of the Dome Guild Club's reserve team.

The improved underwater fighting abilities raised the Titan Giant Boas' value.

Gao Feng must have had invested a fair amount of effort to obtain the four Titan Giant Boas from his family.

Lin Yuan handed Gao Feng a Diamond fey storage box.

Compared to the square Platinum fey storage box, the Diamond fey storage box could be made into a variety of accessories to increase its convenience of use. Hence, Lin Yuan had ordered a large batch of Diamond fey storage boxes from Ostrich Logistics.

Nowadays, Lin Yuan chose to use Diamond fey storage boxes to carry goods whenever he was trading a large number of goods.

Lin Yuan said to Gao Feng, "This is what we agreed on."

When Gao Feng looked inside the fey storage box, he discovered that besides the spotted coral jade that he and Lin Yuan had agreed on, there were also two jade-textured wooden planks and a heavenly-maiden-grade elemental pearl with an external layer.

Gao Feng knew that this was Lin Yuan's compensation to him.

When Gao Feng had learned that Lin Yuan needed the Titan Giant Boas, he had immediately called his grandfather.

During the call, his family had already discovered the Titan Giant Boas' underwater fighting abilities, and it took a lot of convincing for his grandfather to let the Titan Giant Boas go.

Nonetheless, Lin Yuan's compensation was too high.

In spite of the Titan Giant Boas' underwater fighting abilities, the combined value of the four Titan Giant Boas were only worth one heavenly-maiden-grade elemental pearl with an external layer.

The other two jade-textured wooden planks were an unwarranted gift from Lin Yuan.

Moreover, Lin Yuan had prepared these before he found out about the Titan Giant Boas' underwater fighting abilities.

Chapter 838: Lychee Husband

At that moment, it hit Gao Feng again how thorough Lin Yuan was.

Gao Feng was a sensitive person. He wanted to drag Lin Yuan away immediately to have a few cups of wine, but he was unsure if Lin Yuan wanted to participate in the competitions. Hence, he gave up on the inclination to drink.

Instead, he picked up a snack from the tea tray and bit into the soft confection.

His mouth was flooded with a deliciously sweet and sour taste.

Gao Feng felt as though he had been transported to another world as he exclaimed excitedly, "These snacks are so yummy! It looks like something that's made at the Spirit Food Pavilion, but it tastes so much better!"

The group had been busy talking from the moment they sat down and had not had time to eat.

But after hearing Gao Feng's exclamation, the group picked up a piece of the snack that Gao Feng had complimented.

When Lin Yuan bit into it, he felt as though an entire lychee grove had exploded in his mouth, and every tooth in his mouth had become a lychee tree.

His saliva flowed continuously, spurred on by the sweetness and sourness.

But as delicious as it was, it did not impress Lin Yuan to a great extent.

Due to his connection to Auntie Zhang and Uncle Li, Lin Yuan had been eating Kitchen Fragrance Palace quality food ever since he was young.

The secret recipes of Kitchen Fragrance Palace could not be compared to the dishes made by the Kitchen Fragrance Pavilion.

As difficult as those days had been, Lin Yuan's palate had been significantly elevated by Uncle Li's cooking skills.

Afterward, Lin Yuan had moved on to eat Liu Jie's cooking. Now that he was accustomed to Liu Jie's cooking, Lin Yuan did not find anything special about the Spirit Food Pavilion's food.

Long Tao, Li Xuan, and Sun Ningxiang all found the snack to be delicious.

Although the three of them had already had dinner, this snack had whetted their appetites anew.

"The Kitchen Fragrance Palace made all the refreshments in the Guard Ye Banquet after Lord Chef Supreme arrived at the Midnight Palace. Otherwise, Chief Guard Ye had not intended on serving snacks at all. She had only prepared some fruits. The snack you guys just ate is called Lychee Husband," explained Liu Jie.

Lin Yuan did not think anything of Liu Jie's explanation until he heard the name Lychee Husband and he raised his eyebrow.

He found the name strange.

Gao Feng continued to pop Lychee Husbands into his mouth as he looked at Liu Jie curiously.

Liu Jie coughed and said, "Before I came, Master allowed me to look at the itinerary for the Guard Ye Banquet. I also got to take a look at the list of refreshments. Apparently, red lychees from Platinum Crystal Clear Lychee trees were used to make these Lychee Husbands.

"The red lychees are dried over a strange flame then marinated in the sap of the Crystal Clear Lychee tree for a year before it's used as filling in the Lychee Husbands. Rumor has it that Lord Chef Supreme's only daughter was the one who named this snack. She felt that the sweet and sour taste was like a kiss from a husband, and the softness of the wrapping is to represent the tenderness of the moment."

Lin Yuan thought back to Auntie Zhang, who would bring the Terror Rabbit along with her every day as she did laundry.

He did not expect her to be such a romantic when she was young.

Gao Feng's hand halted as it was about to place another Lychee Husband in his mouth, and a strange feeling came over him.

It was no secret that Chef Supreme's only daughter had married his first disciple.

Since he had eaten about ten pieces of Lychee Husbands, did that mean that he had kissed Chef Supreme's first disciple about ten times?

All of a sudden, Gao Feng lost all appetite for this snack.

When he thought about how his father was forcing him to participate in the Martial Stage, Gao Feng felt that he led an extremely difficult life.

He looked at Lin Yuan and lamented, "Are any of you participating in the Martial Stage? At least, I'll be able to surrender if I face off against any of you."

Gao Feng knew that besides him, every person who stepped onto the Martial Stage wanted to show off their power.

He would only be in for a beating if he participated in the Martial Stage.

There was one rule to the Martial Stage that Gao Feng simply did not understand, which was that the person who wanted to surrender could only truly admit defeat with the victor's agreement.

Otherwise, the fight would have to go on until the emergency helper stepped in.

This was too disadvantageous for Gao Feng!

Luckily, one was completely out of the Guard Ye Banquet's competitions after a single loss.

This meant that Gao Feng only needed to endure one beating.

"I'm participating in the Martial Arts Stage while the Young Liege is participating in the Martial Stage," said Lin Yuan.

Lin Yuan spoke naturally, but Liu Jie's expression turned into one of embarrassed shock.

Liu Jie never expected that the day would come where Lin Yuan would address him as Young Liege.

On the other hand, if Lin Yuan called him by any other name while he wore this mask, it would expose his identity.

Liu Jie hastily coughed and said, "I'm not a Creation Master, so I'm participating in the Martial Stage."

"I want to see if the prize for the Arts Stage will be announced before the competitions begin. If the prize for the Arts Stage is decent, I'll participate in that instead of the Martial Arts Stage," said Long Tao.

While Long Tao was speaking, his gaze remained solemn.

He understood that the Guard Ye Banquet was not his chance to prove his power to the other disciples of top factions.

Although he was Sequence #3 of the Radiance Hundred Sequence, he continued to hide his power.

If those two people were serious, there was no chance of him lasting more than a minute.

Since he had had the chance to fight against them at the Radiance Sacred Hall, the proud Long Tao had truly realized that there were always more powerful people somewhere.

It had been announced in advance that the prize for the Martial Arts Stage was a sacred source lifeform, but the prizes for the Arts Stage and Martial Stage had yet to be announced.

Hence, Long Tao decided to hold off his decision until he saw the prizes.

“The prize for the Arts Stage is a recently hatched Island Whale while the prize for the Martial Stage is the opportunity to receive a custom-made weapon from Lord Bamboo Monarch,” said Liu Jie.

Liu Jie left out that the prize for the Martial Arts Stage was also an Order of Radiant Light.

Chapter 839: Blazing Sun Strange Flame and the Beginning

Liu Jie still hoped that the Order of Radiant Light would end up in Lin Yuan’s hands, and his wish for the Guard Ye Banquet to take place a year later had crossed his mind more than once.

Liu Jie’s words led Long Tao to make a decision. “If so, I shall participate in the Arts Stage.”

The Island Whale that was the prize for the Arts Stage could not compare with the value of a sacred source lifeform. Hence, there had to be many people who would choose to participate in the Martial Stage because of the sacred source lifeform.

As such, the competition for the Arts Stage would not be as stiff, and most importantly, those two people should be competing in the Martial Arts Stage.

Long Tao asked Lin Yuan in a low voice, “Brother, have you heard of Gu Lang and Zong Ze?”

Lin Yuan shook his head, so Liu Jie started to explain, “Zong Ze and Gu Lang are Lord Chef Supreme and Lord Bamboo Monarch’s youngest disciples, respectively. They will be the strongest participants in the Martial Arts Stage.”

Lin Yuan noted the names.

Only 13 people in the Radiance Federation could be deemed royalty, and 11 of them already had disciples.

Lord Cicada Song and Lord Iron Prison were the only ones left without a disciple, and they usually stayed in the imperial court.

Meanwhile, the other members of royalty had disciples that were already older than 30 years old.

There were only four disciples of the members of royalty who could still be considered a part of the younger generation.

The four were Lin Yuan, Liu Jie, Lord Chef Supreme’s youngest disciple, and Lord Bamboo Monarch’s youngest disciple.

Lin Yuan had seen them as his biggest competitors in the Martial Arts Stage from the beginning.

He had insisted on evolving the Dark Death Law to Dark Death World before the Guard Ye Banquet because of these two people.

Neither Li Xuan nor Sun Ningxiang planned on participating in any of the stages.

Li Xuan was a support-type spirit qi professional like Gao Feng and was not a Creation Master. Hence, there was no point in him participating.

Sun Ningxiang had forced herself to attend the Guard Ye Banquet. Even if she was confident in her powers, she did not plan on making any big waves at such competitions while Condense Fairy Orchard was still in such a precarious situation.

Now that Gao Feng knew what the group had in mind for the rest of the night, his expression immediately turned sour.

There would be innumerable people participating in the Martial Stage, and it was impossible for him to face off against Liu Jie right from the beginning.

At that moment, Gao Feng felt that he was not his father's biological son. He had to have been picked up from a trash can.

For the sake of the competition later on, the group ate the snacks other than the Lychee Husband while they chatted.

Suddenly, 12 chimes sounded from deep inside the Midnight Palace.

Lin Yuan checked the time and realized that it was already 9:00 p.m.

This was the time that the Arts Stage, Martial Stage, and Martial Arts Stage was set to begin.

At that moment, six lights hanging from the ceiling of the Midnight Palace were extinguished, and the area outside the Midnight Palace lit up.

A blazing white flame wrapped in a transparent crystal lit up in the center of a suspended ceiling in the area outside the Midnight Palace.

The moment the white flames ignited, the area outside the Midnight Palace seemed to turn white.

Lin Yuan realized that although the white flames did give the semblance of sunlight, it was not blinding.

Rather, overwhelming energy could be sensed from the white flames.

Lin Yuan used True Data to check on the white flames and discovered that it was a top-grade Blazing Sun Strange Flame.

The strange top-grade strange flame came from Class 5 abyss dimensional rifts, but it did not appear in every one.

Once the strange flame reached top-grade, it became priceless.

Every top-grade strange flame was extremely precious, and there was mostly only one of each kind.

It seemed too luxurious to use such a precious item as a hanging light to illuminate the area outside the Midnight Palace.

Lin Yuan caught sight of Zuo Ming walking nearer with a man that had an odd expression walking alongside him.

The man looked as though he had just heard something unbelievable and was trying his best to compose himself.

You Zhe had just sent Miao Qi back to the Miao family's residence, but he did not expect to see that Miao Zhuo had already arrived before them.

Had everyone from Connected Beast Park gone crazy?

Why did they all start trouble at the Guard Ye Banquet? Not even the young one knew not to cross the line.

After You Zhe returned, he sought out Zuo Ming and found out why Miao Zhuo had just been sent away. This was when he realized that both aunt and nephew were out of their minds.

Zuo Ming coughed when he saw the crowd of young people and said, "Next, the Arts Stage, Martial Stage, and Martial Arts Stage are about to begin in that order. Both the Arts Stage and Martial Arts Stage involve Creation Master powers and will take place in the breeding rooms that have been cleaned out.

"Since the concoction of spirit fluids is special and cannot be exposed to outsiders, only the final results will be considered.

"As for the Martial Stage and Martial Arts Stage that involve combat-type spirit qi professionals, the competitions will take place in the palace in front of the members of royalty and your elders."

When the Midnight Palace had been constructed, the area outside the palace was built lower. After the Blazing Sun Strange Flame was ignited, the walls made of radyx crystal would become one-directionally transparent where everyone inside the palace would be able to see out into the area outside the palace but not vice versa.

The disciples of top and veteran factions who were confident in themselves all intended on participating in either the Arts Stage, Martial Stage, or Martial Arts Stage.

The disciples of veteran factions wanted to prove themselves to earn the approval of their elders and for the sake of their faction.

If the disciples of veteran factions could prove that they had incredible talent and strong powers, it would be indicative of the veteran factions' potential for the next few decades.

Such veteran factions always received support from top factions.

It was for this reason that Coiling Dragon's Valley supported Dark Clouds Bird Shrine and Furnace Stone Metal supported Four Beasts Territory.

Both Dark Clouds Bird Shrine and Four Beasts Territory were veteran factions that had gained the support of Coiling Dragon's Valley and Furnace Stone Metal a few decades ago because of the strength of their younger generation.

All of the veteran factions present were gunning for the same result.

Chapter 840: The Fiery Sky Hou and Cuttlefish of Days Past

Meanwhile, the disciples of top factions only had one goal—to prove themselves to their elders to secure their positions.

They would be using their own power to demonstrate their faction's strength and honor.

There was also the rumor that one of the members of royalty was looking to accept a disciple.

Regardless of whether the rumor was true, the younger generation of the veteran and top factions present were all set on performing to the best of their abilities.

What if the rumor was true?

All of them hoped to be noticed by that member of royalty.

If they really became the disciple of a member of royalty, their status would be elevated to the same level as Chief Guard Ye's disciple.

The young man wearing the standard Spirit Guards mask was the best example.

All the disciples that were outside the Midnight Palace knew that if they became the disciple of a member of royalty, their lives would be changed forever.

It was said that one opportunity did not guarantee success, but this was exactly what would happen when one became the disciple of a member of royalty.

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At that moment, in a room with walls made of Diamond radium and numerous black crystals embedded in them, a man dressed in purple clothes with purple bamboo embroidered on it was panting raggedly.

The man was usually charismatic, but he was clenching his jaw and yelling with wide eyes, "Zong Ze, are you mad!? If you use that move, does that mean that you don't want to fight in the Martial Arts Stage anymore?"

Gu Lang felt that he had been an idiot to believe Zong Ze, the battle fanatic, when he said that they would only be sparring.

Initially, when they clashed, Gu Lang felt that everything had been normal.

But the moment he had slightly gained the upper hand, Zong Ze started to instruct his fey and unleashed a huge attack.

At that point, Gu Lang could not stop Zong Ze, so he could only use his defensive fey to sustain the damage from the attack. Otherwise, he would have been injured.

Although Gu Lang was a combat-class spirit qi professional, he chose to fight in a series of waves.

After sending out waves of attacks, the feys that he had contracted needed a period of time to heal before they could fight again.

This technique could allow Gu Lang to inflict the greatest damage, but it was only sustainable for a short time.

Due to this technique of sending out waves of attacks, Gu Lang had been able to defeat Zong Ze in battle.

A crazy glint appeared in Zong Ze's eyes as he said, "I was going to use my year's worth of training to show you how you won't overcome me like in the past, but I did not expect you to have grown so quickly."

Zong Ze ordered his Fiery Sky Hou, "Fiery Sky Hou, use Strange Fire Eight Refinement."

The small adorable orange palm-sized mouse on Zong Ze's shoulder started to squeak, and hard golden fur started to grow out of its back. It was then set alight with eight colored flames.

When Gu Lang heard the order that Zong Ze issued to the Fiery Sky Hou, he had a bad feeling and waved his hand to summon all the black figures that covered the training room.

Gu Lang sighed to himself and murmured, "Cuttlefish of Days Past, use Old Days Degeneration and Flood Cage."

With Gu Lang's order, several large tentacles appeared out of the giant black figure.

Each tentacle manipulated water elements in the air and formed heavy water, which was even harder than metal.

The black heavy water formed pillars of water that crisscrossed each other to form a prison.

However, the prison was not meant for Zong Ze but closed around Gu Lang instead.

The Fiery Sky Hou spat out eight balls of flames that contained eight different burning characteristics.

Every flame was a high-grade strange flame that came from Class 4 dimensional rifts.

The eight high-grade strange flames turned the Night Words Pavilion into a scorching steamer.

Additionally, Zong Ze stretched out his hand to touch the eight high-grade strange flames.

The moment he touched the high-grade strange flames, the center of Zong Ze's palms turned crimson, and the color spread to cover the light from the right high-grade strange flames and the glow of the half-armor that Zong Ze was wearing.

When Gu Lang saw the crimson color, he could not help but roar in rage, "Zong Ze! We agreed not to use our sacred source lifeforms! If you use it with me now, what will you use to fight against the Moon Empress and Chief Guard Ye's disciples at the Martial Arts Stage later on?"

While Gu Lang was speaking, a green image lifted from his collar.

The green image changed rapidly, and just when it was about to become an enormous tree, 12 chimes sounded out from the Midnight Palace. The 12 chimes caused both Gu Lang and Zong Ze to freeze.

During a fight, Gu Lang's words were far from enough to get through to Zong Ze, who was too engrossed in the adrenaline of the fight.

However, the 12 chimes were able to wake him up.

The crimson color retracted back to Zong Ze's palm, and with a wave of his hand, the eight high-grade strange flames were swallowed by the Fiery Sky Hou.

A look of embarrassment and awkwardness came over Zong Ze as he said to Gu Lang, "I'm sorry, Gu Lang. I lost control again. Thankfully, the 12 chimes woke me up."

Zong Ze was always stoic, and his current smile of awkwardness made him look slightly childish.

Gu Lang rolled his eyes dramatically. *?I'll be dead before I spar with you again. Even if I remain single forever, I will never spar with you again. Sparring with others brings us closer but sparring with you might cost me my life!*

It was easy enough for Zong Ze to remove his imposing power, but it was not so easy for Gu Lang.

In the fight against Zong Ze, both of Gu Lang's feys had used up their spiritual power.

The Cuttlefish of Days Past had used Old Days Degeneration and Flood Cage, and the Flood Cage was now fully formed.