

Myth Beyond 111

Chapter 111 - A Ghost!?

"I would like to remind Young Doctor one thing. The dumping site is extremely dangerous. I advise you to throw the bag from afar." Mo Changfei gave Yun Lintian the location.

Yun Lintian replied. "Don't worry. I am a doctor myself. I know what to do." He then asked. "Did Hei Fu send someone to watch this place?"

Mo Changfei shook his head. "Even if Hei Fu gives them a lot of money, no one dares to approach that place."

Seeing Yun Lintian had no further question, Mo Changfei stood up and prepared to leave. "Then, I'll leave first. If Young Doctor needs me to do anything, you can contact me with this." He then handed a sound transmission jade to Yun Lintian.

Yun Lintian received the sound transmission jade and gave Mo Changfei the nod.

After Mo Changfei leaving Chu Heng's house, Chu Heng's mother hurriedly beckoned everyone to continue the meal.

"Senior Ye, do you want me to go with you?" Chu Mi asked. She felt she needed to repay Yun Lintian with something.

Yun Lintian rejected promptly. "I will go alone. You should stay here and treat your wounds."

Chu Mi bit her lips and looked at her brother as though she asked him for help.

Chu Heng naturally knew his sister's personality, but he also thought it would be best for Chu Mi not to go to that place. It was too dangerous. Hence, he turned blind eyes to his sister's pleading.

Yun Lintian suddenly asked. "Have you tried to burn the profound beast's meat?"

Chu Heng's father spoke first. "We've tried before. Some parts of the meat have turned into poison mist. That is the reason why everyone has to throw it away and let it rotting. However, as we know, profound beast's meat cannot be rotted easily. You will understand it soon when you go to the dumping site."

Of course, Yun Lintian knew about this too. That was why he had an idea to take these abandoned profound beast's meat away. Although it might look disgusting, Yun Lintian could use the Profound Spirit Liquid to clean them and make them looked like fresh meat. With this, it could save him time to hunt profound beast by himself.

"I'll leave first. Thanks for the meal, Uncle, Aunty." Yun Lintian politely bid farewell to Chu Heng's parents and prepared to leave the house with the leather bag.

"Hold on, young man. You can come back to rest at my house. Although this place is not as good as the inn, it can save you trouble." Chu Heng's father said. "Recently, there are a quite number of profound practitioners coming to this town. The inns might not have a room left."

"I see. Then I'll have to trouble uncle for a night." Yun Lintian answered after pondering. Since he planned to leave this town tomorrow, staying here shouldn't be a problem.

Following that, Yun Lintian left the house and headed in the south direction.

It was already night, but the streets were still bustling, full of people. Several hawkers were trying to sell their goods, people were yelling, and others were exclaiming. The atmosphere was entirely different from Snow Wind Town. Mainly it was because there was no snow here.

Along the way, Yun Lintian could see many profound practitioners who seemed to come here with their clan's members. Their target should be the Sky Throne Profound Academy, without a doubt. When Yun Lintian thought of the academy, he became hesitant about whether he should go to the Profound Sky Divine City too. From Lin Xinyao, he had to join a fraction in order to enter the Frozen Moon Mythical Realm, and he could not find other ways until now.

Yun Lintian hated this kind of feeling when he was forced to do something. He did not intend to join any fraction at all. What a joke, the future Sect Master of the number one sect in the Azure World was actually joined other fractions before. He didn't want this sentence to appear in his resume.

Maybe there is a way I don't know. Yun Lintian comforted himself.

As he continued to immerse himself in his thoughts, Yun Lintian found himself arriving at the outskirts of the town. Yun Lintian looked around for a while and saw a small hill in the distance — that was his destination.

While walking toward the small hill, Yun Lintian raised his vigilance to the maximum as he tried to find someone nearby. However, he could not see a single shadow which makes him relieved a bit.

As Yun Lintian drew closer to the small hill, a blood stench gradually became intense to the point he wanted to turn around and go back. He felt he should not have followed his idea to find profound beast's meat in this place, to begin with.

However, since he was already here, it would be a waste to give up midway. Yun Lintian took out a scarf to wrap his nose and continued his journey.

This area was too dark. There was not a single light around here. Coupled with a chilling night breeze, Yun Lintian felt as though he were heading to a ghost place.

There shouldn't be a ghost here, right? He thought to himself while gazing around into the dark.

As a man from Earth, the ghost concept was still a mystery to him. Some people believed they were real, and some thought they didn't exist. After coming to the Azure World, Yun Lintian understood the soul concept and found there was such a thing called a ghost, but he never met them by himself before.

Just as Yun Lintian was about to arrive at a large pit at the foot of the hill. Suddenly, a ghostly white figure appeared out of nowhere not far from him, making Yun Lintian almost scream aloud.

F*ck! I shouldn't have jinxed it! Yun Lintian exclaimed inwardly as he halted his tracks, staring at the white figure attentively.

Chapter 112 - Alluring Ghost

Yun Lintian's eyes fixated on the ghostly figure for a while and discovered the figure was similar to a woman wearing a long white robe... Could it be this is not a ghost but a profound practitioner?

While Yun Lintian was thinking, the ghostly figure abruptly turned around and looked at Yun Lintian directly. At this moment, the cloud in the sky seemed to move, letting a dimmed moonlight shine down upon the figure, revealing the figure's face. This figure was a woman! She was not just an ordinary woman, but she was alluring to the extreme.

She wore a loose, long white robe, showing her snow-white shoulders and her cleavage between her bountiful breasts. The split line on her long skirt was long to the point her thighs and her long legs were exposed. All of a sudden, her red lips slowly formed into a beautiful smile... but to Yun Lintian, this smile was too scary!

Instantaneously, Yun Lintian had goosebumps. His entire being seemed to freeze on the spot. Of course, he wasn't stunned by her beauty, but he was scared for real!

For all his life, Yun Lintian rarely feared anything — even death wasn't a thing he feared, but this ghostly woman in front of him had actually made him scare stiff!

"What a handsome boy." The woman said. Her voice was ethereal, as though she was directly speaking to Yun Lintian's mind.

Yun Lintian forced himself to calm down and tried to think of a way to escape from this place. Suddenly, he clapped his hands together and acted as though he were a monk. "Amitabha. This benefactor, what grief do you have before you die?" He didn't know whether this method work, but it was better than nothing... Ghost should fear a monk, right? When this ghostly woman was distracting, he would flee right away.

"Oh?" The ghostly woman was amused. "Are you a monk?"

Yun Lintian looked at the ghostly woman's face fearlessly and said. "Yes. I am a monk."

The ghostly woman chuckled and said. "What kind of monk are you? Why didn't you shave your head?"

Yun Lintian smiled confidently as he activated his bullshitting skill. "Amitabha. Benefactor had probably been dead a long time ago. You might not know this. Nowadays, the monk doesn't have to shave their head anymore as long as you have Buddha in your heart."

The ghostly woman suddenly laughed. Her laughter was scary as it reverberated throughout the place, making Yun Lintian's body stiffened further.

She laughed for a good while before she said. "Don't you know this? The boy who loves to lie is not a good boy, and...." She paused to lick her lips before she continued with a chilling voice. "And the ghost like me loves to eat the bad little boy like you the most."

Yun Lintian felt as if he was thrown into the abyss of ice as his body turned cold, losing the ability to move. His entire being was drenched in a cold sweat as he tried his best to calm down while his mind spun rapidly, thinking of a way to escape.

"Hehe. Look at you. Why are you so scared?" The ghostly woman teased while slowly floating toward Yun Lintian.

Yun Lintian breathed heavily, and several silver needles appeared in his hand, preparing to throw them at the approaching ghost.

The ghostly woman obviously noticed his movement, but she pretended she didn't see it and still approached him without care.

When the ghostly woman was twenty meters away, Yun Lintian immediately flicked his hand, sending all the silver needles at the ghostly woman.

However, before the silver needles could reach the target, they were abruptly stopped in the air as if they were being controlled.

Yun Lintian was shocked. One had to know he was confident his conceal weapon throwing skill was insanely good. Even a Heaven Profound practitioner might not necessarily put up a defense on time. The only explanation was this ghostly woman had strength, at least the Ruler Profound Realm.

"My, my. You are really a bad little boy." The ghostly woman chuckled. When she waved her hand slightly, all the silver needles immediately fell to the ground.

She licked her red lips and said. "What else do you have now? Come one, this sister will play with you."

Her voice at this moment was incomparably seductive. Even Yun Lintian's body, which was already turned cold, seemed to start to heat up when he heard this.

Yun Lintian knew the situation was highly unfavored by him. He blamed himself, as he should have learned some exorcist profound arts during the past months... Who would have thought he would encounter such a powerful ghost this soon?

Yun Lintian could only think of his last resort — the escape talisman. Without delaying further, the escape talisman appeared in his hand as he immediately activated it.

"Escape talisman? A powerful one too?" The ghostly woman was surprised slightly. The escape talisman was not rare, but such a high-level talisman in Yun Lintian's hand. "Good boy, you have such a good toy with you."

The white light instantly enveloped Yun Lintian's body, intending to teleport him away. Unfortunately, before he could complete his escape, a deep blue light suddenly shot out from the ghostly woman's finger and immediately dissipated the white light around Yun Lintian's body wholly.

Yun Lintian was dumbfounded on the spot. This was the first time he saw someone could interrupt the escape talisman entirely, just merely pointing at him. One had to know his escape talisman was not ordinary. Yun Huanxin had personally extracted the space element and stored it with the help of space runes that Yun Lintian inscribed with hard effort... Who the hell is this ghost!?

"The space element is scarce. I wonder how did you do it?" The ghostly woman spoke while still slowly floating toward Yun Lintian.

Yun Lintian didn't have the mood to answer here, as his life was in danger. Just as he hesitated whether he should summon the Gate of Beyond Heaven to escape from this predicament, his right thumb had subconsciously caressed his interspatial ring.

Buzz!

All of a sudden, a bright golden light burst out from his invisible interspatial ring and shot toward the ghostly woman in a flash!

Chapter 113 - Frozen Moon Domain

The ghostly woman's expression changed drastically as she felt a powerful force coming from the golden light. Instantaneously, the profound energy surged outward violently from her body, forming into several layers of the protective barrier before her.

Boom!

The golden light instantly pierced through her protective barrier layer by layer like a hot knife cutting through butter — there was no resistance at all.

The ghostly woman's face changed again. She had underestimated this golden light greatly. Suddenly, an exquisite blue sword appeared in her hand as she pointed at the incoming golden light.

"Freezing Moon!" she uttered coldly. A virtual blue moon appeared behind her, causing the surrounding's temperature to drop significantly. In a blink of an eye, the surrounding area had turned entirely into the land of ice.

The golden light was still moving forward unhindered. The woman's power did not seem to affect it in the slightest.

Boom!

The golden light collided with the woman's sword violently. The impact did not send her away immediately as she poured all of her strength to resist it. Her loose robe slowly shredded into pieces bit by bit. Before she could appear naked, a deep blue armor appeared on her body, and it quickly released a powerful aura to envelop her.

Yun Lintian was dumbfounded by the sudden turn of an event. He subconsciously looked at the interspatial ring on his finger blankly. He remembered back then when he faced Hua Litong's soul attack, this ring seemed to help him once, but at that time, he wasn't sure about it... What the hell is this ring? So awesome!

"Stop it!" The woman almost reached her limit. If it continued like this, she would lose her life for real.

Yun Lintian came back to his sense and looked at the woman behind the golden light weirdly. At this moment, he realized this woman was not a ghost but a profound practitioner. Moreover, her strength was even stronger than the Ruler Profound Realm. Even though Yun Lintian never met any saint or monarch face to face, he was certain this woman's strength was at least in the Saint Profound Realm.

"Why should I stop? Aren't you going to eat me?" After realizing this, Yun Lintian even dared to tease her back. He was confident this golden light was stronger than her.

Bastard! I just teased you a bit, yet you want to kill me. The woman thought while gritting her teeth. "Stop it! I have no ill intention."

"Have you ever seen any bad person admit they're bad? Who would believe you?" Yun Lintian shrugged his shoulders while thinking... Even I want to stop it, I don't know how to do it.

The woman was to scold Yun Lintian's parents for raising him into such a troublesome boy. Didn't he see she was about to lose her life now?

"I really have no ill intention!" She yelled loudly. Seeing Yun Lintian had no reaction, she gritted her teeth and said. "I know your secret! You can get rid of Abyssal Poison!"

Yun Lintian was taken aback and wondered how did she know about this. His eyes narrowed with a dangerous glint, and he said coldly. "I don't know how did you know it, but thank you for telling me. Now, I don't have any reason to spare you."

"Shit!" The woman cursed aloud. Currently, she had already lost her alluring appearance. She gathered her strength and said again. "I am the master of the girl you saved today! I saw everything you did for her. If I have an ulterior motive, do you think you would be alive until now?"

Yun Lintian's brows creased together. He didn't expect someone was observing him back then. Although he did not wholly believe her words, he had to admit it was true, as she said. If she wanted to kill him back then, he would be long gone by now.

Yun Lintian looked at the virtual blue moon behind her and asked. "Are you come from the Frozen Moon Palace?"

The woman knew Yun Lintian was convinced a bit now. She hurriedly replied. "Yes. Precisely, I am the current Palace Master of the Frozen Moon Palace."

Yun Lintian was shocked. He had speculated about the identity of Lin Xinyao's master as the Palace Master before, but he didn't expect it to turn out to be true.

He asked. "How can you prove it?"

The woman wanted to curse again. She had already told him everything, but this boy had actually questioned her further. She calmed herself down and said. "How do you want me to prove it, then? I have already shown you my power. In the entire Northern Continent, only the Frozen Moon Divine Art could create the Frozen Moon domain like this."

Yun Lintian touched his chin, recalling the information he had read before. It seemed she didn't lie about it. Although he never saw the Frozen Moon domain by himself before, the woman's domain was aligned with the details in the book, which proved she was indeed someone from the Frozen Moon Palace.

Seeing Yun Lintian was silent, the woman was angry and decided to unleash all of her power.

All of a sudden, her long black hair turned utterly blue, filling with ice particles. Her eyes shone in a deep blue light as she uttered. "Frozen Moon Domain!"

Instantaneously, everything in the surrounding area seemed to pause. It was as though time had frozen. A giant blue moon appeared on the cloudy sky, releasing an incomparably cold aura that could freeze anyone who looks at it.

However, Yun Lintian, who stood near the center of the Frozen Moon domain, hadn't been harmed in the slightest. Except for the coldness, he felt nothing at all, showing the woman had no ill intention as she said.

The power that the woman had released could easily turn half of the continent into an abyss of ice. At this moment, Yun Lintian fully believed she was genuinely the Frozen Moon Palace Master.

Yun Lintian said. "Well... I believe you now." The woman was overjoyed for a second and immediately turned silly by Yun Lintian's following sentence. "I'll be frank with you. I don't know how to stop this golden light...."

Chapter 114 - Han Bingling

The woman stared at Yun Lintian blankly for a second before she yelled. "Just try it!"

Yun Lintian looked at the woman with embarrassment, and at the same time, he was amazed by the golden light's immense power. Even the Frozen Moon Palace Master's full force could not stop it. What kind of this power?

Yun Lintian didn't know what to do to stop it, but since the golden light was coming from the ring, he could only try with it. He stretched his hand out, trying to call the golden light back with his thought, but it was futile. Without further thinking, he rushed at the golden light and used his hand to touch it.

Buzz—

The golden light shook slightly before it was absorbed back into Yun Lintian's interspatial ring.

Crack!

The woman heaved a sigh of relief after seeing the golden light disappeared. However, the armor on her body suddenly started to crack — from a small crack quickly spread throughout the entire armor like a spider web. Piece by piece, the armor's remains slowly falling on the ground, revealing the woman's flawless skin.

Yun Lintian stared at the magnificent scene blankly. He had to admit this woman's assets were extremely alluring. Especially the tips of the two mountains. They were pointing at him as though they were inviting him to touch it.

The woman saw Yun Lintian stared at her weirdly. She followed his gaze onto her chest and immediately shrieked in fright as she hurriedly took a long blue robe out to cover her body. "Turn around!"

Yun Lintian scratched his nose with a chuckle and turned around. The celestial scenery earlier was still lingering in his mind. He believed it would never disappear from his mind for the rest of his life.

If it were other men, they would wonder why she acted shy since she often dressed revealingly. However, Yun Lintian had a ton of experience with the woman's matters. He understood their minds well enough. Dressing in revealing clothes was an entirely different thing from being naked. Women wore these clothes because they looked good on them, but it didn't mean they want to show their bodies to others.

Suddenly, Yun Lintian could feel a killing intent from behind, making him shiver. He turned around to look at the woman, who was now already dressed properly.

"Did you see anything earlier?" The woman asked sternly. Her beautiful face was icy.

Yun Lintian was not a fool. He hurriedly shook his head. "No, I didn't see anything."

The woman knew in her heart that he had seen it, but she asked this because she wanted to remind him that he should forget about it quickly and never mention it again.

"Good. Now let's talk about you. Who are you exactly?" The woman said calmly.

Hearing this, Yun Lintian was relieved inwardly. It seemed this woman wasn't a typical female practitioner in the novel who cherished her jade body and have to kill whoever saw her naked body.

Before Yun Lintian could say anything, she spoke further. "Don't you dare to tell me a fake name."

Yun Lintian swallowed his words back and replied honestly. "My name is Yun Lintian."

"That's it? Where are you come from? And who is your master? The power you've released earlier is even stronger than the peak Monarch Profound Realm. Such a thing should not exist in this world. Furthermore, you even have Profound Spirit Liquid with you." The woman asked further.

Yun Lintian squinted his eyes and replied coldly. "Are you sure you want to know it? I've spared your life earlier, not because I am kind enough, but I could feel your sincerity. But now..." He raised his hand slightly and continued. "Anyone who knows my secret should be eliminated. That is my principle, and I will abide by it."

The two staring at each other for a while before the woman said. "Alright. It's my fault... Don't worry, your secret will stay with me. Even Yao'er don't know of it."

In fact, Yun Lintian wanted to kill this woman for real this time, but he didn't know how to invoke the golden light again. Hence, he could only act calmly as if he holds the higher card.

Seeing Yun Lintian was still looking at her coldly, she explained further. "Believe it or not, it's up to you. I didn't intend to follow you here. Our encounter is really a coincidence. I came here because I found a trace of the Poison Valley." She pointed at the gigantic pit behind her and continued. "Do you think this is a mere dumping pit? According to my investigation, someone in this town intentionally created this to nurture Abyssal Poison. Since you are proficient in medical profound art, I believe you will understand what I said after checking it out."

Yun Lintian frowned slightly as he cast his gaze into the pit in the distance. He chose to believe her for the time being since he had no way to deal with her. He turned to her and asked. "Why don't you introduce yourself first?"

The woman was curious about Yun Lintian's origin once again. Where did he live before to not know her? Although she was a lofty figure, she appeared in public often. Even people never saw her before, they were, at least, should know her name.

She replied softly, "My name is Han Bingling."

"Han Bingling? Good name." Yun Lintian nodded.

Han Bingling had a weird feeling. She suddenly felt the boy in front of her wasn't as young as he appeared to be. If it wasn't because she had already checked his bone age with her Spiritual Sense before, she would think he was a middle-aged man in a young boy's body.

"Shall we check it out?" Han Bingling said.

Yun Lintian said nothing and stored the leather bag on the ground away before walking toward the pit.

Han Bingling stared at Yun Lintian's right hand in puzzlement. She did not see any storage ring on his finger. How could he store the bag away?... Come to think of it, that golden light seems to shoot out from his right hand?... Interesting... How many secrets did you hide from me?. Han Bingling thought while habitually licking her red lips as she stared at Yun Lintian's back.

Chapter 115 - Han Bingling's Doubt

When Yun Lintian drew closer to the pit, a sense of crisis immediately enveloped his entire being. He hastily created a protective barrier around him and opened his Eyes of Heaven. The scene in front of him made him instantly shock as he saw a dense Abyssal Energy gathered in the pit to the point he could not see the bottom.

Crack!

A small crack suddenly appeared on Yun Lintian's protective barrier while he was still in shock by the scene. He quickly regained his composure and was about to strengthen his barrier. Suddenly, a blue-colored solid protective barrier covered him along with Han Bingling appeared beside him.

She saw Yun Lintian's golden pupils and was surprised slightly. "You can see Abyss Poison?"

Han Bingling was just guessing and believed this was Yun Lintian's eyes profound technique. However, to her knowledge, this kind of profound technique was scarce. Even her Frozen Moon Palace did not have such a thing. This made her curiosity about Yun Lintian grew further.

Yun Lintian didn't respond to her as he was frowning, thinking of a way to deal with this massive Abyss Energy in front of him. In fact, it didn't matter to him. He could leave it like that, but he felt uncomfortable when thinking of the Hazy Breeze Town turning into the land of the dead.

Besides, he didn't know what was the purpose behind the Poison Valley's grand conspiracy by nurturing this Abyssal Energy. The more he encountered the Poison Valley, the more he felt the confrontation between him and them was inevitable one day. Then why not interrupt their plan when he has a chance?

Seeing Yun Lintian was still silent, Han Bingling gave him time while observing the surrounding area in case she could find some clues left behind by the Poison Valley.

"Since you've observed me back then for a good while, have you captured those black-clothed people?" Yun Lintian suddenly asked.

Han Bingling shook her head. "I've underestimated their decisiveness. They've committed suicide before I can capture them."

Back then, when she received a call for help from her subordinates that she arranged to protect Lin Xinyao, she immediately rushed to find her. As she arrived and saw Yun Lintian was curing Lin Xinyao with Profound Spirit Liquid, she was stunned and decided to watch him first. If he had an ulterior motive, she would immediately kill him.

Surprisingly, Han Bingling discovered Yun Lintian was sincerely treated Lin Xinyao. He didn't even take advantage of her. Han Bingling understood her disciple's charm and believed no man in this world could resist it. But this seventeen-year-old boy was so calm facing such a peerless beauty. This made her decide to watch him further instead of showing herself.

After Yun Lintian leaves the cave, Han Bingling followed the Poison Valley's members to capture them. However, they acted extremely quick and decisively by committed suicide on the spot before she could seal their power.

Since she could not find a clue from them, Han Bingling could only trace their past movement and finally arrived here. It could be said it wasn't her intention to follow Yun Lintian.

Yun Lintian's frown grew deeper. "Aren't your Frozen Moon Palace fighting with them for thousands of years before? How come you didn't know their behavior?"

Han Bingling did not reply to him directly but asked a question instead. "What's the most precious thing for humans?"

Yun Lintian answered almost in an instant. "Of course, it's life... So you are going to tell me they have never done this before in the past? That's why you've underestimated them?"

Han Bingling was surprised by Yun Lintian's intelligence. He could guess what she wants to convey instantly. "You're corrected. In the past, they didn't dare to kill themselves casually like this. This time, the Poison Valley has changed its ways completely. Not only they've become more sneaky, but their discipline has also increased tremendously."

Yun Lintian recalled the information that Yan Qi had told him. The Poison Valley is originated from a group of the Profound Beasts that fled away from the battle in the past. However, he didn't seem to detect any trace of the profound beast's aura within the Poison Valley's members he saw today. This proved the current Poison Valley had ordinary humans mixed in too.

"Do you know the origin of the Poison Valley?" Yun Lintian asked.

Han Bingling answered. "Of course, I know. They're originally created by the remnant of Profound Beasts that were slipped through the net in the earth-shattering battle four thousand years ago." While she was talking about this, she observed Yun Lintian's expression to see whether he knew this information. When she saw no surprise or frown on his face, she was certain Yun Lintian already knew about this.

The information related to the battle four thousand years ago was considered the top-secret among the nine palaces. Since Yun Lintian knew this, he could possibly hail from one of the nine palaces. Han Bingling knew every one of them very well, but she couldn't determine Yun Lintian's background.

Southern Divine Phoenix Palace can be eliminated as they only have a female disciple. Nine Profound Beast Palace is even more impossible since he has no Profound Beast's bloodline. Star Gazing Palace? He doesn't seem to have Star Power in his body. He shouldn't come from Blazing Sun Palace and Heavenly Sword Palace as they are mainly practicing sword, but he didn't even have sword intent on him. This

leave with Azure Palace, Myriad Pill Palace, and Divine Thunder Palace. If it's the latter, that bastard Lei would tell me already, so only Azure Palace and Myriad Pill Palace left... Han Bingling's mind spun rapidly.

"Why Azure Palace can't eliminate them? It's been thousands of years already." Yun Lintian asked. He didn't understand. Was it that difficult to locate them? Wasn't Azure Palace the strongest existence in this world?

Hearing this, Han Bingling immediately eliminated Azure Palace from the pool and was determined Yun Lintian should come from the Myriad Pill Palace. It also made sense why he was so proficient in medical profound art.

Chapter 116 - Purifying

Han Bingling replied. "It's easier said than done. Those Profound Beasts weren't ordinary. Some of them were even stronger than the Frozen Moon Palace Master back then. Do you think it is easy to find such a powerful existence?"

Yun Lintian thought it was made sense. His experience toward the profound practitioner in this world was too shallow. Taking Han Bingling for an example. She was a genuine monarch, and her full power could easily destroy half of the continent. What about someone stronger than her? If such a person wants to hide from the world, how could they find him easily?

"Aside from that, do you think the relationships between the nine palaces are good? Why don't you ask your master about it?" Speaking of this, Han Bingling smiled disdainfully as she thought of a particular person.

Yun Lintian went silent. From Han Bingling's words, the relationships between these nine palaces seemed quite stiff, but it was understandable. Even two tigers could not live on the same mountain. Let alone nine tigers. As for asking his master, who was that?

Of course, Yun Lintian won't clear Han Bingling's misunderstanding. He let a veil of mysteriousness protecting himself.

"Do you have a way to deal with this? If it's growing further, I think the entire Spring Wind Nation would turn into a desolate land in no time." Han Bingling asked with a trace of worry.

Yun Lintian looked at the black pit and pondered. It would be no problem to purify it, and he had unlimited Profound Spirit Liquid in his hand. It was just that he didn't want to expose his secret to Han Bingling further.

Han Bingling seemed to guess his thought and said solemnly. "I know you have a secret and don't want to expose it to me. But I can vow upon my life, your secret will never be known to anyone from my mouth." She then bowed her head and said sincerely. "Please help these innocent lives."

Yun Lintian could see her sincerity was not fake, but he still hesitated. After considering for a while, he decided to help purify this. Getting rid of this Abyssal Energy pit was akin to helping himself, too. In the future, the Poison Valley and he would eventually crash each other.

He took a deep breath and said. "I can help it, but you have to make sure there's no one around here. I'll lay an isolation barrier first."

Han Bingling immediately floated into the sky, spreading her Spiritual Sense to cover a thousand kilometers, and did not forget to protect Yun Lintian with her profound energy.

Ten minutes later, Yun Lintian finished setting up the isolation formation and stood before the pit. Han Bingling also used her power to create an isolation barrier on top of Yun Lintian's formation again to ensure the secret.

Without further ado, Yun Lintian immediately poured a stream of Profound Spirit Liquid from his interspatial ring.

Ziii—

The Profound Spirit Liquid worked magically as the Abyssal Energy's mist started dissipating at a noticeable rate.

"How could it be possible? There were countless experiments in the past using Profound Spirit Liquid on Abyssal Poison, but all of them were futile. How did you do it?" Han Bingling said in confusion. At first, she thought Yun Lintian used a special method and Profound Spirit Liquid to get rid of the Abyssal

Poison from Lin Xinyao's body, but it didn't seem to be the case. Yun Lintian was clearly using only the Profound Spirit Liquid right now.

Yun Lintian offered no explanation and continued to pour the Profound Spirit Liquid into the pit for a while before stopping and calmly watched it working.

A while later, the Abyssal Energy had vanished entirely, revealing Profound Beast's remains piled up into a small mountain. Yun Lintian looked at them carefully and found all of them were rotten. There was no way he could eat that.

Han Bingling stared at the pit blankly for a while. She didn't expect the process to be this simple... What are we doing for all these years? It is so simple, yet we haven't discovered it before.

Naturally, Yun Lintian wouldn't explain to her that his Profound Spirit Liquid was the best grade that could not find in this world. He speedily collected all of them into his interspatial ring, while Han Bingling was shocking.

"Not even a single trace left at all?" Han Bingling could not see Abyssal Energy as Yun Lintian did, but she could vaguely feel it with her Spiritual Sense. At this moment, she didn't perceive any trace of Abyssal Energy at all.

Yun Lintian made sure there wasn't a single drop of Profound Spirit Liquid left before climbing up from the pit.

"What are you going to do next?" When Yun Lintian climbed up, he heard Han Bingling said.

Yun Lintian swept dirt out of his robe as he replied. "We need to find out the culprit here." He turned to Han Bingling and continued. "There is one guy. His name is Hei Fu. From the information I got, he has a certain backer from Spring Wind Capital City. You can check it out. Perhaps he really has something to do with the Poison Valley."

Han Bingling didn't doubt his words and quickly communicated with her subordinates within this nation via the transmission jade. After sending a command out, she looked at Yun Lintian and asked. "Are you going to leave this place?"

Yun Lintian nodded and suddenly thought of something. "Right, I've saved your disciple's life. Shouldn't you give me something in return?"

If it were other men saying this to Han Bingling, she would long kill them by now. However, in front of Yun Lintian, she did not feel he was rude in the slightest. After all, he did indeed do her great favor by saving Lin Xinyao's life and solving this Abyssal Poison. [Check for new stories on no/v/el/bin\(.\)com](#)

"I presume you already have an idea in your mind. Why don't you tell me directly?... Could it be, you want this sister to repay you with my body? Ah~ you naughty boy." Han Bingling reverted back to her original seductive style as she crossed one arm below her abundant chest while using her other hand to touch her alluring lips.

Chapter 117 - Rumor Of Divine Beast

Yun Lintian froze for a second, and the image of the white scenery a while ago appeared in his mind once again, making him subconsciously glance at Han Bingling's bountiful chest.

Seeing where his gaze at. Han Bingling's smile grew wider. "Want to touch them?"

Yun Lintian almost nodded his head in a reply as he managed to regain his composure in time. He had to admit the woman in front of him was extremely alluring, surpassing Yun Qianxue by miles. Her seductiveness was etched deep into the bones.

Yun Lintian said calmly. "I want to enter the Frozen Moon Mythical Realm, but I don't want to join any fraction. Can you open a back door for me? You are a Palace Master, after all."

"Ah~ you want to go through the back door?" Han Bingling blinked and glanced at her rounded butt before she said worriedly. "Would it hurt?"

Yun Lintian almost spat blood on the spot. He took a deep breath and said coldly, "Please stop joking already."

"Tsk!" Seeing he didn't play with her, Han Bingling clicked her tongue with dissatisfaction. She thought for a moment and said. "I can't help you with this. Even if I am the Palace Master, I can't interfere with the right to enter the mythical realm."

Before Yun Lintian could respond, she said further. "But I have a way to let you join the Sky Throne Profound Academy. Whether you can compete for the spot, you have to rely on yourself."

Han Bingling understood that Yun Lintian didn't want to join any fraction because he was the Myriad Pill Palace's disciple. However, joining the Sky Throne Profound Academy shouldn't be a problem since the place was regarded as a neutral fraction.

Yun Lintian pondered hard. It seemed he had no choice but to join a fraction. But going through the back door? He didn't want it because it would easily attract problems like in many novels.

"I will participate in the assessment by myself. Counting you owed me two times then." Yun Lintian made a decision.

Han Bingling looked at him in puzzlement. "Are you sure? Although there are seven months left, I don't think you can break through to the Spirit Profound Realm in time."

Yun Lintian waved his hand. "You don't have to worry about this." He had another idea and asked. "By the way, I saw the place called 'Thunder Valley' on the map. Do you have information about it?"

Before coming to Hazy Breeze Town, Yun Lintian happened to see the Thunder Valley marked on the map, but he had no time to think about it at that time. Since he met Han Bingling here, he wanted to know more about this place. Maybe there was a lightning origin source in this place. He wanted to take a look at it first.

"Thunder Valley? This place is extremely dangerous. I advise you not to go near it." Han Bingling took out a jade slip and handed it to Yun Lintian. "There is information here. You can check it out by yourself. I have to remind you again that with your current strength, going there is no different from seeking death."

Yun Lintian nodded slightly and activated the jade slip. Instantaneously, a bunch of information poured into his brain, making him close his eyes involuntarily to digest them.

The Thunder Valley was true as its name. It was a place full of thunderstorms everywhere. Countless brave practitioners were losing their lives in this place by the thunder strike.

However, what piqued Yun Lintian's attention was the legend of the divine beast, the White Tiger! It was said this place appeared approximately three thousand years ago out of nowhere, along with a deafening tiger roar. Since then, there were countless profound practitioners have tried to unravel the secret behind this place. Some of the survivors said they could hear a tiger roar from time to time during their stay in the Thunder Valley. This made the rumors about the legendary White Tiger intensified further.

Yun Lintian opened his eyes and immediately asked. "Is it true about the White Tiger?"

Han Bingling nodded her head. "Those rumors are true. They've indeed heard the tiger roar. I also experienced it myself. But whether it is the legendary White Tiger, I have no idea." She knew Yun Lintian was interested in this. She reminded. "Just give up your wishful thinking. You definitely die if you go there."

Yun Lintian wanted to ask her, Have you ever heard the plot armor? But he understood he was a weakling in her eyes. Yun Lintian was confident, with the help of the Crown and his Beyond Heaven Profound Vein, lightning was not a threat to him. Perhaps he could even use it to temper his body.

Yun Lintian complied on the surface. "Don't worry. I know what to do."

Han Bingling was satisfied with his answer. In fact, she did not have much affection for him, but she felt it would be a waste if a genius like him died young. Coupled with the fact that he was her benefactor and his identity as the disciple of the Myriad Pill Palace, she simply could not let him die just like that.

Yun Lintian read another piece of information and asked. "What's the relationship between your Frozen Moon Palace and the Divine Thunder Palace?" He discovered the Divine Thunder Palace had come to the Thunder Valley countless times in the past as though this place was their territory. Since the Frozen Moon Palace allowed them to do as they pleased, they should have a kind of relationship or agreement.

"Oh? Why are you asking this?" Han Bingling said with a smile.

Yun Lintian spread his arms. "The Northern Continent is your palace's turf. Wouldn't you lose your face by letting them come here and do whatever they wanted?" He paused briefly and said with a chuckle. "Or perhaps the Frozen Moon Palace doesn't have any prestige to lose in the first place?"

Chapter 118 - Sky Throne Profound Academy

A strange light flashed across Han Bingling's eyes. She didn't understand what Yun Lintian tried to convey, but she knew he didn't insult her Frozen Moon Palace out of nothing. There should be a reason for this.

Nevertheless, Han Bingling didn't get angry as she calmly replied. "You can understand as we are on a good term. The current Divine Thunder Palace Master is a good friend of mine. So, I have no problem letting them come to this place. After all, Thunder Valley has no benefit to my palace. On the contrary, I gained some benefits from the Divine Thunder Palace."

It seems she didn't know about the Misty Cloud Palace? Yun Lintian thought. The reason he ridiculed the Frozen Moon Palace was that he wanted to see her reaction. From Yan Qi's information, the Frozen Moon Palace was only a small sect under the Misty Cloud Palace in the past.

Yun Lintian jabbed on the prestige of the Frozen Moon Palace was akin to tell her they were only a tiny sect, and without the disappearance of the Misty Cloud Palace, they won't be able to become the Frozen Moon Palace.

He changed the topic. "What about the Sky Throne Profound Academy?"

Han Bingling looked at him weirdly and said. "You don't know about the academy?" Seeing Yun Lintian shook his head, she was more confused now. "The Sky Throne Profound Academy was the biggest academy in the Azure World. There are a total of five of them, one on each continent. All of them link together with the Central Continent as the head."

At this moment, Han Bingling was uncertain about Yun Lintian's identity. If he was indeed the Myriad Pill Palace's disciple, there was no way he didn't know about the Sky Throne Profound Academy... Could it be I misunderstand him? He is not someone from the Myriad Pill Palace but a disciple of some hidden hermits? She wondered.

Yun Lintian immediately understood why Han Bingling looked at him weirdly. This should be common knowledge among the top forces. He was oblivious to it had proved he wasn't someone from any top force.

"Is it under the Azure Palace's control?" Yun Lintian asked.

"No. The Sky Throne Profound Academy was created by the Lord Sky Throne three thousand years ago. He was one of the strongest existences in this world. Even the Azure Palace Master at that time did not dare to offend him. As the time passing by, the academy still remains neutral until today." Han Bingling explained.

Yun Lintian furrowed his brows. It looked like several things occurred around three thousand years ago. Was it a coincidence?

Suddenly, Han Bingling perceived someone was coming in this direction. "Someone is coming."

"Who is it?" Yun Lintian asked.

"She is a cute little girl. Strange, why did she come here alone at this late?" Han Bingling replied and looked at a young girl in the distance.

"Little girl?" For some reason, Yun Lintian suddenly thought of Chu Mi.

"S... Senior Ye? Are you there?" Chu Mi's voice rang out from afar.

"So it's her." Yun Lintian muttered.

Han Bingling smiled playfully. "Is she your taste? Don't tell me you like a little girl type?"

Yun Lintian rolled his eyes at her and ignored her. He shouted. "Chu Mi? Why are you here?"

"Ah? Senior Ye? Where are you?" Chu Mi exclaimed and brought a torch in her hand forward, trying to see the path.

Yun Lintian sighed and walked toward her. When he arrived nearby her, he asked again. "Why are you here?"

Chu Mi heaved a sigh of relief when she saw Yun Lintian was safe and sound. She answered. "I saw you haven't returned for a long time and decided to come here to take a look."

"You can go back first. I will go back later." Yun Lintian didn't want to continue the conversation with her further as he had a lot of things to ask Han Bingling.

Chu Mi blinked cutely for a while before she accepted obediently. "Then, I'll go back first. Please come back soon, Senior. It's dangerous here."

Yun Lintian waved his hand and let her go back. When he turned around, he suddenly found Han Bingling was nowhere to be seen.

"This woman..." He muttered to himself and decided to return.

"Ah!"

Just as Yun Lintian was about to catch up with Chu Mi, there was a loud scream ringing out from the alley not far away from him. He immediately recognized it was Chu Mi's voice.

With no hesitation, Yun Lintian rushed toward the alley as fast as he could and caught a glimpse of a black-clothed man dragging Chu Mi away. Judging from his aura, he should be at the peak of the Essence Profound Realm.

Yun Lintian activated Shadow Step to follow the man. In a blink of an eye, his figure reappeared two meters away from the black-clothed man, catching him off-guard.

Before the black-clothed could react, Yun Lintian promptly launched the Dragon Fist, and the virtual silver dragon immediately went straight to the black-clothed man's left shoulder.

Puff!

The black-clothed man was sent flying instantly, and Chu Mi used this chance to get out of his grasp before lying on the ground powerlessly.

Yun Lintian didn't go to Chu Mi's side but chose to follow the black-clothed man. Just as Yun Lintian was about to catch him, the black-clothed man suddenly threw a round object at him, and it instantly exploded right before Yun Lintian, releasing a black mist to cover the area.

"Abyssal Energy?" Yun Lintian's expression changed and hurriedly retreated while protecting himself with profound energy.

Where the hell did that woman go at this time? Yun Lintian cursed inwardly while dragging Chu Mi away from the alley.

Bang!

All of a sudden, Yun Lintian heard a loud bang from behind, making him take a glance backward, and he saw the black-clothed man's body was lying on the ground motionless.

"My, my. I didn't expect the Poison Valley to have such a low-level lackey like this guy." Han Bingling's seductive voice drifted into Yun Lintian's ears.

Chapter 119 - A Clue (1)

Yun Lintian checked on Chu Mi's condition and found she was faint with no other injuries. He then looked at Han Bingling and said. "I thought you've left already."

Han Bingling smile charmingly. "How could I leave such a handsome boy like you easily? This sister wants to protect you, okay?"

Yun Lintian ignored her tease and went to the black-clothed man's side to check on him. He found the man's power had been sealed entirely. "I don't think we can get anything from him. From the look of it, he is just a mere lowly lackey."

Han Bingling was also agreed with his statement. However, at least she needed to try, right? She asked. "Are you going to do it?"

Yun Lintian didn't answer and used his finger to tap on the acupoints behind the black-clothed man's head. The black-clothed man immediately opened his eyes, looking at Yun Lintian in a daze for a second before reacting. However, he discovered he could not muster his strength in the slightest.

"Don't waste your energy. Just tell me, who is your master?" Yun Lintian asked coldly.

The black-clothed man went silent. His eyes moved right and left, trying to find a way to escape. Seeing this, Yun Lintian used a long silver needle to poke into the man's lung, causing him to bleed slowly.

"You!" The black-clothed man was shocked. Although he didn't feel pain, he would definitely die if he continued to bleed in no time.

"I'll let you bleed slowly. Every drop of your blood will make your body lighter. You will feel as though you're floating. Within two hours, your body will become sensitive. You will hear what's going on within your body clearly before you die." Yun Lintian's voice was incomparably cold.

The black-clothed man felt a chill running down to his spine. He never encountered such a torture method before, and he definitely didn't want to experience it. He hurriedly said. "I say! My master is Hei Fu!"

Yun Lintian and Han Bingling glanced at each other. Both of them felt something was not right. How could this kind of weak character be related to the Poison Valley? Yun Lintian didn't even use other methods, but he had already confessed.

"Why are you abducting her?" Yun Lintian pointed at Chu Mi while staring into the black-clothed man's eyes.

Under Yun Lintian's cold gaze, the black-clothed man swallowed nervously as he replied. "I... I just want to find a girl to...."

Smack!

Before the black-clothed man could finish his sentence, Yun Lintian already slapped his face, causing him to spill out several teeth.

"I dare you to lie to me again." Yun Lintian said in a deep voice.

The black-clothed man trembled in fear. At this moment, he immediately knew Yun Lintian was a ruthless character. If he wanted to keep his life, he needed to tell the truth. "It's Hei Fu's idea. He told me to take her away. It just happened that I encountered her on the way back. So I...."

"Enough." Yun Lintian rummaged on the black-clothed man's body and found three small black beads containing Abyssal Energy within it. "Now tell me, where did you get this?"

The black-clothed man hurriedly answered. "Hei Fu gave me this. I don't know where did he get it."

Yun Lintian stared at him for a while and found the man did not lie. He then killed the black-clothed man by cutting his throat. The latter covered his throat, looking at Yun Lintian with eyes wide opened in disbelief before his consciousness faded into the pitch-black world.

Han Bingling was surprised slightly. Decisive, precise, and ruthless were the words to describe Yun Lintian's operation. To her knowledge, there wasn't anyone in the Myriad Pill Palace having such a character. Even the Myriad Pill Palace Master wasn't like this... Maybe he is really a disciple of some hermits. Han Bingling was convinced of this notion.

Yun Lintian threw a fireball on the man's body and turned to Han Bingling. "Where are your subordinates? Have they finished the task?"

Han Bingling smiled faintly. "Why are you so anxious? It's only five minutes since I told them." She turned to the faint Chu Mi and said. "What about this little girl? Why don't you use this opportunity to take advantage of her?"

Yun Lintian used to Han Bingling's playful remarks already. He completely ignored her and went to lift Chu Mi before heading toward her house under Han Bingling's curious gaze.

"What a cold boy... I have to heat him up a bit later." Han Bingling licked her lips and disappeared from the spot.

When Yun Lintian arrived at Chu's house, Chu Heng's father happened to sit in the living room and saw Yun Lintian carried Chu Mi. He hurriedly stood up and asked anxiously. "What's wrong with Little Mi?"

Yun Lintian found a long bench to place her on and replied. "She was hurt by Hei Fu's man. Don't worry, she is fine." He bowed his head slightly and apologized to Chu Heng's father. "Sorry, it's my fault. Because of me, she has to go out this late.

Chu Heng's father checked on his daughter and heaved a sigh of relief upon discovering there was no injury on her. He turned to Yun Lintian and waved his hand dismissively. "You don't have to apologize. She is adamant about going out by herself. Now, everything is fine." He paused for a moment and asked. "Why did Hei Fu's man hurt her?"

Yun Lintian shook his head and answered truthfully. "I don't know as well. That man only said Hei Fu wants him to take her back."

Chu Heng's father frowned deeply for a while before asking. "How's that man?"

"He's dead." Yun Lintian replied.

Chu Heng's father nodded his head. "Good kill." He beckoned Yun Lintian to sit down and said. "I don't know what's your purpose on coming here, but I believe you are a good man... May I ask, are you leaving now?"

Chapter 120 - A Clue (2)

Yun Lintian, who just received a good man card from Chu Heng's father, calmly replied. "Yes. I'll leave tonight."

Chu Heng's father went silent while pouring a cup of tea for Yun Lintian.

Yun Lintian received the cup with both hands, showing respect to a senior, and waited for his next word. He knew Chu Heng's father had something to say with him.

Chu Heng's father looked at his daughter for a while and turned to Yun Lintian. "I know this might be a presumptuous request, but can you bring her and my son away from this place? You can let them be your servant."

Yun Lintian didn't surprise by his request as he understood the situation. Chu Heng and Chu Mi wouldn't have a future by staying here. However, to take them away? Yun Lintian was not ready to take anyone in. He had so many secrets within his body, and it would be troublesome to enter the Land of Beyond Heaven with someone around him all the time.

Seeing Yun Lintian was silent, Chu Heng's father knew his request was too much, but he couldn't help. Which father didn't want their children to have a promising future? He quickly knelt down on the ground and said pleadingly. "Please. This old man is begging you."

Yun Lintian hurriedly helped him up and said with a soft sigh. "Uncle, my path is full of danger. Your children are not necessarily safe with me. Maybe they staying here is safer." He knew his words alone could not convince Chu Heng's father. He said further. "How about this? I'll give them a high-rank profound art. Whether they can become stronger depends on themselves."

Chu Heng's father wasn't an unreasonable person. He understood Yun Lintian had written a clear line by saying this. Hence, he didn't try to force him further. He hesitated and said. "Although I don't know much about the profound ways, such a high-rank profound art should be scarce, right? Is it fine for you to give it away like this?"

Yun Lintian smiled faintly. "Don't worry. There wouldn't be a problem." He then took out two Heaven-rank profound arts he copied during his free time and handed them to Chu Heng's father. "This blue book is for her, and another one is for Chu Heng. Uncle and Aunty can also practice."

Chu Heng's hands trembled when he received two books. He grasped them carefully for fear of damaging them. Without a doubt, these two books were priceless. He suddenly broke into tears and said. "Thank you. Thank you, young man. This old man owed you my life."

Yun Lintian felt Chu Heng's father's words were too heavy. He hurriedly said. "Please don't say this, Uncle. This is not a big deal for me. You owed me nothing. I hope that all of you can survive in this cruel world."

Chu Heng's father nodded his head heavily while hugging the two books closed to his chest as though they were the most precious treasure in this world.

Yun Lintian knew it was time for him to leave. He bid farewell to Chu Heng's father and left the house.

Before Yun Lintian stepping out of the house, Chu Heng's father suddenly asked. "Young man, may I know where I can find you in the future?"

Yun Lintian paused his tracks, turning around, and answered. "Sky Throne Profound Academy in the Profound Sky Divine City. You can find me there." Following that, he turned around and left the house. He had already made up his mind to join the Sky Throne Profound Academy since he had no choice if he wanted to enter the Frozen Moon Mythical Realm.

"Sky Throne Profound Academy... Profound Sky Divine City..." Chu Heng's father repeated these two names to himself several times for fearing he might forget them.

"You sure generous. Are you not afraid he might betray you?" When Yun Lintian left Chu's house, Han Bingling immediately appeared beside him. She witnessed everything that happened earlier and was surprised by Yun Lintian's generosity. Although Heaven-rank profound art was nothing to her, she never saw anyone could give it away casually like him before. **CHeCk for *n*ew st**o**ries on no/v/el/bin(.)c**0**m**

"I have my own measurement." Yun Lintian replied nonchalantly. His earlier action might look reckless, but he didn't fear Chu's family to harm him in the slightest. With the Heaven rank profound art in their hands, if it was to expose to others, their lives would be in danger too. Hence, he believed they wouldn't do something stupid like that.

"So mysterious?" Han Bingling pursed her lips.

"How's your people's side?" Yun Lintian asked while strolling along the streets. "Don't tell me, still get nothing? I didn't expect the Frozen Moon Palace would be this incompetent."

Perhaps it was because the Frozen Moon Palace was likely related to the Misty Cloud Palace's disappearance back then. Yun Lintian simply gave them no face. Even the Palace Master was right next to him. He did not fear to speak rudely on them.

Han Bingling pouted. "Why are you so mean? Do you hate my Frozen Moon Palace that much?" Seeing Yun Lintian didn't react. She said. "I've got the news from my people now. The backer of this Hei Fu guy you're talking about is likely to be the Feng royal clan itself. More precisely, it's the currently Crown Prince, Feng Wanchang."

"The royal clan? No wonder they never send help to deal with the profound beast tide." Yun Lintian found everything was clicked with this information. He asked. "What now? They are right under your nose here."

Han Bingling still wore a faint smile as she replied. "My people have interrogated Hei Fu earlier and got some clues about the Poison Valley." She paused her step and looked at Yun Lintian. "One of their representatives is actually here. Do you want to go with me?"

Yun Lintian thought he needed to go to the bottom of this and readily accepted Han Bingling's invitation. However, he suddenly said. "Right, I am certain there is a mole in your Frozen Moon Palace."