

## Physicist 271

### Chapter 271: Power of the Astral Wind

Ye Jiushang was in the room next door and could hear the laughter coming from the other side. Although he was not involved, he could empathize with it. He was happy. However, he had more important things to do now.

The power of the astral winds was not an ordinary thing. If one could control it, it would be an impressive killing move.

Perhaps no one here knew that the powerful winds outside were astral winds, a powerful force.

While Xue Fanxin and the others were happily cooking delicious food, Ye Jiushang slid the wooden board on the window a little. Then, he reached out and carefully touched the wind that was seeping in, letting it hurt his palm.

In less than fifteen minutes, several bloody marks appeared on his palm. However, he did not care, letting the wind blow at his hand. Even if it was a little painful, he was not anxious. Instead, he got happier and happier.

“So this is the power of the astral winds.”

Through his injured palm, Ye Jiushang sensed that the wind force outside was different from the others. He even captured the profundity contained in the astral winds. He absorbed some of the power of the astral winds and merged it into his body before slowly refining it.

Because of the Draconic Lotus Intoxication, he was unable to circulate his cultivation technique, so he did not dare to absorb too much of the astral wind power. He could only do it little by little.

Looking at his scarred palm, Ye Jiushang smiled indifferently. He did not have the mood to treat his injuries, nor did he have the time. After sealing the window again, he sat cross-legged on the bed and comprehended and digested the astral wind power he had absorbed just now.

Xue Fanxin did not know what Ye Jiushang was doing in the room. Assuming that he was resting, she continued to cook delicious food with everyone happily. She cut all kinds of meat into thin slices and placed them neatly on a plate. She even stir-fried a few dishes, roasted three wild rabbits, and prepared fruits.

Looking at the delicious food on the table, everyone was salivating, especially Gu Jinyuan and Ah Wei. These two had not eaten a full meal for a long time. Seeing so many dishes, all their principles were thrown out the window.

“Xin’er, your culinary skills are really good. However, most of the meat and dishes are raw. How will we eat them?” Gu Jinyuan looked at the meat on the table. Although it was cut into thin pieces, it was still raw.

“This is called a hot pot. Later, whatever you fancy, you put it in the pot and boil it. Then, dip it in the sauce of your choice before eating it. I’m not making you eat raw meat. I only made two kinds of sauce. One is slightly spicy, the other is normal, and...”

While Xue Fanxin was introducing the hotpot, Little Lei suddenly appeared out of nowhere and shielded the three roasted rabbits on the table. "I don't care about that hotpot of yours. I only want these three rabbits. Besides, they are mine. Don't even think about snatching them from me."

"Are you sure you will only eat roasted rabbits?" Xue Fanxin asked with a sinister smile.

Little Lei originally wanted to give an affirmative answer, but when he saw the other dishes on the table and the two fragrant soup pots, he lost his confidence.

He also wanted to try that hotpot. However, he could not bear to part with the three roasted rabbits.

What should he do?

"Alright, everyone sit down and get ready to eat. I'll call Ah Jiu." Xue Fanxin could not be bothered to waste her breath on Little Lei. She went to look for Ye Jiushang.

However, when she walked into the room, she saw that Ye Jiushang's hand was covered in blood. She got panicked and anxious and quickly ran over. "Ah Jiu, what's wrong?"

Everyone in the next room heard Xue Fanxin's cry. The shout was clearly filled with panic and anxiety, so they all ran over.

## **Chapter 272: Feed Me**

Everyone ran in and saw that Ye Jiushang's hand was injured. Furthermore, the blood had dried up, indicating that some time had passed. But why was he injured all of a sudden?

"Ah Jiu, you were fine in the room. Why are you injured?" Xue Fanxin had already taken out the medicine. While treating his wound, she asked in confusion. She felt that this injury was a little strange and unreasonable.

Ye Jiushang was comprehending the power of the astral winds and had gained something. When Xue Fanxin entered, his state of mind was interrupted. Although he felt a little regretful, he was not angry.

Anyway, there were plenty of astral winds here and enough time. He could slowly ponder over it in the future. Perhaps he would gain something new.

"Your Highness, how did you get injured?" Zhuri could not help but ask.

Little Lei found it even more unbelievable. In his heart, Ye Jiushang was a mighty figure. With his power, it was impossible for him to be injured so easily, that too while staying in the room.

In such a situation, unless his master hurt himself, he did not believe that anyone else had the ability.

"It's okay. I injured myself. I just wanted to know what was going on with the wind outside. It's not a big deal. I'll be fine tomorrow." Ye Jiushang had an indifferent look on his face. Although he had stopped comprehending, there were still many thoughts on his mind that he had yet to put away. The astral wind power in his body was still flowing randomly. He needed to expend some effort to adjust it.

Although he was injured, it was worth it.

When Xue Fanxin saw Ye Jiushang's expression, no matter how dissatisfied or unhappy she was, she tried her best to suppress it. This was because she could tell that Ah Jiu was very happy. The wound did not matter to him that much.

"Don't joke about your body in the future. What if something bad happens?"

"I know what I'm doing."

"Know what you're doing, my foot. It's good that your left hand is injured. Else, I'd have loved to see how you eat later."

"Just feed me."

"I'm not feeding you." Although Xue Fanxin was annoyed, her heart still ached. She did not know why Ah Jiu wanted to study the wind outside; it probably had something to do with her.

Gu Jinyuan looked at Xue Fanxin treating Ye Jiushang's injuries so gently and carefully and got a little envious. However, he was quite sensible and mature. He coughed lightly and said to the other unrelated people, "Let's wait outside. Anyway, we won't be of much help staying here."

Xue Fanxin knew that Ye Jiushang did not like crowds, so she echoed Gu Jinyuan's words. "It's okay, it's okay. Go ahead and sit outside. I'll be done soon."

Actually, she really wanted to tell everyone to eat first, but when she thought of a certain lord's special status, she didn't say anything.

If she let everyone eat first, what if a certain lord flared up and made her cook again?

Hence, everyone had to wait.

"What's that fragrant smell?" Ye Jiushang was comprehending the power of the astral winds just now and had not caught the smell outside. Only now did he notice that his stomach was growling in protest.

Ye Jiushang was not alone. The people next door also smelled the fragrance of various dishes. All of them kept swallowing their saliva.

"Where did the fragrance of meat come from?"

"Why do I smell food?"

### **Chapter 273: Natural King**

After Xue Fanxin bandaged Ye Jiushang's wound, she brought him over to eat with everyone.

They all had taken seats around the dining table, sensibly leaving the main seats empty. When they saw that Xue Fanxin and Ye Jiushang had come, they immediately stood up, especially Zhuri and Fuyun. The two of them were even a little panicked. Among everyone, only Gu Jinyuan and Little Lei were calm. They only stood up to express their politeness and did not mean anything else.

"Master, you're finally here. If you had not come, I really would have started eating." Little Lei's mind was filled with food. Had it been someone else, even the emperor, he would not have waited so obediently. He would have started eating long ago.

If his master found out that he ate first, he would be displeased with him again.

Sigh... He had no choice. After all, he had a powerful and unreasonable master.

Ye Jiushang walked over leisurely. He saw a table of sumptuous dishes with two steaming pots on it. Then, he noticed the neatly arranged cutlery and the group of 'cute' people. He suddenly felt that this scene was beautiful, improving his mood a lot.

"Everyone, sit down. There's no need to be so polite." Although Ye Jiushang said that, everyone waited for him to sit down before doing the same.

Xue Fanxin was speechless. She really did not understand why everyone was so afraid of Ye Jiushang; she really did not feel anything.

Ah Jiu's aura was just a little stronger, a little more powerful, a little more domineering... It seemed like nothing.

To Xue Fanxin, Ye Jiushang was indeed nothing scary. She did not feel any pressure when she interacted with him, but to others, he had an inherent kingly aura. Even if he just stood there and smiled, it would make people afraid.

This kind of natural-born ruler made people involuntarily revere him.

"Alright, everyone sit down. Before we eat, I have some things to take note of." Xue Fanxin picked up her chopsticks and pointed at the two pots on the table. "Because I don't know your preferences, and coupled with the injuries on Ah Jiu and Ah Wei, you two can't eat the spicy pot. If you want to eat, eat the other one. This was originally called the Mandarin Duck Hotpot, but unfortunately, I don't have a Mandarin Duck Pot, so I can only deal with it this way."

"Mandarin Duck pot? What's that?" Ye Jiushang's curiosity was piqued.

"To put it bluntly, it's to divide a pot into two parts. The soup on one side is spicy, and the other is normal. You can eat whatever you want."

"I'll make you one later."

"We'll talk about that later. Look, everyone is hungry. Let's eat first." Xue Fanxin could tell that everyone was waiting to eat, so she did not say much. However, before eating, she placed the two bowls of soup in front of Gu Jinyuan and Ah Wei respectively and emphasized, "The two of you have been hungry for a long time, and your stomach is very weak. Eating such miscellaneous food immediately is not good for your stomach. Drink some stomach warming soup first to moisten it before eating anything else."

Seeing Xue Fanxin care about others so much, Ye Jiushang got jealous.

Forget it. He wouldn't argue with two people who were about to starve to death.

"Alright, everyone, let's eat. I'll teach you how to eat hotpot." Xue Fanxin returned to her seat after giving the soup to Gu Jinyuan and Ah Wei, then picked up her chopsticks and prepared to eat.

Unexpectedly, a clamor came from outside.

"Can you smell it? The fragrance seems to be coming from here."

“It smells so good! I think I smell roasted rabbit.”

“I smell it too. It smells there’s like other meat too.”

### **Chapter 274: He Was Wrong Again**

When Xue Fanxin heard the noise, she was puzzled and asked in confusion, “Gu Jinyuan, didn’t you say that the wind is very strong outside? Why are there still people jumping around?”

She had witnessed the strength of the wind. Even Ah Jiu’s hand got injured, let alone the others. If they stayed outside, they would definitely die miserably.

However, those people outside were not dead but were chatting instead. What was going on?

Gu Jinyuan was also confused at first. After listening carefully, he went to the window to look through the crack. Only then did he realize that the wind had stopped.

“Strange, why has the wind stopped so soon this time?”

Normally, it would take at least a day, but this time, the wind actually stopped after only half a day. It was a little abnormal.

“Has the wind stopped?”

The people who smelled the fragrance ran out of their stone rooms and went searching for the source of the fragrance. Standing outside Gu Jinyuan’s stone room, they realized that it was actually roasted meat. Everyone more or less understood.

The few people who had just come here must have had food on them, which was why Gu Jinyuan’s place smelled so good.

This damned Gu Jinyuan. He actually didn’t call for them when he had food. How hateful.

The people trapped here never had a full meal. They could only eat a little every day or two, barely alleviating their hunger. However, it was impossible to eat their fill, let alone eat well. Although there was a lake here with fish, catching it was an extremely difficult task. Many people could not catch a fish even after a few days.

One could imagine how a group of people who were barely hanging on by a thread would react when they smelled the fragrance of rice and meat.

More and more people were gathering outside Gu Jinyuan’s stone house. Some of them did not know what was going on and only came to watch the show. Unexpectedly, when they got close, they smelled the salivating fragrance of rice and meat, making them lose their calm. They started chatting non-stop. Some men even pushed aside the wooden boards outside Gu Jinyuan’s stone house and barged into their courtyard.

As more and more people gathered in the house, everyone became much bolder. They had long forgotten about the young man who had kicked the two Spirit Transformation experts away. They only knew that there was food in this courtyard. Perhaps they could eat something after entering...

One could not doubt what crazy actions a group of hungry people might do. In order to obtain food, they could do evil deeds without batting an eyelid.

Before Xue Fanxin and the others could react, they heard the door being pushed open. Then, a group of people stormed inside. Seeing the table full of food, they were all stunned. Some people even lost their rationality and rushed towards the dining table, wanting to snatch the food on it. Unfortunately...

“All of you, get lost.” Little Lei had waited extremely long for this meal. Just when he was about to finally enjoy it, he had not expected someone insensible to snatch it from him.

Those who dared to snatch his delicious food must not be spared.

“Ah...”

Those who rushed forward were sent flying before they could touch the table. Even those who were lagging behind were thrown out by Little Lei.

In just a few blinks of an eye, all the unrelated people in the room had been cleaned up.

The crowd outside was getting bigger. Even people of status had come, including Yi Fentian, Bai Han, and the others. Xue Hanxi was also here, as well as the middle-aged man who had advised him not to give the stone room to Xue Fanxin.

At that moment, the middle-aged man had many opinions.

“Young Master, no matter what, Xue Fanxin is a member of the Xue family. She actually only cares about herself when she has food and doesn’t care about us at all. She’s really too much.”

Hearing these words, Xue Hanxi was annoyed. He said unhappily, “You didn’t give her a stone house. Is that not too much either?”

“Young Master...”

Everyone present felt terrible. Thinking back to when the gale came just now, they had not cared about Xue Fanxin and the others at all, not even giving them a reminder. Now, blaming others for not sharing the food seemed to be quite unreasonable.

Yi Fentian’s mood was complicated. He realized that he had done something wrong.

When the violent wind came, he actually did not take Xin’er with him. He only remembered this matter when he ran back to the stone house. How could he do that?

### **Chapter 275: Stealing Food**

The people outside trembled. No matter how much they craved the food inside, they stood in place and did not dare to act recklessly. Some people even placed their hopes on Yi Fentian, Bai Han, and others. There was also Xue Hanxi. After all, he belonged to the same clan as Xue Fanxin. If he put in a word or two, her mind might change

“Young Master Xue, why don’t you talk to Xue Fanxin and let her share some of the food with us? After all, everyone is hungry, and some are about to starve to death.”

“Da Niu hasn’t eaten for three days and has only drunk some leftover soup. I don’t know what’s going on recently, but the fish in the lake are getting harder and harder to catch. They must have gotten smarter. If this continues, we’ll starve to death soon.”

Thinking about their bleak future, everyone felt uncomfortable.

While the crowd outside was discussing, the people inside ate with relish. Forget about Gu Jinyuan and Ah Wei, who had been hungry for a long time, even Ye Jiushang ate more than usual.

A certain lord was very picky. He rarely ate, but he ate quite a lot this time, gorging down a large bowl of rice, as well as all kinds of meat and vegetables.

Little Lei ate the most. Previously, he looked down on the radishes and tofu that Xue Fan was cutting up, but now, no matter how much there was, it was not enough for him. Especially after learning how to eat hotpot, he felt that even vegetables were delicious.

“The last piece of radish is mine. No one is to snatch it from me.” Seeing that there was only one last radish left in the pot, he immediately declared it his, reaching out with his chopsticks to pick it up. However, someone was faster.

Ye Jiushang’s chopsticks were like lightning. No one saw how he moved his chopsticks. They only saw him elegantly eating the radish he had just picked up from the pot. His unhurried manners made it difficult to imagine that he also liked to snatch food.

“Master...” Little Lei wanted to cry but had no tears. He watched as Ye Jiushang ate his radish and did not dare to say a word.

“Didn’t you say that you would only eat those three roasted rabbits?” Ye Jiushang said leisurely.

Little Lei was rendered speechless. He could only look sadly at a certain lord eating delicious food.

If he knew that the hotpot was so delicious, how could he have said those words?

Everyone ate their fill. They were now in the mood to admire Little Lei’s depressed and cute appearance. The more they looked, the more interesting they found it.

At this moment, someone else ‘barged in.’

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Although it was not considered barging in and more like walking in, he had come uninvited. Furthermore, the other party had not even knocked on the door.

There were quite a few people who came this time. Soon, the medium-sized room was filled. They were almost all famous people from the four great families. There were both old and young people, including the two old men who had been kicked into the lake by Little Lei previously.

The two old men did not dare to act arrogantly, but their gazes were still unfriendly. Once they had the chance, they would definitely torture their enemies to death.

“What are you doing here?” Gu Jinyuan questioned unhappily. His hatred for the four great clans had reached the extreme, especially that Yi Fentian.

Ever since he found out that Yi Fentian was Yi Tian, he despised this person to the core.

Back when he was in the Nanling Empire, he had once investigated Xue Fanxin, so he knew how Yi Tian treated her. He was also aware of the disgusting and shameless dealings Yi Tian and Li Yaoyao had done.

No matter what, Xin'er had once saved Yi Tian. Yi Tian now knew the truth, but when the violent wind came, he actually did not care about her at all and ran to save his life alone. He had never thought of giving up the stone house.

Such a selfish person was not worthy of Xin'er.

Even though Yi Fentian had already realized that his previous actions had been ridiculously wrong, when he saw Xue Fanxin and Ye Jiushang sitting together intimately, his heart was filled with anger. He did not think about what was right or wrong anymore and only thought about how to snatch Xue Fanxin back.

He did not believe that with his status as the Young Master of the Yi family, he could not compare to a Ninth Imperial Uncle.

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### **Chapter 276: Everyone Shut Up**

Although the people from the four great families had barged in, their faces filled with intent, no one spoke first. All of them were staring at the clean plates on the dining table. They even wanted to snatch the remaining soup at the bottom of the pot.

No one dared to act recklessly though. It was not only because the other party was powerful, but most importantly, doing so would only cause harm. If that young man threw them all out again, that would be very bad.

Hence, it was best to stay quiet and let someone with status handle this matter.

When they were outside just now, many people were chattering non-stop. They had all kinds of complaints and reprimands. Even Yi Fentian and Bai Han were no exception. Especially Yi Fentian, he had a lot of opinions about Ye Jiushang as if he wanted to goad everyone to deal with him together.

However, after entering the house, he turned mute. Although he was glaring at Ye Jiushang, it was just that. He waited for the others to speak first.

Ye Jiushang had long sensed Yi Fentian's hatred and killing intent towards him. However, he did not mind. He did not treat the other man as an opponent at all.

Initially, he thought that Yi Fentian was someone of a bit of importance. After all, in order to repay his favor, he hid his identity as the Yi family's Young Master and stayed in the small Duke's Estate of the Nanling Empire for a few years. Although he had repaid the wrong person, his feelings were commendable.

But later, not long ago, when the astral winds attacked, Yi Fentian actually ignored Xin'er's safety and ran for his life alone... Forget about himself not taking such a person seriously, even Xin'er would feel disdain.

No one cared how furious Yi Fentian was. They only cared about obtaining some food from Xue Fanxin and the others.

No one spoke, and everyone looked at Xue Hanxi, waiting for him. Helpless, he could only step up and say in an embarrassed manner, "Ninth Lord, and everyone, I believe you all know why we're here. Food is scarce, and some people are about to starve to death. We have no choice but to come and seek your help. Please—"

Before Xue Hanxi could finish, the middle-aged man standing beside him suddenly said, "Young Master, why waste your breath on them? Xue Fanxin is from the Xue family. If she doesn't take out some food, we'll deal with her according to the Xue family's rules."

"Who said that I was from the Xue family?" Xue Fanxin liked Xue Hanxi's polite attitude. She even felt compassion toward the men dying of hunger. Unexpectedly, someone very insensible appeared and angered her.

What an idiot.

Gu Jinyuan also spoke up unhappily, "Third Master Xue, Xin'er is Xue Tianlian's granddaughter, who was expelled from the Xue family forty years ago. He then changed his name to Xue Batian. From then on, he has nothing to do with the Xue family. If it weren't for the Old Master of the Xue family dying of illness, Xue Batian would not have brought Xin'er back to the Xue family at all. Logically speaking, Xin'er is indeed not a part of your Xue family, so please understand the situation before you speak."

"Young Master Gu, this is our Xue family's business. As an outsider, you'd best not interfere."

"Xin'er is not only my friend, but she is also my savior. I will definitely interfere in her matters. We don't know how long we will be trapped here. Everyone knows how precious food is. If we share the food with you, what will we eat?"

"You..." Third Master Xue was impulsive, wanting to hit Gu Jinyuan after arguing a little. The other Xue family members also started to scold Gu Jinyuan. Things were ready to get physical.

Gu Jinyuan was bullied by the four great families here. His heart was filled with hatred for them, so his attitude towards them was also unfriendly. He changed from his usual gentle and refined style of doing things and got into an argument with Third Master Xue. Even if they got in a fight, he did not mind.

He had really had enough of the four great families' cowardice.

Xue Fanxin saw that the situation was getting out of hand and shouted, "All of you, shut up."

Everyone shut up, including Third Master Xue.

"You can have food if you want, but you must take out something in exchange. There's no free lunch in this world."

The moment Xue Fanxin said that, there was another commotion.

## **Chapter 277: Too Kind**

Third Master Xue was originally quiet, but Xue Fanxin's words triggered him. "Xue Fanxin, what do you mean? Are you taking advantage of the situation and want to watch us die?"

Xue Fanxin looked at Third Master Xue coldly and mocked, "Back then, when Gu Jinyuan first came here, what did you all do? Were you taking advantage of the situation and wanted to watch him die?"

"You..."

Xue Fanxin's retort hit the mark. Not only Third Master Xue but everyone present was speechless.

They remembered how they had taken advantage of Gu Jinyuan when he had just arrived. They had extorted quite a few good things from him.

Gu Jinyuan also got furious upon recalling the unpleasant memories. When Xue Fanxin did the same to them, he felt very good, but he did not quite agree with her. After all, the food here was really too precious.

Just as Gu Jinyuan was about to advise Xue Fanxin, she suddenly said, "Zhuri, clean that table and move it to the courtyard outside."

"Yes." Zhuri did as he was told. Fuyun helped clear the table, and the two of them just did their thing, ignoring everything else.

Xue Fanxin picked up the chopsticks and pointed at the door, saying domineeringly, "Get out. All of you are to stay in the courtyard and take out what you want to trade. Let me say this first: I don't want ordinary stuff. If you can't move me, then don't even think about getting the food."

"You—" Third Master Xue wanted to argue with Xue Fanxin, but she did not give him a chance to speak. "You what? If you continue spouting nonsense, then you can forget about getting food."

Xue Hanxi pulled Third Master Xue back. Then, he persuaded everyone to go out first. "Let's wait outside and prepare what you want to trade."

His intentions were clear; he agreed to Xue Fanxin's request.

But it wasn't as if there was any other choice. After all, Xue Fanxin had an extremely powerful young man and an unfathomable Ninth Imperial Uncle beside her. Most importantly, she had food.

Here, whoever had food was the boss.

With Xue Hanxi's departure, the people in the room also walked out of the door one after another and waited in the courtyard. Even though they had all kinds of complaints, they still pondered about what to trade for food.

Only Xue Fanxin and the others were left in the room. Ye Jiushang sat there elegantly as if it had nothing to do with him. He allowed Xue Fanxin to do whatever she wanted.

Gu Jinyuan still did not approve of Xue Fanxin taking out the food. Since there were no outsiders present, he said straightforwardly, "Xin'er, the food here is a precious resource. You shouldn't use it like this."

“If I don’t take out some food, do you think they will remain quiet? Furthermore, I can’t watch them starve to death. Not a single one,” Xue Fanxin said as she took out some rice and dried meat from her bag.

“You’re too kind.” Gu Jinyuan sighed helplessly.

“Pfft...” Xue Fanxin smiled. “This has nothing to do with kindness. If we were outside, I wouldn’t have cared about them. Have you forgotten the requirements on the stone tablet? It takes 50 people to activate the challenge game. May I ask how many people are here now?”

“There were 39 people. With the five of you, the number has increased to 44.”

“Then we’re still short of six people! What if one or two of them starve to death? When someone breaks in again, there’ll be just one or two fewer people. Wouldn’t that be terrible?”

Gu Jinyuan came to a realization.

If someone from the four great clans really starved to death, this would be extremely disadvantageous to them.

If they could not gather fifty people, they would be trapped here forever.

Therefore, they had to take out food and distribute it to the four major families to ensure that no one died.

### **Chapter 278: Play Whatever You Want**

Gu Jinyuan no longer had any objections. He even helped move the food Xue Fanxin took out to the courtyard outside, personally presiding over the affair to maintain order. He stopped these people from messing around.

If it was just Gu Jinyuan, the four great clans would have long robbed the food. However, that powerful young man was also present, so no one dared to touch the table. No matter how much they wanted it, they had to wait obediently.

Ye Jiushang sat there and watched Xue Fanxin busy herself. When she was almost done, he said, “Little Xin’er, I want to enter seclusion for a while, so you can do whatever you want here. With Little Lei around, the four great families are nothing to fear.”

“Why are you suddenly going into seclusion?” Xue Fanxin was planning to distribute food outside and take some treasures from them. She could not help but ask curiously.

“I absorbed a little power of the astral winds just now and realized that it is the nemesis of the Draconic Lotus Intoxication, countering its effect on my body. In addition, I have some gained comprehension. I have to enter seclusion for some time to digest this, or I will miss this opportunity.”

Opportunities were very rare. Even small opportunities were precious.

For someone at his level, what could be considered a small opportunity was definitely a huge opportunity that could only be chanced upon by luck.

Xue Fanxin also understood that, especially for people like Ah Jiu who were at the peak. If he thought it was important, then it surely was.

“Ah Jiu, don’t worry and enter seclusion. Anyway, we won’t be able to leave for a while. I don’t know how long we’ll be staying here. It might even be a year or two! There’s no need to fear the people of the four great families. If they dare to provoke me, I’ll play them to death.”

Ye Jiushang stroked Xue Fanxin’s head dotingly and said, “You can play as much as you want, as long as you’re happy. However, don’t forget to cultivate. Time flows differently in this place. Half a month is equivalent to one day outside. Take advantage of this and improve your cultivation level.”

“Yes, I know. After I finish, I’ll focus on cultivation.”

She had comprehended something the moment she came to this place. The time here was also very special. Of course, she could not waste it. After everything had stabilized, she would place her focus on cultivation.

However, at the same time, she had to take care of the people here, including the four great families. She could not let anyone starve to death or die of illness, or she would really stay here forever.

After the instructions, Ye Jiushang retired to his room. The black cloth at the door seemed to have isolated him from the world. From now on, apart from Xue Fanxin, no one dared to pull open the black cloth and enter the room.

Xue Fanxin watched as Ye Jiushang returned to his room and adjusted her emotions. Then, she turned and walked out. The courtyard was filled with people. All of them looked anxious. Some of them had ugly expressions as if they wanted to skin her alive.

“Everyone, stand properly and come one by one. My food is limited, so each person can only buy half a kilogram of rice. As for the other fruits, vegetables, and meat, we’ll have to calculate it differently. We’ll have to see what you can offer in exchange.”

“You...” Third Master Xue and the others from the four great clans were so angry that they wanted to quarrel with her.

However, Xue Fanxin did not give them a chance to speak. She continued, “Those who have objections, stand aside. Others come up. We’ll sell a limited amount of food today. After we’re done, we’ll pack up, so those who want to buy food, come up quickly.”

The leaders of the four great families did not move because the limitation Xue Fanxin mentioned was really difficult for them to accept.

Everyone was only allowed to purchase half a kilogram of rice. That would be gone in less than a day. How could they live?

It had to be said that some people’s thoughts were always so selfish. They were only concerned with their own benefits and did not care about anything else.

However, those small fries did not think too much about it, because they were famished. No matter what the higher-ups decided, they took out what they had to trade with Xue Fanxin.

"I only have three hundred spirit coins. Can I buy half a kilogram of rice?"

"Seeing that you're the first customer, I'll give you preferential treatment. Along with rice, I'll also give you a potato and a piece of cured meat."

"Thank you, thank you. Thank you so much."

"You're welcome. Take it."

More and more people went forward. They were all sacrificial soldiers of the four great clans or followers. These people usually had to work themselves to death to find food for their masters while starving themselves. It was already good that they could eat some leftovers, but unfortunately, there were no leftovers here.

Some people had not eaten anything for two days and were really hungry, so they swarmed over and took out all their wealth in exchange for food that could allow them to survive.

### **Chapter 279: Exchanging Things**

As more and more people went to exchange for food, the stock of rice, fruits, vegetables, and meat Xue Fanxin had placed on the table and ground dwindled. Only then did the important figures of the four great families begin to panic. Some even roared, "Get lost!"

"Are you all rebelling? How dare you be so impudent."

"All of you, retreat. You can't act recklessly in this matter."

"Get lost."

Someone from the four great families stepped forward to reprimand the people who were exchanging for food. They quickly left, afraid that the food in their hands would be snatched away. Those who had not yet exchanged for food were forced to retreat to the side under pressure, but they were unwilling to leave. They did not act recklessly either.

Xue Fanxin got dissatisfied with the four great families' actions, but they were just ordering their own men. She could not be bothered to say anything.

Those people basically did not have any valuable treasures on them. All the good things were gathered on these masters, so these were her targets.

"Everyone, this is all the food we have left. What do you plan to trade for it?"

"One thousand spirit coins, half a kilogram of meat." Third Master Xue was the first to speak. He threw one thousand spirit coins on the table, his face filled with displeasure. His attitude was as bad as it could be.

Xue Fan smiled coldly. "No."

Third Master Xue questioned angrily, "Why not? They can buy half a kilogram of rice for 300 spirit coins. I'll pay 1,000 spirit coins. Why won't you sell?"

"Because it depends on my mood."

“Xue Fanxin, don’t go too far.”

“I think the phrase ‘going too far’ is more suitable for you. What did you extort from Gu Jinyuan back then? Take it all out. I only accept objects in exchange for food now. I’m not accepting spirit coins anymore.”

“You...” Third Master Xue was enraged by Xue Fanxin. In his exasperation, he wanted to rush up and hit her.

Xue Hanxi pulled Third Master Xue back in time and did not let him mess around. As he apologized, he took out the thing he had obtained from Gu Jinyuan back then and placed it on the table. “I’m really sorry. This uncle of mine has a bad temper. Please forgive me. I wonder if I can use this in exchange?”

Xue Fanxin winked at Gu Jinyuan, indicating for him to make the decision.

Gu Jinyuan picked up the object, but his expression was still not too good. He said bluntly, “Return the Watercloud Sword to me. I can forget about the other things, but you have to return the Watercloud Sword to me.”

Third Master Xue’s expression became even uglier. Clearly, the Watercloud Sword was with him.

Xue Hanxi had no choice but to advise, “Third Uncle, return the Watercloud Sword to him.”

“Why? Back then, he was the one who willingly took it out in exchange for the stone house. Why should I return it to him? If you have the ability, get him to return the stone house to us,” Third Master Xue said self-righteously.

Xue Fanxin retorted coldly, “In that case, let’s do an exchange. Take out the Watercloud Sword and I’ll give you food.”

“You want the Watercloud Sword with just this little food? Dream on.”

“Then stand aside and go wherever it is cooler. Don’t stop others from exchanging for food. Go away quickly.”

“You...”

“You what? Even if you take out the Watercloud Sword now, I won’t give you the food. Once you starve to death, I’ll go and get it. Wouldn’t that be even easier?”

Third Master Xue lost his words. After gritting his teeth and hesitating for a while, he finally took out the Watercloud Sword and threw it on the table. “It’s just a lousy sword. I’ll give it to you.”

Xue Hanxi had been holding onto Third Master Xue the entire time, afraid that he would do something bad. He even had to smile and clean up his mess. “We’ve already presented the Watercloud Sword. I wonder if we can reach an agreement?”

“No problem. You gave a total of two things and there are two people, so I’ll give you half a kilogram of rice, two pieces of cured meat, and a bunch of vegetables.” Xue Fanxin also handed the things to him with a smile. She had a good impression of Xue Hanxi.

“A Watercloud Sword, is that all you’re giving us?” When Third Master Xue saw that little bit of rice and meat, his anger surged again. He really wanted to tear Xue Fanxin.

“I said that each person can only buy half a kilogram of rice. If you think it’s too little, you can choose not to accept it.”

“Xue. Fan. Xin!”

“What are you screaming for? I won’t give you any more rice.”

“You...”

“Third Uncle, let’s go.” Xue Hanxi had some understanding of Xue Fanxin’s character. To avoid ruining things, he forcefully pulled Third Master Xue away.

Although Xue Fanxin looked like a teenage girl, her boldness and courage were not something that ordinary people could possess. Furthermore, she had the mysterious Ye Jiushang behind her and the powerful youth of unknown origins.

It was best not to provoke such a person.

The Xue family choosing to become enemies with Xue Fanxin was undoubtedly a foolish move. Perhaps there would be great trouble in the future.

### **Chapter 280: So Strange**

After the Xue family got their food, only the Yi, Bai, and Lian families were left. No one from these three families went forward; they just looked at each other. In the end, Bai Han stepped up. He took out some precious things and placed them on the table, saying expressionlessly, “This is all Gu Jinyuan’s stuff. I’ll give them to you.”

Xue Fanxin admired Bai Han’s straightforwardness. She did not waste time either and took out more than half a kilogram of rice and some fruits and vegetables.

Because of the treatment Third Master Xue and the others had received previously, Bai Han felt that Xue Fanxin was quite good to him. For some reason, a strange feeling rose in his heart. While receiving the food, the feeling intensified, and his heart beat much faster than usual.

Was this the girl who had saved him from the Hundred Herb Hall?

If he knew she was such a beautiful and special woman, he would not have let her go so easily back in the Nanling Empire. He even drew the line with her and repaid her for saving his life right then and there.

How could he have been so stupid back then?

“Young Master Bai, you’ve got the food. Please step aside.” Xue Fanxin saw Bai Han stand there in a daze with an incomprehensible smile on his face, so she had to remind him.

Bai Han returned to his senses and gave an awkward smile. He took the food and left. Once he was far away, he stopped and turned back to look at the distant Xue Fanxin, who was smiling unrestrainedly.

When he thought about how she was already the Ninth Imperial Consort, he felt uncomfortable in his heart.

Xue Fanxin did not care about Bai Han at all. In the Duke's Estate, Bai Han had been anxious to cut ties with her. She asked for a Jade Skin Spirit Flower from him, and from then on, she treated Bai Han as a stranger.

"Alright, there are only the two of you left. Who wants to go first?"

Lian Fangcheng really did not want to deal with Xue Fanxin, but he had to. Seeing that Yi Fentian was still unwilling to go forward, he could only do it himself. He sensibly took out all of Gu Jinyuan's things.

"These all belong to Young Master Gu. I'll return them all now. Is that okay?"

"Since Young Master Lian is so straightforward, I won't beat around the bush. This food is yours. Take it." Xue Fanxin gave Lian Fangcheng the same amount of food as she had given Bai Han.

Lian Fangcheng had no objections to this. He took the food and left.

Only Yi Fentian was left now. Although Lian Fangcheng had left the slot for some time, Yi Fentian stood still. His subordinates got a little anxious and reminded him, "Young Master, it's our turn."

Yi Fentian ignored him. He kept staring at Xue Fanxin, his eyes filled with complicated emotions. There was confusion, panic, unwillingness, anger, and regret. He spent quite a bit of effort suppressing these complicated emotions. He walked forward with heavy steps and asked softly, "Xin'er, do you have to be like this to me? We've known each other for years. Although we haven't gotten along well most of the time, you know that it wasn't my intention. Can you not be so unfamiliar with me?"

He could sense that in Xin'er's eyes, he was even inferior to Gu Jinyuan. This feeling really displeased him.

He hoped that Xin'er could treat him like how she treated others. He did not ask for too much, only that she could be friendlier to him.