

Protect OCL VL2 111

Chapter 111: Longyan Celestial Being Feast (End of the second part)_1

...

Just as expected.

Lei Yangyu's face stiffened slightly, "The issue with my daughter is settled, but what about my son?"

"Brother Yangyu," Wang Shouzhe expressed helplessly, "Luotong is my sister, how could I not want her to marry into a good family? To be honest, Bo Wu isn't that bad, but if Luotong refuses to marry him, I can't force her, can I?"

"Then what should we do?" Lei Yangyu's eyebrows furrowed, "I have given you my legitimate daughter as a wife for your brother. Surely you are not suggesting that a disciple of the Lei Family should marry into your family? How would it look if this gets out? Where would the face of our illustrious Lei Family go?"

"Your words are very reasonable," Wang Shouzhe nodded in agreement, "In that case, we should forget about this marriage arrangement."

"I disagree," Lei Bowu, now well in his thirties, opposed furiously. "Father, following the ancestral traditions of the Lei Family, I request division of the family. Even if I am given the least, it doesn't matter. After the division, I would be the head of the branch family, and I would have a say in my own affairs."

Lei Yangyu was so furious his veins pulsed visibly. Trembling, he bellowed, "You unfilial son, how did the highly-regarded Lei Family produce such a thing as you!"

"Brother Yangyu, calm down, calm down~" Wang Shouzhe said soothingly, pouring him a cup of Spiritual Tea, "Such matters are indeed vexing. But what's done is done. Take it easy, take it easy."

"Take it easy?" Lei Yangyu threw Wang Shouzhe a deep, chilling look, "Since it's not your son causing trouble, it is easy for you to say."

Lei Yangyu has been angered countless times over the years because of his son's affairs.

"Brother Yangyu, let's do it this way," Wang Shouzhe suggested, "Even if Bo Wu marries into my family, I guarantee no one would belittle him."

Lei Yangyu's face fluctuated between fury and calm.

If the Ping'an Wang Family was the same as before, he, Lei Yangyu, would have slapped them in the face long ago.

It's just that the current Ping'an Wang Family has not just ascended to become Celestials. The explosive growth is something he has never seen in his life.

Moreover, as Celestials, he is not as uninformed as common prominent families like the Changning Guard. Through his clansmen at the Academic Palace, he had long known that the Wang's in this generation have produced two Sky Prides, who have been accepted as Direct Disciples by the Xuanyao Lineage and the Valley of Ten Thousand Butterflies.

With such talents and the resources of the Academic Palace, in the future, both are sure to become Heavenly Humans.

Maybe, in a hundred years... no, it may not even take a hundred years, and the Wangs might join the ranks of the Grade Six Prominent Families.

Although there is only a one-grade difference between 7th Rank and Rank Six, the actual gap between the strengths of the two can be up to four or five times.

Though no one can say for sure about the future, Wang Shouzhe seems to be gentle and modest, but in reality, he is scheming and far-sighted, and extremely cautious in his actions. He is indeed not a character to be trifled with.

It is unlikely that the Wang Family's plans would fail in his hands.

Moreover, who doesn't know that the Tianren Xu Family and the Wang Family are as close as peas in a pod.

Falling out with the Wang's is not a wise move.

"Forget it, let it go~" After much pondering, Lei Yangyu decided against insisting on the issue after all and sighed, "I will agree to this then, let's just consider me as not having a legitimate son. But, we must keep a low profile on this affair."

Having said that, he could not resist glaring at his troublesome son, "Are you satisfied now?"

"Hehehe~"

Lei Bowu was practically beaming, blissfully unconcerned about his father's glare.

"Brother Yangyu, since we are going to become in-laws, let's do it happily and quickly," suggested Wang Shouzhe, "I believe, in not so many years, Brother Yangyu will feel proud of today's decision."

"Fine. For Master Wang Shouzhe, I will entrust Bo Wu to you."

Lei Yangyu is not a person to dilly-dally. Once decided, he won't hesitate or be wishy-washy.

He picked up the teacup in front of him, substituted tea for wine, and said solemnly to Wang Shouzhe, "From now on, the Lei family will form a marriage alliance with the Celestial Wang family. As the Family Head, I sincerely hope the relationship between the Lei family and the Wang family will last forever."

"Hahaha~ I am honored by Brother Yangyu's trust, and Shouzhe will definitely live up to your expectations," Wang Shouzhe laughed heartily, also picking up the tea cup in front of him, and solemnly said, "From now onwards, let our three great Celestial families in Changning Guard help each other to jointly seek development."

After that, they clinked their cups together, exchanged smiles, and said everything they wanted to say without words.

Although neither of them said anything specific, but as the heads of prominent families, they naturally understood each other's intentions.

The Celestials within the same guard city are actually in competition with each other.

After all, there are only so many resources in a guard city. If the Celestial families want to develop, they inevitably clash with each other. Over time, it is abnormal to maintain a good relationship.

The Celestial families usually do not intermarry with the Celestials of the same city, for this very reason.

However, the Changning Xu Family and the Ping'an Wang Family broke this rule.

These two families were already related by marriage. After establishing matrimony through the direct line, they cooperated in suppressing the Celestial Huangfu Family, and later became the 7th Rank Celestial families. They helped each other and maintained a solid relationship.

As a Celestial family in Changning Guard, the Lei Family suddenly found themselves in an awkward position.

Even though the Xu and Wang families have just become ranked as Celestial families, and the comprehensive power of the Celestial Lei family can easily crush either of them, they all knew, as fellow Celestial Families, the Lei family had no chance of winning a 2 to 1 fight.

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Over time, even if the two families did nothing, the economic competition alone could exhaust the Celestial Lei Family. After a hundred years, the Celestial Lei Family would gradually weaken, perhaps collapse due to failing to complete the Celestial succession, and be kicked out of the game forever.

This was what Lei Yangyu didn't want to see.

If he did not marry into the Wang family this time, he would have thought of ways to polarize the relationship between the Xu Family and the Wang Family. If he could cause the two families' marital ties to fall through, or even become hostile because of this, it would naturally be the most advantageous for the Lei family.

But now, since he has chosen to marry into the Wang family, he naturally goes with the flow, choosing to join in, turning the two-family alliance into a three-family one.

In the future, Wang Shouzhe, who plans far ahead, must have plans in mind. He will watch the changes silently.

As for this result, Wang Shouzhe was also quite pleased.

He didn't enjoy fighting and killing. Compared to competing with other prominent families, he preferred farming, fishing, and focusing on development. Thus, the Ping'an Wang's days would naturally get better and better.

This time, being able to marry into the Lei Family, and conveniently pulling the Lei family onto the ship, Changning Weicheng's territory was as stable as Mount Tai.

Even the Changning City Defense Office, would have to look at the Wang family's face before making any decisions, asking if the Wang family agreed or not.

In the following few days.

All the major families arrived at the Wang family one after the other.

The in-law families of the Wang family deserve mention.

The first to arrive was the Lu Clan of Yingxiu.

Due to the furthest distance, they set off earlier and were the first to arrive.

This time, the Lu Clan of Yingxiu was led by the Old Ancestor Mingsheng himself, accompanied by the two newly promoted Old Ancestors of the Lu Clan of Yingxiu, Lu Zhengxiong, and Lu Xiaoxiao.

Lu Zhengxiong is the former clan leader of the Lu Clan of Yingxiu. His wife is Wang Shouzhe's aunt, Wang Liuling. The current clan leader of the Lu Clan of Yingxiu is the eldest son of Lu Zhengxiong and Wang Liuling, who is also Lu Xiaoxiao's biological brother.

Other than that, Wang Shouxin's second daughter, Wang Liwan, who was married into the Lu Clan of Yingxiu years ago, also returned with them this time.

With her older sister Wang Licui there, Wang Liwan has lived a very nourishing life in the Lu Clan of Yingxiu, who although married into the direct line, her qualifications and character are both very good. She is expected by the Lu Clan of Yingxiu to be the next seed for the Spiritual Platform.

What arrived after was the Xu Clan of Jingsha.

Quite a few people came from them this time too. The Clan Leader Xu Anze and the Spiritual Platform Old Ancestor Xu Ningwei both came personally, bringing with them many youngsters from the family.

Thanks to the profits from the textile workshop, the Xu Clan of Jingsha has seen a lot of wealth in these years, and Xu Anze has successfully advanced to the Spirit Platform Realm.

The current Xu Clan of Jingsha already has two beings from the Spiritual Platform, and there are several youngsters in the clan with good qualifications, expecting to set foot into the Grade Eight Prominent Family within the next ten or twenty years.

Wang Luomei and Wang Luohu, the two Wang clan daughters who married into the Xu Clan of Jingsha, also returned with them this time.

Influenced by the rise of the Wang Clan, their status has soared in the Xu Clan of Jingsha in recent years and they have lived a very nourishing life. Despite one being over sixty and the other over forty, they both appear graceful and extraordinary, their demeanor on par with the president of those small clan families.

The Liu Family from Shanyin also didn't come lightly this time.

Not only did Liu Gaowang, this highly respected figure come personally, Liu Xuanfu and Liu Qingbai, the two strongest Old Ancestors of the Liu Family from Shanyin also came together, along with another Spiritual Platform Old Ancestor, Liu Zhisheng.

Old Ancestor Zhisheng's generation is one below Liu Xuanfu and Liu Qingbai. He is the grandson of the Wang family's daughter, Wang Zhuwei, who married into the Liu family years ago. He is also the nephew of the Old Ancestor Longyan, with a close relationship with Old Ancestor Longyan, and naturally wouldn't be absent at this time.

In addition, Wang Shouzhe's elder brother-in-law, Liu Yuanhui, and younger brother-in-law, Liu Yuanrui, also came.

A few years earlier, Liu Yuanhui had already taken over as the clan leader from his father. Now at the age of forty-three, he is already a powerhouse at the peak of Level Two of the Spirit Platform Realm. This time he came, he specifically brought along his eldest son, to familiarize him with the world.

Liu Yuanrui, the younger brother-in-law, has also been married for a few years, having married the legitimate daughter of the owner of the City Defense Mansion. Now he is also in his thirties, having officially entered politics, doing quite well in the City Defense Mansion, and has already considered an influential figure.

This time, he also brought his wife and children along.

However, Wang Shouzhe felt, not sure if it was an illusion, that Liu Yuanrui's wife seems to be a bit domineering, apparently having a firm control over his younger brother Yuanrui.

Furthermore, Liu Yuanshan and Liu Yuanqiang, the two brothers who had interactions with Wang Shouzhe during their wedding, also came.

Back then, Liu Yuanshan was unmarried in his forties. Now, he's almost sixty, still unmarried, but his power has soared all the way, already reaching the Spiritual Platform Realm. His archery skills have become even more refined and magical. He is afraid that he is no longer a match for Wang Shouzhe.

On the contrary, this boy, Liu Yuanqiang, hasn't changed much. He was a strapping young man in his teens, muscular and reminiscent of someone in their thirties. Now that he actually is in his thirties, he still seems to have the same naïve look, not at all like a man in his thirties.

His strength, however, has improved a lot compared to before, and it looks like he's about to reach the Spiritual Platform. It seems that he hasn't been slack in these years.

After the Liu Family from Shanyin, the Chen Clan from Donggang arrived.

The Chen Clan from Donggang isn't far from the Wang Family, but because Wang Luoyi, Wang's sister, rarely comes back home and plans to stay for a few more days, they prepared more things and ended up being late.

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Having been married into the Chen Clan of Donggang for over a decade, Wang Luoyi now has both a son and a daughter. Her brother-in-law, Chen Fangjie, has already stepped up to take over from his father, becoming the Family Head of the Chen Clan of Donggang.

The Chen Clan of Donggang had profited significantly from their cooperation with the Wang family. The couple had already advanced to the Spirit Platform Realm many years ago, and now, the Chen Clan of Donggang had over six members in the Spirit Platform Realm, making them a strong 8th Rank Prominent Family. They are now set to aim for becoming a 7th-rank Aristocratic Family.

The Wang family's aunts who had married into it, Wang Liu Yun and Wang Liu Dan, naturally wouldn't miss this grand meeting. Both now with families of their own, and at the ages of sixty-seven and forty-five years respectively, the excitement of the Wang family's promotion to 7th-rank has kept them awake for several nights in anticipation.

Of course, such a grand meeting would not be complete without Old Ancestor Ruhong.

The crowd, including Old Ancestor Ruhong, the family head of the Chen Clan and his family, the aunts from the Wang family who had married into different families, and the younger generation, was vast. When they disembarked from the ship, it caused quite a stir.

The last to arrive was the Xu Family of Changning.

This time, not only did the head of the Xu Family of Changning, Xu Anbang, attend, but also the Celestial Old Ancestor Beichen. They brought extravagant gifts as a gesture of respect to the Wang family.

In addition, Wang Liuqin, the aunt who had married into the Xu family of Changning, naturally wouldn't miss this meeting. She is the eldest daughter of Old Ancestor Xiaohan and arrived with her husband Xu Anfeng, making an impressive appearance on behalf the Xu Family of Changning.

Additionally, Wang Shouxin's two brothers-in-law, the Xu brothers, Xu Zhenxing, and Xu Zhenye, also came. Now both in their sixties, their appearances still radiant and youthful, they seem to have risen to significant positions in the Xu family.

Of course, a little guest also deserves a special mention.

That would be Xu Pingting, the child who is betrothed to Wang Zong'an. At just twelve years old, she is already becoming a beauty and is known for being gracefully mature.

Wang Shouzhe and Liu Ruolan are quite satisfied with this future daughter-in-law.

By this time, all the Prominent Families of Changning City, whether they are 7th, 8th or 9th rank, had arrived without exception.

This was to be expected, as any family who dared not to attend or was not willing to attend was openly disrespecting the Wang family.

Even if the Wang family did nothing, that family's good days would be over. Many other families and individuals would seize the opportunity to curry favor with the Wang family and act against them.

Apart from Changning City, families from the Hundred Islands Guard, Guang Clan, the Dan Tai Clan from Donghaei, the two prominent families from Zhenze, as well as Ding Nan Wei, and Anyuan, all of the Heavenly Prominent Families of the Southern Six Guards from Longzuo were gathered together.

In Longzuo South, all six guards were historically seen as frontier regions, and only gradually developed. Even Anyuan, which has the longest history, has not reached a thousand years.

Therefore, the entire Six Guards does not even have a single 6th-rank Aristocratic Family. Currently, the most powerful are only two Strong grade seven families.

A Strong grade seven family refers to a family that has two Celestial Realm elders, with one of them having reached the mid-Celestial Realm stage.

For many 7th-rank families, the primary goal is to ensure the exchange of Celestial beings, thus ensuring the continuation of the family.

Only when the scale of wealth and influence is abundant, and there are sufficient resources, does a family qualify to undergo the dual Celestial exchange model.

Take the Xiao Clan of Anyuan for instance, they currently have two Celestial Realm elders, but they are not considered a Strong Grade Seven family.

After all, they are just experiencing a normal exchange of Celestial Beings, with two Celestial Realm elders coincidentally coexisting for a certain period of time. In a few decades or a century, once the lifespan of Old Ancestor Xiao Yuanwu is exhausted, the Xiao Clan of Anyuan will return to having just one Celestial Realm elder.

A Strong Grade Seven Family is different, as they maintain two Celestial Realm elders for the majority of the time, and on rare occasions, even three.

The overall strength of such families is far beyond that of normal Celestial families.

Among the Southern Six Guards, currently, only the Heavenly Being Wang Clan of Zhenze Guard and the Heavenly Being Tuoba Clan of Donghaei are considered Strong Grade Seven families.

Even the renowned East Sea King Dan Tai Clan is not considered a Strong Grade Seven family.

As for the 8th-rank families from other guards, the Wang family did not actively invite them.

It wasn't that Wang Shouzhe looked down on these 8th-rank families, but this was an age-old rule, all the Celestial families from each city and guard would actively avoid associating with the 8th and 9th-rank families from other cities and guards who they did not have a relationship with.

This is because the Celestial families of each guard city regard their region as their own territory. They inherently resist the intervention of external parties, and failing to abide by the rules can easily lead to conflict and cause unnecessary trouble.

For instance, when several large families of Changning City wanted to buy back the assets of the Huangfu Clan, the families from other cities and guards did not deliberately make things difficult for them.

After all, these unwritten rules that have been passed down for thousands of years are based on the experiences and lessons of the previous generations of families and thus have their reasons. There isn't a single prominent family that has stood for hundreds or thousands of years in its territory that would foolishly break these taboos over small matters.

As all the major families arrived, the students from the Wang family studying at the Purple Abode Academic Palace also returned.

Even Fang Youan, Ji Mingyu, and the senior sister Green Fern from the Academic Palace, who were all close to each other, made special arrangements to disguise themselves among the common guests to come and congratulate Old Ancestor Longyan.

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The Purple Abode Academic Palace held a transcendent position, not suitable for public appearances due to their sensitive identity. Yet they wanted to extend their congratulations to Old Ancestor Longyan, so this was the best strategy.

On the chosen auspicious day, the celestial banquet of the Ping'an Wang Family officially began.

The venue of this celestial banquet was the second floor of Wang Shouzhe's newly built Lakeview Restaurant.

Thanks to a special design, the entirety of the second floor boasted high ceilings and a wide view. Through the massive floor-to-ceiling windows, one could take in the full view of Zhuwei Lake.

Inside, the décor was sumptuous and luxurious. The warm light emitted by the dazzling glass chandeliers hanging from the ceiling made the atmosphere extremely comfortable.

Wang Shouzhe adopted a banquet style he often used in his past life.

With rigorously trained wait staff, a systematic kitchen, and a wide array of fresh dishes... The banquet was novel in its format, ingeniously detailed, and evoked praise from every prominent family present.

The Wang family members were like butterflies, flitting among the guests, striving to make them feel warm and welcome.

As the Wang family rose too quickly with too few kinsmen, they utilized nearly every family member for the banquet, including eleven-year-old Wang Shinin, the eldest of the Shin generation, serving drinks. Only children under ten years old, who had yet to learn all about etiquette, were exempt from attending.

Therefore, the banquet provided a splendid opportunity for the younger generation of the Wang family to show off their elegance.

Over the years, the Wang family rose too quickly. Though the other prominent families didn't dare to voice out their grievances directly, there were plenty of whispers behind closed doors. Secret speculations were rampant, with many deeming the Wang family as parvenus. However, no one dared to say this directly to the Wang family.

It was a general problem among prominent families.

A quick rise of a prominent family was bound to stir up envy and resentment.

Labeling the Wang family as "nouveau riche" was simply a form of venting, a psychological comfort derived from their longer family histories.

Most of the time their assumptions held true, as a rapidly rising family could easily neglect the development of their younger generation.

However, the Wang family was an exception.

Under Wang Shouzhe's insistence, the Wang family spared no effort in the all-round cultivation of their young ones.

Influenced by modern concepts of education, Wang Shouzhe deeply understood that the younger generation was not only the future of a family but also the cornerstone of its future development.

If the foundation was unsteady, the prosperity of the family would be nothing more than a facade.

The saying goes, 'one who is cultured and educated radiates a refined air'. With thoughts held steady, actions become firm. The young members of the Wang family, despite their low cultivation level, were all graceful and elegant, even the girls were distinguished and had their own charm.

More importantly, despite their grace and elegance, they remained humble and grounded. None of them became arrogant due to the Wang family's temporary prosperity.

Every prominent family present has seen much of the world, and they understood that such refinement can only be nurtured from young. If this refinement was seen in one or two members, it could be a coincidence. But if it was seen in every member, it could only be attributed to the Wang family's efforts. Hence, the phrase "nouveau riche" could never apply to them.

For a moment, even the proud Tianren Family who usually considered themselves superior paused to rethink their condescension.

Given this show of force, the Wang family might still have something up their sleeve.

As drink coursed freely and dish after dish was served, the atmosphere at the banquet grew increasingly lively.

During the banquet, Old Ancestor Longyan made a public appearance, conversing about the Dao of cultivation with the Tianren Patriarchs, propelling the ambiance to its peak.

For a moment, the entire second floor of the Lakeview Restaurant was immersed in laughter and mirth.

Suddenly.

Thick white mist blanketed Zhuwei Lake, obscuring half of the lake's surface.

From within the dense mist, a long and melodious dragon roar echoed from the sky, echoing through the heavens.

At the same time, an enormous dragon's silhouette with an overwhelming dragon might appeared amidst the mist, barreling towards the Lakeview Restaurant.

The immense might, accompanied by an intense cold and dampness, rushed through the open windows.

In an instant, the temperature on the second floor of the restaurant dropped substantially, even the hot dishes on the table became instantly chilled through.

Outside the window, the enormous dragon's overwhelming oppressive aura created a sense of suffocation.

"Mysterious Ice Jiaolong!"

Some of the knowledgeable Tianren Ancestors present blanched, taken aback.

"Mysterious Ice Jiaolong" was a standout amongst ice-attribute Jiaolongs that possessed a powerful bloodline and a distinctive melodious roar, akin to an ice pick striking a gong. Such a distinctive trait made it easily identifiable.

With an imposing might like this, it's possibly a level six Jiaolong, which even many level six Celestial Beings would wish to avoid due to its formidable nature.

Where did this Mysterious Ice Jiaolong come from? Could it have come from the outer realm? Could the Changning Wang Clan have offended a beast king in the outer realm?

For a moment, everyone was filled with unease and concern.

Of course, there were quite a few secretly delighting in this disturbing turn of events.

Though there were many Celestial Beings present, if the Mysterious Ice Jiaolong were to launch an attack on the Wang family, very few would extend a helping hand. Most Celestial Beings would sit back and watch the show unfold.

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"Everyone, remain calm."

Noticing the crowd's restlessness, Wang Shouzhe stepped forward, reminding them, "Take a closer look, there is someone standing on the head of the Mysterious Ice serpent."

Indeed.

In the dense fog, one could faintly see a figure standing upright on the head of the Mysterious Ice serpent.

The wind stirred, fog wafted around, obscuring the figure. Yet, their aura was as piercing as an ice peak, as chilling as frost, the sweep of their robes revealed an ethereal elegance, as if an Immortal among mortals.

Naturally, respect and admiration arose from the beholders.

"So it's a Spirit Beast kept by a significant figure."

Seeing this, everyone let out a sigh of relief, immediately followed by a surge of curiosity.

"Who, exactly, is this distinguished person?"

"No matter who it is, if they are qualified to stand on the head of the Mysterious Ice serpent, they're definitely not ordinary."

The crowd couldn't help but speculate.

Among them, a few Academic Palace disciples who came in disguise all exchanged glances, a bitter smile on their faces.

Fang Youan sighed, knowing that it was not necessary to hide any longer, he decided to identify himself, "Everyone, please don't worry. This Mysterious Ice serpent is the guardian spirit beast of the Purple Abode Academic Palace's Mysterious Ice Palace lineage. And the figure on top of the Mysterious Ice serpent head is my master, Master Binglan!"

With that said, he couldn't help but produce a bitter smile in his heart.

He, Fang Youan, had to attend this banquet in hiding, due to the rules of the Academic Palace. But his master, he simply rode the Mysterious Ice serpent here without making a sound. It was indeed...

Forget it, it's best not to think about the teacher's offenses. Better think about the aftermath instead~

"What?"

All the Immortals and Old Ancestors of the Southern Six Guards were startled upon hearing this.

They had heard about the close ties between the Wang family and the Academic Palace, but they were unaware that there were Academic Palace disciples hiding amongst the guests.

What was even more surprising was that the famed Master Binglan would actually attend in person.

"It's actually master."

Old Ancestor Linglong was also caught off guard. She never expected her master to come personally, riding the Mysterious Ice serpent and making such a grand entrance.

Overcome with emotion, she rushed out of the window and knelt towards the figure on the Mysterious Ice serpent's head, "Linglong pays respect to..."

Just as the word "master" was about to leave her lips, she swallowed it.

She didn't know her master's true intentions and didn't dare to say "master" in such a public place.

After all, her master was a revered figure in the Academic Palace, and she had to be mindful of how it would look.

However, while she didn't call him, Master Binglan didn't seem to have such concerns.

"My disciple, Linglong."

The voice of Master Binglan echoed through the misty fog.

Her voice was majestic, with a hint of fondness, revealing a faint smile and pride, "You have overcome adversity and achieved the status of an Immortal, which fills me with great joy. Due to the rules of the Academic Palace, I did not participate in the banquet."

For a moment, all the Immortals and Old Ancestors present were silenced, their evaluations and estimations of the Wang family soared upwards.

The Elder Linglong was backed by such a strong faction and was highly favored.

Fang Youan secretly rolled his eyes.

Master, you call this adhering to the rules? You, riding on the Mysterious Ice serpent, so blatantly showing support for your disciple—who wouldn't understand?

Wang Shouzhe stepped forward and bowed, "Master, due to the regulations, you couldn't go to the banquet. I shall order someone to prepare spiritual delicacies for you to take back."

However.

Standing atop the Mysterious Ice serpent, Master Binglan snorted, "Wang Shouzhe, this is between my disciple Linglong and me. What business is it of yours? Move away and stop disturbing my sight."

"Uh..."

Wang Shouzhe was left speechless.

Master Binglan was usually easy to get along with, but she was extremely quick-tempered and held grudges. Was he still being punished for offending her years ago?

Even though he grumbled internally, he still wisely moved out of the way.

"My disciple Linglong, this treasure is a gift to celebrate your ascension to Immortal status," Master Binglan's voice became even more affectionate.

With that, she waved her hand and a beautiful, icy glimmer flew out from her sleeve toward Wang Linglong.

Old Ancestor Linglong propelled a stream of Mysterious Energy to catch it. Upon close inspection, she found it to be a piece of ice-blue armor. The treasure was delicate and dainty, bathed in a splendid glow. It was undoubtedly remarkable.

Fang Youan, standing beside, couldn't hide his envy, "It's actually the 'Mysterious Ice Serpent Armor'."

The 'Mysterious Ice Serpent Armor' was made from the scales shed by the Mysterious Ice serpent before it advanced to a sixth-grade spirit beast, combined with various precious materials to form a magical treasure. It did not measure up to top-grade magical weapons, yet it was a commendable defensive mid-grade magical weapon.

In the inheritance of the Mysterious Ice Palace, only the most favored direct disciples would be given such armor.

As inheritors of the Mysterious Ice Palace lineage, Fang Youan and Old Ancestor Linglong naturally recognized the name of this magical treasure.

"Master, this is too precious, I cannot accept it," Old Ancestor Linglong quickly refused.

"No matter." From the sky, Master Binglan's voice floated down, "This is passed down through generations in our lineage. When you no longer need it, you can simply return it to the Mysterious Ice Palace."

"Since that is the case, Linglong is deeply grateful for Master's generous love." Old Ancestor Linglong thanked with gratitude.

She knew that her master truly cherished her and was worried that she might get injured or killed in fights outside, hence she gave her the armor.

After passing down the armor, Master Binglan rode atop the Mysterious Ice serpent and flew away gracefully. The ice fog on the lake gradually dissipated.

Yet what did not fade was the ardor of the Immortals and Old Ancestors from the Ping'an Wang Clan.

Prior to this, quite a few Immortals and Old Ancestors, unfamiliar with the Ping'an Wang clan, had looked down on this newly-promoted 7th rank clan to some extent.

But after this incident, could any clans among the Southern Six Guards dare to belittle the Wang clan?

After more than a month of excitement, the Immortal banquet finally ended, and calm gradually returned to Changning.

From then on.

The Ping'an Wang family firmly established itself as a 7th-rank aristocratic family in the Southern Six Guards.

And from this day on, outsiders referred to the Wang family as the Changning Wang Clan instead of the Ping'an Wang family.