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Chapter 41 Desiring Sky Pride! My Changchun Lineage also wants to rise_1

...

However, the moment Senior Brother Jinshan's words were spoken...

The disciples of Changchun Valley were instantly dazed, their eyes wildly heating up in an instant.

Going to visit the other branches has always been a matter that the disciples, who are in their thirties and forties, dream of.

Going to the Mysterious Ice Palace to learn something new is something they had not even dared to think of before today.

Facing the eager anticipation of many eyes...

Wang Shouzhe felt it wasn't right to dampen their enthusiasm on the spot, so he immediately changed the topic and said, "Brothers and sisters, I'm somewhat exhausted after the fight just now."

The implication of his words, of course, was to drop the matter of visiting the Mysterious Ice Palace.

However, Senior Brother Jinshan took it the wrong way, his face immediately turned serious and he said, "Brother Shouzhe is absolutely correct. He should take a good rest before we head to the Mysterious Ice Palace for a challenge. Servants! Clean up the resting room in the Instructing Dao Palace, bring out all of the tasty foods to restore Vital Energy."

"Yes!"

The disciples cheered heartily and promptly ran off to carry out the tasks with burning enthusiasm.

As long as Brother Shouzhe could take them to the Mysterious Ice Palace to learn something new, they were willing to do anything.

Half an hour later, in one of the rooms of the Instructing Dao Palace, Wang Shouzhe, Liu Ruolan, Liu Ruolei, Liu Xuanfu, and others looked at each other.

"Brother-in-law, you're not really going to the Mysterious Ice Palace, are you?" Liu Ruolei asked with concern, "The Mysterious Ice Palace is not like other places. The disciples and seniors there, even... sigh, they are very domineering and not easy to provoke."

Old Ancestor Xuanfu also frowned slightly and said, "The number of core disciples in the Mysterious Ice Palace is not much, but if you go to the Mysterious Ice Palace, there's one person you need to watch out for."

"His name is Ji Mingyu, a disciple of the direct line of the Ji Family from Longzuo, who was sent to the Academic Palace simply because he was the second son."

"This child is only in his forties, yet he has already reached the third tier of the Spiritual Platform Realm. With his strong bloodline and solid foundation, he is even more impressive than Cousin Longyan was at that time. Over the last few years, he has been leading new disciples around to broaden their horizons. Although he has yet to reach the status of a true Sky Pride, he is not far from it."

Even when Old Ancestor Xuanfu spoke of him, her face was serious and laced with a hint of envy.

"Oh..." Wang Shouzhe remained noncommittal, in fact, he was not even considering going to the Mysterious Ice Palace.

He was not like Wang Luoqiu, who harbored a strong ambition to rule.

The greatest aspiration of his life is to manage his little family well, to provide for his family, so they can live comfortably, and at least not worry about resources for cultivation.

As for fighting and such, he was not interested at all.

"I think, my husband is more concerned about Master Longyan's dignity." Liu Ruolan explained with a smile, "If we initiate a fight, wouldn't we be putting Old Ancestor in a tough situation?"

"Only my wife truly understands me." Wang Shouzhe looked at Liu Ruolan tenderly, took her hand and said, "Having a wife like Ruolan is the purpose of my life."

"Being your wife, Shouzhe, is the greatest fortune of my life." Liu Ruolan's face turned slightly red with joy, revealing her bliss.

"Hiss!"

Not again!

Liu Ruolei shuddered. Every time she saw her sister and brother-in-law showing off their love, she felt the world was being malicious towards her.

Unfortunately, this couple seemed to enjoy it, ready to express their love at any moment.

Old Ancestor Xuanfu's gaze also became vacillating, obviously sharing the same impulse to draw a sword.

As they were chatting, a disciple from Changchun Valley spoke respectfully from outside the door, "Brother Shouzhe, are you rested? If you're alright, Master would like to speak with you."

As expected!

Wang Shouzhe chuckled.

The invitation of Master Changchun was within his expectations.

The reason why he showed off at the last moment was not only to salvage some dignity for Changchun Valley and to repay the teachings of the Master, but also to win over Master Changchun.

He did not dare to hope that he could instantly gain his favor, but at least he hoped to earn some status in Master's eyes.

He didn't want to be seen as a disregarded commoner, but as a person of use.

The worst thing in life is not being used, but being of no use to anyone.

In this way, if he encountered any unfair treatment in the future,

He wouldn't be completely out of options, at least he would have a place to lodge a complaint, a path to tread upon.

"My wife, Old Ancestor Xuanfu, you both should rest a bit. I'll be back soon."

After instructing them a bit, Wang Shouzhe left with the disciple and left Instructing Dao Palace.

Changchun Valley is situated on a top grade Spirit Vein, with Spirit Fields located everywhere within the valley, planted with shimmering Spirit Plants, occasionally interspersed with towering Spirit Trees. Spiritual Tea leaves exuded a lush, fresh fragrance. Looking out, it was teeming with life. Even the air seemed to be filled with the sweetness of vegetation, creating an invigorating mood.

The further into the valley, the higher the level of the Spirit Fields.

Unconsciously, the surrounding Spirit Fields had transitioned from Lower Grade Spirit Fields to Middle Grade Spirit Fields and from Middle Grade Spirit Fields to Top Grade Spirit Fields. The level of the Spirit Plants in the field also kept increasing.

Various Spirit Seeds treasures seemed to appear everywhere, ready to be picked up.

Wang Shouzhe felt an invisible pressure. It was worthy of being called the sacred land of the Academic Palace. There were many Spirit Plants he had never seen or heard of before.

In the end...

Following a slippery wall of cliff filled with Spirit Moss, the leading disciple finally stopped in front of a very simple thatched cottage.

"Brother Shouzhe, the Master is waiting for you inside the house, I can't accompany you inside."
The disciple from Changchun Valley bowed and said.

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Not every disciple of Changchun Valley is qualified to honor Master Changchun as their teacher.

Only those who have reached the level of core disciples can be considered true disciples of the Master and have the right to call him 'Teacher'.

"Thank you, Senior Brother."

Wang Shouzhe expressed his thanks, presented a small gift, and then started observing the thatched cottage in front of him carefully.

Compared to the surrounding spiritual plants radiating divine light, this thatched cottage looked ordinary. However, Wang Shouzhe did not dare belittle it.

Because the owner of this thatched cottage was none other than the prestigious Master Changchun.

After adjusting his robe, he respectfully bowed to the cottage and said, "Student Wang Shouzhe of the outside Dao seeks an audience with Master Changchun."

"Creak~"

The humble wooden door opened slowly by itself, with no wind to push it.

A gentle voice came from the thatched cottage: "Come in."

Wang Shouzhe entered as instructed and found the inside of the hut to be quite simple. Aside from a few wooden chairs and tables, there was only a meditation cushion.

Master Changchun still dressed like a rustic old farmer, but there was a scent of vibrant life emanating from him now. His gentle and profound presence naturally made one feel affectionate towards him.

"Shouzhe pays respect to the Master."

Wang Shouzhe immediately stepped forward, showing respect and courtesy.

"Sit~"

Master Changchun nodded at him, his attitude amiable.

Wang Shouzhe sat down as he was told.

"At the critical moment, why did you stand up for Changchun Valley? Don't tell me it has anything to do with honoring the Valley. Are you trying to curry favor with me, Shouzhe?" said Master Changchun. After speaking, he glanced at Wang Shouzhe with a seeming tease, as if trying to read him.

This glance made Wang Shouzhe feel exposed.

An ordinary person would have been suppressed by this kind of power, making it extremely difficult to speak.

But Wang Shouzhe was no ordinary person. He wouldn't say he calculated every step, nor every action he took held some deep meaning.

Yet this time, his intervention was definitely not as simple as it seemed on the surface.

He had also considered his summons this time.

Immediately, he calmly stated, "Honoring the Master, Shouzhe stepped in at the last moment for two reasons. First, to repay your grace for guiding me before, and second, to curry favor with you so that my Wang family can have a backing in the Academic Palace." He was completely honest.

This brutal honesty left Master Changchun a bit startled. Couldn't decide whether to describe this boy as cunning or straightforward.

"I have always disliked fights and won't intervene in worldly affairs. What I despise the most are those like Shouzhe who calculate their deeds," Master Changchun's face took an unhappy turn, "but I also don't like owing people favors. So, take this piece of Ancient Tree Armor and two leaves from the Longevity Tree as a reward for this time."

After speaking, he took out a palm-sized piece of tree bark and two tender green leaves radiating life force. Wang Shouzhe had seen both these items on Li Yuzhe before, so he knew they were valuable items.

Clearly, Master Changchun wanted to make clear that their accounts were settled.

Wang Shouzhe promptly accepted the Ancient Tree Armor and Longevity Tree leaves, then stood up, expressing his gratitude, "Shouzhe thanks the Master for his generosity. If there are no other matters, I'll take my leave."

"Hmm?"

Master Changchun raised his eyebrows, "After I've spoken so harshly towards you, you don't want to explain yourself?"

"The Master has spoken the truth. Shouzhe is indeed someone adept at schemes and calculations. What is there to argue about?" Wang Shouzhe replied with a calm smile, "Master, I will take my leave."

With that, he prepared to leave.

"Wait."

Master Changchun suddenly stopped him.

Looking at Wang Shouzhe, his expression was complicated, and he felt a bit frustrated.

Undoubtedly, he still appreciated this boy very much.

He had scolded him, hoping that he would realize his mistake and find his way back to the path of righteousness.

If he demonstrated remorse, how could I, being the master, refuse to give him another chance to make amends?

Don't you want to grab onto a reliable leg? Why don't you quickly kneel and beg me to be your teacher?

To his surprise, this boy just casually said "this is who I am" and was ready to walk away!

How is a master like me to react to such a situation?

"Master, is there anything else?" Wang Shouzhe's attitude was polite and respectful, yet there was a sense of keeping his distance.

What do you mean 'anything else'?

Didn't I summon you from afar because I had something to say? Am I just wasting time here?

Young man, can't you just go along with the script?

Even though Master Changchun was muttering discontentedly in his heart, he could only continue to feign a concerned face, "Shouzhe, you have a top-grade bloodline talent, right? It appears to be a Yimu bloodline, but it also seems a bit different."

"Honoring the Master," Wang Shouzhe replied respectfully, "I have indeed awakened the threefold bloodline talent, but as to what kind of talent it is, I do not know myself."

Nonsense!

I, the master, already saw that clearly! Moreover, your bloodline is indeed special.

Besides, if you didn't have a threefold bloodline awakening, how could you beat a core disciple of the Carefree Sect?

Master Changchun's expression stiffened slightly; isn't this just descending into awkward small talk again?

Kid, you keep saying you want a mentor, why can't you just kowtow and apprentice to me?

Master Changchun was splenetically muttering in his heart. Having already been rejected once by a prospective core disciple, should he, the venerable master, be begging you to be his disciple?

However, this boy has achieved threefold Bloodline Awakening at his Spiritual Platform Realm, which could be regarded as a Purple Abode seed.

Such a Purple Abode seed is certain to reach the Heavenly Human Realm in the future, and there's a feasible chance to even reach the Purple Abode Realm.

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If it were just the matter of the Purple Abode Seed, that wouldn't be a big deal, as he, Master Changchun, had several under his name already.

However, this boy truly is a rare talent. Compared to his other direct disciples, he is far more formidable.

Oh well.

The Master decided he would go the extra mile to avoid letting a pearl fall into the sea.

After a moment of internal struggle, Master Changchun asked again. "If I take you as my direct disciple, would you be willing to officially join the Academic Palace?"

"Direct disciple..."

Wang Shouzhe sighed softly.

This was undoubtedly a huge temptation.

Once he became a direct disciple of the Purple Abode Academic Palace, not to say that he could act as he pleased in Longzuo County, but at least no one would dare to provoke him recklessly.

Regrettably, as tempting as it was, this path was not the one he intended to walk.

Wang Shouzhe shook his head slowly. "I deeply appreciate your kind intentions, Master. However, as the head of my clan, I bear the expectations of my people and my ancestors."

He rejected him again.

Although Master Changchun had slightly suspected it, it was only when Wang Shouzhe formally refused that he felt a touch of disappointment.

This boy, meticulous and calculating in all matters, firmly turned down a future that was within his grasp.

For a moment, Master Changchun found Wang Shouzhe hard to fathom.

After pondering for a moment, Master Changchun sighed and said, "It is what it is, everyone has their own ambitions, and some things can't be forced. But considering our shared connection, tell me, what is your real purpose?"

"My real purpose..." said Wang Shouzhe seriously, "I came to the Academic Palace to find some backers. I am not seeking to bully others with my position, but to prevent my family from being bullied."

"That's it?" Master Changchun furrowed his brows.

"Indeed, that's it." Wang Shouzhe couldn't help but laugh. "You surely don't think that I came here to build alliances, boost my family's prestige, and then go on to dominate Longzuo County, do you?"

Um...

Guilt flickered in Master Changchun's eyes.

Previously, he was somewhat worried that Wang Shouzhe would get lost in the struggles for power and use the Academic Palace as his pawn.

"What I seek," Wang Shouzhe declared earnestly, "can be summarized in eight words. 'If I am not provoked, I won't provoke.' I simply wish to guide my family into peacefully farming, to do some research and development when free, to create some new types of grain and fruit trees, or to make products that can better the lives of humans.

On this foundation, I strive to secure some cultivation resources for my family."

Master Changchun suddenly became interested, "Like your Wang's Number Seven, as well as those spirit seeds... Right, there are also those skin nourishment products you sold to Green Fern."

"Precisely," Wang Shouzhe smiled, "although these are mere small industries. Compared to the Academic Palace, it's like showing off my sword skills in front of an expert."

"Good."

Master Changchun breathed a sigh of relief. "Such mentality aligns with my Dao. I suppose you pass. The Academic Palace won't get involved in family struggles, but if someone attempts to illegally infringe upon your achievements while you're farming peacefully, you can send me a letter, and I will speak up for you."

Hearing this, Wang Shouzhe secretly rejoiced.

Were all his hard work and planning not for this result?

He did not fear inventing or researching new varieties. What he feared was the covetousness of those mysterious powerful families or forces for his products. He was even more afraid that this could lead to his death.

After all, this was the High Martial World!

If the Academic Palace was backing him, it meant he could be bolder and take bigger steps.

Seeing Wang Shouzhe's jubilant face, Master Changchun felt a sense of satisfaction. It seemed that he had not misjudged the man. Immediately, he relaxed and said, "However, if you want my support, you need to do something for me."

"Master, please give your instruction," Wang Shouzhe responded respectfully.

"Do you know why the Mysterious Ice Palace didn't come to my Changchun Valley this time for a friendly match?" Master Changchun complained. "They probably think we're too weak. Over time, they lost interest..."

"Umm..."

Wang Shouzhe gave him a sympathetic look. It was already quite miserable to be constantly challenged by others. But it was even more miserable when they no longer had any interest in challenging you.

"Ever since I took charge of Changchun Valley, our Changchun school has never walked into the Mysterious Ice Palace for a friendly match," Master Changchun's eyes displayed a hint of resentment. "If you can successfully lead the new disciples to the Mysterious Ice Palace for a friendly match, I will be your strong backing from now on."

As long as you don't get involved in family struggles or provoke trouble yourself, and deal with irresistible enemies coveting your industry, I can mediate."

"Nothing else, but the fact that the Mysterious Ice Palace has not come to my Changchun Valley for two consecutive sessions, that Binglan has looked down on us too much."

Wang Shouzhe laughed to himself internally.

People always say that old children are rebellious, but it turned out that Master Changchun also harbored a small temper.

You were dissatisfied when others came for friendly matches, and even more dissatisfied now that they no longer come.

However, Wang Shouzhe also understood.

After being dominated for hundreds of years, it made sense not to want to miss such an opportunity to vent and regain dignity.

The only thing that worried Wang Shouzhe a little was...

"Kid, are you worried that if you offend the Mysterious Ice Palace, Binglan will take it out on your family member Wang Longyan? Rest assured, Master Binglan is not that kind of person."

As the saying goes, old schemers are sharp. Master Changchun was so elderly that no one could guess his age. He saw through Wang Shouzhe's worry instantly.

"In that case, there's no problem," Wang Shouzhe responded respectfully. "This friendly match at the Mysterious Ice Palace, I will be responsible for."

"Good, very good," Master Changchun chuckled, stroking his beard happily. "However, you have to be ready to leave the Academic Palace as soon as possible after the match, so as not to let Master Binglan bother you."

What?!

Wang Shouzhe's eyes widened. "But Master, didn't you say Master Binglan is not that kind of person?"

"No," Master Changchun calmly replied. "I only said that Binglan is not the kind of person who would vent her anger on others. I didn't say she's the type to let grudges go easily. If you offend her, and she holds a grudge against you, it would be quite normal for her to retaliate."

"Well... Master, can I change my mind?"

"Shouzhe, this Master isn't actually that broad-minded."

"..." Wang Shouzhe.

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Meanwhile.

The Mysterious Ice Palace.

The howling cold wind swept between the snow-covered peaks, where it seemed to continue its course since ancient times, imbuing this palace complex, seemingly carved from ice crystals, with a sense of desolation.

Snowflakes fell from the dense clouds, landing on the eaves and corner tiles as if they were forged from ice and snow, swiftly blending in with the entire architecture.

Looking from afar, a world of whiteness stretched across the horizon, vast and lonely.

Only the fluttering corners of robes among the undulating architecture hinted at some signs of life.

At the heart of this complex, which was positioned at the highest level, stood the Mysterious Ice Pavilion.

This place was famous as the location where Master Binglan of great repute often secluded herself for cultivation practice. Only the core disciples would have the rare chance to be summoned here for some guidance.

Without the summons from her, not even the direct disciples were allowed to enter at will.

Today,

The Mysterious Ice Pavilion seemed a bit different,

The brutal blizzards that usually enveloped its surroundings seemed to have dispersed quite a bit. A strand of golden sunlight managed to pierce through the thick layer of clouds, which illuminated the Mysterious Ice Pavilion, making it gleam brilliantly.

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Outside the Mysterious Ice Palace's main hall.

Besides various functional buildings, the most expansive area belonged to a plaza that resembled ice crystals.

On this plaza, several arenas were built. Among them, the largest and most robust one could even withstand the fighting of Tianren Realm Cultivators without being easily damaged.

Every day, the disciples of the Mysterious Ice Palace came to the arena for practice sessions, verifying each other's progress in the Mysterious Ice Fighting Technique and Cultivation Technique.

This atmosphere of bravery and diligence was naturally quite different from the peaceful idyll found in Changchun Valley.

They were obsessed with cultivating and eager to fight.

Because of this,

The Mysterious Ice Palace's lineage was commonly recognized as the strongest among the Purple Abode's Academic Palace.

Many outstanding young people wanted to join the lineage of the Mysterious Ice Palace, however, the Palace was notoriously restrictive in admitting disciples, always opting for quality over quantity.

Over time, although the number of people in the lineage of the Mysterious Ice Palace was small, it was filled with elites.

Because of this, the disciples of the Mysterious Ice Palace take immense pride in their identity and place high importance on it. This naturally fostered a measure of condescension when interacting with disciples from other lineages and valleys.

In front of an ordinary arena,

An excellent disciple dressed in white was admonishing and assessing the newly admitted disciples, letting them spar against each other.

Although the new disciples this year only amounted to a dozen or so, every single one of them was among the elites of their generation. Each of them had middle-grade talent and had awakened a bloodline.

Among them, one of the most exceptional had achieved the Mid-Rank 'A' Level talent, just one step from reaching the Top Grade.

Such outstanding disciples are bound to become core disciples in the future and could even have the opportunity to be direct disciples.

Although the Mysterious Ice Palace primarily practises the 'Mysterious Ice True Verses', it doesn't necessarily require a Mysterious Ice bloodline to join.

Firstly, the variety of inherent techniques in the Academic Palace is exhaustive.

Secondly, as long as the bloodline does not conflict too much with the Mysterious Ice attribute, practising 'Mysterious Ice True Verses' would still render impressive power.

Even if conflicting bloodlines exist, there would be other cultivation techniques available for practice.

Just like the Old Ancestor, Longyan, who joined the Mysterious Ice lineage, he had an Elemental Water bloodline rather than a Mysterious Ice bloodline.

Among these new disciples, two were familiar faces.

One was a shy young man dressed in white. This was Lady Bilian's younger brother, Yuwen Jianye.

The other, a sixteen or seventeen-year-old youth, who despite his age had an unusually large stature and a body full of muscle, was the eighth generation male from the Wang family, Wang Zongsheng.

Because both were quite familiar with each other, they naturally stood together.

Neither of them had any arrogance in their hearts.

They had no choice; the dozen or so people all had awakened a single bloodline and there was no chance for them to be arrogant.

"Every disciple in our Mysterious Ice Palace lineage values persistence and is always striving for the best." The excellent disciple with a cultivation base that had reached the Spirit Platform Realm sternly admonished, "Anyone who chooses to be lazy and complacent should join the Changchun Valley lineage instead. Understand?"

"Understood!"

The new disciples stood up straight and answered loudly.

"Since you understand, anyone who makes a mistake will be expelled." The excellent disciple admonishes according to the customary rules.

Meanwhile,

Not far away, several elegant young men dressed in white were passing by.

Each of them was handsome and had a powerful aura, like the real dragons among men.

The one leading them appeared to be in his twenties. His face was cold and solemn, surrounded by an icy aura, as if he had become one with the ice and snow, which made him seem unfathomable and awe-inspiring.

The excellent disciple's face brightened when he saw these men, and he exclaimed in a low voice, "It's Ji Mingyu, Senior Brother Mingyu."

Then he saluted from afar, saying, "Greetings, Senior Brother Mingyu."

"Senior Brother Mingyu?"

The new disciples all looked over with curiosity.

Ji Mingyu and his party stopped in their tracks.

A friendly smile appeared on his face, "So it's Junior Brother Kangde. You have a hard job recruiting new disciples. Carry on with your duties. Later, I will bring them to visit the other Palaces."

"Yes, Senior Brother Mingyu." Zhou Kangde saluted excitedly, "I will definitely train them well so they won't embarrass you."

After encouraging them, Ji Mingyu and his party left and headed towards the inside of the Mysterious Ice Palace, gradually moving away.

Zhou Kangde watched them until Ji Mingyu's figure disappeared. Then he turned around, puffed up with pride, and said, "You all heard that it. Keep your act together. Senior Brother Mingyu will be taking you on a tour in a few days. This is a matter of prestige."

Chapter 42: Binglan! Changchun is here to see for himself_2

"Brother Jianye, what does it mean to get some experience?" Wang Zongsheng quietly asked.

His affiliation with the Mysterious Ice Sect wasn't due to his understanding of how powerful it was, but purely because of the name "Old Ancestor Longyan".

"It means to go and show off our strengths in other sects." Yuwen JianYe came from an extraordinary family, which over the centuries had sent many disciples to the Academic Palace, so naturally, he knew about these arrangements.

"Shut up," Zhou Kangde scolded, "It's not your turn to whisper among yourselves when your Senior Brother is speaking. If you make another mistake, I'll punish you without mercy!"

Wang Zongsheng and Yuwen JianYe immediately shut up at the reprimand.

After that, Zhou Kangde continued to instruct the new disciples.

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Meanwhile.

Inside the Mysterious Ice Palace.

Ji Mingyu and his party stopped in their tracks.

A core disciple asked, "Junior Brother Mingyu, could it be that Master has called us to meet because Senior Sister Longyan has returned?"

"Most likely, that's the case," another core disciple said, "Sister Longyan left the Academic Palace sixty years ago due to some issues at home. Over the past few years, Master has mentioned her several times."

"If Sister Longyan returns to the Academic Palace, our Mysterious Ice Sect's strength will increase significantly."

"Yes, when Sister Longyan was dominant all those years ago, I had just become a new disciple, and it was by following her that I gained much of the experience I have now."

The two exchanged words, their eyes filled with anticipation.

However, Ji Mingyu's eyebrows slightly rose.

That Wang Longyan had left the Academic Palace sixty years ago, and he, Ji Mingyu, was only in his forties.

"I heard that Sister Longyan didn't promote to the mid-stage of the Spirit Platform Realm until she was sixty years old, which doesn't seem very impressive," Ji Mingyu's eyes revealed a hint of disdain, "But in as short as three years, or as long as five, I will definitely be able to reach the mid-stage."

The other two older core disciples were taken aback, then laughed: "Junior Brother Mingyu comes from the prestigious Ji Family, a Rank Six Prominent Family, of course, you would be more powerful than Sister Longyan."

As the group was talking, they passed the guards and headed toward the Mysterious Ice Tower.

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Meanwhile, inside the Mysterious Ice Tower.

A woman in palace attire sat high on the main seat.

She wore a white jade crown on her head, its color pure and unblemished.

Yet, even with the snow-like white jade as a backdrop, her skin was still as crystal clear as jade, making it hard to distinguish whether the jade was whiter or her skin fairer.

Her icy blue robe wrapped around her exquisite figure, bringing out a temperament as cold as a snow peak yet as elegant as a snowflake.

This woman in palace attire was naturally the hostess here, Master Binglan.

Behind her on the wall, a crystal longsword was horizontally inserted into its sheath.

This was her saber, BingLan, forged from Ice Soul and the spiritual energy of endless snow mountains, filled with a chilling sword intent and radiating endless cold.

Because of this Binglan sword's presence, an invisible killing intent pervaded the entire Mysterious Ice Tower.

It could be inferred, once this sword is unsheathed, its blade would be unmatched.

Old Ancestor Longyan, in a skirt of mysterious ice silk and wearing a veil, was sitting at a lower position in front of Master Binglan.

Her white, icy hair spread over her shoulders, different from the young girl of years ago, it now showed a mature and serene temperament, even carrying some traces of worldly wisdom.

Back home, Longyan frequently dyed her hair black.

But for this trip to the Academic Palace, Wang Shouzhe had repeatedly instructed her to expose her white hair, especially when meeting Master Binglan, she couldn't dye her hair.

Given Old Ancestor Longyan's stature, temperament, and charm, her silver-white hair seemed to add a divine touch to her allure.

Sitting across from Old Ancestor Longyan was a handsome young man with an aura as deep as a lake and as tall as a mountain. His formidable cultivation base clearly set him apart from ordinary people.

This man was Fang Youan, one of Master Binglan's direct disciples, the one who had previously talked with her.

That icy white hair had naturally caught Master Binglan's attention.

She stared at it for a good while before finally asking, "Longyan, what happened to make your hair white?"

Old Ancestor Longyan replied calmly, "Master, for about fifty years, I've been resisting the Yinsha poison, and my hair turned white unknowingly."

Though her tone was calm, the content of her words made both Master Binglan and Fang Youan look at her in surprise.

Fifty years, relentlessly resisting Yinsha's poison. The torment and suffering are enough to make one's skin crawl just thinking about it.

They could hardly imagine how hard these years must have been for Wang Longyan.

Fang Youan's face didn't change, a flash of severity crossed his eyes, then he instantly returned to his easygoing demeanor, "In the future, if I encounter disciples from the Yinsha Sect, I will kill a few more on your behalf to vent your anger."

His actual age was much older than that of Longyan, practically watching her grow up. If not for the rules of the Academic Palace, he would have helped her long ago.

"Thank you, Senior Brother Yu An." The tone of Longyan was plain, as if devoid of joy or sorrow.

"Humph!" A killing intent flashed in Master Binglan's eyes. "My disciple Longyan has been struggling with the poison of Yinsha for fifty years, only reluctantly absorbing the Yinsha's poison when there was no other choice. If anyone dares to say anything more, don't blame me, Binglan, for not showing mercy."

"Master, I believe that even though Junior Sister Longyan has suffered this great calamity, it has honed her heart, leading to a late blooming but increased potential," Fang Youan comforted. "She may even have the opportunity to advance towards the Purple Abode Realm."

As they were talking...

A young man's voice suddenly came from outside the Mysterious Ice Palace, "Core Disciple Ji Mingyu is here, paying respects to Master."

The severe expression on Master Binglan's face softened slightly.

"Come in."

As she spoke, Master Binglan turned to Longyan and spoke with a pleasant expression, "Mingyu is a recent core disciple I have taken in. He is not any worse than you were."

Then...

Ji Mingyu and the others entered, they paid their respects and exchanged pleasantries.

In particular, Ji Mingyu displayed a refined demeanor, praising Longyan with a bow of his hand and addresses her as 'senior sister', rather affectionately.

However, a hint of disdain flashed in his eyes.

Wang Longyan was already over a hundred years old and had just barely entered the Advanced Stage of the Spirit Platform Realm. Her talent was just ordinary.

As for him, Ji Mingyu, he was confident that he would reach the Advanced Stage of the Spirit Platform Realm by ninety at the very latest!

By his one hundred and twenty, he would already be plotting to challenge the Heavenly Human Realm.

His greatest worry was whether Wang Longyan's return to the sect would impact his future progression to become a Direct Disciple.

Even though they were all Master's Disciples, there was a huge difference between being a Direct Disciple and a Core Disciple, in terms of status and resources accessible.

...

"Mingyu." After becoming somewhat familiar with them, Master Binglan advised, "The traditions of the Academic Palace are not to be overlooked, so I deliberately postponed them for a day. Tomorrow, you will lead the new disciples to visit all the peaks and valleys for experience."

"Yes, Master."

Ji Mingyu was invigorated, thinking to himself, it seemed like Master valued him more.

However, Master Binglan immediately added, "Longyan, you will go along with them tomorrow. You don't have to do anything, just show your face and greet the masters of the peaks and veins, making it known that Wang Longyan is returning to the clan."

"Yes, Master."

Longyan respectfully took her orders.

The smile on Ji Mingyu's face faltered for a moment, understanding instantly why Master had postponed the traditional event for a day. It turned out it was to pave the way for Wang Longyan.

Could it be that the Master was considering taking her as a Direct Disciple?

A sudden surge of anger arose in his heart. Why?

At this moment...

From the sky outside the Mysterious Ice Palace, a hearty laughter of an elderly man echoed, "Is Master Binglan in? I, Changchun, have come with the new disciples to gain some experience from your esteemed palace." His voice sounded calm, but he couldn't hide his triumph.

What? Changchun Valley is coming to our Mysterious Ice Palace for experience?

There were only six people in the Mysterious Ice Palace, but all of them looked at each other with strange expressions. Did they hear wrong?

Longyan was also surprised.

When she was a core disciple in the Mysterious Ice Palace, she used to lead teams to Changchun Valley for experience. How was it possible that only sixty years passed and the situation was reversed?

Could it be that this Junior Brother Mingyu was not up to par?

Longyan looked at Ji Mingyu doubtfully.

Ji Mingyu was naturally shocked. Facing Wang Longyan's gaze, he felt inexplicably wronged.

Chapter 43 Can I Still Change My Mind?_1

...

The atmosphere inside the Mysterious Ice Palace abruptly turned bizarre.

After quite a pause, a fierce look gradually replaced the shocked expression in Master Binglan's eyes.

Immediately, she laughed out of rage, saying, "Very well! Since when could Changchun Valley come to my Mysterious Ice Palace for a tour?"

"Master, please calm your anger," Fang Youan hastily stood up and said, "There might be a misunderstanding here. Allow me to look into it."

"No need." Master Binglan waved her sleeve and the anger or "amusement" in her eyes was quickly restrained. She looked utterly serene. "Since Changchun arrives as per the rules, my Mysterious Ice Palace can't lack etiquette. I want to see what Changchun truly intends."

The several disciples in the Mysterious Ice Palace had been following Master Binglan for at least several decades and understood her character very well.

Seeing her reaction, they all sighed inwardly.

This just escalated!

Especially, Fang Youan was deep in thought. Oh, Master Changchun, why would you leave Changchun Valley to provoke my Master?

Don't you know how tempestuous she can be... sigh?

Meanwhile.

Outside the Mysterious Ice Palace.

All of the Mysterious Ice Palace disciples stood frozen on the spot.

Obviously, Master Changchun's visit had exceeded everyone's imaginations, and it felt incredibly unbelievable.

Especially the new disciples looked at each other in disbelief, having no idea of what was happening.

"Brother Jianye," Wang Zongsheng asked in a faint voice, "Is the so-called visit to our Mysterious Ice Palace, the one you just mentioned?"

Yuwen Jianye answered quietly, "Unless there's an unexpected event, I'm afraid so."

"Didn't Senior Brother DeAn mention that he was taking us to the other branches for a visit?" Wang Zongsheng asked in confusion, "How did we become the object of the visit?"

"Perhaps they think we are weak," Yuwen Jianye speculated.

"Both of you shut up," Kang Dean reprimanded, appearing somewhat irritated. More than that, he was somewhat panicked as the visit from Changchun Valley was unprecedented, and he had no idea how to handle the situation.

On the Mysterious Ice Palace's square, many disciples busy cultivating their Profound Martial Fighting Techniques were engrossed in animated discussions too.

The whole square seemed to have descended into chaos.

Right at this moment.

A majestic male voice echoed from the sky: "Calm yourselves."

All the disciples of the Mysterious Ice Palace seemed as if they had been jolted awake and excitement flickered in their eyes.

"It's Senior Brother YouAn."

"Senior Brother YouAn is a legendary figure in the Mysterious Ice Palace, one of the direct disciples, and is said to have ascended to the Heavenly Human Realm long ago."

Apparently, his status and prestige were extremely high, and the chaotic situation was immediately brought under control.

Out from the Mysterious Ice Palace, a white figure emerged into the open air.

He walked on air, each step taking him to a distance of a dozen or so feet, and in a blink of an eye, he appeared above the square of the Mysterious Ice Palace.

That would be Fang Youan.

Dressed in a white robe with a longsword on his back, he seemed handsome and imposing. With a gentle yet dignified demeanor, he hung in the air as if an immortal had descended.

He's a Heavenly Human!

Among the newly admitted disciples, everyone who was looking at the man in the sky had a certain zeal and admiration in their eyes.

This is, after all, the Heavenly Human Realm. Compared to the lofty Purple Abode Realm, the Heavenly Human Realm was more relatable. Some 7th-rank Aristocratic Families even had Heavenly Humans that ruled over them.

Among these newly admitted disciples, there were those from 7th-rank Aristocratic Families, as well as those from Rank-Six Aristocratic Families. The standing of a Heavenly Human in their minds was comparable to that of a god.

Meanwhile, a gentle voice from Fang Youan resonated in the sky: "Master Changchun's visit is most welcome! Under Master's orders, I invite you here."

No sooner had Fang Youan finished speaking.

The thick cloud layer doubled with a flurry of snow in the sky.

A green light suddenly appeared, shattering the dense cloud layer. It was moving back and forth in the sky, like a beautiful, billowing ribbon. Wherever it went, the black clouds parted and the flurry of snow melted.

The entire spectacle was truly grand.

The green light moved extremely quickly, and within a matter of breaths, it arrived above the Mysterious Ice Palace square. The light spread out, illuminating the icy Mysterious Ice Palace, presenting a mesmerizing green hue, creating a unique visual effect.

Master Changchun was standing on top of the light. His face glowing red, with white hair fluttering, appeared like an aged but immortal Daoist.

The moment this scene was unveiled.

Everyone in the Mysterious Ice Palace held their breath, and silence prevailed. They all seemed afraid of disturbing the Master.

If the Heavenly Human Realm needed everyone to look up with reverence, the Purple Abode being was the existence of a legend. The disciples from numerous families in Longzuo County might not even have the chance of meeting a Purple Abode being in their lifetime.

"Oh, isn't this YouAn? How did he ascend to the Heavenly Human Realm so quickly?" Master Changchun asked with a warm smile.

Fang Youan responded with extreme respect despite sweating profusely: "Master, you're jesting. It's been more than fifty years since I ascended to the Heavenly Human Realm."

"Ah, seeing our young heroes of the Purple Abode Academic Palace grow and thrive brings me great joy," Master Changchun stroked his long white beard, full of emotion. "Thinking back to your youth, when you visited our Changchun Valley, that spirited scene is still fresh in my eyes. Even now, when I think back, I can't help but sigh."

Floating in the sky, Fang Youan was breaking into a cold sweat but he had to hide his exasperation and laugh: "Master, you have quite the memory."

Chapter 43: Is It Too Late To Change My Doors And Hallways? _2

Amid the jade light, Wang Shouzhe found himself laughing quietly.

Master Changchun certainly wasn't boasting when he said he held grudges — he did remember things from over a hundred years ago perfectly clear.

The common saying was that Master Changchun, of the Academic Palace, was the most mild-tempered and disliked conflicts, being naturally quiet and peaceful.

It seemed the rumors were just that: rumors. This so-called peaceful temperament, desireless and uncompetitive, must be the result of not being able to defeat others, right?

He vehemently criticized Master Binglan for being vindictive, but his own attitude was not much better.

Wang Shouzhe found himself sighing, rumors were indeed not always trustworthy!

"Changchun, stop showing off your power in my Mysterious Ice Palace."

A cold and dignified female voice suddenly echoed in the sky above the Mysterious Ice Palace. Then, an overwhelming blizzard swept in. Master Binglan stood in its midst, intimidating as the embodiment of ice and snow.

The moment she appeared, her sharp gaze fastened onto Master Changchun, "Changchun, did you swallow a gallbladder of a lion? Dare to make trouble in my Mysterious Ice Palace! Whatever tricks you have, bring it on. I, Binglan, will accept it all."

"Binglan, younger sister, your temper is still as hasty as before." Master Changchun chuckled, "I am a rare guest at your Mysterious Ice Palace, don't rush. Come, let's taste this Spiritual Tea -

Changchun Spiritual Tea that I personally cultivated. Regular consumption of this tea can help delay aging and calm one's mind."

As he spoke, he waved his hand and furniture appeared in mid-air. Then, he started making tea methodically.

He learned this move from Master Xuanyao actually, which he found quite chic, so he decided to use it himself.

"Very well." Master Binglan suppressed her anger and sneered, "Today, I want to see what tricks you can pull off."

Changchun Spiritual Tea was indeed a good thing. It was treasured by Master Changchun and rarely shared. Even Master Binglan did not want to miss such an opportunity.

Thereafter, both masters sat down in mid-air and began drinking the Spiritual Tea.

Disciples from all over the Mysterious Ice Palace gathered in the square.

Longyan, the Old Ancestor, and Ji Mingyu also came down from the Mysterious Ice Tower.

Their faces bore complex and solemn expressions.

They all realized that the visitor meant trouble and wasn't here for a friendly visit. Master Changchun must have had something up his sleeve to dare to cause trouble today.

After taking two sips of the Spiritual Tea, Master Binglan could no longer hold back, "Changchun, the tea has been drunk, can you now show what tricks you have?"

"There are no tricks, just the usual practice of bringing new disciples to the Mysterious Ice Palace for an experience." Master Changchun stroked his beard, looking cut from fairy-tale cloth, "Since Binglan, my younger sister, is a bit impatient, I'll let my disciples come out to meet everyone."

As he waved his sleeve, the jade light floating in the sky slowly descended to the ground.

First, a group of new disciples stepped out. They were all greenhorn rookies, curious and looking in all directions.

Then a group of older disciples stepped out.

And then another group of older disciples.

And then...

And then...

In the expanse of jade light, more than two hundred disciples emerged one after another.

"So this is the Mysterious Ice Palace. Why is there only one color?"

"This place is so cold. How do disciples of the Mysterious Ice Palace survive?"

"There are blizzards everywhere, the atmosphere is so oppressive."

"Senior brother, I'm scared." "Don't be scared, don't be scared. This Mysterious Ice Palace is also part of our Academic Palace, it's not a den of tigers and dragons."

The more than two hundred disciples had never been to the Mysterious Ice Palace before. They were immediately engulfed by the sight.

The thick clouds in the sky, the pervasive wind and snow, made it seem like a scene from the far North.

For they who had been living in the sunny and vibrant Changchun Valley and had no opportunity to visit other places, such an icy and snowy place in the Academic Palace was unimaginable.

They invariably sighed, marveled and muttered various strange comments.

This grand scene left the disciples of the Mysterious Ice Palace in awe.

Master Binglan's gaze grew colder and colder.

Her voice squeezed out through clenched teeth, "Changchun, with so many people, have you come to visit or attack my Mysterious Ice Palace?"

Nevertheless, apprehension budded within her. The older Master Changchun got, the deeper his unfathomable cultivation base moved on, and his divine skill "Spring Radiance" became more formidable. It could even carry over two hundred people in flight.

Speaking of "Spring Radiance", it was Master Changchun's meticulously crafted divine skill. It was not only capable of defense and flight but could also continuously heal anyone within it, accelerating their recovery of vital energy and strength.

Truly, an unbeatable skill for group combat.

Unfortunately, as a group combat technique, its power falls short in one-on-one combat.

"Calm yourself, Junior Sister Binglan," Master Changchun advised, sipped his Spiritual Tea leisurely, his smile growing warmer. "To be honest, it is our fault for not being strong enough. These disciples haven't been to the Mysterious Ice Palace before. On such an occasion, let the children learn something new. Do forgive us, Junior Sister."

His words made it sound as if Mysterious Ice Palace had done something wrong.

Should his weakness be others' burden?

Master Binglan felt a rush of anger at his words. Her eyes flashed fiercely as she retorted, "So, you are suggesting you have gained enough strength now?"

"Who's to say what is enough?" Master Changchun replied humbly. "We do have a disciple who has managed to grasp a smattering of skills. I thought he could pay his respects to Junior Sister Binglan, and perhaps learn something from the senior brothers of the Mysterious Ice Palace on the way."

"Good, very good."

His smug demeanor forced Master Binglan to reign in her almost overwhelming violent impulses. She replied with a cold, sarcastic laugh, "I'm quite looking forward to meeting this brilliant, glamorous disciple who inspires such confidence in you."

With her declaration, all attention was now drawn to this matter.

Even Fang Youan, Longyan, Old Ancestor Ji Mingyu, and others looked over with curious and serious looks in their eyes. A disciple valued so highly by Master Changchun was surely not to be underestimated.

"My precious disciple, come out and introduce yourself to everyone," commanded Master Changchun.

Amidst the focused gazes of the crowd,

From within the green radiance, a man stepped forth. His hands were behind his back as he proudly strode out into view.

He appeared to be around forty or fifty, with a slightly wretched countenance.

Is this him?

The people of the Mysterious Ice Palace were all momentarily stunned. Was this serious? Not only was his appearance unimpressive, but he also emanated a barely-concealable, disreputable aura, hardly matching the air of a proud elite.

Even Master Binglan showed a flicker of doubt in her beautiful eyes. This was Changchun's chosen one?

"Isn't this Senior Brother Jinshan of Changchun Valley?"

Finally, someone recognized him.

Senior Brother Jinshan did not respond to the crowd but paid his respects to the sunrise, saying reverently, "Please come forth, Senior Brother Shouzhe."

Then, over two hundred disciples from Changchun Valley shouted in unison, "Please come forth, Senior Brother Shouzhe." The earth-shattering thunderous echo seemed to scatter many clouds in the sky overhead.

The people of the Mysterious Ice Palace were taken by surprise.

Then Wang Shouzhe slowly stepped forth, his face slightly flushed. This embarrassing introduction was not his idea, of course.

It was Senior Brother Jinshan who had suggested this grand entrance to Master Changchun. After considerable deliberation and adjustments by Master Changchun, it was finally approved.

In their words,

This being Changchun Valley's first visit to the Mysterious Ice Palace, they must get the etiquette right, maintaining their elegant style.

Then Wang Shouzhe, following Master Changchun's plan, paid his respects toward the sky, loudly announcing, "I, Wang Shouzhe, a disciple of the Changchun lineage, pay respects to Master Binglan."

By now, Old Ancestor Longyan's eyes had glazed over. This... hadn't Shouzhe said he would keep a low profile for this trip to the Academic Palace?

While Master Binglan was caught in a moment of pause, considering the young man was not bad-looking, but wondered...

Before she could finish her thought,

A robust young boy from the new disciples of Mysterious Ice Palace jumped up excitedly, shouting, "Fourth Uncle, it's you! It's me, Zongsheng."

Suddenly, the gazes of countless Mysterious Ice Palace disciples bore into him, as though they wanted to kill him right there.

Once Wang Zongsheng had time to react, he felt as if he had fallen into an ice pit.

Uh...

Would it be too late for me to switch clans now?

Chapter 44: Tricking the Master! I'm a professional

...

Wang Zongsheng hurriedly retracted his neck, forcing a few awkward laughs towards his fellow apprentices around him: "Heh Heh~ I mistook him for someone else, mistook him for someone else."

However, internally, he was groaning ceaselessly.

Fourth Uncle, oh Fourth Uncle, can you not pit me like this? I have just joined the Mysterious Ice Palace lineage, and here you are coming to challenge it. How am I supposed to continue to get by?

Fortunately, everyone's attention was not on Wang Zongsheng at this time, allowing him to slip through unnoticed.

In the sky, Master Changchun was stroking his beard, and the more he looked at Wang Shouzhe, the more he liked him: "Sister Binglan, what do you think of this new disciple of mine?"

Pride was evident in his tone, one he could not hide.

The gaze of Master Binglan was as cold as ice: "He's not bad looking, and he has reached the Spirit Platform Realm at such a young age. That's far more than you achieved at his age, it just remains to be seen how capable he really is. However, for him to have pleased you so much, it seems this boy does possess some skill. Hmph~ I will wait and see."

"Ha ha~ Sister Binglan, you'll see after watching." Master Changchun said with a hint of complacency, "I believe he will surely surprise you today."

He knew that his sister Binglan had always had an eye for appearances. The core disciples and direct disciples she accepted were all pretty good-looking.

Master Binglan, sipping her Spiritual Tea, didn't bother to entertain him anymore.

She turned to Fang Youan and said, "Youan, you arrange it."

"Yes, Master."

Fang Youan responded respectfully, and then scanned the disciples of the Mysterious Ice Palace. He asked in a gentle voice, "Who is in charge of recruiting new disciples this time? Have you found any outstanding talents?"

Zhou Kangde stepped forward immediately, his voice trembling slightly with excitement, "Reporting to Brother Youan, I was the one recruiting new disciples this time. I have recruited fourteen new disciples, all of them have a level one bloodline awakening and their talents are middle-grade. Among them, there is one who has a middle-grade, grade A Mysterious Ice bloodline.

Brother Yun Hao, won't you come out and meet Brother Youan?"

A young man in his twenties, dressed in brocade Xuanwu attire with dark patterns, looking brave and handsome, stepped out with a composed demeanor. He bowed and said, "My name is Jiang Yunhao, I pay my respects to the two Masters and my senior brothers."

This young man had an extraordinary demeanor.

Despite facing such a grand occasion, he showed no fear. Most likely, he came from a prestigious background.

A middle-grade, grade A talent is quite rare, let alone the Mysterious Ice bloodline.

Even in the Mysterious Ice Palace, disciples of this level are quite rare. Even the famous Old Ancestor Longyan had only a middle-grade Class C Primordial Water bloodline when she first joined the Mysterious Ice Palace.

It was only before she advanced to the Spirit Platform Realm that she went through a bloodline metamorphosis brought about by the Primary Bloodline Improvement Fluid to attain a middle-grade, grade A Mysterious Ice bloodline.

Ji Mingyu, who's well-known today, and the pillar of the younger generation in the Mysterious Ice Palace, also has a middle-grade, grade A Mysterious Ice bloodline.

Because of this, the senior members of the Mysterious Ice Palace regarded Jiang Yunhao with a little more seriousness.

If this lad stays on the right trajectory, diligently works hard on his cultivation, he should be on a par with Ji Mingyu in the future. With proper nurturing, the Heavenly Human Realm will be well within his reach.

Such a person might appear once in forty to fifty years.

The gaze of Master Binglan instantly softened and became slightly gratified.

The Mysterious Ice Palace had good luck this time.

The only problem lay in the fact that this young man was about twenty years old, and his cultivation base had barely reached the middle segment of Level Nine in the Qi Refinement Realm.

On the other hand, that boy called Wang Shouzhe, who was noticeably several years older and had already reached the early stage of Spirit Platform Realm, was likely far beyond Jiang Yunhao's reach.

At once, a faint movement occurred on Master Binglan's lips, shielded by her veil.

Her direct disciple Fang Youan immediately got the message and smiled gracefully: "Brother Yun Hao is impressive indeed, let's have tea together in a couple of days."

Then Fang Youan added: "Today, the Changchun Valley comes to our Mysterious Ice Palace to witness our strength. As the hosts, we should naturally offer good hospitality. Is there any

outstanding disciple who is willing to step forward and greet the little brother from Changchun Valley?"

His underlying meaning was clear - Brother Yun Hao might not be on par with the other party, best not go up and embarrass himself.

However, before any better disciples could respond, a change came over the face of handsome Jiang Yunhao.

He took a step forward and said, "Brother Youan, I am willing to fight."

This was a good opportunity to make himself known in front of the two Masters and his senior brothers. He didn't want to miss it.

"This..."

Fang Youan's brows slightly furrowed.

Jiang Yunhao said again, "Rest assured, Brother Youan. Since childhood, I have been diligent and trained hard, I have my own serendipitous encounters. I have challenged those in the Spirit Platform Realm and remained undefeated. Even if I can't beat that older brother from Changchun Valley, I won't embarrass them."

Seeing his full confidence, Fang Youan thought for a moment before nodding: "If that's the case, Brother Yun Hao, go ahead and experience the capabilities of the brother from Changchun Valley. Do not fear losing - after all, the age difference is there."

"Yes, Brother."

Jiang Yunhao's spirit lifted, and he was the first to jump onto the stage. Standing neither too humble nor too arrogant, he bowed to Wang Shouzhe and said, "I am Jiang Yunhao, I seek your guidance, Brother."

Wang Shouzhe was speechless.

Originally, he wanted to get this over with as quickly as possible. He and Master Changchun had already discussed only having one fight.

How can he find the spirit to fight with a young Sky Pride who is six or seven years younger than him?

Just as he was about to decline, suddenly, a strong spiritual sense enveloped him.

He only heard Master Changchun's voice ring in his ear, "Kid, have one more fight, it will make your master happier for a while longer."

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"This..."

Wang Shouzhe slightly furrowed his eyebrows.

"I have created a small space with my spiritual sense. You can speak freely, others won't hear you." Master Changchun's voice rings again.

Master Binglan frowns and casts a strange look at Master Changchun.

Did his words imply that she does not exist?

However, she did not stop him. She also wanted to hear what that kid would say.

"Master, we agreed to fight only once," Wang Shouzhe said, "I need to save some energy for the stronger opponents afterward."

"If you fight an extra match, I'll give you three qian of my Changchun Spiritual Tea," Master Changchun baited directly, "Your opponent is just at the Qi Refinement stage, it won't exhaust you."

"One liang."

Wang Shouzhe of course knew that Changchun Spiritual Tea was a treasure, thus he quoted a high price without hesitation.

"One liang! Do you think my Changchun Spiritual Tea is some wild spirit tea seed?" Master Changchun frowned, "At most five qian!"

"Five qian is too little," Wang Shouzhe shook his head, "This opponent is a mid-rank Grade A. At least eight qian or Master can ask other disciples to fight."

Other disciple?

What a joke! Are they seeking humiliation? Among the youngsters of Changchun Valley, besides Wang Shouzhe, who can have a fair fight against a mid-rank Grade A Little Sky Pride? They surely cannot send a thirty-year-old disciple to be humiliated, right?

"Eight qian it is," Master Changchun grinds his teeth, suffering from the price, "but you have to fight well and show the strength of our Changchun Valley."

Master Binglan on the side listened and her eyebrows furrowed even more, followed by a cold sneer in her heart.

This old and young duo were really good players. Did they really think her Mysterious Ice Palace is easy to deal with? Bargaining like this, did they really think Mysterious Ice Palace was hopeless? Wait and see,

Eight qian Changchun Spiritual Tea. They have profited.

But Wang Shouzhe was oblivious to Master Binglan watching from the side. Happy from getting an advantage, his unwillingness naturally disappeared.

He calmly walked onto the ring and bowed to Jiang Yunhao, "Junior Brother Yun Hao, I am much older than you, it is not honorable even if I win. Let's end this fight here, you can step down."

Unexpectedly, Jiang Yunhao sneered in response, "Senior Brother, you should take care of yourself first. If you were defeated by me, it would be quite humiliating."

Well~good intentions are taken for granted~

With a sigh in his heart, Wang Shouzhe still appeared composed and graceful, "Then please make the first move, Junior Brother."

"Fine!"

Jiang Yunhao did not decline and immediately pulled out his Ice Iron Cold Sword. With his movement technique, he was attacking Wang Shouzhe.

His movement skills were solid, quick as lightning, and his swordsmanship was remarkable. The sword moves flowed like water and were as fast as the wind.

Enhanced by his powerful Mysterious Ice bloodline, it created falling ice crystals around him, as if forming a cold ice field, making the surrounding air chilled.

Don't underestimate this cold ice field. The gap between experts is often subtle. Once affected by the field, if their movement slows even a moment, it's a loss.

This young man is extraordinary in his strength, it seems that he is just half a step behind Wang Luoqiu and Wang Luo Jing, the Sky Prides.

Unsurprisingly, he was so bold.

However, his opponent was Wang Shouzhe. Now even a combined effort from Fifth Sister and Sixth Sister can hardly measure his deep cultivation.

Not to mention, Jiang Yunhao, the Little Sky Pride.

Wang Shouzhe just moved a little, then drifted away like a leaf in the wind, rendering his opponent's all sword moves fruitless.

"Hmph~ Putting on grand airs."

Jiang Yunhao looked cold, he intensified his attacks and the movements of his sword became fiercer.

Wang Shouzhe, from start to end, just moved freely on the ring with hands clasped behind the back. He was like a leaf in a storm, elusive.

Jiang Yunhao's relentless attacks were like a storm, but none of them landed on Wang Shouzhe.

He had indeed underestimated Wang Shouzhe.

Regardless of his previous life or after the transmigration, he had always been diligent in his cultivation, especially in honing the basics like Profound Martial fighting technique and movement skills, consistently for many years.

He always understood that no matter how good his talent was, he had to stay grounded and make steady progress.

"How is this possible?"

Jiang Yunhao's face turned exceedingly ugly.

He had also fought against realm cultivators in his clan before, and he thought he could match with them, but he didn't understand how Wang Shouzhe turned out to be so formidable.

His original plan was just to engage and delay, the longer the better, and reveal Wang Shouzhe's cards as much as possible.

But now, Wang Shouzhe's elusive movement technique made him feel like he was being toyed with.

"Junior Brother Yun Hao's basic skills are not bad." Wang Shouzhe praised, "When you reach the Spiritual Platform Realm, you will definitely become a master."

His words made Jiang Yunhao want to fade into the ground.

He was so embarrassed and angered that he quickened his attacks again.

No matter how he attacked, regardless of any tricks he used. Wang Shouzhe did not take action, merely used his movement technique to play tricks around him.

Time was trickling away, Jiang Yunhao who was only at the Qi Refinement stage, was gradually getting exhausted.

In contrast, Wang Shouzhe remained at ease. He leisurely roamed around the ring without a change in his complexion.

Fang Youan narrowed his eyes slightly as well.

He had initially thought that this junior brother Jiang Yunhao could at least put up a decent fight even if he were to lose. He should have been able to reveal some of the opponent's cards, but unexpectedly, the opponent was just toying with him with mere use of his movement technique.

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"Alright then, brother Yun Hao, it's time to admit defeat and step down," Fang Youan loudly proposed.

Continuing the fight would only result in being worn out.

The disciples of Changchun Valley are best known for their enduring fighting style, once given an opportunity, they can wear you down to the end of time.

Fighting further would be meaningless.

Jiang Yunhao reluctantly stepped down, clearly unhappy. He sheathed his sword and said with a face full of shame, "I admit defeat. My senior brother is truly impressive."

As he conceded, he couldn't help but feel a chill in his heart.

Indeed, the Purple Abode Academic Palace was full of hidden talents, incomparable to his small Guard City.

"You're too kind," Wang Shouzhe responded with a grin, "I'm merely a few years older than Brother Yun Hao. When you reach my age, you may not be inferior to me."

He was a mature adult.

He came to the Academic Palace to expand his network, not to make more enemies, so he naturally had to save face for others.

Indeed, upon hearing his words, Jiang Yunhao's expression eased significantly. His admiration for Wang Shouzhe increased greatly.

Consequently, Jiang Yunhao also put away his pride, and willingly admitted, "Senior Brother Shouzhe is magnanimous! If I have the chance in the future, I will learn more from you."

With that, he willingly jumped off the stage.

An event that initially seemed to breed hostility was easily turned around by Wang Shouzhe, who also planted the seeds for a future friendship.

This junior is not simple.

Fang Youan praised him inwardly, but on the surface, he still wore a smile. He loudly announced, "Junior Brother Shouzhe is extraordinary. Does any other excellent disciple from the Mysterious Ice Palace wish to spar?"

A few excellent disciples in their thirties and forties immediately volunteered, "I'll go," "Let me spar."

This was the fighting spirit of the disciples of the Mysterious Ice Palace.

Even though Wang Shouzhe was extremely strong, they were not fearful. On the contrary, it roused their competitive spirit.

"Everyone!" Ji Mingyu called out, "I see that Brother Shouzhe is powerful and has the potential of a Sky Pride. I can't help but challenge him. Would the rest of you brothers grant me this opportunity?"

Upon hearing that Ji Mingyu wanted to fight, those disciples who had just clamored to participate quickly stepped aside.

With Ji Mingyu taking action, Wang Shouzhe was bound to lose!

"Ji Mingyu."

Seeing him step forward, Wang Shouzhe murmured to himself.

Although he had expected this scene, he secretly made a gesture toward the sky.

Master Changchun understood and immediately employed his formidable spiritual sense to envelop them both, asking, "Boy, what's up now?"

"I've heard of this Ji Mingyu," Wang Shouzhe frowned, revealing a troubled expression, "His power is no ordinary matter, I fear I am not his opponent."

"Boy, how can you falter at such a critical moment? At least fight a just battle before you withdraw,"

Master Changchun was having a good time, but hearing that Wang Shouzhe wanted to withdraw, he felt somewhat uncomfortable. Although he also knew that Ji Mingyu was indeed powerful, and Shouzhe was likely no match for him.

"Master, I can't help it," Wang Shouzhe sighed "helplessly", "I heard that he possesses a superior middle-grade Mysterious Ice Bloodline. He is also twenty years older than me, and his cultivation is nearly the mid-stage of the Spirit Platform Realm. If I don't fight desperately, the odds of victory are slim."

"What?" Master Changchun, as well as Master Binglan who was eavesdropping, were taken aback.

Did this boy just suggest that he could potentially win if he fought desperately?

Master Binglan was the first to laugh out of rage, his voice echoed in the small space created by Master Changchun's Spiritual Sense, "You cheeky boy, are you bragging too much? Are you saying my disciple Ji Mingyu is a nobody that can be easily beat?"

"Well... Master Binglan," in a hushed voice, Wang Shouzhe explained, "what I meant was, I might stand a chance if I fight desperately."

Isn't that the same thing?

Master Binglan was a bit irritated and snorted coldly.

"Good, good, good," Master Changchun said in delight, "Boy, let's win this fight decisively and give Master Binglan something to watch."

"No, the price to pay is too big," Wang Shouzhe shook his head.

"Price, you say? Alright then, I will compensate you for it," Master Changchun declared boldly, "As long as you win, I will give you five leaves from the Longevity Tree."

These leaves of the Longevity Tree are precious items. Even a single leaf has a significant effect during a fight. If given to a severely injured person, it can speed up their recovery.

This is a treasure that money can't buy.

Hearing this, Master Binglan's eyebrows twitched. He thought, Old Changchun, to beat me you're willing to pay a hefty price.

However, Wang Shouzhe shook his head again, "I don't need the leaves from the Longevity Tree, and I'm also good at healing. Those leaves would be of little use to me."

"Then what do you want? As long as I can afford it, no problem." Master Changchun appeared desperate.

"Since you are sincere, Master," Wang Shouzhe finally said contentedly, "Give me a Longevity Fruit. I will give you a satisfactory result in this battle."

"Longevity Fruit!" exclaimed Master Changchun. "You, you... How did you know I have a Longevity Fruit? Did that girl Green Fern tell you?"

"Master, I was just casually asking. Who would have thought you'd actually have one?" replied Wang Shouzhe nonchalantly, "To win this battle, I have to pay quite a price. I will need the compensation of the Longevity Fruit."

Chapter 44: Tricking the Master! I'm a Professional

"Changchun! You've been hiding a Longevity Fruit from me?" Master Binglan's voice was filled with some anger. "I requested it a few days ago. How did you respond to me?"

"Well, this... I got this one with great difficulty." Master Changchun's voice was full of helplessness. "The Longevity Tree only grows on top-tier Wood Type Spirit Veins, and it takes hundreds of years to produce a fruit. Consuming this fruit has miraculous effects such as healing severe injuries, prolonging life, and replenishing life essence."

Wang Shouzhe had already learned about the efficacy of this fruit from his Sister Green Fern Little Snow.

It was said that if an ordinary person ate it, they could break the shackles of their lifespan, cleansing their marrows and possibly live more than a hundred years.

And if cultivators at the Spirit Platform Realm consume it, they can get rid of all hidden injuries and regain their reduced lifespan. It's not impossible to live over two hundred years as long as they don't die in battle.

Even cultivators at the Heavenly Human Realm can supplement their lifespan deficiencies and live for another ten or so years if they consume the fruit.

Of course, the effect of this sacred fruit on cultivators at the Purple Abode Realm is not as prominent,

at most, it might prolong their lives for one or two years.

Nevertheless, the Longevity Fruit is an incredibly rare and extraordinarily valuable Heaven and Earth Treasure.

"Kid, do you need the Longevity Fruit to supplement you in order to win?" Master Changchun was in a predicament. "Surely you're not planning to sell it?"

"To be honest, Ji Mingyu is quite formidable." Wang Shouzhe stated seriously. "Without having unintentionally overheard about the potency of the Longevity Fruit, whose effect is somewhat useful to me, even if Master were to offer more, I would not have considered revealing my trump card in this battle."

Master Changchun, hearing his sincere words, pondered for a moment before saying: "Okay, although the Longevity Fruit doesn't have much effect on me, you have to agree to two conditions. First, you will only get the fruit if you win. Second, you must promise to use it yourself and not sell it."

"Agreed." Wang Shouzhe immediately accepted.

Master Binglan furrowed her brows slightly, her eyes flickered a few times, but eventually, she did not obstruct him. Even if Wang Shouzhe may have hidden some tricks, trying to defeat Ji Mingyu would undoubtedly be wishful thinking.

Once this matter was over, she could always compel Master Changchun to obediently hand over the Longevity Fruit.

The exchange between the three of them was kept within their circle, unknown to outsiders.

Once their exchange was over,

Ji Mingyu had already taken his place on the stage. He wore the elegant and handsome uniform of the Mysterious Ice Palace's core disciples, with a longsword hung on his back, coming off as a chic and refined Sword Cultivator.

Seeing Wang Shouzhe regain his composure, Ji Mingyu respectfully said, "Junior Brother Shouzhe, are you ready? If not, you can take some more time, there's no rush."

"Thank you for your consideration, Senior Brother Mingyu." Wang Shouzhe politely returned the gesture. "I'm ready, and we can spar at any time."

"Well, in that case, Junior Brother Shouzhe, please make the first move." Ji Mingyu spoke in a warm and graceful manner, like a courteous gentleman.

His age and cultivation base were much higher than Wang Shouzhe's. It would be against his style to initiate the attack in such a spar, even more embarrassing than losing the match.

"Thank you."

After bowing, Wang Shouzhe immediately held a shield in his left hand and a sword in his right, and also wore a layer of Ancient Tree Armor on his body, making his defense quite solid.

The Ancient Tree Armor was not light, and it would undoubtedly slow down Wang Shouzhe's movement technique.

"Smart move! With the gap in their cultivation levels, even if Junior Brother Shouzhe has mastered his movement technique, I'm afraid he can't compare to Ji Mingyu who has almost fifty years of cultivation." Senior Brother Jinshan, standing beside the arena, explained Wang Shouzhe's tactical intention to the newly initiated disciples.

"In that case, since the hit-and-run tactic is disadvantageous, he has to resort to a defensive counter-attack. Junior Brother Shouzhe is playing to his strengths and avoiding his weaknesses."

With Senior Brother Jinshan's explanation, the new disciples all looked at Wang Shouzhe with admiration.

At this moment,

After Wang Shouzhe was fully prepared, he said, "I invite Senior Brother Mingyu to make his move." After all, the opponent had conceded, he shouldn't take all the advantages for himself.

"Okay, Junior Brother Shouzhe, be careful." Ji Mingyu did not decline, with a gleam in his eyes, he draw his sword with a clang.

The sword was about four feet long, its body crystal clear as ice, and the cold light fluctuated unpredictably. As soon as it appeared, the surrounding air temperature dropped sharply.

This sword was clearly not an ordinary treasure.

Ji Mingyu didn't have the inclination to introduce his sword to Wang Shouzhe. He only stamped his feet in the air, each step as if he was stepping on the ground, ascending with each step. In the blink of an eye, he was flying more than ten meters high in the air.

As his Mysterious Energy erupted, countless ice crystals and snowflakes fluttered around him, floating randomly.

All of a sudden,

He descended rapidly from the air, his sword coming out like a dragon, wrapped in a fierce blizzard, assaulting Wang Shouzhe, causing the temperature on the arena to drop significantly.

"Mysterious Ice Sword Technique".

Wang Shouzhe was somewhat familiar with the Mysterious Ice Sword Technique, as his own Elder Ancestor Longyan was very proficient in it.

However, Ji Mingyu's Mysterious Ice Sword Technique, although originating from the same source as Elder Ancestor Longyan's, had a vastly different style.

Elder Ancestor Longyan's swordsmanship was elusive and unpredictable.

However, Ji Mingyu's swordsmanship was straightforward and imposing, dominating and majestic.

With this sword stroke, he was completely domineering, as if he had no match in the world.

Even as an opponent, Wang Shouzhe couldn't help but praise him secretly, acknowledging that his good reputation was well-deserved.

Ji Mingyu was truly extraordinary.

Wang Shouzhe suppressed his aura, and the light of the "Guardian Heart Spirit Shield" flashed forth. The defensive shield glowed heftily like an arc-shaped pot lid, blocking the imposing sword stroke.

"Boom!"

Countless ice crystals and energy spread like shockwaves in all directions, causing the entire arena to tremble slightly.

The disciples watching the battle from too close a distance all retreated one after another, their faces full of astonishment. The power of the clash was incredibly immense, wasn't it?

"Good shield! Good defense!" Ji Mingyu was not only surprisingly unperturbed, he even smiled and praised him, "Come on, take another one of my swords."

Chapter 46: Master Binglan sure knows how to have fun_1

...

That's right.

Master Binglan had only recently asked Master Changchun for the Longevity Fruit, indicating her recent need for it.

And just recently was also when Old Ancestor Longyan was preparing to return to the sect. Most likely, Master Binglan wants the Longevity Fruit for Old Ancestor Longyan.

Of course, this is only Wang Shouzhe's speculation. She may have other plans.

Wang Shouzhe bowed and said, "Master, we can discuss this matter first, but I can't guarantee that I will definitely sell it to you."

Master Binglan was silent for a while, apparently stewing over her discontent.

Considering her past behavior, she is certainly not an easy-tempered person.

Asking a junior to sell something, and the junior continually refuses. How could she be pleased?

Moreover, this junior has taken advantage of her Mysterious Ice Palace, even obtaining the Longevity Fruit by suppressing them.

It took her a long time to suppress her anger and calmly said, "In that case, let's discuss it in my Mysterious Ice Pavilion."

Upon hearing this, Wang Shouzhe, under the guidance of his senior brother, entered the Mysterious Ice Pavilion from the main hall.

Ignoring the fact that he was incapable of flying straight up to the high Mysterious Ice Pavilion, even if he could, he would probably be smacked down by Master Binglan if he dared to.

Seeing this, Master Changchun followed Wang Shouzhe excitedly, tagging along into the Mysterious Ice Pavilion.

Upon seeing Master Changchun, Master Binglan immediately raised an eyebrow, "Changchun, what are you doing here?"

Master Changchun seemed to ignore her anger, and was looking around nostalgically, "Ah, Binglan, it's been two hundred years since I visited your Mysterious Ice Pavilion. The past is indeed sigh-inducing. Don't worry, I mean no harm. I'm only accompanying my disciple so that he won't be at a disadvantage."

"Hmph," Master Binglan sneered, "If I wanted to take advantage of him, could you stop me?"

But she didn't know what was holding her back, she eventually didn't kick Master Changchun out. Instead, she stared at Wang Shouzhe with cold and majestic eyes.

Weighed by this pressure, Wang Shouzhe remained as unruffled as ever, apparently unaffected.

He bowed and saluted, "Wang Shouzhe pays respect to Master Binglan."

Then, his eyes darted to Old Ancestor Longyan and the distinguished Fang Youan.

The former glared at him irritably, seeming to say "You really are a troublesome child, even daring to provoke my master."

The latter, on the other hand, gave him a slight nod and a warm smile, seemingly trying to break the ice.

Seeing that her glare had no effect on Wang Shouzhe, Master Binglan finally backed off and said, "What's your price?"

Their difference in age and seniority was too significant. She couldn't bring herself to exert further pressure on him.

Unintimidated, Wang Shouzhe said, "We can discuss the price later. Shouzhe would first like to know who Master Binglan is planning to give the Longevity Fruit to."

This made Master Binglan quite angry.

Why should she, a grand Master, explain who she's getting the Longevity Fruit for to him?

Despite this though, she glanced at Old Ancestor Longyan.

With that, Wang Shouzhe was already eighty to ninety percent sure.

He shook his head and said, "In that case, I'm afraid I cannot sell the Longevity Fruit to Master Binglan."

"You!"

Master Binglan's eyes sharpened and she said harshly, "Boy, even your master wouldn't dare to toy with me like this!"

Master Changchun also broke into a cold sweat.

Why did he keep flip-flopping? Why doesn't he just refuse if he didn't want to sell to Master Binglan? Wasn't he just asking for trouble?

"Unless you provide me with a satisfactory explanation," Master Binglan threatened, "or I'll discipline your master!"

Poor Master Changchun was so shocked that his beard stood on end, "What does him not explaining have to do with me?"

Master Binglan shot him a glance.

If she didn't punish him, would she be expected to lash out at a junior who was over five hundred years her junior? She couldn't bear losing face like that.

On top of that, the Mysterious Ice Palace had just taken a big hit by Wang Shouzhe. Now to forcibly fight him, would make it seem like private revenge. This would be detrimental to the reputation of Mysterious Ice Palace.

Wang Shouzhe barely managed to stifle his laughter.

He cleared his throat and managed to maintain a straight face. "Master Binglan, this Longevity Fruit was meant for my Old Ancestor. In his youth, an altercation caused injuries that shortened his lifespan. The Fruit would help fill that void."

Master Binglan seemed taken aback. Irritably she waved her hand and said, "Considering your sincerity, I won't hold it against you. Now off with you. It would be better for both of us if I never see you again. I'm afraid I might not resist beating someone up."

"Hmph!"

Upon hearing this, Old Ancestor Longyan couldn't hold back her laughter anymore.

She shot Wang Shouzhe a sharp look, "You little brat, you came to the Mysterious Ice Palace just to annoy me, didn't you?"

"Hehe~"

Wang Shouzhe gave a dry laugh and bowed to Old Ancestor Longyan, "Old Ancestor, fate indeed plays tricks on us. If I had known earlier that Master Binglan was getting the Longevity Fruit for you, why would I have given myself so much trouble?"

"You had trouble?"

Old Ancestor Longyan looked significantly younger in front of her teacher. She glared at Wang Shouzhe, "I saw you having a lot of fun fighting with Junior Brother Mingyu. You didn't look troubled at all. I'll settle the score with you later."

Chapter 46: Master Binglan sure knows how to have fun_2

While speaking, she hurriedly paid respects to Master Binglan who was stunned, and said, "Master, this brat is my great-nephew, who has been stubborn since childhood. If he has offended you this time, please forgive him. Shouzhe, don't you hurry and apologize to Master?"

She spoke as if Master Binglan was full of disbelief and Fang Youan was indeed surprised.

Was this formidable kid really a descendant of Junior Sister Longyan's family?

After hearing his ancestor's reprimand, Wang Shouzhe quickly adjusted himself and sincerely apologized to Master Binglan: "I apologize for any offenses I may have caused earlier, I hope you can forgive me."

Master Binglan's eyebrows twitched twice.

She would like to hold a grudge against this brat, but could she really do that even knowing that he was the descendant of Longyan?

Hopelessly, she narrowed her eyes slightly: "This longevity fruit is for Longyan?"

"Yes." Wang Shouzhe answered honestly, "That's why I could not sell the Longevity Fruit to you, Master."

"That's good," Fang Youan said with a small smile, "Both Master and Shouzhe want to give it to Sister Longyan, isn't that wonderful?"

"Who said it was wonderful?" Master Binglan gave him a cold glance. "If I give it to Longyan, it's from me, if he gives it to Longyan, it's from him. Don't mix everything into one."

"Well ... Master is right." With a cold sweat, Fang Youan stopped talking.

Having accompanied Master for many years, he was familiar with her temper.

At this time, she must be feeling angry. Unable to vent at Wang Shouzhe due to respect for his cultivation and generation level, wouldn't it be reasonable to vent her anger by hitting him?

"Here are one thousand Spirit Stones, as the premium for your Longevity Fruit." Master Binglan threw out a large bag of Spirit Stones and spoke coldly, "The Longevity Fruit is more useful for those below the Heavenly Human Realm, so its total value is much lower than a Rank Six Dan Medicine like the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill."

"Ah... Master, aren't we being a little too formal?" Wang Shouzhe responded with a bitter smile, "I also planned it for my ancestor's use, isn't it the same? Why should you waste your money?"

"This sacred fruit is a gift that I have prepared for my disciple's return, and it is an urgent need for her." Master Binglan said calmly and convincingly, "If I give it to you, what will I give? Take the spirit stones and give me the object."

Ah, Master, what you say makes so much sense. You're so forceful!

Wang Shouzhe looked helpless, and under her intimidating eyes, he offered the Longevity Fruit.

After receiving the Longevity Fruit, Master Binglan handed the sacred fruit to the Old Ancestor Longyan and said, "Longyan, back then I couldn't help as much as I wanted to because of the rules of the Academic Palace. Let this token be a representation of my guilt."

"Master, absolutely not!" Old Ancestor Longyan hurriedly said, "Back then, it was all my fault, my stubbornness. Moreover, if it wasn't for the letter you sent back then, the Wang Family would have been annihilated."

Master Binglan, who is not good at persuading words, cast a cold glance at Fang Youan.

Fang Youan quickly understood and persuaded, "Sister Longyan, Master has been thinking about you all these years. You also know about the strict agreements between our Purple Abode College and the Da Qian Imperial Household, so we can't really help you."

"And you understand Master's personality, if you don't accept it, Master may not be able to get over it."

Hearing this, Old Ancestor Longyan had to kneel and pay her respects, "Master, thank you for your grace."

After gracefully receiving the Longevity Fruit, she was quite excited and happy. Not because of the fruit, but due to the utmost good care of her Master.

Thus, a trace of gloom in Master Binglan's eyes finally disappeared.

Master and disciple were both very happy.

Wang Shouzhe watched so intently that the corners of his mouth twitched incessantly.

This Master Binglan has really twisted logic, they are all for Old Ancestor Longyan, but after this round, he gains an extra one thousand Spirit Stones!

Since she liked it so much, Wang Shouzhe would not be polite and put the Spirit Stone in his storage ring.

At this time.

Master Binglan reluctantly sighed: "It's a pity, Longyan, you want to guard your family, and due to the Academic Palace rules, I can't give you the title of Named Direct Disciple."

And Old Ancestor Longyan also said: "Thank you, Master, for taking me back in. It's a great joy. From now on, I'll be an informal student, but of course, still a disciple of yours."

Hearing this, Wang Shouzhe interjected and suggested: "Ancestor, you can ask Master Binglan to accept you as a Named Direct Disciple."

Named Direct Disciple?

People such as Master Binglan paused, wondering about this peculiar type of disciple.

"In fact, I have an obligation to guard my family and so I cannot stay long term in the Academic Palace. However, Master insisted on taking me as a disciple, at least nominally. Therefore, after this battle, I will be made his Named Direct Disciple," Wang Shouzhe explained. "We won't need the resources of the Academic Palace for cultivation, but our Master can give us some assistance.

Hence, there is no need for us to stay and safeguard the Academic Palace."

"If the Academic Palace ever needs help in the future, we can lend a hand. It's effectively an advanced version of the foreign students."

Listening to this made Master Binglan's brows furrow!

An advanced version of foreign students?

This master-disciple pair really knows how to play their cards.

However, this Named Direct Disciple idea seems much better compared to foreign students. Plus, it will bring people closer together.

This compromise made Master Binglan quite cheerful, consequently giving her consent.

After sorting out this issue, Master Binglan was in high spirits.

She looked at Wang Shouzhe, her voice cold, "For Longyan's sake, I've begrudgingly forgiven you. But the Mysterious Ice Palace will not, I will have Ji Mingyu work hard on her cultivation and take revenge in the future."

Wang Shouzhe didn't mind.

Ji Mingyu wasn't his match now, and even after ten or eight years, the gap between them would only grow larger.

Just then, Ji Mingyu, who had just been treated, came to apologize.

When she arrived at the doorstep and heard her Master's bold declaration, her recently-recovered flush face turned pale - her Master wanted her to seek revenge? But the Bloodthirsty Vines were just too terrifying!

Ji Mingyu, who had nearly been reduced to a dried corpse, really didn't want to fight Wang Shouzhe anymore.

"Get lost, lad." After her threats, Master Binglan impatiently shooed Wang Shouzhe away. "Go as far away as possible, don't let me see you again." She feared that she might not be able to control her temper and would give the brat a good beating.

"In that case, Shouzhe will take his leave, Master." Wang Shouzhe was used to her fiery disposition, and calmly saluted her before leaving the Mysterious Ice Palace.

Master Changchun, noticing this, tried to quietly follow him out.

However, he heard Master Binglan call, "Where is Senior Brother Changchun going? You rarely come here. At least have a cup of tea before you leave."

"Senior Brother? Sister Binglan, you are finally willing to call me 'Senior Brother' again!" Master Changchun shivered with excitement. "After so many years, you've finally forgiven me."

Wang Shouzhe, who had just reached the door, gasped.

He thought to himself, it seems there is still some unresolved tension between Master Changchun and Master Binglan.

"Forgive you? Ha!" Master Binglan sneered, "You wish! I will never forgive you in my life. But since my senior brother rarely visits my Mysterious Ice Palace, I, as a junior sister, should ensure you are properly received. Come, follow me inside."

Inside? Wang Shouzhe was stunned. These masters were moving fast.

"Inside?"

However, Master Changchun, upon hearing this, was anything but exhilarated. Instead, he shivered, waved his head furiously, and responded, "No, no, I have some important matters to attend to. I'll take my leave now."

"You don't have to come if you don't want to, but then we should discuss the unforgivable thing you did to me in front of the Instructing Dao Palace in Changchun Valley."

Such explosive news?

Wang Shouzhe's ears were perked up.

Just when he was about to listen further, he was grabbed by Old Ancestor Longyan and dragged out of the Mysterious Ice Palace.

Chapter 47: Lici! Vice President, I have decided to raise you_1

...

Fang Youan and the others wisely made their exit from Mysterious Ice Palace.

Alas, Old Ancestor, how can you ignore such a juicy piece of gossip?

Meanwhile, voices could faintly be heard from within Mysterious Ice Palace.

"Junior sister... " Master Changchun sounded as if she had just lost her family, wailing, "Alright, alright, I'll go with you! Junior sister, be gentle."

The dialogue made Wang Shouzhe's eyebrows twitch; those cruel words were quite aggressive.

It seemed that the relationship between Master Changchun and Master Binglan was truly extraordinary.

Seeing Wang Shouzhe's eyes rolling in thought, Old Ancestor Longyan quickly pulled him aside, whispering, "Don't let your imagination run wild. The inner chamber of Master Binglan's room is an entire mysterious ice space. She usually cultivates in there. It's not what you're imagining...."

"Uh, well... Old Ancestor, before you explained, I really hadn't thought about that."

But now he was truly thinking about it.

Fang Youan was also sweating coldly, hurrying to intervene, "Mingyu, you should escort Brother Shouzhe."

As a direct disciple, he knew a thing or two about the inner workings of the situation.

The two indeed had deep grievances, but it wasn't as unbearable as Wang Shouzhe imagined.

If he stayed any longer, he feared he'd only deepen the misunderstanding.

Meanwhile,

Wang Zongsheng and Yuwen JianYe were surrounded by a group of eager senior disciples at the arena beside Mysterious Ice Palace's plaza.

All of them were at least in their thirties or fifties and the weakest among them was at the ninth level of the Qi Refining Realm. Poor Wang Zongsheng and Yuwen JianYe, surrounded by them, looked like innocent lambs that had wandered into a pack of wolves.

It's over, it's over~ Fourth Uncle was too ruthless.

These senior disciples must have been upset and were taking out their frustration on him, Wang Zongsheng!

Wang Zongsheng wanted to weep but had no tears.

Whatever, whatever, isn't it just a beating? His strong body would recover in a few days. It was such a pity for Brother JianYe, who had been implicated and was also going to be beaten up. His frail body might not be able to withstand the beating.

Just then...

Wang Shouzhe and Ji Mingyu emerged from the Mysterious Ice Palace.

The two were chatting and laughing as they walked, like long-time friends who had just been reunited.

The senior disciples who had been ready to take out their frustrations on Wang Zongsheng instantly ceased their actions.

"Brother Mingyu, you should go back and recover properly," Wang Shouzhe said with a concerned expression. "When you're healed, come visit me in Changning, and I'll show you the best hospitality."

"Brother Shouzhe," Ji Mingyu also responded very courteously, "I truly feel it's a pity that we didn't meet earlier. You and I are now sworn brothers."

The two bid each other farewell reluctantly.

Afterwards, Wang Shouzhe saw Wang Zongsheng, smiled at him, gave him an encouraging look, and then left graciously.

Ji Mingyu then lightly patted Wang Zongsheng's shoulder and said, "You must be Shouzhe's nephew. His nephew is my nephew. Study hard at the Mysterious Ice Palace. If anyone bullies you, feel free to tell me."

After encouraging him, Ji Mingyu also elegantly left.

Then those senior disciples, who had looked as fierce as wolves and tigers, instantly changed their expressions.

"Wang Zongsheng, we did not scare you, did we? We senior brothers were just joking with you~"

"Hahaha, it's just a unique custom of our Mysterious Ice Palace."

Then, the senior disciples gathered around Wang Zongsheng, amicably trying to establish a connection with him.

"I, I..."

Wang Zongsheng was utterly confused.

It seemed that Wang Zongsheng might really be on the rise.

...

Meanwhile,

At the peak of the Purple Abode Academic Palace.

The mountain peak was shrouded in mist, and there was an ordinary-looking yard.

This yard seemed to have been unkempt for a long time and looked a bit dilapidated. There weren't any exotic flowers or plants, spirit fruit, or spirit grass in the yard. Everything was quite ordinary.

Within the yard, in a run-down stone pavilion, a man and a woman were seated on an old stone bench.

The woman, in her early twenties, had a chubby, naive face that made her look much younger than her actual age.

The man looked only about thirty years old, but upon closer inspection, one could see the traces of time etched onto his face.

His gaze was cold and composed, rather like an unfathomable abyss.

If he were to be placed on Earth, dressed in a suit, and given a watch to wear, he'd look exactly like a powerful, domineering CEO.

"Senior Brother," the girl said sadly, "when will Master come out of his seclusion?"

A smile appeared on the man's stern face as he softly said, "Don't worry, little sister. I've already sent a message to our Master. He'll come out and meet you as soon as possible."

"Senior Brother, I'm hungry," the girl said weakly, her eyebrows furrowed. "I haven't eaten anything since we came up the mountain."

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry. It's my fault for forgetting that your cultivation realm is still too low to go for long periods without eating," the man said, pulling out a few buns from his storage ring. "Little sister, these buns are made from spirit wheat flour. They stave off hunger while replenishing your Qi and blood."

"Just this?"

The woman's eyes widened in astonishment, "Senior brother, didn't you say our Master is the deputy dean? He is powerful and has access to all sorts of delicacies. Why do you want me to eat this?"

"Well...I'm sorry, little sister. After meeting our Master, I will take you to have some delicacies. Just bear with this for now."

Chapter 47: Lici! Vice President, I have decided to raise you_2

This chubby woman was none other than the eighth generation of the Wang family, Miss Wang Licui.

After she made her appearance at the recruitment meeting, she was persuaded by this middle-aged senior brother, who claimed to be recruiting disciples on behalf of the deputy headmaster.

Confirming that the package included free lodging and meals, she willingly followed after him.

As it turned out, she had been waiting for two days in this run-down institution, yet she hadn't even seen the face of her master.

While the senior brother who claimed to be the highest authority in the academy due to the headmaster's long-term seclusion, only offered her cold buns to eat.

How did Miss Licui's luck become so miserable?

Unable to resist her hunger any longer, Wang Licui started nibbling on the cold bun with tear-filled eyes.

The few buns were gone in a few bites.

"Senior brother, I'm hungry." Wang Licui tearfully looked at her senior brother again.

"What?!" The senior brother opened his half-closed eyes in surprise, "Did you finish that already?"

Then, the senior brother pulled out a few more buns: "Licui, eat slowly, don't choke."

Then he closed his eyes once again to relax.

However, the moment his eyes closed, he heard Wang Licui's voice mixed with sobs saying: "Senior brother, it's not enough, I'm hungry."

A little later.

"Senior brother, I'm hungry."

"Senior brother, I'm hungry."

...

After a quarter of an hour..

This voice, like a demonic incantation, seemed to have hypnotized him.

He didn't dare to close his eyes because as soon as he did, the sweet, cute, and pitiful junior sister would say: "Senior brother, I'm hungry."

He had already fed all of his one-month food reserves to his junior sister.

But the junior sister.. she was still claiming to be hungry.

Senior brother's face started to look unnatural, this junior sister seemed to have an outstanding appetite.

Their lineage of Yunyang, always emphasized restraint and self-improvement, tried to reduce extraneous conditions as much as possible, to grind their hearts and achieve spiritual harmony.

He had just returned from an external task, just in time to catch the academy's recruitment for new disciples. He happened upon Wang Licui, and discovered her extraordinary aptitude, she had reached the heavenly chosen level of Top Grade Class C.

Moreover, after talking with her, he found her to be naive and pure-hearted, perfectly befitting the temperament of the Yunyang lineage, so just like finding a treasure, he recruited her as his disciple and brought her back to the Peak of Yunyang Mountain.

However, at this point, he was getting a bad feeling.

This junior sister.

Maybe he had acted hastily in recruiting her.

Just as he was preparing to ask a few questions, a deep and mellow voice broke through from the rusty buildings around them.

"Mingda, you've informed us that you've recruited a down-to-earth, talented disciple. Is this the young girl you were referring to?"

Once the voice fell, an elderly man in simple clothes emerged from the old stone pavilion.

The old man has a clear and refined demeanor, his gaze deep and gentle, filled with a wise aura.

As soon as he appeared, his gaze fell on Wang Licui.

With just a casual glance, he seemed to have seen through her.

"Very good! Rich bloodline, down-to-earth gaze, truly a rare talent!" Joy graced his face, "Mingda, your luck is commendable, able to snatch such a talent before others did, I consider this a merit."

Mingda delicately reminded him: "Master, our junior sister seems to have a substantial appetite."

"Can eat?" The elderly man didn't mind, "Young people's ability to eat is a blessing, who didn't grow up that way? You used to eat a lot too, didn't I feed you just fine?"

Next, the old man looked toward Wang Licui, appearing more pleased the more he looked: "I am Master Yunyang, and the Deputy Headmaster of the Academy. Are you willing to accept me as your master? With your qualifications, as long as you put in a little effort, you will have the chance to inherit my mantle."

He was brimming with confidence, thinking that Wang Licui would definitely accept willingly and kneel in respect.

Unexpectedly, Wang Licui shook her head: "I don't want to."

"What?"

Master Yunyang was taken aback.

This response was clearly against convention. Besides, this was all just a mere formality. She was already a disciple of the Yunyang lineage.

Before they could respond, Wang Licui blurted, "Our lineage is too poor. The house is so rundown. We have to eat cold buns every day and I never get enough. I don't want that."

"Senior brother Mingda lied to me, saying it would be free food and lodging, eat all I want."

"This..." Master Yunyang looked at his disciple, at a loss for words. This girl, is she really this straightforward?

Master Yunyang's face immediately turned serious: "Mingda, this is your fault. How could you let the little junior sister eat cold buns?"

Then, Master Yunyang confidently reassured: "Although I am your master, I am also a celestial being in the Purple Abode, and the honorable Deputy Headmaster. How could I not even afford to feed you, a young girl?"

"I promise you, as long as you can eat it, feel free to eat."

"Really?" Wang Licui opened her eyes wide, somewhat dubious, she looked around and said hesitantly, "Our house seems a bit poor."

"Being a prestigious celestial being in the Purple Abode and your senior brother Mingda having achieved Tiaren realm cultivation," Master Yunyang confidently said, "Feeding you, a young girl, is a piece of cake."

So saying, he waved his hand and tossed a bag filled with spirit stones to Brother Mingda: "Mingda, here are one hundred spirit stones. Take your junior sister to the Heavenly Meals Pavilion within the

academy and have a good meal. Eat to your heart's content, don't save money for me. Use the remaining spirit stones to buy some fresh ingredients from Changchun Valley for junior sister's meals."

Chapter 47: Lici! Vice President, I've Decided to Support You_3

"I need to seclude myself for a few more days, so Little Junior Sister, you'll be under your care first."

"Yes, Master." Senior Brother Mingda regained some confidence, grinning as he said, "Let's go, Little Junior Sister, Senior Brother will take you to have some delicious food."

"You're so kind, Senior Brother." Upon hearing about tasty food, Wang Licui was instantly excited, even forgetting to refuse the offer to become a student under Yunyang.

And so, two happy days passed.

It was still the same rundown courtyard.

Senior Brother Mingda looked somewhat haggard.

With a flicker, Master Yunyang appeared in front of him, a trace of dissatisfaction on his face: "Mingda, didn't I tell you that I'm in seclusion? Why have you contacted me again?"

"Reporting to Master," Senior Brother Mingda said cautiously, "Little Junior Sister's food bill has run out."

What?

"Didn't I give you a hundred Spirit Stones?" Master Yunyang's eyelids twitched, "Surely the Heavenly Meals Pavilion is not daring enough to arbitrarily increase prices?"

"That's not the case. Considering our relations with Yunyang, the Heavenly Meals Pavilion gave us a discount." Senior Brother Mingda said wearily, "On top of those hundred Spirit Stones, we still owe thirty Spirit Stones."

In just two short days, a hundred and thirty Spirit Stones had been consumed.

Master Yunyang was somewhat stunned, looking at Wang Licui incredulously.

"Master, didn't you say I can eat as much as I want?" Wang Licui said innocently, her eyes filled with naiveté.

In truth, the Wang family had long since dared not say 'eat as much as you want' in front of Wang Licui.

If this girl really ate as much as she wanted, it would be like throwing stones into a bottomless pit.

"Licui, your master will help you check your bloodline." Master Yunyang, well-experienced as he was, felt that something was not quite right. According to an earlier report from Mingda, Little Junior Sister Licui should have a Level Three War Body Bloodline.

Although War Body types usually have larger appetites, it has never been to this extreme.

As Master Yunyang exerted a pressure wave, it landed on Wang Licui.

Suddenly.

The soft and innocent aura around Wang Licui radically altered as a fierce and domineering presence suffused her being.

Immediately.

Behind her, a terrifying and monstrous apparition with a large mouth and a monstrous belly began to coalesce.

Compared to when she was in the Vital Energy Refining Realm.

This Fierce Beast apparition had grown more than twice in size. Sensing a threat, it was glaring at Master Yunyang with ferocious eyes, howling as though a fierce beast was being threatened and adopting an intimidating stance.

This was the Dharma Shadow.

The master and disciple looked at each other. As middle and upper echelons of the Academic Palace, they were naturally not unfamiliar with Dharma Shadows.

Most mid-level Celestial Beings in the Academic Palace, including Senior Brother Mingda, could generate their own Dharma Shadows due to their strong bloodline.

However, those in the Spirit Platform Realm who could manifest Dharma Shadows were rare.

Of course, with a sufficiently strong bloodline and some chances of luck, even those in the Vital Energy Refining Realm could manifest Dharma Shadows.

But all these weren't important.

This girl's Dharma Shadow was distinctly extraordinary.

"Master, is this a Devour Class Dharma Shadow?" Senior Brother Mingda asked uncertainly.

"I have seen a few Devour Class Dharma Shadows, and none have been this formidable." Master Yunyang exclaimed in shock, "Could it be...the legendary king of the Devour Class Bloodlines, the Devour Heaven Taotie Bloodline?"

Good, good, good! If it's such a bloodline, it's incredibly amazing with astonishing potential!

Master Yunyang was overjoyed. He was determined to take care of this child!

Chapter 48: Madam, Don't Plot against Your Own Husband!

...

Hearing Master Yunyang's brave and confident words, Senior Brother Mingda's face grew serious, tinged with a hint of worry.

Master, don't speak too hastily. Our little junior sister here has an extraordinary appetite.

"Mingda..." After his boastful declaration, Master Yunyang glanced at his beloved disciple, showing a rare hint of displeasure. "Why are you still here? Shouldn't you be off on your task?"

Senior Brother Mingda was taken aback: "Master, I just returned from completing a task."

"Mingda, the situation has changed." Master Yunyang said with a heavy heart, "We have another little junior sister to support now. Go on, take on more tasks from the Academic Palace, preferably the lucrative ones."

"Yes, Master."

Senior Brother Mingda's eyelids twitched involuntarily.

This doesn't seem to bode well~ But a disciple shouldn't defy his teacher's tasks, so what else could he do but obediently comply?

After excusing himself, he went straight down the mountain to embark on his quest of making money.

Once Master Yunyang's imposing aura subsided, Wang Licui's Dharma shadow also faded away.

She seemed somewhat anxious, "Master, is there anything wrong with my bloodline?"

"No problem at all. You just need to eat and drink nicely...no, I mean cultivate peacefully. Leave the rest to your master and older brothers." Master Yunyang gave Wang Licui a particularly amiable smile. His eyes were filled with joy; it was as if he had discovered a treasure.

With such an excellent disciple in the Yunyang lineage, we should be overjoyed~

Then, Master Yunyang sent a message to all his disciples, asking them to choose tasks that earn money in the future, and to collect ingredients on the way as much as possible.

Amid all this care and consideration, Wang Licui's heart melted.

Master and older brothers were really good to her. Her Fourth Uncle was right; the Academic Palace was a great place. She made the right choice coming here.

...

Let's not mention Wang Licui's leisurely life in Yunyang's lineage, nor speculate how long it will last for now.

In the following days.

Wang Shouzhe spent his time immersed in the library of the Academic Palace, using the token for direct disciples given by Master Changchun. With the help of a young senior sister Green Fern, he had consulted a large number of ancient maps of the Divine Martial Dynasty.

Based on the structure of these maps, and predictions about changes over time, Wang Shouzhe finally pinpointed the training location of the Divine Martial Army of the Divine Martial Dynasty.

However, this location...

Wang Shouzhe sighed endlessly, and his mood became even heavier.

This place was deep within the foreign territory, more than ten thousand miles away.

How dangerous is the foreign territory? Forget about ten thousand miles, even going a thousand miles inward poses a great risk to Profound Martial practitioners in the Spirit Platform Realm.

The Wang family from Ping'an can currently only venture five hundred miles in with their Autumn Hunting team.

If they were to go beyond this range, they would need to strengthen their team. More importantly, they would have to advance very cautiously. Wang Shouzhe did not want his clansmen to take unnecessary risks.

Moreover, venturing deep into the foreign territory for tens of thousands of miles would inevitably lead to encounters with Level Five or Level Six Fierce Beasts, and it was even possible to encounter Level Seven Fierce Beasts.

Forget it, let's put this matter aside first.

When our family's strength increases, we will slowly move in that direction.

After leaving the library, Wang Shouzhe returned to Changchun Valley.

However, as soon as he stepped in, he was stopped by a group of senior female disciples.

"Junior Brother Shouzhe, do you have any more skincare and makeup products?"

"We have used all the samples you gave us before, and our skin has indeed become better and more radiant."

"But it's a pity that the quantity was too small."

A group of women surrounded him, clamouring and making a fuss.

"Dear senior sisters, please calm down." Wang Shouzhe took out a stack of leaflets as he had prepared earlier. "This shows the pictures and prices of cosmetics, skincare products, shampoos, and conditioners. After my return, I will try my best to acquire precious raw materials to produce more. You can place orders through my nephew Wang Zongsheng.

Every six months, I will ask the Qian Family's commercial firm to deliver a batch."

Wang Shouzhe thought inwardly: Zongsheng, my nephew, your Fourth Uncle can only help you so much, you have to seize this opportunity yourself~

"Every six months?"

The senior sisters were all disappointed.

"All of our sisters in Changchun Valley are naturally beautiful, with delicate and tender looks. It shouldn't be a problem if you don't use these products for a while." Wang Shouzhe said with a bright smile, "Moreover, all sisters from Changchun Valley who order the products will receive a 20% discount."

A discount of 20%!

The senior sisters' eyes brightened and they showered Wang Shouzhe with praise.

Just as Wang Shouzhe managed to appease the senior sisters, he was immediately surrounded by a group of male disciples from Changchun Valley before he could take a few steps.

"Senior Brother Shouzhe, the 'Witch No.3' vine seeds you gave us are extremely effective." One of the male disciples exclaimed excitedly, "Yesterday, after practicing with an older brother from Leisure Peak, I was able to completely overpower him. Our sisters have started to look at me differently."

The rest of the male disciples also expressed their exhilaration.

What man doesn't want to become stronger? Who doesn't want to show off in front of their junior sisters and senior sisters?

Just thinking about their soft voices cheering "Senior brother, go for it", "Senior brother, you're amazing", made their blood boil.

They had never had such a soaring sensation before.

Not only was it exciting, but it was also addictive!

The "Witch No.3" was the vine seed used in Wang Shouzhe's current Vine Array. Just for now, this seed could only be cultivated by him personally and could not be replicated by others.

A few days ago, as per the eager requests of Changchun Valley's disciples, Wang Shouzhe distributed some of these seeds among them, allowing them to experience the power of a weakened version of the Vine Array.

Of course, due to the constraints of their bloodlines, with just the Longevity Youth True Verses to stimulate the seed, their speed was significantly slower than Wang Shouzhe's.

However, he had spent more than eight years gradually improving these vine seeds, putting a lot of effort into their rapid growth.

These seeds, upon their final formation, stored a lot of energy. This allowed them to be activated with only a small amount of the energy from the Longevity youth.

Therefore, these disciples from Changchun were barely able to use the "Witch No.3" seeds in combat.

Seeing the juniors from Changchun Valley staring at him with "hungry" eyes, Wang Shouzhe tried to comfort them: "Brothers, I didn't bring many seeds this time. Moreover, these vine seeds are not easy to cultivate, so please give me some time."

"Like this then, take these booklets first." Wang Shouzhe pulled out a stack of booklets and distributed them to everyone, "Every six months I will commission the Qian Family's trading company to ship a batch. If you have any requirements you can pre-order through my nephew Wang Zongsheng."

With this, Wang Shouzhe finally satisfied these male disciples.

This was a trick Wang Shouzhe came up with. Back in the days on Earth when online shopping didn't exist, it was all done through mail order using these types of booklets.

Whether it's mail order or online shopping, both are inseparable from logistics.

The Qian Family's trading company currently has branches all over Longzuo County, it's hugely scaled and already has the rudiments of a logistics system, barely enough to meet the demands of mail order business.

Wang Shouzhe did want to dabble in delivery and logistics, but with Ping'an Wang Family's current strength and scale, they simply couldn't control this field. Even if they partnered with the Qian Family's trading company, they would be ignored, and even if they did provide a business plan, they would just be making clothes for others.

In the final analysis, it's because the overall strength of the Ping'an Wang Family is too weak.

If one day his younger sisters Wang Luoqiu and Wang Luo Jing reached the level of Purple Abode Masters, the Wang family would finally qualify to genuinely cooperate with the Qian Family's trading company.

However, that's at least two to three hundred years in the future at the soonest.

All of a sudden.

Wang Shouzhe came up with an idea.

However, this idea still needs to be carefully considered.

There's no rush for now.

...

Then, Wang Shouzhe stayed at the Academic Palace for another seven or eight days, expanding his contacts, before bidding farewell to his nephews, nieces, and younger sisters.

During this period, he naturally learned that his eldest niece, Wang Licui, had joined the faction of the Vice Dean, Yunyang.

At this, Wang Shouzhe silently expressed sympathy for the Vice Dean.

Luckily, every member of the Wang family had already found their own path, the future is certainly promising.

After bidding farewell, Wang Shouzhe's convoy slowly set off, returning all the way to Changning.

It was only early spring in February when they originally set off, by the time they returned to Changning it was already May. The weather was somewhat sultry, a season of heavy rain.

Continuous torrential rain is very likely to cause flooding in the Peace River, leading to floods throughout the Ping'an District.

In the history of Ping'an Town, which spans over a hundred years, major flood disasters have occurred twice, and smaller scale floods occur every few years.

Humans like to live by the water, both for living and farming, water is indispensable. However, when water disasters occur, they can also cause great harm to humans.

Issues like reduced food production and collapsed houses are considered minor; if too many people and livestock die after a flood, causing a plague, that would truly be terrifying.

Hence, just when he had traversed time.

Wang Shouzhe took great interest in the irrigation works of Ping'an Town.

Over the past eight years, he has ordered people to gradually understand the geographical situation of the entire Ping'an Town. They not only prepared detailed topographic maps but also spent great effort making a huge topographic sand table.

The pioneering work of his ancestors and the protection of successive generations filled the family with deep sentiment for this land.

Although by law, Ping'an Town belongs to Da Qian, Wang Shouzhe privately considered it his own forbidden territory. He managed and constructed it from the ground up as if it were his own territory.

As soon as he returned, he heard reports of an endless rainy season this year, which seemed to herald a flood disaster. He immediately threw himself into intense work.

The huge sand table displayed the landscape of Ping'an Town in great detail in front of him.

Over the past eight years, the manpower and resources he has invested in irrigation works have been beyond calculation.

Luckily, Ping'an Town is only a small place. To the north is the Peace River, which arches over Ping'an Town. From the Broken Dragon Gorge in the west to the Fallen Eagle Gorge in the east, Ping'an Town stretches along the river for about a hundred and forty-five miles.

If the water level of the Peace River rises, if any section of the bank within these one hundred and forty-five miles breaks, a flood will pour into Ping'an Town.

Among them, the Broken Dragon Gorge on the western side is a constant headache for Wang Shouzhe.

Because the terrain there is narrow, the mouth of the gorge chokes off the upper course of the Peace River like a throat. This makes the water flow of Ping'an Town's section rapid and rather fierce.

This may not mean much during ordinary times, but once the flood season arrives, it becomes a significant hidden danger.

Behind Ping'an Town are the intertwined branches of Liuping Mountain, which isolate Ping'an Town from the outside world.

Therefore, if a flood enters Ping'an Town, there would be no flood discharge channel. If the water level continues to rise, there's a possibility that the entire Ping'an Town could turn into a lake.

Wang Shouzhe examined all the terrain on the sand table, constantly debating the weak points.

After a long time, Liu Ruolan brought some pastries, softly saying, "Husband, have something to eat first, take a break."

"This Broken Dragon Gorge..." Wang Shouzhe muttered, "One day, I will flatten it."

"Pfft~"

Liu Ruolan covered her mouth and laughed, "My husband really has grand ambitions. When that day comes, I'll join my husband in doing the work."

In fact, places like the Broken Dragon Gorge are excellent for hydropower generation. Before he traversed time, Earth's Three Gorges was such a project.

Of course, such large water facilities have their pros and cons. The damage they can cause to the ecological environment can be quite devastating.

Wang Shouzhe momentarily let go of all distractions, savoring the "love pastries" personally made by Liu Ruolan.

Hmm.

They are as unpalatable as always.

But he continued to act as if he was enjoying them: "My wife's cooking skills are really good."

"If my husband likes it, I'll take care of all your meals from now on." Liu Ruolan's beautiful face flushed with joy.

Wang Shouzhe's face changed, and he hurriedly said, "My wife, do not plot to kill your husband."

Plot to kill her husband?!

Liu Ruolan's face gradually changed.

Damn!

A shock went through Wang Shouzhe's heart, he seemed to have spoken without thinking.

Chapter 49 Evolution! Ping'an Town Gradually Strengthens_1

...

With his life at stake, Wang Shouzhe's mind raced.

He looked at Liu Ruolan with a mix of indulgence and depth: "My dear, I'm over the moon about your cooking. If you were to cook for me every day, where would I find the self-control? Wouldn't I become a glutton? Gradually, it will naturally be bad for my health, isn't that like plotting against your dear husband?"

"So, my dear, you only need to cook occasionally, it'll give me something to look forward to, right?"

Liu Ruolan's cold demeanor gradually melted away, and she cast Wang Shouzhe a blissful glance: "My husband is indeed gifted, even your compliments are so breathtaking and unique."

To distract Liu Ruolan, Wang Shouzhe wrapped his arms around her waist and quietly said, "I've been away from home for so long and it's been inconvenient. It has been a while since I've experienced your 'Mysterious Water True Verses' cultivation ability."

Liu Ruolan blushed slightly, speaking softly, "It's been a while since I've checked on my husband's 'Longevity Youth True Verses' cultivation progress. But, the two children are still studying in the next room..."

The couple had been away for a while. The neglect of their children's studies has caused them to drift off into their own world, currently cramming to catch up.

Little rascals were indeed troublesome.

Regrettably, Wang Shouzhe shook his head, preparing to shift his attention to the sand table.

However, Liu Ruolan blushed, biting her lip, and said, "Alright, alright~ They have been slacking off in their studies for more than a day or two, anyway. I'll ask Qiao'er to watch the children, let's go practice at the Water Moon Heavenly Pavilion~"

"Alright."

Wang Shouzhe pondered for a while and concluded that he could not outwit Liu Ruolan, thus following her instructions.

An hour went by.

In the study room.

Wang Liyao and her brother, Wang Zong'an, were seriously occupied with their homework.

Mother had promised to check their homework later.

Even at their tender age, they knew better than to upset Mother even once, no matter how many times they had annoyed Father.

So, they wrote diligently with fervor.

However, after waiting a long time, there was no sign of Mother coming to check their work.

"Aunt Qiao'er," Wang Liyao blinked her beautiful eyes with a puzzled look, "Mother couldn't have gone to practice with Father again, right?"

"Well..." Qiao'er broke into a cold sweat, laughing awkwardly as she explained, "Your Young Miss and Young Master are of great talent, they ought to practice diligently."

The two siblings exchanged looks.

Well, today's homework was done in vain.

Once their parents started practicing, they wouldn't return for two or three days.

"An'an, let's go. Big sister will take you out to play." Wang Liyao immediately perked up.

"Well, that's not very good, big sister." Wang Zong'an was a smidge uncomfortable.

He wasn't as bold as his sister.

"What's there to be afraid of? Haven't you figured out our parents yet? They just find us annoying and are looking for a place to hide."

Wang Liyao grabbed Wang Zong'an and swaggered off outside, casually instructing: "Auntie Qiao'er, you have to cover for us."

With a speechless look, Qiao'er complained in her heart.

Young Miss, Young Master, you've been using that excuse for years. Even the little Miss can't be fooled, can you think of something new?

...

In the following days, there was continuous heavy rain.

The water level of the Peace River continued to rise.

Wang Shouzhe received a report, saying that some lower-lying areas along the middle and lower reaches of the river were flooded, resulting in internal waterlogging.

Changning resided on the northern side of the river, where the riparian terrain was steep and the inland terrain high. As long as the drainage was appropriate, it wouldn't get flooded anytime soon.

On the other hand, Ping'an Town, though mostly hilly, also had many low-lying areas generally much lower than the north of the river.

That's why this piece of land, Ping'an Town, remained uninhabited for so long. If it were a good piece of land, would it still be available for Old Ancestor Zhou?

But for the Wang family, Ping'an Town is their foundation, there's no choice but to care for it.

Water conservancy projects were never a day's work. Ever since his arrival, Wang Shouzhe has never been complacent about this.

The dredging and filling of Zhuwei Lake was just the beginning.

Over the years, he has continually worked on cleaning and dredging canals, opening up waterways, strengthening dikes, building floodgates, and so on. This downpour was the time to test the layout he had painstakingly arranged over the past eight or nine years.

The entire Wang family, even many relatives of Wang family, were involved in this flood-prevention work.

The Peace River dike was the first to be hit.

Starting from Old Ancestor Zhou, the dike was continuously constructed and reinforced. Every year, a part of the manpower and resources were invested in it.

By the time it got to Wang Shouzhe, even more emphasis was placed on the construction and reinforcement of the Peace River Section dike.

The Wang family has an advantageous tool, a legendary substance known as cement.

Simple stones, gravel, and cement mixed with the right amount of water translates to the famous concrete.

However, the time given to Wang Shouzhe was too short. Currently, only the most critical sections had stone slopes and concrete dikes built, covering only about a third of the 140-150 mile section.

Even so, compared to the original dikes, the flood resistance has improved drastically.

In the rain, Wang Shouzhe inspected the dikes, and with the rise of the water level, some areas appeared risky. He immediately dispatched clan members, organizing tenant farmers and civilians to reinforce the dikes temporarily.

Meanwhile, he also inspected the flood discharge gates.

Chapter 49 Evolution! Ping'an Town Gradually Strengthens_2

On Earth, many floodgates utilize high-power water pumps to extract water. Making a simple water pump is not difficult, but the challenge is that this world lacks electricity.

However, human wisdom is infinite.

In this world, there are also some water wheels for irrigation.

Over the years, Wang Shouzhe has been engaged in many works, naturally including discussions with professionals about the improvement plans for water wheels.

Among the three major floodgates, the Fenggu Sluice at the Fenggu Farm was built by Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan.

Over the past eight years, Wang Shouzhe has conducted several renovations and reconstructions on this sluice, making it a major flood outlet.

Now, there is a "Water Dragon Array" on each side of the massive floodgate.

The "Water Dragon Array" sounds fancy, but it is actually a simple large-scale waterwheel.

When the river flows, it propels the Ferris wheel-like waterwheel to rotate. The rotation of the waterwheel, through the bearings and gears crafted by artifact refiners, drives a simple reciprocating cylinder.

This reciprocating cylinder pumps water from the sluice into the Peace River.

Inside the sluice, the water channels connect to all the waterways and lakes within Ping'an Town.

Wang Shouzhe has quite a bit of knowledge about Earth. Although these aren't his areas of expertise, he knows the general direction, and this world does not lack clever craftsmen and artifact refiners.

Under their joint efforts, the present "Water Dragon Array" was created.

Of course, this large-scale waterwheel is not directly exposed in the river.

Wang Shouzhe has driven piles by the river edge and built a large foundation with concrete, forming an "eight"-shaped water channel at the sluice bank that is wide in the front and narrow at the back.

Therefore, more water can come in through the wider end, and as the water channel narrows towards the back, the water flow will be faster, generating more power for the waterwheel.

At the front of the waterwheel, there is a twenty-feet wide winch floodgate. When the waterwheel operation is not needed, simply lower the gate, and the water flow can be cut off.

Besides, a metal bar grid is installed at the wider end to intercept any large garbage or ferocious aquatic creatures carried down by the water flow, preventing damage to the waterwheel.

The construction of the two Water Dragon Arrays at the Fenggu Sluice Gate, though simple in principle and structure, took Wang Shouzhe five years to communicate with the craftsmen and artifact refiners, making constant attempts and improvements with small-scale structures before officially investing in construction, costing tens of thousands of Qian Gold.

Of course, the results are also very apparent.

The person responsible for managing this floodgate is a capable collateral member of the Wang family. Upon seeing Wang Shouzhe, he eagerly approached him, excitedly saying, "Reporting to the Family Head, the operations of both Water Dragon Arrays are running smoothly."

The enormous waterwheel spins steadily in the rapid water channel. It seems slow, but its actual speed is not slow at all. It just appears slow because of its large circumference.

Driven by the waterwheel, water constantly sprays out from the pipeline aligned to the Peace River, much like two white, large-scale water dragons.

Such a scene is where the name "Water Dragon Array" came from!

"Monitor the situation around the clock and repair the Water Dragon Array at all costs if there's a malfunction."

Upon seeing the "Water Dragon Array," which took many years and a huge investment of resources to build, playing a positive role, Wang Shouzhe felt proud.

He regards Ping'an Town as his territory and his home, so naturally, he will do everything possible to make it as secure as possible, hoping it can survive various natural disasters.

Previous calculations showed that a large-scale Water Dragon Array, when operating at full speed, can discharge around two hundred thousand cubic meters of water per day.

And there are six of these Water Dragon Arrays at the three floodgates. At full speed, they can discharge about 1.2 million cubic meters of water a day.

It sounds like a large number.

But in fact, take Zhuwei Lake for example, which covers an area of about 10,000 acres. When filled to capacity, it holds approximately twenty-eight million cubic meters of water.

These six large-scale Water Dragon Arrays, operating at full speed, would take more than twenty days to empty Zhuwei Lake!

Not to mention the water content of numerous large and small rivers and canals in Ping'an Town, and the many scattered small lakes.

Because of this, these six Water Dragon Arrays start to operate in advance every year before the rainy season, lowering the water level of the rivers and lakes within Ping'an Town to prevent the awkward situation of not being able to drain the flood in time when the flood season arrives.

And now it's still raining. Even though most of the rainwater is absorbed by the land or enters the groundwater channels, the small portion that drains into the rivers is not a small amount.

Because of this, even with all six large-scale Water Dragon Arrays operating at full power, the water level in the river is still rising little by little.

Although the rise is slow, it is still rising.

Fortunately, the water level in Ping'an Town was already low because of the pre-drainage started before the rainy season. Otherwise, many wheat fields might have been flooded by now.

Wang Shouzhe looked a bit serious.

Six units of the Water Dragon Array were ultimately still too few.

Even though this year's flood season was far less severe than the two historical floods, it was already pushing the Water Dragon vehicles to their limit.

The hydraulic engineering project that had been gradually built over eight years was still in its infancy, Wang Shouzhe concluded. After this flood season, investment in infrastructure would need to be further increased.

After all, the entire Ping'an Town now belonged to the Wang family. Any amount of investment was just a long-term commitment, with every prevented flood bringing a return on investment.

In the next six to seven days, the whole Wang family, leading forty thousand people from Ping'an Town, devoted themselves to intense flood resistance.

At such a time, no outsider could help the Wang family.

After all, the flood season was fierce, threatening every part of the town with flood.

During this period, there were three river embankments with breaches, and the situation came close to getting out of control. Wang Shouzhe and his wife personally commanded the frontlines, taking the fight to the flood.

In the face of Nature's great strength, their Spirit Platform Realm abilities were indeed very limited. However, with their leading presence, everyone had an anchor to follow. The Wang family and the townspeople worked together, successfully blocking the breaches time after time, preventing the occurrence of floods.

Finally.

After two consecutive days of clear skies, the urgent flow of Peace River finally eased somewhat, with the overall water level slowly beginning to decrease, dropping more than half a metre in two days.

This signalled the end of the flood season.

This also meant that Ping'an Town had successfully weathered this tribulation, getting through the most flood-prone season.

However, the people of Ping'an Town remained vigilant, working together to reinforce weak points in the flood defenses, prepared for flood season fluctuations.

So it went for several more days.

The water level of Peace River continued to drop and the waters gradually calmed.

The flood season was finally completely over, triggering pure celebration in Ping'an Town.

The onset of this flood season was fierce. Had it happened a decade or two ago, devastating floods would have been nearly inevitable, causing substantial damage.

But this time, apart from some areas facing reduced output due to waterlogging, the overall grain yield was still maintained at a high level.

Most importantly, only a handful of people lost their lives in this flood season.

This was a great victory!

Despite the Wang family's already strong reputation in Ping'an Town, this event boosted the people's esteem for them even further.

While celebrations were held all over Ping'an Town, Mr. and Mrs. Wang Shouzhe stayed home for two whole days, quite exhausted.

It was not until two days later, when Wang Shouzhe's trusted assistant Wang Mei made a secret report on work matters, that Wang Shouzhe barely stirred into action.

Wang Shouzhe met Wang Mei secretly in his study.

He skimmed through the various intelligence compiled by Wang Mei, a cold smile appearing at the corner of his mouth.

After so many years, the puppet master who had been active sixty years ago could no longer contain himself and had showed his weakness!

What followed could be tumultuous.

The entirety of Changning Guard was unlikely to avoid a sudden upheaval.

"Wang Mei, you've worked hard," said Wang Shouzhe, glancing at Wang Mei with a somewhat complicated expression.

The complexity of his expression was due to her outfit for the day.

She was dressed in a style similar to the Purple Abode Academy's female disciples, a smart school uniform that was both heroic and feminine.

Most importantly of all.

Her makeup skills had reached a new stage of refinement.

With her high ponytail, raised eyebrows, and cool and collected demeanor, she shared a certain kind of charisma with some of the school's goddess-like senior girls.

If she were in the academy, she would certainly be another booming idol of a senior girl there.

Chapter 50: Rising Stars! The Young Men of the Wang Family_1

...

It is impossible to predict what image she will present each time she comes to report her work.

Is this really alright? He had just returned from the Academic Palace, this didn't mean he has become enchanted by the charisma of the older students.

A fiery gaze flashed across Wang Mei's eyes as she declared, "I could die without regret if I could do something for the Family Head."

While she was fervent, she couldn't help but feel a trace of regret in her heart.

The Head of the Family was good in every aspect, except for ignoring her seductions, which was a real pity.

However, she had the patience to wait. She was also working hard in her cultivation, hoping to reach the Spirit Platform Realm someday.

By then, her lifespan would increase, giving her ample time to serve the family head.

Wang Shouzhe gave up on further interactions with her, focusing meticulously on the intelligence report, studying the original intelligence and some analytical reports.

Over the years, he had not only developed the intelligence department but also conducted endless secret infiltrations against the two prime suspects - the Celestial Lei Family and the Celestial Huangfu Family.

Of course, both were prominent Celestial Families, making the difficulty and risk of infiltration very high.

Thus far, such infiltrations were limited to their peripheries.

Moreover, he had also successively released a series of baits.

This bait would be relatively useless against those families who held no interest in the Wang Family.

However, imagine if a Celestial Family had once plotted against the Wang Family.

Even if they managed to conceal it well, leaving no trace till this date.

They would inevitably keep an eye on Wang Family's every move. If there were signs of the Wang Family's rise, it could easily stimulate their sensitivities.

The reasoning was simple. Those with a guilty conscience would always be extra vigilant.

They were afraid that one day, if the Wang family were to truly rise, they might trace back to what happened that year and initiate revenge.

However, this enemy was extremely cautious, hiding deeply. The previous baits Wang Shouzhe had thrown out were mostly ineffective.

Hence, out of desperation,

Wang Shouzhe gradually increased the intensity of the baits, even going as far as to expose the young prodigies of the Wang family at the Academic Palace, forcing their enemies into panic.

It wasn't until then that some families started to show inconsistencies in their actions and all fell into this trap.

"Wealth Casino!"

A place infamous for harboring all kinds of evils. Here, even some trivial things inspected by Wang Mei had left traces.

Furthermore, he had ties with the Wealth Casino. Back in the day, trouble ensued after Wang Zongwei entered the city and set foot in the Wealth Casino.

"What are the steps to take next, Family Head?" Wang Mei asked respectfully.

"Keep a sharp eye on them, but you and your team should be careful. It won't be long before we execute our plan," Wang Shouzhe warned. He was not someone who enjoyed having the initiative in someone else's hands.

The hidden hand in the dark, was like a Sword of Damocles, persistently hanging over the Wang Family's head, always on the verge of falling any moment now.

Instead of being passive and helpless, he prefers holding the initiative in his own hands.

...

At the same time,

Outside the Main Residence of the Wang Family,

Two strong horses, one black, one white, galloped from afar and quickly arrived at the courtyard in front of the Main Entrance.

Two knights, a man, and a woman, dismounted in unison.

Both the male and female knight wore unique military style-leather armor made from fierce beast hides, helm on their heads, and long swords by their side.

They looked to be in their twenties. The man was majestic and tall, with a calm and reserved demeanor.

The woman appeared to be even younger, only around eighteen or nineteen, with a curvy figure under the armor and a charming face filled with vigor.

The moment they dismounted, a family general greeted them with several house servants.

He stated respectfully, "Sixth Master, you have returned."

"Is my fourth brother at home?" The young man, all in military uniform, grand and tall, raised his sword-like eyebrows to ask a question.

This young and chivalrous soldier was the sixth son of the Wang family - Wang Shouliao.

He had been following his father, Wang Dingzu, who had been elevated to a position in the city patrol after advancing to the Spirit Platform Realm, in the patrol camp for the past two years.

"Your sixth master," replied the family general, "For the past two days, the Family Head has been in the courtyard. Do you wish to see him? I can notify him right away."

Wang Shouliao offered a slight smile. "There's no need, I can go myself."

He turned towards the young woman dressed in the same army uniform, "Qingning, accompany me to pay a visit to fourth brother."

"But..." Zhou Qingning hesitated with a bit of fear, "What if your fourth brother thinks we are inappropriate... Many prominent families disapprove of their children marrying military women."

Wang Shouliao took hold of her hand, soothing her gently, "My fourth brother is liberal-minded, he should respect our decision."

"Should I change my clothes before meeting your fourth sister?" Zhou Qingning voiced hesitantly, "Your brother might fancy a quieter, more sophisticated woman of a great family."

"Qingning, you are you. You just need to be yourself," Wang Shouliao held her hand, his expression serious, "You're not some delicate young woman from a great family, but the woman I, Wang Shouliao, am destined to spend my life with. You need to have faith in me, and in my fourth brother as well. As long as he approves, neither my father nor your father will be a problem."

"Okay, I will listen to you, Shouliao," Zhou Qingning's face flushed a little in embarrassment and happiness at this expression of affection.

Chapter 50: Rising Stars! The Young Men of the Wang Family_2

At this moment.

Inside the main residence.

A young man quickly walked out, greeting with a smile, "Sixth Uncle, why didn't you notify us when you returned? I could've met you at Dingpu Ferry."

This young man appeared to be about twenty-two or three years old, quite handsome, striding with an assertiveness similar to that of a tiger or dragon. His restrained energy revealed a look of respectable cultivation.

Upon seeing him, Wang Shoulian burst into laughter and patted him heavily, "Zongchang, it's only been half a year and you've already broken through the Vital Energy Refining Realm to the mid Level Seven. That's worth celebrating."

This young man was the second of the eighth generation with the surname of the Wang family - Wang Zongchang.

He was the second son of Wang Shouxin's elder brother and the younger brother of Wang Licui.

Wang Zongchang chuckled ruefully while rubbing his shoulder, "Sixth Uncle, you're just a year older than me, but you're already at the high segment of the Vital Energy Refining Realm level seven. There's no way I can catch up."

Wang Shoulian and Wang Zongchang, one twenty-two, the other twenty-three.

Despite the differences in generation, their ages were similar. They had been close since they were young.

Being able to reach such a cultivation level at such a young age among the children of prominent families, they were considered youths of exceptional talent. This was no less, even slightly better than Chen Fangjie.

During the exchange.

Wang Zongchang noticed Zhou Qingning and immediately became serious, "Sixth Uncle, is this Miss Qingning you mentioned in your letter?"

"Yes," Wang Shoulian replied with a trace of pride, "Zongchang, why don't you greet your Sixth Aunt."

Wang Zongchang quickly and jokingly bowed, "Zongchang greets Sixth Aunt."

Zhou Qingning's cheek reddened, she admonished Wang Shoulian with a playful glare, "I haven't agreed to marry you yet."

"Ha-ha." Wang Shoulian laughed, "I'm set on Qing. I'll be yours in life and death, Zhou Qingning, you can't get rid of me."

"You're truly despicable and shameless." Zhou Qingning cursed, her face slightly red, but there was a smile in her eyes.

Watching all this, Wang Zongchang quietly gave his sixth uncle a thumbs up. True to his reputation, his thick skin was almost on par with Fourth Uncle.

"By the way, Zongchang, it's good that you're here. Come with me to see Fourth Brother." Wang Shoulian said.

Upon learning that he would have to meet Fourth Uncle.

Wang Zongchang felt nervous, "Sixth Uncle, you know that I've been afraid to see Fourth Uncle since I was a child."

"I'm afraid too." Wang Shoulian immediately grabbed him, "If we go together, it should help share the pressure."

And so, they proceeded.

Accompanied by Wang Zongchang, Wang Shoulian led Zhou Qingning into the main residence, heading straight for Wang Shouzhe's courtyard.

Before he managed to announce himself.

A striking and slightly mature woman stepped out from the courtyard.

The woman gave Wang Shoulían a slight smile, "There's no need to notify, Sixth Young Master, the Family Head is expecting you."

After saying that, she gracefully gave a bow and left.

"What..." Wang Shoulían was quite puzzled, "Zongchang, who is this... couldn't be that Fourth Brother went to the Purple Abode Academical Palace and brought back a senior student sister?"

"No." Wang Zongchang scratched his head, somewhat perplexed as well, "During recent disaster relief efforts, I didn't see any senior student sister."

Following that, the two looked at each other, somewhat surprised and uncertain, it can't be...

This feels like something bad is about to happen.

At this moment, they heard a gentleman's voice, "Shoulían, Zongchang. Why are you hesitating at the gate? You're bringing guests, don't be impolite, come in quickly."

Wang Shoulían and Wang Zongchang quickly straightened their faces, bowed to the courtyard and replied, "Yes, Fourth Brother/Fourth Uncle."

Then guiding Zhou Qingning, the two gingerly entered to pay their respects.

The three of them walked into the courtyard together.

In the center of the courtyard stood a calm, heroic, and authoritative young man.

He didn't pay attention to his younger brother and nephew.

Smiling lightly at Zhou Qingning, Wang Mou said, "Miss Qingning, I apologize for not coming out to greet you personally."

Given Wang Shouzhe's intelligence network, how could he not know Zhou Qingning?

If he didn't even know who his sixth brother's girlfriend was, how could he compete with those who were once his secret rivals?

Zhou Qingning quickly bowed and said, "Qingning pays her respects to the Wang Family Head."

Wang Shouliao and Wang Zongchang also hurriedly bowed in respect.

After the formal greetings.

Wang Shouzhe entertained them in the side hall.

As the hostess, Liu Ruolan personally served spiritual tea and some fresh fruits and snacks to her brother, nephew, and Miss Qingning.

This was a necessary etiquette.

The three of them quickly rose to thank Liu Ruolan.

On an ordinary day, Liu Ruolan would not want to interrupt their brotherly discussions.

Today, with Zhou Qingning present, she accompanied her and chatted with her to help alleviate the young girl's nervousness.

"Sixth Uncle has good taste and is also very lucky." Liu Ruolan lavished praise on Zhou Qingning, "Not only is Miss Qingning very beautiful, but she also has a valiant personality. It is rare to find such a great girl."

With this praise, Zhou Qingning's cheek turned slightly red and she lowered her head in silence.

Wang Shoulian took her hand and said to Wang Shouzhe, "Fourth Brother, we need your help with this matter. After all, Qingning was born in a military prominent family. My father he..."

Military prominent families and local families are two different systems, usually not intermarrying, therefore this is also a hindrance between Wang Shoulian and Zhou Qingning.

Before he could finish his words, Wang Shouzhe interrupted and said, "You don't need to say much, as long as you decide to spend your life with Miss Qingning, I will talk to your father."

With a mix of surprise and joy, Wang Shoulian took Zhou Qingning's hand and thanked Wang Shouzhe, "Thank you, Fourth Brother, for standing up for us."

Knowing the kind of man his fourth brother was, if he promised, he would definitely keep it.

Zhou Qingning also blushed and thanked Wang Shouzhe.

Wang Shouzhe continued with Liu Ruolan, "Wife, the wedding of my younger brother is a big matter, especially when the other party is from a military prominent family. We have to be meticulous in handling the marriage etiquette and adapting to their traditions to avoid any talk. But you, being the eldest lady of the Wang family, should take charge of this."

"Yes, my lord." Liu Ruolan nodded, "For the matter of Sixth Uncle, I will handle it properly."

Naturally, Wang Shoulian and Zhou Qingning thanked them again and again.

They never expected things to go so smoothly, their hearts were filled with joy.

After settling this matter.

The expression on Wang Shoulian's face became serious as he started to discuss important matters, "Fourth Brother, our father asked me to report that the western half of our Changning Guard City has suffered a lot due to the flood. And the Dingnan Town and the two other Guard Cities have suffered even heavier losses.

Particularly the Zhentze Guard City is almost completely submerged, with many victims."

"Many survivors have started moving east, and some have arrived at our Changning Guard City."

Wang Zongchang's face changed, "The losses are so severe?"

When Ping'an Town was fighting the disaster earlier, everyone had worked together to overcome the crisis. He had thought that this flood wasn't much but he didn't expect that it was actually so severe upstream.

"If the water level starts to drop, I'm afraid it'll lead to an epidemic, right?" Liu Ruolan also frowned with worry.

An epidemic is extremely frightening, and once it begins to spread, it could easily turn into a major disaster.

"We must be prepared," Wang Shouzhe said with a solemn expression, "Zongchang, you go to Donghaei Guard City and Hundred Islands Guard City today and try to buy as many medicinal supplies as possible."

"Yes, Fourth Uncle."

Wang Zongchang responded solemnly. He was now an adult and gradually becoming a pillar of their family. He was no longer the young man he used to be.

"Moreover, our father heard from the City Lord that the Disciples of the Purple Abode School are leading a team for disaster relief. The City Lord's intention is that all those who are heads of families at the eighth grade and seventh rank should personally welcome the disaster relief team from the Purple Abode School." Wang Shoulian added.

"A Disciple from the Academy? Wang Shouzhe raised an eyebrow a bit, "Do you know which Disciple it is?"

"About that..." Wang Shoulian shook his head helplessly, "The City Lord did not say, and our father did not dare to ask more."

