SOVEREIGN 2701

2701 Qin Yu's Helplessness

"Shadow Void Escaping Talisman?" Qin Yu sighed in relief when he learned that Duan Ling Tian managed to escape. However, at the same time, he could not help but look at King Qin skeptically. After all, it was his first time hearing about the Shadow Void Escaping Talisman.

"Shadow Void Escaping Talismans are Celestial Talismans that Celestial Kings inscribe with great difficulty. The success rate of inscribing one was quite low. Possessing a Shadow Void Escaping Talisman is the same as one life-saving opportunity against a Celestial King or below. As long as your opponent is not stronger than a Celestial King, as long you're able to activate it before they kill you, they can only watch helplessly as you escape..." King Qin explained as he looked at the old woman standing in the distance.

At this moment, the expression on the old lady's wizened face was extremely sinister. She suddenly turned around and looked at King Qin pointedly as she asked, "The Shadow Void Escaping Talisman... Was it your work?" She looked as though she was ready to kill him as soon as he answered in the affirmative.

"Senior... Do you really think I possess a Shadow Void Escaping Talisman?" King Qin smiled bitterly with a hint of helplessness. As the Lord of King Qin's Mansion, he was usually aloof and revered by all. However, at this moment, this old man had to soften his attitude because the old lady was too strong. She was a Celestial Duke after all. It would be as easy as flipping a palm for her to kill him.

At this moment, most of the spectators also realized that Duan Ling Tian did not die.

"Duan Ling Tian didn't die?"

"How's that possible? He was shrouded in that terrifying energy, how could he not die?"

"How did he even survive?"

"Duan Ling Tian didn't die. It seems like he used the Shadow Void Escaping Talisman!"

"The Shadow Void Escaping Talisman? That talisman can only be inscribed by Celestial Kings or those who are stronger. Moreover, the success rate of inscribing one by a Celestial King is less than 1%, right?"

"Right. It's said if one uses the talisman, one can easily escape from Celestial Kings and those who are weaker. The talismans are extremely rare and precious."

"These Celestial Talismans are a rarity even in a high-rank Celestial Kingdom. How did Duan Ling Tian get his hands on one?"

Everyone was shocked by the fact that Duan Ling Tian possessed a Shadow Void Celestial Talisman and had even used it to successfully and easily escape.

"It seems like Duan Ling Tian really didn't come from a normal background. Not only did he escape the elite from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, but he had escaped using a priceless talisman like

the Shadow Void Escaping Celestial Talismans. There's no doubt he must be from an opposing faction of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect!"

"You're right. I wasn't certain before. However, after seeing this, I'm convinced Duan Ling Tian's from an opposing sect of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect. Moreover, the sect he's from isn't weak as well, and he must have a high status in the sect."

"Exactly. Even in the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, I'm certain disciples below 100 years old don't have a Celestial Talisman as precious as the Shadow Void Escaping Talisman!"

At this moment, the old lady who was hovering above the arena turned her cold gaze to Qin Yu and asked with a sneer, "Earlier, you said he had only ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven less than five years ago?"

"Senior, I really didn't lie to you." Although he was in a predicament now, he was still glad Duan Ling Tian was able to successfully escape.

"How's it possible for someone who had just ascended less than five years ago has strength comparable to a Great Overarching Golden Celestial and also possesses a Shadow Void Escaping Celestial Talisman? Do you think I'm a fool?" The old lady's voice and eyes turned increasingly cold, causing Qin Yu to turn pale and feel as though winter had arrived early.

"Senior, I'm really not lying to you." The bitter smile on Qin Yu's face deepened even more.

The old lady's eyes did not look away from Qin Yu's face, trying to see if he was lying. However, to her surprise, she discovered there were no signs of him lying. Even when she increased her pressure on him, he had unexpectedly remained steadfast and did not look the slightest bit guilty. This made her mood darken. 'Is it possible that brat really only ascended less than five years ago? If it's true, then, with his future potential, I'm afraid even our sect can't deal with him later...'

The old lady knew it was not impossible for a peerless genius to appear in a Devata Realm and achieve strength comparable to a Great Overarching Golden Celestial in less than five years after his ascension. However, geniuses like that were extremely rare in all Devata Realms. This kind of monstrous genius usually received some inheritance, techniques, or weapons from a Devata Realm while they were in the mundane realms. From the get-go, these individuals had to be extraordinary. After all, there were many people in the mundane realms. Even if one obtained high-rank techniques or weapons from an outstanding faction in a Devata Realm, one might not necessarily be able to obtain strength comparable to a Great Overarching Golden Celestial within five years after ascending while being younger than 100 years old.

Since Duan Ling Tian was less than 100 years old, there was no way he was a Bodiless Celestial when he ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven. Bodiless Celestials instantly became Golden Celestials as soon as they ascended while non-Bodiless Celestials became Heavenly Celestials when they ascended.

"If I find out that you lied to me in the future, I won't only cut your body into 1,000 pieces, I'll grind your bones to dust, and let the entire King Qin's Mansion accompany you to your grave!" the old lady said to

Qin Yu icily. As soon as she finished speaking, her body blurred for a fleeting moment before she disappeared without a trace

Let alone the high-ranking officials from King Qin's Mansion, the old lady's parting words caused King Qin and the Third Prince's expressions to change greatly as well. All of them, without any exception, felt that Qin Yu had lied to the old lady. After all, they did not think it was possible that Duan Ling Tian had only ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven less than five years ago?

"Qin Yu must think he's so smart for successfully lying to the old lady. I'm afraid he's going to drag the entire King Qin's Mansion down to hell with him..."

"He's really too much. How can someone who's younger than 100 years old and had only ascended less than five years ago possess this kind of strength?"

"That Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect's elite had already warned that she would kill him and everyone in King Qin's Mansion if she finds out that he's lying..."

"This Qin Yu is simply a jinx to King Qin's Mansion. As soon as he returns, he puts the mansion in unprecedented danger. Moreover, the level of danger is the threat of annihilation."

In the surroundings, everyone in the VIP areas, except for Flying Dragon Sect, began to blame and condemn Qin Yu. They all thought he was the cause of King Qin's Mansion being on the verge of annihilation. Even the members of King Qin's Mansion felt the same.

"Qin'er, you..." King Qin and the Third Prince only looked at Qin Yu with a helpless expression on their faces. If it had been their sons or daughters who brought such danger to King Qin's Mansion, they would have already slapped their children at the very least! However, Qin Yu was their fourth brother's son.

"Eldest uncle, third uncle... Since the elite from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect has left, is there still a need for me to lie to you? Duan Ling Tian truly only ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven less than five years ago," Qin Yu could only explain bitterly as he saw the apprehension in King Qin and the Third Prince's eyes. He did not blame them for having a hard time believing his words. After all, it truly sounded far fetched. He did not dwell on the old lady's warning since he had a clear conscience and did not lie.

"Qin'er, you're really telling the truth?" The Third Prince frowned. He did not expect his nephew would continue to insist that Duan Ling Tian had only ascended less than five years ago. It was just like Qin Yu said, now that the powerhouse from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect had left, there was no need for Qin Yu to lie to them.

Qin Yu studied the surroundings before he said, "Eldest uncle, third uncle, why don't you deal with the matters here first? I'll tell you all I know about Duan Ling Tian once you're done attending to your businesses." There were too many people around, which meant there were many ears around. He had no intention of revealing Duan Ling Tian's secrets in front of so many people. Previously, he had brought up that Duan Ling Tian had only ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven less than five years ago in hopes of convincing the old lady that she had found the wrong person. Let alone having enmity, how did Duan Ling Tian and the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect's paths even intersect? However, afterward, when Duan Ling Tian mentioned a girl named Mu Rong Bing, he knew then that the

powerhouse from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect did not mistake Duan Ling Tian for someone else.

However, apart from that, he had no idea what caused the hostility between the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect and Duan Ling Tian, and Qin Yu had no idea Duan Ling Tian had a Shadow Void Escaping Talisman inscribed by Celestial Kings. If he had known this, he would have never outed the fact that Duan Ling Tian had only ascended less than five years ago if he had known this. After all, because of the reveal, he had brought on more danger to Duan Ling Tian.

2702 A Million Miles Away

Qin Yu simply panicked earlier, that was why he had blurted out the fact that Duan Ling Tian had only ascended less than five years ago. Otherwise, he would not have done it. After all, revealing that fact would only bring more harm than good to Duan Ling Tian.

Upon hearing Qin Yu's words, although King Qin and the Third Prince still felt a bit skeptical, they nodded before sweeping their gazes at the people in the surroundings.

Apart from the guests in the VIP seat who hardly suffered, most of the people in the general seat who came from the 16 counties barely survived.

The Third Prince stepped forward and said apologetically, "Ladies and gentlemen, King Qin's Mansion did not expect a disaster like that to happen today. We'd like to offer our apologies..."

"Your Grace, the Third prince, is being too polite."

Seeing the second-in-command of King Qin's Mansion personally apologizing, many people from the big sects and clans in the territories of King Qin's Mansion waved their hands dismissively.

"Today's accident was not something King Qin's Mansion could've expected nor was it something the mansion would've liked to see happen. For these reasons, there's no need for you to apologize."

"Right. Third prince, today's accident is all because of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect's powerhouse. It's understandable that King Qin's Mansion couldn't intervene. After all, the sect is even more powerful than a high-rank Celestial Kingdom!"

"Third Prince, do you know what's the cultivation base of that powerhouse from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect?"

"She's a... Celestial Duke, right?"

Based on their words, it was clear they did not blame King Qin's Mansion for the incident today. In fact, it seemed like they were more curious about how powerful the old lady was and her cultivation base.

Faced with everyone's questions and expectant expressions, the Third Prince sighed and somewhat helplessly said, "That senior is a core elder of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect... She's, indeed, a Celestial Duke."

Celestial Duke!

As soon as the Third Prince's words died out, the entire place fell silent. Although many of them had speculated the old lady was a Celestial Duke, to have it confirmed was a different story. After they regained their senses, some of them inhaled sharply and some gulped audibly.

Those from the big sects and clans in the territories of King Qin's Mansion discussed among themselves excitedly. To them, being able to see a Celestial Duke in action was something to brag about.

"So, she's really a Celestial Duke from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect!"

"It's been over 100 years since a Celestial Duke made an appearance in King Qin's Mansion, right?"

"This trip to the mansion isn't a waste after all. To think we would encounter a Celestial Duke during the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties!"

Someone chuckled. "Wait until we return. I'm going to tell everyone I saw a Celestial Duke in action. I bet many people are going to feel envious and regret not coming."

Seeing this scene, the Third Prince stared blankly at them for a moment before he finally cleared his throat to get their attention. He said, "Ladies and gentlemen, King Qin's Mansion has a few matters to attend to. If any of you prefer to rest for a few days in King's City, please let us know, and we'll make arrangements for it. If you plan to leave now, I'll see you off King's City."

Someone laughed before saying, "Third Prince, I'm in a hurry to return to my sect so I won't be staying. There's no need to trouble yourself to see us off."

Many people echoed this person's words as laughter rang in the air. Soon after, many figures flew up into the sky, swiftly leaving King Qin's Mansion.

"Third Prince, I'm also in a hurry to return... Farewell!"

"Farewell, Third Prince!"

It did not take long before most people had left. Seeing a Celestial Duke in action made these members of big sects and clans excited to return so they could recount what happened.

Soon after, the only people left in the ruins were the members of King Qin's Mansion and his subordinates from the 16 counties.

King Qin looked at the 15 County Governors and the Revered Elders, two inner-estate elders, and elders from Nine Specters City before he said solemnly, "Today's accident was surely not this King's will. Each county has suffered a great loss. For this reason, apart from the previously promised reward for the top ten participants of the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties, I will also bestow a mediocre Great Overarching Pill to each county."

Upon hearing his words, the people from the 16 counties who had dejected expressions on their faces brightened up immediately. Their eyes shone, and their breathing began to quicken in excitement.

Since the people from the 16 counties were the direct subordinates of King Qin's Mansion, it was easy to deal with them via the carrot-stick approach.

After making temporary arrangements for them to stay in the guest rooms in King Qin's Mansion, King Qin and the Third Prince led Qin Yu to the central main hall of the mansion.

The central main hall of King Qin's Mansion was exceptional with dazzling decorations and displays, causing Qin Yu, who came here for the first time, to fall into a momentary daze. When had he ever seen such an extravagant hall?

"Yu'er, there are only three of us here now. No matter what you have to say, you can speak without any hesitation here," the Third Prince said to Qin Yu.

Although King Qin remained silent, he nodded along when the Third Prince spoke, clearly showing Qin Yu his approval and encouraging him to speak.

Qin Yu nodded slightly before he recounted everything he knew about Duan Ling Tian without concealing anything. At this point, he knew he could not conceal anything. Otherwise, his uncles would only suspect him even more.

After hearing Qin Yu's words, King Qin and the Third Prince exchanged a glance and could see the shock and incredulity in each other's eyes. If they did not hear this from Qin Yu, they would have a hard time believing it. How was it possible that someone who had just ascended less than five years ago and was not even 100 years old capable of such astonishing feats?

"Based on your words, it's probable that Duan Ling Tian had an extremely fortuitous encounter in the mundane realm. This also explains why and how he possesses a Shadow Void Escaping Talisman that has to be inscribed by a Celestial King, at least," the Third Prince said.

"Duan Ling Tian's future is boundless. Qin'er, it's your good fortune for being able to become his friend," King Qin said as he looked at Qin Yu.

Although King Qin and the Third Prince still felt Qin Yu's words were outrageous, they no longer doubted him. After all, it would take little to no effort to verify Qin Yu's story. They had no reason to believe he was lying. Moreover, he had also encouraged them to verify his words.

Qin Yu said worriedly, "Currently, I'm only worried if he'll be caught by that powerhouse from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect. It's unlikely for him to have a second Shadow Void Escaping Talisman, right?" Although Duan Ling Tian had managed to escape from right under the nose of the powerhouse from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect, he still could not help but worry about Duan Ling Tian.

"Don't worry," the Third Prince patted Qin Yu's shoulder and said with a smile, "The Shadow Void Escaping Talisman is a Celestial Talisman that has to be inscribed by a Celestial King, at least. These talismans aren't simple. Once it's activated, it would carry the person a million miles away. Apart from that, it would leave traces of users in many directions to mislead the pursuers. For this reason, there's no need for you to feel worried."

Qin Yu nodded slightly. "I feel assured hearing this." After a brief pause, Qin Yu's eyes flashed as though he had just recalled something. "Eldest uncle, third uncle, what's the real objective of the Martial

Competition of the 16 Counties? You're not letting them return just like that after deciding on the top ten participants, right?"

"Of course, not." The Third prince shook his head and smiled. "Yu'er, do you really think King Qin's Mansion has prepared such generous rewards without any rhyme or reason?"

Qin Yu asked curiously, "Then, what's the reason?"

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A million miles away from King Qin's Mansion, on a desolate mountain.

"What's this place?"

A wretched-looking purple-clad young man flew out of the mountain as he surveyed his surroundings. His robes were incredibly tattered as though he had just escaped from some big battle. However, this did not detract from his handsome appearance and exceptional bearing. This young man was none other than Duan Ling Tian who had just escaped from King Qin's Mansion under the nose of the powerhouse from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect's expert.

Duan Ling Tian lamented to himself when he thought about the Shadow Void Escaping Talisman he had just used, "My life-saving measure is gone. Until I'm able to obtain another Shadow Void Escaping Talisman, I absolutely can't put myself in such a dangerous situation again."

Chapter 2703 The Despairing Illusory Realm

About half a year ago, right before Duan Ling Tian left Nine Specters County, he had visited Bloody Specter City. Bloody Specter City was the place he had ascended to when he ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven. Before he left Nine Specters County for good, he had decided to visit Liu Feng Gu, the County Governor of Bloody Specter City. It was also from Liu Feng Gu that he had learned that an old lady had come to the city to look for him with ill intention. Most importantly, he learned that the old lady was extremely powerful. For this reason, when he left Bloody Specter City and Nine Specter County, he had decided to back out of participating in King Qin's Mansion's Martial Competition of the 16 Counties.Duan Ling Tian chanced upon a Celestial Talisman gathering dust on a roadside stall in a small city in Horse Teeth County, which was also under King Qin's Mansion's rule, and paid for it at a mere cost of 10 prominent Celestial Stones. The Celestial Talisman turned out to be a Shadow Void Escaping Talisman. He only managed to pay such a small price for the treasure due to the vendor's ignorance of the talisman's value.

Ever since Duan Ling Tian had ascended to the Spirit Overarching Heaven, whether he was in Bloody Specter City or the County City of Nine Specters County, he had been studying Memory Celestial Talismans to gain a better understanding of the Devata Realms. That was how he had recognized the talisman as a Shadow Void Escaping Talisman through some specific markings in the roadside stall.

Duan Ling Tian knew that Shadow Void Escaping Talisman had to be inscribed by a Celestial King, at least. Even then, the success rate was only 1%. Apart from that, the materials needed were rare and expensive as well. Once activated, he knew it could carry the user a million miles away. It could help one to escape from Celestial Kings and those who were weaker.

For this reason, after Duan Ling Tian obtained the Shadow Void Escaping Talisman, he changed his mind and decided to attend the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties. Even then, he did not plan to participate in the competition. He was only going to watch the show.

Duan Ling Tian, then, decided to attend with a fake identity. For this reason, he joined the Flying Dragon Sect and became a Revered Elder in the sect. With that, he joined the group of people from the Flying Dragon Sect to attend the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties.

Apart from that, Duan Ling Tian truly did not expect the old lady would be lying in wait for him there. However, he did not dwell on it too much. After all, as long as he did not participate in the competition, he would not be exposed. In any case, even if he decided to participate in the competition and exposed himself, he had felt reassured since he had the Shadow Void Escaping Talisman. Let alone a mid-rank Celestial Kingdom like the Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom, even the high-rank Celestial Kingdoms might not even have a single Shadow Void Escaping Talisman.

Duan Ling Tian knew how precious the Celestial Talisman in his possession was. Therefore, if it was not absolutely necessary, he would not use it.

At that time, as Duan Ling Tian watched the Martial Competition of the 16 Counties, he found himself vacillating between participating and not participating in the competition. However, it had to be said that he was leaning toward not participating since he would be taking a huge and unnecessary risk.

It was when Tian Ji Yu, the County Governor of Nine Specters County, managed to buy an hour for him that he decided to participate in the competition. If the old lady was not present, then, all would be well. If the old lady was present, well, he thought, worst-case scenario, he would just use the Shadow Void Celestial Talisman.

Thinking about everything that happened, Duan Ling Tian said with a sigh, "I suffered a great loss this time. In any case, I've already fulfilled my promise to County Governor Tian and Elder Zheng Qiu."

Although Duan Ling Tian felt regretful, he did not let it bother him for long. After all, he knew there was no cure for regret in this world. Since things had turned out this way, there was no point in thinking about the what-ifs.

Duan Ling Tian lamented inwardly, 'It's pity that County Governor Tian died and didn't manage to get his hands on the Great Overarching Pills." He was not particularly saddened since he was not friends with Tian Ji Yu. They only had a business deal between them. He had no doubt that if Tian Ji Yu could obtain a Great Overarching Pill by killing him, Tian Ji Yu would not hesitate to act at all. Therefore, he was not saddened over Tian Ji Yu's death. He only felt Tian Ji Yu's death was unfortunate. Just as the Great Overarching Pills were almost in Tian Ji Yu's grasp, Tian Ji Yu had died.

After a while, Duan Ling Tian's thoughts took a different direction. "I can't say the trip is a complete loss... After all, I managed to find out where Murong Bing is from.' As far as he was concerned, his greatest gain from this trip was not winning the competition but finding out where Murong Bing was from.

"Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect... I'm sure we'll meet again soon..." Duan Ling Tian murmured to himself as that figure from years ago flashed in his mind. He seemed to be lost in his thoughts at this moment. In fact, he had no feelings for Murong Bing. However, since he and Murong Bing had sex, and it was also her first time, he felt that as a man, he should take responsibility for it. Since they had sex, Murong Rong Bing could only be his woman. He would not allow any other man to take her away!

Even if Duan Ling Tian did not find out where Murong Bing was from today, he was certain he would still be able to find her in the future. After all, as his strength improved, he would definitely be able to find her. It might just take a little longer. As he thought about it, he suddenly felt it was not too big a loss to exchange the Shadow Void Escaping Talisman for Murong Bing's location. As far as he was concerned, a Shadow Void Escaping Talisman was nothing compared to Mu Rong Bing whom he had already seen as his woman!

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Duan Ling Tian had been flying for a long time when he suddenly muttered to himself, "What the hell is this place? After flying for so long, there's no end in sight..."

Even after several days, he was still flying above the desolate mountain. There was no end and beginning in sight at all.

"Hm?" Duan Ling Tian saw something flickered in his sight.

In just a brief moment, a vast expanse of snow appeared before his eyes. It was as though he had entered a world of ice and show. He could see snowy peaks in front of him. It looked extremely dazzling.

"An Illusory Realm?" It did not take long for Duan Ling Tian to realize he had entered an Illusory Realm. Moreover, it seemed like an extraordinary Illusory Realm. If it were not extraordinary, he would have long seen through it and would not have wandered aimlessly in the desolate mountain for days. "Let's see if I can break out of it..."

Illusory realms like their names suggest were illusory. To break the illusion, one would have to find the realm's core. Once the core was broken, the illusion would break

"This illusory realm... is really not simple!" After traveling several days and several nights, the scene before Duan Ling Tian changed again.

The world of ice and snow vanished and Duan Ling Tian found himself in a boundless grassland. A green expanse laid before him with no end in sight. To find the Illusory Realm's core in such a place was even harder than finding a needle in the ocean. Therefore, he decided to wait it out. ascending the heavens.

Duan Ling Tian was quite confident that such a brilliant Illusory Realm definitely had more than three illusions. Indeed, it was just as he had expected. After traveling for another few days and nights, a new illusion appeared.

This time, he found himself in a lush forest. It was so lifelike that the forest even had beasts that would vanish like smoke as soon as he touched them. He searched the forest thoroughly. Whether it was the

plants, flowers, trees, birds, or beasts, he left no rock unturned. He had to find and break the core if he wanted to leave.

However, days and nights passed again, and the illusion changed again. And yet, Duan Ling Tian still did not find the core.

"How can I be so unfortunate? The first time I used the Shadow Void Escaping Talisman, I ended up in this awful place... It would have been fine if it was an ordinary Illusory Realm, but it just happens to be an extraordinary one!" Duan Ling Tian felt somewhat helpless.

Although he had smoothly escaped from the powerhouse from the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect with the help of Shadow Void Celestial Talisman, he ended up in this confusing and extraordinary Illusory Realm.

As time passed, the illusions continued to change as well. At this moment, Duan Ling Tian finally realized he had no way of finding the location of the core with his current ability. He sighed. "It seems like I have no way of breaking out for the time being!"

At this point, Duan Ling Tian calmly accepted this and no longer struggled. He was aware that his current cultivation base was simply not enough for him to leave this place.

2704 Huan'er

'The Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy here is quite good. Although it's lacking compared to the stone chamber I had in the Latent Dragon Abyss, it's still much better than most places... Let's just cultivate here for the time being until I have a breakthrough before I try to leave the Illusory Realm again!' Duan Ling Tian sat down cross-legged in the air, uncaring of the changing illusions in his surroundings. He took a Celestial Pill before a Celestial Stone appeared in his hand, and he began to cultivate using the Crystal Clearance Tactic!

The Heaven and Earth Spirit Energy entered Duan Ling Tian's body and circulated around his 99 Heavenly Veins before it was converted into Celestial Origin Energy. He continued cultivating without giving thought to the passing time as his cultivation base continued to improve.

"Based on my current cultivation base, it won't take long for me to break through and become an Indigo Sun Golden Celestial."

In the past year, before he had left Nine Specters County, after eating the primitive Celestial Pill, the Golden Gilded Pill, and becoming a Green Sun Golden Celestial, he was only a step away from becoming a Blue Sun Golden Celestial. His fast progress was all due to the Golden Gilded Pill. Not only did the Golden Gilded Pill help him become a Green Sun Golden Celestial, but it also helped him take a step closer to becoming a Blue Sun Golden Celestial.

However, since the surroundings were ever-changing, Duan Ling Tian was not completely immersed in his cultivation. Every time his surroundings changed, he would be woken up from his immersive state. The illusions would change every few days.

After half a month had passed, the illusion changed into a moon-lit ruin and stopped changing completely.

Rubble and debris could be seen everywhere. There were tombstones erected before dilapidated houses as well. All of the tombstones had no names on them.

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After a month had passed, the illusion still remained the same.

Whoosh!

At this moment, a gust of wind suddenly blew across the ruin, causing debris and dust to rise in the air.

Soon after, a snow-white figure appeared like a ghost before a purple-clad figure sitting cross-legged in the air above the air.

The figure studied the purple-clad figure who was immersed in cultivation with limpid eyes.

Duan Ling Tian was completely immersed in cultivation so he was not aware of the ghost-like figure who had appeared before him. However, if he had seen the figure, he would have snapped out of his cultivation and regarded the figure with wariness as though he was facing his enemy.

Time gradually passed as Duan Ling Tian continued to cultivate.

Meanwhile, the ghost-like figure continued standing in front of Duan Ling Tian, observing him motionlessly. It looked like a white statue.

After an unknown amount of time had passed, Duan Ling Tian discovered that he was only one step away from becoming a Blue Sun Golden Celestial. However, it was difficult to cross this final step.

'I've reached a bottleneck.' Duan Ling Tian sighed inwardly. He finally stretched his limbs before he slowly opened his eyes.

The sight that greeted his eyes caused his expression to change drastically as he inhaled sharply. He had seen the white figure standing in front of him. The figure seemed ethereal as though it did not belong in this world and had a lonely air about it like a ghost drifting in the wilderness.

Duan Ling Tian took a deep breath before he narrowed his eyes and asked, "You... Who are you?" He studied the white figure before him that carried an unworldly air about it.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian finally saw the white figure clearly under the illumination of the clear moonlight.

The moment he saw the white figure clearly, his eyes widened immediately. A hint of amazement could be seen in his eyes. It was as though he had seen a fairy who had descended to the mortal world!

The white figure belonged to a stunning beauty with a graceful figure. Prior to this, he did not think a beauty like her existed in this world. Her features seemed to be carved by a master artisan. With just her looks alone, she could topple multiple nations. She wore a flimsy white robe that fluttered in the air.

At this moment, Duan Ling Tian found it difficult to tear his eyes away from her. He had seen many women, and among them, many were stunning with their own unique bearing. However, until now, he had never seen a woman like the woman standing before him.

Although the woman's features were extremely seductive, at the same time, she exuded a pure aura. The contradiction made her even more attractive, and it was something that Duan Ling Tian had never seen before. She seemed like a young girl who had just matured into a woman and stepped out into the world for the first time.

"Too beautiful... This world actually has such a beauty..." Although Duan Ling Tian was usually calm when faced with beauties and had no intention of entangling himself with more women, his heart could not help but skip a few beats when he saw her. It took him a few moments before he finally managed to calm himself down with the help of his strong will. After all, his response to her was just an instinctual male response.

Duan Ling Tian could imagine if this woman went out into the world, the men would all fight over, leaving a bloody carnage in her wake. Men would definitely find it difficult to resist her charm.

'A stunner... An absolute stunner...' These words appeared in Duan Ling Tian's mind.

Under Duan Ling Tian's watchful eyes, the white-robed woman's limpid eyes flashed briefly as she finally said, "Who are you?"

As soon as she spoke, Duan Ling Tian felt himself weakened again. Her voice was as melodious as she was beautiful.

After a few moments, Duan Ling Tian forced himself to calm down before he said," Duan Ling Tian. What about you?"

Upon hearing Duan Ling Tian's question, the white-robed woman thought about it for a few moments before her lips curved slightly into an indifferent smile. "Me? Ever since I was born, mother called me Huan'er. You can call me Huan'er as well, I supposed."

"Huan'er." Duan Ling Tian nodded slightly before he asked, "What about your mother?"

Hearing Duan Ling Tian's question, Huan'er lowered her head and sighed." Mother left long ago... She told me to stay here before she left. She said the first person I don't dislike can bring me out. I've been waiting and waiting until you came..." As she spoke, she looked at Duan Ling Tian with keen eyes. She continued to say, "Mother told me the outside world is very fun, but she had never taken me with her. Later, she had left. However, because of her words, I didn't dare to leave this place. After all, if mother finds out I left this place, she would get very angry with me." A fearful expression appeared on her face as she said, "Mother... mother can be terrifying when she's angry..."

Duan Ling Tian was baffled. "Your mother said before she left that it doesn't matter who, as long as you don't dislike them, they can bring you out?" After a moment, he asked again, "Don't tell me nobody has come here before?"

"No, there were," Huan'er said as she turned her limpid eyes toward the nameless tombstones, "Every one of these tombstones represents the people who came here... Amongst them were women like Huan'er and men like you whom mother told me about."

"One woman and eight men... Mother told me that woman's gaze was filled with envy. Huan'er disliked that gaze so Huan'er killed her."

Duan Ling Tian could only smile bitterly when he heard Huan'er's words. Apart from a select few confident women, were there any women who would not be envious of Huan'er?

Huan'er continued to say, "The gazes of the eight men disgusted Huan'er so Huan'er killed them as well."

From the beginning until the end, when Huan'er spoke about her killings, it seemed as though she was talking about the weather.

"Only your gaze is clean and pure. Huan'er doesn't dislike you. So you must be the person mother said who can bring me out! Will you take Huan'er out? Huan'er wants to see the world outside. Mother said that the world outside is marvelous and very interesting." Huan'er seemed like a half-grown child now whose only thoughts were about having fun.

2705 The Mysterious Huan'er

When Duan Ling Tian heard Huan'er talking about those eight men, he smiled wryly. With her unique beauty given by the heavens, it was only natural that she would arouse the interest of a normal and vigorous young man. Most of these men would be tempted to take her for their own. Since he had lived two lifetimes and experienced many things, his heart was able to remain calm and prevent him from losing self-control like ordinary men.

'Fortunately, I didn't lose my self-control with her Huan'er. Otherwise, she'd have killed me like how she did the other nine men!' Duan Ling Tian thought to himself as he looked at the ten nameless tombstones, 'If that happened, I'll end up here forever with a nameless tombstone of my own as well.' He felt rather blessed at this moment.

Suddenly, Duan Ling Tian seemed to have recalled something. He narrowed his eyes and murmured, "Right, I forgot I'm stuck in an Illusory Realm before I began cultivating. Before this, I couldn't find and break the core of the Illusory Realm. I cultivated in hopes of improving my strength so I can break out of the Illusory Realm." Due to Huan'er's sudden appearance, he had momentarily forgotten about this. 'Is this place also part of the Illusory Realm? And, Huan'er... Is she real?' With these thoughts in mind, he reached out to touch Huan'er to verify if she was real. When he touched her, he could feel a softness that electrified him. Realizing he had touched the wrong place, he hastily withdrew his hand and awkwardly apologized, "I-I'm sorry..." Meanwhile, he could not help but worry if the stunningly beautiful woman would kill him because he had accidentally molested her.

Although Duan Ling Tian was not certain about Huan'er's cultivation base, he could sense she was no weaker than him. Based on her ability to appear in Illusory Realm and to trap him here, it was clear she was not weak. He thought to himself, 'Didn't she say she has always been here? This Illusory Realm must've been made by her mother.'

"Hmm?" When Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er were looking at each other after he had quickly withdrawn his hand, she reached out with both hands and touched his chest, gently squeezing a few times.

"Why are they as hard as stones and so difficult to squeeze?" Huan'er frowned slightly as she touched and squeezed her breasts. "Mine's soft... This must be the difference between men and women that mother told me about! It doesn't seem fun to be a man," she muttered to herself as she reached out and tapped Duan Ling Tian's muscular chest like a playful child.

"Huan'er." Duan Ling Tian gulped and removed Huan'er's hands from his chest with great difficulty. If he did not see the purity and innocence in her eyes, he would have thought she was deliberately teasing and seducing him. He took a deep breath to suppress the burning flame in his lower abdomen and changed the subject. "Huan'er, did you say you can leave this place?"

"Yes," Huan'er nodded. Then, she asked, "Duan Ling Tian, a-are you bringing me away from here?" Her eyes lit up, filled with anticipation and excitement. She was like a playful child stuck at home who was finally allowed out to play.

"I can't even get out of here, how can I take you away?" Duan Ling Tian smiled bitterly.

"Why can't you get out of here?" Huan'er asked skeptically.

"Hmm?" Hearing Huan'er's reply, Duan Ling Tian extended his Divine Consciousness and discovered he was no longer in the Illusory Realm. The ruin beneath his feet was real and not just another illusion. "W-what happened? I'm no longer in the Illusory Realm?" He was shocked.

"Oh, the Illusory Realm... I removed it when I appeared in front of you." Huan'er waved her hand in front of Duan Ling Tian and a small white pearl appeared in her hand. White light swirled in the white pearl like a bottomless abyss.

When Duan Ling Tian looked at the pearl, he felt as though he was going to be caught in a daze. When he regained his senses, he asked, "You removed it?" He was surprised. He could not do anything about the Illusory Realm, but she had broken it? He was rendered momentarily speechless.

"Yes. The Illusory Realm is created by this Illusory Pearl my mom gave me. In order to appear before you, I had to remove the Illusory Realm." Huan'er nodded with a childish expression on her face.

"So that's why..." After a while, he asked, "Huan'er, what's your current cultivation base?"

Huan'er furrowed her brows slightly, looking cute, as she replied, "Cultivation base? I don't know. However, out of those nine men I killed, half of them were stronger than you."

"Half of them were stronger than me?" Duan Ling Tian was not thoroughly convinced. After all, his strength was much greater than his cultivation base. He was only Blue Sun Golden Celestial, but his true strength was comparable to a Great Overarching Golden Celestial. If he were to attack with all his might and use the Devata Artifact, the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword, his strength would be comparable to an earth-rank Great Overarching Golden Celestial or even a common heaven-rank Great Overarching Golden Celestial.

Duan Ling Tian was unaware that when Huan'er spoke about his strength in comparison to the other men, she had been using the time he had unleashed all his strength with the Devata Artifact, the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword, to break out of the Illusory Realm as a reference.

"Duan Ling Tian, where are we going now?" Huan'er asked while looking at Duan Ling Tian with her beautiful eyes that were brimming with anticipation and curiosity.

"I don't know where we are now. Let's just go with the flow." When Duan Ling Tian regained his senses, he looked around and randomly decided on a direction.

Just like that, someone had helped Duan Ling Tian get rid of the Illusory Realm. Moreover, the person who had done that was a woman who was now following him.

While they were wandering aimlessly, Duan Ling Tian asked, "Huan'er, other than your mother, do you have any other relatives?" Most men might feel incredibly lucky for having a woman like Huan'er following them, but he felt she was like a hot potato and thought it would be better to get rid of her as soon as he could. Naturally, he was not going to just abandon her. He could tell she was unwise to the ways of the world. Despite her stunning appearance, no one had seen her face except her mother, him, and those people whom she had killed.

'Based on what she said, her mother made her wait for someone there. Her mother telling her only to leave with someone she doesn't dislike is just a way of protecting her from going off with strangers that might harbor ill intentions,' Duan Ling Tian speculated inwardly. He felt that Huan'er might have mistaken him for someone else and that her mother might have meant for someone else to come and get her.

"No." Huan'er shook her head.

Duan Ling Tian nodded and sighed to himself. He knew he would not be able to get rid of this stunningly beautiful woman so soon.

"Hmm?" After traveling for a while, Duan Ling Tian finally came across five men.

The five men consisted of three young men and two old men.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Huan'er next to him and said, "Huan'er, can you cover your face with a veil?"

Huan'er tilted her head to the side and asked in confusion, "Why?"

A surprised voice cried out, "What a beautiful woman!"

Upon hearing this, Duan Ling Tian knew it was too late to conceal Huan'er's appearance.

Out of the five people approaching them, the three young men were all dressed in brocade robes. Based on their behavior, Duan Ling Tian could tell they were sons from rich families who were used to indulging in hedonistic lifestyles.

2706 Huan'er Attacks

One of the brocade-clad young men who looked like the leader of the group said with bright eyes, "I'll have this lady." He looked at her lecherously without attempting to disguise it.

"Since Brother Li wants her, she's, naturally, yours."

"Brother Li, you're so lucky this time."

The other two brocade-clad young men replied when they heard the other man's words. Despite their words, their eyes flashed with reluctance and resentment. They were from the same clan, but the man who had spoken first had higher status than them. Moreover, they could only come out today because of this man. It was not that they could not come out if they wished. However, they did not have two Great Overarching Golden Celestials as bodyguards like this man.

Even when the two old men following the three young men saw Huan'er, their eyes flashed briefly. They had lived for a few thousand years, and yet, this was their first time seeing such an attractive and beautiful woman whose face seemed to be sculpted by the gods themselves. They had frequently seen the most beautiful woman in the capital of the Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom, but they had never been moved like they did when they saw Huan'er.

"Young Master Li," one of the two old men said to the brocade-clad man who had spoken first, "If you bring such a beautiful lady back with you, you'll certainly bring disaster to the clan if you bring her out. Let alone the others, if the Sixth Prince finds out that you didn't offer such a beauty to him, he'll definitely be displeased."

"The Sixth Prince!" Young Master Li felt a jolt of fear as cold sweat formed on his forehead when he heard the old man's reminder. Indeed, he was filled with desire and thoughts of how to possess the beauty before him. After all, she was unnaturally beautiful. However, the old man's words were like a cold bucket of water being splashed on him. He knew there was no way he would be able to possess the beautiful woman before him. He thought to himself self-mockingly, 'I, Nangong Li, am blessed enough to encounter such a beauty, and yet, I'm unable to possess her.'

The Sixth Prince mentioned by the old man was the sixth son of the King of the Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom and Nangong Li's leader. Nangong Li was just an insignificant follower, who knew if the Sixth Prince even remembered his name?

The second old man suggested, "Young Master Li, if you offer this beauty to the Sixth Prince, perhaps, His Royal Highness might pay attention to you and consider you one of his close confidantes. It's not a total loss even if you can't possess her."

"You're right! The Sixth Prince won't treat someone who brings benefits to him badly. If I offer His Royal Highness this beauty, he will certainly be pleased and might even place more value in me." Nangong Li's eyes shone now that he had been enlightened by the two old men's words. Then, he said, "Two elders, please kill that man first before capturing that lady. Remember not to hurt her. Otherwise, if the Sixth Prince is angered, not only I, but both of you will be affected as well!" He looked at Duan Ling Tian as though Duan Ling Tian was a dead man walking. Then, he turned to look at Huan'er with undiguised sexual thoughts.

Meanwhile, when the other two brocade-clad young men heard Nangong Li planned to offer the beauty to the Sixth Prince, the resentment and reluctance in their eyes vanished. However, that did not stop them from looking at Huan'er lecherously.

It was only natural since Huan'er seemed so flawlessly beautiful. Most ordinary men would be attracted to her.

"Yes, Young Master Li!" the two old men replied in unison. Then, they looked at Duan Ling Tian with killing intent.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

When the two old men made their moves, Duan Ling Tian's expression darkened. It was not because the two old men's speed was as fast as Great Overarching Golden Celestials. After all, based on their speed, they were only yellow-rank Great Overarching Golden Celestials at most. Their strength was comparable to Zhou Tong, the Revered Elder from the County Governor's estate in Nine Specters County. He could easily kill Zhou Tong back then, let alone now. His expression had darkened because Nangong Li wanted to kill him. He had no enmity with Nangong Li, but Nangong Li wanted to kill him even though this was their first meeting.

When the two old men charged toward Duan Ling Tian, Duan Ling Tian had also mobilized his Celestial Origin Energy. However, before he had a chance to act, a melodious voice said, "I prohibit you from killing Duan Ling Tian." Although the voice sounded melodious, it was icy-cold.

When Duan Ling Tian heard it, he felt as though he was listening to the most melodious music in the world.

Nangong Li and the two brocade-clad young men were mesmerized by her voice as well.

"Not only is she beautiful, but her voice is melodious as well!"

"It's such a pity that we're only able to see but not touch!"

All three of them lamented.

When the two old men heard Huan'er's melodious voice, they paused briefly before they continued to charge at Duan Ling Tian at lightning speed to kill him.

Whoosh!

In just an instance, before Duan Ling Tian and the two old men could react, Huan'er seemed to vanish into thin air before she reappeared before the two old men. She said coldly, "I've already said, you're not allowed to kill Duan Ling Tian!" A palpably cold killing intent surged out from her body in all directions at this moment. It caused Duan Ling Tian and three young men standing in the distance to feel as though they had fallen into an icy pond during winter. They were chilled to their bones.

In fact, with their cultivation bases, it was impossible for them to be frozen even if they fell into a pond during winter. However, the cold aura from Huan'er seemed capable of freezing them. All of them were shivering, and their lips had turned blue from the cold.

After a while, Duan Ling Tian discovered that the chill that shrouded him seemed to have disappeared. He sighed in relief. He could not dispel the cold even when he released his Celestial Origin Energy earlier. The cold was truly terrifying. "Hmm?" Duan Ling Tian was taken aback when he lifted his head and looked at the two old men. They had been transformed into ice sculptures, and it seemed to be snowing! Moreover, cracks were forming on them.

Crack! Crack! Crack!

The cracks grew longer and longer, and it did not take long before the two old men shattered into icy shards!

Duan Ling Tian inhaled sharply. His gaze toward Huan'er, who was standing in the snow with her thin white robes fluttering in the air, had changed at this moment. She looked like a goddess of ice and snow at this moment, like someone who could not be desecrated!

Suddenly, Duan Ling Tian seemed to have noticed something. He turned to look at Nangong Li and the two brocade-clad men. Nangong Li seemed to be hurriedly crushing a Celestial Talisman.

Whoosh!

In just a second, Nangong Li seemed to vanish into thin air.

Duan Ling Tian had clearly seen and recognized the markings on the Celestial Talisman. He exclaimed, "It's a Drifting Light and Shadow Talisman!"

The Drifting Light and Shadow Talisman could only be engraved by Celestial Dukes or those who are stronger. Moreover, the success of inscribing was less than 1%. In comparison to the Shadow Void Escaping Talisman that Duan Ling Tian had used that could only be inscribed by Celestial Kings or those who were stronger, the Drifting Light and Shadow Talismans were more common. It was available in most intermediate-rank Celestial Kingdoms. Naturally, these were only affordable to those rich clans and families. However, since they could not afford too many of them, only members and disciples with high status would receive one.

"No! Don't kill me!"

"Spare my life, fairy. Please spare my life!"

The two brocade-clad young men pleaded in unison when Huan'er turned her sights on them. Nevertheless, as soon as they had spoken, their bodies were frozen immediately when Huan'er appeared before them. Like the old men, they were turned into ice sculptures and shattered.

After killing four men consecutively, Huan'er returned to Duan Ling Tian's side as though nothing had happened. She said, "Duan Ling Tian, I can't catch up to the other one."

"He used the Drifting Light and Shadow Talisman so his speed is as fast as a Celestial Duke. It's only natural that you can't catch up to him," Duan Ling Tian said knowingly.

Although the Drifting Light and Shadow Talisman was far inferior to the Shadow Void Escaping Talisman, it could grant the user with speed comparable to that of an ordinary Celestial Duke, bringing the user 100,000 miles away.

Chapter 2707 Only for You to See

Duan Ling Tian looked at Huan'er and said with a sigh, "Huan'er, I think it's better that you put on a veil." If her extremely beautiful face was not covered, she would attract many people's attention after this." Why?" Huan'er sounded rather reluctant.

"If you don't put on a veil, there'll be a lot of people looking for trouble with us like those people," Duan Ling Tian replied helplessly. He did not want any trouble. Moreover, he was being targeted by the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect. If the sect's powerhouses learned that he was being followed by a beautiful woman, it would not be able for them to track him down since Huan'er would definitely attract attention wherever she went.

"We'll just kill them as they come," Huan'er said flippantly as though killing came easier to her than eating.

In the end, Duan Ling Tian said sternly, "Huan'er, if you don't put on a veil, please don't follow me around anymore." In all honesty, he was not extremely confident when he had spoken. Who knew if she would be offended by his words and kill him? Based on her attack earlier, he could finally discern her strength. She was, at the very least, a heaven-rank Great Overarching Golden Celestial or a peak Great Overarching Golden Celestial since she had killed the two yellow-rank Great Overarching Golden Celestials before they could even react. On the other hand, his strength was, at most, only comparable to common heaven-rank Great Overarching Golden Celestial after he unleashed all the methods and techniques he knew.

If Huan'er was a heaven-rank Great Overarching Golden Celestial, could she be a common one? Although he did not know her background in detail, based on the Illusory Realm built by the Illusory Pearl given to her by her mother, it looked like her mother's background was not simple. For this reason, he suspected her cultivation methods, Celestial Methods, and Divine Abilities were extraordinary as well. Therefore, he concluded that he was probably no match for her even if he used his Devata Artifact, the Seven Orifices Exquisite Sword, and attacked unreservedly.

A thought appeared in Duan Ling Tian's mind. 'In fact, when she attacked earlier, she didn't use any Celestial Weapon.' He gasped inwardly. 'It seems like I've underestimated her. She's probably a peak Great Overarching Golden Celestial or an Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial!'

Overarching Heaven Supreme Celestial! In King Qin's Mansion, King Qin alone was an Overarching Heaven Supreme Celestial!

While Duan Ling Tian worried about Huan'er's reaction, her solemn gaze turned playful as she said, "Okay, I got it. It must be because you don't want others to see my face, right?"

Duan Ling Tian was speechless.

"Am I right?" Huan'er asked while looking at him.

"Well, you can consider it that way if you want to. Anyway, just please put on a veil," Duan Ling Tian said rather helplessly.

"Since you don't want others to see my face, I'll put on the veil. From now on, my face is only for you to see, alright? Hmm... well... my mother can see my face as well." Huan'er lifted her hand, and a cold Celestial Origin Energy drifted out and turned into a white veil, which matched her robes, that covered most of her face.

Duan Ling Tian felt his face turned hot when he heard her flirtatious words. However, when he saw her innocent eyes, he knew she had no other meaning. She was clearly unaware of the relations between men and women. He sighed in relief before he smiled. "Huan'er, you're a good girl." At the same time, he reached out and touched her head. He felt her long and smooth hair with his fingers and smelled the fresh and feminine fragrance on his hand after he withdrew them.

After a brief moment, Duan Ling Tian said, "It's still better to get you a real veil. I don't think a veil transformed from Celestial Origin Energy is very dependable." After all, those with a higher cultivation base than Huan'er would be able to easily see her appearance.

"Okay, I'll do as you say." Huan'er nodded obediently. She was just like a simple and obedient child. Compared to the goddess of ice and snow who had easily killed four men, she seemed like a completely different person.

Duan Ling Tian was puzzled. 'I really wonder who she is?' He asked, "Huan'er, do you know who's your mother? Where did she go?"

"My mom is not a human but a Celestial Beast. She's the Phantom Fox. As for her whereabouts, she didn't tell me so I don't know," Huan'er replied.

"A Celestial Beast?" Duan Ling Tian exclaimed in surprise. Then, he looked at her and asked, "So, you're not human as well?"

"Yes." Huan'er nodded. "I'm not completely human. My mom told me I'm a rare Thousand Phantom Ice Fox that only appears once in a million years in our Phantom Fox Clan. A Thousand Phantom Ice Fox is a child from the union between a Phantom Fox and a human. Generally, the union between a Phantom Fox and a human will either produce a Phantom Fox or a human. The probability of a Thousand Phantom Ice Fox appearing is less than one in ten thousand. A Thousand Phantom Ice Fox looks like a human baby when born and can turn into a Thousand Phantom Ice Fox only by continuous cultivation."

"So, you're half-human," Duan Ling Tian said.

"Yes." Huan'er nodded.

"Huan'er, do you plan to look for your mother?" Duan Ling Tian asked.

"Yes!" Huan'er nodded again. Then, she looked at Duan Ling Tian with wide eyes as she said, "Duan Ling Tian, can you please accompany me to look for my mother? I haven't seen her for a long time now... I really miss her!" Tears began to stream down her cheeks, making her look heartbreakingly beautiful. Seeing the pitiful expression on her face, Duan Ling Tian could not help but soften. For this reason, he agreed to her request. "Ok, I'll accompany you to look for your mother."

"I really, really miss my mother!" Huan'er cried even harder.

Without any warning, she rushed into Duan Ling Tian's arms, causing his lower body to react. It took him a moment to suppress his urge. He was, after all, a normal man who would react when faced with such a unique beauty who rushed into his embrace. After suppressing the urge, he gently patted her back and comforted her like a child. "Don't cry, Huan'er. Don't cry..."

After a while, Huan'er's cries gradually softened before it stopped completely. "Fallen asleep already?" He was rather shocked when he discovered she had fallen asleep in his arms. However, seeing her in deep slumber, he did not dare to move.

At the same time, he began to think about the incident earlier. 'Those few men mentioned the Sixth Prince earlier and something about the most beautiful woman in the capital. The young man who escaped is called Nangong Li...'

He continued thinking to himself, 'I used the Shadow Void Escaping Talisman and escaped a million miles away from King Qin's Mansion. For that reason, I'm certain I'm no longer in King Qin's Mansion's territories. However, I'm still in the Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom. If I'm not mistaken, I'm near the capital of the Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom. Indeed, I've heard about a Nangong clan in the capital of the Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom. Although it's considered a second-tier clan, it's as rich as various king's mansions governed by the Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom. I've long heard that the Sixth Prince is the most outstanding prince among the princes of the Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom's Emperor. He's a brilliant military strategist, and his vice is women.' With this, he managed to have a rough idea of his current location.

'I wonder if the Sect Leader of the Compassionate Celestial Traveler Sect only sent that old lady to kill me? If she sends a couple of them, I don't think it'll take her long to find me.'

He thought to himself decisively, 'When Huan'er wakes up, we'll leave this kingdom!'

As he instinctively lowered his head, he fell into a daze as he saw the indistinct features of Huan'er's face.

Chapter 2708 Cold and Pure

Swoosh!A thousand miles away from where Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er were, a figure flew past. The figure belonged to Nangong Li who managed to escape using the Drifting Light and Shadow Talisman. He was the son of the current Clan Leader of the Nangong Clan in the capital of the Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom. He was the Great Young Master of the Nangong Clan. A frightened expression could still be seen on his face as he thought to himself, 'Who's that flawless beauty? How can she be so strong? The two elders were yellow-rank Great Overarching Golden Celestials, but with just her cold aura alone, she managed to freeze the two elders and kill them. She only used her Celestial Origin Energy to kill them and didn't even use any Celestial Weapon!'

Nangong Li gulped audibly as he muttered to himself, "Generally, only a peak Great Overarching Golden Celestial could instantly kill two yellow-rank Great Overarching Golden Celestials at the same time

without the need of a Celestial Weapon! That flawless beauty is actually so strong?" His burning flame of desire was instantly out as though an ice-cold bucket of cold water had been poured on him when he thought about Huan'er again.

When Nangong Li regained his senses, he looked around and discovered he was in a majestic mountain range. "Where's this place? I have to find a place to hide first before sending a message to my father to send someone to escort me back." He was not confident he could safely return to the capital of the Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom on his own. With his cultivation base, if he tried to go back alone, he might be killed by some robbers along the way. Therefore, he decided to look for a cave to hide in first. Then, he took out a Communication Celestial Talisman and infused his Celestial Origin Energy into it. It turned into a streak of light that flew in the direction of the capital of the Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom at lightning speed.

In the message, apart from asking his father to send men to escort him back, Nangong Li also briefly described the place he was in. He was not sure the direction he was in, but he was confident his father would be able to figure out his location based on the direction the Communication Celestial Talisman came from. After all, Communication Celestial Talismans only flew in a straight line.

As the son of the Clan Leader of the Nangong Clan, the Communication Celestial Talisman he possessed was inscribed by an Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial. Therefore, the Communication Celestial Talisman's speed was comparable to a common Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial. It should arrive in the capital with no problems unless someone stronger than an Overarching Heavenly Supreme Celestial deliberately stopped it.

•••

Meanwhile, Huan'er, who was in Duan Ling Tian's embrace, seemed to have woken up from her nap. She tapped his chest gently with her left hand and said with a smile, "Duan Ling Tian, although your body part here is harder than mine, it's quite comfortable." When she smiled, it was so charming that it seemed like a field of flowers was blooming.

Duan Ling Tian fell into a daze for a moment upon seeing her smile. He regained his senses when he felt a burning sensation in his lower body again when Huan'er repeatedly shifted her body against him, pushing her soft breasts against him.

'What a seductive woman...' Duan Ling Tian took a deep breath and gently pushed her away. He was worried he would lose his self-control if she continued to move around in his embrace.

In fact, this was his first time being aroused by a woman in such a manner. He had always deliberately avoided other women after all. Now, with such a unique beauty leaning against him, it would have been abnormal if he had no reactions. Finally, he said, "Huan'er, let's look around to see if there's a town nearby. Let's plan where to go once we find out where we're at."

"Okay, we'll do as you say." Huan'er slightly nodded. Since she was born, she had only met ten people, apart from her mother. Most importantly, she had killed all ten of them because she had been disgusted by their gazes. Only Duan Ling Tian's gaze did not disgust her. Since he fulfilled the condition her mother had set for her to leave, she decided to follow him.

Huan'er had never been in the outside world. She knew not about the dangers of the world. In many ways, she was even more innocent than maidens who were protectively raised in their homes. At least, those maidens were aware of some of the rules of propriety. Since she had decided to follow Duan Ling Tian, apart from her mother, he had become her everything even if she knew nothing about friendship or love. She only knew Duan Ling Tian met the criteria her mother had set for her. For this reason, she would not let anyone harm him. Those who wanted to harm him deserved to die! This was also why she did not hesitate to kill those people from the Nangong clan!

At this moment, Huan'er was like a blank sheet of paper. As to what would be painted on the paper, it would depend on her experience and Duan Ling Tian's guidance.

"Let's go then," Duan Ling Tian beckoned. Then, he flew into the air.

Huan'er followed very closely next to him as though she could bear to be separated from him for even a moment.

Duan Ling Tian could, naturally, feel Huan'er's attachment to him, but he did not dwell on it because he knew she was just inexperienced and naive. After she gained more experience and learned about the ways of the world, she would learn about the differences between men and women and a sense of propriety. At that time, she would, naturally, know it was not appropriate for her to stick to him.

...

After a few days, Duan Ling Tian finally saw a city ahead of them. As soon as they entered the city, he bought an exquisite white veil for Huan'er. It was an opaque veil to cover her face to prevent others from being attracted to her looks. Nevertheless, even with the veil on, she still attracted many men's gazes when she walked down the streets. Even some women were attracted by her beauty.

Huan'er followed closely beside Duan Ling Tian. When other people were around, her expression was not one of innocence, it was cold. She had an extremely unapproachable air about her with her cold expression and thin white robes. It made others feel ashamed and that she was extremely pure.

"Although that lady is wearing a veil, I can tell she's great beauty based on her eyes and bearing."

"Yes, I agree. Although I couldn't see her face, I'm certain she's not ugly."

"Perhaps, she's wearing a veil to conceal some flaws on her face? After all, women love to look beautiful. Why would she cover herself up if she's really beautiful?"

"How I wish I can see what she looks like."

Wherever Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er went, people in their surroundings would fall silent, in awe of Huan'er beauty. They would only start discussing among themselves once the duo had walked away. Most of them were attracted by Huan'er cold but pure temperament. Just from her beautiful eyes, most of them were certain she was beautiful.

At this moment, after Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er had just walked past a wide street, a voice rang from behind them. "Please wait for a moment!"

Huan'er did not seem to be aware of it until she discovered Duan Ling Tian had stopped and turned to look back. She followed suit.

The person who had called out to them was a young scholar who was holding a folded fan. He had a handsome appearance and a gentle smile on his face. However, there was a slight hint of wickedness in his smile that was contradictory to his scholarly and gentle appearance. An old man followed behind him.

Duan Ling Tian could tell the old man was no weaker than the two elders from the Nangong clan despite how ordinary the old man looked.

"Both of you aren't locals, right?" The young scholar's smile deepened. A hint of wickedness could still be seen in his smile. His eyes were mostly trained on Huan'er rather than Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian looked at the young scholar indifferently and asked, "Is there something you need?"

A hint of jealousy flickered in the young scholar's eyes when he saw how close Huan'er was standing near Duan Ling Tian. He said with a smile, "Sir, I wonder if your companion would take off her veil? Of course, I'm willing to pay for it. If your companion is willing to remove her veil, I'm willing to pay each of you 10,000 prominent Celestial Stones just to have a look at her face."

Chapter 2709 Seeking Death!

"If she takes off her veil, you'll give ys 10,000 prominent Celestial Stones each?" Duan Ling Tian repeated the young scholar's words as his eyes narrowed into slits and his expression darkened.Huan'er's expression beneath the veil had turned icy-cold as well. Only when Duan Ling Tian gently tapped her hand and told through Voice Transmission that he would deal with the matter that her expression returned to normal. She only nodded in response to his Voice Transmission.

"That's right." The young scholar smiled since he thought Huan'er had agreed to it when she nodded. It seemed like he was not aware of the dark expression on Duan Ling Tian's face. Only he knew if he really was unaware or if he pretended to be unaware of it.

At this moment, the passersby on the street had gathered to watch the commotion. It did not take them long to recognize the young scholar.

"Isn't he Qi You, the Second Young Master of the Qi clan?"

"That's him!"

"He's willing to pay 20,000 prominent Celestial Stones just to take a look at a woman's face! No wonder they say the Second Young Master of Qi likes to squander money. Seems like the rumor is true!"

"I wonder if the woman will take off her veil?"

The city Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er had come to was called Qi Lyu City. There were two ruling clans in the city; the Qi clan and the Lyu clan. The two clans were equally matched so they had ruled Qi Lyu City together. For over 1,000 years, although both clans had numerous disputes, neither could destroy the other.

"20,000 prominent Celestial Stones. Any man would be moved by that, right?"

"I guess she'll take off her veil."

"I think she might not. Can't you see the dark expression on her male companion's face?"

"You're right."

Many passersby saw Duan Ling Tian's darkened expression and felt the tension in the air.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Qi You and said coldly, "What if I give you 10,000 prominent Celestial Stones to strip naked and go around the streets of Qi Lyu in that state. Will you accept it?"

As soon as Duan Ling Tian finished speaking, Qi You's smile froze while the old man behind Qi You looked at Duan Ling Tian coldly.

The passersby on both sides of the street were in an uproar. They looked at Duan Ling Tian as though he was a dead man walking.

"Heavens! What did he say?"

"Is this man insane? He's the Second Young Master of the Qi clan, and that man dares to verbally assault him!"

"He's going to die! There's no doubt he's going to die!"

When Duan Ling Tian saw the hostile expression on Qi You and the old man's face, he looked at them meaningfully and said indifferently, "Both of you can attack if you think you can bear the consequences." Then, he turned to Huan'er and said with a smile, "Huan'er, let's go."

Huan'er obediently followed after Duan Ling Tian as Duan Ling Tian turned to leave.

Meanwhile, Qi You and the old man were thoroughly shocked. However, when they regained their senses, they were filled with rage.

Someone clicked their tongue and said, "Second Young Master Qi, how embarrassing! You can't even get a mere woman to remove her veil!" As soon as this voice that was brimming with ridicule rang out, a young man dressed in luxurious robes who was holding two beads in his hand that kept spinning appeared. A tall and strong bearded man followed behind him.

"He's the Great Young Master of the Lyu clan!"

"What a day! I actually ran into the Young Masters of the Qi and Lyu clans. Both of them are outstanding members of the respective clans."

"These two rivals are probably going to butt heads again."

Many passersby whispered among themselves furtively when they saw the luxuriously dressed young.

"Lyu Wen Bin!" When Qi You saw Lyu Wen Bin, the Great Young Master of the Lyu clan, his expression darkened immediately. Then, he said with a cold smile, "Since you said I can't even get a woman to take off her veil, do you think you can do any better? If not, you should stop annoying me!"

Qi You was annoyed due to Lyu Wen Bin's interruption since he wanted to attack Duan Ling Tian. However, also due to Lyu Wen Bin, his anger toward Duan Ling Tian subsided slightly, and he began to calm down. After thinking further about the cold and pure temperament of Huan'er and Duan Ling Tian's boldness, he thought it was possible that Duan Ling Tian was truly not afraid of the Qi clan. Therefore, he had intentionally provoked Lyu Wen Bin, hoping Lyu Wen Bin would test Duan Ling Tian's strength on his behalf.

"Qi You!" Lyu Wen Bin smirked coldly. "Watch carefully as I take the woman's veil off and kill her male companion." Then, he ordered the man following him, "Lyu Nan, kill that man and bring that woman here. I want to see how she looks. If she's good-looking, I don't mind bringing her back to the Lyu clan to enjoy for a few days..."

As soon as Lyu Wen Bin finished speaking, Lyu Nan, the bearded man behind Lyu Wen Bin, did not waste time and made his move.

"Seeking death!" A thunderous and cold voice rang in the air, sending chills up Lyu Nan's body before he could even attack.

The voice belonged to Duan Ling Tian who had overheard Lyu Wen Bin's words. He was clearly angered at this moment. After he spoke, his Celestial Origin Energy surged out like a furious dragon after circulating through his 99 Heavenly Veins.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

Duan Ling Tian's Celestial Origin Energy turned into millions of sword rays, and they grew swiftly as he cast his assist-type Divine Ability, the Elementary Devouring Tactic, before turning into a few dozen sword Formations that merged into one. It looked like the blazing sun from a distance.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The sword Formation shot toward Lyu Wen Bin in just a blink of an eye before a shower of swords rained down on him.

"Young Master!" Lyu Nan cried out. However, he was too late. The swords had thoroughly covered Lyu Wen Bin.

When the shower of swords vanished, the only things that remained where Lyu Wen Bin stood was a dazzling pool of blood that resembled red roses.

Lyu Wen Bin, the Great Young Master of Lyu Clan and the future Clan Leader of the Lyu clan, was dead!

The entire place fell silent for a moment.

Qi You was the first to regain his senses. He inhaled audibly, clearly frightened. If Lyu Wen Bin did not show up to provoke him, he would've ended up like Lyu Wen Bin and turned into a pool of blood!"

The old man standing behind Qi You looked at Duan Ling Tian with a grim and fearful expression. 'This purple-clad young man is a Great Overarching Golden Celestial!' However, he was not certain what rank

of a Great Overarching Golden Celestial Duan Ling Tian was. Apart from that, he was also not certain he could defeat Duan Ling Tian.

"H-how dare you kill my young master!" Lyu Nan bellowed when he regained his senses. His eyes were brimming with killing intent as he raised his hand. A Wolf Tooth Club appeared and charged toward Duan Ling Tian with his weapon in hand as his Celestial Origin Energy surged out.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The Wolf Tooth Club was a primitive Celestial Weapon. It seemed alive in Lyu Nan's hand. Although it looked big, his movements were agile. In an instant, it had woven what seemed like a net above Duan Ling Tian.

Duan Ling Tian scoffed. With just a thought, he retrieved a Celestial Sword from his Spatial Ring. Then, he merged the Celestial Sword with his sword Formation that was shooting toward the 'net' that was woven by Lyu Nan's Wolf Tooth Club. The sword Formation effortlessly destroyed the 'net' that hovered above him.

Lyu Nan used his Wolf Tooth Club to try and retaliate. However, to his shock, his Wolf Tooth Club struggled free from his grip and no longer seemed to be under his control.

Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh! Swoosh!

The shower of rain lasted for a moment before it disappeared again. Similarly, only a pool of blood was left where Lyu Nan had stood earlier.

The passersby who just regained their senses gasped in fear when they saw how easily Duan Ling Tian had killed Lyu Nan.

The old man standing behind Qi You exclaimed in shock, "His strength is, at least, comparable to an earth-rank Great Overarching Golden Celestial!"

Upon hearing the old man's words, Qi You sighed in relief. He felt fortunate he did not attack Duan Ling Tian earlier.

Chapter 2710 1,000,000 Prominent Celestial Stones

"Lyu Nan is one of Lyu Clan's Great Overarching Golden Celestial, but the purple-clad young man defeated him so easily!" "Lyu Wen Bin was the Lyu Clan's Great Young Master and was supposed to be the future clan leader! He's also the current clan leader's favorite son. However, the purple-clad young man killed him just like that!"

"Who is he? Isn't he afraid of the Lyu clan seeking revenge from him?"

The onlookers whispered among themselves in shock and disbelief by Duan Ling Tian's strength and his boldness as to kill Lyu Wen Bin, the Great Young Master of the Lyu clan in Qi Lyu City!

"Fortunately, the Second Young Master of the Qi clan didn't act. Otherwise, it would've been him and the Qi clan's elder who died."

"Actually, they were about to strike before the Great Young Master of the Lyu clan showed up..."

"If that's the case, in a way, the Great Young Master of the Lyu clan had saved the Second Young Master of the Qi clan, right?"

"Yes."

Many of the onlookers thought Qi You was really fortunate.

As soon as Qi You regained his senses, his expression turned neutral. He quickly bowed and cupped his fists together as he apologized. "Dear sir, please forgive my earlier transgression!"

The old man behind Qi You followed suit and bowed as well. He would not have bowed if Duan Ling Tian had merely killed Lyu Wen Bin. However, he had witnessed how easily Duan Ling Tian had killed Lyu Nan. He knew very well that his strength was on par with Lyu Nan. This meant Duan Ling Tian was much stronger than him! For this reason, he no longer dared to act recklessly.

"After you used me, you intend to pacify me with a mere apology?" Duan Ling Tian asked indifferently as he narrowed his eyes at Qi You.

Qi You lowered his head and asked anxiously, "That... What else do you want?"

As the saying went, 'A wise person never sails against the wind'. Although there were powerhouses in the Qi clan who were stronger than this purple-clad young man, they were not here. Hence, Qi You knew he had to admit defeat, at least temporarily.

Duan Ling Tian looked at Qi You pointedly as he said, "Bring me to the Qi clan, we'll talk on the way."

"Alright." Although Qi You did not know why Duan Ling Tian would want to go to the Qi clan, he did not care since this was beneficial to him. 'Heh! And I was worried because the other elites from the Qi clan aren't here. Since you want to go to the clan to seek death, I'll grant you your wish!' His head was lowered when this thought appeared in his mind. A chilling glint flashed in his eyes for a moment.

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Duan Ling Tian and Huan'er followed Qi You and the elder behind him to the Qi clan. The onlookers made way for them as they walked. In just a blink of an eye, they disappeared from the onlookers' sight. They heaved a sigh of relief and began to discuss among themselves with gusto.

"Why is the purple-clad young man following the second young master back to the Qi clan?"

"It seems like the second young master was going to compensate him earlier, but he asked to go to the Qi clan. Does he think he still can call the shots there?"

"He's just seeking death by going to the Qi clan. Although he's strong, I'm afraid it's far from being able to take on the entire Qi clan!"

"The Qi clan is a powerful clan with two heaven-rank Great Overarching Golden Celestials!"

Most of the onlookers were puzzled by Duan Ling Tian's decision to go to the Qi clan. Was this not bringing trouble upon himself?

All of a sudden, someone speculated, "Do you think it's possible that the purple-clad young man and the lady are actually secretly hired by the Qi clan?"

Someone's eyes glinted knowingly. "It's possible that everything that happened earlier was just for show and a plot to kill the Great Young Master of the Lyu clan!"

"That's right! They only put on a show to confuse the Lyu clan. Those two must be returning to the Qi clan to receive their payment before leaving Qi Lyu City. As long as those two leave, the Lyu clan won't have any evidence of the Qi clan being the mastermind of Lyu Wen Bing's death. The Lyu clan won't act against the Qi clan without concrete evidence!"

The majority of the people present on the scene agreed with these words.

"It makes sense. Although the Second Young Master of the Qi clan is a well-known prodigal son, I don't think he would've spent 20,000 prominent Celestial Stones just to have a look at a woman's face!"

"That's right! Although he squandered money recklessly in the past, it was never to this extent!"

"Spending 20,000 prominent Celestial Stones just to ask a woman to remove her veil is outrageous indeed."

Fortunately, Qi You was not around and did not hear the discussions in the surroundings. He would definitely lose his temper otherwise. After all, the Qi clan was completely innocent in regard to this matter! If the Qi clan had hired those two people, would he have felt so anxious to lead them back to the clan?

During the journey to the Qi clan's estate, Qi You broke the silence first. He looked at Duan Ling Tian nervously and asked, "What do you want, dear sir?"

"I want a detailed map of the entire Cloudy Rock Celestial Kingdom and the neighboring Celestial Kingdoms..."

Upon hearing this, Qi You was calm. This was a small price to pay. In fact, it was almost insignificant. The Qi clan could easily produce a map like that.

Duan Ling Tian continued to say, "In addition, the Qi Clan should compensate me with 1,000,000 prominent Celestial Stones."

Upon hearing that, Qi You's calm expression changed drastically.

1,000,000 prominent Celestial Stones! Although the Qi clan could afford it, it was not a small sum

Even the elder from the Qi clan's expression had changed. Although they had expected Duan Ling Tian to ask for compensation, this was a blatant extortion! 1,000,000 prominent Celestial Stones! Was he so confident they would give into his demand?

In the end, Qi You took a deep breath and said, "I can't make this decision... I'll have to speak to my father once we return to the Qi clan."

Duan Ling Tian nodded indifferently. "That's alright, I'll wait for you at the Qi clan... However, you only have an hour once we arrive at the Qi Clan. If I don't get 1,000,000 prominent Celestial Stones by then, don't blame me if something unfortunate happens!" He narrowed his eyes at Qi You when he reached the end of his sentence.

Qi You trembled inwardly when he saw the killing intent in Duan Ling Tian's eyes. He quickly looked away, afraid to meet Duan Ling Tian's gaze.

The elder behind Qi You said through Voice Transmission, "Second young master, this young man is too greedy. How dare he ask for 1,000,000 prominent Celestial Stones!"

"Well, we'll see if he's able to live long enough to enjoy the fruit of his greed," Qi You replied through Voice Transmission as he sneered inwardly.

"He doesn't look like a reckless person though... The Qi clan's strength is no secret in Qi Lyu City. I'm sure he knows about our clan," the elder from the Qi clan said warily through Voice Transmission.

Qi You's voice turned grim immediately. "Are you saying that he's bold enough to follow us back to the Qi clan even though he knows our strength because he isn't afraid?"

"Yes. Either he was hiding his true strength earlier or he has an extraordinary background," the elder replied.

"Regardless, I'll ask father to investigate him. I can also ask the old ancestor to probe him!" Qi You said.

The Qi clan had the protection of two heaven-rank Great Overarching Golden Celestials. These two heaven-rank Great Overarching Golden Celestials were, naturally, the most powerful in the Qi clan. One of them was Qi You's father, and the other one was the old ancestor of the Qi clan. Although both of them were heaven-rank Great Overarching Golden Celestials, the old ancestor was more powerful than the Clan Leader of the Qi clan!

Upon entering the Qi clan's main door, Huan'er said disgruntledly through Voice Transmission, "Duan Ling Tian, why are we following him? I don't like them, I don't want to be with them."

"We're here to demand Celestial Stones from them. All the items I bought for you in the city were bought with Celestial Stones. We'll run out of them eventually. For this reason, we're here to acquire more... As long as we have Celestial Stones, we'll be able to buy fun and unique items," Duan Ling Tian said to Huan'er as though he was pacifying a child.

"Wow!" Huan'er's eyes lit up instantly. "Then, we should demand all the Celestial Stones they have! If they refuse, I'll kill them!" Killing intent flashed in her eyes at the end of her sentence.

If the other two could hear Huan'er's words, they would have been thoroughly shocked.