

## T. Times 166

### Chapter 166: Sword Emperor's Tomb

The storytelling session with Sisi had actually gone on for quite some time. Dusk had already fallen when they had been interrupted. Yet, none of them had the appetite for dinner. They headed straight to the Sword Emperor's tomb.

Thanks to the dimensional fragment no longer being disconnected from the world, there was no need for them to enter through the Lu Clan's forbidden area like before. The place where the sword pond originally was had been pierced open by the ancient sword, creating a large opening through which they could descend directly into the tomb.

When Tang Buqi said that there was no rear mountain anymore, he had actually been exaggerating a bit. Tiger Hill had not just suddenly disappeared, though it was quite a mess at the moment. It was just the place where the sword pond was that had been turned into a gaping hole, surrounded by broken trees and rocks. Despite the mess, it was still a fine place, except that its designation as a forbidden area seemed much more appropriate now.

There were some members of the Tang Clan guarding the edge of the pit cautiously. There were still sporadic bursts of sword qi that came from inside, and there was still dense vicious qi that lingered in the area. The area actually posed considerable danger. Even without Tang Wanzhuang's strict orders, none of the timid members of the Tang Clan would have dared to approach.

Originally, Tang Wanzhuang planned to wait for a few days to allow the sword qi and vicious qi to dissipate, as well as let Zhao Changhe fully recover from his injuries, and then they would explore further. However, the sudden tremors that came from below made waiting impossible. They had to investigate the cause and they had to do it immediately.

Tang Wanzhuang did not come alone. The elite forces of the Demon Suppression Bureau were mobilized for this task, as well as hundreds of soldiers led by Wu Weiyang, who had arrived from afar. They meticulously began surveying every path in the tomb.

Their organization and professionalism indicated extensive experience in this type of exploration.

However, Zhao Changhe still placed more trust in Sisi with her knowledge of the previous era. It was likely that no one knew the architectural styles, traps, and other such things of the previous era better than her. She might have even lived in structures similar to this tomb.

Finding the correct path seemed to be as easy as pie for Sisi. Figuring out where the sword qi was weaker and where the main tomb was, which had taken the Lu Clan generations, she had done in an incense stick's worth of time. No matter how professional the Demon Suppression Bureau was, they probably could not reach such a level.

And indeed, this time was no exception. While the members of the Demon Suppression Bureau surveyed various areas, Zhao Changhe and Sisi headed straight for the entrance of the main tomb. If there were any issues, they were most likely within the main tomb rather than the peripheral passages.

Tang Wanzhuang silently accompanied the two, ready to provide support if needed.

When they arrived outside the gate to the main tomb, the body of the old man from the Lu Clan was still there. His face carried the remnants of a smile from his final moments. Due to the heavy vicious qi around him, his body actually seemed to exude a sense of power, stronger than before. It was as if he could rise up at any moment and strike with his sword again.

Zhao Changhe said, "My first instinct was that the vicious qi may have driven this corpse to do something, but that does not seem to be the case."

Tang Wanzhuang nodded. Zhao Changhe's speculation was reasonable. The vicious qi in this area was still strong. Under the influence of this intense vicious qi, even the unconscious sword qi had been directed to surge upward. It would not have been surprising if the body had been made to get up and slash around randomly. While it did not seem to be the case at the moment, it remained a possibility.

This further corroborated the possibility of the Sword Emperor's revival.

Tang Wanzhuang examined the massive stone gate. This was the main tomb, which made it so that it was not just a single chamber that held a corpse but rather a vast complex. The defenses inside would no longer be the simple sword qi like the one set up outside. Instead, they harbored unknown levels of terrifying lethality.

The so-called seismic activity originated from within.

If there had not been any unexpected changes, Tang Wanzhuang believed that permanently sealing off the area, as suggested earlier by Zhao Changhe, would have been the best solution. There was no need to disturb the tomb of a predecessor. They could simply pretend that it no longer existed. But now that something had happened, it needed to be addressed.

However, they could not open the entrance to the main tomb, and they had no idea what exactly had happened. How were they going to solve this case then?

Zhao Changhe asked Sisi, “Do you know how to open this gate? We can’t just hack at it like the old man did, can we?”

“Of course not. That would only anger the imperial tomb once again.”

“Then how are we supposed to get in? Are there any mechanisms in the passages outside?”

Sisi replied earnestly, “When people see a door, they immediately think to open it, but they never consider that this is someone’s tomb. After you’re buried, would you want others to enter your resting place? Why would there be a mechanism left outside for others to open?”

“Well, then why make it in the shape of a gate?”

“Because the tomb was made during his lifetime, and the door was for him to enter when he was dying. Or perhaps he died outside, and his relatives or disciples carried him in. Either way, the point of the design is that once it’s closed, the mechanism disconnects and it remains permanently sealed. If you and I were to design our own tombs, it would probably be the same. There would not be a mechanism for outsiders to open our tombs.”

“That makes sense... Then how do tomb raiders get in?”

“The structure of the tomb is still made up of bricks, stones, and soil. With enough digging, they can break in. However, no one dares to recklessly excavate and blast open the tombs of powerful beings. One wrong move and they could end up dead without a complete corpse.” Sisi sighed. “But in reality, there are better ways. We can just use some corrosive substances to slowly melt open a gap in this stone gate, without causing any disturbance or triggering any of the prohibitions or defenses.”

Zhao Changhe’s eyes widened. “You can do that?”

Sisi glanced at Tang Wanzhuang, who had been listening quietly all along. “Yeah, but I don’t have any corrosives with me. However, the Demon Suppression Bureau definitely has something of the sort. After all these years since the founding of the Great Xia, there must have been no shortage of such tombs for them to explore.”

Tang Wanzhuang finally spoke up, “We do have such substances. However, there’s also a type of restrictive array that triggers if the thing it protects is damaged in any way. This method may not be reliable. I’d like to hear if you have any other ideas.”

“No,” Sisi shook her head. “What I meant was that this gate does not have that kind of restriction. Such defense mechanisms were only put in place in later tombs as the method had become known to be used by tomb raiders. However, the Sword Emperor died way earlier than that. Back then, they had not yet begun to pay attention to such details.”

Zhao Changhe stood with his hands in his pockets, looking like a newbie listening to a professor’s lecture.

Even Tang Wanzhuang’s eyes flashed with a hint of amazement. This level of understanding of the previous era is quite extraordinary. How does she even know when the Sword Emperor died?

For most people, their impression of the powerful beings of the previous era was that they perished in the apocalypse that took place at the era’s collapse. Few people seriously considered the span of time within the previous era, which itself encompasses multiple historical periods. And even for those who did consider it, it was difficult to confirm the era of each legendary figure, due to how long a time had passed.

Not to mention the previous era, even when it came to the history of the current era, there were many unverifiable parts... At the very least, the Demon Suppression Bureau truly had no idea when the Sword Emperor had died.

In any case, Tang Wanzhuang did not question Sisi’s judgment. She immediately took out a bottle and gently dripped the liquid inside onto the gate.

In no time, the corner of the hard and heavy stone gate visibly began to soften and become brittle. Even Zhao Changhe could feel it and tried prodding it with Dragon Bird, which effortlessly pierced through.

Zhao Changhe was amazed. “There really is such a liquid? If someone were to drink even a bit of it, wouldn’t it be more terrifying than any other poison?”

How did they acquire such substances...

“It isn’t tasteless and it’s really difficult to use it to poison others, but you should indeed be careful not to get splashed,” Tang Wanzhuang remarked simply. She then bent forward and slipped through the small hole.

Watching her bend over to crawl through, Sisi smirked and commented, “I didn’t expect you to have such a nice butt.”

Tang Wanzhuang: “...”

Zhao Changhe rubbed his forehead and said, “You really have nothing better to do, huh? Hurry up and crawl through, I’ll cover the rear.”

“Are you trying to check out my butt? You go first!” Sisi pretended to kick him, urging him to move ahead.

Zhao Changhe rolled his eyes and could not be bothered to argue with her. He took the lead to crawl inside.

In fact, he knew what Sisi was afraid of.

Just like back then with Chichi... Chichi had told him not to expose his back to others. Especially in cramped spaces where they faced the possibility of treasures being ahead.

Tang Wanzhuang showed her sincerity by taking the lead, though she was confident in her own strength and was unafraid of being ambushed.

However, Sisi did not dare do the same... In fact, Sisi also knew that even if she were to face some trouble, it would not be when they had yet to see anything. It was just her instinctive, subconscious choice to stay at the back.

She claimed that they were already friends, playing and joking around, but deep down, she had never trusted him.

## Chapter 167: Gu Art

In a temporary team, there was generally no one who would dare to be at the forefront. Even if there was no need to guard against being backstabbed, the risk of opening up the path was still considerable. Tang Wanzhuang's rounded part disappeared from Zhao Changhe's sight as she made it to the other side.

In the next moment, a strong wind suddenly blew, and two sharp swords came from the left and right.

Tang Wanzhuang slightly leaned backward, reaching out lightly, and the two swords passed by the tip of her nose and struck each other, making a crisp sound as they collided.

Zhao Changhe quickly crawled through, but Dragon Bird was too large to be pulled through in time. As soon as he made it through, he kicked out with his right foot. A thud echoed, and it felt like he had pushed his foot into some sort of clay.

Clay? Is it a terracotta warrior?

Regardless of whether it was a terracotta warrior or not, Zhao Changhe was not able to push himself away as strongly as he had intended. The terracotta warrior did not react to being kicked, but Zhao Changhe stumbled and almost lost his balance. It felt like there was a strong pressure bearing down on him, making it difficult for him to even breathe. All his strength was subconsciously being used to resist the pressure, and the sharp sword intent that brushed across his skin caused his hair to stand on end.

Sword domain pressure?

When he looked around, he could barely see anything in the dark. The most he could make out were the vague outlines of human figures.

Although the previous parts of the tomb had also been quite dark, their ability to see in the dark could still somewhat manage, and the darkness did not significantly hinder their visual communication. He could still clearly see the expression of the old man from the Lu Clan earlier, as well as Tang Wanzhuang's butt that had been shaking at the front.

However, after passing through the gate, it was as if he had been placed under some strange suppression, one that even affected his abnormal ability to see in the dark. Even he was only able to see vague outlines.

But at least his breathing was unobstructed. There was still air here somehow. He wondered how the ventilation here worked.

Meanwhile, Tang Wanzhuang drew her sword, and with a swift motion, she severed the arms of the opponents on both sides. The sound of the two pieces of terracotta with swords falling to the ground was quite distinct.

When their arms were severed, the two terracotta warriors ceased their movements.

“Indeed, they are terracotta warriors,” Tang Wanzhuang muttered softly. “They have a strand of sword intent stored within them. When they encounter an enemy, they engage them in combat with their sword art... It appears that the cultivation of the Sword Emperor really reached the realm of the gods and demons during his lifetime.”

Zhao Changhe frowned. In fact, while the strength of the opponents was one matter, what truly made him uncomfortable was that he could not fully utilize his own strength here, especially in this darkness where he could barely see anything. Unable to analyze or assess the situation, the boundless darkness brought endless unease.

“Do we have any light?”

Sisi had already gotten through at this point, and she spoke up, “Don’t use any light. This is unconventional tomb-robbing knowledge. But whether or not you can ignite a flame, you must not. You shouldn’t even use a night pearl or anything of the sort. Once there’s light, there may be unexpected changes.”

Zhao Changhe shut his mouth.

Tang Wanzhuang whispered, “This is a sword domain. It restricts the five senses and suppresses internal energy. It is essentially a warning. You can’t see anything, so you naturally would not want to continue forward.”

Zhao Changhe was stunned. “You can’t see anything?”

Tang Wanzhuang said, “Why? Can you see anything? I can only see your vague silhouette.”

Zhao Changhe: “...”

It seemed that the Back Eye truly was beyond ordinary. He originally thought that it merely amplified his five senses, but if his perception under these circumstances was similar to someone on the Ranking of Earth, it seemed that it could also ignore the effects of such domains.

In this case, Sisi probably could not see anything.

Zhao Changhe reached back and grabbed hold of Sisi’s hand.

Sisi felt his hand and was momentarily stunned, but she remained silent and did not pull her hand away.

In reality, she had a secret art that was useful in such situations. Not only could she see, but she could probably even see much clearer than them. However, she understood the meaning behind Zhao Changhe’s actions, and her feelings became complex.

She asked deliberately, “Since we can’t see anything, how do we proceed?”

Tang Wanzhuang said, “We’re not here to rob the tomb or seek the inheritance of the Sword Emperor. Our main reason for coming here is to investigate the strange tremors and prevent any mishaps. Besides that, we’re also here to understand the situation of this tomb and attempt to seal it underground again. We must avoid triggering any mishaps, or we could endanger the entire Gusu. Once we’re done with what we came here for, there’s no need to venture further.”

Sisi asked, “But if we don’t proceed, how are we going to investigate the source of the tremors?”

“By making use of the Profound Mysteries. The biggest difference between the Profound Mysteries and the Profound Gate is that the Profound Gate only cultivates the human body, but it remains within the realm of what is human. However, the Profound Mysteries involves bridging the gap between heaven and earth, and once one reaches this realm, one begins to cultivate aspects related



to heaven and earth. Once in this realm, one's spiritual perception can replace the five senses to a large extent, and I've already unlocked three of the Profound Mysteries."

Sisi opened her mouth as if she wanted to say something, but then closed it again.

How could she forget? This person was not just some nobody. She was not from some minor force, nor was she a delicate flower who withered at the slightest breeze. Throughout the world, even with all the races of the world combined, there were only twelve that surpassed her!

Tang Wanzhuang said, "The tremors are simply caused by a row of terracotta warriors jumping around in the distance..."

Zhao Changhe: "?"

"I sense no imminent danger. There aren't any sudden changes in the tomb, nor is the Sword Emperor reviving," Tang Wanzhuang's tone relaxed. "The vicious qi inside the main tomb isn't even as strong as outside it. The Sword Emperor's slumber remains undisturbed. We should not disturb it. Let's just leave."

Zhao Changhe asked, "Don't we still need to investigate how to seal this place back up?"

Tang Wanzhuang's tone became even more relaxed. "I sense that there's still some disturbance in the space here. Let's go and see if Weiyang and the others have found anything outside first, and then we can try to make use of this disturbance to conceal this space again. If we can, it would be best to restore it to the state where basically nobody could find it."

Sisi said curiously, "Why are the terracotta warriors jumping around? Shouldn't we investigate that? In fact, we haven't even entered the actual main tomb yet. The guards here aren't even that strong yet."

Tang Wanzhuang glanced at her thoughtfully. "Indeed, they're not very strong. Those two warriors we encountered just now were only at around the seventh or eighth layer of the Profound Gate Realm, but they're still stronger than both of you. If the ones jumping around ahead are of similar or even higher strength, it will be chaotic if we engage them. Furthermore, our abilities are suppressed by the sword domain, so why force a confrontation?"

Zhao Changhe also felt that it was unpleasant to come in and then leave right away inexplicably... However, they were here to investigate the situation, ensure that no mishaps had happened in the tomb, and ensure the safety of Gusu. Tang Wanzhuang, as the leader of their little team, strictly adhered to these directives and would never act recklessly. He had nothing more to say and prepared to go back through the hole in the gate.

But just then, the ground shook violently, and the sound of loud thuds came closer and closer. It was actually the group of sword-wielding terracotta warriors that had been jumping around ahead. They were now jumping toward them as if their dance party had been interrupted.

“Quick, retreat!” Zhao Changhe motioned to Sisi behind him. “You go first!”

Sisi was about to crawl back through, but she suddenly froze, “Th-that old man is blocking the entrance! We can’t get out!”

Zhao Changhe frowned. The entrance was narrow, and with someone blocking it from outside, it would be difficult for him to maneuver, especially under the suppression of the sword domain. Only Tang Wanzhuang could quickly break through, but the terracotta warriors were already upon them!

What had originally been a calm atmosphere suddenly became extremely perilous!

Whoosh!

The Spring Water Sword emerged and enveloped the approaching warriors in its light. Tang Wanzhuang’s voice remained calm. “Why put on a show... When we got to the tomb, I had already sent a message to Wu Weiyang to move the corpse outside to prevent any disturbances. There shouldn’t be a corpse outside right now. You deliberately blocked the entrance to prevent us from leaving...”

Zhao Changhe: “?”

Suddenly, Sisi’s figure flickered, bypassing the array of terracotta warriors and heading straight inside.

Tang Wanzhuang sighed. She was tangled up with these terracotta warriors, so she was unable to stop Sisi.

Zhao Changhe's expression turned grim. With his movement art much worse than hers, he had no shot at blocking her either!

These terracotta warriors were actually listening to Sisi's command... In other words, even the tremors that lured them in here were orchestrated by her!

Tang Wanzhuang said calmly, "An exceptionally clever Miaojiang gu art... She sneaked in last night and used some ventilation ducts that we did not notice to release the gu to control the terracotta warriors. She was just waiting for this moment."

In the blink of an eye, the sound of mechanisms unlocking from afar came, and a thunderous rumble came from the ground. "Who... dares meddle with His Majesty's sword seal..."

These were the true guards of the Sword Emperor! They were revived individuals with intelligence and capable of speech. They were no longer just mere sword qi or terracotta warriors!

Swoosh!

Sisi flew back desperately. A terrifying glowing sword chased after her, nearly reaching her in the blink of an eye.

In mid-air, she deftly landed on one of the terracotta warriors, then swiftly got out of the way.

The sword rose again, but the sword guardian paused slightly upon reaching Zhao Changhe as it seemingly glanced fixedly at Dragon Bird.

Dragon Bird emanated strong fighting intent.

Swoosh!

The sword rose again, but this time, it was aimed at Zhao Changhe. In the eyes of the sword guardian, they were all in the same group, so it would naturally target this annoying saber first.

Zhao Changhe: "Fuck..."

Sisi took advantage of this situation and swiftly turned back. She headed toward the direction where the sword guardian came from.

Dragon Bird's reaction was also part of her plan. She intended to use this opportunity to have Zhao Changhe and Tang Wanzhuang engage the sword guardian, while she went to retrieve something!

Zhao Changhe's face was as dark as the bottom of a pot.

But Tang Wanzhuang noticed something interesting...

After Sisi led the sword guardian over, the terracotta warriors stopped attacking her. Instead, they collectively turned their swords at the sword guardian and began besieging it.

Despite Sisi having clearly planned everything, it seemed that she was actually worried that the sword guardian might really harm Zhao Changhe.

Tang Wanzhuang did not know if she should blame Zhao Changhe for blindly trusting a witch, or if she should acknowledge Zhao Changhe's loyalty and camaraderie for actually being useful.

Whoosh!

The Spring Water Sword thrust toward the back of the sword guardian.

Of course, Tang Wanzhuang had to rescue Zhao Changhe and had no time to deal with the little witch.

Meanwhile, Zhao Changhe, who was facing the sword attack at this time, adopted an extremely bizarre posture with Dragon Bird. It was completely inconsistent with his usual saber art.

The sword guardian's attack suddenly weakened, as if it became uncertain. "His Majesty's... beginner sword art? Who are you?"

Tang Wanzhuang remembered what this move was.

It was the simple sword move used by the ancient sword when Zhao Changhe slashed at it with his saber!

He had actually learned it!

Clang!

While the sword guardian was in a daze, Tang Wanzhuang's sword qi decisively stabbed the back of the sword guardian's neck, emitting a crisp clang of metal striking metal. Zhao Changhe's deception could only work temporarily. It was impossible to rely on a single move to make the sword guardian recognize him as its master. Seizing the opportunity while it was distracted was the correct solution.

Although stabbing at the back of its neck did not seem to be that effective, the sword guardian staggered slightly, weakened by the Spring Water Sword's sword qi that infiltrated its body.

Almost simultaneously, Zhao Changhe's sword move suddenly changed back to a saber move, and he slashed violently with his saber, directly striking the sword guardian's head.

Tang Wanzhuang was shocked to find that Zhao Changhe, whose strength was supposed to be suppressed by the sword domain, showed no signs of weakness whatsoever. The ferocity of this strike even surpassed the time he had scattered the sword qi that made up the ancient sword!

Does this mean that Zhao Changhe was actually concealing his state to guard against Sisi? It's just that he did not expect Sisi to actually not intend to harm him?

However, even with Tang Wanzhuang's vast knowledge and superior strength compared to Zhao Changhe, she could not completely counteract the suppression of the sword domain. Her abilities were significantly affected, so how did Zhao Change not seem to be affected at all?

## Chapter 168: Bad Woman

Zhao Changhe had indeed been suppressed by the sword domain earlier, but when he realized that his Back Eye was not affected by it, he began to secretly unravel its effects.

The Back Eye was a gift from the blind woman, and whatever it was, it could ignore the sword domain. Regardless of whether the blind woman was the spirit of the Tome of Troubled Times or

not, the level of the Heavenly Tome was definitely higher than that of the Back Eye, thus it could also ignore the sword domain.

The shroud of the sword domain did not target anything in particular, so even the Heavenly Tome page in his possession was currently being affected by the sword domain. With the pride that the Heavenly Tome had, how could it possibly just sit still when it was being suppressed by the sword domain?

Zhao Changhe attempted to channel his true qi into the golden foil that was inside his chest pocket Qi, and sure enough, he felt a connection with it for the first time.

The golden foil seemed to convey a vast will, indicating that the so-called domain was merely an application of martial arts. Decrypting it was akin to breaking down a martial art. It seemed to be expressing, How dare a mere sword domain oppress me?! Oh, you're so weak that you won't be able to see even if you do manage to decrypt it. However, you do have the Back Eye.

As the Back Eye and the golden foil resonated with each other, in Zhao Changhe's eyes, the space before him seemed to be deconstructed, much like when everything seemed to get digitized in the movie Inception. He could clearly see the flow of energy, the movement of sword qi, and even will, though it was quite vague and he could not quite comprehend it due to the vast difference in martial arts understanding.

But that was already enough. When one does not understand water, diving into it would only lead to drowning. But once one understands it, they can even harness the power of water.

Not only did the sword domain cease to suppress him, but when he swung his saber, he could actually follow the energy within the sword domain to enhance his strike, allowing him to unleash power even greater than normal.

However, Zhao Changhe did not outwardly show this. He continued to make it seem as if he was still struggling under the supposed suppression of the sword domain

When he used his Back Eye, Sisi's expression always remained odd. He had never forgotten that she had attempted to control him when they had first interacted with each other. He never mistook their recent strengthening bond to be an actual friendship.

In a dark and dangerous place, one must always be vigilant against others.

However, what he did not anticipate was that her plans had begun since the previous night.

Clang!

Zhao Changhe vented all his frustration onto the sword guardian in front of him. The sword and saber clashed violently, sending ripples of energy in all directions!

The sword guardian, already wounded by Tang Wanzhuang's strike, had lost the astonishing sword intent that it had displayed when it first appeared. However, it remained formidable. Zhao Changhe was sent flying back several zhang, leaving long skid marks on the ground as he landed.

His shoulder and cheek stung, which was actually the result of the other party's sword qi brushing past him during their exchange.

It's too strong... Even after the erosion of its power over countless years, being injured by Tang Wanzhuang, and facing the group of sword-wielding terracotta warriors, it's incredible that it can still muster such strength. Just how strong was it back when it was at its prime? Moreover, according to Sisi, this is just a secondary guard!

This was not actually the biggest issue. The biggest issue was that it seemed Tang Wanzhuang did not dare to kill the sword guardian... Otherwise, with her strength, even if she was suppressed by the sword domain, she should have been able to kill the guardian in an instant when she got to strike its neck. However, she only ended up restraining and weakening it.

She likely feared that killing the guardian would anger the imperial tomb, leading to irreparable consequences. This was probably why good people always ended up at a disadvantage in front of bad people... They had too many concerns and restrictions.

But this sword guardian was a corpse, and its body was as hard as steel. It was not viable to use conventional methods to defeat it without killing it, so they were forced to slowly wear it down, exhaust its power, and put it back to rest.

Sisi had clearly figured this out a long time ago, and her aim seemed to be to delay them. While they were occupied, she would simply go and obtain the so-called sword seal.

The sword seal was not too far. After a while, Sisi had already obtained it and turned back.

Clang!

Zhao Changhe slashed diagonally with his saber and deflected a strike from the sword guardian, allowing Tang Wanzhuang to pierce its chest. Spring water swirled around as sword qi restrained and tied the sword guardian in place

The countless other sword-wielding terracotta warriors surrounded the sword guardian, pressing it firmly in place.

In the next moment, as if they had coordinated beforehand, Zhao Changhe and Tang Wanzhuang both redirected their saber and sword toward Sisi, who was at the end of the passage.

Sisi sighed and suddenly raised the sword seal.

Swish, swish, swish!

As if responding to an imperial decree, countless terracotta warriors rushed out from both sides, sealing off the passage completely.

That wasn't all. The other sword-wielding terracotta warriors behind them went to block their rear.

Sisi sighed from behind the terracotta warriors. "The Sword Emperor didn't get provoked enough to revive, and nothing has happened... It shouldn't be too difficult for you to break through these guards and leave. There's no danger anymore. I'll find another way out and I won't be seeing you again. Why do you have to chase after me so relentlessly?"

Zhao Changhe said coldly, "Is that why you plotted against us? For a sword seal?"

"Do you know what this sword seal is?" Sisi sighed. "Apart from the ultimate core, the majority of the essence of the Sword Emperor's sword art is gathered here. It can even be regarded as the ultimate compendium of sword arts in the world."



Zhao Changhe said, “You’re deluding yourself. This isn’t the main tomb, just the periphery. Why would such a valuable thing be placed here?”

“I understand those from the previous era better than you... Even the Sword Emperor could not be sure if he could eventually resurrect before he died. He was unwilling to let his legacy die out, he would naturally leave behind opportunities in easier places outside. By passing the trial of the sword slaves and obtaining the sword seal, you can become his sword art successor. However, the true core skills can’t be acquired so easily. Those require further understanding of what the sword seal imparts. Then, you have to explore further into the tomb and pass various trials to truly become the Sword Emperor’s successor.”

Zhao Changhe thought of the Azure Dragon Seal and knew that what Sisi was saying was true. These inheritance trials were indeed relatively straightforward, and they were mainly dependent on one’s fate. If they were too difficult to obtain, so that only a top-tier expert could obtain them, they would not value the inheritance that greatly. These inheritances were designed for members of the later generations who had yet to fully grow.

Unfortunately, Sisi was not Chichi.

Seeing his silence, Sisi sighed again. “We don’t know what the trial of the sword slaves entails, perhaps there’s no need to defeat them all. Regardless, I don’t study the sword, so passing such a trial is basically impossible for me. Not to mention, I wouldn’t dare to kill the sword slaves even if I could, because who knows whether that would provoke the imperial tomb? In the end, my only option was to steal it. When I learned that big sister Tang was coming in as well, I knew that I had a good shot at it... Big sister Tang is too powerful. Not only can she handle the sword slaves, she can even exercise restraint and avoid killing them. It was perfect. So, I snuck in here and made preparations in advance...”

Zhao Changhe said coldly, “You could have just directly told me.”

Sisi smiled, “I believe that you would be willing to help and that you wouldn’t even compete with me for the sword seal if we did succeed. However, the Demon Suppression Bureau deals in matters of the empire, and the inheritance of the sword seal is also very valuable to the Great Xia. Big sister Tang wouldn’t have let me take such a valuable treasure. And since I wanted to make use of her power, it became impossible to do things in a straightforward manner, so I had no choice but to resort to a little scheming... In fact, I’ve always been a shameless little witch, right?”

Zhao Changhe remained coldly silent.

“You can hate me and scold me, and even if you want to fight or kill me in the future. I won’t blame you. But Zhao Changhe, ever since we first met, this is what I was aiming for...” Sisi said quietly. “Your story was very nice... ..Shall I tell you mine? Haven’t you been eager to hear it for a long time?”

Zhao Changhe said, “Go ahead.”

“I am Duan Yu, yet not. He left home because he did not want to learn martial arts, whereas I did want to learn my tribe’s witchcraft[1]. I was even the most outstanding among my peers. But what does that matter? Sitting inside the well and watching the sky, stagnant in our ways, bearer of forbidden areas, our whole tribe serving as vassals. They were very happy, saying they could receive the inheritance of the ancient gods, but kneeling among the crowd, I only felt shame.”

Zhao Chang and Tang Wanzhuang looked at each other without saying anything.

The information in Sisi’s words seemed significant, especially for Tang Wanzhuang, who appeared to find them worth analyzing.

“The people of the divine land are unaware of our existence, but we discovered the entrance to the divine land early on and occasionally come out to trade. However, our tribe is small, and our strong individuals may not necessarily surpass those of the divine land. The tribe strictly prohibits us from using the tribe’s arts outside to avoid leaving any traces of our existence and stirring up trouble. They also believe that the martial arts of the divine land are still too undeveloped and lack valuable insights compared to our methods that have been passed down by our ancestors... But I disagree.

“I believe that the martial arts of the divine land, no matter how young, are already flourishing, and it’s better than our complacency and stagnation. Also, whether there’s value to draw from them, one must first have a deep understanding of them rather than being arrogant and relying on impressions alone. So they accused me of disrespecting our ancestors and looking down on our ancestral teachings.”

Sisi smiled sweetly.

“And I answered, ‘Is it really impressive to follow the teachings of ancestors who served as vassals?’”

Zhao Changhe: “...”

“We had a big argument, and in the end, we reached a compromise. I could go to the divine land on two conditions. The first condition was that I could not disclose our tribe’s secrets or arts. The second condition was that if I could not bring martial arts that could change their minds, I was to never return and forfeit all inheritance rights.”

Zhao Changhe finally said, “So after you came out, you did not hesitate to worship a thief as your master, associate with adulterous monks, and be a lowly maid... In order to avoid revealing your cultivation base, you would rather let yourself be forced to kneel down.”

“I am willing to adapt to circumstances. What’s the harm in pretending to kneel down once or twice? Besides, in your eyes, the one who was kneeling down was the celestial maiden, not me.” Sisi smiled charmingly. “And as for the kiss to transfer energy... I believed that you have secrets, secrets that could hold immense value to my tribe. Unfortunately, at that time, I was foolishly bound by vows and refrained from using witchcraft. Otherwise, I would have been able to force those secrets out of you long ago. Why would I kiss you for no reason? Just to be regarded as promiscuous by my master?”

Zhao Changhe sighed. “You’re still bringing that up...”

“Mm-hm...” Sisi said charmingly, “I can be as wild as I want. I haven’t learned your etiquette. I’ll use my own mouth however I please. If I suffer any losses, that’s my business. Why should I care about the gossip of others? Besides, I now feel that since you were the target, it doesn’t seem like much of a loss.”

Tang Wanzhuang, who had remained silent until now, finally spoke up, “If you bring back the sword seal, does that really meet the conditions your tribe set? That’s also a martial art from the previous era, not from the divine land.”

Sisi clicked her tongue twice. “Even you are quite narrow-minded. Have I been learning martial arts just for the sake of learning martial arts? I sought the martial arts of the divine land to find a path that would allow my tribe to no longer have to serve as vassals or slaves. The sword seal can already achieve this, and it even carries the possibility for further inheritances. Why should I continue to study the martial arts of the other schools?”

Tang Wanzhuang was silent.

Sisi continued, “Besides, this item proves the existence of vast ruins, endless variables, and endless development within the divine land. In the meantime, our tiny territory would only be able to remain stagnant. I’ve already obtained the proof I need. This is enough to bring about changes within the tribe. I’m not here to act like Jiumozhi.”

When she said that, she smiled again. “Perhaps I’ve gotten too good at acting, I can really get into character. Whenever you tell stories, I always feel like all the characters are me, which just always infuriates you and makes you want to hit me... Actually, there’s at least one important character I haven’t embodied yet. It won’t hurt to do it once now, consider it my apology.”

A sense of foreboding washed over Zhao Changhe. “Who are you going to impersonate this time?”

Sisi smiled sweetly and said, “The villainous Duan Yanqing, who imprisoned Duan Yu and Mu Wanqing and drugged them in the dungeon. I’ll play the role of the villain.”

At some point, pink smoke seeped into the passage, growing denser as she spoke, stirring up a restless heat in their hearts.

Outside the smoke, Sisi’s sighs gradually faded away. “Do you know why I triggered the tremors ahead of time? I was afraid that if I kept staying with you, I would no longer be able to bring myself to do something like this. I really enjoyed listening to your stories... It’s a shame that the next time we meet, you might not hesitate to strike my chest with your palm...”

## Chapter 169: Please Compensate Him Yourself

“Why bother waiting until next time?”

Sisi had already taken a detour and began slipping out through an opening when Tang Wanzhuang’s voice suddenly echoed from behind her.

Sisi froze in place.

When she peeked out of the opening, she saw the elite members of the Demon Suppression Bureau blocking her way out. The way out was completely blocked, and it was impossible to escape even if she were to turn into a fly. Her eyes darted around and she quickly began crawling back through the opening.

Crash!

The crumbling sounds of terracotta warriors being broken echoed with each swing of Zhao Changhe's saber.

After Sisi got back through the hole, she was lifted up by the collar by Zhao Changhe. Then, a pair of delicate hands quickly brushed over her body. Tang Wanzhuang had pressed multiple acupoints across her body in an instant.

Sisi tried to control the terracotta warriors, but she could not muster any strength, and they all merely stood in a daze.

Zhao Changhe said, "Brother Wu, can you throw a rope over? We can't simply rely on pressing her acupoints to incapacitate her."

Sisi: "..."

A length of hemp rope was thrown in through the opening.

Zhao Changhe grabbed Sisi's hands, while Tang Wanzhuang tied her up like a dumpling before throwing her to the side.

In an instant, the little witch went from a successful thief to a prisoner. She was in a state of shock, still having not even reacted to what had happened.

"You guys keep acting and plotting, but did you seriously think that the head of the Great Xia's Demon Suppression Bureau is just some greenhorn you can toy with?" Tang Wanzhuang coughed lightly and sighed. "If that were really the case, then what exactly would the Four Idols Cult and the Maitreya Cult have to fear about me? Foreign witch, it seems you're underestimating the heroes of the divine land a bit too much."

Sisi: "..."

Tang Wanzhuang said, "The sudden tremors today made me suspicious that someone was up to something, and out of everyone, you were the most likely suspect. Considering your previous efforts and Mister Zhao's favor toward you, I did not want to confront you directly, and I even went

through with bringing you in... I've already hinted to you that I told Weiyang to get rid of the body outside, hoping you'd understand that continuing would be futile and give up. But it seems that you were too fixated on the sword seal, and you failed to understand what my words truly meant..."

It was only now that Sisi realized—if the members of the Demon Suppression Bureau had gone to deal with the corpse at the entrance, why would they just up and leave? Were they supposed to give the people inside privacy?

Of course not!

They would naturally station themselves at the entrance, ready to respond to any emergencies.

But the intense fighting just now, and Tang Wanzhuang's refusal to have anyone come in with them gave her the illusion that there was nobody outside...

Sisi's face turned purple with frustration.

"Since that's the only exit here, as long as the Demon Suppression Bureau stands guard outside, we can handle any situation that comes up..." Tang Wanzhuang coughed, her face still flushed as she forcefully suppressed the effects of the aphrodisiac. She continued softly, "I truly did not know that you were so familiar with this place. You knew the location of the sword seal and even the nature of the sword guardian. But if I wanted to deal with this sword guardian, it would really not have been as hard for me as you probably assumed. I'm sure you know I'm strong, but let me tell you: you have no idea just how strong I am."

Sisi said, "Oh, so the reason why you were taking your sweet time with the sword guardian was that you were waiting for me to retrieve the sword seal?"

"I don't know what Mister Zhao was thinking, but that is indeed what I was waiting for. After all, I don't know that much about the defensive mechanisms in place here, and I'm not the kind of person to act rashly. Since you seem to understand this place so well, then letting you retrieve it for me was the best option. I still don't know why you thought that a group of terracotta warriors could block the passage, and why you still leisurely told your story rather than taking the opportunity to escape... Is it because you like him? Were you trying to justify your actions? Well, at least there's no need to interrogate you now, you've already explained things very clearly."

Sisi did not dare to look at Zhao Changhe's expression right now. Her face turned redder and redder as she remained silent. Indeed, she had underestimated the heroes of the divine land, especially this seemingly sickly woman.

Her appearance was truly deceptive, and it felt as if she was easy to bully. But in fact, she was one of the most terrifying people in Great Xia. She was single-handedly supporting the decaying structure and suppressing the demonic forces; was that really something that just anyone could do? Upon further thought, kindness really did not have much to do with her. Those who were truly that kind or easy to deceive were simply unfit for the position that she held.

"In fact, none of this matters. We were also planning on exploring the sword tomb ourselves anyway. Since we've obtained the sword seal and the sword tomb is intact, we can ignore your deception and let you go. And since you seem to still have some remorse, you're not beyond redemption," Tang Wanzhuang said calmly. But her tone then suddenly changed. "But what is unacceptable...is using me to compensate for your guilt by drugging me and offering me to Mister Zhao to play with. Using my innocence as your bargaining chip? That's just a little too much, young lady."

Sisi pouted. In terms of her view of right and wrong, she really did not care much about others.

The only one she cared about was Zhao Changhe.

Tang Wanzhuang smiled faintly and said, "Do you care about his feelings? Do you not want him to hold a grudge against you? But when you did this, did you ever care to ask about whether he wanted it or not?"

Sisi glanced at Zhao Changhe, who had been standing silently by the side. When he noticed her looking at him, he huffed and turned his head away.

Sisi felt that Zhao Changhe likely wanted it as well, but whether he admitted to it or not was another matter...

Tang Wanzhuang finally stopped smiling. "Since you feel guilty, then... please compensate him yourself!"

After saying that, with a flick of her delicate hand, all of the poison that she had been suppressing was forcefully gathered into her palm. Then, with another motion, she shot her palm at Sisi's mouth and expelled all of the poison.

“Mmh! Mmh!” Sisi, who had been calm and resigned just now, began to twist and struggle violently.

Zhao Changhe’s first reaction was that Tang Wanzhuang was truly formidable, much stronger than Yue Hongling...

The poison that Sisi had used was probably some special concoction from the Ancient Spirit Tribe. Zhao Changhe’s poison resistance, quite incredible in other circumstances, felt inadequate against it, so it was no wonder why Sisi was confident that it would work against Tang Wanzhuang. Yet, even though Yue Hongling had been unable to handle the low-grade aphrodisiac of the Maitreya Cult, Tang Wanzhuang not only managed to suppress a much higher-grade one, but also force it all out.

If Sisi had made many mistakes, the biggest one among them was that just as mere mortals could never understand the true capabilities of gods, ordinary martial artists could never understand the true capabilities of someone who had unlocked three Profound Mysteries. The disparity in power was greater than that between a human and a chicken, so how could her schemes have possibly succeeded?

The same went for himself... How could Sisi have known about his poison resistance? How could she have any idea about his Back Eye that was enhanced by the Heavenly Tome, which made him like a fish in water inside the sword domain?

Sisi was poisoned by her own aphrodisiac. In an instant, her eyes became hazy and seductive, her body twisted unconsciously, and she began moaning softly.

As she was bound by the rope, her twisting and struggling only accentuated her figure, causing hearts to race just by watching her.

Tang Wanzhuang glanced at Zhao Changhe, then coughed lightly. “You can interrogate her however you wish. Whether you decide to release her, kill her, or whatever... it’s all up to you.”

She turned her head and raised her voice. “Members of the Demon Suppression Bureau, come in and survey the surroundings, identify the spatial nodes, and prepare to seal this place back up. Pay extra care not to touch any of the restrictions.”



The members of the Demon Suppression Bureau entered through the hole one after the other. None of them spared a glance at the bound Sisi as they all began to explore the area.

Tang Wanzhuang squatted in front of the sword guardian who was bound by the spring water sword qi before turning to look at him and say softly, “There’s nothing left for you to do here. I’m not like that foreign witch who just willingly destroys valuable things for no reason. You’d best return to your guest house for now. If I find anything, I’ll share it with you later.”

Zhao Changhe did not hesitate to heed her words. He picked up the squirming Sisi and swiftly left the sword tomb.

Tang Wanzhuang is truly magnanimous... Not only did she hand Sisi over to me to handle, but she also never took the sword seal from Sisi. She’s letting me decide what to do with it.

Zhao Changhe felt very grateful but also troubled.

Now, how exactly should I deal with this little witch?

Thud!

He threw Sisi onto the bed in the guest house, and then he closed the door behind him.

Sisi was still tied up. She writhed uncomfortably on the bed, her eyes filled with intoxicating allure as they glanced at Zhao Changhe, who was standing quietly by the door. Her eyes were hazy yet filled with incomprehensible complexity.

She knew that Zhao Changhe was not like Tang Wanzhuang. The latter had simply forced out the poison, but Zhao Changhe was incapable of doing that. He had simply been suppressing it the entire time.

But now... was there still a need to suppress it?

Chapter 170: Tang Wanzhuang Wishes to See You

The weather was already hot, and under the influence of the drugs, the heat became unbearable. Zhao Changhe took off his clothes and tossed them aside, revealing the scars all over his body that still hadn't healed.

Sisi subconsciously moved further into the bed.

"Stop pretending." Zhao Changhe walked to the table, poured a glass of water, and gulped it down. "Even if you aren't immune to the aphrodisiac, it shouldn't be as exaggerated as you're showing."

Sisi paused, her writhing easing slightly. Then, she awkwardly replied, "It's really uncomfortable. I do have some resistance to it, but I'm not immune... The main thing is that she made me ingest it, which is worse than merely inhaling the fumes..."

Zhao Changhe said directly, "Are you really poisoned then? If I sleep with you, would that count as saving you?"

Sisi bit her lower lip and said nothing.

Zhao Changhe squinted at her. "Do you just think that if I sleep with you, I might feel awkward about killing you or sending you to the Demon Suppression Bureau? Is that why you're trying to seduce me?"

Sisi was stunned for a moment, and it was clear that she felt truly insulted. Her face flushed red instantly as she retorted loudly, "I wasn't thinking that!"

"Oh, then maybe you're thinking that using your body to compensate for what you've done is the right way to go? Don't tell me that you've really taken a liking to me...have you?"

Again, Sisi fell silent.

"No matter what thoughts you're hiding, I doubt you even understand them yourself... Anyway, generally, when both parties are willing, then even if they use whatever substances, it doesn't matter. But in this case, it would just be rape. Do you think I would do that?" Zhao Changhe poured another glass of water and suddenly splashed it on her face. "Calm down."

Sisi: "..."

“In any case, your poison only really serves to stimulate one’s desires, even though I have to say it’s quite potent. But in the end, desires are still just desires. A splash of cold water and they’re gone. You should be feeling much better now, right?”

Zhao Changhe poured another glass of water and seemed to consider splashing it on itself, but he hesitated and ultimately did not do so.

Sisi exclaimed, “Why aren’t you splashing yourself?”

“I can endure it for now. Why would I make myself look miserable for no reason?” Zhao Changhe decided against splashing himself and glanced at her sideways. “Hey, as a maid, you should be willing to help your master get off, right?”

Sisi was dumbfounded. “What do you mean by get off?”

“...Forget it.” Zhao Changhe walked to the side of the room to wash his face with some water. He said, “Although I’m very angry, I’m not angry enough to actually want to kill you.”

Sisi was stunned. She asked after a long while, “Is it because... you also knew it?”

“More or less. If you’re mentally prepared, then you won’t feel much shock or anger when you get betrayed.” Zhao Changhe rubbed his face and sighed. “Although there is no deep enmity between us, we aren’t exactly friends either. Even though we always smiled at each other, we were always secretly wary of one another. Nothing you did would have surprised me. Did you really think that we fooled ourselves with our horrible acting?”

Sisi pursed her lips and said nothing.

Zhao Changhe continued, “If we were to talk about genuine feelings, then I can’t say there were none. After all, we fought side by side and we helped each other. I genuinely hoped that you could become a friend, but I was disappointed in the end... From now on, we can never have any ties of gratitude or loyalty, and I won’t harbor such unrealistic expectations anymore.”

Sisi loudly said, "You have no interest in the sword seal at all. I'm just competing with Tang Wanzhuang, or rather, with the Great Xia Empire for it! If it belonged to you, I would have discussed it with you directly!!"

What she was trying to say was that she regarded him as a friend, and she was just seizing something that was to go to someone else.

Zhao Changhe said, "Why do you feel guilty then?"

Sisi said, "Well, I used your Dragon Bird to lure the sword guardian... I knew Tang Wanzhuang would definitely save you, which would drag her into your battle. But I was also worried that something would really happen to you! That's why I ordered my terracotta warriors to help you restrain the sword guardian!"

"What if something did happen to me? If I had not broken the suppression of the sword domain, I might not have been able to withstand a single sword strike from the sword guardian, and I would've gotten killed instantly."

Sisi lowered her head and reluctantly admitted, "That's why I felt guilty... I've said it before, even if you hit me, scold me, or even want to kill me, I deserve it..."

"You think that the interests of your tribe are more important than friendship. In fact, I understand that... Our relationship has not even really reached that level yet. Although I'm unhappy, I'm not really angry about that."

Sisi was stunned. "Then what are you angry about?"

Zhao Changhe said with a straight face, "It's because I vouched for you, and First Seat Tang let you into the tomb today on my behalf. But then you caused trouble and made me lose face in front of her. That's a clear betrayal."

Sisi stared at him blankly for a long time. Even though she knew it was inappropriate, she could not help but laugh out loud. "So, you aren't upset about having to take responsibility, but because you lost face?"

Zhao Changhe remained silent with a stern expression.

“You have every right to be angry about that, but I thought you were angry at me for poisoning Tang Wanzhuang.” Sisi sniffed and whispered, “I have no relationship with Tang Wanzhuang, so whether I’m competing with her for something or doing something to her for your sake, it’s not a big deal to me. I’ll accept it if you’re angry and want to punish me, but if you feel like you’re causing trouble for her because of me, then I won’t accept it. Who is she to me? Why should I care what she does or thinks?”

Zhao Changhe was at a loss for words, not knowing whether to laugh or cry.

This was a real difference in their values. Sisi had never entertained the idea that deceiving or trapping others was a big deal. No matter whether it was the Thieves Guild or the Maitreya Cult, a little maid she did not know, or even Tang Wanzhuang now. As long as they were not on her side, she had never cared for them.

She claimed to be a bad woman, but deep down, she never really believed it. She simply thought that her actions were normal. It was just that she had heard from his story that he considered such actions to be the deeds of villains, so she referred to herself as a villain.

She really was not like A’Zhu, but rather A’Zi.[1]

“What if someone else were to do the same to you? Would you still think that it’s normal?”

“Of course it’s normal. If I get tricked, it just means that I’m dumb or not as skilled as the other person. Why would I blame them for that?”

“So, if First Seat Tang catches you, feeds you a mouthful of aphrodisiac, and makes you accompany me in bed, you won’t think ill of her, right?”

Sisi fell silent for a moment before saying, “The winner is king, the loser is a rebel. I tricked her and poisoned her, and she retaliated against me. I’m afraid she also thinks that it’s fair game. If someone else was in her position, who knows how long they would have lasted. Why do you think that it would be considered rape and can’t bring yourself to do it? You’re both people of the Great Xia, with different views on good and evil, and yet you’re trying to persuade and educate me, a foreigner, just because my views are different from yours. It’s really strange.”

Zhao Changhe was dumbfounded. “So you were seducing me so eagerly earlier because you were trying to please me and make me act faster?”

Sisi tilted her head slightly and muttered, “I don’t know why I was so foolish this time. My schemes were all a mess, I did everything if I didn’t really care about the consequences. I deserve what I got. Anyway, if she wants me to compensate you myself, I think that it makes sense. The poison inside you hasn’t worn off yet, so if you want to do it, then do it quickly. Afterward, if you let me go because I did not intend you any harm, then I’d be very grateful.”

She had just been splashed in the face with water. Her face was still wet and her hair was disheveled. Water was dripping down her chin onto her chest, leaving a large area damp. This look, coupled with their conversation, was enough to ignite the flames of desire without the need for any drugs, leaving anyone feeling hot all over.

Zhao Changhe could not help but gulp as he slowly approached her, reaching his hand out toward her chest.

Thinking that they were about to start, Sisi’s eyelashes trembled slightly. She felt a bit reluctant but she obediently closed her eyes in the end.

His hand reached into her chest and shamelessly gave it a squeeze. Sisi’s face flushed red and she was unable to suppress a moan.

Zhao Changhe suddenly remembered that when she had disguised herself as Yue Hongling and was touched in the same manner, she had a similar reaction.

Suddenly losing interest, he pulled out the sword seal and took a step back.

Sisi opened her eyes in surprise.

“I said I was angry, but not to that extent... Punishment and lessons are necessary. Confiscating the sword seal is more than enough punishment for you. For me, this is sufficient.”

Sisi said in surprise, “What about Tang Wanzhuang? She seemed so angry.”

“Do you really think she’s on the same level as you? Since she left the decision to me, she will support whatever decision I make. That’s called magnanimity,” Zhao Changhe replied, tossing the sword seal aside. “Actually, I know what she would appreciate the most, I know the kind of demeanor she wants to see from me. I’m just really not keen on doing it...”

Sisi found herself unable to keep up with his train of thought, realizing that despite considering herself intelligent, she seemed to be outmatched by him. At the very least, when it came to the two major cases in Yangzhou and Gusu, she could not match his thinking at all.

Feeling a bit dejected as she thought of this, she lowered her head in frustration. “Anyway, I’ve lost everything. What else can I do?”

“...Don’t you still have your innocence? The sword seal was never yours to begin with. When you actually think about it, you haven’t lost anything, so why are you acting so pitiful?” Zhao Changhe said expressionlessly. “Now that I think about it, I’m starting to feel annoyed again. I suppose I’ll have to make you do something.”

If it weren’t for her being tied up, Sisi would have wanted to slap herself.

Zhao Changhe said, “The sword seal must be returned to the Great Xia, but as long as you give me a few days to study it, I can extract a complete set of the Sword Emperor’s sword arts from it for you to take back. It seems like that would fulfill your purpose, wouldn’t it?”

Sisi was stunned and could hardly believe her ears. “You... You’re still willing to give that to me?”

“That’s right, but it’s a trade. I will give you the sword arts, and in return, you’ll provide First Seat Tang with the ancient records, secret scrolls, and knowledge of tomb arrangements and restrictions from the Ancient Spirit Tribe... Also, you will establish a secret trade deal with the Demon Suppression Bureau, providing them with special products from the Ancient Spirit Tribe. If you can provide things like witchcraft or gu arts in exchange, they’ll be included as well. As part of the exchange, the Demon Suppression Bureau will also provide you with some martial arts and special products from the Central Plains. That way, you won’t need to continue stealing and tricking others.”

Sisi’s eyes grew wider and wider as she listened.

Indeed, if the identity that Dragon Bird hinted at was true, this was definitely the performance that Tang Wanzhuang hoped to see from him to most.

Compared to this, everything else—grudges, deceit, and offenses—did not matter in the slightest to Tang Wanzhuang.

Sisi suddenly thought of something. No matter how they behaved in the tomb or now, they never actually communicated with each other, but they seemed to know what the other planned to do and what they hoped to do. The tacit understanding between them is surprising... I thought that he and Yue Hongling were a perfect match, but now it seems that he and Tang Wanzhuang are also a great match. And yet, the two of them are completely different types of women...

Zhao Changhe said, "I don't know what kind of education you received, but as a princess who is qualified to succeed to the throne, you should be thinking of helping your tribe develop. This is the kind of thing you should have aimed for instead of resorting to theft and deceit."

Sisi said nonchalantly, "That's because I couldn't establish trust. If I leaked any information about the Ancient Spirit Tribe... Hey, wait, how do you know that I'm from the Ancient Spirit Tribe?"

"...That's none of your business."

Sisi looked at him suspiciously for a while, then continued, "Leaking the secrets of the tribe may cause trouble. How could I easily engage in such relations with others? But now... Well, if it's you..."

Zhao Changhe had an expressionless face as he said, "You trust me? Well, thank you for that. However, I don't dare to trust you right now. What if you took the sword arts and just hid inside the Ancient Spirit Tribe and never came out again, wouldn't I have been taken advantage of? Getting betrayed once is enough for me."

Sisi looked at him with a hint of sadness in her eyes, but eventually sighed, "You're right, so what kind of restrictions do you want to impose on me?"

The two looked at each other in silence for a moment, and they both nearly simultaneously thought of the methods of control of the Pure Bliss Art. If karma really existed, then it seemed like they were fated to meet here.

However, Zhao Changhe had long since abandoned such thoughts. Even the poison inside his body had completely dissipated.



He pursed his lips and finally stood up. “Let’s go. What kind of restrictions can I impose with my limited cultivation? This matter should be left to First Seat Tang.”