

The Gods 1071

Chapter 1071 - Royal Wood Spirit

“Twelve million!”

“Fifteen million! I hail from Wind Bend Alliance of the northern region and I am sure that everyone here has heard of our proud achievements. I will benefit greatly if I can obtain this woman, so please give her to me!”

“Heh, Wind Bend Alliance is not the only place in the Darkya Realm with those who cultivate the wind profound arts. This is the Black Feather Merchant Guild and status and favors have never mattered in this place! The one thing that does matter, is wealth! Twenty million!”

In the blink of an eye and just between several people, the bid price had reached twenty million purple profound stones. The skyrocketing price surprised many people and caused them to sit back down reluctantly.

“Twenty three million!”

“Twenty five million!”

Yun Che’s eyebrows hadn’t loosened all this time. When he scanned around once with his consciousness, he noticed that no one was astonished by the appearance of this “merchandise” at all. They were obviously very used to this sight.

This underground merchant guild was far dirtier than he had initially imagined.

That woman with the Wind Yin Body was supposed to be the first miss of a sect but not only was her sect eliminated in a single night, she was even locked inside a cage and auctioned on stage like a merchandise. Pitiful couldn’t begin to describe her situation. If this had happened in his lower realm, he wouldn’t have stood by and done nothing. But here at this place, he wasn’t so foolish that he would interfere with this bid.

At the end of the bid, the woman was ultimately sold for the price of forty three million purple profound stones. She was ultimately won by a young man seated in the frontmost row.

After the young man went forward and paid a total of forty three million purple profound stones, her personally unlocked the profound formation and pulled the woman into his arms. Then, they both returned to his seat.

For that pitiful woman, this moment was the turning point of her life. Deeply sympathizing with her predicament, Yun Che could only pray that her buyer was a good man who would end her cruel fate here and now. Otherwise, it would simply be a change of hells.

“Congratulations, sir.” Ji Ruyan smiled attractively at the young man and said, “I am sure that your cultivation will improve by leaps and bounds now that you’ve acquired this beautiful lady. I don’t understand dual cultivation but I have heard that the essence of dual cultivation lies not only in the merging of yin and yang but also two hearts. Such a union will often produce unimaginably wondrous results. That is why you should treat her well, sir. Otherwise, you would be wasting her Wind Yin Body a little.”

“Of course,” said the latter while smiling slightly.

Yun Che cast a long gaze at Ji Ruyan. He could see that she had spoken this from the bottom of her heart and he also noticed a flash of pity when she had cast a look at the woman... at least she still had some conscience in her.

“Now then, the next thing in the line is...”

“Miss Ruyan!”

Suddenly, a shout cut off Ji Ruyan before she could finish and a tall and brawny man abruptly stood up from the center of the seats. He hadn't disguised his face or his attire. He wore the mark of his sect—a black tercel with an angry, proud eye—boldly on his clothes and his eyes shone with intimidating sharpness.

His life force betrayed his incredibly young age but the profound energy aura flowing around his body was unusually rich. He was a cultivator at the peak of the Divine Soul Realm and he could be a mere inch away from reaching the Divine Tribulation Realm.

His sudden cry and motion attracted everyone's attention and everyone in the stone chamber fell silent. There were a lot of people who were looking at him with differing levels of respect and it was obvious that this man's background was extraordinary.

“He is Ying Yushan, he youngest grandson of Black Tercel Island's island master and his sect is the third greatest in the Darkya Realm,” a person muttered softly next to Yun Che. “It's also said that his talent is the best among his siblings and he may very well succeed the island master in the future.”

“Sir Ying!” Ji Ruyan smiled. “May I have your instructions, please?”

“I dare not instruct you, Miss Ji. However...” Ying Yushan's voice was indifferent but his behavior betrayed an air of sharp arrogance, “Considering that it is an invitation from the great Black Feather Merchant Guild itself, I thought that you must have an incredible merchandise that could wow us all. In order to see it with my own eyes, I have travelled tens of thousands of kilometers personally to attend this auction but... although the merchandise you've shown us so far haven't been useless trash, I must say that they have not pleasantly surprised me in the least either.”

Ying Yushan lifted his head proudly and said, “The Profound God Convention will be held in another two years and I am but one inch away from qualifying for this grand event. Therefore, I cannot afford to waste even minutes on unnecessary things during these two years. If you really do have something worthwhile to show us, then please do it now. You are the great Black Feather Merchant Guild, aren't you? Don't you think that it is unbecoming for the likes of you to keep your customers on tenterhooks? If this is all you have to offer us, then I really must leave for more important matters!”

Ying Yushan's words caused many people to shoot him a sideways glance. Those who hadn't yet reached a hundred years old especially showed great jealousy and envy. Considering Ying Yushan's age and peak Divine Soul Realm cultivation, it was extremely likely for him to become qualified for the Profound God Convention before two years were over.

Even better, there couldn't be more than one hundred people in the Darkya Realm who could qualify for in the Profound God Convention!

Ji Ruyan giggled with eyebrows that spread open like blooming peach blossom. "You truly deserve your reputation, Sir Ying. I didn't think that you were qualified for the Profound God Convention. Haah, I can die without regrets if I can visit the Eternal Heaven God Realm even once, much less participating in the Profound God Convention."

"Hmph! This is nothing." Ying Yushan sounded indifferent but he couldn't help but beam proudly. "I am only interested to know what the pleasant surprise your guild has prepared for us is, Miss Ji. If your so-called pleasant surprise is that woman with a Wind Yin Body, then I must say that I am very disappointed in the Black Feather Merchant Guild."

Ji Ruyan giggled again and said softly, "You are all the most important and respected guests of our merchant guild and I dare not disappoint any one of you, even if the heavens were to give me its own courage. I was going to reveal this pleasant surprise at the end of this auction but since Sir Ying is in a hurry, I shall obey your demands obediently, of course."

When she was done speaking, she slowly raised her hands and clapped softly four times.

Rrrrmb...

A soft rumble later, another stone platform rose up from the ground next to Ji Ruyan. An identical sealing profound formation was present above the platform.

Everyone's gazes were trained on the stone platform. They were all waiting expectantly for the pleasant surprise.

Obviously, the merchandise was yet another living being. Ji Ruyan kept quiet as a mysterious smile dressed her face. She tapped at the profound formation lightly with her finger and the profound light disappeared instantly to reveal half translucent screens and a...

...child, curling like a ball in a corner of the cage!?

Yun Che could only see one side of his face. The boy was probably just around 10 years old and his physical features were extremely distinctive. He had a head of green hair and skin that glowed a healthy white.

These two features caused Yun Che's eyes to freeze for a second... because they matched the recorded description of a wood spirit perfectly!

Could this child be a wood spirit!?

When the profound light had dissipated entirely, the young boy subconsciously turned a little towards the crowd. His exposed ears were rather sharp and the color of his pupils were also green in color!

These features all matched the description of a wood spirit!

When the wood spirit boy saw the terrifying gazes trained onto him, he clenched his teeth and shook like a leaf. His eyes, that looked like green crystal, bore deep fear in them but not a single tear could be found inside them... there was obviously deep hatred besides his fear too.

He didn't think... that the special Wood Spirit Orb Mister Ji mentioned would be a living wood spirit!

“A wood spirit!? Hah!” Ying Yushan let out an indifferent laugh. “It is true that wood spirits are declining in numbers and it is even rarer to find one that’s been captured alive but wood spirits can still be bought in many places as long as one has enough profound stones! In fact, people with Wind Yin Body are even rarer than wood spirits! Are you trying to play a game with us, Miss Ruyan?”

Yun Che frowned hard and he clenched his hands into fists. He needed a Wood Spirit Orb and if the item on stage was just a Wood Spirit Orb, he would buy it no matter what the price. But the merchandise on display was a living wood spirit and a child at that. If he wished to obtain a Wood Spirit Orb, he would have to kill the boy...

“Don’t be so hasty, Sir Ying. If he was really just a normal wood spirit, I could not possibly bear to invite all of you here.”

Her long legs brought her next to the profound formation trapping the wood spirit boy and she tapped a delicate finger into profound formation. She said smilingly, “Please look closely, everyone.”

A weak wisp of profound energy flew out of Ji Ruyan’s fingertip and touched the wood spirit boy between the brows. The wood spirit boy shuddered all over but he stayed completely silent. Suddenly, a green, glowing mark slowly appeared above his glabella.

WAAAH———

The moment the green, glowing mark appeared, the stone chamber erupted into a clamor of exclamations as if a bomb had been detonated. Everyone except Yun Che had jumped to their feet and even the arrogant-looking Ying Yushan was losing his cool rapidly while staring blankly at the mark.

“He’s... a royal member of the wood spirit race!” Ying Yushan lost control of himself and shouted!

Yun Che, “???”

“That’s right. As you can all see, this boy is no normal wood spirit. He is... a royal wood spirit!”

Ji Ruyan moved her finger away but the mark on his glabella didn’t dissipate for a long time, “I dare say that everyone present has seen this mark before but I’m sure that this is the first time you all have set eyes on a royal wood spirit. After all, the last royal to appear was more than two thousand years ago.”

“Didn’t they say... that all royal members of the wood spirit race... have perished? Is... is this actually real?” Ying Yushan’s voice was filled with unimaginable excitement.

“They have vanished for more than two thousand years, so it is only natural that they were thought to be extinct. Even I thought that they were extinct until the day I found him.”

The stone chamber instantly turned so silent that one could hear a pin drop. The only noise that was present was an incessant stream of gulps. Everyone was certain that the Black Feather Merchant Guild wouldn’t disappoint them—they wouldn’t have travelled over tens of thousands of kilometers to attend this trade fair otherwise—but no one could’ve imagined that the pleasant surprise this time could be this big.

It was because that a normal wood spirit and royalty were at completely different levels.

This captured royal wood spirit would absolutely cause huge waves, even in the upper star realms.

“A royal wood spirit possesses the world’s most refined power of nature. Although this royal wood spirit hasn’t become a full adult, I am sure that you are all aware of his vast variety of ‘uses’. Still, allow me to refresh all of your memories.”

“If you have a royal wood spirit by your side, you will be able to nurture all kinds of extraordinary flora and spirit herbs no matter how stringent their requirement to grow is. Moreover, their growth speed will be at least ten times normal! Of course, it is incredibly risky to keep a living wood spirit in your residence and I am sure that most of you aren’t willing to take such a risk. In that case, his Wood Spirit Orb is still pretty incredible.”

“The Wood Spirit Orb of a royal wood spirit is absolutely superior to a normal Wood Spirit Orb. Even if he were to commit suicide and destroy his own spirit orb, even if eighty percent of the spirit energy inside the orb was lost, as long as we can extract it within a hundred breaths’ time, it is still better than a perfectly intact normal Wood Spirit Orb... This is a top grade treasure that you cannot obtain no matter how many profound stones you may possess!”

Yun Che’s expression changed greatly when he heard this.

He needed a Wood Spirit Orb that had at least seventy percent of spirit energy left but this kind of Wood Spirit Orb was so rare that it was nearly impossible to find.

But if he were to take the boy’s Wood Spirit Orb... even if he were to take it by force and even if the boy managed to commit suicide before he managed to extract it, the spirit energy contained inside the orb was still better than a perfectly intact normal Wood Spirit Orb!! He was completely qualified... no, overqualified for his needs!

Chapter 1072 - Going Back on One’s Word

“With the help of this Wood Spirit Orb, failures almost never happen if you concoct medicine, no matter how high the grade.”

“With the help of this Wood Spirit Orb, there would be no bottlenecks below the Divine King Realm.”

“If someone whose lifespan is reaching its limit obtains this Wood Spirit Orb, they could increase it by several thousand years... It is the one and only item where you can use profound stones to trade for life, you know.”

The Wood Spirit Orb was precisely the one and only precious item that solely belonged to a wood spirit. As for a Wood Spirit Orb which belonged to a royal wood spirit, that was a treasure among treasures. Every one of Ji Ruyan’s descriptions sounded especially inconceivable but no one present found it surprising or doubtful... because the legendary Royal Wood Spirit Orb was indeed a miraculous existence.

The voice talking beside him caused the wood spirit boy inside the profound formation to uncontrollably quake all over.

The profound strengths of wood spirits and humans were different. Their offensive abilities were extremely low and even the ones with higher cultivations among them were pitiful low. This added to the fact that their population was so few in number meant that once they fell into human hands, it was

basically impossible for them to escape. A large majority of wood spirits would choose to self destruct their Wood Spirit Orbs once they fell into human hands... which was equal to suicide.

But he didn't...

It was because he was the only wood spirit male of the royal lineage in the entire Primal Chaos Dimension... His death meant the severance of the Wood Spirit Royal Family's bloodline. They would no longer have any more descendants. This was why even though he was young, he deeply understood that no matter how humiliating or despairing his situation was, he absolutely could not die.

"At the moment, it is not just the young masters here, even upper star realms and the king realms, everyone believes that the Wood Spirit Royal Family has died out. However, there is actually a living royal wood spirit right before your eyes. All of you seated here today are the same as me, you know. We are the few lucky ones within the entire God Realm. As for the luckiest one among you, I do wonder who it would be."

During her speech, a pair of eyes filled with a soft charming light swept across every individual present. If it were during normal circumstances, the crowd below would definitely flush and give her their souls. However, all eyes were firmly fixed upon the wood spirit boy, not wandering in the slightest.

"The senior who captured this royal wood spirit originally wanted to enjoy it himself but due to a great deal of reasons, he ultimately decided to entrust him to me. If you are able to bring him to the upper star realms, he would sell for a few billion purple profound stones. Ten billion would be rather easy as well! However, your servant here is only a part of a small merchant guild, how could I possibly endure the hardships of the upper star realms? Giving him to you all here would put me at ease the most."

"Miss Ruyan... start the bid, quick!" Ying Yushan roared with wide eyes. He was currently at the peak of the Divine Soul Realm but breaking through the bottleneck to the Divine Tribulation Realm did not only need great effort but also a chance enlightenment. If his luck was not great, forget about two years, it was very normal for most to not be able to break through for several decades.

However, if he were to obtain this royal wood spirit of the wood spirit race, his bottleneck would cease to exist. He would be able to directly break through in a few days! His future progress would receive huge amounts of benefits as well.

Being able to sell it for ten billion purple profound stones in an upper star realm... that wasn't exaggerated at all! It was just that no matter how much more gutsy the Black Feather Merchant Guild was, it was impossible for them to dare try to sell him in a middle or upper star realm... they wouldn't even dare leak out that information. Otherwise, there was simply no need for them to continue this auction. Those who would come to secretly steal the child would number so many that they could exterminate the entire Black Feather Merchant Guild in several breaths.

Since it was decided that he was to be sold, then it had to be in a place where they were in complete control.

"Hehehe, it looks like everyone here can't wait any longer." Ji Ruyan's narrowed into slits that overflowed with charming light as she slowly extended a finger. "The starting bid for this royal wood spirit... is one hundred million purple profound stones!"

One hundred million purple profound stones was an astronomical number to anyone. But if it was the price that would enable them to buy a royal wood spirit, then the profit gained was simply incalculable. The key point was that if they missed this opportunity, they would perhaps never chance upon it ever again in their entire lives.

“Wait!!” It was yet again Ying Yushan who had shouted. He took a step forward and said while breathing slightly hurriedly, “Miss Ruyan, I was in a hurry today so the profound stones I have on hand are not much, may I...”

“Of course not!” Ji Ruyan cut him off without hesitation. She said with a smile, “Sir Ying ought to be most clear about the rules here. Before the trade fair has yet to end, no one is allowed to leave. This day in particular, if it were to be known that a royal wood spirit was here, I can’t possibly imagine the consequences that would come after.”

“However if Sir Ying is able to buy him, then it is only natural that you can immediately leave right after. When that time comes, he would no longer have anything to do with our Black Feather Merchant Guild anyways and no one would know or believe that he came from our Black Feather Merchant Guild... So leaving early is not permissible. Even though I trust every one of you here, if, if there is the slightest chance something could happen, I simply cannot bear what comes after.”

Ji Ruyan’s smile bloomed like a flower but every single one of her words were stringent.

“...” Ying Yushan’s forehead was matted with sweat. It took him a long period of restraint before he finally said, “Then give me ten breaths to send a sound transmission to let my men send over some purple profound crystals, how about that? Your Black Feather Merchant Guild wouldn’t let go of a huge profit, would it?”

“Please do not make things difficult for me, Sir Ying. The reason why our Black Feather Merchant Guild has existed for this many years is mostly because we never broke our own rules. Besides, when I sent out the invitation letters, I reminded every one of you here that you absolutely must bring a bit more profound stones.”

The corner of Ying Yushan’s mouth twitched... Since he had come, then he obviously brought a ton with him! But who would’ve thought that something like a royal wood spirit would show up!

This was a “precious treasure” even the upper star realms did not have the fortune to see! It was a treasure worth trading one’s entire family fortune for!

Ji Ruyan’s gaze moved away from Ying Yushan. “One hundred million purple profound stones, begin the bidding.”

When Ji Ruyan’s voice fell, not a single person answered for a moment. Right when Ji Ruyan was about to repeat herself, Yun Che slowly stood up. “Two hundred million!”

WAAAH—

The gazes of everyone present evenly fell upon Yun Che’s body. Not a single person here today wasn’t an upper class existence within the Darkya Realm. Even though two hundred million was a quite a large sum, it wasn’t something they couldn’t endure... It was just that even if they were richer, who in their right minds would casually carry around several hundred million purple profound stones!?

The first thing Yun Che had said upon arriving here directly increased the price by another one hundred million, causing ninety percent of the crowd in the stone room to inwardly sigh. If it were any other place, they could immediately send a sound transmission to deliver profound stones and crystals but this was Black Feather's underground trade fair. Even if they had the resources, they couldn't employ them here. They could only blame themselves for not bringing enough currency.

Ji Ruyan's gaze swept toward Yun Che like water. "This sir here is quite straightforward in his actions. I do like that kind of person the most."

Increasing the bid by one hundred million in one go... that was one hundred million! Even Ying Yushan, who hailed from the number three sect in the Darkya Realm was given a great shock. He glanced at Yun Che, gritted his teeth, and slowly said, "Two hundred and ten million!"

He only had a total of two hundred and sixty million purple profound stones, and the two hundred million was actually from him specially asking his father before his departure. He originally thought that there wouldn't be a single item he wasn't able to buy in the Darkya Realm with such an astronomical number on his person... but now he could only pray that someone who could surpass his sum didn't appear.

"Three hundred million!" Yun Che's face showed no change in expression. It was as if he had only said three purple profound stones.

The hearts of everyone present fiercely pulsed.

It was another immediate increase of one hundred million!!

The crowd present were all from the Darkya Realm's top sects and clans but none of them had ever heard of bid increases with increments of one hundred million!

Who in the world was he? Even if he was rich, he didn't have to throw his wealth away like that... could there be something wrong with his brain?

Ying Yushan's hands tightly clenched into fists and he had no other choice but to unwillingly sit down.

When Ji Ruyan had voiced the starting bid, everyone thought that the following bids would be as intense as a violent tempest, yet with Yun Che's two bid increases of one hundred million each, it stunned the entire stone room into a place so silent one could hear a pin drop.

All eyes gathered on Yun Che as they all tried to guess his identity.

Inside the profound formation cage, the wood spirit body also carefully tilted his head up to look at Yun Che... and the tinge of hope suddenly appeared within his previously dusky emerald eyes.

"Hehehe, this sir has already increased the bid to three hundred million purple profound stones. It is the first time in my life that I have ever seen such a nimble young master." Ji Ruyan sized Yun Che up from head to toe. "Are there any others who wish to bid? If there isn't..."

"Three hundred twenty million!"

A rather grim voice suddenly uttered through gritted teeth. The owner of the voice was a short, black clothed youth. He cast a glance at Yun Che, his eyes obviously say: Increase it again if you can!

“Four hundred million!”

Without a single instant of hesitation, Yun Che coldly uttered a price almost the instant the other party’s voice fell... and it was still a direct increase of one hundred million!

The black clothed youth instantly stiffened in place, speechless for a long while.

Four hundred million purple profound stones was a tremendous sum an ordinary person could not even imagine. However, it was what Yun Che had casually picked up in Ice Wind Empire’s treasury without effort. As a result, he wasn’t pained at all even if he threw it all away.

This time, even Ji Ruyan’s little mouth remained slightly open for a long while before it closed.

The increase of one hundred million every time with a cold, indifferent voice filled with invisible tyranny pressured everyone present so hard that they faintly felt suffocated, unable to breathe. No one else went to raise the bid as all eyes were trained on Yun Che. Even though none of them recognized his face, they were confident... that although this person’s profound strength wasn’t that extraordinary, his background certainly was. The imposingness he embodied, which left them feeling fear, could not be possessed by any ordinary person.

“Four hundred million. It is now four hundred million purple profound stones, is there anyone else who wants to increase this bid? It is a royal wood spirit, this could be the only chance in your lives that you’ll see such an offer. You mustn’t miss it!”

Ji Ruyan called out many times but no one else raised the bid. Yun Che also inwardly sighed in relief... He was even ready to call out all his fortune—five hundred million purple profound stones.

In any case, he finally got a hold of a Wood Spirit Orb... Even though the price was somewhat steep, this was still only the second day since he had arrived in the Darkya Realm and he was about to obtain a Wood Spirit Orb. It was one that far surpassed the requirements as well. In comparison, four hundred million purple profound stones wasn’t much.

“Then, congratulations, sir. This royal wood spirit that could possibly be the only one left in the world belongs to you.”

Under envious and unreconciled gazes of everyone present, Yun Che calmly walked forward and directly handed Ji Ruyan four hundred million purple profound stones. Then, he said coldly, “Can I take him away now?”

“Of course.” Up close, Ji Ruyan’s smile was even more charming, “He is yours from now on.”

As she said that, Ji Ruyan lightly tapped with a finger and the sealing profound formation opened in reply. Yun Che quickly walked forward and grabbed a hold of the wood spirit body’s arm. The somewhat unexpected thing was that once the sealing profound formation disappeared, the wood spirit boy didn’t make any effort to escape. He allowed Yun Che to grab him... perhaps he had long since accepted his fate.

“Sir, I’m sure you understand the saying ‘a person’s treasure will arouse the envy of others,’” Ji Ruyan said reminded with a smile. “Leaving aside the ban imposed by the Eternal Heaven God Realm, a royal wood spirit is something even the upper star realms would covet. Although I do trust that everyone here

is a trustworthy esteemed guest who can keep secrets, in case this matter were to be known by others, you'd be in danger. It's best if you quickly handle it as soon as possible... though the best choice is to directly take its Wood Spirit Orb and then..."

"No need, I have my own plans. Thank you for the warning." Yun Che answered before he was about to leave with the wood spirit boy.

The same time he turned around, his eyes briefly landed on the motionless black clothed middle aged man who had been standing behind Ji Ruyan. The man behind her slowly picked up a black sound transmission jade.

This underground space isolated sound transmissions yet the sound transmission jade in the black clothed middle aged man's hands was actually able to receive sound transmissions. It was clear that it was "special." His brows bunched together as he listened and after hearing the entire message, his expression suddenly changed. His gaze shot to Yun Che.

A low voice came from behind Yun Che, "Wait, sir, we are no longer selling this royal wood spirit."

Chapter 1073 - Kicking a Steel Plate

Yun Che's footsteps paused but he did not turn around. "What do you mean by not selling?"

The black clothed middle aged man's words shocked everyone present; even Ji Ruyan's beautiful face had slightly changed.

This kind of thing had never happened in their Black Feather Merchant Guild... perhaps it could be said that this had never happened in all of the Black Feather Merchant Guild's several tens of thousands of years of history.

"I mean exactly what I just said."

The black clothed middle aged man slowly walked toward Yun Che. His attitude was not as warm as Ji Ruyan as he continued with a cold, hard face. "News just came about the lord who captured this royal wood spirit. He wants to take back the royal wood spirit. Since that's the case, this transaction will be nulled. Our apologies but don't worry, we will refund all your purple profound stones without missing a single one."

Even though he said "our apologies", the way he spoke was obviously an order that couldn't be refused.

"This..." Ji Ruyan quickly walked to the black clothed middle aged man's front. After a slight moment of hesitation, she asked, "Our Black Feather Merchant Guild has never taken back something we have sold. May... I ask what has happened?"

The black clothed middle aged man gave her a glance. Even though he was looking at Ji Ruyan, his gaze was still cold. His mouth moved slightly as he sent her a short sound transmission.

"Ah!?" It was unknown what she had heard but Ji Ruyan's beautiful countenance suddenly worsened. She even took a step back, as though she had received a huge fright.

Just as Yun Che was about to speak, he suddenly felt the wood spirit boy in his grasp tremble from head to toe. A little hand tightly clutched the edge of his clothes as his shivering body shrunk behind him. It was obvious that he was frightened of the fact that Yun Che might return him.

Yun Che turned around and looked directly at the black clothed middle aged man. "Is this how your Black Feather Merchant Guild does things?"

"No, absolutely not!" Before the black clothed middle aged man had yet to speak, Ji Ruyan hurriedly answered. Being able to manage this kind of trade fair meant that her ability to take control of the situation was extraordinary. However, the light in her eyes was trembling at the moment; it was obvious that she truly was at a great loss.

"The reason why our Black Feather Merchant Guild has been able to tower above the Darkya Realm for fifty thousand years is because of our extreme adherence to our principles. This servant can assure you that such a thing like forcibly taking back something sold has never happened before. It's just that this situation is extremely special... How about this, as long as you are willing to return him, not only will we give back all of the the four hundred million purple profound stones, this servant is willing to give you fifty million purple profound stones as an apology.

This stunned everyone present... An apology of fifty million purple profound coins! Even to people at their level, this was an extremely large number. Its sincerity was unquestionable.

"Ah, willing?" Yun Che coldly laughed. "A merchant guild that would hold a shady trade fair actually has the face to talk about principles?"

Yun Che relentlessly taunted, originally thinking that she would just laugh it off without care. He didn't expect Ji Ruyan to instantly pale and hang her head. She fiercely bit her lip, without a single retort.

Yun Che, "???"

Yun Che looked at the black clothed middle aged man again and said expressionlessly, "I think you've completely misunderstanding something. I have already handed over all of the profound stones that I needed to pay. Now that this royal wood spirit is in my hands, the transaction is already complete. In that case, the four hundred million profound stones are yours and this wood spirit is mine. It no longer has any relation to your Black Feather Merchant Guild. Take back? You seem to not have any qualifications to say those words."

Everyone in the room held their breaths as they looked at each other in dismay. This was the Black Feather Merchant Guild's territory, so no one dared to act up. Many people were vaguely able to guess the identity of this black clothed middle aged man, so they were incredibly scared. This was also why no one dared to ask Ji Ruyan about the black clothed man's identity.

Who would've known that Yun Che would act so unyielding before this black clothed man.

"Haha, young man, it's best to not be so impulsive," the black clothed middle aged man actually laughed. "You are right. Since the transaction is complete, you would be the one who has to return the royal wood spirit. Forcibly taking it back is indeed not appropriate but I must warn you, the people who want this wood spirit are those both you and I cannot afford to offend, more you than me. In fact, it'd

be best if you obediently return it so everything will end up well. I'm afraid you can't handle the consequences otherwise."

It was very obvious that he also did not want to shed all forms of civility. After all, Yun Che being able to toss out four hundred million purple profound stones without batting an eye was astonishing. It definitely meant that he had an extremely strong backer and background. Unless he had no other choice, it was obvious that he would not choose to completely offend him.

But little did he know that... let alone a backer, Yun Che didn't even have a companion. He was completely alone!

"Sir, if fifty million purple profound stones is not enough of a compensation, you can put up any other conditions. As long as it is something within my abilities, I will definitely satisfy you," Ji Ruyan said softly, the light in her eyes filled with slight imploremment and... anxiousness?

Just as Yun Che was about to reply, Ji Ruyan's sound transmission suddenly rang beside his ears, "Sir Ling Yun, please return him. The situation is far more grave than you can possibly imagine. This involves an upper star realm! Furthermore, the person in front of you comes from a great background. Take advantage of the fact that he is currently not willing to thoroughly offend you to quickly comply or else... not only will he forcibly take it back, he might even kill you!"

To a lower star realm, an upper star realm was an existence similar to a palace in the heavens. If an upper star realm really was involved in this, then even the Realm King of a lower star realm would pale in fright and hand over the wood spirit while stumbling.

Unfortunately, they just had to encounter Yun Che. He narrowed his eyes, pretending not to have heard Ji Ruyan's sound transmission as he coldly laughed at the black clothed middle aged man. "He's already mine. If I don't want to hand him over, what are you going to do to me?"

"Sir!" Ji Ruyan exclaimed softly.

"Hahaha," the black clothed middle aged man laughed weirdly but there was no smile on his face. "It looks like you'd rather have it the hard way!"

Following the change in his tone and expression, the entire room suddenly became oppressive.

"Hahaha." Yun Che also laughed the same way. "What? Since asking with a thick skin doesn't work, you want to shamelessly steal in public now?"

The black clothed middle aged man no longer replied and a dark cold wind suddenly rose up. As if he was a black hawk rushing out of the night at the speed of thunder, he opened a hand and grabbed at the wood spirit boy behind Yun Che.

When the black clothed middle aged man suddenly took action, powerful profound energy at the Divine Tribulation Realm surged within the room, immediately scattering those who sat in the front row in fright.

Yun Che pushed the wood spirit boy behind him. The Heaven Smiting Sword then appeared in his hand as he opened Purgatory and welcomed the pouncing black clothed man with a sweep of his sword.

Yun Che's profound strength was only at the second level of the Divine Soul Realm so he wasn't considered anything before the black clothed man. However, Yun Che's tossing of the four hundred million purple profound stones and his dignified aura made him worry about Yun Che's background. This was why even though he had taken action, he only went for the wood spirit and not Yun Che. He didn't expect that not only did Yun Che not flee in panic under the release of his Divine Tribulation might, he had actually taken out his weapon to meet his attack head on.

Yun Che's overestimation of himself made the black clothed man chuckle, "Blind fool, you're seeking death..."

Before his voice had yet to land, his face suddenly changed. The energy storm coming at him was like a flood dragon launching itself out of the sea. Its pressure instantly suffocated him, leaving him in shock.

Boom boom boom———

As sound of a huge explosion that no one had predicted rang, all the stone chairs and tables shattered in its wake.

The black clothed middle aged man let out a dull groan at the center of the profound energy storm. He retreated in panic, yet he was still ruthlessly sent flying, knocking against the stone wall behind him, shattering the wall protected by high level profound patterns into pieces. He fiercely raised his head, eyes no longer possessing his previous dark certainty. Only deep shock and incredulity was within them as his right arm slightly trembled, almost losing all feeling.

This scene left everyone in the stone room dumbstruck... That frightening power from before was actually from someone in the Divine Soul Realm? And... it had actually directly repelled someone in the Divine Tribulation Realm!?

"What... did you say earlier?" Yun Che slowly asked with narrowed eyes.

"You!" The black clothed middle aged man's expression had already changed greatly. When the numbing sensation in his right arm gradually disappeared, he suddenly shouted as a streak of black colored lightning shot out from his opened fingers. He grasped onto a pitch-black longsword, sizzling with lightning that resembled dozens of dancing True Dragons and thrust it at Yun Che.

"The Black Soul Lightningstar... He really is from the Soul Sect," softly uttered someone at the far end of the stone room.

Yun Che's brows sank slightly, fiercely pushing the wood spirit boy backwards yet again before jumping forward. The incoming black colored lightning was like dancing demonic serpents yet he completely ignored them and sent down a Falling Moon Sinking Star.

The wood spirit boy was sent flying by Yun Che's push and landed far away. In his fright, he helplessly sat there in a daze, forgetting to stand up for a while.

Not even thirty meters behind him was a shocked Ying Yushan. When he saw that the royal wood spirit was close, after a brief period of hesitation, he gritted his teeth and rushed over, grabbing at the wood spirit boy.

Boom boom!!!

The collision of spear and sword seemed to last but a split second. The black colored profound lightning on the spear's body completely dispersed as the nine foot spear was directly smashed into a crescent moon shape. The black clothed middle aged man's entire body was jolted under the incredibly huge power force before he was once more ruthlessly sent flying into the wall behind him, feet not even touching the ground.

Boom—

When he fell off the already cracked stone wall with a loud bang, the arms of the black clothed man, clutching the lightning soul spear, shivered due to numbness. A trickle of red blood also surprising flowed from the corner of his mouth.

After smashing the black clothed man in one strike, Yun Che borrowed the recoiling power of and flipped backwards. Bringing along an intense windstorm as he pounced at Ying Yushan, who was approaching the wood spirit boy, he smashed his fist down.

The exposed Ying Yushan totally did not expect the forward jumping Yun Che to instantly turn back. Before he had time to lift his head in shock, Yun Che's fist heavily smashed onto his chest... In that instant, he felt as though all the bones in his body had shattered. He spurted out a bloody mist several meters long as he was sent flying amidst his miserable screams. He was ruthlessly smashed into the stone wall at the very end of the stone room and caused the entire room to intensely quake.

Bang!

Ying Yushan's body fell to the ground. After a few fierce twitches, a huge pool of blood quickly spread below him and he no longer moved.

Not a single person in the surroundings went forward. Instead, they all slowly retreated in terror. Ying Yushan's profound strength had reached the peak of the Divine Soul Realm yet Yun Che, who was obviously at the second level of the Divine Soul Realm... had, in one punch, in merely one punch, heavily injured him to the point of losing consciousness!!

"ARGHHHHH!!!"

A wild wind storm raged behind Yun Che as an image of a huge black snake appeared behind the black clothed middle aged man. Lightning sizzled around his entire body as a wave of an incredibly terrifying aura rapidly spread outward.

"Soul Sect's.... Black Lightning Snake!" someone exclaimed in shock.

"Kid... you're the one... who asked for it!" The complexion of the black clothed middle aged man turned dark as he gritted his teeth.

Riiip!!

Electricity crackled. Following the black clothed man's furious roar, that black snake image suddenly became alive and brought all the lightning on his body with it as it slithered onto the spear. In an instant, the black soul spear transformed into an enormous, malevolent snake. It spread its dark fangs and came at Yun Che with terrifying lightning.

The black clothed man was in a fit of rage after being beaten back twice by Yun Che. He no longer dared to underestimate his opponent nor hold back in the slightest. In fact, he had already begun to feel fear and panic... because he originally hadn't considered the early stage Divine Soul Realm Yun Che to be anything, so he wasn't worried at all that he could escape with the royal wood spirit.

Never in his dreams did he expect that the true strength of Yun Che, who clearly had profound strength at the second level of the Divine Soul Realm, would actually be terrifying enough to defy common sense! What he feared was not Yun Che but the fate he would face if he allowed Yun Che to take the royal wood spirit away. It would be worse than death!

Two days had not yet passed since Yun Che had obtained Mu Xuanyin's Ice Phoenix vital yin, so he wasn't completely clear on where his current strength truly lay. However, once he realized that this black clothed man in the early stages of the Divine Tribulation Realm didn't pressure him much, he had total confidence in himself. In front of the all out attack, Yun Che pushed the wood spirit boy away yet again before meeting the incoming strike.

This time, the wood spirit boy had been pushed even further away. However, with Ying Yushan being a lesson for all, no one dared to step forward.

"Destroying... Sky... Decimating... Earth!!"

The black clothed man's black lightning snake was incomparably terrifying and Yun Che's current strike was several times more powerful than his previous. Within the energy storm raised by the Heaven Smiting Sword, the black lightning snake was immediately pressed down. However, as though it had been completely infuriated, it screeched and pounced onto the profound energy storm, resisting the sword might.

Boom boom!!

As though thunder from the Ninth Heaven descended upon the mortal realm, the concealed underground stone room began to split apart as it shook.

"W-what?" the black clothed middle aged man's eyes widened, his distorted face looked as though he had seen a ghost. He would never believe that his own power... his all out power, had actually been directly blocked by Yun Che!

No, it should be said that it was he who had blocked Yun Che's power... and he had barely defended against it.

Yun Che's face remained cool and calm. In comparison, the arms of the black clothed man holding the black lightning snake continued to fiercely tremble as sweat poured through his entire body like rivers. The tremendous power that was pressing down onto his spear and body was like a towering mountain that was slowly collapsing on top of him.

"You..." As the heavy sword slowly pressed down, the black soul spear slowly bent and the black lightning snake coiled around it began to wail. The black clothed man's eyes enlarged as more and more intense terror began to condense within them.

Rumbling... Heaven!

Yun Che stated in his mind and thus the Evil God's fourth gate opened without mercy.

Yun Che's profound strength increased exponentially at that moment. The black lightning snake that had been able to bitterly put up a resistance let out a tragic cry as it was instantly ripped apart. The bones in the black clothed man's arms completely shattered and he was sent flying by the berserk profound energy storm, blood spraying as he went. During his flight, the black soul spear also flew out of his grasp.

Yun Che made a grabbing motion and sucked the black soul spear into his hands before fiercely throwing it out.

Pfft!!

The black soul spear flashed over like a shooting star and pierced into the black clothed man's right chest with incomparable precision, ruthlessly running him through. The horizontal flight path of his body was then firmly nailed onto the ground as blood splashed all over the ground.

Drip...

Drip...

The stone room finally quieted. Aside from the sound of blood dripping rapidly, not even the sound of anyone breathing could be heard.

Ji Ruyan was standing speechless not too far away, her beautiful face having already lost all color. The crowd of profound practitioners from the Darkya Realm at the rear were closely pressed against the wall, stupefied. Completely drenched in sweat, let alone saying a word, they didn't even dare to breathe too loudly.

Second level of the Divine Soul Realm... in a few short direct confrontations, had completely crushed an expert in the Divine Tribulation Realm and inflicted grievous injuries!

They had never seen, nor heard of such a thing before! They were simply unable to imagine what kind of plane could possibly nurture such a monster.

The wood spirit boy sat on the ground, staring at Yun Che while completely dazed. As if he had forgotten his fears, his eyes flashed with an exceptionally bright radiance.

Yun Che slowly walked forward. The sound of his footsteps, that weren't even heavy at all, seemed to tread upon the hearts of everyone present. He came before the black clothed man, looked down upon his current miserable state with cold indifference and leisurely spoke, "The next time you want to ask for something, your attitude needs to be a bit more gentle. Otherwise, if you're unlucky enough to come across someone like me... you will only be seeking death!"

Chapter 1074 - Cannot Bear To

It was accurate to say that Yun Che had been fleeing since his arrival in the Darkya Realm. After all, he had no one to support him here. In fact, there wasn't even anyone willing to converse with him. Thus, he absolutely could not cause any disturbances.

Yet, even though he wasn't looking for trouble, trouble had found him.

However, even if he wasn't looking for trouble, it didn't mean that he was afraid of anything!

"Right now, do you still want to me to hand him back?" Yun Che mercilessly asked, his voice quiet but cold. His eyes swept across the black snake tattoo which had been revealed due to the damage dealt to the clothes of the black clothed middle aged man.

"You..." As the black clothed middle age man opened his mouth, bloody foam spewed out. At this current time, the man felt like he had been crucified and placed in hell. The pain was so great, he wished to die. "You... will... regret... this..."

"Ah, whether or not I will regret this, I don't know... as for you, you definitely will regret your actions!"

Bang!!

Yun Che's foot flew out as he heavily kicked the black soul spear which had penetrated through the black clothed man's body, causing him to shriek painfully as blood spurted out everywhere. The black soul spear left the black clothed man's body and pierced into the stone wall above him. The black clothed man rolled on the ground and screamed as blood wildly spurted out from the hole in his chest like a geyser. It was indeed a sorry sight.

The person who had appeared in the domain of the Black Feather Merchant Guild was not only a foreigner but someone who acted extremely viciously. Everyone present was shocked... for someone like this, either their background was so shockingly great that they didn't put the Black Feather Merchant Guild or the Soul Sect behind them in their eyes or... they were a downright lunatic!

Regardless of which one he was, they absolutely didn't dare to provoke him at all.

It was at this time that Ji Ruyan's voice once again emerged besides Yun Che's ear.

"Sir Ling Yun, quickly flee! A group of their people are currently rushing over and there is a Divine Spirit Realm hall master in their midst! The imprisonment formation here has already been unlocked by me. You need to hurry up and flee! Otherwise, it may be too late!"

A puzzled gaze temporarily paused on Yun Che's face... the reason Yun Che had been so vicious in dealing with the black clothed man was mainly to scare Ji Ruyan so that he could more easily force her to release the imprisonment formation here. Otherwise, if he had to forcefully break through, he would need to waste quite a bit of time.

He had never expected that Ji Ruyan would release it by herself... he couldn't fathom why the woman would help him.

Their people?

They?

He profoundly gazed at Ji Ruyan for another moment, then immediately arrived beside wood spirit boy. Grabbing the boy's hand, Yun Che flew into the sky and hurriedly left.

Bang bang bang...

The profound formation was still present but it had broken the moment he passed through it. It seemed like Ji Ruyan had not deceived him. He hadn't experienced the slightest bit of resistance as he passed through the four layers of the imprisonment formation. Yun Che executed Extreme Mirage Lightning and then rapidly increased his speed as he abruptly disappeared into the vast dark sky.

The darkness of the Darkya Realm was especially deep and profound, making it naturally easy to hide within it. Yun Che moved directly south, passing over a smaller half of Darkya City. After confirming that there was no one was tracking him from behind, he finally slowed down. Upon finding a secluded and unpopulated area nearby, he stopped and immediately used Hidden Flowing Lightning to retract his aura.

As for the wood spirit race boy who had been grabbed by Yun Che, he had remained exceptionally quiet from the moment they had fled until right now. The boy had not screamed or struggled at all and had been abnormally calm.

Not a sound could be heard around them as Yun Che pondered the words Ji Ruyan had said, as well as the words of the black clothed man. The sentence "this involves an upper star realm" especially caused him to worry. Could it be that some prestigious figure in an upper star realm had learned of the existence of the royal wood spirit? If so, then even if he fixed it now, it was undoubtedly a huge leak.

Not only had the sins of the Black Feather Merchant Guild completely come to light, it was very possible that some upper star realm would be greatly angered.

It was quite likely that as a result of this, he would be greatly pursued in the future... it wouldn't be surprising even if the entire city were sealed.

The moment this royal wood spirit had fallen into his lap, he had likely become entangled in some great trouble which also involved an upper star realm.

An upper star realm was an existence which was an entire level higher than the Snow Song Realm. This meant that if the situation truly worsened, then not even the Snow Song Realm would be able to protect him... not to mention that he had currently fled the Snow Song Realm and was just by himself.

At the very least, he had used a fake name and completely changed his face whilst in the Black Feather Merchant Guild. Moreover, considering his Moon Splitting Cascade which was at the great perfection realm and his high skill in the art of disguise, it was no easy task to find him... Indeed, the only thing which could possibly be used to locate him was the black jade which Huo Rulie had given him.

After all, the Mister Ji of the Black Feather Merchant Guild had known that his piece of black jade had come from Huo Rulie! Hopefully this wouldn't cause any trouble for the Flame God Realm.

Otherwise, it would be best for him to leave the Darkya Realm as soon as possible after procuring the Wood Spirit Orb!

Amidst the darkness, the wood spirit boy's two pupils revealed an incredibly brilliant green glow, as if they were two flawless gleaming crystals. The two brilliantly green glowing eyes were completely devoid of anxiety and terror as the wood spirit boy looked at Yun Che and said in an innocent and pure voice, "Senior... thank you very much."

Yun Che became dazed for a moment, then sneered and said, "Thank me? Oh, you can't truly be naive enough to believe that I spent so many purple profound stones and offended such a great force just so that I could save you from them right?"

"I..." The wood spirit boy's eyes remained clear as he looked Yun Che straight in the eyes. Suddenly, the boy lightly laughed as he said, "It is because I know that senior is definitely a good person."

"Little brat, you are so naive it's funny." Yun Che's voice was incredibly cold. However, as he stared right back into the boy's green eyes, his mind suddenly relaxed. He had never before seen such a pure and innocent set of eyes. It was as if he were staring into a flawless mirror which was revealing to him all of the sins within his own heart and soul and causing them to remain before him.

Yun Che subconsciously averted his eyes. He no longer dared to look back into the child's eyes. He forcefully tried to calm himself down as he said in an unnatural voice, "A good person? The number of people I have killed far surpasses the number of people that you have met in your entire life! You yourself know very clearly that the reason why I spent such a great amount of resources to obtain you was so that I could take the Wood Spirit Orb inside your body!"

"Will you obediently take it out for me or will I have to personally take matters into my own hands?"

A thick killing intent began to emanate from Yun Che's body.

How could a wood spirit child possibly withstand the killing intent released by Yun Che? Fear finally appeared on the boy's face as his body shrunk back and retreated. However, his pair of now fear filled eyes were still fixedly watching Yun Che, "I... I... No, no, it shouldn't be like this. Senior is a good person, I... I can feel it. Please... senior please let me go... I will definitely repay you."

Observing the child's terrified state, Yun Che's hands silently balled up into fists. His heart tightened but he nonetheless replied in a dark voice, "Repayment? The best repayment you can provide me is your Wood Spirit Orb! N~~ow!"

"Don't, don't be like this..." The wood spirit boy shook his head as he kept retreating. Then, the boy abruptly heavily fell to his knees, his eyes flooding with green tears as he pleaded, "Senior, I beg you to let me go. Although I am still young, I don't fear death but... I absolutely cannot die here because... because my sister and I are the only remaining members of the wood spirit royal family who carry the bloodline. My sister is a girl but I... if I were to die, my wood spirit royal bloodline, along with the hopes of the entire wood spirit race, would come to an end... I absolutely cannot die. Senior, please let me go."

Yun Che's brows slightly twitched as he coldly responded, "Those are the matters of your wood spirit race. What relation do they have with me? All I want is your Wood Spirit Orb!"

Yun Che's chest heaved as his voice became even colder and harsh, "Little brat, that group of people is definitely looking for me right now. Thus, my patience and time are extremely limited. Now I will give you ten breaths of time to decide. Either you obediently give me your Wood Spirit Orb or you can forcefully self-destruct your Wood Spirit Orb. Pick which manner of death is more respectable for you. Regardless, the result is the same for me. Otherwise, if you force me to move, I'm afraid your death will not be an easy one!"

"Ten!"

“Nine!”

“Se... senior! Please senior... please let me go. I truly cannot die.” The wood spirit boy knelt on the ground as he pleaded in terror.

“Eight!” Yun Che didn’t move as he produced a single, ice cold, and indifferent word in response.

“Senior, my wood spirit race has never brought harm to any other living organisms. We have also never done anything evil or unforgivable. Even when... even when you humans have practically killed our entire clan, we still have never committed any malicious acts towards humans out of our resentment and despair...”

Yun Che, “...”

“So many of my clansmen have died. My mother, in order to protect me, also died at the hands of humans. Even my sister... my last relation, has become separated from me. Perhaps I will never be able to meet her again in this lifetime... Why? Where... Just where did we commit so many mistakes for you humans to do this to us!”

“...Five!” Yun Che looked up as he took a deep breath.

“Senior!” Two crystal clear tears slowly slid down the wood spirit boy’s face. “My mother told me once, that although humans are massacring us, much of humanity is actually made up of good people. I know that senior is one of these good people. Because when I am beside senior, I do not feel afraid at all, unlike when I was with those bad people...”

“Three!” Yun Che’s breathing became slightly unsteady as he faintly gritted his teeth.

“Senior... please let me go... If I die right now, I will not have the face to see my parents... if... as long as senior lets me go, I will definitely repay you... whatever you want me to do, I will... I will try my best to accomplish it.”

“One!”

Yun Che’s malicious gaze landed on the wood spirit boy. “I gave you an opportunity but since it still came to this... it seems like I can only personally take action after all! This is your fate and the fate of the entire wood spirit race! If you have resentment, then resent us all you want!”

Yun Che’s body abruptly turned as profound energy surged into his right arm and he went straight for the wood spirit boy’s chest with a clawed hand. The force was more than enough for him to easily penetrate through the wood spirit boy’s weak body.

“Senior!!” the wood spirit boy cried.

Rip!!

Currents of air were heavily torn apart as the wildly surging explosive energies suddenly became chaotic and dispersed. The palm of Yun Che’s hand stopped against the wood spirit boy’s chest like it had been blocked by an wall.

I... what am I doing? Just what am I doing right now...

Was he truly willing to forgo human morals to extinguish the life of an innocent wood spirit who held no hatred or resentment just for the sake of a possibility of receiving a Universe Penta Jade Pellet?

Moreover, it was only a child...

A child who carried the future of the entire wood spirit race on his back.

No... in my two lives, because of my resentment and anger, the number innocent people have died because of me is not small... if not me today, he will still end up dying at the hands of someone else. Moreover, I expended a great deal of profound stones and offended a powerful force to obtain him. It should be right for me to determine his fate without any qualms as I have completely gained the eligibility to do so...

His body carries the Wood Spirit Orb that I most desperately need... If I miss this opportunity, perhaps I will not be able to find another suitable Wood Spirit Orb before the Profound God Convention. I will not be able to meet Jasmine again!

"..." Yun Che's chest heaved fiercely as complex and chaotic emotions emerged in his eyes. His palm which was almost touching the wood spirit boy's chest had actually begun to violently tremble. Time and time again Yun Che justified his actions to himself but his palm, which should have easily been able to take the boy's life at any moment, was no longer able to gather even the slightest amount of profound energy.

I... what is there to hesitate about...

"Hah... hah..." For a long period of time, everything was silent. It was as if the world had stopped in place around the two. The terrified wood spirit boy watched Yun Che, his face still pale white with terror. He didn't dare to move at all. It was only after the icy cold night wind gusted by again that Yun Che's breathing abruptly became heavy, as if he had just completed fighting a battle for his life.

Yun Che slowly clenched his hands and then gradually relaxed them.

"...Go... Leave at once!" As he turned around and raised his head to look at the dark night sky, his vision began to blur. However, for some reason, his heart and soul had become filled with calmness.

Why did it become like this...

Where have I changed!?

Chapter 1075 - Wood Spirits' Secret Grounds

The wood spirit boy stood there shocked, he couldn't believe it at all. Instead of running away immediately, his voice quivered "Really... You're... You're really letting me go?"

"..." Yun Che took a deep breath. A wood spirit of royal blood. His Wood Spirit Orb would be an incomparably coveted treasure throughout the God Realm. Yun Che had paid a large price and finally got him, and as a result, he was one large step closer to meeting Jasmine once more. However... he couldn't bring himself to take the final measure.

He couldn't even understand what he was thinking, why he was letting him go...

I was once a monster that ruthlessly killed an entire city with poison!

“Go... Before I change my mind, leave!” Yun Che gnashed his teeth, his emotions a mess.

“I... I knew it. You’re definitely a good person.” The boy wiped away the tears on his face, he slowly and carefully stepped away, his gaze never leaving Yun Che. He had just escaped a calamity as if given a chance of rebirth and felt a deep sense of gratitude towards Yun Che.

Good person...

When Mu Xuanyin previously spoke of the wood spirit race, she also mentioned that the pure and innocent souls of the wood spirits could sense the maliciousness or hostility of other living beings.

His hands were stained with the blood of a countless many, when that wood spirit sensed his soul, was it really that of a “good person”?

He laughed bitterly at himself.

Behind him, the footsteps of the wood spirit boy gradually grew softer and softer as he got further and further away. Instead of picking up his pace, he suddenly stopped in place after dozens of steps.

“Senior!” he shouted.

“...” Yun Che turned around with a fierce glare in his eyes, “If you still won’t leave, I might change my mind and you can forget about ever leaving!”

“I... I wouldn’t dare.” The wood spirit boy shook his head, he suddenly and bravely lifted his head, “Senior, I... can I make a request? Could you please accompany me home? If I’m alone... I’ll just get immediately recaptured by them.”

“...” Yun Che stood there in silence for a while.

The defining features of a wood spirit were very prominent and he was right. Even if he was released, a wood spirit wandering around Darkya City all by himself was just asking to be captured once more, perhaps even being killed on the spot.

“Your home?”

“Yes!” The wood spirit boy immediately nodded his head and pointed towards the south. “My home is not far from the city. Senior is so strong, as long as we continue in this direction and out of Darkya City, we’ll be there very quickly. Please, senior...”

Yun Che’s eyes were twitching and his heart was pounding. He then took a step forward, holding onto the wood spirit boy. “Let’s go!”

He had just decided to let him off... And now, he had so easily decided to escort him back home?

Just what the heck am I doing?

Sigh... Forget it! Since I’ve decided to release him, I might as well be a “good person” all the way. If he lands in the hands of the Darkya men, I’d also have released him in vain.

Yun Che spoke to himself in his heart as he picked up speed, racing towards the south, under the cover of night.

“Senior, thank you. I knew that I could trust my senses. You’re really really a very very good person,” the wood spirit boy gratefully said.

“What’s your name?” Yun Che asked

“My name is He Lin,” replied the boy. Yun Che had released him and was now even protecting him on his journey home, he was no longer afraid and was now filled with endless gratitude. The green eyes he looked at Yun Che with grew brighter. “May I know how I should address senior?”

“You don’t have to know my name, and stop calling me senior. I’m probably only just older than you by around ten years.” Yun Che replied without a hint of emotion while trying to calm and suppress the torrid waves in his heart.

“Eh?” He Lin’s jaw dropped, a wave of shock spread across his face. After quite some time he exclaimed, “So it’s actually big brother! Ah... Big brother, you’re really strong, really really strong. Even those terrifying people were defeated by you in just a few moves. I thought that big brother was much much older.”

From his voice and the glimmer in his eyes, Yun Che could see a sense of deep and passionate worship.

“I’ve heard that Darkya City has long had a history of hunting and killing the wood spirit race. Your home... how can it be so near such a dangerous place?” Yun Che asked.

Hearing Yun Che’s words, He Lin stayed solemnly silent for a while. Just when Yun Che thought that he wasn’t willing to reply, He Lin gently said, “Compared to the middle and upper star realms, this lower star realm is actually the safest. If we’re discovered, we might be able to escape here. Moreover, our current home has a great natura power protecting us. Me and my clansmen have already lived there for two years and without being discovered.

“Your clan... How many of you are left?”

He Lin hesitated for a while and then replied “Those of my fellow clansmen that are with me... We’ve only got about a hundred of us left. While I’ve been captured, they’ll definitely have been very anxious and if they left that place to search for me, the consequences could be dire.”

“He Lin, how old are you this year?”

“I... I’m eleven.”

“And you have an older sister?” Yun Che casually asked.

“Mn,” he softly answered and his voice slowly trailed off. “Three years ago, during that terrible disaster, mother and father, in order to protect my sister and I... they... they... after that, me and my sister were separated. I haven’t seen her since but I believe that sister is definitely alive! I can sense it!”

Yun Che didn’t probe further.

Orphaned, his last living relative missing... He was but an eleven year old boy, yet he had experienced countless unimaginable cruel and difficult situations. It wasn't his fault or was it the consequence of his actions; it was all because he was a wood spirit—a royal wood spirit.

They were a race that inherited the purest powers of nature but instead of it being a blessing, it was the cruelest of curses.

Once out of Darkya City, Yun Che didn't stop. He carried on in the direction He Lin pointed. About half an hour later, he had flown into a stretch of jungle that seemingly had no end.

"This home you speak of, is it within this forest?" Yun Che asked.

"Yes!" He Lin now pointed to the south east. Being really close to home, he started getting a little more excited. "In that direction, I can already sense its aura... This is great!"

They quickly shot through the jungle and finally came to a stop not long after.

Up ahead, towering ancient trees stood tall, draped in countless big and dark greenish black vines. The vines barred their path, stretching innumerable beyond what the eye could see.

As Yun Che looked on with hesitation, He Lin bounded forward with excitement. He made a gentle gesture with his hands and immediately the dense greenish black vines came to life, they quickly started bending and moving, opening up just enough to form a narrow passageway.

"Big brother, quickly come here!"

He Lin pulled at Yun Che's arm, bouncing boisterously into the vine-covered passageway. Yun Che hesitated for a bit but eventually decided to follow behind him.

The passageway continued for quite a long way. They walked for a period of time before finally reaching the exit. When they finally stepped out through the exit, just at that moment, a sense of danger suddenly reached them from the front. Dozens of greenish black vines suddenly struck down, like fangs of a really large demon.

Yun Che cycled his profound energy but He Lin didn't seem fazed at all and instead continued forward. He made a light pushing movement with his arms, a flash of green light appeared and the vines were suddenly frozen in place where upon they immediately started retracting.

"Granny Qing Ye! Aunty Kui! Uncle Mu Han... I'm back! I'm back!!"

The world before their eyes was a field with tens of thousands of plants. Green grass abounded while the leaves and vegetation contained an unbelievable amount of jade green nature energy. The air was so fresh it gave one a sense of peace and clarity. Just further up, strange flowers and plants abounded. Butterflies flew all around. This place was beautiful beyond compare. If anyone stepped into this place, they would probably think that they had stepped into an unreal immortal wonderland.

The bright crisp voice of He Lin travelled throughout this little immortal-like world.

"Lin... Lin'er! Lin'er!!"

"Young patriarch... It's young patriarch!"

“Lin’er!!”

The serene world suddenly transformed into a scene of excited shouts of happiness. One by one, jade green figures emerged from the ancient trees and millions of flowers. They crazedly rushed towards He Lin. One of them seemed older than the rest. He walked with a slight awkwardness and hugged He Lin with a tight embrace. Before he even spoke, his old tears started streaming down.

“Lin’er... It’s really you? You really came back... We had imagined the worst, that you had been captured by the humans... This is great, you’re safe and sound, thank goodness...”

The others huddled together and surrounded him, each of them had tears of excitement in their eyes.

Everyone of them had hair the color of emerald, fluorite-like eyes, and pointed long ears. Their skin was flawless like jade. Without a doubt, they were the hidden wood spirit race, the fellow clan members of whom He Lin was talking about.

Their numbers were as what He Lin had described, around a hundred of them.

From their excited reactions, one could see that He Lin was an extremely important existence... He was the only male possessing the royal wood spirit bloodline. Although still young, he bore the burden of being the last hope of the wood spirit race.

“I’m sorry Granny Qin Ye... I’m sorry everyone... I’ve made everyone worried this time.” Tears swirled in He Lin’s eye “I... I actually was captured by humans...”

“Ah!?” He Lin’s words shocked all the wood spirits present.

“But, I met a really good person, a super duper good and really really powerful big brother. It was him that saved me and even escorted me back here.”

He Lin wiped away his tears and quickly ran to Yun Che’s side “He’s that big brother, if not for him... by now... I would have... would really have...”

Countless gazes landed on Yun Che. The oldest wood spirit, the one He Lin called “Granny Qing Ye” slowly walked forward and suddenly bent down, kneeling before Yun Che.

Yun Che’s eyelids jumped, he was about to speak when he suddenly saw the rest of the wood spirits kneeling as well.

Yun Che, “....”

“Young human... thank you. Thank you for saving our young patriarch,” Granny Qing Ye said in an old voice which carried a deep sense of sincere gratitude straight from her soul, though it carried a slight fear at the end. “Although we hate those of the evil human race, you saved our young patriarch. From now on, you’re the great benefactor of our wood spirit clan. Please except this bow from us.

“Young patriarch met with danger but then met such an honorable person, it’s definitely the blessing and protection from the patriarch in the heavens,” a middle aged wood spirit shouted, who then proceeded to kowtow to Yun Che.

“...” Yun Che’s mouth was slightly agape. After a few moments, he awkwardly replied, “It was nothing much... All of this is not necessary.”

Chapter 1076 - The Race Abandoned by Fate

“No, we wood spirits always know to repay favors, let alone such a great favor as this one.”

Granny Qing Ye was the oldest among everyone present, so her words held the greatest weight. She said sincerely, “Young man, if you need something, feel free to tell us. We will definitely try our best to repay you.”

“No need.” Yun Che shook his head. “The reason why I saved him isn’t because I was feeling righteous. My original target was a Wood Spirit Orb.”

“Wh-what?” Yun Che’s reply cased all the wood spirits to immediately raise their heads. Their expressions slightly changed.

“The reason why I spared He Lin is because he is only a little boy. I couldn’t bear to. If it was another wood spirit, I would’ve definitely forcibly taken both their life and Wood Spirit Orb. Since that’s the case, there is no need for you to thank me.”

After seeing the sudden change in the wood spirit crowd’s faces, he turned around to leave and quickly headed for the exit.

“Wait,” shouted an old voice.

Yun Che’s footsteps paused, yet he didn’t turn around as he said indifferently. “Don’t worry, I won’t tell anyone about this place.”

“No,” Granny Qing Ye’s walked to him with a half bent waist. “You saved Lin’er, so you are our entire clan’s benefactor. How could we possibly not believe you? You said that you needed a Wood Spirit Orb, right?”

Yun Che was stunned. He turned around.

Granny Qing Ye gently smiled, her cloudy eyes then looked at the middle aged wood spirit beside He Lin. “Qing Mu, let’s give Qiu Ling’s Wood Spirit Orb to our benefactor, shall we?”

A complicated turmoil surfaced in the eyes of the middle aged wood spirit named Qing Mu but he didn’t hesitate or make things difficult as he nodded lightly, “Of course.”

“Then that’s great.” Granny Qing Mu smiled. “Young man, we just so happen to have a Wood Spirit Orb within our clan. Qing Mu’s wife specifically left that one behind after sustaining grievous injuries in the past. Although many years have passed since then, since it was sealed in a nature profound formation, its spirit energy has not decreased at all, so it ought to help you out.”

Purposely left behind by a wood spirit, one whose spirit energy had yet to dissipate at all... this meant that it was a perfect Wood Spirit Orb with completely intact spirit energy, one that humans simply would never be able to forcibly take!!

Yun Che was excited. “Are... you really going to give it to me?”

“Hoho,” Qing Mu chuckled. “I would naturally not let any evil person take my deceased wife’s Wood Spirit Orb even if it meant my death. However, if it can repay the great benefactor who saved our young patriarch, I am sure even Qiu Ling in the heavens above would gladly consent.”

“It’s just that, in order to keep evil people from taking it, my seal is extremely tight. I will need at least two to four hours to undo its seal. I would need benefactor to wait here a while during this time.”

Yun Che spent a huge sum yet he did not forcibly take He Lin’s Wood Spirit Orb in the very end... But here, he was about to gifted a perfect Wood Spirit Orb.

Even though it was still incomparable to He Lin’s Royal Wood Spirit Orb, a Wood Spirit Orb with completely intact spirit energy still far surpassed the seventy percent intact spirit energy Wood Spirit Orb Yun Che needed.

The last of the melancholy in Yun Che’s heart was swept away as profound joy and gratitude bubbled from his heart. “If it’s like that... then thank you very much. I do indeed have an important reason to urgently need a Wood Spirit Orb.”

“No need to say thanks. Your great favor can never be surpassed no matter how we repay you,” Granny Qing Ye said. “Qing Mu, go on now. Once you’ve gotten it, you can directly hand it to our benefactor.”

Qing Mu complied and then flew away.

“That’s great! I didn’t want to part with big brother yet!” cheered He Lin. He excitedly came before Yun Che and tugged at his sleeve. “Big brother, is it okay if I show you our home? Even though it’s small, I’m sure you’ll like it.”

He Lin dragged him, formally inviting him into the little world that belonged to the wood spirits.

With green trees as houses, and flowers and grass for seats, this was an inconceivably pure world. Not even the slightest filth could be smelled from the air in this place.

Due to the avarice of humans, a race that originally received the protection of nature ended up in a more tragic and fallen state than any other race. They should have a deeply entrenched hatred for humans, yet when He Lin pulled him before wood spirits, one after the other and happily introduced him, they all expressed deep gratitude and heartfelt welcome. Perhaps they may have shown a bit of caution at first but he never felt the slightest bit of hatred from the very start.

Wood spirits possessed the world’s purest of powers and the purest of hearts. As Yun Che sensed this in its entirety, his heart intensely thobbed.

Even in the face of an enemy who was a hundred times more powerful than himself, his gaze would never cower. However, the clear purity in every one of these wood spirits’ emerald eyes made him not dare to look them straight in the eyes...

This kind of race ought to receive the utmost protection of nature, why do they have to bear such a cruel, unfair fate...

Because of humanity’s evil and greed...

And because they were weak.

The entire body of those belonging to the dragon race were also treasures but how could this world possibly dare to bully the clan of True Dragons in the Dragon God Realm?

“Big Sister Qing He!”

He Lin dragged Yun Che all the way to the ends of this little world. There was a huge garden that stretched far and wide, with all kinds of blossoming flowers flourishing in an explosion of colors. A colorfully dressed girl was at the center of the garden, gathering morning dew from the petals. Her graceful, lithe figure resembled a colorful, elegantly dancing butterfly within the myriad flowers. It was pleasing to the eye and intoxicating to the soul.

Amidst He Lin’s high pitched shout, the girl within the garden turned, her soft gaze following shortly after. He Lin introduced Yun Che with rosy cheeks. “This is Big Sister Qing He. Oh, her father is Uncle Qing Mu. Big Sister Qing, this is the big brother who saved me. Even though he’s a big brother, he’s super duper powerful, you know.”

The colorfully dressed girl looked to only be around fifteen or sixteen. Her bright face contained a young girl’s charming immaturity and a wood spirit’s beautiful purity. She gently bowed at Yun Che. “Thank you for saving our young patriarch, big brother.”

Once she said those words, she didn’t dare to look Yun Che in the eyes a second time. She lowered her head as a slight flush spread across her cheeks.

“Ah? Young patriarch, so you’ve brought Big Brother Benefactor here, no wonder I couldn’t find you anywhere!”

The sound of a girl’s voice, which resembled clear spring water, came from behind them as a girl around the same age as Qing He gently fluttered over. Behind her followed a handsome, tall and slender young wood spirit who looked to be around seventeen years old.

“Big Sister Fei Yan, Big Brother Qing Zhu!” He Lin shouted their names in a clear voice.

When the two arrived, they stared at Yun Che for a long while. The young wood spirit named Qing Zhu then deeply bowed toward Yun Che. “Big Brother Benefactor, you saved our young patriarch and... I don’t even know how we can repay you.”

“Thank you, Big Brother Benefactor.” The wood spirit girl named Fei Yan graciously bowed. Her clear, beautiful eyes then continued to curiously size Yun Che up. “There really are good people within humans too.”

“Of course,” He Lin said with some pompousness. “When father and mother were still alive, they used to tell me that all the time. I knew that big brother was a really good person at first glance.”

“Hmph! Young patriarch, you still have the gall to say that!?” Fei Yan raised a hand and heavily knocked He Lin on the forehead, fuming. “Do you know that you almost scared all of us to death!? Granny Qing Ye cried so many times. You... If you dare to do something like this again, I’m going to ignore you from then on.”

He Lin covered his hurt forehead and didn't dare to retort. He weakly answered quite pitifully, "Big Sister Fei Yan, I know that I was wrong. I won't dare to do it again. I only... I only wanted to go out to see the outside world. I never expected to be that unlucky... Uuu, I really won't do it again."

"Fei Yan, don't speak to young patriarch like that. He will definitely be obedient from now on," Qing He protectively said in a gentle voice. When she was speaking, she sneakily glanced at Yun Che before hurriedly lowering her head again.

"Hmph, in any case, I'll be firmly looking after young patriarch from now on!" Fei Yan said while puffing her cheeks.

At this point, Qing Zhu couldn't hold back his curiosity as he asked somewhat eagerly. "Young patriarch, what happened after you snuck out? And how is the outside world? Is it really as magical as what Granny Qing Ye and Uncle Qing Mu said it was? Tell us!"

"T-this..." He Lin said anxiously. "I got caught by someone not too long after I snuck out. A-after that, I was always scared, so I didn't have time to think about anything else. Ah! Right!"

He Ling's eyes suddenly flashed as he turned to Yun Che. "Big brother, how about you tell us about the outside world? Is that okay?"

He Lin's words instantly brought them to their senses. Qin He, Fei Yan and Qing Zhu all immediately stared at Yun Che... who was the first human that came to their little world from the outside world. "Big Brother Benefactor, you must know a lot about the outside world. We really, really, really want to hear about it."

Four pairs of emerald eyes flashed with the same anticipation and longing. These gazes made Yun Che's soul suddenly clench, as though it had been pricked with a needle. They had always lived a life on the run and spent it amidst terror and caution. They were only safe in their little world. To them, every place in the outside world could be said to be an abyss of death.

The more they yearned and longed for it, the crueler their fate would be.

Yun Che breathed in deeply and then said gently, "Actually, my home isn't in the God Realm. It is in a faraway place, in a distance lower realm... The first place I came to when I arrived in the God Realm was a white world of endless snow. The earth, seas and rivers were all covered in ice and snow that would never melt. Even the sky was so white that it seemed as though it was covered in a layer of snow... The halls in that place would be many tens of kilometers long, the biggest being a few hundred kilometers..."

Without mentioning specific names, Yun Che began to talk about the world he was born from, talk about the Snow Song Realm's white colored world and its mystical Heavenly Netherfrost Lake, talk about the Flame God Realm's boundless flaming purgatory... He even talked about the two frightening, cunning, ancient horned dragons in the sea of fire...

The quartet of young wood spirits listened as though they were in a trance and at times, cried out in surprise.

They only listened and then imagined it in their heads. They were fundamentally unable to truly know what it would look like, what kind of spectacle it would be. But even so, to them, who were eternally "caged" within their little world, this brought them unprecedented excitement.

“Several thousand kilometers... several tens of thousands of kilometers... a completely white world.” Fei Yan looked up with a blurred gaze, before absentmindedly saying, “I’m already this old yet I’ve never seen snow before.”

“Me too.” Qing Zhu nodded in agreement with a heart full of longing.

Yun Che smiled. Then, he suddenly flew up and a blue light flashed in his hands. A huge expanse of fluttering snow that resembled goose feathers fell from the sky, accompanied by a cool refreshing breeze.

“Waah!”

Exhilarated cries overlapped as they all clasped their hands together. Bathing in the falling snow and sensing a coldness they had never felt before, they felt as though they had suddenly landed in a completely different world.

The snowfall was gentle at first but it quickly changed to become a snowstorm. Yun Che’s finger moved slightly and a dozen blossoming ice lotus flowers instantly fell amidst the flying snow. The smallest one could be clasped in one’s palm and the biggest one made the two wood spirit girls fall over each other in their desire to sit inside it, to personally feel the blossoming of the ice lotus.

Whoosh!

Outside the flying snow, a faint golden colored flame ignited. It quickly condensed to become a huge, flaming Golden Crow silhouette, which then let out a sharp resonating long cry.

“What a pretty fire bird!” He Lin shouted.

“This is the Golden Crow, one of the most powerful fire divine beasts of the Primordial Era.”

Yun Che’s thoughts moved slightly and the image condensed by the blaze quickly changed, becoming one of the ancient horned dragons that lived inside the God Burying Inferno Prison.

“This is that flame horned dragon I mentioned to you guys earlier. Its entire body was covered in fire and its tail was longer than its entire body. Hm, it’s more or less like this.” Yun Che presented, then lamented, “I almost died beneath its claws back then.”

“It looks really scary. I can tell that it must be a really really bad profound beast, in a single glance.” Fei Yan’s cheeks puffed, seemingly to vent the dissatisfaction she felt when she heard that it had nearly killed Yun Che.

After the display of snow, ice and fire, Yun Che then showed them lightning and his profound handle. He played with them for a long while before he withdrew his hand, completely scattering all the wind, snow, lightning and fire along with it.

Everything seemed to have just been an illusion.

Beneath the excitement they had never before felt, the faces of the four wood spirit youths were all currently flushed. The eyes they looked at Yun Che with seemed to shimmer like bright stars—just a moment ago, they felt gratitude and curiosity toward Yun Che. What they felt now, however, was a sudden, intense, all encompassing worship.

"I really... I really want to go see the place Big Brother Benefactor talked about," Qing Zhu dreamily said as he looked up.

"That day will definitely come," Yun Che said.

"Big Brother Benefactor... oh! Can we..." Fei Yan's eyes were earnest, yet her entire face was filled with nervousness. "Can you tell us your name?"

He Lin, Qing He and Qing Zhu also looked at him.

Yun Che smiled and answered without hesitation, "My name is Yun Che."

"Yun Che..." they all said softly.

"Big Brother Yun Che!" Qing Zhu hollered excitedly.

"Y-y-you... big dummy! You stole my thunder again! I want to say it too... Big Brother Yun Che!" As Fei Yan called out, her eyes bent into thin crescents. Then, she tugged at the Qing He beside her. "Big Sister Qing He, you're not talking much today. Hurry up and call him Big Brother Yun Che."

Qing He took a small step forward and still had yet to lift her head. Both her hands nervously pinched at her colorful sash, as she timidly uttered, "Big Brother... Yun Che..."

"Qing He, what's wrong?" Qing He's strange actions began to worry Qing Zhu. "You... ah? Why is your face kind of red? Are you sick?"

"Ah! I got it!" Fei Yan shouted. "Big Sister Qing He must have fallen for Big Brother Yun Che!"

"N-no I haven't!" The faint color of the red dawn instantly became a gorgeous sunset and immediately spread to her jade colored neck as her head drooped even lower. Then, she gently stamped her foot all of a sudden and turned to run like a startled butterfly... never daring to shoot Yun Che a single glance during the entire process.

"Wahaha! I guessed right!" Fei Yan laughed with satisfaction. Then, she her bright eyes looked directly at Yun Che. "Big Brother Yun Che, Qing He ran away due to embarrassment, you'd better take responsibility!"

"This..." Yun Che pressed his nose, troubled.

Wood spirits bore the purest of nature energy. As a result, the females tended to be gentle and beautiful, while the males extremely pretty. However, because of this, they would lack masculinity. To wood spirit girls who were accustomed to male wood spirits, the moment they got close or became curious, Yun Che's manliness, along with his sharpness tempered by countless hardships, would produce an attractiveness that would most likely be fatal.

He Lin didn't laugh. Ever since Yun Che gave his name, he had been staring at him in a daze, the corner of his mouth slowly biting down.

When Yun Che sensed his unusual condition, he heavily kneeled before Yun Che.

"Ah? Young patriarch!" Fei Yan and Qing Zhu exclaimed in great shock.

“He Lin, you?” Yun Che quickly stretched out a hand, intending to lift him back up.

Yet He Lin stubbornly persisted to kneel in place. He lifted a pair of slightly trembling eyes. “I... I don’t want to call you Big Brother Yun Che, I... I... I want to call you Master.”

Yun Che, “...”

“Master! Can you be my master? I want to be as strong as you... I... I’ll work hard, I’m willing to endure hardships. No matter how tough it gets, I’m willing to take them all in. Please accept me.”

He Lin wasn’t asking but pleading... pleading with an intense longing.

“He Lin.” Yun Che pressed a hand on his little shoulder. “You are a wood spirit and I am human. Even though we look alike, our powers are different, so I can’t be your master.”

“No! Master can teach me. We can also use the same way of utilizing profound energy as humans do. Father and mother personally told me this,” He Lin said with determination. “Because father and mother were really powerful, they were able to defeat many strong bad guys and protect tons of our clansmen. I want to be as powerful as Master, I want to be able to protect my clansmen like father and mother did. I... I’ll listen to Master’s every word, I’ll do anything Master wants. Please accept me.”

“...” Yun Che crouched down, a softness in his gaze that he only showed in front of close relatives appeared in his eyes. “He Lin, one person’s power will eventually reach its limits. Even if you become ten times as strong as me, you would not be able to alter the wood spirit race’s fate. What you need to rely on is your entire clan working together to overcome this.”

“You are the wood spirit race’s young patriarch. But don’t forget, you are still a child, you don’t have to put such a heavy burden on your own shoulders. What you need to do right now is to stay under the protection of your clansmen and peacefully, safely grow up. Once you’ve grown up, that is when you use your mature wings to protect your own clansmen, alright?”

“I... I know...” Two streaks of tears slowly trickled down He Lin’s face. “I know that even if I become really strong, I wouldn’t be able to alter my entire clan’s fate. But... if I become strong, I would at least be able to leave this place one day to go search for my big sister and protect her... I promised my father and mother that I would definitely protect my big sister. But... But I couldn’t find her. I don’t know where she is, I don’t know whether she’s getting bullied by bad guys. I... I really miss her... I really want to find her. I really want to protect big sister, so that she will never get bullied by anyone... but... but...”

The hand which Yun Che used to press onto He Lin’s shoulder slightly tightened, yet he couldn’t say a single word in response.

When he was around He Lin’s age, because his profound veins were crippled, he received mockery and occasional cold remarks. However, he had Xiao Lie’s meticulous care and protection, had Xiao Lingxi’s close accompaniment and he was able to laugh and play around with Xia Yuanba. He was able to freely go wherever he wanted, do whatever he wanted and never knew what fleeing from death or terror was, let alone having to bear an entire clan’s heavy responsibility on his shoulders.

Compared to those of the same age, him having crippled profound veins could be said to be pitiful.

But compared to He Lin, it was no doubt that the him back then was living in paradise.

Chapter 1077 - Perfect Wood Spirit Orb

“Haah!” A sigh could be heard as a tall middle aged wood spirit slowly came over, wearing a dismal and solemn look on his face.

“Uncle Qing Mu!” Fei Yan and Qin Zhu both exclaimed at the same time.

Qing Mu took a step forward, helping He Lin up and said “Young patriarch, you should stop inconveniencing our benefactor. What he said was entirely right. You are only a child at the moment and the most appropriate thing for you to do right now is to depend on us to grow up. Once you’ve grown up, you should then try your hardest to become someone on whom we can then depend, as well as repay our benefactor for saving your life. If you stubbornly choose to follow our benefactor, not only will the entire clan worry, it will also bring great burden and calamity upon our benefactor.”

He Lin stared blankly for a while and eventually stood up with resignation. He wiped his tears and apologized to Yun Che, “Big Brother Yun Che, I’m sorry, I was.. too impulsive and too selfish. You saved my life and I-I...”

Yun Chu shook his head and let out a heavy sigh. “He Lin, what is your sister’s name?”

“Ah?” He Lin was caught in a trance.

“In the future, I should be able to travel to many places in the God Realm. If it’s fated to be, there might be a possibility of me meeting your sister. If that’s the case, I’ll be able to pass along your whereabouts or perhaps even be able to bring her here and let you siblings reunite.”

“Ah!” He Lin’s eyes shone brightly and he started to tremble with excitement, “Big Brother Yun Che, my older sister... her name is He Ling... He Ling!”

Exhilaration also showed on Qing Mu’s face.

“Then... What does she look like? Is there anything different about her features with regard to other wood spirits?” Yun Che asked, while engraving the name “He Ling” deeply in his memory. By no means did he casually ask, just for the sake of comforting He Lin but because of his pleadings and tears, Yun Che felt like he couldn’t let him down.

“Big sister is a very good-looking wood spirit and is the most beautiful sister in the world. She is prettier than any flower, prettier even than the stars and the moon in the night sky!” He Lin exclaimed with any hesitation.

“...” Yun Chu nodded and gave He Lin a hopeful look.

“Thank you benefactor, I truly don’t know how to say thank you enough.” Qing Mu was sincerely touched and expressed his gratitude from the bottom of his heart.

While talking, he carefully raised both his hands. In his palms lay a pearl the size of a dragon eye fruit, which projected a bright, jade-green glow.

It was a Wood Spirit Orb!!

“This is...” Yun Che’s mind went in a turmoil.

“This is the Wood Spirit Orb that my deceased wife left. Although many years have passed, the spirit energy within is still intact.”

By placing the Wood Spirit Orb delicately into Yun Che’s hands, Qing Mu’s eyes became momentarily expressionless and blank, as if his soul had been cut off from his body. Then, a gentle smile promptly appeared on his face. “I hope you can make good use of it.”

Yun Chu stored away the complete Wood Spirit Orb, as he solemnly offered his thanks, “My sincerest gratitude.”

Yun Che stood there and after a brief hesitation, he asked, “Senior Qing Mu, junior has a question. I don’t know if it’s appropriate to bring it up.”

Qing Mu smiled, “Benefactor, please speak.”

Yun Che looked at the miniature world around him and stated “One simply cannot stay unsympathetic if they were to see your wood spirit clan’s current situation. From junior’s understanding, in the God Realm of today... at least in the Eastern Divine Region, poaching wood spirits is a clear violation of the code of ethics and is strictly forbidden. It is a joint ban placed by the Eternal Heaven God Realm and the other three king realms. If a king realm happens to know of anyone violating it, they will be severely punished. That being the case, in all these years, why have you not tried to seek a king realm’s protection? Instead, you’ve chosen separate yourself even further from a king realm and inhabit a lower star realm, making it harder for them to reach and to lend assistance.”

When Yun Che finished speaking these words, he noticed that Qing Mu’s eyes had filled with violent turmoil. Then, he let out a heavy sigh.

“We have tried,” Qing Mu replied. “However, humanity’s greed and evil are not related to strength or status—they are nevertheless just as scary.”

Qing Mu’s words caused Yun Chu to abruptly lift his head. He said in surprise, “You mean... Don’t tell me...”

“Do you know how our patriarch died?” Qing Mu closed his eyes, his hands trembling slightly.

“...” Yun Che did not rashly assume.

“During that year, the king realms did indeed impose a ban. However, the difficulties our wood spirit clan had suffered has never stopped. Thus, many years ago, my clan had started to seek out the protection of a king realm. Even if we had to become their slaves, at least our future generations would be able obtain peace and no longer live on the run.

“Later, after countless untold hardships, the patriarch and his wife finally managed to get close to one of the king realms and had high hopes. However, little did they know, a disaster would soon suddenly descend upon them... During the calamity, the patriarch, his wife and thousands of our clansmen fell. Their desperate fight to the death allowed the young patriarch and the princess to escape... However, the heavens did not turn a blind eye on us, as among the chaos, we were able to find the young patriarch and desperately fought to protect the clansmen who had helped the young patriarch escape. Only three of them remained... One of them was my deceased wife.”

“Then again, the princess and the clansmen who were protecting her got separated during the escape. Their whereabouts are uncertain. Their life and death...”

Yun Che asked, “That group of people... Who were they?”

“...” Qing Mu took a deep breath, “I... received the Patriarch’s soul sound transmission when he died—there were only four words.

“Brahma... Monarch... God... Realm.”

“W-what!?” Yun Chu was so startled that it seemed as though every hair on his body stood on end.

Head of the Eastern Divine Region’s four king realms, it was rumored that the entire realm was so obsessed with the profound way that there are no weak experts there at all. The Brahma Monarch God Realm that never interfered in the arguments of other realms!?!?

Qing Mu smiled bitterly, “As a human, I know it is hard for you to believe. As for this fact, out of whole tribe, only three people know the truth. The young patriarch doesn’t know and knows even less of the princess’ whereabouts. I can only pray that she never tries to seek a king realm’s protection again or any other star realms for shelter.”

“Then you... Why are you telling me this?” Emotions surged up within Yun Che. He knew why the other wood spirits must not know the truth; because it would only bring them endless grief and despair.

Qing Mu gave him a deep look, “Although I am not a human, I understand. The fact that you were actually able to rescue the young patriarch from Darkya City at such a young age must mean that your cultivation, among peers of your generation, is at the very top. If you were able to reach this height, it must be because you cultivated with great obsession. For cultivators, the highest existence one can hope to reach is the king realms. With your current achievements, who knows, you may be qualified to touch the king realms in the future.

Yun Che. “...”

Qing Mu continued, “I don’t expect you to believe my words but I hope you will at least consider them or maybe even develop a sense of wariness. I don’t want to see humans as kind-hearted as you, having to look up to and trust a crowd of filthy and vile souls.”

“...” Yun Che stayed silent for a long while. Even though he had never thought he would one day touch the supreme existence of the Eastern Divine Region, Qing Mu’s words... He believed them but it was indeed difficult to accept them.

However, as he thought about how the Four Great Sacred Grounds were revered by the world, generation after generation, the concerns in his heart eased off and subsided a great deal.

“The kind of realm they live in, is there still a need for Wood Spirit Orbs?” Yun Che grew pensive and started talking to himself in a low voice.

“No, what they wanted was the patriarch’s Royal Wood Spirit Orb.” Qing Mu continued “Before he breathed his last breath, with his last ounce of strength, the patriarch completely shattered his Wood Spirit Orb, not allowing the wicked ones to succeed.”

Qing Mu turned his head and glanced at He Lin, who was standing not too far from him, “Fortunately, they do not know of the existence of the young patriarch and the princess, otherwise...”

His words made Yun Che feel a sinking feeling in his chest.

He Lin carried the royal lineage. After his identity had been exposed at the Black Feather Merchant Guild, everyone present at the scene knew of it.

However, everyone also knew that the news of the appearance of a royal wood spirit would completely shake the world, not to mention the colossal troubles and catastrophes such information would bring. Therefore, the Black Feather Merchant Guild would only take action in absolute secrecy. Leaking the information would invite trouble and those present at the scene were smart enough not to do that.

Wait a minute... What Ji Ruyan said about that upper star realm...

Whew! I can only hope that the information won't spread any further, especially to the Brahma Monarch God Realm.

It had been almost half an hour since he arrived in this tiny desolate world of wood spirits. Now that he had obtained the Wood Spirit Orb, it was time for him to leave.

As he walked back to the entrance, the greenish black vines automatically unwove themselves, revealing a narrow passage.

Behind Yun Che, a group of wood spirits gathered together, bidding him farewell. He Lin was among the group—his eyes had become red.

“Young man, a Wood Spirit Orb will never be enough to repay your kindness. If you don't mind, how about you take this with you, perhaps it might save your life in times of crisis.”

Granny Qing Ye placed three small delicate jade bottles into his hands.

“This is?”

“This is something unique to our clan, the 【Wood Spirit Miracle Dew】 , which is collected from the Spring of Origin that flowed from the land of our ancestors. It contains the magical powers of nature, that when consumed, will heal your wounds and restore your strength in the blink of an eye. These are the last three drops that we possess, we sincerely hope that they can be of great assistance to you in the future.”

Although Yun Che did not know how powerful the restorative effects would be, if it came from the Spring of Origin, how could it be ordinary? He did not decline and accepted the gift with great gratitude. He nodded deeply to the crowd of wood spirits and as he turned around to leave...

“Big Brother Yun Che!”

The voice of a young girl came from afar and although anxious, it was still ethereal, like wind brushing past tranquil water.

Yun Che halted his steps and in front his and the surrounding wood spirits' surprised gazes, Qing He came before Yun Che in her beautiful, colorful clothes. Her cheeks were flushed, her eyes glimmered and her slightly swelling chest heaved as she struggled to control her breathing.

"Qing He, I have to go." Yun Che smiled.

"Big Brother Yun Che ... " Qing He slowly lifted her hands and within her beautiful, delicate palms, lay a bracelet, strung from seeds of different flowers, completed by a small emerald-colored gem. "This is.. this is a charm I made with my own hands, i-it can definitely protect Big Brother Yun Che.. "

"..." Moved from the bottom of his heart, Yun Che took a step forward and received the bracelet with both his hands. The scent of the fresh flowers and plants flowed into his nose—indeed, the seeds had just been picked not too long ago and so, the bracelet was crafted very recently. The little crystal green gem had a girl's fragrance... This aroma could only be emitted because it was fortunate enough to stick closely to the skin of a young girl.

"Thank you, Qing He, I will treasure it dearly," Yun Che said sincerely, as he looked into her eyes.

"..." His words made the wood spirit girl lower her head. She softly bit her lips and then found the courage to raise her head and murmured in a gentle voice, "Big Brother Yun Che, in the future, will... will you come visit us often?"

"I will." Yun Che nodded deeply... Her gaze, her whisper and her pure heart... Even if one's core was made out of stone, never would they have the heart to cruelly reject her or let her down.

As he walked out of the wood spirits' hidden sanctuary, the secret passage disappeared under the weaving of the greenish black vines. It was as if it vanished into thin air.

Indeed, other than being hidden by the vines, the entrance seemed to be protected by a special nature illusory formation, which produced an illusion that interfered with one's vision and spirit sense.

It was only by pouring all of his strength into his spirit sense that Yun Che was able to discern that there was something amiss about this place. If he had just nonchalantly walked by, it would be almost impossible.

If one's cultivation was high enough though, they wouldn't need to concentrate to detect it. This was probably why the wood spirit race mostly chose to take refuge in lower star realms.

"After all, this is not a place they plan to stay in for a long time," Yun Che said to himself. "I hope no one will ever find this place."

Chapter 1078 - Heavenly Mystery Realm?

Darkya Realm, Darkya City.

Without a doubt, because he took away He Lin and had inflicted heavy injuries upon the middle-aged man in black, the Black Feather Merchant Guild and the forces behind it must have launched a manhunt after him. After careful consideration, Yun Che, after leaving wood spirits' secret grounds, chose to return to Darkya City.

Now that he had obtained the Wood Spirit Orb, all that was left to refine the Universe Penta Jade Pellet was the Divine Nine Star Buddha Jade and the Immortal Emperor Grass

Being reputed as a well-known trading center in the lower star realms, Darkya City was naturally the most likely place Yun Che could obtain information or hints, which was why he decided to come back.

Of course, he did not choose to return directly. First, he changed his clothes, modified his appearance and even used his Hidden Flowing Lightning to repress his profound energy aura.

Darkya City was lively and bustling; nothing was unusual. Obviously, when it came to the matter of the royal wood spirit, even if the Black Feather Merchant Guild had launched a manhunt, it would proceed in total secrecy and they would not dare to announce it publicly. Yun Che was walking blatantly in the middle of the city and began making inquiries about the Divine Nine Star Buddha Jade and the Immortal Emperor Grass.

After Yun Che had wandered around for a while without going to the main merchant guild, a not-so-small street booth attracted his attention. The owner was an old man with a white moustache fluttering around. Although he was surrounded by people coming and going, he was calm and poised and had sagelike features.

Laid in front of him was a stall full of strange items; most of them were old and ancient, they were releasing a rather quaint aura.

An old man who had experienced many things most likely had extensive knowledge. Yun Che walked over and asked straightforwardly, "Senior, I was wondering if I could inquire about some news."

The old man swept his eyes over him and asked lazily, "Looking at you, you should be an outsider, right? Just as a reminder, in our Darkya City, the price of information is not cheap. Please ask."

Yun Che asked, "This junior would like to know where can one purchase a Nine Star Buddha Jade in Darkya City."

When Yun Che had finished speaking, he saw the old man's gaze sweeping over him again, his face becoming unfriendly, "You little rascal, are you making fun of me?"

"...I have no such intentions." Yun Che shook his head.

"Then you must be retarded!!" The old man's voice suddenly grew louder. "An Emphyrean Divine Jade needs to be bathed in the starlight of nine stars for at least ten thousand years before it can transform into a Nine Star Buddha Jade. Even within the upper star realms, it is considered to be an extremely priceless treasure. In all of the lower star realms, not many even know of its name. You're actually looking for this kind of treasure in my Darkya City, how is this not making fun of me?"

Yun Che was stunned when he saw that the old man, who was originally poised and sagelike, had become like a squalling bitch...

"What about... the Immortal Emperor Grass? Does Darkya City have it?" Yun Che inquired again. Although there was not much hope, he did not expect the result to be this absolute.

"~ ! @# ¥%... " The old man's moustache stood erect, "Out, out, out, out, out! Stop disturbing this old man's business!"

Yun Che took out ten thousand purple profound stones, “Senior, I feel like your knowledge must be exceedingly extensive, could you please provide some guidance to this junior on the whereabouts of the Nine Star Buddha Jade or the Immortal Emperor Grass?”

Facing the sparkling purple profound stones, the old man’s demeanor suddenly calmed down. He quietly snatched away the purple profound stones, his face and eyes clear and free. He looked at Yun Che with a gaze full of praise, “Young master, at a first glance, this old man knew that you were a rich clan’s young master. Since you’re inquiring so sincerely, then it wouldn’t be bad for this old man to tell you a thing or two.”

Yun Che, “...”

“This Nine Star Buddha Jade, not to mention our lower star realm, is absolutely impossible to find even within the middle star realms. Its original form, the Empyrean Divine Jade, is an existence that can only be found in upper star realms. You looking for it in Darkya City is simply synonymous of being retar... Cough, it is not realistic. Even if you had really gone to an upper star realm, it would still be difficult.”

“As for the Immortal Emperor Grass, this kind of divine grass is said to appear only in primordial secret realms.”

“Primordial secret realms?” Yun Che raised his eyebrow.

The old man suddenly became suspicious, “Kid, you don’t even know about primordial secret realms? Don’t tell me... you’re from the lower realms?”

Yun Che glanced and could only admit, “Yes, this junior was indeed born in the lower realms, having arrived here not too long ago. This junior implores senior to elaborate further on these primordial secret realms.”

While speaking, Yun Che “tactfully” took out another ten thousand purple profound stones.

The old man accepted it with the speed of lightning, his face becoming tranquil and serene. “Since you were born in the lower realms, then it is not surprising. These so-called primordial secret realms are small independent worlds left from the ancient Era of Gods.”

With the old man’s explanation, Yun Che came, more or less, to an understanding.

“There are many primordial secret realms within the God Realm. Some are directly connected to the outside realms, allowing one to enter and exit freely. Some have their own independent laws restricting time, quantity of people, profound strength, and so on. In the God Realm, many inheritances and primordial treasures were discovered in secret realms. With the extinction of the gods, the source of power that sustained those worlds is gone, causing the collapse and the disappearance of a large number of primordial secret realms year after year. Although some realms still exist, the secrets and resources hidden within them have pretty much been plundered clean. Today, most of those secret realms are occupied by some powerful sects and are used as trial sites.”

Yun Che slowly nodded his head... The Heaven Basin Secret Realm in Blue Wind Nation’s Heavenly Sword Villa was in fact a primordial secret realm left by the Evil God.

In our Darkya Realm, there are still two primordial secret realms remaining as of today, all of which belong to the Soul Sect.” The old man continued, without hiding anything, “When we talk about primordial secret realms, we can’t not talk about the God Realm of Absolute Beginning. That is even what the seventeen king realms that stand at the summit of the entire God Realm...”

He suddenly stopped in the middle of his sentence and then waved his hands. “Oh, I got side tracked. A kid like you won’t be able to understand something like the God Realm of Absolute Beginning even if given ten thousand more years. About that Immortal Emperor Grass... oh yes, about the Immortal Emperor Grass. Records of it point to different kinds of primordial secret realms, within the upper star realms and middle star realms. As for the lower star realms... Oh! It seems there has also been record of it in a lower star realm! Anyway, I haven’t personally heard of the Immortal Emperor Grass appearing outside of a primordial secret realm.”

Primordial secret realm...

The Immortal Emperor Grass would only appear in a primordial secret realm... This was undoubtedly some extremely unpleasant news.

Even if it only appeared in a higher plane or a truly sinister place, one could always try to find it. But a secret realm... There were countless secret realms within the God Realm, who knew which one would have an Immortal Emperor Grass? Moreover, ownership had already been claimed for all of the major secret realms—free entry was basically implausible. Even if one wanted to try to find a needle in a haystack, it was impossible.

Seeing that Yun Che’s complexion had gone darker, the old man leaned forward and said mysteriously, “Kid, looking at you, it seems like you actually truly want to find those two treasures, huh? Seeing that you are so generous, I can give you some hints.”

Yun Che’s eyes flashed in delight, “Senior, please speak.”

“The Heavenly Mystery Realm!” The man’s gaze swept over him.

“The Heavenly Mystery Realm... heaven’s mystery?” Yun Che asked in a low voice.

“The Heavenly Mystery Realm is the smallest star realm within the Eastern Divine Region... Oh wait no, it is the smallest in the entire God Realm. If it was to be mapped, it would be as big as the Darkya City you are in now. However, it is.... truly a genuine upper star realm!”

Yun Che’s eyes flashed with a bright radiance... If its size was comparable to Darkya City, then the domain would only be a five hundred kilometers wide. It was actually at a level that would absolutely crush realms like the Snow Song Realm and the Flame God Realm?!

“Although the Heavenly Mystery Realm is small, not only is it an upper star realm, it also has a high status in the upper star realms. Even the four great king realms still have to be respectful to the Heavenly Mystery Realm. Their Great Realm Kings would often personally pay a visit to the Heavenly Mystery Realm.”

“Since the star realm is called Heavenly Mystery Realm... Is it true... that the inhabitants, can actually break through the mysteries of the heavens?” Yun Che asked in surprise.

“Hehehe,” The old man smiled, “It is rumored so but how am I qualified to know about matters concerning that plane? However, the Heavenly Mystery Realm is an unrestricted star realm, anyone can go there. As long as you have enough profound stones, you can purchase any information there.... For example, where can one find the Nine Star Buddha Jade and the Immortal Emperor Grass.”

Yun Che’s gaze moved slightly.

“However, the price of the information in the Heavenly Mystery Realm is much more expensive than you can imagine. As long as you can afford it, the quality will definitely not disappoint you. As to how you can acquire the Nine Star Buddha Jade and the Immortal Emperor Grass after obtaining the information, it will entirely depend on you. It will be much more difficult than simply purchasing a piece of information.”

“How can I get to the Heavenly Mystery Realm?” Yun Che asked without any hesitation.

“Simple!” The old man replied, “There is a dimensional station in the west of the city and as long as enough profound stones are provided, it can grant access to the dimensional formations of more than sixty star realms. First, you would need to go to the Frigid Origin Realm and from the dimensional station in the Frigid Origin Realm, head to the Starsun Realm and from the Starsun Realm, head to the Myriad Holy Light Realm... and after these seventeen transfers, you will then be able to get to a star realm named the Divine Sea Realm. In the city in the center of the realm, you will be able to find a dimensional station that can reach the Heavenly Mystery Realm. However, the cost of these transfers is not cheap and ordinary people cannot afford such travel, even if they spend everything they have.”

Yun Che, “~ ! @# ¥%...”

Although it involved seventeen unfamiliar star realms, Yun Che remembered them all.

“Senior, thank you for your guidance.”

Having found his goal, Yun Che headed straight west.

The Heavenly Mystery Realm, an unrestricted upper star realm. He did not know whether the remaining one hundred million purple profound stones he had on him was enough to afford the information on the Nine Star Buddha Jade and the Immortal Emperor Grass.

Yun Che traveled for a long time, inquiring during the entire way and finally arrived at the dimensional station in the west of the city. As he approached, he noticed that a large number of people were coming from that direction, their faces bleak.

His heart jumped and quickly stopped someone, “Brother, did something happen at the dimensional station?”

“If you want to go to the dimensional station, then you should turn around.” The man said, looking depressed. “It seems like the dimensional station was sealed several hours ago and no one can enter. Also...” He lowered his voice. “It was guarded by a large group of people from the Soul Sect and anyone who approached the dimensional station would get scrutinized right away.”

“Oh, I see. Thanks for telling me,” Yun Che replied as his heart sank.

The Black Feather Merchant Guild certainly did not stay idle regarding last night's matter. The purpose behind sealing the dimensional station was to prevent him from escaping the Darkya Realm.

After all, the Black Feather Merchant Guild knew that he came from another star realm.

Could it be.. they were planning to search for him within the entire Darkya Realm? Although it was for a royal wood spirit, wasn't it a bit too extreme?

Soul Sect, full name being Black Soul Divine Sect, was the ruling sect of the Darkya Realm. By now, it could be confirmed that they were the power behind the Black Feather Merchant Guild and were an existence that Yun Che absolutely could not offend.

Yun Che turned around right away... The dimensional station could not remain shut permanently. He could only stay in Darkya City and wait until the day the dimensional station was unsealed.

Yun Che no longer inquired about the Nine Star Buddha Jade and the Immortal Emperor Grass. He started wandering around the city, buying trinkets that caught his attention. A few hours later, he had spent quite a few profound stones.

When noon arrived, Yun Che was wondering whether or not he should find a temporary place to stay. Suddenly, he felt a strong aura nearby, his eyes shifted and saw a man, dressed in black, walk toward a shop not far away. Whenever he went, pedestrians scurried away, reverence on their faces.

As he turned around, a tattoo of a black snake quickly flashed on his left arm... which was the same tattoo that was on the body of the middle-aged man in black he had crippled.

Someone from the Soul Sect!?

Yun Che noticed that after that man in black had entered the store, it took a while for him to come out. After he left the store, he quickly walked away.

Yun Che raised his eyebrow and after a brief hesitation, entered the store.

He was met with a rich, full-bodied aroma—it was actually a spice shop and it reeked of all kinds of odor and fragrances being mixed together.

What was peculiar about this scene was that the owner of this spice shop was a wretched-looking, middle-aged man.

Although Yun Che was modest, his clothes and his body language demonstrated an air of extravagance. The shop owner's eyes swept over him, smiling instantly and inquired politely, "Young master, our little store has over six hundred kinds of spices and grasses. Something ought to catch your eye. Please take your time, no need to hurry."

Yun Che leaned forward and lowered his voice, "What did the previous guest purchase?"

As he was speaking, he flashed five thousand purple profound stones in front of the store owner.

The store owner's eyebrows fiercely jumped, not only did he not accept the profound stones but fear started to show on his face instead, "Young master, you... must be someone from a major merchant guild or a big sect, right? Haah, please do not make it difficult for this little one. If this little one were to

sell the Ten Thousand Mile Soul Chasing Incense to someone else and the Soul Sect were to know about this, I would not be able to keep my life.

“Ten Thousand Mile Soul Chasing Incense?” Yun Che creased his brows, “What is that?”

“Huh? You don’t know?” Seeing that Yun Che’s didn’t look like he was lying, the shop owner was surprised.

“I truly don’t know. I’m also not someone from a major merchant guild or a large sect, I am only an ordinary foreign traveler.” Yun Che answered. “I just noticed that the the person who was here previous had an extraordinary aura about him, so I figured that the thing he purchased must be amazing as well. That’s why I came in here to find out, out of curiosity.”

“Oh, I see. Hmm... You certainly don’t look like you’re from Darkya Realm.” The store owner looked at him in a new light, believing him. At the same time, the fear in his face disappeared and with the speed of lightning, he reached out and pocketed the five thousand purple profound stones. “I’m afraid I’m going to disappoint you. This Ten Thousand Mile Soul Chasing Incense, I cannot and dare not to sell it to anyone else outside of the Soul Sect.”

“This Ten Thousand Mile Soul Chasing Incense that you’re talking about, what exactly is it?” Yun Che asked. He didn’t know why, but he felt a strong feeling of uneasiness in his heart.

“Of course it is something not simple at all.” Pride was displayed on the owner’s face, “The materials it needs are very expensive and in the entire Darkya Realm, currently, I’m the only one who can prepare it. The Soul Sect will bring over the materials regularly and take the Ten Thousand Mile Soul Chasing Incense back in ten days. Although the Soul Sect forbade me to sell it to anyone else, it can also be said that my little shop has also obtained the protection of the Soul Sect, no?”

“What does a Ten Thousand Mile Soul Chasing Incense do exactly?” Yun Che tightened his eyebrows as he asked.

“Of course it is used for tracking,” the shop owner replied. “This Ten Thousand Mile Soul Chasing Incense is colorless and odorless and absolutely no one will be able to notice it. However, there is a mysterious animal called the ‘Red-tailed Mink’ that is highly sensitive to this odor.”

“Thus, the Ten Thousand Mile Soul Chasing Incense is put on precious treasures or on the bodies of prisoners or mysterious beasts. In case they get lost, run away or get kidnapped, they can be tracked immediately with the ‘Red-tailed Mink’, guaranteeing that absolutely nothing...”

“What did you say... What did you just say??”

The shop owner’s voice did not fall before his whole body was suddenly picked up by his neck. He had cultivation at the Sovereign Profound Realm but under Yun Che’s hands, he could not put up an ounce of resistance. His wide eyes showed signs of deep confusion and fear. “You... What are you doing...”

Yun Che’s aura was completely chaotic; chills ran down his back. The arm he used to hold the shop owner was shaking violently and his pupils dilated and contracted intermittently. “This Ten Thousand Mile Soul Chasing Incense... How long does it last? How far can it be tracked.... Will it exceed one thousand kilometers or not?!”

“Young master... Let’s talk...”

“Answer my questions!!” Yun Che roared.

The shop owner’s mouth opened wide and said painfully, “The name... Ten Thousand Mile Soul Chasing... was not... given for fun... Forget... one thousand kilometers... It takes at least... four days and four nights... before it dissipates...”

Boom!!

The shop owner was cruelly thrown to the floor—it was not known whether he was still alive or not. Yun Che leaped into the sky and rushed south like a madman.

Chapter 1079 - Tragedy

Darkya City was previously an absolute place of danger for Yun Che. He was constantly on edge, moving about as if on tenterhooks.

However, as of now, he couldn’t care less. He disregarded whether the Black Feather Merchant Guild would discover his traces. He released his profound energy to the maximum, sending bright bolts of lightning piercing through the skies above Darkya City. Each bolt brought with it an ear-piercing shrill.

When he had taken He Lin back to the wood spirit secret grounds, he had carefully scanned He Lin’s body for any tracking imprints...

But who would have thought that there was such a thing as the “Ten Thousand Mile Chasing Soul Incense”!

It had to be fake... How could such a thing exist!? It definitely couldn’t!

He sped away as Darkya City slowly disappeared into the distance. He clenched his teeth hard, nearly shattering some in the process.

He had stayed in the secret grounds for about half an hour. From the time he left until now, only three to four hours had passed. If all that had happened was true, then within this time frame...

This had better not be real!

Yun Che charged out of Darkya City like thunder, his speed several times that of when he had taken He Lin back home. He frantically flew southeast heading straight for the thick jungle without stopping for a moment.

Entering the dense jungle Yun Che didn’t lower his speed, he tore through the foliage like a raging tornado, sending wood, grass, and flowers spinning through the sky. One by one, ancient trees, that were tens of thousands years old, were reduced to splinters and dust.

Having already memorized the spot, Yun Che finally arrived at where the secret entrance lay. The row of ancient trees stood before him. He descended immediately and his pupils shrank.

The illusory formation that enshrouded the area was utterly broken. The greenish black vines looked as if a hurricane had swept through and torn them apart. Bits and pieces of vine littered the ground.

The world ahead was a picture of silence, a silence which chilled the bones.

Yun Che's heart stopped beating for a moment. He fixed his gaze ahead as he felt a cold surround him. He stood there in a daze before slowly advancing forward. The sound of each step he took treading on the broken vines underfoot pierced at his soul.

After stepping through the vine crushed clearing, he came to a halt. His body shook and his face paled as a pained expression swept across his face. It felt as if all the blood had instantly been drained from his body.

What was originally a vast land of emerald and jade flora was now a scene of destruction and despair. Ancient trees were toppled over, wooden houses were collapsed and everything bore the scars of fierce combat. What remained of the picturesque land was now only dried green blood stains and a deathly silence.

One lifeless body after another of the wood spirits were strewn across the blood dyed ground. One particular body closest to Yun Che still had his eyes wide open. The emerald green light had already faded from his eyes, what remained was a look of fear and hopelessness... Even in death, his resentment never left.

"Ah... AHHH..."

Yun Che's lips were shaking and his pupils dilated in shock, nearly covering the whites of his eyes. Yun Che couldn't move, as if both his feet were nailed to the ground. His vision started going blurry and the sky around him started to spin.

He grasped his head with both hands, his fingers shaking like that of an old man at the end of his life.

Dead...

They're all dead...

Because of me...

I caused their deaths... because of me...

"Huff... huff.."

Yun Che took dozens of deep, heavy breaths before both his mind and eyes finally regained clarity.

He slowly stepped forward. Everything was still slightly blurry, but each body, each drop of fresh green blood were imprinted clearly in his soul... Each sight was like a piercing cold dagger, stabbing straight through his soul.

Every now and then, there were traces of the red blood of humans. They stood out like bloody dirty stains which desecrated this now ruined sanctuary.

Huuu...

He took in another deep breath. Color returned to his face and his eyes grew steady once more. He took a step forward, carefully walking across this now ruined world.

Bang!!

A heavily damaged tree suddenly toppled over, revealing a lifeless wood spirit... She was thin and small, her old and wrinkled face bore an expression of eternal calm.

“Granny Qing Ye...” Yun Che whispered. He lifted his head and slowly closed his eyes. He Lin respected her the most. She was the most senior and respected wood spirit in this little world. Just hours before, he had even personally received the Wood Spirit Miracle Dew.

“I’m sorry. I brought this disaster upon you all... Please rest in peace,” Yun Che softly whispered.

The die had been cast for this tragedy and all he could do now was offer a simple apology.

He had calmed down but unease still weighed heavily on his chest. Yun Che flew up into the air and released his spirit perception in the hopes of finding a survivor... hopefully there were fortunate wood spirits... even if there was only one, that was enough.

In front of a ruined hut Yun Che saw a well built middle aged wood spirit. He no longer had life in him. His hand was holding onto a broken spear. The spear was coated in a mixture of green and red blood.

On his back was a large and bloody hole... Because he had fought until the end, he didn’t even have a chance to self destruct his Wood Spirit Orb. Without a doubt, his Wood Spirit Orb had been forcefully taken away after his death.

“Senior Qing Mu...”

Yun Che gently mouthed his name, both of his hands trembling, fists clenched.

All around him lay the larger portion of the middle aged wood spirits. Each body was filled with signs of bloody battle and battle scars. All of their eyes were wide open, filled with expressions of fear, hopelessness, and hate... None of them were shut.

Yun Che continued flying silently. Further ahead in this little world, he saw one wood spirit child after another. Some were hugging each other, some were hugging the old... and the youngest, his soft little body was run through... A long black bladed knife was lodged in his body.

Yun Che found it harder and harder to breathe. He struggled to move his gaze, when he caught sight of the large garden where he had spent the most of his time on his first journey here.

Thousands of flowers were scattered roughly on the ground. There were no more butterflies...

At the end of the flowerbed, two girls were hugging each other tightly. Though their bodies bore no scars or wounds, they held no life within them.

Death by self destruction of their spirit orbs.

Yun Che landed and stared blankly at them, “Fei Yan... Qing He...”

Outside the flowerbed lay a fallen youth. His body was full of scars, evidence of the brutal wounds he had suffered in battle trying to protect the two girls behind him.

“Qing... Zhu...”

The strong sense of suffocation which was finally receding came back full force once more, flooding his entire soul, stronger than before.

“...I wish I could see the outside world for myself...”

“I always thought that humans were scary. I never would have thought that Big Brother Yun Che would be such a strong and likable human!”

“This is a charm I made with my own hands, it will keep you safe...”

“Big Brother Yun Che... Will you come back often to visit us...”

“.....”

Qing Zhu... Fei Yan... Qing He...

One hand clutching his head, the other over his heart, he slowly crouched down. His heart felt as if it were pierced by thousands of poisonous needles. His body trembled in pain uncontrollably.

Just hours before they had looked at him in wonder, with such pure and eager eyes. They held onto every word that he'd said, as if they feared missing out on even a single one of his words. He had clearly felt a deep desire of hope and yearning in every one of their souls.

Fate had been far too cruel to them. What was the norm for others at a similar age, was but a dream for them. They were in the prime of their youth, but now...

“The... the one... who... caused all this...”

“Was... was me...”

His heart was convulsing and his teeth were chattering. He dug into his head with all five fingers, digging into his flesh, yet he felt not an ounce of pain.

This was the second time in his life he had felt like this.

The first time was when he was in the Azure Cloud Continent. He had lost his master, he had lost Ling'er. He no longer had anyone to hold onto him nor anyone to hold onto. Under his rage and anguished madness, he had utilized the Sky Poison Pearl and took all the lives within an entire city...

After his rash act, an immediate endless and unbearable amount of guilt descended upon him, driving him to the brink of despair...

At that time, he had killed millions of people, most of whom were innocent and had neither hatred for nor ties to him.

This time round, one hundred wood spirits had perished. Although not by his hands, he still felt the same strong surging pain as back then.

Why did this have to happen...

What were these innocent wood spirits guilty of!?

Was it only because they were too kind and weak?

No... It was because of me. If not for me... this cursed jinx, how would they have met with such a disaster?

It's all because of me!!

If it wasn't because I just had to look for a Wood Spirit Orb, if it wasn't because I showed mercy and brought He Lin back here, this wouldn't have...

.....

Wait a minute... He Lin!?

As if a cold bucket of water was poured over him, Yun Che lifted his head and immediately stood up. What about He Lin? He Lin wasn't among these dead bodies. Where had He Lin gone?

Yun Che started flying and once more released his spirit perception as fast as possible, covering the entire wood spirit secret grounds. He scanned every inch of soil, every blade of grass, every wood spirit corpse.

He didn't detect He Lin at all.

His mind rapidly cleared up. He expanded his spirit sense to the furthest he could spread it to and still he didn't find the corpse of He Lin. He Lin could still be alive... No, this was definite. He Lin was definitely alive!

Those people knew that He Lin was a royal wood spirit, they definitely wanted him captured alive. And He Lin being the only wood spirit that had a royal bloodline, even if he stepped into the most dire and desperate circumstance, he would never allow himself to die! Yes, he was definitely still alive!

The highest possibility right now was that he had been captured and taken away.

The blood on the ground hasn't dried yet, they couldn't have gone far.

Yun Che flew higher into the air and closed his eyes. He gathered every bit of concentration he could master... I have to find him. I must find him!!

Towards the east, he sensed traces of footsteps making a path through the jungle. He closed his eyes and explosively released his profound energy, streaking towards the east like lightning.

Chapter 1080 - Massacre

The storm brought forth by Yun Che's frightening speed tore apart the trees below.

He had weathered countless dangerous and stormy situations and was always able to regain his composure within moments but this time around it was different. His heart was an utter mess and no matter how he tried, it couldn't be stilled.

It was as if his soul was being tightly locked onto by an unknown entity as it trembled in a cycle of never ending pain.

Following the traces left, he continued eastward. Eventually, an aura belonging to a human appeared within his spirit perception and it wasn't just one person. Yun Che focused, then expanded his spirit sense to its limit and found seventeen strong auras no more than five kilometers ahead of him

Including an additional weaker aura belonging to that of a wood spirit.

He Lin!?

Going at a pace which had still yet to slow, Yun Che concealed his presence as he descended into the jungle, gradually approaching the auras up front. Upon reaching the vicinity, Hidden Flowing Lightning had already been mobilized and not a single person detected him.

All seventeen of them were in black robes. A black serpent's emblem could be seen at different but conspicuous spots on each of their clothing. Among these individuals, sixteen of them had auras at the Divine Soul Realm, while the one right at the front was in the Divine Tribulation Realm. However, the man in front should have just stepped into the Divine Tribulation Realm not too long ago; the strength of his aura was slightly inferior to the middle aged person in black that Yun Che had heavily injured the night before.

Yun Che's eyes locked onto an individual right in the center of the group... he was tightly restraining a wood spirit boy within his grasp.

He Lin!

He Lin's profound strength hadn't been sealed and his body showed no signs of obvious wounds or injuries but in the hands of his captor, he was immobilized. Both of his eyes were open but they were missing that distinct green brilliance. Rather, they looked like an unseeing pair of grayish-white eyes belonging to the dead.

Instead of looking like someone who was alive, he looked more like an empty shell drained of its soul.

"He Lin..." Yun Che said in a low voice.

Ascertaining that He Lin wasn't dead, Yun Che let out a sigh of relief but his heart became even heavier when he saw He Lin's lifeless eyes.

"Hahaha." Wild laughter roared from the black robed man who was holding onto He Lin. "Never would I have expected such a big and pleasant surprise. Hehe, not only will the Hall Master not erupt in wrath, he'll definitely reward us generously."

"It's just a pity that that bunch of wood spirits were so goddamn stubborn, not hesitating to self-destruct their spirit orbs. There were so many of them yet we only obtained a few Wood Spirit Orbs."

"Frankly, this is probably one of the biggest harvests we've had in all these years. Since a long time back, it's as if these wood spirits came to an agreement. As soon as any of them fall into our hands, they immediately self-destruct their Wood Spirit Orbs. Hehe, as for this little wood spirit kid, boss... what is his background? Why did we have to capture him alive? Even the hall master flew into a rage because of him."

The black robed man in the lead glanced backward coldly replying, "Some questions are best left unanswered. Just watch over him, if he escapes once more, let alone us, even hall master's head will roll!"

This sudden turn in the conversation left everyone in shock. He Lin's captor tightened his grip and exclaimed "This... What's this all about? Are you saying that this wood spirit kid is something the sect master wants?"

"Hmph!" exclaimed their leader. "I'm afraid the situation is even more dire. When Sect Master brought away the individual that was injured at the Black Feather Merchant Guild, I vaguely heard a mention of the 'Divine Martial Realm'."

'What!? Divine... Martial Realm!?"

"Shut up!" their leader gruffly shouted. "It's enough as long as you understand in your hearts. Don't talk about it and no more questions. If you don't want to die, stay vigilant. Once we meet up with the hall master we'll have to immediately return to the sect and hand this kid over to the Sect Master. There can be no slip ups. If we lose this kid, I can guarantee that none of us will be able to keep our lives."

"Yes, boss!" everyone shouted in harried unison. He Lin's captor looked at their leader. "Boss, you can relax. In all of the Darkya Realm, no one has either the ability or gall to dare...."

BOOM!!!

Before he could even finish speaking, a shadow appeared in midair just six meters away. Amidst the thunderous explosion of profound strength, that shadow flashed towards him like a streak of light.

Everything happened in an instant. Without realizing it, He Lin's captor's arms suddenly felt lighter.

Yun Che had snatched He Lin but didn't try to escape. He broke out of the group and then stopped. Turning around, the previously stealthed Yun Che now released uproarious waves of profound energy that emanated from his body as if he were a murderous beast that had just awoken. Madness was in his eyes. His left arm held onto He Lin protectively while his right tightly gripped the Heaven Smiting Sword. The sword was covered in layers of profound energy, undulating an extremely shocking fiendish aura.

This sudden turn of events drained the color from the faces of the men in black. They were rooted to the ground in fear and before they could even utter half word, Yun Che's profound strength surged explosively as he immediately opened the fourth gate—Rumbling Heaven. He sent his crimson colored profound energy toward these black clothed men who had slaughtered the wood spirits.

He could easily deal with these Divine Soul Realm experts by opening the Purgatory gate; there was simply no need for him to activate Rumbling Heaven. This release however, didn't just contain profound energy, it contained all of his rage and fury. He was boiling with anger and it was time to vent!

Bang!!

Even though he was just utilizing a single hand, the might of the Heaven Smiting Sword under the power of Rumbling Heaven was still the stuff of nightmares.

BAM!

The sword struck like thunder. Before he could even catch a clear glimpse of his target, Yun Che had already obliterated the one closest to him.

BOOM!!

Yun Che flipped the sword, sending a bright flame quaking through the air toward the three leftmost men ahead. They were instantly smashed into pulp as blood and limbs rained down around the group. A putrid stench of blood then quickly filled the air.

The remaining men in black were so frightened that they felt as if their souls had left their bodies. They realized that in less than half a breath of time, Yun Che had seized the wood spirit and killed four of them in two swings of the sword.

Like a ghost, he came out of nowhere and without a word, ruthlessly made his move. They had never in all their lives experienced such a horrifying event.

“You...”

As a frightened shout barely began to leave his mouth, the vicious Heaven Smiting Sword which smelled of blood once again struck down towards one of them. The pupils of the black robed man enlarged as he raised his weapon in defense with the fastest speed he had ever achieved in his entire life...

BANG!!

The black soul spear instantly split in half and the Heaven Smiting Sword continued past it, ruthlessly piercing into the black robed man’s chest. This mighty Divine Soul Realm expert was nothing more than mere tofu in front the might of the Heavenly Smiting Sword. He instantly turned into a mist of blood and flesh.

Yun Che’s figure once again disappeared. He flashed behind another black robed man. Before that man even had a chance to turn around, his severed upper body was already falling from his waist.

Bang!!

Bang!!

Boom——

Moon Splitting Cascade activated, the Heaven Smiting Sword dancing in his hand, Yun Che was like an unstoppable, bloodthirsty devil. Each time he swung his sword, a thunderous explosion would shake the sky followed by a rain of blood. Not a sliver of hesitation or restraint could be seen. He channelled his abilities to their limits, which were far beyond what any ordinary Divine Soul expert could withstand.

As his ninth strike landed, sixteen black robed men had already been turned into puddles of blood and minced flesh. Not to mention an intact corpse, there weren’t even any recognizable human parts left behind. These men didn’t even have time to scream before their deaths.

Only four breaths of time had passed.

The pupils of the leader shrank, his body shaking like a sieve.

Just moments before they were so full of themselves, patting themselves on the back for a job well done. They didn't only successfully complete their mission, they had also chanced upon a large windfall.

However in the blink of an eye, they suddenly fell from the heavens, straight into hell. The men behind him had all died without intact corpses. These men were all in the late stages of the Divine Soul Realm and were considered to be among the strongest in the Darkya Realm but in front of this monster, they were nothing but sixteen pitiful bugs that were easily squashed into bits.

When Yun Che's gaze finally landed on him, he shuddered all over. His face turned completely white. This opponent's profound energy was clearly at only the second level of the Divine Soul Realm, weaker than him by an entire great realm but he was near instantly scared witless beneath his stare and aura.

Using one hand and killing sixteen of his men within a few breaths... Even if he were an idiot, he wasn't so naïve as to think that he could defeat this monster who was in the early stages of the Divine Soul Realm.

"Who... Who... Who are you?" The leader of these men slowly stepped back as he cried out in the most frightened voice of his entire life... Almost immediately, he suddenly recalled the description sent out of the perpetrator responsible for the incident of seizing the wood spirit the night before.

He screamed, "You're Ling Yun!"

Yun Che wasn't the least bit surprised when he heard the name Ling Yun being shouted out. Thick and raging anger still roiled in Yun Che's chest as he wordlessly sent his sword out.

"Ahhh!"

Fear was plastered all over the face of the black robed man. Without any reservations he channelled all his profound energy and lifted his black soul spear. Pitch-black lightning surrounded it as he attempted to block the attack with all his might.

Clang!!

If Yun Che was only utilizing the Purgatory state, he probably could have just barely blocked it but under the might of Rumbling Heaven, even though it was a single handed strike, it was something the black robed man couldn't handle. The sound of the clash rang out, followed by the sound of the black soul spear breaking. The black robed leader screamed as he was ruthlessly sent flying. He fell and rolled on the ground, completing dozens of revolutions, before finally coming to a stop.

Pfft...

The black leader spat out a few mouthfuls of blood. He desperately turned over and with a terrified and trembling voice, uttered, "Wait... Wait... We're from the Black Soul Divine Sect. If... If you offend us, you won't have a good ending! And... and! Not only do we know that your name is Ling Yun, we also know that you come from the Pure Moon Realm! If... If you let me off and hand that little wood spirit to our sect leader... sect leader... sect leader will not only let this go, he'll even give you a reward!"

The Black Feather Merchant Guild was an organization that dealt in the shadows and black market. Their information network was far reaching and both tightly controlled and secretive. When this man shouted

the name "Ling Yun", his face remained expressionless. If he had shouted the Flame God Realm, he wouldn't have been surprised either...

However, what he shouted was... "Pure Moon Realm"?

Yun Che stayed silent. With the motionless He Lin in one hand and the other dragging along the Heaven Smiting Sword, he walked forward step by step.

Every step Yun Che took forward made the black robed man feel as if he was edging one step closer to death. He struggled to get on his feet as he said in horror, "Don't... Don't come any closer! Our Soul Sect has... has the protection of the Divine Martial Realm. Offending the Soul Sect is the same as offending the Divine Martial Realm! When... When that time comes, there's no turning back. Even your star realm won't be able to protect you... If... If... you stop right now, there's still a cha.... Arrgghhhh!"

BOOM!!

Phoenix flames shot out from the body of the sword, tossing the black robed man into the air. Yun Che flashed and immediately pierced the Heaven Smiting Sword, which was now radiating a thick bloodthirsty aura, right through this man who was completely covered in flames.

Bang!

Sword energy exploded with a loud bang. The black robed leader's body was entirely shattered and his splattered blood stretched across a few kilometers.

These cold blooded murderers who were responsible for the massacre of the wood spirits were now reduced to blood and ashes.

Phew...

As the crimson profound energy dissipated, Yun Che shook himself from side to side. He had forcefully entered into this state for a bit too long and finally managed to suppress the bloodlust in his body. He put He Lin down and placed both of his hands on He Lin's shoulders, looking him in the eyes. "He Lin... Are you injured?"

He Lin shook his head. He was neither excited nor teary. There were even no visible injuries on him but his eyes held an emptiness within. A short moment later, he gave a faint smile and said "I'm fine. Thank you, Big Brother Yun Che, you've saved my life once again."

"..." Yun Che looked blankly at He Lin. After saving him, he had expected He Lin to be distraught, to be filled with anguish and hurt. He expected him to cry his guts out, releasing all the sadness and pain. He was even prepared for him to pass out. However, not only did He Lin not shed a single tear, he could still smile and even thank him.

Yun Che tightened his grip on He Lin's shoulders as a strong sense of unease filled him. "He Lin... I'm sorry... because of me your clansmen... if I didn't..."

He Lin gently shook his head, "No, this is not Big Brother Yun Che's fault. You're my benefactor. You're my savior and also the best person I've ever met."

Yun Che was speechless.

He Lin turned around and looked into the distance... the secret place where the wood spirits resided.

“Big Brother Yun Che, can you please take me home one more time? I... would like to give them a proper burial.”

“...Alright.” Yun Che nodded his head somberly. He carried He Lin and started to fly westwards.

Although danger could descend at any time after killing these seventeen Soul Sect members, causing the situation to become even more dangerous to the point where he should have immediately left, he was unable to say no to He Lin.