

The Gods 1351

Chapter 1351 - An Instant of Starlight

Black light radiated from every part of Jasmine's body. Her face was cold, detached, and expressionless. One could not find any emotions or feelings on it, as though she was a puppet whose soul had been abducted.

But in reality, she was incomparably conscious and aware of what she was doing... In fact, she was more clear-headed now than she had been at any other point in her life.

She knew who she was, she knew where she was, she knew what sort of power of was surging through her body. Moreover, she was even more aware of what she was doing, what people she was facing, what people she was killing and she could clearly see what kind of hell the Star God Realm had transformed into because of her devil wheel.

She did not stop, did not hesitate, and even more than that, she did not regret.

Because her world had already completely collapsed and there could no longer be any color in it from now onward. The four god emperors, the Star Gods, the Moon Gods, the Guardians, the Brahma Gods, and Brahma Kings... Now that all of these powerhouses, who were like present-day gods, had all gathered here, she knew that she would definitely be buried in this place today.

Even if she was not killed by them, she would also end herself... She definitely would not allow Yun Che to walk the road to the Yellow Springs by himself.

They would go to heaven together, descend to hell together, venture towards reincarnation together.

It was just that, before all of this happened, she wanted to take these Star God lands that had buried him and take these lives and fresh blood, lives and fresh blood that were the most precious in the Eastern Divine Region... and bury them together with him!

Devilish light, black spatial tears, devilish mist... the world was collapsing and being torn apart again and again. Furthermore, the bodies of these supreme powerhouses, bodies which were supposed to be the hardest existences to damage in this universe, would definitely be wounded by the Evil Infant Wheel of Myriad Tribulations whenever they came into contact with each other. Every time that demonic wheel danced, it would definitely paint the sky with showers of black blood.

Rip!

The body of a Moon God was instantly cut in half by a black tear in space!

Rip!

A black beam of light pierced through the bodies of two Guardians at the same time, the invading devilish energy shattering their meridians and smashing up their internal organs...

RMMBB—

A Moon God and two Brahma Kings were sucked into a swiftly contracting daekness devil domain, and no matter how much they struggled, they could not break free. The devil domain exploded after it had

contracted to its very limit, after that the three men cried out in misery as they were sent flying, their blood spraying through the air.

Beams of power rent apart the darkness as they ceaselessly exploded against the demonic wheel and Jasmine's body. The Evil Infant's wails and laughter went from shrill to weak, and the image of the Evil Infant in the sky was gradually beginning to become blurry. Jasmine did not know how much power she had left, nor did she know how many wounds she had taken, but she also basically did not care what kind of wounds she had already received... and she cared even less when she would die. The only thing that remained constant was that the demonic wheel in her hand was still releasing a devilish light that was more terrifying than any nightmare as she buried one supreme Divine Master after another in the abyss of death.

Boom! Boom! BOOOM!!

Three beams of green light that merged together exploded on Jasmine's body at the same time. Following the Evil Infant's hoarse shout, Jasmine was blasted into the distance, the black light around her body going out for a moment. The demonic wheel also flew out of her hand for the first time ever.

The Brahma Heaven God Emperor's eyes suddenly flashed and he spat blood from his mouth, spraying it on his golden sword. The body of the sword immediately started glowing like the sun as he seized this rare opportunity and directly thrust it towards Jasmine's life vein.

The demonic wheel had left her grip, the devilish light had been extinguished. Now that a big gap in her defenses had been exposed and she was left without the Evil Infant's protection, he was incomparably sure that this sword strike would definitely be able to destroy Jasmine's life vein.

The distance of several kilometers was merely a fraction of an instant for a god emperor. With a flash of golden light, the golden sword of the Brahma Heaven God Emperor had already reached Jasmine's solar plexus... But before the golden light could even be released, a pale white hand had already gripped the body of the sword. Black light once again flared from the hand and the body of the golden sword immediately felt as if it had been sealed in ice; it was not able to advance even a millimeter further. The god emperor might that was just about to erupt also seemed as if it had been trapped in a cage of darkness, unable to be released.

"You..." As he looked at Jasmine's black eyes which slowly swung around to meet his, the Brahma Heaven God Emperor felt as though a ghost god had terrified his soul as his whole body suddenly went cold.

The reason why Jasmine's power had suddenly become so dreadful was indeed because of the awakening of the Evil Infant Wheel of Myriad Tribulations.

But what the world was unaware of was that she had not been seized and transformed into the "Evil Infant" by that demonic wheel. On the contrary, she was the master of the Evil Infant Wheel of Myriad Tribulations!

She had not been forced into becoming the Evil Infant. Instead she was the Evil Infant's master!

Thus, the power of the Evil Infant was her power as well! Even if the Evil Infant had left her grasp, the power that surged through her body was still the complete power of the Evil Infant!

Unfortunately for him, the Brahma Heaven God Emperor realized this far too late and right before his eyes, eyes that were filled with the muted light of disbelief, Jasmine's other hand heavily smashed into his chest... That delicate palm that was surrounded by a dense black light pierced right through him and emerged from his back with an explosion of blood.

Dark energy that came from the abyss itself directly exploded inside the Brahma Heaven God Emperor's body and his complexion turned a dusky gray at an even faster rate than the Eternal Heaven God Emperor... However, it was also at this time that three golden seals... three clusters of dreadful power that had come from the Brahma Monarch Three Brahma Gods exploded simultaneously against Jasmine's back.

Bang bang bang— —

Those three golden beams of light exploded on Jasmine's back before piercing into her body and exploding out the front... The Brahma Heaven God Emperor's eyes grew gray and dim and he dropped toward the ground like a falling stone. Meanwhile, it was as if Jasmine had been struck by a meteor. She was sent flying into the distance, leaving behind trailing streaks of black light and traces of blood in the air.

"God Emperor!"

The Three Brahma Gods had combined their strength to severely wound Jasmine. But after that, they immediately swooped down to catch the Brahma Heaven God Emperor. The Brahma Heaven God Emperor's complexion was greenish black but he gave a strict yell that was accompanied by blood, "Don't bother with me... Hurry up... and kill... her... We definitely cannot let her escape! Hurry up... and go!!"

All four of the Eastern Divine Region's god emperors had sustained severe injuries. In fact, these were the worst injuries they had ever received in their lives. However, the power of the Evil Infant had finally started to weaken bit by bit. But what a bitter price they had to pay. If they allowed the Evil Infant to escape today, not only would it make all the serious losses they had sustained today worthless, the trouble they would have in the future would be unimaginable.

"Yes!"

The Three Brahma Gods swiftly replied. They pushed the Brahma Heaven God Emperor to one of the Brahma Kings as they shot off into the distance, golden light radiating from their bodies.

BOOOM!!

A streak of black light explosively split the sky and Jasmine stood up from a pile of rubble. The Evil Infant Wheel of Myriad Tribulations had already flown back into her hand, but the moment she stood up, she fiercely stumbled to her knees. After that, she vomited out more than ten mouthfuls of sickly black blood... Her vision was also starting to grow more and more dim and blurry.

Have I also... finally reached my limit...

No... I still need to kill even more... I still haven't killed that old villain...

The old villain that most deserves to be buried together with him!!

Yun Che... Wait for me, I'm going to join you real soon...

As she slowly raised up the demonic wheel, the black light surround her strongly flared up. Yet this caused everything around her to suddenly go black and Yun Che's figure floated up in her increasingly blurry vision... He had faced the Star God Realm for her, he had been soaked in his own blood for her, he had been turned to ashes by flames because of her...

To be turned to ashes... by flames...

All of a sudden, it was as if a lightning bolt had flashed through her mind and a cluster of long-extinguished starlight faintly flared to life in her eyes...

She floated up in the air, but she did not rush towards the Brahma Kings or Moon Gods who were trying to surround her. Instead, she turned around and struck a cold and lonely figure as she fled towards the empty distance, to the unknown distance...

"Damn it! She's trying to run!"

"Hurry up and chase after her!!"

"We definitely can't let her get away!!"

.....

On the completely broken ground, Caizhi silently observed the direction that Jasmine had left in and she saw one figure after the other desperately give chase. Her ears rang with incomparably chaotic and deafening roars and wails.

From the beginning to the end, she had merely dazedly witnessed everything unfold. Her face was expressionless and she did not say a single word and the same lightless emptiness that had appeared in Jasmine's eyes had also appeared in hers. In this Star God Realm that had been transformed into a calamitous purgatory, in this place that had been engulfed by the Evil Infant's dark shadow, nearly no one could spare the attention to notice her existence.

Jasmine's figure flew far away, disappearing in the place where the earth met the sky. After that, Caizhi slowly closed her eyes... for a long time. When she finally opened them, what shone in her eyes was a foreign coldness and determination.

She rose up and moved her legs as she soundlessly left. The figure of that impish and delicate young girl and those rainbow-colored skirts that fluttered and danced in the wind... What accompanied them was a dim and shattered heart and soul.

Amidst the chaos and panic, no one noticed her leave and there were even less people who knew where she went... In fact, even she herself did not know it.

———

Eastern Divine Region, Snow Song Realm, Ice Phoenix Sacred Hall.

PING——

A very light and faint shattering sound rang in the sea of Mu Xuanyin's heart.

“...” Mu Xuanyin’s icy eyes trembled and her expression froze on her face. The dancing of the ice spirits surrounding her slowed down before completely going still... but after that, they started to dance chaotically.

A shocked expression crossed the face of Mu Bingyun, who had just been conversing in a soft voice with Mu Xuanyin. After that she said, “Big Sister, what’s the matter?”

Mu Xuanyin slowly stood up. She looked at the flying snow that filled the skies outside the hall before saying in a gloomy voice, “Yun Che’s soul crystal... has shattered.”

“...” Mu Bingyun shot to her feet, “What... did you say!?”

“...” Mu Xuanyin closed her eyes and did not say anything for a very long time.

Mu Bingyun’s snowy figure blurred and she arrived at Mu Xuanyin’s side as she said in an urgent voice, “Are you saying that Yun Che, he... he...”

“He’s dead,” Mu Xuanyin said, her voice cold and detached, there was no joy or sadness in it.

“How did... he die?” Mu Bingyun’s chest heaved dramatically and her cherry-colored lips had now been tinted by a shade of ghastly-white, as if a layer of snow had covered them.

“He died in the Star God Realm, for the sake of the Heavenly Slaughter Star God,” Mu Xuanyin said in a soft voice. The moment the soul crystal broke, it also showed the last thoughts and images that the dead person saw right before his death to the person who had inserted the soul crystal. So she had very clearly seen how Yun Che had died in the end... She had seen it more clearly than anyone else.

Mu Bingyun’s lips faintly parted but it was only after a long time that she was able to speak in a voice that was as light and faint as a dream, “Wasn’t he in the Dragon God Realm... Why would he suddenly go to the Star God Realm... Just what exactly happened...”

“Dead is dead, so there is no need to bother about it any longer,” Mu Xuanyin’s voice was gloomy and cold, so gloomy and cold that it startled Mu Bingyun. “He was not killed by anyone else. He stubbornly sent himself to his own death despite clearly knowing that he was bound to die... So many people wished for him to live, so many people did their utmost to protect him, yet he... still chose to... send himself to his death...”

“It’s fine if he died... It’s for the best that he died! I, Mu Xuanyin, do not have such a stupid and foolish disciple!”

With a heavy wave of her snowy sleeve, Mu Xuanyin turned around and coldly left.

“Big Sister...” Before the cold voice had faded from her ears, Mu Bingyun spoke in a worried voice as she gazed at her sister’s back, “Are you.. alright?”

“In the next few years, I will be secluding myself in the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake. You are not to disturb me even if an momentous event occurs,” Mu Xuanyin’s figure slipped into the ice and snow causing her icy hair to dance in the mournful cold, “Also, since Yun Che is already dead, then treat it as if he had never appeared before. After this... you are not to mention his name in front of me ever again!”

As her cold voice fell, her icy figure disappeared into the distance and the snowy winds outside the palace seemed to grow somewhat chaotic. Mu Bingyun was dazed for a long time and she rather absentmindedly walked out of the hall before staring dumbly at that row of messy footprints that were left in the snow.

For one born in the Snow Song Realm, they had been accompanied by snow and ice all their life, so even the most ordinary Ice Phoenix Palace disciple would not leave a single trace if they stepped on snow.

Chapter 1352 - Dark Shadow over the Eastern Divine Region

Outside of the Star God Realm, the peerlessly terrifying cosmic storm that had enough power to destroy everything finally stilled.

The Star God Realm was a place surrounded by stars since ancient times, and it looked like it had the protection of the heaven itself. But today, it had been reduced to a rubble-strewn, dark, and ashen wasteland that no one would've believed was a king realm of the Eastern Divine Region had they seen it from a distance.

The core of the Star God Realm—Star God City—had also been completely destroyed. Not a single intact object to be found in miles: the Star God Palace, the Heavenly Star Lake, the Star Reaching Pavilion, the protective profound formations... everything and anything that had made up Star God Realm's million-year worth of wealth, symbol, and foundation, had been utterly destroyed.

The destruction was so thorough that it was almost as if they had been erased from the surface of the world.

The Star God Emperor stood blankly at the center of the wasteland. Just yesterday, Star God City had been sparkling like an immortal realm or holy land that was surrounded by stars. Even if the Star God Realm was destined to perish one day, it should've perished in a natural disaster that encompassed the entire world, or a terrible war between king realms that lasted for millennia or even tens of millennia. But no, the Star God Realm had been turned into a wasteland in just a single day! An entire king realm gone, just like that!

What a joke... what a joke!

Although the Star God Emperor was the first god emperor to have exhausted all of his strength, he was actually the one who suffered the fewest injuries. He looked around him in a daze with muddy eyes and a stupid look that didn't fit his identity, seemingly wishing that everything had just been a ridiculous nightmare.

The Moon God Emperor was gravely wounded, and Yue Wuji was rushing him back to the Moon God Realm for treatment as quickly as possible. The Eternal Heaven God Emperor and Brahma Heaven God Emperor had also suffered serious injuries, and the devilish energy that had been inflicted upon them was tormenting them even now.

But none of them had left for treatment yet. They just couldn't rest easy unless they witnessed the death of the Evil Infant with their own eyes.

“Cough... Cough cough...” the Eternal Heaven God Emperor looked to be in great pain, and his complexion was a shockingly bluish black color. Every time he coughed loudly, a spittle of reddish black blood would exit his throat.

He was barely able to get up to his feet with support, but he hardly took two steps forward before he felt like he would collapse on his feet again. Left with no choice, he had to sit on the ground once more.

On the other side, the Brahma Heaven God Emperor’s wounds were even worse than the Eternal Heaven God Emperor’s. Jasmine had punched right through his chest, but he was actually faring better than the Eternal Heaven God Emperor due to his immense divine power. The two god emperors exchanged a glance with each other before their expressions turned bitter... They had never seen the other party be wounded as terribly as they were.

If the Moon Gods, the Guardians, the Brahma God, and the Brahma Kings hadn’t made it in time, the two strongest god emperors of the Eastern Divine Region might’ve perished already.

“How are your wounds?” the Eternal Heaven God Emperor asked.

“...My wounds are fine,” the Brahma Heaven God Emperor answered. “But this devilish energy that attacks the heart... I don’t think I’ll be resting easy for the next couple of years.”

His comment caused the Brahma King next to him to turn cold with shock... The devilish energy that had seeped into Brahma Heaven God Emperor’s body was powerful enough to torture him for several years? What frightening power.

“Hehe...” The Eternal Heaven God Emperor smiled bitterly, “I happen to know of a way that can ease this suffering quickly.”

“The Dragon Queen, you mean?” the Brahma Heaven God Emperor shook his head. “The Dragon Queen’s favor is immeasurably precious; we can’t possibly waste it on such a trivial matter. Let us leave it for the time when our lives are truly threatened.”

The Eternal Heaven God Emperor bowed his head slightly in deep understanding.

“The Moon God Emperor though...” The Brahma Heaven God Emperor looked to the west. “I doubt he’ll hold out until he sees the Dragon Queen.”

The two god emperors fell silent; the Guardians and Brahma Kings protecting them wore distorted expressions while feeling stifled in the heart.

The weight that sat in their hearts, the realization that there was still something out there that could easily destroy them even though they were the greatest existences in the world, was heavy.

“Don’t worry.” The Brahma Heaven God Emperor said, “The Evil Infant’s injuries are no lighter than ours. She will not escape.”

He had just finished saying this when a group of powerful auras approached them quickly from the distance. They reached the god emperors in just the blink of an eye.

They were the Moon Gods, Guardians, Brahma God, and Brahma Kings who had gone away earlier to hunt down Jasmine... However, the Evil Infant’s corpse was nowhere to be seen.

“Where is the Evil Infant?” the Eternal Heaven God Emperor struggled to his feet.

His Guardians then knelt on the ground and reported regretfully, “She was too fast, and for some reason her aura suddenly vanished into nothing...”

The Eternal Heaven God Emperor shivered once before he opened his mouth and spat out a mouthful of blood. His already wan complexion turned even whiter than before.

He had just recalled that the Evil Infant was also the Heavenly Slaughter Star God!

She was the fastest and stealthiest Star God in the entire Eastern Divine Region!

All four god emperors were heavily injured, and the Moon God Emperor was even nearing his death. Although they had successfully driven the Evil Infant into a corner thanks to the sacrifice of many Star Gods, Moon Gods, Guardians, and Brahma Kings...

She had ultimately escaped!

If she were given time to recover her strength, then the entire Eastern Divine Region... no, the entire God Realm would be in great danger!

“My lord!” The Guardians were stunned by the Eternal Heaven God Emperor’s reaction. They said frightfully, “Please calm down, my lord. It is all our fault.”

The Brahma Heaven God Emperor sighed heavily before he closed his eyes, saying, “The Evil Infant has returned to the world, and her power is terrifying beyond imagination. This is no longer just our problem alone. We must inform the Western Divine Region and the Southern Divine Region immediately about her return, and make an announcement to the world so we may find her. We must kill her immediately after we find her... We cannot give her any opportunity to take a breather or recover.”

Suddenly, he glared angrily at the Star God Emperor and growled, “Xing Juekong! What the hell is going on!!”

The Star God Emperor looked so ashen-faced that it was as if he couldn’t even muster his sorrow, “I didn’t know, I never knew that... she had the Evil Infant Wheel of Myriad Tribulations in her.”

“You didn’t know?” the Brahma Heaven God Emperor clearly didn’t believe him. He pushed further with a brutal look on his face, “Then tell me, why have the Star God Realm activated the Absolute Star Soul Barrier in the first place!?”

“I said I didn’t know.” Star God Emperor’s voice turned chilly. “Don’t tell me you’re accusing me of turning the Star God Realm to this state on purpose!?”

It was the truth. He really didn’t know that the Evil Infant Wheel of Myriad Tribulations that had destroyed the era of devils and gods and gone missing afterwards was inside Jasmine all this time. However... he wouldn’t forget the moment the Evil Infant came back to life even in death. By now, he had vaguely realized that the Evil Infant had only awakened because Yun Che had died a horrible death before Jasmine and caused her to snap. Originally, it was supposed to be in a complete slumber.

In the end, the real reason this disaster had happened was because of the Star God Realm ceremony... more specifically, his ambition was the cause of everything!

There was absolutely no way he was telling the truth to anyone, or he would be accused by every living being for his sins instantly and suffer the fury of the Brahma Heaven God Realm, the Eternal Heaven God Realm, and the Moon God Realm.

Right now, the Star God Realm—assuming that it was still worthy of its name in its current state—was without a doubt in absolute shambles. Everything had been destroyed, and countless lives had been lost in the process. Only six Star Gods and seventeen elders were still living, and every one of them had been injured during the battle. The Heavenly Soul Star God had even lost both his legs. It would be easy to remake them, but to restore them back to the level of a “divine body” was a completely different story.

The Star God Realm was still twenty or so Divine Masters strong, but it was no longer worthy of being considered a king realm... how could it be, when the “realm” itself was completely gone?

The Brahma Heaven God Emperor’s face looked as dark as ever. He was just about to interrogate the Star God Emperor further when the devilish energy inside his body suddenly went on a rampage and caused him to sway. He dropped weakly to the floor and looked like he was in great pain.

“God Emperor, your treatment mustn’t be delayed any further, or you might suffer irreparable damage.” A Brahma God said solemnly, “We will do everything in our power to search for the Evil Infant... we will be relying on the Eternal Heaven God Realm to inform the world of its emergence with the Voice of Eternal Heaven.”

The Brahma Heaven God Emperor forced down the devilish energy that was racking his body before pointing a finger at the Star God Emperor. “The Evil Infant’s return had better have nothing to do with you, or else... I will tear you apart myself!”

“We go!” The Brahma Heaven God Emperor growled once before leaving. He really shouldn’t delay his treatment any longer.

The Eternal Heaven God Emperor had also turned towards the Star God Emperor before asking a sudden question, “Where is Yun Che?”

“...” The Star God Emperor answered listlessly, “The Evil Infant’s power is sufficient to wipe out all of our Star Guards, so how... could he possibly survive the attack?”

The Eternal Heaven God Emperor fell silent for a long time before he let out a long sigh. It was true that the Evil Infant had nearly destroyed the entire Star God Realm, and even the slightest brush with the shockwave would turn the likes of Yun Che to dust.

Although the Eternal Heaven God Emperor was prepared for this answer, his heart still ached in pain and lamentation at the loss of Yun Che.

“Why did he come? Why was he able to enter the Absolute Star Soul Barrier?” the Eternal Heaven God Emperor asked.

“...” The Star God Emperor didn’t say anything this time.

“Sigh, never mind. What’s past is past. Nothing will change even if I get an answer. But what a shame it is to lose a legendary genius who may just be able to rewrite the very myth of the Eastern Divine Region.”

The Eternal Heaven God Emperor stopped to look at his surroundings. Then, he sighed, “Star God Emperor, I doubt there are many creatures left on the surface of the Star God Realm, and this devilish energy may take a very, very long time to clear. Should you have nowhere else to go, would you like to recuperate in the Eternal Heaven God Realm?”

“I thank you for your kindness, Eternal Heaven God Emperor.” But the Star God Emperor shook his head despite the blankness in his eyes, “The epoch long heart’s blood and glory of my ancestors has turned into a wasteland during my reign, but I cannot abandon it for as long as I am still the Star God Emperor. This is my place of death, and so this is where I will remain. I won’t be able to face my ancestors otherwise.”

All six Star Gods bowed their heads sadly and said not a word.

“Never mind then.” The Eternal Heaven God Emperor nodded. “However, I’m sure you understand the idiom ‘where there’s life, there’s hope’. If you happen to change your mind one day, you may come to Eternal Heaven whenever you wish.”

“We go.” That was the greatest kindness the Eternal Heaven God Emperor could possibly show to the Star God Emperor.

Everyone—the Moon God Realm, the Eternal Heaven God Realm, and the Brahma Heaven God Realm—had left.

The world grew quieter and colder. Worse, the black devilish energy had painted a layer of despair to this desolate wasteland.

“All of you are not... to tell anyone about the ceremony, Yun Che and Jasmine,” the Star God Emperor said.

The Star Gods and the elders all nodded in response. They weren’t stupid, and they had all figured out that their “ceremony” of destruction might very well be the trigger that had sparked the awakening of the Evil Infant. Considering that the Evil Infant was still very much alive, if someone were to learn of the truth... the consequences would be unimaginable.

“My king, what... should we do in the future?” The great elder of the Star Gods asked listlessly.

The Star God Emperor stretched his arm wide and summoned a strange, round disk where twelve different kinds of profound lights were dancing above it. The light represented each of the twelve Star Gods, and among them the light of Heavenly Poison, Heavenly Origin, and Heavenly Strength were especially bright. They glowed like burning flames.

The Star God Emperor looked up at the gray sky and added, “So long as the stars do not fade, the origin power of Star Gods shall never wither. Our origin power remains intact, so the Star God Realm... will rise again one day!”

The nightmares of the day ran chaotically in his mind as his eyes slowly turned gray. Finally, he lost control over his rebellious blood flow as everything surged up into his head at once.

Pfft...

The blood that jetted out of his mouth was at least ten meters long. He then collapsed to the ground and fainted completely.

Chapter 1352 - The Moon God Emperor Falls

Yun Che was dead.

He had shocked the world in a single battle during the Conferred God Battle, defeating Luo Changsheng, who had previously been the head of the Four God Children of the Eastern Region, and had induced a never before seen nine stage heavenly tribulation. He had been prophesied to be the “child of the heavens” by the Heavenly Mystery Realm, the Dragon Monarch wanted to take him as a foster son, the Eternal Heaven God Emperor wanted to make him his direct disciple, and the Goddess had taken the initiative to lower herself to propose to him. After he had gone to the Moon God Realm, he had even caused the “God Empress” to run away with him, causing the entire Moon God Realm to lose all face and dignity, throwing them into chaos...

Ever since he had made an appearance at the Profound God Convention, every single thing he had done had completely and utterly shocked the world, it had even been colored as something out of legend. Especially when he had completely and utterly broken the historical dominance and monopolization the upper star realms held in the Conferred God Battle, raising the spirits of all the middle and lower star realms, allowing them to take pride in this act.

Yet, just a little over a year after the Conferred God Battle, he had fallen... Fallen in the Star God Realm, buried under the power of the Evil Infant.

Furthermore, this news was not based on baseless rumours that came out of nowhere. It had come from the Eternal Heaven God Realm, the place whose trustworthiness could not be refuted!

Countless people were shocked and sighed sympathetically at the news. It was just that the minds of the people did not dwell on this piece of news for very long. Because there was another piece of world-shocking news that was released at the same time, and it was news that turned the entire Eastern Divine Region, no, the entire God Realm upside down.

The Evil Infant had reemerged!

The Star God Realm’s Heavenly Slaughter Star God had been the medium that the Evil Infant Wheel of Myriad Tribulations had used to awaken. One of the four king realms, the Star God Realm, had nearly been annihilated under the Evil Infant’s power and all of their Star Guards had been killed. The terrible battle which had gathered and concentrated the highest level of battle power in the Eastern Divine Region had ended with all four god emperors sustaining severe injuries. Furthermore, two Star Gods, two Moon Gods, three Guardians, and one Brahma King had fallen as well...

The mere thought of these names would cause boundless reverence to well up in one’s heart. Yet so many of them had actually fallen in the span of a single day.

In the end, the Evil Infant had even managed to escape safely, its current whereabouts were unknown.

Furthermore, all of these things had been announced to the world by the Eternal Heaven God Realm via the Voice of Eternal Heaven.

The entire world had been left reeling with shock and horror after the Voice of Eternal Heaven had said its piece.

All of the king realms and upper star realms, and even some of the middle and lower star realms, sent out countless profound practitioners to secretly search for any traces of the Evil Infant's whereabouts.

The demonic wheel that had once destroyed the universe, the demonic wheel that had severely wounded four god emperors even though they had combined their might, a power that slaughtered Divine Masters like one would slaughter a dog... Imperceptibly, it was as if heavy shadow had engulfed the vast Eastern Divine Region, and even the entire God Realm itself.

Eastern Divine Region, Moon God Realm.

In the god emperor's chambers, the Moon God Emperor reclined on a couch, his body surrounded by more than ten profound formations, chaotic profound light concentrating on and engulfing his body, it was supposed to be suppressing the devilish energy inside his body and healing his injuries... But in reality, it was forcibly extending his life.

Within his bed chambers, all of the Moon Gods, Moon God Envoys, and descendants of the emperor had been gathered. All of them prostrated themselves on the ground, their expressions fearful and anxious. One could also hear either the clear or stifled sound of sobbing every now and then from the children and grandchildren of the emperor in the back of the bedchambers.

The Moon God Emperor's complexion remained a greenish black and his body had been entirely covered by profound light. However, the people who had seen his actual wounds, even if they were Moon Gods or Moon God Envoys, every single one of them had been so shocked that their courage had been ruptured.

Even for a god emperor, all of these wounds were fatal ones.

Within the profound formations, the Moon God Emperor finally began to open his eyes slowly. A purple light flashed in those eyes, but this purple light that had once been able to subdue all under heaven with a single flash had now been reduced to a light that was as weak as the light of a firefly at this moment.

"Wuji," he slowly said, "remain behind. The rest of you, withdraw from this place."

"Royal father!" The Moon God crown prince Yue Xuange, who was in the front, raised his head as he cried out, his face was streaked with tears and his voice trembled as he said, "This child wants to accompany his father, I beg for royal father to not chase this child away."

"Withdraw," the Moon God Emperor said as he waved a limp and powerless hand.

"Royal father, this child..." Yue Xuange wanted to continue, each word accompanied by a sob.

"Withdraw! Keh... Keh keh..." The Moon God Emperor's voice suddenly grew severe and he burst out into a painful and intense coughing fit due to the devilish energy in his body being disturbed, "This king has not died yet... but are all of you already starting to disobey my orders!?"

Even though the Moon God Emperor was so severely wounded that he was on the edge of death, his might still remained and that low shout of pain and anger caused everyone's heart to shake in shock. Yue Xuange panickedly inclined his head, "This... this child does not dare! Royal father, please quell your anger, this child will leave now."

Everyone left and very quickly, only two people, the Moon God Emperor and Yue Wuji, were left in the bedchamber. The Moon God Emperor lightly closed his eyes as he took a very long breath, but his complexion was becoming more dark and ashen.

"God Emperor, the Western Divine Region's Dragon Queen can definitely save you, why are you unwilling to give it a try?" the Golden Moon God Yue Wuji said in a pain-filled voice. He took a single look at the Moon God Emperor's wounds before averting his gaze once more. He did not dare give them another glance.

"It's not that I'm unwilling, it's that... it truly is already too late," the Moon God Emperor said with much difficulty. He was the person most clear on what kind of state his body was in. The distance between the Moon God Realm and the Western Divine Region's Dragon God Realm was too far, so even if Dragon Queen Shen Xi was truly willing to extend a hand and help him, he would not be able to hold out until then.

Besides... the Vanishing Moon Celestial Palace that could reach the Dragon God Realm in the fastest speed possible had already been given to Yun Che by Xia Qingyue.

"The truths garnered from the Heavenly Mystery Realm have never deceived me," the Moon God Emperor said with a miserable laugh. "As the emperor of a king realm, I am still unable to escape my destiny. It looks like all the preparations that I have made over the last few years were not wasted after all."

"God Emperor..." Yue Wuji closed his eyes in pain.

The Moon God Emperor raised a hand, holding aloft a glazed pearl which gleamed with a strange light. Upon seeing this pearl, Yue Wuji's eyes widened fiercely.

"Wuji, this 'Imperial Moon Glazed Pearl', this king... will entrust it to you now."

But Yue Wuji did not move to take the pearl. Instead he fell to his knees fiercely and said in a frightened and alarmed voice, "God Emperor, Wuji is absolutely unworthy of carrying such a responsibility, I beg the God Emperor to take back his command."

The Moon God Realm's Imperial Moon Glazed Pearl was the core artifact of the Moon God Realm. It was the wellspring of all the Moon God divine powers and the symbol of the Moon God Emperor.

"Wuji, you and I have been brothers for so many years, so how can this king not know you all too well?" The Moon God Emperor said gently, "This king... does not want you to inherit the title of Moon God Emperor. Rather, I am... entrusting it to you so you can hand it over to Qingyue."

"..." Yue Wuji raised his head but he did not look too surprised. It was just that his expression had become incomparably more solemn and grave than before, "God Emperor, Wuji is well aware that your greatest wish over the last few years was for Qingyue to succeed you as the next god emperor. But... the plan involving her pretending to be the God Empress has been ruined, and there is no longer a clear

path for her to ascend the throne. After all, she was born in the lower realms and what happened during the wedding also incited the wrath of the entire realm. Even becoming your foster daughter was something extremely hard to do. If she succeeded your title as god emperor, there will a great amount of obstruction and resistance, I'm afraid that..."

At that time, it was very likely that she would face objection from the entire realm. How could a young girl who had not even reached thirty years of age endure such great resistance to her rule?

"Furthermore..." Yue Wuji finally said after hesitating for a moment, "Perhaps Qingyue might not be willing to do so either."

"How can this king not understand all of these things?" the Moon God Emperor said, with his eyes still closed. "All those years ago, she had promised to pretend to be the God Empress and inherit the title of God Emperor in the future because she wanted to repay the debt of gratitude she owed this king. However, one year ago, after she returned, this king sensed that she suddenly had a desire for the seat of god emperor. Furthermore, it was a very intense desire at that."

"...?" Yue Wuji was stunned by those words.

"Her change happened after Yun Che appeared. So of course, it can only be because of that kid! But now, that kid just had to go and die... Keh, keh keh..." Due to an agitation that he had a hard time controlling, the Moon God Emperor's injuries were aggravated and he vomited out many mouthfuls of black-colored blood.

"So... even this king does not now if the current Qingyue... is still willing or not... Keh... Kehkeh..."

This was something the Moon God Emperor had been keeping to himself for very long. When he finally regained his composure, his face grew slightly less ashen but what replaced it was a deathly pale complexion that was shocking to see."

"Wuji," he opened his mouth once more, "use a Profound Imagery Jade to etch out the words that this king is about to say... The last will and testament I am leaving behind that declares that I am going to pass my position to Xia Qingyue. If she is willing, then hand the Imperial Moon Glazed Pearl over to her and publicly announce this king's last will and testament. If she is not willing, then you will succeed me... Even though this action will trouble and burden you, you are this king's blood brother and after this king passes on, your strength will also be foremost among all the Moon Gods. You are the only choice that can convince the masses then."

Yue Wuji's lips quivered but he did not try to oppose or deny the Moon God Emperor. He stretched out a hand to take the Imperial Moon Glazed Pearl and said, "Wuji will definitely not disappoint the God Emperor in what he has entrusted me with."

After the profound image was etched, the Moon God Emperor closed his eyes for a while before saying, "Summon Qingyue here."

.....

The god emperor's bedchambers contained a cold desolateness it had never possessed before. Xia Qingyue slowly walked inside, her footsteps producing no sound. She was merely wearing a pure white

set of plain moon robes, but her far too beautiful elegance imperceptibly caused this cold and desolate bedchamber to grow that much brighter.

"Foster father." She knelt down and softly said those words.

Upon witnessing Xia Qingyue's arrival, the Moon God Emperor's eyes grew several degrees brighter. But the words that came out of his mouth were exceptionally cruel, "Qingyue, Yun Che is dead."

"...I know," Xia Qingyue replied, there was no sorrow or joy in her voice.

Her cold and detached response caused the Moon God Emperor's eyebrows to knit together. After sighing silently in his heart, he got straight to the point, "Wuji, come and administer the law."

Yue Wuji was startled by those words. But after that his expression abruptly changed and he yelled out in an alarmed voice, "God Emperor, could it be that you want to... No, that is out of the question! The Zi Que divine power can be inherited through the Imperial Moon Glazed Pearl, but how can... we force such a thing to happen!?"

"This must not come to pass!" Xia Qingyue's beautiful eyes opened and she resolutely shook her head, "Foster Father, your current wounds are far too severe, if you lose your Zi Que divine power, you will definitely..."

"Do all of you want this king to die with many regrets!?" The Moon God Emperor let out a low roar, the profound formation immediately being shaken by waves of black energy, causing his entire body to contort in pain.

"Normally, the origin power inherited from the Imperial Moon Glazed Pearl would require a very long time before it would once again reawaken in the profound veins of the new Moon God. But Qingyue, it will be different for you," the Moon God Emperor said in an incomparably resolute voice. "You have the Nine Profound Exquisite Body, so this sort of direct inheritance will allow the Zi Que divine power to reach its peak in the shortest amount of time and it will even combine with your original power. It will also... allow you to surpass this king... in the shortest amount of time!"

"This is a miracle of the profound way and it will also be a miracle when it comes to the power of the Moon Gods, but it can only become a reality in your body. To be able to allow the Zi Que divine power to shine so gloriously... even if this king were to die ten thousand times, I would be able to rest easy!"

Xia Qingyue's chest heaved but she finally closed her eyes and softly uttered, "Yes."

The Moon God Emperor left the profound formations which were forcibly extending his life and sat in front of Xia Qingyue. A special profound formation was formed below him and Xia Qingyue as it slowly rotated. After a long period of time, he slowly lifted his finger, a dot of purple light collecting at its tip... This was a very small dot of purple light but in an instant, it illuminated the entire bedchamber in a sea of purple.

The Moon God Emperor's complexion grew incomparably pale and wan in the next moment but his finger shot forward like lightning, lightly striking the middle of Xia Qingyue's brows. The purple moonlight immediately spread out from the middle of her brows, causing her entire figure and the entire world to be engulfed within this light.

Inheriting the power of a Moon God could originally only be done after a Moon God had died and their origin power had been returned to the Imperial Moon Glazed Pearl. After that, once they found the next person who could inherit that power, they would use the Imperial Moon Glazed Pearl to pass that Moon God's power to the next Moon God.

It was also done this way in the Star God Realm.

This sort of direct inheritance was the first of its sort in the history of the Moon God Realm... and it could only be realized by someone who possessed the Nine Profound Exquisite Body.

Time flowed swiftly in this purple-colored world. Yue Wuya's face was incomparably calm and there was even some satisfaction that could be found in his expression. However, the expression of Yue Wuji, who was beside him, was filled with pain, because he was well aware that the only reason Yue Wuya could still struggle at death's door despite such dreadful injuries was precisely because of his strong Zi Que divine power.

Furthermore, the moment he lost the Zi Que divine power... was undoubtedly the moment he would perish as well.

Two hours...

Four hours...

Six hours...

Eight hours...

CLAANG!!

At some random point in time, the purple light suddenly completely dissipated.

A layer of sparkling and translucent purple light flowed all over Xia Qingyue's body, down to the very tips of her long hair which was dancing in the air even though there was no wind. Her beautiful eyes opened and in the depths of those eyes flashed a deep purple light that looked like the starry sky.

The face of Yue Wuya, who was sitting in front of her, had lost all color. Even the previous greenish black tinge had completely disappeared and his hair, which had originally been black and tinged by purple, had already turned gray at some point of time

He slowly lowered his finger, before... directly toppling backwards.

"God Emperor!" Yue Wuji hurriedly rushed over to support Yue Wuya with his arm. Upon sensing his aura, an aura so weak and light that it felt like the dying rays of an evening sun, boundless pain and agony appeared on his face.

"Foster father..." Xia Qingyue swiftly walked right in front of him as she thought of using the Zi Que divine power she had just acquired to extend his life. However, she was slowly but firmly stopped from doing so by Yue Wuya.

"Qingyue," Yue Wuya looked upwards, his voice wispy and weak, "Do you... still remember... the day... that I found you?"

Xia Qingyue nodded her head while emphasizing each word that she uttered, "Xia Qingyue remembers, I will never dare to forget."

"That day, when you had been pushed into a corner, in order... to not be sullied by others, you desired... to end your own life... I took action... and saved you... and I even personally killed those... people who were in the Divine Origin Realm..."

This was the first time in ten thousand years that he had deigned to personally kill a few people who were had just reached the Divine Origin Realm, people who could not even be considered as trash in his eyes.

"But did you know that... during our journey to the Moon God Realm... how many times... I had thought of taking action... and killing you!?"

Xia Qingyue, "..."

"Because... I hoped that you were Wugou's child... Because she would have been overjoyed by that... But I was also afraid that you were Wugou's child... Wugou's... and that man's child!"

"..." Xia Qingyue's chest violently heaved.

"Qingyue... During the past few years, no matter... how good I was to you, no matter how much I swore that I would definitely not harm your father... you have never been willing... to even reveal a single character of your father's name... You dreamed of returning to the place of your birth... but you've never dared to go back... He... Hehe..." Yue Wuya suddenly let out a miserable laugh, "Let me... tell you today... You were... absolutely right in doing so... Because... because... I hate him... My hatred for him is incomparable!!"

"If you had let me find out who he is... I would definitely have killed him... I would definitely... have killed him with my own hands!!"

"..." Xia Qingyue averted her gaze as a pained look appeared in her eyes, but she used all of her might to suppress it.

"Because he stained my Wugou, stole away my Wugou... If it was one of my other concubines... I would be able to bestow her to him... as many as he wanted... I could have given him all of them... But why... why did it have to be Wugou... Why..."

Xia Qingyue bit down on her lower lip fiercely, her body lightly trembling. She wanted to say that her father had done nothing wrong... But this matter had absolutely nothing to do with right or wrong, had nothing to do with whether one should hate or should not hate.

"Wugou and I... were in love for a hundred years... and we wanted to live and die together... She and your father... spent only seven short years together... The year she came back, she had terminated her marriage with your father and had not brought back a single thing that had to do with him. Even the clothes she wore... were the ones that she had worn when she had 'met with disaster' all those years ago... But why... was she not willing to allow me to erase the memories she had of your father... She would rather allow herself to become mired in the guilt she felt towards both parties, suffering through that pain and torment, than choose to forget him... Why... Keh... Kehkeh..."

Two deep trails of tears ran down Yue Wuya's wan face. The emperor of a king realm was actually weeping... No, the him who had already entrusted the Imperial Moon Glazed Pearl and the Zi Que divine power to someone else was no longer the Moon God Emperor. The current him was merely Yue Wuya, a man who could finally freely express his emotions without care, a man who could finally cry if he wanted to.

"I hate him... even when I'm about to die... I still feel like killing him..." He once again let out a miserable laugh, "What Moon God Emperor... From start to finish, I've... only ever been a... narrow-minded and petty man lost in his sorrow... Even more than that, I am also... a piece of trash who could not even protect... the one he loved the most... a useless piece of trash who did not even have the strength to take revenge!"

"God Emperor, none of this is your fault," Yue Wuji said as he shook his head. "It's the Brahma Monarch God Realm... If in the future, even if there's the smallest possibility... Wuji will definitely find an opportunity to kill Qianye Ying'er!"

"Qingyue..." Yue Wuya's voice was growing weaker and weaker, "If you are willing to become the Moon God Emperor, then take this Imperial Moon Glazed Pearl... from Wuji's hands... Your path to ascension will be laden with countless thorns and obstacles... But all of these things... will become your greatest tests and training, tests and training that will transform you into a true god emperor..."

"If you are not willing... After my death... just like you wished... you can also finally... return to the star realm where you were born... But... you definitely need... to take good care... of your mother... Also tell your father this for me... I... Yue Wuya... will never... ever... for... give... him..."

His voice was as light as a wad of cotton, until it slowly began to fade away like a cloudy mist.

Chapter 1354 - The New Moon God Emperor

Yue Wuya was dead. He had become the first god emperor to perish before the end of his lifespan in the history of the Moon God Realm.

No one knew what he had said during the final moments of his life besides the two people by his side. It had nothing to do with the future of the Moon God Realm or his unfulfilled wish as a god emperor either. Instead, it was about the two people he had loved and hated the most in his life.

The former was Xia Qingyue's mother, whereas the latter was Xia Qingyue's father.

The Moon God Realm was in chaos, and knells were rung everywhere. The moonlight hanging high above the sky died out at once, sinking Divine Moon City into unprecedented sadness and depression.

Dazed, Xia Qingyue walked slowly and heavily to the one place where she had stayed longer than any other location in the Moon God Realm. It was also the most quiet.

She pushed open a palace door, passed through an invisible barrier and arrived at an isolated realm that was separate from the outside world. There were elegant mountains and rivers in this place, and birds chirping wonderful melodies into one's ears. It was like almost a utopia.

A delicate-looking woman in red dress was standing by the edge of a creek. Although she could hear Xia Qingyue's footsteps slowly growing closer towards her, she didn't turn around to greet her. She asked quietly, "Is he... gone?"

Her words was very, very soft. A gentle breeze could've carried it away.

Xia Qingyue came to a stop. "He is gone."

"Is that so?" The woman in red dress whispered, but she didn't display any overt reaction. In fact, her voice was as calm as the stream beneath her feet. "He is the the Moon God Emperor, but he still wasn't able to escape the clutches of his fated prophecy. Does 'fate' really exist in this world?"

"Mother..." Xia Qingyue spoke softly and slowly as she stared at her mother's back. "Where will you be going after this? Would you like to come..."

She stopped suddenly. She didn't finish her sentence.

The woman in red dress turned around to face her, revealing a countenance of unparalleled brightness and beauty despite being burdened with visible languidness and invisible hardships. She said gently while staring at Xia Qingyue, "Qingyue, you've inherited his divine power, right?"

Xia Qingyue nodded slightly.

"Then, where will you be going next?"

"I'll go wherever you will go." Xia Qingyue answered without the slightest hesitation.

Yue Wugou smiled at her and stroked Xia Qingyue's cheeks gently. She could sense her mother's fingers shaking slightly. "My good girl, mother is very happy to hear this from you. However, your life has just begun, and you should focus more on planning and carrying out your own path properly."

Xia Qingyue nodded, "Don't worry, mother. I will treat myself well."

Yue Wugou withdrew her hand gently and stared at her daughter, her smile growing warmer with each passing moment, "It has only been a couple of years, but it is clear that he treated you better than any other children he had had. Go... and give him a proper send off. I too wish to have a... moment of peace."

"Okay." Her mother's eyes looked calm, but Xia Qingyue knew that her sorrow must be greater than anyone else's.

Xia Qingyue turned around to leave, but her mother's voice reached her just as she was about to step out of the unique realm, "Qingyue, you should learn to live for yourself, get it? You cannot fulfill another person's dream unless you're strong enough on your own. Do you understand what I'm saying?"

"..." Xia Qingyue turned around and glanced at her mother with a bit of surprise. Then, she nodded. "Yes, mother. Qingyue has memorized all of your words."

Xia Qingyue left, and Yue Wugou was all that was left inside this peaceful world. The woman raised her hands slowly and pressed them against her heart.

“Qingyue, I hope that your life will not be fraught with indecision, perplexity, and a constant desire to have the best of both worlds... You should live for yourself... Whatever path you choose to walk from hereon, I wish that your footsteps will be firm and certain. Mother will always watch over you... from the other side of the world...”

Yue Wugou whispered with a smile that looked like the morning wind. “Wuya, I’ve failed you during this lifetime... so please allow Wugou... to accompany you... on your long walk... to the Yellow Springs...”

.....

Xia Qingyue’s heart was as heavy as it was confused as the knell that resounded throughout Divine Moon City accompanied her every step. Moreover, her head wouldn’t stop replaying the somewhat strange words her mother had said to her earlier. Then... she froze like she was thunderstruck before she ran back to her mother like she had gone mad.

Bang!

She pushed open the palace door, and was immediately greeted by a red figure lying on the ground at the exact same position where she was standing before. The water was running, the birds were still singing, but her life signs... were already completely gone.

Xia Qingyue’s entire world suddenly turned white and soundless. In a daze, she walked to Yue Wugou before falling heavily to her knees beside her. She was biting her lip so hard that it was bleeding, but she refused to let out a single sound. Her seemingly fragile body never stopped shaking, however.

Xia Qingyue had no idea how much time had passed when she had finally broken away from the pale white world, but when she stretched out and lifted Yue Wugou with her arms, a circular mirror suddenly fell out of the latter’s sleeve and hit the ground softly.

Caught by surprise, Xia Qingyue picked up the round mirror and gave it a look. It was made of an incredibly average metal; so average in fact that it was rarely seen in the God Realm. Moreover, the passage of time had clearly taken its toll on the item.

Subconsciously, Xia Qingyue opened the mirror, and inside she found the profound image of three people.

The first person in the image was a spirited-looking man. The second person in the image was a four year old girl. The final person in the image was a boy who looked healthy and robust despite just being three years old.

Xia Qingyue’s hands started shaking harder and harder as she stared at the profound image. A voice as transient as a dream escaped her lips. “You’ve... never forgotten... after all... we’ve never been abandoned... after all...”

Her shoulders were shaking, her eyes were shut firm, her right hand was clenching the round mirror in a death grip, and... her left hand was holding a warm piece of paper before she realized it.

...It was the marriage contract she had “destroyed” right in front of Yun Che.

A round mirror, a marriage contract... Xia Qingyue finally broke into tears, and she cried like never before inside the isolated realm while clinging to her mother...

.....

Xia Qingyue walked aimlessly inside Divine Moon City as she held Yue Wugou's lifeless body in her arms. Her eyes were misty and lightless, and she had no idea where she was, much less where she was going with her mother.

Countless memories passed through her mind chaotically.

For the past few years she had felt like she was living a dream.

Yue Wuya—her foster father—was the first person ever to give her warmth and kindness in the God Realm.

Yue Wugou—her birth mother—had given back the affection she had missed for a very long time, and the obsession for the profound way she had discarded along the way.

And finally, Yun Che—her husband—was the person who had awakened her from this “dream”.

Here in the God Realm, they were undoubtedly the most important people in her life.

However, they had all left her and gone away in just a few days' time. The God Realm was vast, but the only things it had left for her were coldness and loneliness. She no longer had anyone to depend on, to share companionship with, or to confess to in the God Realm.

.....

Father's tears had made me want to find mother and reunite the family since young... but in the end, I had forgiven the man who had “robbed” mother from him in the first place, to the point where I couldn't even bear seeing them being separated ever again.

I owed my very life to my sect, and they had sent me and only me away in the face of annihilation. Today, I am strong enough to protect them all... and yet, I can never return.

I owed my foster father a kingly favor, but not only have I not returned it in any way, I have even destroyed his wish and face singlehandedly. And after today, I no longer had the chance to repay or fix anything in life...

Mother, the fact that I was able to find you was providential good luck already, but although I'd never complained a word in your presence, I must admit that I had always held a secret grudge in my heart... I had thought that you had completely cut ties with us, and that you'd truly chosen to abandon and forget us after twenty years of complete separation... But you'd never forgotten about us after all... In fact, the pain you were forced to suffer must have exceeded all imagination... And yet, I can do nothing but to watch you leave us forever.

Yun Che... Why didn't you wait for me...

Heart of Glazed Glass... Exquisite Body... Unprecedented myth. And yet, why did nothing ever go as I wished? Why was I not able to do anything...

Protection of the heavens?

Heh... That is nothing but a joke to deceive others and oneself...

Be it the lower realms or the God Realm, there was one thing that had never changed. If one wishes to dominate their own destiny and others, then... they must possess unparalleled strength and power.

I was the one with unparalleled talent and luck, but why have I only realized this now?...

The images in her head grew more and more chaotic. They all dissolved into a blur... until a golden figure suddenly passed right before her eyes.

Qianye Ying'er!

Ping...

The blurry world shattered, the images all faded away into nothingness. Xia Qingyue's footsteps were still slow, but the noise that had accompanied every step was gradually fading away into nothingness. Even the mistiness in her eyes was turning slowly but surely into bone chilling ice.

The chill in her eyes deepened with every step she took, and eventually... it seemed like it was completely bottomless.

"Hmm? Xia Qingyue?"

A voice suddenly rang from ahead. It was a man dressed in purple, and his attire and the moon emblem he wore showed that he was of noble birth.

He was the the Moon God Emperor's thirty-seventh son, Yue Yan.

The light of obsession and lust instantly flashed across Yue Yan's eyes when he saw Xia Qingyue. She was familiar with it because more than half of the the Moon God Emperor's sons and grandsons were staring at her like this all the time, but this time the gaze was unusually fierce and unrestrained... The reason behind it was of course, the death of the the Moon God Emperor. There was no one left who could protect her anymore.

Without the the Moon God Emperor's protection, it was doubtful if she could even preserve her identity as the god emperor's "foster daughter". Moreover, she was only at the Divine Spirit Realm, and there were countless people in the Moon God Realm alone who could toy with her as they pleased.

Xia Qingyue didn't react to his gaze whatsoever. She continued to trudge ahead in silence.

"Heh!" Not only had Yue Yan discarded all of his usual grace and modesty, he didn't even look remotely sad that the the Moon God Emperor had passed away. As he let out a low chuckle and walked towards Xia Qingyue with a smile on his face, he saw who the dead woman Xia Qingyue was holding and blurted, "Yue Wugou? How did she... Oh! So, the bitch who brought shame to our Moon God Realm is finally dead!"

Xia Qingyue suddenly came to a stop and turned her head slowly. Her purple tinged eyes then fell on Yue Yan.

In that instant, Yue Yan's expression suddenly froze like someone had cast a spell on him. To his shock, Xia Qingyue's normally exquisite eyes were filled with bottomless darkness, and he felt they were devouring his body and soul without mercy. Light faded swiftly from his vision, and a bone chilling, soul rending cold suddenly spread throughout his body.

Crack...

Ice quickly covered the surface of his entire body. His eyes were colorless, and his mouth was agape. His body slowly slid down the wall behind him as bone chilling fear sprouted inside his heart and spread like wild grass.

Crack...

"You..." Everything including his own existence had vanished into nothingness. The only thing he could feel was ice and cold. At this point, his pupils had shrunk so much that it was barely visible, and his voice had frozen over so much that he couldn't even make a cry for mercy.

Crack... Crack...

The ice around him grew thicker and thicker... both his body and soul were frozen inside an abyss of fear...

Bang!

Xia Qingyue looked away from Yue Yan, and when she turned around the ice suddenly shattered and dissolved into nothingness. Yue Yan collapsed on the floor with a greenish purple look, and he was hugging his own shoulders and shaking like mad. His pupils remained pale and shivering, and he might not be able to wipe away this moment of fear and trauma from his mind for eternity.

A terrible stench spread out from beneath his body...

Another person appeared right in front of Xia Qingyue. It was the Golden Moon God, Yue Wuji. He had been attracted by Xia Qingyue's aura, and when he showed up in a hurry and saw the woman in her arms, he turned pale and said, "The God Empress... she... she..."

No one knew better than him about the hundred-year relationship between Yue Wuya and Yue Wugou. Although many years had passed since then, he had never stopped calling Yue Wugou his God Empress. It was because he knew that there would be no other empresses in Yue Wuya's life.

"Wuji," Xia Qingyue said calmly, "give me the Imperial Moon Glazed Pearl and the Zi Que Divine Sword."

The way Xia Qingyue had addressed him caught Yue Wuji by surprise. She had called him "Wuji" instead of the usual "Uncle Wuji".

Worse, her tone had been cold, intimidating, and entirely forceful.

Stunned, Yue Wuji was about to say something when Xia Qingyue suddenly extended her arm in front of herself. In the next instant, a rainbow light and a purple light escaped his possession and flew into Xia Qingyue's hand.

It was the Imperial Moon Glazed Pearl and Zi Que Divine Sword!

It surprised Yue Wuji so much that his words had gotten stuck in his throat.

He wasn't too surprised that Qingyue was able to forcefully summon the Zi Que Divine Sword. After all, the weapon was her lifebound artifact.

However, the Imperial Moon Glazed Pearl was the twelve Moon Gods' origin core. It wasn't that it was impossible to summon the Imperial Moon Glazed Pearl by force, but only under the condition that the summoner was the strongest Moon God!

The Imperial Moon Glazed Pearl belonged only to the strongest Moon God, and only the holder of the Imperial Moon Glazed Pearl had the right to become emperor of the Moon God Realm.

But... but how was that possible? Xia Qingyue had only just inherited the divine power of Zi Que today!

How had she become the strongest Moon God all of a sudden!?

But what had happened right before eyes was undoubtedly reality.

Was the rumored Nine Profound Exquisite Body really that amazing? Was this why the Moon God Emperor desired so much to pass down the divine power of Zi Que to her?

Clang!

The color of purple dazzled the sky as the Zi Que Divine Sword glowed suddenly, and it took him only a glance to identify that its purple moonlight was richer than it had ever been in Yue Wuya's possession.

Then, the Imperial Moon Glazed Pearl and Zi Que Divine Sword vanished from Xia Qingyue's hands, and she turned away while still holding her mother's corpse, "Wuji, I will be burying my mother. Please take care of foster father's burial ceremony, will you?"

"Yes..." Yue Wuji answered while not looking entirely himself.

It wasn't until Xia Qingyue had walked away and vanished entirely from his gaze that Yue Wuji realize that his back was almost fully bent, and he himself wasn't conscious of it at all until after the fact... it almost seemed like the action had been born out of pure physical and mental instinct.

"Go well... new Moon God Emperor," he said half-consciously.

Chapter 1355 - Dreaming of the Profound Sky

The news of the Moon God Emperor's death once again sent huge shockwaves through the Eastern Divine Region which had already been covered in the Evil Infant's dark shadow. As a result, the fear and terror surrounding the Evil Infant grew even more dense and thick.

Countless profound practitioners were running around like headless chickens, terror and impending doom seized their hearts as they searched everywhere for any trace of the Evil Infant. The various king realms had nearly turned out in full force. They needed to take advantage of the fact that the Evil Infant was seriously wounded to find her and eliminate her in the shortest amount of time.

Day after day passed by and countless profound practitioners had combed over every inch of land in the Eastern Divine Region, but no one was able to discover any traces of the Evil Infant... they had not been able to find even a single trace.

Every day that passed with no news of the Evil Infant meant that she had recovered a bit more so the anxiety that twined around the heart of every Eastern Divine Region profound practitioner, especially

the profound practitioners from the king realms, increased steadily as they felt the dark shadow of the Evil Infant grow more and more dense...

Considering the fact that this incident might involve the fate of the entire Eastern Divine Region, the first king realm that was nearly destroyed during the disaster—Star God Realm—actually didn't catch as much attention as it should have.

What used to be a king realm had turned into a scorched, desolate wasteland. Devilish energy was still consuming everything, and the sky remained unnaturally dark. No one who set foot in this place would believe that it was once the Star God Realm at all. In fact, they might think that they had accidentally entered the dangerous, dark, and desolate grounds of the Northern Divine Region.

"We've scoured more than half of the Star God Realm, but we only found a couple thousand or so survivors at the fringes. Moreover... most of them were tainted by the devilish energy."

The Star God Great Elder reported sadly before Star God Emperor.

"What about the auxiliary star realms?" the Star God Emperor asked.

The Heavenly Jade Star God, Aster answered, "That battle created a massive space storm that severely impacted the nearby star realms. All our auxiliary star realms have suffered considerable damage."

"..." Xing Juekong closed his eyes before lifting a powerless hand and gesturing, "The remaining elders should keep searching for survivors. Aster, please notify the other Star Gods to keep searching for an auxiliary Star Realm that suits our needs."

"Understood."

Aster shot a glance at the Star God Emperor before asking worriedly, "My king, your wounds..."

"It's fine," Xing Juekong said indifferently. "Go."

Aster's lips parted. She had wanted to ask if they should search for Heavenly Wolf Star God Caizhi, but... in the end, she chose to give up her wishful thought.

There was no way there would be forgiveness between them, even if they were tied by blood...

The remaining six Star Gods and seventeen elders left again while Xing Juekong remained seated where he was. Not only had he stayed in that position for the past few days, he had almost never gotten up to his feet.

"Cough... cough cough..."

Xing Juekong clutched his chest and coughed painfully, the seemingly unending stream of pitch black blood dying the pitch black ground beneath his feet even blacker. Although the Evil Infant's Wheel of Myriad Tribulations had only regained a tiny portion of its strength, its level was so high that the devilish energy ravaging his body felt like devils that kept eating at his body and life force without end.

He possessed the body of a god emperor. He was supposed to be strong enough to suppress its effects and recover, albeit very slowly. However, the current state of the Star God Realm and the cause behind everything made it very difficult for him to calm down, not to mention that the pressure and torment he

was feeling on the inside was far worse than his body's. Moreover, his injuries had actually worsened for the past few days, as if the fact that his energy recovery wasn't catching up to the speed at which it was being consumed wasn't bad enough already.

He wanted to calm himself down, but he just couldn't. When he opened his eyes, he would be greeted by the devastated land of the Star God Realm. When he closed his eyes, he would be greeted by the infinite darkness and hatred behind Jasmine's pupils...

Back when he and Eternal Heaven God Emperor had parted ways, he had said that he would rather die in the Star God Realm. At this rate though, he might actually be prophesying his own death. He needed to find a place where he could calm himself down, but he just couldn't rest in Eternal Heaven no matter what... He was a god emperor. He couldn't rely on the charity of another god emperor no matter what!

Therefore, Star God Realm's auxiliary star realms had become his last choice.

"Mm..."

The devilish energy ravaged his body yet again, and Xing Juekong was forced to point a finger at his heart and suppress it with all his might. His complexion had changed several times in the process, but in the end he managed to stop it and spit out a mouthful of nearly pitch black blood.

His complexion recovered just a little, and his aura calmed down slightly after some heavy panting.

It was at this moment that a ray of icy blue light suddenly erupted from the space dead ahead of him.

Not only had the cold light appeared out of nowhere, it was less than three meters away from Xing Juekong.

It was a flawless white sword covered in blue light, and it was aimed straight at Xing Juekong's heart... at the speed it was traveling, three meters might as well be nothing at all.

Xing Juekong's pupils shrank abruptly, but his emptied profound veins and impossibly heavy limbs made it impossible for him to react to the attack at all. The cold light passed through his heart in the blink of an eye.

"Hmm!"

Eyes bulging and pupils shrinking, Xing Juekong stared as a woman clad in icy blue colors appeared in front of him while still gripping the sword that had impaled him.

Shock, fear, disbelief, and more gripped him... he had never seen such a chilly pair of eyes in his life, and this one seemed cold enough to turn the entire world to a frozen hell.

It was true that he had been severely injured, mostly powerless, and very distracted... but he was still the Star God Emperor. It should have been impossible for the entity to avoid his detection and get as close as just three meters away from him!

It was a completely undetectable and merciless attack that had come out of nowhere... He wasn't sure if he could've avoided the attack even if he was in his best form, much less now.

She had a pair of immeasurable cold eyes, and a countenance that eclipsed every ice and snow that existed in this world.

“Snow... Song... Realm... King... Mm!”

He forced his voice out of his throat. Then, a layer of ice spread out from the Snow Princess Sword and sealed away all of the god emperor’s body, organs, blood, profound aura and finally, the profound veins. With that, she had also cut off the weakened god emperor’s final chance to struggle.

Mu Xuanyin said nothing in return as she stared at Xing Juekong coldly. The chill in her eyes made it clear that it was all she could do not to crush him and turn him into the world’s tiniest particles.

Mu Xuanyin had been hiding nearby using Moon Splitting Cascade since a day ago, waiting for a golden opportunity to present itself.

That golden opportunity had appeared just now when all the Star Gods and elders had left far enough that they were completely beyond her senses. After that, she raised the Snow Princess Sword and impaled the emperor of a king realm that none but the Evil Infant had dared to offend.

The ice covered the Star God Emperor again and again without a sound until the man was completely frozen inside and out. It was to the extent where even his aura had become completely concealed.

She didn’t pull the Snow Princess Sword out of the Star God Emperor’s heart. She lifted the block of ice with a gust of cold wind before taking off into the distance.

.....

Snow Song Realm, Heavenly Netherfrost Lake.

Bang!!

When the Snow Princess Sword had returned to its home, the block of ice that held the Star God Emperor fell from high up in the sky before shattering into pieces. Although the Star God Emperor was physically freed, that didn’t mean that he had escaped the icy nightmare Mu Xuanyin had thrown him into. Lying powerlessly on the ground, the Star God Emperor curled into a ball on the ground and shivered uncontrollably. Not only could he not get up on his feet, he could hardly control his own limbs...

He never knew that the cold could be so terrifying until now, and worse his god emperor profound veins were so thoroughly suppressed that he wasn’t able to unleash even a bit of profound energy. He couldn’t understand why... he might have lost a large amount of profound energy, but he still had his Star God origin energy. So how was the Snow Song Realm King who wasn’t even a midstage Divine Master able to freeze his profound veins to such an extent?

What was even more incomprehensible to him was the fact that the realm king of a tiny middle star realm had found the courage and reason to attack him, a god emperor, and bring him back to her home no less... Did she not realize the consequences of her actions!?

“Do... you know... who... I am...” He had to stutter out the simple line because he was shaking too much. Try as he might, he wasn’t able to draw any energy from his frozen profound veins to dispel the frigid cold that was plaguing him.

“Aren’t you afraid... that I will... annihilate... your... Snow Song Realm...”

His words had failed to elicit any emotion from Mu Xuanyin except one: a terrible cold that was colder than even the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake. “Xing Juekong, you had driven my disciple, Yun Che to death and the Evil Infant to awaken in this world... and yet you had the galls to lie to the entire world and claim that he had died at the Evil Infant’s hands...”

Every word she uttered was fueled by passion and hate, and the hand she using to grip the Snow Princess Sword was shaking like a leaf. It was clear from the erratic light flickering across the body of the sword that she was nearing the end of her control. “You deserve to die ten... thousand... times... over!”

“...” Xing Juekong was speechless. The only reason Mu Xuanyin could’ve figured this out was because she had planted a soul crystal inside Yun Che. However, that didn’t stop him from stuttering through his purple lips in disbelief. “You want to kill... me... because Yun Che... an insignificant disciple of the Snow Song Realm... perished in my hands!?”

Mu Xuanyin gritted her teeth a little tighter. “Insignificant disciple of the Snow Song Realm?... True. Maybe he really is a lowly, humble, and young profound practitioner to you god emperors... and no matter how outstanding he turned out to be, he will always be insignificant in your eyes... But did you know... did you know...”

At this point her aura had completely fallen, and her voice was shaking so much that she wasn’t able to say anything else. Instead she stabbed the Star God Emperor again in the dantian, her hatred barely subdued under great effort.

No blood flowed out of Xing Juekong’s body because of the Snow Princess Sword’s freezing properties. The god emperor himself felt no pain either.

“Star God Emperor... these three words are probably the most important thing in your life, aren’t they?” Her chest heaved heavily as she spoke, “You destroyed Yun Che... the most important person... in my life... and so I will destroy your god emperor power in return... and let you know what pain truly means!!”

“...” the Star God Emperor was still shaking, but he let out a low, twisted chuckle when he heard her preposterous claim, “You? Destroy my god emperor power?”

But the Snow Princess Sword suddenly bloomed like an exploding blue star just as he finished speaking, causing the Star God Emperor’s expression to drastically change. His nerves should’ve been completely numb and frozen, but he still could sense clearly countless needles stabbing into his profound veins and tearing his divinely protected profound veins into bits again and again...

Worse, his remaining spiritual senses informed him that the power that was destroying his profound veins was almost as strong as when he was at his full strength!!

Logically speaking, there was no way the power of a midstage Divine Master could destroy his profound veins even in his current state. It was because they were normally protected by the star god origin energy. However, the power invading his profound veins was at a level that he hadn’t anticipated even in his dreams. The Star God Emperor started twisting and tossing madly as his face became distorted with ten, no, a hundred times the fear he was experiencing before, “No... No... Forgive me... No!! I am

the Star God Emperor... No one can do this to me... No... I can promise you anything... No... No... Uahhh!"

BANG!!!

There was a loud bang and a chaotic refraction of light, and Xing Juekong's profound veins... the profound veins of a god emperor were crushed to bits. They would never recover again for all of eternity.

At the same time, bits of starlight floated away from his body... it was the Heavenly Chief Star God's origin power, and after losing its carrier, the energy flew up to the sky and eventually dissipated somewhere.

"..." The Star God Emperor lay on the ground and stared at the Heavenly Chief starlight that was slowly but surely flying away from him, his eyes filled with gray and despair.

His profound veins were ruined. The Heavenly Chief divine power that had accompanied him for his whole life had scattered...

There was nothing more cruel to a profound practitioner than to lose their profound power.

However, the loss one's profound veins was even worse than that.

Xing Juekong... Once upon a time, he was a god emperor of the Eastern Divine Region, but right now at this moment, he had fallen from the highest peak to the lowest bottom possible. He had become a cripple.

An eternal cripple.

This was a thousand times, ten thousand times more cruel than just killing him outright...

"Kill me... kill... me..." He stared at the colorless sky and muttered dazedly. His eyes had lost the last bit of their color, leaving behind only gray despair and a suicidal will.

"Kill you?" Mu Xuanyin uttered coldly. Xing Juekong's terrible state still wasn't enough to wipe out the hatred in her heart, "Trust me, I very, very much want to tear you into a million pieces. However... you don't deserve a quick, painless death!"

Her breathing grew more and more erratic, and her chest looked like it would fall out of her clothes. For perhaps the first time in her life, an unprecedented level of malevolence crept onto her exquisite face as she uttered, "I won't kill you. In fact, I'll make sure that you live a long, long life!"

"We are at the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake of the Snow Song Realm, the place Yun Che stayed the longest out of any other! I will freeze you and leave you here so that you may suffer a freezing pain every time you breathe! Your body is that of a god emperor's, so the spirit energy in this place will prevent you from even committing suicide! You will live here... kneel... repent... and atone until the end of time!!"

Crack!

After that, Xing Juekong was encased in ice in one deafening crack. Inside the block of ice, his eyes looked colorless, and he was frozen in a kneeling position facing toward the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake. He would never wake up from this eternal nightmare...

At another space.

The first thing he felt through the blackness was his own consciousness, creeping up to him slowly. Then, his bodily senses slowly returned to him as well. However, his body felt like it weighed a ton.

Where... is this?

Is this heaven... or hell?

Heh... I must be in hell, considering the kind of person I am.

An aching numbness soon hit him from every part of his body, and his eyes felt unbelievably heavy. When he tried to open his eyes, the weak ray of light had nearly blinded him.

He subconsciously tried to block the light with his eyes, but he wasn't able to lift his unbelievably heavy arms. The only action he had managed with the impulse was a twitch of his fingers.

"Ah!"

A girl's exclamation suddenly resounded next to his ears.

"Benefactor brother... you're awake... you're awake, right!?"

It wasn't a delusion. There really was a girl's voice speaking excitedly, urgently and shakily right beside his ears.

He opened his lips and tried to say something, but the only thing that exited his throat was a raspy groan that was barely noticeable.

However, it was the groan and the twitching of his fingers that prompted the young girl to shout in joy yet again. She ran off all of a sudden before she suddenly tripped on something hard because she was too hasty to notice. Then, her tearful shout seemingly came from a distance, "Father... mother... brother... come quickly! Benefactor brother has woken up... he woke up!"

"..." He tried very hard to open his eyes.

Where was this place?

If this was hell, then why could he hear the vivid, true voice of a girl?

This couldn't be heaven, could it?

Chapter 1356 - Nightmare

After his consciousness had returned, everything that had happened in the Star God Realm swiftly rushed back into his head as things grew more and more clear. Jasmine, Caizhi, Hong'er... The very last moments of his life solidified in this instant and after that, everything had faded to black.

After a person had died, they still retained their consciousness after all...

But where exactly is this place? And where is Jasmine? Would she be by my side? In this afterlife, will I still see those who were once my friends or enemies...

Yet the aching pain and heaviness that his body felt was so clear; these sensations were so clear that it felt as if he were still alive.

Finally, after the light once more pierced into his vision, those eyes of his, which had remained closed for a very long time, slowly opened with much difficulty.

The wooden ceiling that greeted him was short and old-fashioned, but it was not stained by a single mote of dust. He turned his head as he struggled to see what was around him... It was a very small wooden hut that was simple and tidy, but for some odd reason, it filled him with a sense of familiarity that was not too distant.

The footsteps of the young girl who had left not too long ago once again hurriedly drew near at this moment. Very quickly, the figure of a girl appeared in the wooden door that had been opened. This girl looked to be about twenty years of age. She wore red clothes and her features were lovely. The phoenix mark between her brows faintly shone, lending her an aura of sacredness. She arrived at the foot of the bed and upon seeing Yun Che's opened eyes, her eyes misted over in excited elation, "Big Brother Benefactor, you've finally woken up... This is simply too great... Wuuuuuu... It's simply too great..."

The young girl's voice was filled with emotion and tears actually stained her cheeks after that.

"..." Yun Che stared at her dazedly and gradually the image of a lovely and tender girl appeared in his mind, merging together with the girl standing in front of him. After that, a name spilled out from his lips, "Xian...er?"

The young girl was stunned by what he said. She was overjoyed that he still remembered her and she nodded her head with extreme vigor, "Yes, that's me. I am Xian'er, I am Xian'er... Sniff... sniff, sniff..."

Bang!

The wooden door was once more pushed open with much force. Several human figures hurriedly strode through it as they quickly arrived at the foot of the bed he was lying on. Upon seeing that he had awoken, looks of extreme emotion and excitement appeared on every single one of their faces.

"Yun Che," The middle-aged man who stood at the head of everyone called his name, "You've finally awoken. Hooooo... It's great that nothing went wrong, it's great that nothing went wrong."

"Senior... Feng?" Yun Che said in a rough and harsh-sounding voice. The girl had already grown up and her appearance had changed greatly from the time he had met her all those years ago. But the middle-aged man in front of him did not look the slightest bit different so his brain immediately recalled his name.

Feng Baichuan!

The clan leader of the Phoenix Clan that resided in the heart of the Ten Thousand Beast Mountain Range!

“Big Brother Benefactor, you’ve finally woken up,” A tall and straight-backed young man with a martial bearing who was standing besides Feng Baichuan spoke up excitedly, his eyes also faintly glimmering with tears.

“Zu...’er?” Yun Che’s once again whispered in a soft and dazed voice, his mind completely lost in a haze.

His mind had gone back to thirteen years ago.

He had been sixteen that year and that was also the first year he had met Jasmine, when they still had a mutual disdain and dislike for each other.

During that year, he and Cang Yue, who had changed her name to Lan Xueruo at that time, were being pursued by Xiao Sect’s Branch Sect and they tumbled into the heart of the Ten Thousand Beast Mountain Range from high above. They had a chance encounter with the Phoenix Clan that had been forced to hide in this land after their bloodline had been cursed. They saved Feng Zu’er and Feng Xian’er and after that, he had passed the trial of the Phoenix and proceeded to obtain the Phoenix blood legacy along with the fifth and sixth stages of the World Ode of the Phoenix.

After that, he used the Phoenix divine powers that he had obtained to rescue the Phoenix Clan that had fallen into a crisis and he even dispelled the curse that afflicted their bloodline as well.

Feng Zu’er and Feng Xian’er had only been eight years old at that time.

Five years ago, before he left for the God Realm, he previously wanted to bring Feng Xue’er to visit the Phoenix Clan, but they had discovered that the Phoenix Clan had been enclosed within a powerful protective barrier. He then secretly rescued the siblings Feng Zu’er and Feng Xian’er when they had met with danger after leaving the barrier. He had also left them the World Ode of the Phoenix with all six stages and a case of Overlord Pellets.

After that, he had chosen not to disturb them and quietly left together with Feng Xue’er.

.....

But to think that he actually saw them once again in the “afterlife”.

Had they also died?

Or was he...

He slowly raised his arm, but after he had raised it halfway, he found that he had no more strength after that. As it fell against his side, Yun Che could clearly feel the sensation of his arm touching his own body. He looked at the Feng Baichuan, who looked exactly as refined and mild as he did in his memories, and the two siblings, Feng Zu’er and Feng Xian’er before he spoke as if he was mumbling in his sleep, “Could it be... that I am still alive?”

“Heheh,” Feng Baichuan gave a small chuckle. He had not found Yun Che’s reaction the least bit strange, “Of course you’re still alive, because someone who has died won’t be able to ask such a question.”

“...” Yun Che’s mouth dropped open slightly and his originally clear awareness sank into an even deeper haze at this moment.

Everything that had happened in the Star God Realm once again reverberated in his mind. He had forcefully used Other Shore Asura with the resolve to die and a countless amount of fresh blood had violently sprayed in the air as people died one after the other. But in the end, his life ran out and his spirit burned... until it was completely burned to ashes.

With the last thread of consciousness he possessed, he could sense his body being torn apart before becoming fragments which filled the sky...

So how could he... still be alive!?

Furthermore, this place... where exactly was it...

"Where... is this place?" The thoughts in his mind had unconsciously spilled from his lips.

"This place is our home," Feng Xian'er wiped away her tears before speaking in a soft but happy voice, "It is the place where we met Big Brother Benefactor and Sister Xueruo all those years ago. It was... It was Lord Phoenix God who sent you here. You've already been unconscious for so many days, but you've finally... woken up."

"..." Yun Che's eyes were still stunned and hazy.

This place is... where the Phoenix Clan is?

I returned to the Profound Sky Continent?

The Phoenix God... sent me here?

What's going on? What exactly is going on here?

Could it be that I... truly did not die?

But...

If I didn't die, could it be that everything that had happened in the Star God Realm... everything that had happened in the God Realm was merely a dream?

Upon seeing Yun Che's expression be filled with a bewilderment that bordered on delusion, Feng Baichuan spoke up, "Yun Che, your heart must definitely be filled with countless questions and suspicions. However, at this moment, you have just woken up and your body is still very weak. Do not dwell too much on things for now. First take some time to rest and recuperate and once you have sufficiently recovered, you will be able to see Lord Phoenix God. Lord Phoenix God will definitely be able to dispel all of your doubts."

"..." Yun Che did not react to those words.

"Zu'er, quickly go and inform your mother and the rest of the clansmen that Yun Che has woken up to ease their worries. Xian'er, stay behind and take care of Yun Che."

"Yes!"

Feng Zu'er hurriedly replied before he rushed off to tell everyone else. Feng Xian'er stayed behind, gracefully standing beside the bed as she quietly looked at Yun Che who was still lost in his thoughts. As

she stood there, her hands unconsciously grasped the corner of her clothes, some nervousness mixed in with her happiness.

Yun Che did not speak for a very long time. During this long period of time, he finally managed to regain some composure and he slowly closed his eyes after that.

The Phoenix Clan elder was right. Even though he did not know why he was still alive... the current him found it difficult to lift even an arm, so at the very least, he needed to allow his body to recover to the point where he could move about normally.

He closed his eyes and quieted his heart before he silently started to circulate the Great Way of the Buddha.

As his thoughts moved and circulated, the profound formula started to circulate as well... but in the next instant, he opened his eyes yet again.

As the Great Way of the Buddha circulated, the spiritual energy of the heavens and the earth... actually did not respond at all!

He hurriedly focused his heart yet again as he started to circulate it once more. One breath passed after the other, until Yun Che's emotions started to become frazzled, but the spiritual energy of heaven and earth that was everywhere still did not respond in the slightest and not a single thread of it surged towards his body.

What was going on?

The Great Way of the Buddha was the Rage God's divine art which did not rely on profound energy. When the Great Way of the Buddha advanced in stages, one's body would become more and more intimate with the spiritual energy of heaven and earth. Even if one did not circulate it deliberately, their body would be absorbing and harmonizing with the spiritual energy of heaven and earth at every instant. The level of spirit energy that could be absorbed by a person was dependant on the stage of the Great Way of the Buddha that person had attained. The higher the stage, the higher the level of spirit energy that could be absorbed.

Normally, even if Yun Che had completely exhausted his profound energy and was so heavily wounded that he was on the verge of death, as long as a single breath remained in his body, it would start to automatically recover due to the Great Way of the Buddha. Furthermore, once he regained consciousness and started to deliberately circulate it, he would recover at such a fast pace that ordinary people would not be able to fathom it.

But at this moment, even though he kept circulating the Great Way of the Buddha again and again, the only thing he received was a deathly stillness.

Could it be that my wounds are too severe... He softly muttered in his heart. But in the past, no matter how severe his wounds had been, this sort of thing had never happened before.

The divine art was still ringing in his ears but it was as if his body had completely lost all connection to and intimacy with the spiritual energy of heaven and earth.

When this thought flashed through his mind, he had immediately smothered firmly. He tried to manipulate some profound energy... but he could not even sense the existence of his profound veins.

Am I truly... too badly wounded...

As these thoughts floated in his mind, he closed his eyes once again and attempted to inspect the state of his body. But his concentration only continued for a few instants before his eyes sprang open yet again, his gaze cloudy and turbid.

Being able to internally inspect one's own body was the most basic spiritual sensing ability of a profound practitioner, even someone who had just entered the profound way and was in the Elementary Profound Realm could do it. Even when he had been the "Xiao Che" whose profound veins had been crippled, who could only remain in the first stage of the Elementary Profound Realm, he was still able to do it.

But when he had tried to inspect his body internally just now, he realized that his spiritual senses were actually unable to penetrate his own body.

Actually, it would be more accurate to say that he basically no longer had the "spiritual senses" that belonged to the profound way!

No... it shouldn't be like this! Even if I am so wounded that I only have a thread of energy and life left, it still shouldn't be this way!

There's definitely a problem somewhere! Could it be that I have overtaxed my profound strength too greatly?

That's right! There was some Sacred Spiritual Nectar that Shen Xi had given him inside the Sky Poison Pearl! That should allow me to instantly recover!

He used much effort to raise his left hand, but he immediately discovered that his own thoughts were actually unable to enter the Sky Poison Pearl!

In fact, he was completely unable to sense the existence of the Sky Poison Pearl.

"..." Yun Che's eyes shook as his heart was thrown into complete and utter chaos. After that, he started to yell panickedly, "Hong'er... Hong'er!"

"Ah!?" His sudden shouts gave Feng Xian'er a great fright and she hurriedly moved forward, "Big Brother Benefactor, you... what are you saying?"

It was as if Yun Che had not heard her voice. His body was struggling but he basically could not even sit up straight. His voice was becoming more and more panicked and flustered, "He Ling... Hong'er... He Ling..."

No matter how much he called those names, he did not get a single response.

"Big Brother Benefactor, you... what's wrong with you? Don't frighten me," Yun Che's extremely bizarre reaction had left Feng Xian'er both panicked and flustered. She did not know what to do.

But it was good that Yun Che suddenly calmed down at this precise moment. He no longer shouted or struggled. Instead he dazedly stared at the ceiling and went completely still for a very long time.

“Big Brother Benefactor, you need to take a good rest. Don’t think about anything right now. You will get better, you’ll definitely will,” Feng Xian’er softly consoled him.

“Xian’er,” Yun Che said gloomily, “Can you help me with just one thing?”

“Ah?”

“Bring me to see the Phoenix God,” Yun Che said slowly, he could hear just how weak and hoarse his voice sounded.

“Right now? You can’t!” Feng Xian’er shook her head, “You’re still far too weak, you can’t move around willy nilly.”

“Bring me there, I need to see it right now.” His gaze shifted to the side as he looked at the flustered Phoenix girl with lifeless eyes, “Xian’er, please help me... okay?”

Whether it was his gaze or his words, both caused Feng Xian’er to become completely powerless to reject him.

Chapter 1357 - “Nirvana”

Feng Xian’er’s long and slender arm was wrapped around Yun Che’s waist as she floated into the air while carrying him. They avoided all the eyes of her clansmen as they flew toward the Phoenix’s trial grounds.

Yun Che’s weight was nearly completely pressed against Feng Xian’er. A mountain wind blew over. It was not very strong, yet it caused Yun Che to feel a stifling sensation that was difficult to endure. Feng Xian’er immediately sensed it and she hurriedly slowed down her already very slow flying speed.

To think that I would actually... grow this weak... Yun Che muttered bitterly in his heart.

However, this was definitely only temporary.

The Phoenix clan only had around two hundred people and their two strongest cultivators were Feng Zu’er and Feng Xian’er. So no one noticed when she quietly brought Yun Che to the place where the Phoenix God resided.

Feng Xian’er descended from the top of a very high mountain wall with Yun Che and in front of them stood the sealing formation in Yun Che’s memory.

“Big Brother Benefactor, we’re here.”

Feng Xian’er extended a finger and touched the sealing formation. A small point of scarlet flame flashed by and the sealing formation immediately vanished. A scarlet-black space that seemed endless then appeared in front of them.

Feng Xian’er supported Yun Che as she brought him forward. Once they had taken a single step inside, the world around them immediately changed and all light vanished as their world plunged into darkness.

Feng Xian'er knelt down and spoke in a pious and devout voice, "Phoenix descendant Feng Xian'er begs for an audience with Lord Phoenix God."

Just as her voice fell, two long and narrow scarlet lights suddenly appeared in this pitch-black world. Following that, those two long and narrow scarlet lights slowly began to open, forming into a pair of phoenix eyes which seemed set into this world.

When Yun Che had come to this place all those years ago, the pair of phoenix eyes he had seen were a dazzling and sacred golden color.

But at this moment, those eyes were scarlet... and an obvious dimness had appeared in them.

"Yun Che, it's been a long time since we last met."

The voice that came from the Phoenix Spirit was still as intimidating and imposing as it was before, yet distinctively different from the voice in Yun Che's memories... It clearly seemed to have grown weaker and older. But this was not what Yun Che was concerned with. He stared straight at those scarlet phoenix eyes, "Ah yes, it has been a very long time."

"Xian'er, withdraw from this place first."

"Yes," Feng Xian'er replied. She released a thread of warm profound energy and focused it into a cluster of flowing energy that did not dissipate for a very long time. She softly wrapped it around Yun Che's body before she left, worry and anxiety plaguing her mind.

"Yun Che." After Feng Xian'er left, the tone with which the Phoenix Spirit spoke with had also noticeably changed, "Before the Phoenix Spirit in the Flame God Realm's God Burying Inferno Prison dissipated, it sent all of its soul memories to this noble one. Contained within was a lot of news related to you."

"I found out that you had obtained a Phoenix inheritance even further advanced than the one you had previously received and that you had cultivated the complete World Ode of the Phoenix. This noble one was extremely gratified by that news... But who would have thought that barely more than a year later, your fate would actually change in such a tragic way," the Phoenix Spirit said with a sigh. "Perhaps, this is the jealousy of the heavens."

As soul fragments left behind by the Phoenix, the divine spirits could transmit their memories to each other. This was something Yun Che had long been aware of, so he was not the least bit surprised to hear this. He regulated his unbearably weak aura before asking, "Phoenix Spirit, the Phoenix Clan elder and the rest told me that it was you who sent me to this place. What happened? Why... did I not die? And I even appeared in this place? I was clearly..."

Within his own memories, his body had died and his soul had been destroyed. He had well and truly been dead.

"No," The Phoenix Spirit replied in a gentle voice, "Your memories and cognition of what had transpired are correct, you had already died... Even though this noble one is unaware of how you died."

"...?" Yun Che was stunned by those words.

"The current you is the you who has been resurrected from death."

“Resurrected... from death?” The words uttered by the Phoenix Spirit caused Yun Che to be even more confused.

Without a shadow of a doubt, if anyone had heard those words, they would have been struck dumb as well. If one died, one died. The so-called notion of resurrection from death had always been something that had belonged solely in dreams and fantasy. It was a divine miracle that was impossible to realize. Even if they had been the gods and devils who had been destroyed during the Era of Gods, none of them had the ability to resurrect. So if they had not been able to, how could the mortal creatures of the present era accomplish such a feat?

But if there was truly something like resurrection from death in this world, then perhaps it had only ever happened to Yun Che.

“Could it be... the Mirror of Samsara yet again?” he muttered in a dazed voice.

When he had still been in Floating Cloud’s Xiao Family, he had been poisoned to death by Xiao Yulong on the day he was supposed to marry Xia Qingyue, but he had been reborn in the Azure Cloud Continent because of the Mirror of Samsara. After that, he had committed suicide in the Azure Cloud Continent by jumping off Cloud’s End Cliff, but once again, he had been returned to this current life by the power of the Mirror of Samsara.

“No,” the Phoenix Spirit shut down his assumption, “even though this noble one does not know why the Mirror of Samsara would activate its power of reincarnation on you, every time the Mirror of Samsara’s powers activate, it will hibernate for the next twenty years.”

“...” The Mirror of Samsara would enter into hibernation for twenty years every time its power activated. Jasmine had also clearly told him such a thing before.

The Phoenix Spirit had read Yun Che’s memories before, so it naturally knew about the existence of the Mirror of Samsara in his possession, “However, it has only been thirteen years since the last time it allowed you to pass through the cycle of reincarnation. Furthermore, the power of the Mirror of Samsara allows one to ‘pass through Samsara’, it is not the power of resurrection.”

“Then how did it happen?” Yun Che was even more mystified now.

“Do you still remember what had happened after you finished inheriting the Phoenix divine power all those years ago? Do you remember that before this noble one sent you out of this place, I told you that I had given you a unique gift?”

“I... remember,” Yun Che nodded his head. He could indeed recall this with extreme clarity because it had been steeped in a thick aura of mystery. Thus, even though Yun Che had never found out what this “unique gift” was, he had never once forgotten about it.

.....

“Your time in this trial ground is reaching its end, and it’s time for me to send you out. However, before I do so, I should perhaps give you a special present.”

After the Phoenix Spirit’s voice had fallen all those years ago, a beam of golden firelight had shot out from the Phoenix God’s pupils before alighting on his forehead. He clearly remembered that the scarlet

phoenix imprint on his forehead turned a dazzling gold after the beam of light had touched him, it had looked like a cluster of burning golden flames.

“This is a special power that I can only use once in my lifetime, but I never thought the day where I used it would actually come. However, as the one who carries the power of the Evil God, your future is destined to be extraordinary, and bestowing this power upon you is more than suitable. As to what kind of power this is, when the time of you using it comes, you will naturally know.”

.....

However, not only did the Phoenix Spirit not make clear what this unique and mysterious gift was, Jasmine, who also clearly knew what it was, had never been willing to tell him the answer. Furthermore, upon obtaining the Dragon God’s legacy, the Primordial Azure Dragon had also mentioned it. In the Illusory Demon Realm’s Golden Crow Lightning Flame Valley, the Golden Crow Spirit had also emphasized this point and due to its competitive nature, it had also given him a great gift as well.

The Phoenix Spirit, Jasmine, the Primordial Azure Dragon, the Golden Crow Spirit... All of them had known what this “present” was but in an act of incomparable unity, none of them had been willing to tell him. Instead everyone said something along the same lines, “If you ever have occasion to use it, you will naturally find out what it is.”

However, Jasmine had once said something which had held a very deep implication, “You had better pray that you never ever have to use it.”

“Phoe... nix... Nirv... ana!”

Within the dark space, the Phoenix Spirit’s scarlet eyes faintly flickered as it bestowed the answer upon Yun Che.

Those two words caused Yun Che’s eyes to fiercely jerk upwards as those words escaped his mouth, “Phoenix Nirvana!?”

These were two words that Yun Che was completely familiar with, or perhaps it would be better to say that they were two words that everyone under heaven would be familiar with.

No matter whether it was the lower realms or the God Realm, every place had their own distant myths and legends about the ancient gods or divine beasts. Some of these stories were based on reality but others were complete fabrications, and the vast majority of these stories belonged to the latter. After all, the age of the True Gods had ended long ago and real records that had been left behind were exceedingly rare. This was especially true in the lower realms as these sort of stories and legends were basically fabrications.

However, one legend concerning the Phoenix mentioned that it could be reborn in fire after it had died and this kind of divine miracle was known as the Phoenix Nirvana.

This was a legend that Yun Che had already heard when he was a kid in this life.

After that, on the day that Jasmine left, he had fallen victim to Heavenly Poison Star God Moonflower’s secret attack and he was bound to die due to the power of the Heavenly Poison. However, he had miraculously survived... and what had saved him had been Feng Xue’er’s Flames of Nirvana.

It was also at that time that he, someone who had possessed the Phoenix divine powers for many years, discovered that there was a flame known as the “Flames of Nirvana” among the Phoenix divine flames. Furthermore, it was a flame that could only be ignited once in a person’s life.

However, at that time, his understanding of the “Flames of Nirvana” was that it was merely a flame that possessed extremely strong cleansing powers. Feng Xue’er’s profound strength had not reached the divine way at that time, yet she was able to use these “Flames of Nirvana” that she could only ignite once in her life to cleanse his body of the Heavenly Poison’s divine power. One could very well imagine just how strong its power of cleansing was from that.

But he had never imagined...

“Could it be that the legend of the Phoenix Nirvana rebirth... was actually true?” Yun Che’s expression was filled with disbelief, this whole thing felt extremely unreal, so unreal that it felt as if he had been dropped into some legendary realm of myth and illusion.

But, he was still alive... He was still alive despite being torn apart and crushed, so this was the best testament to the fact that all of this was real.

“In the Ancient Era, the Evil God had done a great favor for the Phoenix clan before. Moreover, your body had inherited and contained the only Evil God legacy in this universe. The you at that time was still far too weak, so this noble one was afraid that you would die, thus severing the legacy of the Evil God’s power forever. This noble one could only bestow a cluster of Nirvanic divine flames upon you. This would allow you to be reborn in fire after you had met with calamity.”

Yun Che, “...”

“The reason why I did not tell you was because I was worried that once you had discovered this, you would subconsciously lose a degree of fear and reverence towards death.” The Phoenix Spirit sighed, “Once I had been informed of your accomplishments in the God Realm, this noble one prayed that there would never be a moment where you had to ignite these Flames of Nirvana. Yet I never imagined that this day would still come in the end, and it came so quickly at that.”

“The root of your Nirvanic divine flames originated from this place, so when you ignited the Flames of Nirvana, you were reborn here.”

“...” Yun Che remained silent for a very long time. He needed an adequate amount of time to process and accept this incomparably fantastical sequence of events.

The Flames of Nirvana that would allow a phoenix to be reborn in flames, a legendary myth that he had previously thought was mere fabrication, had actually been true!

Thirteen years ago, when the sixteen year old him had obtained the Phoenix divine power in this place, he had actually also obtained the most precious Flames of Nirvana from the Phoenix Spirit because he borne the Evil God’s powers.

This also meant that from that time onward, he already had a second life.

When his body had been torn apart and smashed to bits in the Star God Realm, he had indeed died at that time. But the instant he died, it ignited the Flames of Nirvana in his body, a power that he had not known existed in his body, and after that he was reborn in this place.

Furthermore, what had saved him from Moonflower's Heavenly Poison divine power had not only been Feng Xue'er's Flames of Nirvana, it had also been her second life!

"It's just that..." The Phoenix Spirit's voice sank at this moment. Even though the truth would be incomparably cruel to Yun Che, it was something it had to make clear in the end and it was also a reality that Yun Che would have to accept. "This noble one is merely a soul fragment left behind by the Phoenix and not the true Phoenix itself. The 'Flames of Nirvana' this noble one bestowed upon you cannot even begin to be compared with the 'Flames of Nirvana' produced by the Phoenix True God. In fact, it is not even worthy of being called the 'Flames of Nirvana.'"

"The true Flames of Nirvana will not only cause the Phoenix to be reborn in fire, but also cause its divine power to be even greater than before. However the Flames of Nirvana that ignited after you died indeed caused your resurrection, but the only thing it resurrected was your life."

"..." Yun Che struggled with all his might, but his head lifted with an incomparable slowness, "What do... you mean?"

"You should have sensed this already." The Phoenix Spirit spoke in an incomparably frank and honest voice, "Your current body is no longer the divine body that has been refined and tempered by divine blood and divine power, it is merely the body of a mortal, a body that could not be any weaker."

"You are also unable to use any profound energy. Your spiritual senses and your soul have all returned to that of an ordinary man's. You could even say... that you have been weakened into an ordinary man."

Even though it was facing Yun Che's gradually contracting pupils, the Phoenix Spirit's cruel words did not halt. "In other words, the only thing that has been reborn under the Flames of Nirvana is your life. As for your divine power, divine body, divine soul, and divine senses.... All of those are already dead."

Chapter 1358 - Dead Inside

The Phoenix's pupils were the only light source inside the dark space, but its scarlet, fiery glow looked like shadows to Yun Che right now.

The world fell completely silent. He looked like a soulless husk as he stared blankly towards the front with deadened eyes.

The Phoenix Spirit stopped talking. It was well aware that being crippled was a fate worse than death to a profound practitioner, especially when the one before it was a man who had once stood at the top of the continent, enjoyed unparalleled glory, and achieved many great things that might as well be miracles again and again.

However, he had become a cripple after what felt like a journey in one's dreams.

It was impossible to accept a nightmare like this without warning. Even a profound practitioner from the God Realm, a Divine Sovereign or even a Divine Master would've seen their willpower falter... especially considering that this was a nightmare that he would never wake up from.

“Is there a way... to recover from this?” His voice was incredibly weak and slow.

“There’s no such thing as an easy resurrection,” the Phoenix Spirit answered him. “Right now, you’re just a mortal... A weak mortal who needs time to recover. Everything you had before is now in the past.”

“...Can I start over my cultivation after I recover?” Yun Che asked again.

“You cannot.” No matter how cruel the truth was, the Phoenix Spirit wouldn’t hide it from Yun Che. “The evil god’s profound veins are still inside you, but they have passed away from this world. There is no power in the entire world that can awaken the evil god profound veins... unless you can find another drop of Evil God blood.”

“...” Yun Che stared blankly and emptily towards the front.

The ice phoenix girl at the bottom of the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake had once told him that the Evil God had ended his own life prematurely in order to leave behind a single drop of Indestructible Blood. This also meant that the Evil God’s Indestructible Blood Jasmine found at the Southern Divine Region was well and truly the one and only inheritance the Evil God had left behind for the world. Naturally, there was no such thing as another drop of Evil God blood.

What this meant was that his power wasn’t the only thing he had lost. He had even lost his ability to cultivate.

He would be a cripple for eternity!

“Heh... hehe...” Yun Che let out an unbelievably withered laugh. “What kind... of a joke is this... this is the price... of my resurrection? This is your so-called... Nirvana...”

Phoenix Spirit, “...”

“This is your so-called Nirvana”, Yun Che had said. His words were without a doubt an affront to the Phoenix Spirit’s dignity, but it wasn’t angry at all. It was because he knew how shocking and cruel this realization was for Yun Che.

“Why didn’t you just let me die...” Yun Che growled in a raspy voice, “At least I’d be able to accompany her in death... I promised her to meet her in the next world... why didn’t you let me die... why...”

These few lines alone had exhausted his breath and made him feel dizzy. The bitter smile on his face grew even bleaker and more terrible than before... Crippled? This was clearly worse than even a sick old man.

He hadn’t thought that he would be able to save Jasmine the day he broke into Star God Realm... but he had thought that he would at least be able to die with her.

Although he had killed many Star Guards and a Star God Elder, it was of no detriment to the “ceremony” at all. Moreover, the ceremony must’ve been completed already considering that he was out for so many days. Jasmine and Caizhi were the sacrifices for the ceremony, so they were undoubtedly dead by now. But he... he had promised to accompany Jasmine to their next lives... yet he was still alive...

Alive as a cripple for eternity...

He slowly made a pair of fists through his shaking. He tried to lift his hands, only to run out of energy before he could even raise them past his waist.

He couldn't even commit suicide even if he wanted to.

"I understand your feelings." The Phoenix Spirit said, "But life is the most precious thing the heavens have granted to every living being. No matter how petty and low one's life has become, it is still something that should be respected and appreciated. Besides, is there really nothing more important to you than death right now?"

"..." For a long time, Yun Che wasn't able to say anything. As more and more images and faces flashed through his mind, his dim pupils started shaking harder and harder...

He was on the Profound Sky Continent... he had finally come home.

He could finally meet those people that he had missed day and night and tell them that he had returned, but at the same time, he was... afraid.

How am I going to face them like this?...

A very long silence later.

"Thank you for granting me a second life," Yun Che said slowly. He sounded a little calmer than before, but his hands were still gripped tightly into fists.

"I know you cannot accept things as they are immediately." The Phoenix Spirit said, "That's not a problem. There's no need to force yourself to accept it immediately. As time passes, you will eventually find another reason to live, and maybe one day you may even come to realize that returning to normal isn't a bad thing."

Right now, this was the only way it could console Yun Che.

Yun Che's current state was something that could destroy the will of any profound practitioner. However, the Phoenix Spirit was the giver of Yun Che's current life, which is why it didn't wish to see Yun Che squander it in an eternal abyss of despair.

"..." Yun Che didn't answer it.

"Go." The Phoenix Spirit narrowed its scarlet eyes slightly. "Your second life isn't just a gift, but a trial. If you can overcome this with your own willpower, you may not just be reborn in the body, but also... the soul."

Yun Che, "..."

The Phoenix Spirit closed its eyes, and the world returned to darkness one more time before it turned bright.

The world around Yun Che had changed soundlessly, and he had been returned to the entrance of the Phoenix's trial grounds once more.

The barrier behind Yun Che resealed itself, and in front of him he saw Feng Xian'er, Feng Zu'er, Feng Baichuan, and many other Phoenix clansmen... everyone's face was etched with deep worry and anxiety.

Their expressions immediately turned into care when they saw Yun Che. Feng Zu'er and Feng Xian'er were the first ones to make it to him and support him from both sides.

A warm feeling rose from within Yun Che's darkened heart. He could see that their care had come from the bottom of their hearts, and they hadn't looked down on him or put up a pretense just because he had become a cripple. He forced a tiny smile onto his lips and said, "Senior Feng, I'm the one who asked Xian'er to bring me here. Please don't blame her for this."

Feng Baichuan shook his head with a smile. "You should focus on recuperating first. Everything else can wait."

"Big Brother Benefactor, let's carry you back first." Feng Zu'er said, "Mother has just finished cooking a pot of bamboo soup. I'm sure you'll like it."

The duo carried Yun Che and walked him towards their destination with incredible care. Yun Che resumed staring forward, at nothing in particular.

This was the Phoenix's ancestral ground, and it was situated at the center of Ten Thousand Beast Mountain Range. Everything except the scarlet sky above his head was practically the same as he remembered... It was probably a barrier the Phoenix Spirit had setup to protect the Phoenix Clan.

Five years ago, the barrier had already existed when he and Feng Xue'er showed up... perhaps it had existed even before that.

"Senior Feng," Yun Che spoke up suddenly, "You all knew that I was crippled from the beginning, didn't you?"

The palms that were supporting him tightened a little in unison.

Feng Baichuan's footsteps slowed a little before he turned around to look at Yun Che amiably, "Lord Phoenix God informed us of this when he delivered you to us ten days ago."

Yun Che, "..."

"My profound cultivation is pretty mediocre," Feng Baichuan continued after a pause, "but even I understand that this is something you won't be able to accept. However, no matter what happens to you now or in the future, you will always be our greatest benefactor... this will never change."

"Don't lose heart, Big Brother Benefactor." Feng Zu'er forced a smile onto his face, "This is all just a temporary thing. Maybe you'll regain your powers slowly after you've recuperated, and, and... even if you can't recover your lost powers, you can just... cultivate again from the beginning! Right?"

"Mn!" Feng Xian'er nodded firmly, "Big Brother Benefactor is so amazing, you were invincible throughout the world when you were just twenty or so years old. If you want to, you'll definitely become as great as before... no, you'll become even greater than before."

Feng Baichuan looked away and let out a sigh on the inside.

Yun Che smiled bitterly, "Thank you."

Back when he had first encountered them, the brother and sister were only eight years old. At the time, they had looked up to him with such reverence that their eyes looked like shining stars.

Although they had both grown up since then, they were still looking at him in admiration and reverence.

However, they didn't know that the man they had been admiring and chasing after since they were eight years old had become a complete cripple, and that he would never recover for eternity. In fact, his current condition was even worse than when his profound veins were crippled before he was sixteen years old.

At the time, he was at least at first level of the Elementary Profound Realm, and was able to generate a spark of profound light.

Some time later, a low, dying tree entered his darkened vision. Its branches were wilted, its crooked trunk looked like it would collapse at any moment, and its few remaining dry leaves groaned with death as a breeze touched them during their final moments. It looked like an old man that was nearing the end of its lifespan.

"I would like to sit there for a moment," Yun Che pointed at the old tree and whispered.

Feng Xian'er and Feng Zu'er opened their mouths slightly as they stared at Feng Baichuan with a pleading look in their eyes. The latter nodded with conflicted eyes after a moment.

The brother and sister carried Yun Che to the tree and allowed him to lean against its trunk, facing the wind and a nice, long view. Yun Che wanted to calm down and force himself into accepting his current reality, but his willpower and his mind seemed to have sunk into a bottomless abyss with no escape in sight.

"I would like some quiet to myself." Yun Che stared towards the front and whispered softer than even the mountain breeze blowing towards him.

Feng Baichuan nodded slightly and accepted his request. Unlike the innocent Feng Xian'er and Feng Zu'er, he knew far more about the despair Yun Che was experiencing.

"But... you can't stay out here for too long, okay? You'll get cold. Big Brother and I will come over and take you back later."

Feng Xian'er reminded him in worry before she finally left him. She kept looking back towards him even as she left.

Whoosh...

The breeze finally grew slightly stronger, strong enough to carry Yun Che's messy hair into the air. However, his eyes still remained blank and spiritless, and the bleakness in his heart hadn't faded in the slightest.

His eyes had returned to normal. The rock bits slightly beyond his vision were a blur to him.

A bird was chirping right beside his ears, but he had no idea when it had become perched next to him.

A dry leaf landed on his shoulder, but he couldn't sense the trajectory of its fall.

His life would always be like this, now and forever.

Chapter 1359 - Gray

When he was sixteen years old, Jasmine had remade his profound veins and given him new life.

When he was seventeen years old, he had participated in the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament as a representative of the Blue Wind Imperial Family for Cang Yue, winning first place and making history for both the Blue Wind Imperial Family and the whole nation.

When he was nineteen years old, he had single-handedly destroyed one of the four great sects of the Blue Wind Empire, Burning Heaven Clan.

In the same year, he had traveled to the Divine Phoenix Empire and participated in the Profound Sky Seven Nation Ranking Tournament as a representative of the Blue Wind Empire, once again defeating every genius from all six opposing nations single-handedly and stunning the entire Profound Sky Continent.

When he was twenty-one years old, he had survived the profound ark accident and arrived at the Illusory Demon Realm. During the Demon Empress' Grand Ceremony, he had fought six battles in a row, criticized the seven clans harshly, reunited Illusory Demon Realm and crushed Duke Huai's scheme to dust. He had saved both the Yun Family and the Demon Emperor lineage from the brink of destruction.

When he was twenty-two years old, he had returned to the Profound Sky Continent, broken into Divine Phoenix Sect by force, and forced them into ceasing fire and apologizing, saving Blue Wind Nation from the brink of destruction.

When he was twenty-four years old, Xuanyuan Wentian had achieved the divine way, but he had ultimately defeated him and saved the Profound Sky Continent and the Illusory Demon Realm from calamity. He was known as the foremost person of the continent afterwards.

When he was twenty-five years old, he had accompanied Mu Bingyun to the Snow Song Realm and defeated every genius in Divine Ice Phoenix Sect at the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake, becoming Mu Xuanyin's direct disciple as a result.

When he was twenty-six years old, he had escaped to Darkya Realm alone and wreaked havoc on its realm king's sect, Black Soul Divine Sect. He was even indirectly complicit in its ultimate destruction.

When he was twenty-eight years old, he had participated in the Profound God Convention, defeated Four God Children of the Eastern Region and even triggered a nine stage heavenly tribulation in the end. He shocked the entire world with his feats and caused every god emperor present to offer him an olive branch.

Finally, when he was twenty-nine years old, or just ten days ago... he had broken into the Star God Realm alone, unleashed a forbidden power as a Divine King, and slaughtered an elder and one thousand five hundred Star Guards.

.....

Thirteen years were a very short time to a profound practitioner. In the God Realm, it barely counted as several flashes of time during one's cultivation. However, Yun Che had spent just eight years to become the number one cultivator of a continent, and another four to stun the entire God Realm.

From the lower realms to the God Realm, and then from the lower star realms to the unparalleled king realms, his every step had astounded the world. In fact, it wouldn't even be an exaggeration to say that he was creating miracles every time he made a move.

He had the divine inheritances of five ancient True Gods, namely the Evil God, the Dragon God, the Phoenix, the Golden Crow, and the Ice Phoenix. He also possessed the divine arts belonging to the Creation Goddess of Life, Rage God, and Heavenly Wolf Star God. Not only had this never happened in the past, it was literally an unrepeatable miracle.

In the end though, everything had died with him, and they would stay dead for the rest of eternity.

That wasn't his only loss either. He had lost the red sword imprint on his arm, meaning that he would never be able to summon the Heaven Smiting Devil Slayer Sword and see Hong'er again.

Moreover, the Sky Poison Pearl and He Ling the wood spirit, the girl who had gambled everything she had and transformed into the poison spirit for revenge...

They too had vanished when he had died in the Star God Realm.

The Flames of Nirvana might have succeeded in resurrecting him in his weakest form, but there was no way it could've resurrected both Hong'er and He Ling as well.

The reason I managed to save Blue Wind Nation for Yue'er was because I had enough strength. It was also why I had managed to save Grandfather and Lingxi, find father and mother in the Illusory Demon Realm, meet Xue'er, save the both the Demon Emperor's line and the Illusory Demon Realm for Caiyi, and return to the Azure Cloud Continent to find Ling'er and master...

Grandfather... father... mother... Yuanba... Yue'er... Lingxi... Xue'er... Caiyi... Ling'er...

I'm back...

But how can I face you all now that I've become a cripple...

Back at the God Realm, he wasn't able to return to Blue Pole Star because he was watched by Qianye Ying'er and countless other powerful people there. If he had acted rashly and allowed his enemies to discover his tracks, he would've brought calamity upon the people he cared about and the entire Blue Pole Star itself.

But right now, his return was perfect. He didn't leave any traces behind, and no one in the God Realm had a clue that he was still alive.

The pressure and danger the God Realm had posed was completely gone too.

But...

He raised his arm bit by bit. For the first time, he was able to raise it completely into the air.

The wind blew a dry leaf to his arm. The dry leaf had completely lost its green, and it made not a sound of life even though it was flying with the wind.

Yun Che stared quietly at the leaf, looking dazed and listless.

Since the day he met Jasmine, the next thirteen years had felt like a dream, a dream he had unfortunately woken up from.

After he had awoken from his dream, it turned out that he was still the broken, useless Yun Che; scorned and disdained, a cripple who could do nothing but rely on Xiao Lie and Xiao Lingxi for protection.

What was even more difficult to accept was that his innumerable efforts, his many brushes with death, his convictions, his pursuits... had all turned into nothing.

If that was all, he still would've had hope. He could've started fighting and pursuing again just like thirteen years ago...

But he had lost even the ability to dream.

Time passed soundlessly. Yun Che's world remained gray even now.

What else do I still have, the way I am now?

Life...

What is life?

For my whole life, I've worked hard and grown stronger again and again to survive and to lead a better life. However, I've also encountered some people and things that I'm willing to risk or even give my own life for.

But now...

I've regained my life, but being alive is all I have...

"Big Brother Benefactor!"

A girl's voice came from the distance. It was a true and melodious voice, but it failed to stir any emotion behind Yun Che's pupils at all.

Feng Xian'er gently landed beside him... she was using one of the most basic arts of the mortal way, the Profound Floating Technique that even a Sky Profound Realm profound practitioner could perform. But to him? It was an extravagant hope that he could never, ever reach again.

She tried to lift Yun Che up to his feet. "You've been here for a very long time already, and you're going to catch a cold if you stay here any longer. Let's head home now, okay?"

A cold...

Once upon a time, he could've stood in the middle of a storm that could crush mountains as solidly as a rock. But now, he had fallen so low that he needed to watch out for chills...

“Leave me.” He pushed Feng Xian’er’s hand away with whatever strength he had left.

“Big Brother Benefactor,” Feng Xian’er caught his arm again, “please listen to me, will you? Everyone’s so worried about you. You haven’t eaten anything since you’ve awakened, so I’m sure you’re hungry already. Mother’s cooked a lot of great food besides the bamboo soup, you know...”

“Leave me!” Yun Che’s voice abruptly grew heavier. Feng Xian’er might have tried to be as gentle as possible with her words, but they were no different from ice cold stings to Yun Che. He said coldly, “You’ll never call me Big Brother Benefactor again... That man is dead already. The one in front of you is nothing but a... useless cripple. Get it!?”

“...” Feng Xian’er’s lips parted slightly in shock. It was clear that she was startled by Yun Che’s reaction. Her eyes immediately turned watery as she bit her lips in an attempt to keep herself from breaking into tears, “Big Brother Benefactor, please don’t be... like this. You’ll... you’ll get better... you’ll definitely get better...”

“You don’t understand.” Yun Che looked away, “You don’t understand anything... Go. Leave me.”

“Big Brother Benefactor, I...”

“Can’t you understand what I’m talking about!” Yun Che’s voice grew heavier, “Go!!”

“Cough... cough cough...”

A gust of mountain wind entered his mouth, causing him to cough painfully and violently.

“...” The girl stared at him helplessly, the tears she tried so hard to hold in finally sliding down her cheeks. She would never forget that gentle, great figure who had descended from the sky like a god and saved them from danger. Since then, she had done everything she could just to get closer to him...

But why...

“No... you’re not like this...” Feng Xian’er shook her head as tears streaked down her cheeks soundlessly, “Back then, you weren’t afraid of those bad people at all even though you were hurt so badly... you didn’t hesitate in the slightest even though the Phoenix Trial was very difficult...”

“Big Brother Benefactor...” She bit down on her lips harder and harder until everything turned into a heart shattering cry, “I hate the way you are right now!”

Feng Xian’er turned around and flew away while covering her mouth. Her tears occasionally fell down from the sky.

“...” Yun Che closed his eyes as the trace of a pathetic, bitter smile crossed his lips.

Heh... To think that I would say such harsh words to a girl who cared for me with all her heart...

I had always thought that my heart was strong, but I was just fooling myself after all.

It was at this moment a tall figure slowly walked up to him and stood next to the old tree.

It was Feng Baichuan.

“Sorry,” Yun Che said without strength.

Feng Baichuan shook his head, "There's no need. She's only come into contact with the world for less than two years, and she hasn't experienced any true hardships or changes in her life yet. It's no wonder she doesn't understand."

Yun Che, "..."

"A long time ago, our ancestor made a grave mistake and was punished by Lord Phoenix God with a bloodline curse. He could never cultivate beyond the Elementary Profound Realm. After that, he led his clan here to hide from outsiders. Back then, I told you that the reason he did this was to atone for his sins and protect his clansmen, but in reality..." Feng Baichuan let out a soft sigh, "It was mostly because he was completely disheartened after losing all of his profound energy."

Yun Che, "..."

"Although I've never experienced a roller coaster like this personally, the heights you've reached are so much higher than what our ancestor had achieved, and the abyss you've fallen into so much grayer. That is why I know that what you're feeling right now is hundreds, thousands of times worse than our ancestor's."

"Our ancestor never broke free from his nightmare. He passed away in depression at an early age." Feng Baichuan turned to look at Yun Che. "But what about you?"

"..." Yun Che couldn't say anything.

The sky started to darken as evening approached. The mountain breeze was starting to turn chilly.

"You were already titled the 'foremost' at such a young age, so I'm sure that you've gone through countless dangers and tempering in your life. However, the one you're facing now may be your biggest trial yet."

"While you were unconscious, you spoke the names of many people, so I believe that you still have many regrets and worries in your heart. If that is true... I'm sure you will not resign yourself to oblivion."

"...Give me some time," Yun Che muttered.

Feng Baichuan nodded and turned away, "We will not spread word of your stay here... until the day you're willing to set out again."

The day grew darker and darker. The moon had risen before Yun Che realized it, and starlight pierced through the gaps between the tree leaves to bathe him in light. Somehow, it made him feel even colder and more alone.

Since no one had come to disturb him after Feng Baichuan's departure, he just stayed there unmoving as if he was nothing more but a corpse. His eyes continued to stare aimlessly.

"Big Brother Benefactor..."

It was at this moment a girl's voice rang beside him yet again. She was holding a hot bowl of soup, and her reddened eyes made it clear that she had been crying for a very long time, "I'm sorry, I shouldn't have said something like that to you... please don't get angry with me, please?"

“...” Yun Che didn’t move a muscle.

The girl walked closer and spoke timidly as if she was a child who had just committed a grave mistake, “You just woke up, and you’ve been starving for a day... this is a new bowl of soup mother and I boiled together. Please drink some, will you?”

Yun Che’s dry lips parted slightly, “I’m not hungry.”

His voice sounded both weak and raspy.

He no longer had a divine physique which could forgo food or drink. He had suffered the wind for an entire day, and he hadn’t eaten or drunk anything just as long. Right now, he was far weaker than when he had just woken up, and his vision had been blurry since a long while ago.

Feng Xian’er didn’t try to change his mind further. She knelt quietly beside Yun Che and kept him company in silence. She held her soup on her lap and kept it protected carefully with profound energy, not allowing any breeze or dust to enter the bowl.

Chapter 1360 - Starlight

“Big Brother Benefactor,” Feng Xian’er’s eyes slowly turned distant as she said softly, “Did you know? Big Brother and I worked hard to cultivate every day after both you and Big Sister Xueruo were gone. From Elementary Profound Realm... to True Profound Realm... Spirit Profound Realm... Earth Profound Realm... Sky Profound Realm... Emperor Profound Realm... Every time I achieved a breakthrough, I would be overjoyed and shouting your name happily in my heart... because I’d finally gotten closer to you again.”

Yun Che, “...”

“Later on, big brother and I were finally allowed to leave, so we traveled the entire Profound Sky Continent and visited quite a few places in the Illusory Demon Realm as well. Your legend is everywhere no matter where we go, you know? You saved Blue Wind Nation, the Illusory Demon Realm, and the Profound Sky Continent. You are a god not only to us, but also the entire continent.”

“The places you’d gone to... Floating Cloud City, New Moon Profound Palace, Wasteland of Death, Blue Wind Profound Palace, Demon Imperial City, and more... We visited all of them. I’d be so happy every time I heard any rumor that was related to you. Big Brother and I wanted to meet you again so much, but we later heard that you’d left this world to go to a higher plane.”

“Some time after that, we ran into Big Sister Phoenix Goddess, and she told us that you were the one who had saved us again five years ago, and that you were also the one who had left behind the complete version of the World Ode of the Phoenix and those miraculous spirit pellets. It was at that moment we knew that you’d never forgotten about us even after you’d become a legend...”

“I cried a lot on that day. Even Big Brother shed a lot of tears while he comforted me.”

A beautiful, soft smile appeared around the corner of her lips, but her face was streaked in tears.

“...” Yun Che had never realized that his careless gift would strike such a deep chord in the duo’s hearts.

“You’re... not just a benefactor to me,” Feng Xian’er whispered quietly like she was talking in her sleep, “You are the goal I’d decided to spend my entire life chasing after since I was eight years old, and you are the sky in my heart.”

She turned around and stared at him dazedly, “The sky... may rain or turn gray, but it can never truly fall on our heads, right?”

“...” The tears in her eyes looked like starlight. They slipped soundlessly into his heart and soul.

He might be a cripple now, but he was still the sky in another’s heart...

The light of her tears entered the darkened world, and Yun Che opened his mouth slightly before turning to look at her, “Xian’er, I’m feeling a little hungry... Can you... Feed me?”

Right now, he honestly didn’t have the strength to lift his arms.

Feng Xian’er’s teary eyes trembled once before she nodded with great force...

She raised the bowl and grabbed a delicate-looking wooden spoon that she had made herself. Although she was at the Emperor Profound Realm, her fingers felt weak to her for some reason. She had to gather nearly all of her concentration to successfully push the filled spoon gently into Yun Che’s mouth.

The warm liquid entered his body and brushed gently against his mind. Yun Che looked up slightly to the infinitely gray sky again, and for the first time he saw many beautiful stars that he had unconsciously neglected before.

...It had been a long, long time since he last had a girl feed him like this.

Xiao Lingxi had been the only one to do so during this life, and Su Ling’er in his last.

Western Divine Region, Dragon God Realm, Forbidden Land of Samsara.

Shen Xi’s figure and countenance were covered by white mist. The only thing that was revealed was a vague outline.

Beside her, a tall, imposing figure stood with a serious expression on his face. Although he wasn’t circulating any aura, an invisible, draconic might seemed to fall naturally from the heavens and silence the entire space that was the Forbidden Land of Samsara.

“Has the Evil Infant truly come back to life?” Shen Xi asked.

“Mn.” Dragon Monarch nodded, “All four god emperors of the Eastern Divine Region fought a terrible battle against the Evil Infant in the Star God Realm, and while Qianye Fantian, Zhou Xuzi, and Xing Juekong were injured terribly in that battle, Yue Wuya passed away because his injuries were too severe. Xing Juekong has gone missing, but he has probably just gone into hiding due to the severe damage done to his heart and soul. Qianye Fantian and Zhou Xuzi’s injuries were pretty severe as well, and the level of devilish energy they were tainted with was extremely high. It will take them several years, or even several dozen years to flush it completely from their systems.”

“A huge number of Star Gods, Moon Gods, Guardians and Brahma Kings perished in that battle as well.”

“Considering how terrifying the Evil Infant already is when she has just awakened, the consequences of not finding her soon are... unimaginable.”

The Dragon Monarch looked incredibly solemn. For the past two hundred thousand years, he has been the strongest, highest, and most untouchable existence in the entire God Realm and Primal Chaos. But today, an ancient power that surpasses his had resurfaced, and it possessed the ability to threaten any living being or race in the world.

“Does this mean that the Dragon God Realm is prepared to send someone to the Eastern Divine Region to seek out the Evil Infant?” Shen Xi asked.

“There is no other way,” the Dragon Monarch nodded with deep eyes, “the World Destroying Devil Wheel... isn’t something that matters to the Eastern Divine Region only. Even the six king realms of the Western Divine Region will be sending their main force to the Eastern Divine Region in the hope that they can hunt down the Evil Infant while it is still weakened in the shortest time possible.”

“The Southern Divine Region is acting similarly as well.”

“In the past, the Eastern Divine Region would’ve stopped this no matter what, but this time they were actually urging the two divine regions to act faster.” Dragon Monarch exhaled slightly before continuing, “Both Brahma Monarch Realm and Eternal Heaven Realm are incredibly powerful, but even they were scared out of their wits after just one battle... It doesn’t take much to imagine just how scary the Evil Infant is.”

“There’s one more thing I need to tell you, but you probably knew it already.” Dragon Monarch suddenly changed the subject and said, “Yun Che passed away during the Evil Infant calamity as well. But did you happen to know why he had suddenly traveled to the Star God Realm without warning? According to Zhou Xuzi, he even passed through the Absolute Star Soul Barrier somehow. How strange.”

Shen Xi answered indifferently, “What’s the point of knowing this if he’s already dead?”

“It’s just... such a shame.” the Dragon Monarch shook his head before letting out a sigh, “He was an unparalleled genius who attracted a nine stage heavenly tribulation. I’m not sure if someone like him will ever appear in the God Realm again even if another million years were to pass. To think that he would perish this soon... especially when you’d even broken your golden rule for him.”

“...” A misty look flitted across Shen Xi’s eyes for a moment, and she asked slowly, “I heard that the Evil Infant’s host is the Heavenly Slaughter Star God?”

“That’s right.”

“Are you sure that she is just... the host?”

The Dragon Monarch looked a little surprised before he turned around to look at her in puzzlement, “What do you mean?”

“...” The way the Evil Infant’s Wheel of Myriad Tribulations returned to life had been largely different from her initial expectations. But instead of explaining herself, she replied softly, “What I mean to say is, is it possible that she isn’t the host of the Evil Infant’s Wheel of Myriad Tribulations, but the master?”

“That is absolutely impossible,” Dragon Monarch shook his head without hesitation, “The first thing the Evil Infant did after she had awakened was to slaughter the people of the Star God Realm. If the Heavenly Slaughter Star God hadn’t been robbed of her body and soul, why would she kill her fellow star gods, wound her own father, and destroy nearly the entire Star God Realm?”

“...” Emotions stirred behind Shen Xi’s eyes. Yun Che’s figure and the absolute determination he had shown her just before he left surfaced inside her heart.

“Moreover, the Evil Infant’s Wheel of Myriad Tribulations and the Heaven Punishing Ancestral Sword were the two strongest artifacts of the Primal Chaos. One of them was absolutely evil, and the other absolutely holy. Back in the days of the Era of Gods, the Evil Infant’s Wheel of Myriad Tribulations never had a master. Even the head of the Creation Gods, the Heaven Punishing Devil Emperor wasn’t worthy of becoming the Heaven Punishing Ancestral Sword’s master, and could only command it to a very limited degree. How could there be anyone who could command the Evil Infant’s Wheel of Myriad Tribulations in this day and age?”

“...” Shen Xi nodded slightly as if she was acknowledging the truth behind his words.

“Oh right, where is He Ling? Why don’t I see her?” Dragon Monarch looked around a little.

“She has found her true calling. Naturally, I couldn’t keep her here.” Shen Xi replied before turning around. Her gentle voice sounded like flying cotton in the wind, “You may go. My mental state is in a bit of a disorder as of late. I need to go into seclusion for a time, and you will be busy dealing with the Evil Infant yourself. You may not see me for a short period of time.”

The Dragon Monarch raised his arms slightly, but in the end he nodded, “Alright. Qianye Fantian and Zhou Xuzi are currently being plagued by the devilish energy from that battle. If they decide to come to you during their time of need, but you are unwilling to help them at that time, then I will show up and turn them away for you.”

Shen Xi nodded imperceptibly.

“Considering that you enjoy to company of a wood spirit, should I go find another one like Ling’er for you?”

“That is unnecessary. You may go.”

Finally, the Dragon Monarch left the scene.

When the draconic might left the Forbidden Land of Samsara, the water started flowing, the birds started chirping, and the butterflies starting flapping their wings once more. Shen Xi stood alone in this world, accompanied by neither He Ling nor Yun Che.

“He willingly went to his death for her, whereas she woke the Evil Infant for him.” Shen Xi spoke quietly to herself, “Human emotions are so... subtle.”

She stretched out her perfectly white arm in front of herself, and in her palm sat a delicate, vermillion-colored crystal. Her eyes misted slightly before she whispered to herself, “Wan Hu... who knew that our reunion would be this short? But... considering that you are a carefree soul, I’m sure you have no lingering regrets.”

She slowly gripped the vermillion crystal... but a sudden thought caused her to open her palm again. Her eyes went blank with shock.

She's... asleep...?

He's... still alive?

Profound Sky Continent, Blue Wind Nation. At the center of the Ten Thousand Beast Mountain Range, where the Phoenix Clan lived.

Yun Che's arrival was without a doubt great news to this little lost clan.

Ever since Feng Xian'er words and tears had opened a tiny gap in Yun Che's darkened, deadened heart, he was no longer the same person he was during the first day. Since the start of the second day, he started building up his terribly weak body consciously and stopped rejecting rest, food, and drink. Sometimes, he would even reveal a smile or two.

However, most of his time he was still blanking out, feeling lost... and looking indescribably pitiful and lonely.

Five days later, he was able to walk for a short period with Feng Xian'er and Feng Zu'er supporting him.

Ten days later, he could take a few steps on his own without aid.

Everyone here treated him with incredible kindness. Not only did they think of him as a benefactor they could never repay in full, they hadn't looked down on him because he had become a cripple even once.

It was the good karma he had sowed himself many years ago.

Back when he still had the divine body of a dragon god and the Rage God Arts, he had been able to recover fully in a day even when he was near death. Of course, his current recovery rate was absolutely nothing like before.

Slow his recovery might be, but he was without a doubt improving every day.

Time passed quickly, and before he knew it it had been almost a month since his return.

By now, he could walk on his own for a very long distance. His body wasn't as numb and weak as it was before. He could address every resident by their names, and the smile on his face seemed to appear even more frequently than before.

However, he hadn't once requested to leave the Phoenix Clan... In fact, he hadn't even asked anyone about the outside world.