

## The Gods 1581

Chapter 1581 - Heretic God Seed—Wind

The first month of Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er's stay at Central Ruins Realm.

Yun Che touched the middle of Yun Shang's back with his finger, guided her profound energy through a specific cycle, and gently pushed.

Crack!

A spread of nine lightning bolts appeared in the sky at the same time. The lightning domain was shockingly powerful, considering that it had even disturbed the nearby storms.

Yun Shang's hands froze in midair, and her mouth widened into an O-shape. She said blankly, "Is... is this really my power? How... how can such a small change make such a big difference?"

"What is this profound art called in your family?" Yun Che asked.

"The Heavenly Handle Thunder Cloud Art," Yun Shang answered obediently. Nearly everything in the clan had the words "heavenly handle" in their name because it was the pride and symbol of their clan.

Yun Che's profound handle was called the "Heavenly Handle Divine Power". However, an outsider would call it a "Devil Handle".

"Remember what I taught you just now, and recultivate the Heavenly Handle Thunder Cloud Art with it."

The Heavenly Handle Thunder Cloud Art was called the Purple Cloud Art in the Yun Family. Yun Che had created the incredibly powerful Heavenly Law Tribulation Lightning Art by merging the heavenly law's tribulation lightning into the Purple Cloud Art.

Yun Shang couldn't use the heavenly law's tribulation lightning, but the changes Yun Che made to the profound art still improved the power of the Heavenly Handle Thunder Cloud Art drastically.

"Can... can I teach this to my clansmen?" Yun Shang asked nervously.

"Do as you please," Yun Che replied.

Any evolution to a profound art was something worthy of celebration by the whole clan, but... it meant nothing to Yun Che. It was something that came to him as easily as breathing.

He could merge even the Heretic God and the Heavenly Wolf's techniques together. Improving the Heavenly Handle Thunder Cloud Art was mere child's play.

"Thank you, senior." Yun Shang thanked him happily. "You're so amazing, senior, but... you saved my life, you promise to take me back to my family, and you even taught me a stronger version of the Heavenly Handle Thunder Cloud Art... why have you treated me so well, senior?"

"Because we share the same surname," Yun Che replied with the same indifference as before.

"You say that, but most people do their best to stay clear of us even though their surname is Yun." Yun Shang's voice grew weak when she said this, but she quickly shook her head and smiled once more.

"You're truly a good person, senior."

“Good person?” Yun Che smiled emotionlessly at her. “I’m not a good person, and I don’t want to be a good person. Don’t insult me with that adjective.”

“Eh?” Yun Shang was confused. She was obviously praising him, so why did he say she was insulting him?

Yun Che suddenly touched Yun Shang in between her eyebrows and injected an incredibly precious drop of Dragon Dawn Jade Nectar into her body. After he was done refining the nectar for her, he activated Eternal Calamity of Darkness and altered her body until it was perfectly compatible with darkness profound energy.

This was the second time Yun Che had used the elementary power of Eternal Calamity of Darkness to alter the body of a “devil person” to be perfectly compatible with darkness profound energy, so he wasn’t worried that he would lose control and trigger a cultivation backlash... the first time was when he experimented with the technique on Dongfang Hanwei.

Yun Shang could sense how her body was changing into something completely different from before. She might be young, but she wasn’t so young that she wasn’t aware that the transformation was nothing short of a miracle. She felt like she was in a dream as she stared at her hands and sensed the darkness profound energy inside of her. It was completely different from before.

A long time later, she broke out of her reverie and tried to get down on her knees, but Yun Che caught her in time before saying, “There’s no need.”

“Ah...” Yun Shang sighed before looking up at Yun Che with eyes full of admiration and excitement. She said seriously, “Yun Shang thanks senior for granting her a second life... Yun Shang will never forget this debt for as long as she lives.”

Yun Che turned his face away to avoid her eyes. He said coldly, “From now on, you have perfect mastery over darkness profound energy. Not many will notice it even outside of the Northern Divine Region unless you expose it yourself... This means you now have the power to leave this prison forever if you wish.”

But Yun Shang shook her head slowly and firmly before saying, “No. I want to go back.”

“Hmph, what a naive and stubborn girl you are.” A cold smile flashed across Yun Che’s face. “You would waste your clansmen’s effort to send you away in the first place?”

He didn’t try to change her mind, however. He said, “If you insist on treading this path, then you’d best cultivate everything I taught you seriously. Don’t be a burden who can only rely on others!”

Yun Shang bit her lips before asking suddenly, “Can I be your disciple, senior?”

“No, you can’t!” Yun Che said before turning around and leaving. He gave her no chance to change his mind.

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It had been half a year since the day the bounty for Yun Che’s head was issued across the three Divine Regions. Instead of growing lax as one might expect of a fruitless bounty, the strength and intensity of the pursuit only increased over time.

This was especially true for the Eternal Heaven God Realm. Forget the adjudicators, even the guardians were searching Yun Che in full force. It was practically the only thing they did these days.

Naturally, the excessive effort invested into hunting Yun Che drew suspicion and caused rumors among the public, but the Eternal Heaven God Realm had ignored all of them.

Eastern Divine Region, Moon God Realm.

The long sealed barrier opened slowly. A fantastical woman sporting a purple-colored moon dress with a long tail slowly walked out from inside.

The girl who had been standing guard since the beginning of Xia Qingyue's seclusion lowered herself and said, "Congratulations on finishing your seclusion, master."

Xia Qingyue opened her eyes and asked quietly, "Where are Lian Yue and Yao Yue?"

"Master, Lian Yue is still searching for the Dragon Queen in the Dragon God Realm in secret. As for Yao Yue... she has gone to the Northern Divine Region," Jin Yue replied before getting back to her feet.

"The Northern Divine Region? Why there? Has there been news of Yun Che already?"

"No," Jin Yue replied. "Despite not finding Yun Che for a long time, the Eternal Heaven God Emperor refuses to believe that Yun Che is dead. He strongly believes that Yun Che escaped to the Northern Divine Region, and he gathered the representatives of the king realms just a few days ago to discuss a plan to invade the Northern Divine Region by force."

Xia Qingyue fell silent for a moment before saying coldly, "That is an irrational thought. They won't dare force their way in. The Hell Devil's 'Tooth and Claw' and the Devil Queen's 'Shadows' are scattered throughout the Northern Divine Region... and they won't be forgetting the lesson of that soul stealing incident anytime soon."

She then moved on to the next topic and asked, "How are things in the Snow Song Realm?"

"Master, it's public knowledge that the Ice Phoenix Divine Sect was your former sect... Plus, the new realm king of Flame God Realm, Huo Poyun declared that an act of offense against the Snow Song Realm was the same as an act of offense against the Flame God Realm. So no one has tried to attack the Snow Song Realm over Yun Che just yet."

Jin Yue shot Xia Qingyue a glance before asking in a small voice, "Master, there is one thing this servant doesn't understand. You wanted to kill Yun Che and wipe away all traces of the past, so why are you protecting the Snow Song Realm..."

"That's not important." Xia Qingyue cut her off. "Tell the Moon Gods and Moon Divine Envoys to gather at the Moon Spirit Hall nine hours from now."

"Ok... ah!" Jin Yue suddenly let out an exclamation of surprise. She was staring at Xia Qingyue's chest.

Xia Qingyue frowned slightly and asked, "What's wrong?"

"Master, your..." Jin Yue pointed. "Your mirror is... cracked."

Xia Qingyue looked down and lifted the bronze mirror Yue Wugou had left her, the mirror she had never taken off her neck.

There was a long, thin crack on its surface... but she had no idea when the crack had occurred.

Holding the mirror without moving a muscle, Xia Qingyue stared blankly at the bronze mirror for a very, very long time... Jin Yue bit her lip and looked at her master in worry. It was because she knew that the bronze mirror was the treasure she cherished the most. She never took it off even when she was bathing, and she cared for it meticulously.

So why did the crack appear out of nowhere?

The bronze mirror slowly opened in her hands... and Xie Qingyue suddenly froze without warning. The bronze mirror snapped shut weakly as she closed her eyes.

Xia Qingyue's fingers tightened bit by bit, and a weak flash of purple was accompanied by the crisp noise of something breaking... The crack on the bronze mirror had spread even further.

She let out a quiet, long sigh before throwing the bronze mirror to a frozen Jin Yue. She then said, "Please destroy it for me."

"Ah!" Jin Yue subconsciously caught the mirror before looking toward her master, but Xia Qingyue was already gone. She looked lost as she held the mirror in her hands.

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At the center of the Primal Chaos where the God Realm of Absolute Beginning was, there was a lifeless land filled with infinite darkness called the "Abyss of Nothingness". It had been this way since ancient times, be it in memory or record.

But something was different. It was a bit noisier than usual.

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Northern Divine Region, Central Ruins Realm.

As usual, the sandstorms were howling like the wails of countless devils.

Half a year had passed in the blink of an eye, and Nanhuang Chanyi had forbade everyone, including herself, from disturbing Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er as promised.

He had finally refined the last bit of divine energy the ice phoenix being had imparted him before her passing.

Today, two figures walked out of the violent sandstorm.

Yun Che held Yun Shang's hand as they walked toward the end of the Central Ruins Realm and the deepest part of the storm.

If this was half a year ago, he would've needed to raise his defenses to protect himself from the elements at the heart of the sandstorms. But now, they couldn't even touch his hair or his clothes.

The protective power he applied onto Yun Shang was just as absolute.

“Where are we going, senior?” Yun Shang asked.

“We’re searching for something,” Yun Che said.

“This place is terrifying.” Although Yun Che’s power kept her from being hurt, the natural disaster happening right before her eyes was as real as it was destructive. It was impossible to not be afraid of it, and just walking through the area took a lot of courage out of her.

“Not as terrifying as that woman,” Yun Che said. “She would’ve killed you if I left you behind.”

“Ah? But why?” Yun Shang asked in confusion, “Sister Qianye is a gentle woman, isn’t she?”

“...” Yun Che didn’t give her an explanation.

The terrible storm suddenly ceased, and the sky of sand vanished into nothing in an instant.

Yun Che stopped in his tracks, and Yun Shang’s mouth fell wide open. She couldn’t understand what she was looking at.

The storm was gone, and the world before them was perfectly flat. It was almost as if it was polished to perfection by the storm outside.

At the center of the flat world was a tiny vortex. A green dot was shining inside it.

“To think it would be in the Northern Divine Region,” Yun Che whispered to himself. “Is this fate?”

Yun Shang turned to look at him, but she didn’t understand his words at all.

Yun Che’s profound energy was boiling out of control. Four colors—black, red, blue and lightning—lit up inside his profound veins, and Yun Che extended his hand toward the dark green star in front of him...

The dark green star immediately leaped into the air and slammed into Yun Che’s solar plexus as if it was drawn by an irresistible force. It then merged soundlessly into his body.

Whoosh!!

A special vortex appeared in Yun Che’s profound veins, and the instantaneous burst of profound energy caused Yun Che’s clothes and hair to dance in the air. A green world appeared in his profound veins when the vortex was gone.

The Heretic God Seed of the Storm had finally returned!

Chapter 1582 - The Northern Devil Queen

A long time ago, Jasmine told him that the Heretic God’s memories in his Indestructible Blood showed her that the seeds were scattered across the Blue Pole Star. That was one of the reasons why she went to the Profound Sky Continent.

Maybe Jasmine hadn’t wanted to mention the Northern Divine Region and had left it out of her explanation, or maybe the Heretic God had purposely removed it from his memories for some reason... but the fifth Heretic God Seed after fire, water, lightning and darkness was found in the Northern Divine Region!

In the world of devils.

If he hadn't obtained the darkness seed first and learned some of the Heretic God's ancient secrets, the reason behind the seed's location would've eluded him.

Yun Che waved his arm gently, and a storm engulfed the world in front of him like ten thousand flying dragons. The domain of wind was huge, but they roared with impeccable precision according to Yun Che's will. When Yun Che withdrew his arms, the wind also disappeared in an instant.

"Wah!" Yun Shang exclaimed in admiration, "You cultivate wind profound energy too, senior? You're amazing."

Most Northern Divine Region profound practitioners cultivated darkness profound energy, and less than half that number cultivated other types of profound energy. However, she had seen fire, lightning, and wind from Yun Che already. As far as she knew, she had never seen a profound practitioner like him.

"Let's go."

Yun Che turned around and led Yun Shang back the way they came.

He had sensed the Heretic God Seed's existence since the first day he came to the Central Ruins Realm. He immediately figured that the eternal storms of the Central Ruins Realm might be caused by the Heretic God Seed.

However, he hadn't sought it out immediately. If the storm of the Central Ruins Realm suddenly stopped without warning, it would draw a lot of attention.

In the past, finding a Heretic God Seed would've excited him a lot. But today, he felt unnaturally cool-headed and unconcerned. Perhaps this was how one felt when their heart had died, leaving only hatred behind.

By the time he returned to Qianye Ying'er's side, the storm had already eased up quite a bit.

Qianye Ying'er was going to ask something when she suddenly noticed the change in Yun Che's aura. His body was clearly surrounded by pure wind element.

Her pupils became focused as she stared at Yun Che like he was a monster again. She asked, "Don't tell me you've mastered wind profound energy?"

Yun Che waved his hand... and all the storms within a hundred kilometers of him disappeared immediately. The world was oppressively silent for a time.

"..." Qianye Ying'er sucked in a shallow breath before saying, "The Creation God of the Elements truly deserves his name. The three divine regions mustn't have realized what kind of monster they've brought down upon their heads. What's even funnier is the fact that this terrifying monster used to be a kind-hearted messiah who just wanted to return to his home in the lower realms and live in peace. Hahahaha!"

Qianye Ying'er suddenly laughed loudly. Her words, her laughter; they were all infused with deep irony and sorrow.

"It's time to go," Yun Che said.

"Where?" Qianye Ying'er shot Yun Shang a glance before saying, "Are we taking her home?"

"That's right."

"Ah!" Yun Shang looked up in pleasant surprise. "Really?"

"I'm half a step away from entering the Divine Sovereign Realm," Yun Che said. From level five Divine King to peak Divine King; it was the kind of progress that could scare the shit out of god emperors. However, the words had poured out of his mouth without the slightest hint of emotion. "My need has outgrown the available resources... Thousand Desolation Realm seems like a good choice for our next step."

"Does this mean you wish to avoid Nanhuang Chanyi?" Narrowing her golden eyes, Qianye Ying'er's lips suddenly curved dangerously as she said, "I actually think we should meet her. She said she'll show up after half a year, and I believe she won't break her promise."

"Weren't you the one who claimed to hate getting into pointless trouble?" Yun Che replied coldly, but a sudden thought caused him to raise his eyebrows and ask, "Did you figure out who she is?"

"Perhaps." Qianye Ying'er lifted a finger and summoned a sound isolating barrier around them, keeping Yun Shang out of the loop. Then, she said slowly, "The Northern Divine Region is far more isolated from the other divine regions than you can possibly imagine. Let me guess, you've never heard of any concrete rumors regarding the Northern Divine Region, nor the name of a powerful devil person from that area despite having lived in the Eastern Divine Region for several years. Am I right?"

"..." She was correct.

"In the Eastern Divine Region, the Brahma Monarch God Realm's ability to gather intelligence is second only to the Moon God Realm, which has the special ability 'Soaring Moon'. However, even we knew very, very little about the Northern Divine Region. Despite our best efforts, most of the information we've gotten has been centered around their three greatest king realms. No one paid attention to their young geniuses because there was simply no need."

"But Nanhuang Chanyi knows that you exist. Isn't that very strange? Moreover, what she said to you and how she acted toward you that day... it made me feel like she knows about the nine stage lightning tribulation, the True God prophecy about you, your Heretic God profound veins, and even... the return of the Devil Emperor. "

"If I'm wrong, then I can't understand why she would say the words 'dawn of darkness'."

"..." Yun Che's frown deepened slightly.

"Only someone from a king realm could know you to this extent and identify you with such ease! But it's a fact that Nanhuang Chanyi is just the princess of a divine country in a middle star realm."

"She's someone from a king realm, but she hides herself in a middle star realm with a flawless cover. She's a woman, and that hazy feeling she gives..." Qianye Ying'er didn't realize that her own eyebrows were furrowed. "Everything is pointing me toward a name."

“Who?”

“The Witch!”

“The Witch... who is that?” Yun Che asked.

“Before we speak of the Witch, we must speak of the so-called deadliest woman in the world. Even that old dog Qianye Fantian told me this a long time ago: if there must be one thing that scared him in the world, she would be it.”

“Her name is Chi Wuyao!”

The name Qianye Ying'er revealed... was a name Yun Che had never heard before.

“Is she one of the three devil emperors of the Northern Divine Region?” Yun Che asked. Someone who could intimidate even Qianye Fantian had to be a god emperor at least.

“She's the great realm king of the Soul Stealing Realm and one of the three god emperors of the Northern Divine Region. However, very few people call her that because she has a greater title—queen of the northern region, the ‘Devil Queen’.”

“If she's the queen, then who's the king?” Yun Che asked.

“There is no such person,” said Qianye Ying'er as darkness flashed across her eyes. “No one has ever dared to call themselves the ‘king’ of the northern region.”

“Is she that much powerful compared to the other god emperors?” Yun Che asked with a frown.

“No,” Qianye Ying'er said, “It's because all the men who had an affair with her... are dead.”

Yun Che, “...”

“Apparently, she has a face that can charm the entire world, and every frown or smile she makes can consume one's body and soul... literally!” Qianye Ying'er let out a disdainful snort as she said this. “It is said that she has married four men during her whole life: first a lower realm king, then a middle realm king, and after that an upper realm king... her throne is built on the corpses of men. It is said that all three realm kings are dead because she sucked their blood essence dry.”

“The last man she married is the Clear Sky God Emperor of the Clear Sky God Realm.”

Clear Sky God Realm? Yun Che's eyebrow twitched once... Qianye Ying'er once told him that there were three king realms in the northern region: Burning Moon, Hell Devil and Soul Stealing. So there shouldn't be a “Clear Sky God Realm”.

“Heh, men are such lowly and lamentable creatures.” Qianye Ying'er's lips curled into a cold, disdainful sneer. “She was a woman who climbed to her current position on the bodies of her ‘beloveds’, and only the heavens can tell how many men she went through before she got to where she is. But countless men fell for her anyway, including the Clear Sky God Emperor. He chose to marry her even though his entire realm was against it, and the entire world was laughing at his decision... naturally, his death was just as laughable and lamentable.”

“...You mean that Clear Sky God Emperor is dead too!?” Shock finally flashed across Yun Che's face.



“Correct, he’s dead.” The sneer on Qianye Ying’er’s face grew wider. “Just like all the men she married before, there were no signs of battle, poison, internal or external injuries at all on their bodies. They were even smiling... except they’re all dead now.”

“That isn’t all. No one knows what kind of heretical method Chi Wuyao used, but somehow she was able to make the entire Clear Sky God Realm submit to her and change the name of the realm itself to Soul Stealing Realm, all in just a hundred years’ time. Heh, I wonder, did she sleep with all the men in the entire realm to make that happen?”

“As for that dead Clear Sky God Emperor, he is a disgrace to all god emperors!”

Yun Che had never heard of the “Northern Devil Queen”, but what Qianye Ying’er described still made his blood run cold. He asked, “So, you’re saying that Nanhuang Chanyi is a subordinate of Chi Wuyao?”

“The Devil Queen is served by the ‘Nine Witches’,” Qianye Ying’er continued. “The Nine Witches are also known as the queen’s ‘Shadows’. From what I’ve heard, some people guessed that the Nine Witches are the queen’s soul avatars, or unusual women who were chosen for various reasons. Nanhuang Chanyi is probably the latter.”

“The Nine Witches hide themselves in the darkness and keep a close eye on the Northern Divine Region. They pay special attention to heretics so that the three divine regions can’t slip in a spy. No one knows who they really are, or perhaps I should say their identities are constantly changing. There are some verifiable facts about them, however. All Witches have a divine inheritance from the Soul Stealing Realm, and their strength is awe-inspiring. They also have exceptional spiritual perception and insight...”

“In conclusion, based on the limited knowledge I have regarding the Northern Divine Region, Nanhuang Chanyi is most likely a Witch serving the Devil Queen!”

Yun Che fell silent as he processed the information he had received from Qianye Ying’er.

If what she said was true, this meant that he was recognized by a king realm less than a year after he entered the Northern Divine Region... what terrible luck.

“You really are a harbinger. No place is peaceful wherever you go.”

“What do you want to do when we meet her?” Yun Che asked.

“I’m going to take back control from her, of course!” Qianye Ying’er’s eyes abruptly turned chilly. “I don’t like being pushed around by another person!”

“And how are you going to do that?”

“Oh, that’s simple.” Qianye Ying’er smiled sinisterly before holding up a small, golden bell with her slender fingers. “This here is a ‘Mini Brahma Soul Bell’. It has the ability to invade one’s soul and knock them out temporarily. As long as we don’t wake her on purpose, she shouldn’t be awake for a long time.”

“But you’ve lost your Brahma Soul power. How are you planning to use it?” Yun Che asked.

“I’m always prepared.” Qianye Ying’er gathered her fingers. “The Mini Brahma Soul Bell contains a small reserve of my Brahma Soul soul energy. It is why I was able to escape to here even though I was crippled and reduced to a Divine Sovereign by that old dog Qianye Fantian.”

“The amount of energy it currently contains is... probably enough for one more use. However, I’ll need your help to guarantee success, what with the lack of Brahma Soul soul energy and my current state.”

“You mean the Dragon Soul?”

“Correct.”

“What exactly are you planning to do?”

Qianye Ying’er moved her lips slightly and sent a sound transmission into his ears instead.

“Heh, how despicable,” Yun Che said with a sneer.

“You’ve done something a million times worse to me, haven’t you?” Qianye returned the sneer and said, “So, are we doing this or not?”

“Of course we are,” Yun Che replied without hesitation.

Chapter 1583 - Witch Chanyi

“What if she chooses to ignore the consequences and kill us because she’s too angry?” Yun Che asked.

“I’m sure she wouldn’t!” Qianye Ying’er declared with cast-iron certainty, “You think you know women better than I do?”

“That actually is a good question,” Yun Che replied coldly.

“Don’t worry, even if the thought did cross her mind, her master would never allow it,” Qianye Ying’er said with a chilling smile on her face.

“Do you know the ‘Devil Queen’ well?”

“I don’t, but...” Qianye Ying’er’s eyes turned strange as she spoke. “Her life’s journey itself is proof that she is an incredibly ambitious person. She may even be the most ambitious woman in the entire world. So there’s no way someone like her will give up on a once-in-a-lifetime chance...”

“No, a one-of-a-kind chance like you!”

“That is why we need to avoid being reactive as much as possible now that we know they are keeping an eye on us.”

A lot of time had passed since their last meeting. If Nanhuang Chanyi really was a “Shadow”, then his arrival to the Northern Divine Region must’ve reached the Devil Queen’s ears already, especially since Yun Che had practically revealed himself to Nanhuang Chanyi.

However, Qianye Ying’er was equally sure that the Devil Queen wouldn’t reveal Yun Che’s identity to the world. On the contrary, she would do everything in her power to keep him hidden from the other king realms.

For now, this was all just speculation. However—Qianye Ying'er looked toward the south—she wouldn't have to wait long for an answer.

Yun Che was doing the same thing. Nanhuang Chanyi was approaching them swiftly from that direction.

It had been exactly half a year since the Central Ruins Battle.

Nanhuang Chanyi was dressed exactly the same as she was before: golden clothes, phoenix patterns, and a headdress with jeweled tassels that hid her face. She landed softly in front of the duo before looking at her surroundings, looking slightly surprised by the changes in the weather. However, she quickly focused her attention back on Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er and greeted them with a nod, "Young Master Yun, Fairy Ying, long time no... see."

"Heh!" It was clear that Qianye Ying'er absolutely scorned the title she was given.

Nanhuang Chanyi's tone had changed drastically at the end of her sentence. She stared at Yun Che for a long time before exhaling deeply, saying, "Young Master Yun, your growth is truly... astounding."

Half a year ago, Yun Che was a level five Divine King. At the time, his cultivation level already differed from the rumors. But now... he was a level ten Divine King already!?

"You're just a Divine Spirit, but you saw through my cultivation level. I believe you're even more impressive than I am," Yun Che said indifferently.

Nanhuang Chanyi smiled at them and asked, "My master wishes to meet you both. Is that..."

"We're not interested!" Qianye Ying'er declared before Yun Che had even said anything. Her tone was cold and absolutely final.

"Don't worry, my master holds no ill intent towards either of you. On the contrary, she believes she shares a lot of common goals with you two. That is why she wants me to inform you that she'll lend you any help you need, to the fullest extent... any help at all."

The declaration wasn't something Nanhuang Chanyi had made up herself. It was exactly what her "master" had told her to say. It had taken her a long time to come to terms with the offer herself when she first heard it from her "master's" own mouth.

But after witnessing Yun Che's impossible growth with her own eyes, she was starting to understand why her "master" had promised such a thing.

"Let me guess, the help comes with one condition—she wants us to visit the Soul Stealing Realm, doesn't she?" Qianye Ying'er said with a smile.

"..." Nanhuang Chanyi looked at her for a moment before sighing, "You really are... the Brahma Monarch Goddess!"

Qianye Ying'er's speculations up to this point were spot on.

"Heh, the same goes for you, 'Witch'. I knew you knew about my true identity," Qianye Ying'er replied sneeringly.

Nanhuang Chanyi said, "Your hair looked like it was made of gold, and your beauty puts me to shame even though your face is concealed. You are a Divine Sovereign, but your soul pressure is incredibly intimidating. And finally, your current name is 'Qianying'... It feels unbelievable, but Chanyi can't help but think of the Lady Goddess who just escaped the Eastern Divine Region not long ago."

"How much do you know about Yun Che?" Qianye Ying'er asked suddenly, "Or should I say, how much does Chi Wuyao know about him!?"

Who would dare address the "Devil Queen" directly by her name in the Northern Divine Region?

Qianye would, and she was even qualified considering her former status and height.

"A lot," Nanhuang Chanyi's reply was simple and calm.

"Does that include the 'Devil Emperor'?" The temperature in Qianye Ying'er's gaze suddenly dropped several degrees lower. Her gaze almost looked sharp enough to pierce through the jeweled tassels and reach Nanhuang Chanyi's pupils.

"Yes," Nanhuang Chanyi replied.

"..." Both Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er kept quiet for a moment. Then, Qianye Ying'er smiled again and said, "Her information network runs this deep? It seems like Chi Wuyao's ambition is even bigger than I imagined. Is she planning to free the Northern Divine Region from its cage, and engulf the rest of the divine regions in darkness?"

Behind the jeweled tassels, darkness flashed across Nanhuang Chanyi's pupils. She replied, "Isn't that your ultimate goal as well? You, who have been driven into darkness?"

Nanhuang Chanyi's reply was again, simple, but it was enough to reveal Chi Wuyao's terrifying ambition to Qianye Ying'er.

The Northern Divine Region has never stopped plotting to free themselves from their cage, but not only were they not able to do it, they were barely able to put any measures into practice at all. No foreign enemy could threaten a Northern Region profound practitioner inside their shrinking domain, but the same rule also applied in reverse. If they tried to move beyond the boundaries of their domain, any divine region had enough power to crush them with ease... much less all three of them combined.

The three divine regions were always on guard against each other. Sometimes, secret wars even broke out between them. But no divine region had ever thought of the Northern Divine Region as a serious threat.

It was clear to Qianye Ying'er that the Devil Queen, Chi Wuyao, was secretly building her edge without the three divine regions realizing at all... But even if they did, they would probably think of it as nothing more than a farce.

If the ambitious Devil Queen really knew Yun Che to the extent she claimed, then it did make sense that she would do everything in her power to nurture Yun Che, a bearer of a Creation God's divine power and a True God prophecy, into her sharpest tool!

After Qianye Ying'er thought up to this point, she said, "Well said! That's exactly what Yun Che and I are aiming for. This is our first time showing up in the Northern Divine Region, and we are as lonely and

poor as a speck of dust here. We are truly honored that the Devil Queen would lend us her help and even promise us this much despite our previous identity. Therefore, we find absolutely no reason to turn down her offer.”

“...?” Yun Che kept quiet and allowed Qianye Ying’er to continue.

“However,” Qianye Ying’er’s tone changed suddenly, “The Devil Queen wants a ‘cooperative’ relationship, right? Cooperation can only exist between equals, and right now we’re so weak that we don’t even qualify as cannon fodder in the Soul Stealing Realm. We’d only be a laughing stock if we head there right now.”

“Does that mean you’re turning down my master’s offer, Fairy Ying?” Nanhua Chanyi asked. “What about Young Master Yun?”

“Of course not,” Qianye Ying’er continued. “It is cool under a large tree—it is a simple concept anyone can grasp. But no matter how sincere the Devil Queen is, it doesn’t change the fact that our strength is lacking. At our current level, the most we can do in a king realm is rely on our host’s charity... I’m sure you understand what I’m saying, my Witch.”

Nanhua Chanyi, “...”

“We are absolutely honored by the Devil Queen’s attention and invitation, and we don’t intend to turn down her offer at all. So, I’ll accept it right now on behalf of my master, Yun Che.” Qianye Ying’er sounded completely sincere. “However, we’ll meet her... in three hundred years instead of now.”

Before Nanhua Chanyi could say anything, Qianye Ying’er continued, “The Devil Queen promised to fulfill any of our requests as long as we agree to ‘cooperate’... Surely you and your master have no reason to turn down such a simple request?”

“In any case, three hundred years is but the blink of an eye compared to the eternal darkness of the Northern Divine Region.”

Qianye Ying’er easily cut off any objection Nanhua Chanyi might’ve had with the Devil Queen’s promise. The phoenix woman fell silent for a moment before asking, “What happens in three hundred years?”

“Once three hundred years is over, Yun Che and I will meet with the Devil Queen whether or not we’re qualified to enter the Soul Stealing Realm,” Qianye Ying’er promised calmly.

Qianye Ying’er had chosen a believable timeline to act as a cover.

Three hundred years was a very short time to a profound practitioner. In fact, it was as fleeting as smoke to a Divine Sovereign or a Divine Master. Just one seclusion could easily last several three hundred year spans.

To the average Divine Sovereign, one level increase in three hundred years was already a massive improvement.

But Qianye Ying’er lived intimately with Yun Che day and night, and the things she had seen from him thus far could only be described as legendary. She was absolutely certain that he could evolve into a completely new person in three hundred years.

Actually, three hundred years was too much time. He would grow to a point where it was impossible for Chi Wuyao to control him in decades at most, if not sooner.

She suspected that the actual time Yun Che would take to reach that level would be so short that it was impossible for Chi Wuyao, for anyone, to even imagine, much less be prepared for.

It was the best delaying tactic she could think of on the spot... Had she tried to turn down Chi Wuyao's offer by force, there was no telling what that woman would do considering her terrifying ambition and "sincerity".

"What do you think, Young Master Yun?" Nanhuang Chanyi asked.

"We will pay a visit to the Soul Stealing Realm in three hundred years," Yun Che said. "However, we'll be busy with our own things in the meantime, and we don't want to be disturbed at all. Surely the Devil Queen will grace us with this most basic level of sincerity if she truly wants to 'cooperate'!"

"Alright," Nanhuang Chanyi said while nodding slowly. Three hundred years was a short time; so short that it was almost negligible to a king realm, "Chanyi will relay your message exactly to my master. Please don't forget your promise when three hundred years is up."

"Oh?" Qianye Ying'er looked slightly surprised. "You are given the autonomy to make decisions for your master?"

"Chanyi is master's 'Shadow', and she is the eternal extension of her will. Master did promise to grant you any request in exchange for your cooperation, which is why Chanyi has the right to make this decision on her behalf."

"Witches... sure are interesting people." Qianye Ying'er then stretched out her fingers and revealed a golden glow in her palm. She said, "Since we are in agreement, please pass this to the Devil Queen. It is a token of our sincerity."

"Oh?" Nanhuang Chanyi's gaze shifted downward.

Suddenly, Yun Che's eyes turned black, and the image of a giant blue dragon appeared in the sky. The dragon's eyes were as black as night, and it let out an earthshaking roar the instant Nanhuang Chanyi turned her head in shock.

The Dragon God's soul was noble and supreme, but the drastic change in Yun Che's belief had warped it into something dark and deadly. Even its roar sounded more abyssal than ancient.

Completely caught off guard, Nanhuang Chanyi's eyes grew unfocused and blank. At the same time, the golden glow in Qianye Ying'er's palm took form and unleash its remaining Brahma Soul power. It poured right into Nanhuang Chanyi's crumbled mind...

Blurry gold instantly filled up Nanhuang Chanyi's world. The image of warmth and dreaminess was so pure that it balked anyone from touching it... The beautiful eyes behind the jeweled tassels slowly closed as she fell limply toward the ground.

Qianye Ying'er moved swiftly and wrapped Nanhuang Chanyi in a layer of gentle profound energy. As a result, the latter hit the ground with minimal impact.

The Brahma Soul Death-Wishing Mark wasn't the only thing that made the power of the Brahma Soul scary... The Witch's current situation was a reflection of that fact. Nanhuang Chanyi was powerful beyond measure, but she was still put to sleep by the Brahma Soul power.

That being said, Qianye Ying'er did mention that the power only put its target to sleep. It didn't restrict the soul in any way! Therefore, any attack, presence or even sound could shake her right back to wakefulness.

"Very good." Qianye Ying'er threw the Mini Brahma Soul Bell on the ground without any hesitation. Its reserves had dried up completely, and it was no longer of any use to her. If she wasn't worried about Nanhuang Chanyi waking, she might've crushed the object to bits.

A flash of twisted pleasure appeared in Qianye Ying'er's eyes as she watched the noble and elegant Nanhuang Chanyi in deep sleep. She said in a low tone, "Now, strip her!"

Chapter 1584 - Thousand Desolation Yun Clan

Yun Che didn't move. He pointed a finger at the barrier and made it blue so that Yun Shang couldn't look inside. Then, he put his hands behind his back and said, "Do it yourself."

"What's wrong? You're not interested?" Qianye Ying'er asked while looking at him sideways.

"You were the one who changed your mind in the first place, and she gave us three hundred years of leeway with little resistance. So why do we still need to do this? Aren't you afraid that it'll trigger the exact opposite of what we wanted?" Yun Che let out a soft snort before his voice cooled. "Are you really trying to 'take back control' as you claim, or are you just venting on a woman who's similar to you because of your own situation?"

"Similar? She!?" Qianye Ying'er sounded disdainful, but her teeth tightly clenched for a moment. Staring at Nanhuang Chanyi, she eventually said, "Fine, it's not like doing this myself... is the worst idea in the world!"

She extended her palm and pointed her fingers at Nanhuang Chanyi, causing profound energy to circulate soundlessly like the wind. It might look gentle to another person, but it was really as firm and sharp as a blade. It instantly sliced Nanhuang Chanyi's clothes to bits.

She made a swiping motion with her finger, and the sliced golden fabric scattered to the side at once. Finally, Nanhuang Chanyi's face and body became fully exposed.

As expected of a Witch of the Northern Devil Queen; Nanhuang Chanyi was definitely the prettiest woman of the Five Nether Ruins. Her face looked like it was sculpted by the heavens, and her body was as precious as immortal jade. Although she was currently naked and asleep, she didn't appear obscene in the slightest. On the contrary, she looked as transient and beautiful as the dancing snow, and the impression she left in the mind was one that lasts for a lifetime.

In the Northern Divine Region, not even a devil emperor would dare to violate a member of the Nine Witches like this.

"What a perfect woman," Qianye Ying'er said in a leisurely tone while her eyes roamed across Nanhuang Chanyi's body, "It'd be a shame if a man were to defile her."

That was what she said, but the glow in her eyes was clearly ill in some way. When she turned sideways and saw that Yun Che was taking his time to savor the sight of Nanhuang Chanyi's naked body, she immediately taunted him, "I thought you didn't want her?"

"It'd be a shame to not look at something this perfect," Yun Che replied.

"Is that really all you're going to do?" Qianye Ying'er asked in a seductive voice.

"I'm not planning to die anytime soon," Yun Che replied coldly.

"Heh..." Qianye Ying'er shot him a cold smile before muttering in a clearly crazed manner, "She's such a perfect woman, a Witch of the Devil Queen no less. It'd be a shame if she was defiled by a man, but it'd be an even greater shame if she isn't defiled by you. Don't you agree?"

"..." Yun Che frowned slightly at her remark. He knew that Qianye Ying'er was saying all this because she was driven by a cruel fact; the fact that she, the Brahma Monarch Goddess had become his tool and toy.

Although she was the one who made the choice herself, it didn't mean that she had completely accepted the fact. Quite the contrary, it was clear that the knowledge sat so heavily in her that it had even warped her personality... after all, even god emperors were beneath her attention in the past.

Qianye Ying'er raised her palm, and several Profound Imagery Stones appeared between her fingers. One flash later, Nanhuang Chanyi's naked body became completely captured inside the stones... Not even Qianye Ying'er herself knew if she was doing this to take back control from Nanhuang Chanyi, or to vent the dark emotions sitting inside her heart.

Qianye Ying'er threw two of the stones to Yun Che before drawing a circle in front of her. It was a simple Glazed Sound profound formation. She spoke arrogantly as the profound formation recorded her voice, "My Witch, cooperation should be built between balanced sides, don't you agree? You know our secret, and now we have your weakness."

"You better not try to track, monitor or disrupt our operations during these three hundred years... or I'll make sure that every man in the Northern Divine Region gets to savor your naked form."

When the recording was done, Qianye Ying'er turned around uncaringly and said, "Let's go."

To a righteous person, it was one of the most despicable and shameless methods of blackmail in the world. To Qianye Ying'er, it didn't even count as sinister.

Yun Che shot Nanhuang Chanyi one final look before leaving the barrier with Qianye Ying'er.

He had no grudge with Nanhuang Chanyi. On the contrary, they'd both given each other what they needed, and that Nanhuang Chanyi had only ever shown him goodwill so far. If he was his old self, he would never have allowed Qianye Ying'er to do what she did. Now, he ridiculed Qianye Ying'er, but did nothing to stop the blackmail.

"What were you doing, senior?" Yun Shang asked curiously.

It wasn't an unfamiliar situation. Every time Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er cultivated, they would erect a barrier and leave Yun Shang outside. The girl had no choice but to wait patiently even when she ran into something she didn't understand during her cultivation... sometimes, the wait even lasted several days.



"It's nothing," Yun Che replied, "we're going to take you back to your clan now... there's still time to change your mind."

Yun Shang's eyes lit up, and she declared firmly and excitedly, "I want to go back!"

"Your clansmen won't like your decision." Yun Che tried one last time to persuade her. "The reason they took you away in the first place is so that you won't get caught up by the 'deadline'."

"But they lied to me when they took me away. They told me that they found Daddy..." Yun Shang shook her head and said, "I'm not running away. I promised Little Rong and Little Yi that I'd protect them when I grow up. I can't break my promise like Daddy did."

Yun Che, "..."

"Besides, I've become much stronger during my time with Senior," she said while clenching her hands tightly. "I now have the power to protect them. I'm sure the Chief, Big Brother Xiang and everyone will be very happy to see me."

Qianye Ying'er listened quietly to her musing before commenting, "For your own sake, I hope your naivety can last forever."

Yun Che didn't waste anymore words after that. He said, "tell me where the Thousand Desolation Realm and your clan are."

Yun Shang tapped her finger against Yun Che's forehead, and they were flying toward the north immediately after.

The Central Ruins Realm was still surrounded by storms, but it was a lot calmer compared to before. In fact, it would all disappear in just a few years' time. However, no one would ever know how the storms began or died.

Nanhuang Chanyi continued to sleep peacefully inside the barrier. She couldn't possibly anticipate that someone at her level could still be put to sleep by an external force. Since the barrier completely isolated all noises from outside, it would take her at least several hours before she awoke naturally.

"How big is your clan right now?"

"About... six hundred thousand people, give or take."

"To think that a former realm king clan would decline so far. This population doesn't even match up to a minor sect of an average realm."

"We... we used to be a strong clan. Not anyone could bully us however they liked," Yun Shang's voice grew weaker even as she tried to defend her clan. It was clear that she was aware of the current state of her clan.

"Who's the strongest expert in your clan?" Yun Che asked another question.

"That would be Chief Grandpa," Yun Shang answered. "Chief Grandpa is over twenty thousand years old already. Daddy told me that Chief Grandpa used to be a godlike Divine Master, but after the incident he was punished severely by the king realm and forced to drop to the Divine Sovereign Realm. Not only

that, I think it was made so that he can never recover his cultivation, and his health became much worse after that.”

“Although Chief Grandpa is still really strong, he won’t fight unless he has no other choice. It’s because his lifespan is shortened every time he fights... before Daddy left, he said that Chief Grandpa is almost at the end of his life already.”

“How many people in the clan have purple colored ‘Heavenly Handle Divine Power’ like you?” Yun Che asked again.

“I’m the only one. Daddy and Chief Grandpa said that I’m the last ray of hope the heavens have gifted to the clan before the deadline. However...” Yun Shang bowed her head after she trailed off. She didn’t know how long it would take for her to live up to everyone’s expectations.

“...I see,” Yun Che muttered.

Yun Qinghong once told him that the strongest profound handle to ever appear in the Yun Family was blue. Although there were stories about a purple colored profound handle, it was less of a reality and more of a legend to look forward to.

However, Yun Shang’s profound handle was without a doubt purple in color!

Both Lu Bubai and Beihan Chu were clearly agitated when they saw Yun Shang unleashing a purple colored profound handle that day. This meant that even outsiders knew what a purple colored profound handle signified.

It was no wonder that the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan had tried everything in their power to send Yun Shang away.

Besides that, judging from Lu Bubai’s excessive reaction and Venerable Hidden Sword ditching his duty to chase after the Sinful Yun Clan... it would appear that the Nine Lights Heavenly Palace was plotting something sinister.

.....

Thousand Desolation Realm was one of two hundred upper star realms that existed in the Northern Divine Region.

The sky here was even darker than normal, and the concentration of darkness aura was several times thicker than the Five Nether Ruins. In certain locations, the difference was ten times or more. This place was a heaven to “devil people”, and an inescapable hell to all those who didn’t cultivate darkness profound energy. Their life force, their profound energy, and even their soul would be consumed in almost no time at all.

So far, Yun Che’s experience inside the giant prison that was the Northern Divine Region was all about its cruel laws of survival... In this world, a weakling without backing was practically synonymous to a piece of meat just waiting for someone to snap up and devour it in one gulp.

Yun Che and Qianye Ying’er were attacked dozens of times while they were traveling from the Central Ruins Realm to the Thousand Desolation Realm... and of course, what the attackers were repaid with was immediate and utter annihilation.

As they traveled north, they eventually encountered rows of meandering mountain ranges covered in thick, thunderous clouds. The clouds looked like they had existed since ancient times, and every one of them contained a terrifying amount of power.

They looked like they would erupt into lightning destruction at the slightest provocation.

"Is this the place?" Yun Che asked as he stopped in his tracks. It was clear that this region was surrounded by a gigantic and powerful lightning formation.

"Mn!" Yun Shang answered while nodding strongly. She was only sixteen years old, and it had been half a year since she had last seen her clan. She missed her clan so much that her eyes were clouded with tears. She said, "Chief Grandpa and the others must be very worried about me... Senior, thank you. I'm sure everyone will thank you as well."

"Don't forget what I told you earlier," Yun Che said seriously. "Don't tell anyone that I refined your profound art and improved your cultivation level and talent."

"I promise I won't forget," Yun Shang promised.

After that, she finally couldn't control her excitement any longer and flew toward the lightning formation. Her cheerful cry immediately filled the air. "Chief Grandpa, Big Brother Xiang, Little Yi, Little Rong... I'm home!"

Yun Shang crossed the uncrossable line, but the lightning formation didn't activate. It didn't attack Yun Che or Qianye Ying'er either.

"This is my clan's lightning formation. No bad people can invade us while it's working," Yun Shang said cheerfully. "Don't worry, Senior, Sister Qianying. It won't attack you two while I'm close to you."

Chapter 1585 - The Heavens Pity the Yun Clan

The lightning formation was a defense barrier that kept the "Sinful Yun Clan" safe, but it was also a prison.

After all, this entire region was known as the "Sinful Region" to outsiders.

A shout exploded from the distance the moment they passed through the lightning formation. "Who dares invade the territory of the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan!"

The Sinful Yun Clan was very sensitive toward unfamiliar presences due to their status, and the shout was as deafening as thunder. However, joy bloomed in Yun Shang's eyes as she shouted right back, "Big Brother Xiang!"

The approaching presences clearly froze in their tracks for a moment before moving even faster than before. Very soon, a handsome man with tiger-like eyes and a beautiful woman brimming with heroism entered their view.

Their auras were exceptionally strong, strong enough to draw a look from Yun Che.

“A level eight Divine Sovereign and a level five Divine Sovereign. They’re both below six hundred years old, I think.” Qianye Ying’er sent a message to Yun Che. “They’re likely among the strongest profound practitioners in this place.”

The man moving their way was without a doubt the strongest expert they had encountered in the Northern Divine Region besides the mysterious Nanhuang Chanyi, but Qianye Ying’er only shot him an indifferent look before lowering her head and giving him the cold shoulder.

“Shang... er!”

Both people shouted emotionally when they saw Yun Shang, practically pouncing toward her until she was right in front of them. Their excitement and joy were clearly out of control.

“Big Brother Xiang, Big Sister Lu, it’s really been a long time since we saw each other,” Yun Shang said with a bright smile on her face.

“Shang’er, you...” The brawny man was a level eight Divine Sovereign, but he was so overwhelmed by emotion that he couldn’t say anything for a time.

“Are you... alright? Weren’t you captured by Nine Lights Heavenly Palace?” The woman grabbed Yun Shang’s shoulders and gave her a checkup, but both her person and her aura seemed perfectly fine.

Yun Shang said, “I was captured by those villains half a year ago, but Senior Yun rescued me immediately after. I’ve been staying with Senior Yun and Sister Qiangying ever since.”

“Half a year ago?” The duo exchanged a glance with each other before the man growled, “Nine Lights Heavenly Palace has been lying to us!?”

They then shifted their gaze backward to Yun Che and Qianye Ying’er and asked, “You are?”

“Yun Che,” Yun Che said simply. “I’m from the East Ruins Realm.”

“I’m his servant Yun Qianying.” She called herself Yun Che’s servant, but her tone was clearly a lot haughtier than her master’s.

The brawny man moved forward and saluted them. He said, “I am Yun Xiang, and this is my wife Yun Lu. The Heavenly Handle Yun Clan will remember everything you’d done for Shang’er. Please forgive my impoliteness earlier, I didn’t know that you were Shang’er’s benefactors.”

“You are too kind, Brother Xiang,” Yun Che said while nodding. “Shang’er and I were brought together by fate, and I consider it a good thing to be able to save her.”

Qianye Ying’er looked at him sideways after hearing that.

“Haha, I see that your surname is Yun as well. We are definitely tied together by fate.” Yun Xiang laughed loudly before continuing, “I don’t think you realize just how much we owe you for your heroic act.”

“The chief and the elders are praying in the ancestral shrine. They will be overjoyed to see Yun Shang returned safe and sound,” Yun Lu said.

“You’re right! We need to tell the chief as soon as possible.” Yun Xiang couldn’t be happier with the fact that he was the one responsible for patrolling the lightning formation today. He said, “Please come this way, noble guests. I’m sure our chief would like to thank you in person.”

These days, the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan was the epitome of cautiousness, and they were especially wary toward outsiders. However, Yun Xiang and Yun Lu still acted warmly toward Yun Che and Qianye Ying’er for two reasons. One, they were Yun Shang’s saviors. Two, they were only level ten Divine Kings. Even if they were plotting something sinister, there was nothing they could do with their strength.

Yun Shang might only be sixteen years old, but she was incredibly important to the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan due to her purple profound handle.

The news that Yun Shang had returned safe and sound quickly reached the whole clan. For once, the gloomy “Sinful Region” was bursting with vitality and excitement.

Once in a century, the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan would perform a ritual for good luck. However, the ritual was cut short when the clan chief, Yun Ting became the first person to rush out of the ancestral shrine when news of Yun Shang’s return had reached him. The rest of the elders were also following him closely.

“Chief Grandpa!”

Yun Ting was the current chief of the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan. He was old enough to live through both the pinnacle, the decline, and soon the end of the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan. From a realm king clan to a sinful clan everyone took pity on, Yun Ting had seen everything there was to see.

Yun Ting’s hair was completely white, and his face and his hands looked as shriveled as dead wood. But none of these signs could compare to the sheer amount of murkiness of his eyes. Even a mortal who did not cultivate could see that he didn’t have much longer to live.

Yun Ting’s condition couldn’t be worse than it was now, and he was so old that very little fazed him anymore. Still, he couldn’t help but tear up when he saw a jubilant Yun Shang leaping toward him.

It was because she was far too important to this family, especially now of all times.

She was a pearl from the heavens. She was also their only hope.

“Shang’er, thank goodness you’re safe... thank goodness you’re safe,” Yun Ting said while crouching. He was so emotional that his bearing as the chief was nowhere to be seen, but the same could be said for the elders behind him.

As Yun Xiang had said earlier, Yun Ting personally thanked Yun Che for saving Yun Shang... even if he was a Divine King of unknown origin.

“I’m surprised how important this girl is to the clan.” Qianye Ying’er had no concept of what a purple colored profound handle meant, so the clan’s reaction came as a surprise to her.

“Hmph, how dare the Nine Lights Heavenly Palace lie to us and claim that Yun Shang is in their hands!” Yun Xiang said angrily with a furrowed brow.

“We would’ve fallen for it too if Shang’er was late by a few days,” a clan elder said solemnly.

“Does that mean that Nine Lights Heavenly Palace was trying to force you to give up something in exchange for Yun Shang?” Yun Che asked suddenly.

Considering how much the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan treasured Yun Shang, they probably would’ve acquiesced even if they knew it was just smoke and mirrors.

“That’s right,” Yun Xiang said. “The chief palace master of Nine Lights Heavenly Palace wants his young son to become a Divine Sovereign, so he told us to surrender the...”

“That’s in the past, and Shang’er is safe. Nine Lights Heavenly Palace’s trick is meaningless now. We’ll just kick them off our doorstep when they show up the day after tomorrow.” Yun Ting interrupted Yun Xiang with a smile before he could finish his sentence.

Suddenly, his expression changed drastically before he grabbed Yun Shang’s slender shoulders with his right hand. He looked like he couldn’t believe his senses. “Shang’er you... you’re at the Divine Tribulation Realm already!?”

Yun Ting’s words stunned everyone present. When they focused their spiritual sense on Yun Shang, they too were shocked by what they found.

Earlier, everyone was too excited to notice the change in Yun Shang’s profound energy. It was only now that they realized that she was already at Divine Tribulation Realm!

It wasn’t as if sixteen year old Divine Tribulation geniuses had never appeared in the history of their clan. They were a realm king clan in the past, they were able to produce a couple of young geniuses every generation when resources were still abundant.

But Yun Shang was just a middle stage Divine Soul half a year ago!

How did she reach the Divine Tribulation Realm in just half a year!?

“Shang’er, did you... did you eat some kind of divine pellet?” Yun Ting’s voice grew a tad urgent. To his knowledge, such tremendous improvement was only possible through artificial means, but... was Yun Shang really strong enough to withstand a pellet this powerful?

But to his surprise, Yun Shang shook her head and snuck a glance at Yun Che. Then, she replied, “Shang’er ran into an amazing senior while she was with Senior Yun and Sister Qianying. He was the one who used an incredible ability to transform my body completely. After that, cultivation suddenly became incredibly easy.”

Yun Ting and everyone else were completely speechless. Yun Shang’s eyes were as pure as diamonds, and no one believed that she was lying. However, she also claimed that her current power was the natural result of her transformation, not a pellet. But that just wasn’t possible!

Yun Ting changed his hand gesture and sent a wisp of profound energy into Yun Shang’s profound veins... Then, his murky, lidded eyes suddenly stretched to the widest degree like he was thunderstruck. For a long time, he stared stupidly at Yun Shang without a word or movement.

The chief’s reaction was so strange that the clan elders, Yun Xiang and Yun Lu couldn’t help but exchange a glance with each other. When they probed Yun Shang’s profound veins with their own profound energy, their expressions were even more exaggerated than Yun Ting’s.

Yun Che wasn't surprised at all by their reaction.

Yun Shang's profound energy became impossibly pure after it was refined by the Eternal Calamity of Darkness and the Dragon Dawn Jade Nectar. As a result, her body's compatibility with profound energy and her mastery of it reached levels that even a former Divine Master like Yun Ting couldn't believe, or even comprehend.

To say that her cultivation speed was much faster than before would be a massive understatement.

"That masterful senior..." Yun Ting was twenty thousand years old, but he didn't hesitate to address the unknown "master" as his senior in a deeply respectful tone at all, "Who is he?"

Yun Shang's transformation could only be described as a miracle. He couldn't even begin to imagine how amazing this supreme master was.

Yun Shang smiled and replied, "That senior won't let Shang'er say."

Yun Ting still couldn't control the excitement on his face when he nodded and replied, "That's fair, if that is that senior's wish, then you shouldn't say even a word."

"Oh right." Yun Shang turned around and summoned purple lightning around her fingers. "Senior also thought me a modified version of the Heavenly Handle Thunder Cloud Art. Look at this, Chief Grandpa."

She moved her wrist and filled her surroundings with lightning right after she finished talking. The crowd was already stupefied when they saw the first technique, but when Yun Shang moved on to the second, third, fourth technique and more... Everyone from the Yun Clan looked like they had seen a living ghost. They just couldn't believe their eyes or spiritual sense no matter how they tried.

Yun Shang was definitely executing the Heavenly Handle Thunder Cloud Art, but small modifications were present in every technique. Although the changes looked very minor, the laws and power of the art were much, much stronger than before!

The core profound art of a clan or a sect was constantly evolving, but it was a long and arduous process.

It was highly doubtful that the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan could evolve their own art to Yun Shang's current level even if they had a hundred thousand years of free time.

"Did that senior... teach you this as well?" Yun Ting's words sounded like they were floating in the sky.

"Mn." Yun Shang nodded strongly. "Senior also said Shang'er can teach it to her clansmen."

"..." Yun Ting finally rose back up to his feet, but his legs were still trembling. He couldn't remember the last time he was this shocked and excited. He looked at the ancestral shrine behind him and the sky above his head. Then, he let out a trembling shout, "Heaven's gift... this truly is a gift from the heavens! The heavens must pity the Yun Clan's fate!"

"Tch!" Qianye Ying'er snorted.

Although Yun Shang was saved by Yun Che, and she clearly mentioned that Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er were the ones who took care of her for the past half a year, no one thought that they were the ones

who gave Yun Shang everything... After all, how could this transcendent master possibly have anything to do with two young Divine Kings?

Chapter 1586 - The Deadline

“Chief Grandpa, is that senior really that amazing?” Yun Shang asked.

Yun Shang was very smart, but she was also too young and inexperienced. She knew that Yun Che was amazing, but she didn’t really understand that what he did to her was out of this world. Naturally, she was surprised by Yun Ting’s reaction.

“Of course,” Yun Ting replied.

“Is he more amazing than you when you were stronger?” Yun Shang continued to ask.

Yun Ting shook his head while smiling. He said, “I may have been a Divine Master, but it’s nothing compared to this senior’s achievements. Shang’er, you may not realize this, but the blessing bestowed upon you during this half-year is something others cannot obtain even in a million lifetimes.”

Yun Shang’s lips parted. The chief’s words had further increased the already huge image of Yun Che in her heart and painted a layer of mystique over it.

“Shang’er, can you really not to say that senior’s name? He... he must like you a lot to bless you so. Did he mention if he’s going to visit you anytime soon?” Yun Xiang asked in an urgent tone.

“Stop.” Yun Ting stopped him with a wave of his hand. He understood why Yun Xiang had sounded so so urgent. The “deadline” that would decide the fate of the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan was close, and this mysterious benefactor might just be able to help them survive it. “The gifts he bestowed Yun Shang are already beyond our ability to repay, so how can we ask him to help us more than he already has? Right now, the only way we can repay his favor is to not disturb his peace... Unless the master shows up on his own, no one is to ask Shang’er about him.”

Yun Xiang fell silent after that.

Yun Ting rose to his feet and sucked in a deep breath. Then, he said, “Xiang’er, we’ll hold a clan meeting in ten days. Relay this order to everyone immediately... Cough, cough cough...”

He coughed softly for a time after giving the order, but no one looked surprised by it. It was clear that they were used to it by now.

If Yun Ting hadn’t wanted to cling to life until the day of the “deadline”, he might’ve left the world already. His condition was that bad.

“Clan meeting?” At first, everyone was surprised by his decision. Then, they looked and Yun Shang and realized something. “Could it be...”

“That’s right,” Yun Ting slowly looked back up and declared in a loud voice, “Shang’er will be appointed as the young chief!”

“The Heavenly Handle Yun Clan has suffered for tens of thousands of years, and we’re almost at the ultimate deadline. However, the heavens have chosen to gift us a priceless treasure in our most difficult



time. Shang'er has a purple heavenly handle, and the level of her talent is unprecedented thanks to the blessing of a master... We may not be able to escape our annihilation, but the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan will rise again as long as Shang'er is safe!"

Yun Ting's powerful declaration quickly infected everyone else with high spirits. Yun Shang was the only one looked at a loss as she subconsciously looked in Yun Che's direction for help.

"Xiang'er... are you okay with this?" Yun Ting asked because Yun Xiang was the current young chief of the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan and his direct descendant, whereas Yun Shang wasn't.

His eyes growing determined, Yun Xiang declared without any hesitation, "Shang'er may be young, but there's no one in the entire clan who's more fit to bear the hope and future of our entire clan than her. I will do my best to support Shang'er after I've surrendered my position to her... I swear to do this even if it costs my own life!"

"The young chief is truly wise," the clan elders all praised him.

"Very good," Yun Ting said while nodding slowly, "this is the kind of determination and willpower I would expect from a descendant of the Yun Clan!"

"Please, stay with us for a while so we may thank you for saving Shang'er." Despite the excitement, Yun Ting hadn't forgotten about Yun Che or Qianye Ying'er. Yun Che didn't reject his goodwill.

"Thank you for your hospitality."

.....

Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er were treated very well because they saved Yun Shang. The fact that their room was located at the center of the clan also showed the clan's appreciation for them.

Excited noises kept entering the room from outside. Yun Shang's return was like the light before the darkness of the apocalypse.

Yun Che slowly walked around the room, looking at the decorations and sensing the auras around him... So, he was the descendant of a devil person from the start, and this was where the Yun Family came from.

"How much time do you plan to waste here?" Qianye Ying'er asked suddenly.

Yun Che closed his eyes before replying, "I wasn't with my family or my parents since I was young. When we were finally reunited, I wasn't able to perform my filial duties for long before that terrible disaster struck... so finding their ancestors' home and allowing their spirits to bask in their roots maybe the only thing left I can do for them besides taking revenge."

"And of course..." Black light flashed across his eyes when he reopened them. "This 'deadline' gives us the perfect excuse to nab what we need."

"That is the answer I wanted to hear," Qianye Ying'er said before walking up to him. "But don't take too long, you hear me? Otherwise, I may... take matters into my own hands."

Yun Che shot her a look before saying, "You're overthinking this!"

"I better be." Qianye Ying'er's eyes twirled before she continued, "If I'm correct, the other reason you didn't embed a slave imprint in me is because you're worried that you're not hard enough. You want me to give you the push you need in case it becomes necessary... don't worry, I promise I won't disappoint you in this regard!"

"..." Yun Che frowned, but didn't refute her words.

Dong dong dong...

A series of knocks suddenly came from the door. Then, Yun Shang's gentle voice entered the room, "are you in there, senior?"

"Come in." Yun Che replied while turning around. His cold, dark eyes turned gentle without him realizing it.

Yun Shang opened the door and rushed in. She had changed out of her previous clothes for a new white dress. She stopped in front of Yun Che with reddened cheeks and stared at him with even greater admiration than before, saying, "Senior, I didn't know you were... that amazing, heehee."

Before today, Chief Yun Ting was the most powerful person in her world. But when she saw the look of reverence on Yun Ting's face when he spoke of "the master", not even her inexperience could stop her from realizing just how amazing Yun Che really was.

Yun Che gave her a smile and said, "Why are you here? I'm sure you have a lot of things to do after all the commotion you caused right after you returned to the clan."

"I just felt like seeing you, that's all." Yun Shang smiled right back. "I guess I got used to staying with you during this half a year, Senior. I feel strangely unsafe while you're not by my side. That's I snuck away and came here."

"..." Yun Che's eyes glazed over for a moment before he recovered himself. "Yun Shang, exactly when is the day of the deadline?"

Yun Shang's smile immediately turned to gloom when she heard the question, but she quickly smiled again and answered, "A month from now. But Chief Grandpa and everyone said there's nothing to worry about. We're on very good terms with the Thousand Desolation Divine Sect, so they probably won't do anything really bad toward us when the time comes."

Of course, by "very good terms", she really meant that the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan was doing everything in their power to curry favor with the Thousand Desolation Divine Sect...

After all, they were the Burning Moon King Realm's chosen sanctioner.

If the Sinful Yun Clan couldn't recover the "sacred artifact" after the ten thousand-year deadline had passed, then the Thousand Desolation Divine Sect was free to punish them however they liked... including wiping them from the face of the earth. Naturally, the Sinful Yun Clan must've stooped to unimaginable depths to curry favor with the Thousand Desolation Divine Sect.

"I see. Then you probably don't have too much to worry about," Yun Che said. Then, he asked casually, "Oh right, what will the Burning Moon Realm do if the Thousand Desolation Divine Sect doesn't punish you after the deadline?"

“They won’t do anything.” Yun Shang shook her head without hesitation. “Daddy once told me that the Burning Moon Realm said this: if the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan can avoid their destruction or even claim the upper hand over the Thousand Desolation Divine Sect, then it must mean that fate still has plans in store for the Yun Clan. In that case, in the name of the king realm, they will not interfere or punish us further.”

Yun Che and Qianye Ying’er frowned at once.

Although it sounded like the Burning Moon Realm was giving Heavenly Handle Yun Clan a sliver of hope, in reality they were hammering in the nails into their coffins.

It was because their declaration of “mercy” ensured that the Thousand Desolation Divine Sect would do everything in their power to kill off the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan. There was no way in hell they would ever give the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan the chance to “claim the upper hand” over them.

This so-called “sinful region” was probably a device of the Thousand Desolation Divine Sect as well.

As a result, the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan had declined to their current state. Only six hundred thousand people were left in the clan, and their population was smaller than a sect of a lower star realm. The way they were now, they posed absolutely no threat to the Thousand Desolation Divine Sect.

The Thousand Desolation Divine Sect wouldn’t annihilate the Sinful Yun Clan now because the latter still had to “retrieve” the sacred artifact. But the moment the day of the deadline arrived, the Sinful Yun Clan’s fate would hinge in the Thousand Desolation Divine Sect’s decision.

Neither Yun Che nor Qianye Ying’er believed that the Thousand Desolation Divine Sect would show the Sinful Yun Clan mercy.

It was because they had offended a king realm!

The reason the Thousand Desolation Divine Sect could replace the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan in the first place was due to the Burning Moon Realm. Naturally, they had no reason to disobey their superiors... the only reason they showed an ambiguous attitude and gave the Sinful Yun Clan hope was to bleed them as much as possible.

A short conversation later, he asked yet another seemingly unimportant question, “Why is the Nine Lights Heavenly Palace targeting your clan?”

Yun Shang thought for a moment before replying, “Big Brother Xiang once told me that the Chief Palace Master of Nine Lights Heavenly Palace has a young son. Apparently, he is incredibly talented in the profound way. However, he has been stuck at peak Divine King Realm for over three hundred years. A year ago, Nine Lights Heavenly Palace somehow caught wind that we have an ‘ancient pellet’ that might help the chief palace master’s son achieve a breakthrough, and since then they’ve been trying to take it from us.”

“At first, they just wanted to trade it for something. After we turned them down, they started using a lot of despicable methods,” Yun Shang said angrily, “but we’ll never surrender the ancient pellet to them. Chief Grandpa once said that the ancient pellet can be used as a final gift to the Thousand Desolation Divine Sect if we’ve no plans to use it on ourselves... Whatever happens, there’s no way we’re surrendering it to those villains!”

“Is that ancient pellet really that amazing?” Yun Che asked, but he really wasn’t interested in it. No matter how good the pellet was, it couldn’t possibly compare to Shen Xi’s Divine Water of Life and the Dragon Dawn Jade Nectar.

“Of course it’s amazing! It’s an inheritance from our forefather!” Yun Shang said without hesitation, “However, the forefather said that only a genius who has attracted a four stage lightning tribulation at minimum during Divine Spirit Realm is qualified to consume the pellet... so far, there hasn’t been anyone like this in the clan. Even Big Brother Xiang has only attracted a three stage lightning tribulation when he was a Divine Spirit.”

Yun Che smiled at her and patted her on the shoulder. He said, “I’ll stay here until the day of the deadline. You may come to me if you have any problems you wish to ask about.”

“Mm!” Yun Che’s promise immediately improved Yun Shang’s mood. Even the light in her eyes seemed much brighter.

It was at this moment Yun Xiang came through the door and said, “Shang’er! So this is where you are. The chief wants to take you to the forefather’s altar himself to pray. Quickly.”

“Ah... okay,” Yun Shang nodded before bidding Yun Che goodbye, “I’ll come look for you tomorrow, Senior.”

“Go.”

Yun Xiang gave Yun Che a nod before leaving with Yun Shang.

“Are you going to save them?” Qianye Ying’er suddenly broke her long silence and asked.

“No,” Yun Che answered, “The Yun Family I was part of gave up on their roots of darkness completely many generations ago. Today, we are barely related to this Yun Clan by blood. This is their fate to fight. I’ve already afforded them my greatest benevolence when I gave them one last hope to cling to.”

“But you will keep that girl alive no matter what, am I right?”

“Yes,” Yun Che answered without hesitation.

Qianye Ying’er stopped talking and closed her eyes. Only she knew what she was thinking about.

#### Chapter 1587 - Warning

And so Yun Che and Qianye Ying’er stayed at the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan temporarily. Their time was divided between cultivating and observing everything that was going on in silence as they toured the clan at their leisure.

His family’s ancestral ground... he couldn’t ignore it completely despite losing all of his family.

Before this, Yun Shang was constantly depressed because she was stuck in the shadow that was the loss of her father. However, she became a lot more cheerful after she returned to the clan probably because she had overcome the shadows or because she was blessed by the heavens. She was always wearing a smile that could melt the hearts of others, especially when she went to look for Yun Che.

The news of her upcoming appointment had already spread within the clan. This and Yun Shang's miraculous transformation brought a ray of hope to everyone who was under the shadow of the deadline.

On the third day of her return, a voice came from outside the lightning formation as promised.

"Sinful Yun Clan, this is your last chance!" an arrogant and imposing voice said. "Surrender the Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet, and I promise that the girl will be returned to you unharmed. Otherwise... she'll meet the same fate as the ones before her!"

The Nine Lights Heavenly Palace had caught half of the people who tried to sneak out of the sinful region with Yun Shang. Since then, they had tried to blackmail the Sinful Yun Clan into surrendering the Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet... However, the Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet was too important to the clan, and they just couldn't surrender it to their enemy no matter what the cost. They had no choice but to swallow tears and blood as their captured clansmen were killed one after another.

In the Thousand Desolations Realm, any Yun clansmen who stepped out of the sinful region without permission from the Thousand Desolation Divine Sect could be killed by anyone... The situation they were put in was cruel and despicable, but they didn't even have the right to criticize or condemn their killers.

Perhaps the Nine Lights Heavenly Palace found out about Yun Shang after interrogating the captured Yun clansmen, but when they used her as their item of blackmail... they successfully struck a fatal blow to the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan's confidence.

Just like Yun Xiang and Yun Lu had said earlier, they would've surrendered the Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet if Yun Shang had returned any later.

"Finally." This time, the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan was completely unafraid of the Nine Lights Heavenly Palace.

"It's Hidden Sword." Yun Ting, the clan chief looked at the person in the sky with a dark expression on his face. "I wasn't expecting him to show up. I heard he lost the sect's sword and their best disciple not long ago. He must be in a hurry to redeem himself."

"Yun Jian, Yun Fu, Yun Hua," Yun Ting ordered, "go give him a greeting."

"Yes." The arms of the three elders shone with the light of the profound handle as they summoned their profound energy.

"Let me," Yun Xiang took a step forward with the look of a hungry hawk in his eyes. "I alone am enough to deal with Hidden Sword! It's time we make them pay for blackmailing us with Shang'er!"

He flew into the air before Yun Ting could respond, passed through the lightning formation and met Hidden Sword alone.

"A level eight Divine Sovereign should be quite important in this realm. Hidden Sword? The name rings a bell," Qianye Ying'er said while glancing toward the south.

"He's the Hidden Sword Palace Master and Beihan Chu's master," Yun Che answered.

“What a coincidence. It must be fate,” Qianye Ying’er said with a faint sneer before bending down and closing her eyes. Her attention was elsewhere already.

The man outside the formation was none other than Venerable Hidden Sword. Recently, he had had some of the most exciting experiences of his life. At first, his disciple Beihan Chu became a Divine Sovereign before he was six hundred years old and entered the Northern Region Heavenly Sovereign Ranking. What a glorious day it had been! Then, less than a month later, he was killed at an insignificant middle star realm without even a body to mourn for!

He rushed to claim justice for his disciple, but instead he encountered someone who nearly made him soil his pants on the spot... He and the entire Nine Lights Heavenly Palace had no choice but to swallow the indignity. Forget claiming justice for his disciple, he didn’t even dare tell anyone about it.

He had no doubt the the Chief Palace Master would vent his fury on him.

But If he could obtain the Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet, then perhaps the Chief Palace Master would be less angry.

“Young Clan Chief,” Hands behind his back, Venerable Hidden Sword smiled at Yun Xiang and said, “This venerable one has confirmed that that little girl you call Yun Shang has a purple colored devil handle, a color that has never existed in the Sinful Yun Clan until now. This is a miracle. Surely she is worth a mere Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet?”

Yun Xiang made a gesture with his left hand and smiled at Venerable Hidden Sword. He said, “One? Shang’er’s life is worth hundreds, if not thousands of ancient pellets.”

Venerable Hidden Sword’s smile grew wider. “Does that mean you’ve finally figured out what’s best for you?”

“Yes, I did.” Yun Xiang extended a hand filled with lightning. “This is the Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet. The Nine Lights Heavenly Palace better fulfill their promise!”

“Hahahaha, but of course,” Venerable Hidden Sword said with a laugh before looking at Yun Xiang’s hand. Then, his expression changed drastically.

Crack!!

A crack of thunder resounded through the air, and Yun Xiang attacked Venerable Yun with a huge cloud of black energy and tens of thousands of purple lightning bolts. The lightning in his hand had transformed into the Heavenly Dragon Thunder God Spear.

“You!” Caught off guard, Venerable Hidden Sword threw up his power hastily to defend himself. The power of two level eight Divine Sovereigns clashed against each other and erupted into a disaster zone.

“Shang’er has returned safely to our clan. Who would’ve thought that the Nine Lights Heavenly Palace, a three hundred thousand year old sect would employ to such shameless methods? Do you think so little of the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan!?”

Yun Xiang’s angry roar shook the sky as a blue flash appeared around his left arm. The blue colored profound handle transformed into a giant lightning dragon before falling on Venerable Hidden Sword.

Both Venerable Hidden Sword and Yun Xiang were level eight Divine Sovereigns, and Venerable Hidden Sword's capacity for profound energy was much greater than Yun Xiang's... However, the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan's unique "Heavenly Handle Divine Power" made them undefeatable within the same level. Moreover, a blue colored "Heavenly Handle" amplified one's strength by another sixty percent, which easily allowed the wielder to crush their opponents.

Boom!

There was a loud explosion that felt like a hole was blown open in the sky. Despite being weaker in terms of power, Yun Xiang was able to crush Venerable Hidden Sword's Nine Lights Sword Formation and knock him back dozens of kilometers.

This was the first time Venerable Hidden Sword had fought against Yun Xiang. He never thought that someone as famous as himself would be suppressed so easily by a junior of the Sinful Yun Clan. He roared angrily, "Sinful boy! Your clan is at death's door! The Nine Lights Heavenly Palace has been a friend of the Thousand Desolation Divine Sect for generations! If you surrender the Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet now, the Nine Lights Heavenly Palace may yet persuade the Thousand Desolation Divine Sect to change their mind. But if you remain as stubborn as you are... your clan will be wiped from the face of the earth!"

Yun Xiang's expression turned savage as the Heavenly Dragon Thunder God Spear let out an angry roar. Drawing the lightning formation's power into his own, he attacked Venerable Hidden Sword again with three types of power at once.

"Wahh!!"

Venerable Hidden Sword let out a bloodcurdling scream, and he ran away with his tail between his legs. His figure quickly disappeared into the dark horizon.

Loud cries came from every corner. They'd been oppressed for so long that the retaliation felt like a clear stream through the soul.

Yun Xiang landed slowly on the ground, bits of lightning still zipping across his body and his hair dancing majestically in the air. He looked as impressive as a god. The youngsters of the clan quickly surrounded him and cheered for him with their hands raised. Everyone was staring at him with starry eyes.

"Hehehe," Stroking his beard, Yun Ting nodded slowly and smiled.

Yun Xiang was just five thousand years old, but he was a level eight Divine Sovereign, the young clan chief and the protector of the Yun Clan. His talent was even better than his when he was in his prime... In the future, he had a high chance of making it to Divine Master.

Both him and the clan elders had made up their minds to protect Yun Xiang and Yun Shang with all they had... no matter what might befall the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan in a month.

"This is the 'profound handle' you mentioned earlier? It's that powerful?" Qianye Ying'er's eyes flashed. "Why have I never seen you use it before?"

"The Heretic God's divine power doesn't work on it," Yun Che said. "That's why it's useless to me."

"I see." Qianye Ying'er didn't suspect his words. He never used it even when he was beaten to near death by Luo Changsheng, so it was unlikely that Yun Che was lying to her. However, her eyes flashed again before she asked, "Was the God Manifestation Art you used during the Conferred God Battle a product of the profound handle?"

Yun Che frowned at her before saying, "A woman who's too smart is seriously annoying."

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Yun Xiang's success both vented some of the clan's frustrations and raised morale at the same time. After that, the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan officially began preparations for the grand ceremony.

Yun Shang had become the heart of the clan, and she was accompanied by people almost all the time. Every day she would seek out Yun Che and tell him everything that happened around her.

"I taught Chief Grandpa the new Heavenly Handle Thunder Cloud Art today. He was so excited! But Chief Grandpa is a slow learner, he's so much slower than I was... no, I only learned fast because senior is a good teacher. Heehee."

.....

"The elders unsealed a forbidden ground of our ancestors for me today. I'll be cultivating there from now on. A lot of people teach me and help me to cultivate every day."

.....

"...they say that they're going to spend the clan's best resources on me... starting tomorrow, Chief Grandpa wants me to refine the Rapid Flyer Pellet and Cloud Prayer Dew. I don't know when I'll finish, so I may be late to show up tomorrow."

.....

"Look, this is the Heavenly Handle Robe, only the chief gets to wear it. Chief Grandpa gave it to me earlier than he should... Hmm, I don't know why, but I don't feel too happy for some reason. I'm also a little tired today... I'm still going to work harder though."

.....

Ten days later, Yun Shang was officially appointed as the young clan chief during the sect ceremony. Every Yun Family clansman was gathered in one place, and all eyes and hopes were on her slender figure.

Yun Shang never stopped visiting Yun Che despite becoming the young clan chief, but she always showed up late, and the time she was able to spend with him grew less and less... many times, she had to go just as she arrived at his door.

The amount of times she smiled grew lesser, and each one was more forced than the last.

During one night, Yun Shang walked into Yun Che's room softly and looked at him. She rushed toward him without a word, collapsed on top of him and closed her eyes.

"What happened?" Yun Che asked.



Yun Shang shook her head inside and said softly, “Nothing... I’m just a bit tired. But... there are so many things I haven’t done yet... so many things I haven’t learned...”

“If you’re tired, then you should rest. You don’t have to push yourself this far,” Yun Che replied.

But Yun Shang still shook her head and exposed her fatigue to him. “It’s my fault... I’m not working hard enough... they gave me the absolute best the clan has... they said I’m the clan’s hope... I... I can’t disappoint them...”

“Shang’er!”

The door was opened roughly as Yun Xiang rushed in. He frowned immediately when he saw Yun Shang in Yun Che’s lap.

Yun Shang slowly stood up and answered, “Big Brother Xiang.”

Yun Xiang smiled at Yun Shang and said, “The Heavenly Handle Cloud Spirit Formation the seventeen elders prepared for you is complete. It’ll give you a purer thunder body. Also, the Grand Elder risked his life to extract three drops of Thunder Dragon Blood for you... go quickly.”

“Mm. I got it,” Yun Shang replied with a nod. She then smiled at Yun Che—forced, but sweet as ever—and said, “Senior, I’m heading to the ancestral shrine now. See you tomorrow.”

Yun Shang left... but Yun Xiang didn’t. He stood where he was and stared at Yun Che.

“Is there anything you wish to say?” Yun Che asked.

“Big Brother Yun Che,” Yun Xiang smiled gently at him before asking, “the two of you’ve been here for a while now. May I know when you’re leaving?”

“Are you expelling us?” Yun Che’s reply was simple and indifferent.

Yun Xiang’s smile slowly disappeared as he spoke in a cold voice, “The two of you saved Shang’er’s life, and the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan greatly appreciates it. You know what kind of situation our clan is in, and how important Shang’er is to us.”

“So?” Yun Che didn’t react to the pressure Yun Xiang released on purpose at all.

“Shang’er is the hope and treasure the heavens have gifted us! She is the end of our clan’s millennium-long nightmare! She is also the young chief and the future chief of our clan! Her safety and her future are more important to us than anything else in the world. The Heavenly Handle Yun Clan will not allow anyone or anything to obstruct her... especially where emotions are involved!”

Yun Che, “...”

“Leave this place as soon as possible!”

RIP!

Yun Xiang’s fingertip crackled with thunder. “Otherwise... I won’t show mercy even if you are Shang’er’s savior!”

Crack!

Lightning shredded the ground in front of Yun Che. It didn't fade for a long time.

"That is all!" Yun Xiang turned around and left frigidly.

Yun Che never moved a muscle. He didn't even look at the lightning crackling beneath his feet.

"Are we killing him?" Qianye Ying'er asked lazily. She sounded like she was talking about a flea on the roadside.

"..." Yun Che didn't give her an answer. However, his eyebrows slowly knitted together.

Chapter 1588 - Bidding Goodbye

"Are you feeling sorry? Or should I say... feeling regret?" Qianye Ying'er asked meaningfully after Yun Che fell silent.

"No," Yun Che said coldly. "I gave her opportunities, but she must handle her own growth. No growth is easy, especially considering the situation the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan is currently in. All eyes, hopes and resources are on her, and so she must be able to bear that burden or be crushed by it."

"Is that so?" Qianye Ying'er said with a half smile, "but you're pretty distracted as of late. Your mind is elsewhere even when you're cultivating. Don't tell me it's because you miss Nanhuang Chanyi's delicious body?"

Ignoring Qianye Ying'er's taunts, Yun Che continued to stare at the closed door and said, "Yun Shang is the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan's only hope. I'm just worried that they might do something drastic to her because of their overeagerness."

"Oh!" Qianye Ying'er faked realization and dragged her voice on purpose, "So that little girl is the one who has been distracting you. Now that I think about it, Xia Qingyue was only sixteen when she married you, wasn't she? I also heard from your daughter that Feng Xue'er, her master, was also sixteen when she got together with you... Tsk. So many years have passed, but your taste in women hasn't changed at all."

Yun Che's eyebrows sank slightly. "What are you trying to say!?"

"If your daughter is still alive, she would be almost sixteen now. Yun Shang is almost the same age as her, and they even resemble one another. Unfortunately..." Qianye Ying'er looked down and played with her fingers, "She isn't Yun Wuxin. Your daughter is dead, dead forever!"

Bang!

Yun Che lost control of his mind and his profound energy at the same time. He strode forward, grabbed Qianye Ying'er by the neck and slammed her against the wall behind her.

"..." His eyes looked like they were drenched in blood, and his expression was downright terrifying.

His fingers felt like iron hooks against her skin, and the exhaled air brushing against her cheeks felt as hot as fire. But Qianye Ying'er didn't panic at all. Yun Che's face was only inches away from hers, but she smiled tauntingly at him and said, "Tell me, how did your daughter die again? Was she killed by Xia

Qingyue? Was she driven to death by the three divine regions? No, she died because of your naivety, your uselessness, and your so-called benevolence!”

“You!” Yun Che’s fingers tightened around her neck further while trembling like a leaf.

“You think you can wipe away the sin and regret of your failure to protect your daughter by treating Yun Shang well? You think you can use her to fill the hole in your heart? Then I can tell you that it’s impossible! It will never happen!” Qianye Ying’er stared right back as she shouted at him. The glint in her eyes was even sharper than his. “This is a mistake on top of a mistake!”

“What you should be doing right now, the only thing you can do, is take revenge for her! You just discarded all of your weaknesses and burdens, and now you’re going to create a new one for yourself? Heh...”

Qianye Ying’er lifted her own hand and gripped his wrist. She said, “When we arrived here, you said that your plan was to use the Sinful Yun Clan and deprive the Nine Lights Heavenly Palace of their resources. I was a fool to have trusted you back then!”

“...” Yun Che clenched his teeth tighter but said nothing in return.

“It’s true that I’m your tool, but don’t forget that you’re my tool as well! You can be stupid, but I can stop you from being stupid!” A terrible killing intent suddenly erupted from Qianye Ying’er’s beautiful eyes as she said, “You’d best stop now while you still can, or I will kill her with my own hands!”

The air turned incredibly icy. Slowly, Yun Che removed his hand from Qianye Ying’er’s neck, leaving behind five reddened finger marks on her skin.

“Our families share the same origin, but we live in two different worlds. I’ve seen this place already, so I shouldn’t be wasting anymore time here.” Yun Che closed his eyes and muttered to himself.

While he was talking to himself, light profound energy appeared from his fingertips and healed the red marks on Qianye Ying’er’s snow white neck.

Slap!

Qianye Ying’er slapped his hand away hard before asking coldly, “So?”

“...We will leave tomorrow,” Yun Che said in a low tone. “Their fate is their own. Whatever conclusion they may meet when the deadline arrives, it has nothing to do with me!”

.....

“Senior... Sister Qianying.”

Yun Shang showed up very early today, much earlier than any other time. She also seemed to be in a good mood, her smile was a lot more relaxed than yesterday.

“Not going to the ancestral shrine today?” Yun Che asked with a smile.

“I just came back from there actually,” Yun Shang replied with a smile. “The elders praised my body and my profound veins. They said that the time I used to refine and absorb the Thunder Dragon’s blood was

much, much shorter than expected, and they have something important to discuss. So, they allowed me to come over to play.”

Yun Shang’s aura and body were changing every day. Her aura had the scent of high level medicine in it, and her body was refined many times over. It was clear that many experts had given their all for her.

Thanks to the Dragon Dawn Jade Nectar and Eternal Calamity of Darkness, Yun Shang’s compatibility with all kinds of spirit energy—especially darkness profound energy—was absolutely extraordinary. Be it pellet absorption or body refinement, the speed at which she completed her tasks, and her results, never failed to catch the Yun Clan off guard. Of course, it also fanned the flames of their excitement.

The reason they allowed her to come out and relax was probably because they had an important ceremony to prepare. Their clan could very well perish when the deadline arrived, so they had to spend all their power and resources on Yun Shang while they still could.

Yun Shang’s smile was as bright as ever, but there was also a dodgy glint in her eyes. He didn’t need to ask to know why... Yun Xiang’s attitude alone had explained everything. Her clansmen must’ve told her to keep her distance or even leave him, but she was trying very hard not to let it show.

“Yun Shang,” Yun Che got down on his knees and said, “The road ahead of you will be full of hardships, but this is a process you must endure because your clan is in danger. I’m sure that your future will be thorny as well. I hope... you will grow quickly. At the very least, you need to be able to protect yourself.”

“Huh?” Yun Shang blinked her eyes in confusion. “Mn, I know. But why are you acting so strange today, senior? You never say things like this.”

“I’m leaving,” Yun Che said directly.

Yun Shang froze for a second. Then, her expression devolved into panic, “Where... where are you headed to?”

“Anywhere that isn’t here, of course,” Yun Che answered. “We’ve been the clan’s guests for a very long time. We should’ve said goodbye a long time ago.”

“But... but...” She panicked. It was a kind of panic that ran so deep that she couldn’t speak properly. “But you said you’d stay until the day of the deadline.”

Yun Che put a hand on her shoulder and looked into her eyes. “Yun Shang, you must remember this. Never trust anything anyone says easily, because... even the one you thought you could trust the most may lie to you one day.”

“...” Yun Shang’s eyes shivered, but she opened her lips and formed a smile. She said, “Mn! Senior is... an amazing person. You saved my life, escorted me back to my clan safely, and even gave me so much... but I was so selfish... I didn’t want senior to leave... I...”

She was doing her best to smile at him, but there was nothing she could do about the tears sliding down her cheeks. “Senior’s world must be tall and broad... please be safe wherever you go.”

“Mn. Don’t worry about me.” Yun Che wiped away her tears with a finger. His gaze was peaceful and calm.

"I... I'll go inform Chief Grandpa and Big Brother Xiang right now. I'm sure they'll want to send you off personally." That was what she said, but her hands had tightened on Yun Che's sleeves unconsciously. She wasn't willing to let him go.

Yun Che shook his head and replied, "It's fine, I'll leave right now. They probably wanted me to leave a long time ago."

Yun Shang's eyes turned sorrowful as she bowed her head. It took her a while before she mustered the strength to say, "Senior... will you visit me in the future?"

"I won't." His answer was indifferent and cruel.

She wiped away all the tears on her face. Instead of acting sad, she raised her head high and said, "If... if one day I find Senior, can you please not run away from me?"

"...Alright." Yun Che nodded affirmatively. "But as you said, my world is tall and broad. If you wish to find me, you must become even stronger than you are now."

"Mn!" She nodded strongly. "I... I'll live no matter what happens. I'll... definitely... see you again, senior."

Yun Che removed his gaze and his arm from her shoulder. Then, he said, "Let's go, Qianying."

He started walking toward the door before he was even finished talking. There was no hesitation or longing in his stride.

"Senior!" Yun Shang cried out from behind again. "Can you promise me another selfish wish?"

Yun Che stopped in his tracks.

"Can you... leave something behind for me?" Her tearful, begging voice could melt any hardened heart. "I want to look at it whenever I think about..."

"Unnecessary distractions will only hinder your journey," Yun Che cut her off cruelly before starting to walk once more.

One step... two steps... three steps... The girl behind him didn't say anything, but the soundless sadness spreading from her person was unmistakable.

Yun Che stopped again and exhaled deeply. Then, he turned around and returned to Yun Shang's side without warning. He was holding up a pure, thick light of darkness on his fingertip.

It was the light of the Eternal Calamity of Darkness.

"Ah..." Yun Shang let out a yelp of surprise, but Yun Che had already drawn a pitch black mark on her solar plexus. The moment the mark took form, it let out a black flash before vanishing into nothing.

"Se... nior?" She looked at him in confusion.

"If you're in danger, you can use it to call out to my name."

The moment he finished speaking, he turned around and took to the sky. A burst of air later, he had vanished completely into the horizon.

Yun Shang stared at the sky quietly. She didn't look away for a very long time.

#### Chapter 1589 - Destruction

Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er left the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan just like that. They didn't tell anyone about their departure besides Yun Shang.

While Yun Che was bidding Yun Shang goodbye, an important matter was being decided in the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan's ancestral shrine.

"Is this the... Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet?"

A glowing pearl about the size of a dragon eye fruit was floating at the center of the ancestral shrine. Occasionally, lightning would zap out of its surface. Although it was just a pellet, it was brimming with soul aura and life force. The unbelievable amount of spirit energy it contained was especially notable.

The Heavenly Handle Yun Clan Chief Yun Ting, the three grand elders, and seventeen elders were all in their seats. Yun Xiang was present for the meeting as well. This was the first time he had seen the Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet. For the longest time, the pellet was sealed inside the ancestral shrine's formation to keep its energy from leaking or it being stolen by a thief.

"It looks like we are all in agreement here," Yun Ting said slowly. His eyes reflected the lightning flashes of the pellet and some traces of piousness.

"Are... are we really going to refine it for Shang'er?" Yun Xiang looked at Yun Ting worriedly as he spoke. "Our ancestors said that no one poorer than a four stage lightning tribulation should consume the Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet. Although Shang'er is absolutely qualified, she has just entered Divine Tribulation Realm recently. It's too dangerous to feed her an ancient pellet our ancestors said that only a Divine Spirit can refine. If something were to happen to her..."

"There's nothing to worry about," the second elder Yun Fu said. "Of course, Shang'er won't be able to do this alone, but there are twenty one of us including the clan chief and three grand elders. There's no reason we should fail to control its energy."

"The three grand elders are participating too?" Yun Xiang asked while knitting his eyebrows together. All three grand elders of the Yun Clan were nearing the end of their lifespans, so the use of any power would only decrease their lives further.

"Sigh." One of the grand elders let out a sigh and said, "We are only seven days away from the deadline. If we don't refine this pellet for Shang'er before seven days are up... I'm afraid we'll never have the chance later."

"Thanks to the master's blessing, Shang'er's body and profound veins have become extraordinary beyond measure," Yun Ting said. "She is able to refine any pellet with ease, even intense ones like a dragon's blood. With her constitution and all our strength combined, there should be no reason we would fail to refine the ancient Pellet. The only real problem here is Shang'er's cultivation level. We'll have to keep the pellet's energy under control for a very long time until it is fully refined."

"Xiang'er, this is why we'd asked you to join us. With you around, the chances of something unexpected happening are non-existent."

“Alright!” Yun Xiang’s worry immediately melted in the face of his seniors’ certainty. He stood up and said, “I’ll go call Shang’er right now.”

A large purple profound formation quickly took form inside the ancestral shrine.

Yun Shang sat quietly at the center of the profound formation. She was linked with twenty two auras through the profound formations, the strongest profound practitioners in the entire Heavenly Handle Yun Clan. It was a group made up of the clan chief himself, the former young clan chief, and all the elders and grand elders.

The Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet and Yun Shang deserved all their attention.

“Shang’er, slow down the circulation of your profound energy and relax your mind,” Yun Ting said in the gentlest voice he could muster. “The energy of the Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet is violent and intense, but it is the clan’s pellet, so it’s naturally compatible with us. You need to believe in us, and even more so your blessed body and profound veins.”

“I won’t disappoint everyone,” Yun Shang said calmly and obediently.

Yun Ting nodded and said, “Let us begin.”

Cha!

The profound formation flashed black and purple as it circulated slowly. Then, twenty two Divine Sovereign auras lifted the Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet into the air and pushed it toward Yun Shang. The girl accepted the pellet and swallowed it without any hesitation.

“Release the seal!” The great elder, Yun Jian declared.

The moment the seal on the Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet was released, the pellet’s energy immediately spilled out like a flood. However, the outflow of energy was immediately bound and channeled into tiny, gradual streams of energy that Yun Shang could refine.

“Alright...”

Although no one here had witnessed the true power of the Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet before, and Yun Shang had only just entered Divine Tribulation Realm, the likelihood that a mishap might happen under the watchful eyes of twenty Divine Sovereigns was next to zero. In fact, everything was under control even though the initial outburst was incredibly intense.

“If this succeeds, Shang’er’s cultivation will improve drastically. It may even be enough to raise her into the middle stage! Her lightning powers will improve tremendously as well!” Yun Ting was fully concentrated on his task, but he couldn’t hide the excitement in his voice.

Fifteen minutes... forty five minutes...

The outflow of energy was maintained at a slow and steady rate thanks to the combined might of twenty two Divine Sovereigns. The refinement process was going extraordinarily smoothly as well.

“Chi...”

It was at this moment a soft and unusual noise entered everyone’s spiritual senses.

“What’s that noise?” Divine Sovereigns had extraordinary senses. There was no way it was a hallucination. Suddenly, energy stopped pouring out of the Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet as if it had run dry already, catching everyone by surprise... Then, the strange noise happened again as the pellet’s shape changed abruptly, followed by an explosion of energy several, no, tens of times stronger than the initial outburst...

It was like a volcanic eruption that came out of nowhere.

“Wh... what!!”

The unexpected turn of events shocked everyone present, but something even more terrible happened right after. The explosion had struck the weakest point of the aura dam with uncanny precision, broken through like a flood, and poured straight into Yun Shang’s body and profound veins...

BOOM

All light vanished from Yun Shang’s world, leaving behind only an unending rumble of noises.

A long jet of blood burst out of Yun Shang’s mouth, carrying away all the color in her face.

“Ugh... aaah! Wh... what’s going on!!”

“A pellet spirit... it’s a pellet spirit! How can a pellet spirit be this deadly!” Yun Ting exclaimed in shock and anger... Not only did the pellet spirit have a mind of its own, it clearly had high intelligence. It had them absolutely fooled!

“Control it... control it now!!”

“Stop!” Yun Jian shouted at them. “Are you trying to kill Shang’er!?”

Yun Shang was only a Divine Tribulation profound practitioner, there was absolutely no way her body could endure the power of a Divine Sovereign. That was why they had gathered only a tiny fraction of their power at the start. If anyone increased their power level by even a little, they could kill Yun Shang on the spot.

Pfft!

Another jet of blood escaped Yun Shang’s lips. The uncontrollable energy was rampaging through her body and profound veins like a thousand nightmarish blades, extinguishing all signs of life in its way.

“Chief!” Yun Xiang was at a complete loss.

“Draw out the Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet... quickly!” Yun Ting barked out the order. His eye sockets looked like they might tear themselves apart.

Half a breath later and many flashes of profound energy, the slightly refined Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet was drawn out of Yun Shang’s mouth urgently. Then, some of the Divine Sovereigns unleashed their full power and sealed the pellet completely.

The profound formation dissipated, and Yun Shang slowly collapsed to the ground. Her face was deathly pale, and she was completely unconscious. Even now, the pellet’s energy was still rampaging inside her body like a horde of cruel and bloodthirsty animals.



Yun Shang only had a Divine Tribulation body. If they waited even a couple of breaths longer, the pellet's energy would kill her completely or even make her explode.

"Shang'er..."

"Quickly! Drive the pellet's energy into her profound veins!" Breathing heavily, Yun Ting shouted in a clearly shaken voice.

Yun Xiang looked up and asked hoarsely, "You... you can't be planning to..."

"It's still better than being dead!"

A dozen or so profound auras immediately entered Yun Shang's body once more and guided the rampaging pellet energy into Yun Shang's profound veins carefully... They could extinguish this energy as easily as blowing out a candle's flame, but if they tried this in Yun Shang's body it would kill her on the spot.

So the only thing they could do was guide it somewhere else!

The reason they chose to guide it to the profound veins was because it was the only organ that was strong enough to hold the power without killing Yun Shang.

However... her profound veins would undoubtedly be damaged or even destroyed completely.

Soon, all of the pellet's energy was guided into Yun Shang's profound veins. It was damaged beyond recognition in just the blink of an eye. Yun Ting strode forward and sent a surge of profound energy into Yun Shang's solar plexus through his fingertip... Blood poured out of his teeth the moment he did that.

BOOM—

The rampaging energy was annihilated by Yun Ting's power bit by bit.

By the time the pellet's energy was completely destroyed, so were Yun Shang's profound veins... Her profound energy quickly crumbled into nothing.

Silence enveloped the ancestral shrine. The only sounds that could be heard were the heaviest breaths they had ever drawn.

Everyone stared at the unconscious and blood drenched Yun Shang on the ground. Her life force had become incredibly weak, and she was losing profound energy every second. It wouldn't be long before they were gone completely.

Recovery after that was impossible.

It was because her profound veins were destroyed... utterly and completely destroyed.

"How... how did this happen..." Yun Ting muttered while feeling paralyzed. His hand was frozen, and his pupils were completely drained of color.

"Shang'er..." Yun Xiang called out softly before clenching his teeth. He bowed his head and trembled like a leaf.

"Sigh." All the elders sighed sorrowfully. They looked like they had aged many years at the same time.

Yun Shang's purple colored heavenly handle was a miracle. The transformation of her profound veins was a miracle. As for the Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet, it was the clan's most sacred and mysterious sacred object.

They were willing to give Yun Shang their absolute best. Today, they even gathered their strongest experts together to give her the Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet.

But...

Destroyed...

The Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet, no, they... had destroyed Yun Shang.

And with it, the clan's hope and future as well.

The day Yun Shang returned to the clan, everything she showed them had lifted their spirits like never before. She was like a ray of light that parted the gray, dark world that was the end, and she made them feel like the heavens were still watching over their clan.

Although the blood in her veins didn't belong to the clan chief, no one objected to her replacement of Yun Xiang as the young clan chief.

But... like a cruel joke of the heavens, Yun Shang was utterly destroyed.

Worse, they were the ones who had caused her destruction.

"Chief..." Yun Xiang couldn't say anything else besides that.

Yun Ting kept his eyes closed for a long time. It was as if he was afraid to stare the cruel reality in the eye.

"Yun Ting," the grand elder standing in the middle of the three grand elders started in an incredibly heavy voice, "let's activate the Forbidden Blood Ritual."

Yun Ting abruptly opened his eyes. Yun Xiang turned around to look at the grand elder in shock.

The grand elder on the right side said slowly as well, "It is a forbidden art our ancestors strictly forbade us from using, but at this point... we no longer have a choice. At the very least... we must preserve the purple heavenly handle."

This so-called "Forbidden Blood Ritual" was really a cruel blood transfer method. It had the ability of transferring the heavenly handle divine power from one kin to another.

However, the Yun clansman whose blood was removed... would die for sure.

The heavenly handle divine power was a kind of bloodline power. It wouldn't disappear even if one's profound veins were destroyed.

Yun Ting's shriveled flesh shuddered violently, but he ultimately wasn't able to object against the grand elders' suggestion. A powerless voice escaped his lips, "Elders, please prepare the blood transfer formation immediately."

Yun Shang had become a complete cripple, and there was absolutely no hope of recovery. This meant that her miraculous purple profound handle was completely useless to her... It was extraordinarily cruel to Yun Shang to transfer it to another person, but at least the last miracle of the Yun Clan wouldn't die with her.

"Xiang'er..." Yun Ting called out. He wasn't able to finish his sentence, however.

"I understand." Yun Xiang let out a sigh. "I will inherit Shang'er's purple heavenly handle. I will also bear the burden that is her life... I will not... let her sacrifice go to waste no matter what."

The Forbidden Blood Ritual, the taboo slowly began amidst the terrible atmosphere.

Yun Shang lay soundlessly on the floor. Even her lips had turned completely pale. Her world was crumbling in pain and darkness.

It's painful... it hurts... someone... save me...

Her father's figure, her mother's figure... Yun Che's figure, and a dark but warm light flashed across her eyes.

She tried everything in her power to touch the black light. A mutter that came from the soul resounded throughout the blurry world of her consciousness.

Se... nior...

.....

Yun Che had been silent ever since he left the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan. Even Qianye Ying'er chose not to speak with him right away.

"Where are we going?" Qianye Ying'er finally spoke after a while.

"Wherever fate leads us."

"In that case, I have a good place in mind."

"Where?"

"The God Realm of Absolute Beginning."

Yun Che turned around and looked at her with a frown.

"Think flexibly," Qianye Ying'er said slowly. "You're extremely good in the art of concealment, and you now have control over the power of wind. No one in the Eastern Divine Region will recognize you if you disguise yourself and pretend to be a wind profound practitioner."

"As for me, I'm even safer than you are because of the Ni Yuan Stone. It's true that you and I were driven into this place at the beginning, but those powers also can't stop us anymore, can they?"

"I've been to the God Realm of Absolute Beginning many times. I can tell you that there's no place in the world more suitable for cultivation than that place," Qianye Ying'er said as a cold glint flashed across her eyes. "Of course, the danger we'll be facing is equal to the opportunities we'll receive."

"I'll consider it," Yun Che didn't accept the suggestion, but he couldn't help but think of a girl in a rainbow dress when the name was brought up.

Caizhi...

I wonder how she's doing right now. I wonder if she heard about what happened to me and Jasmine already...

Clang!

Suddenly, an unnatural flash of darkness appeared in Yun Che's eyes.

"Hmm?" Qianye Ying'er also noticed it. "What's that?"

She discovered that Yun Che's face had become unnaturally dark before she even finished her sentence.

Without a word, he grabbed Qianye Ying'er's shoulder and charged right back to the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan like a tornado.

Chapter 1590 - Soundless Fury

"Did something happen to the girl?" Qianye Ying'er immediately figured out the reason behind Yun Che's change in expression and aura.

The darkness imprint Yun Che left inside Yun Shang was clearly imbued with a bit of his soul energy.

However, it had only been less than two hours since they left the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan... and whatever had happened to her during this time was clearly serious.

Yun Che didn't answer Qianye Ying'er. His expression was dark and frigid... it was because the emotions he felt from the soul energy he left in Yun Shang were pain and despair!

Yun Che's speed hit an astonishing level as wind propelled the Extreme Mirage Lightning. He was almost fast enough to pierce through space already.

In less than fifteen minutes' time, he had returned to the Yun Clan's lightning region.

Still holding onto Qianye Ying'er, Yun Che passed through the lightning region without pause... the clouds in the sky moved slightly, but didn't fire any lightning at them.

When they entered the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan's domain, Yun Che slowed down and expanded his spiritual senses in every direction. However, he wasn't able to sense Yun Shang. Clearly a barrier was blocking him from sensing her the normal way. He closed his eyes temporarily to search for the soul energy he left inside Yun Shang, and soon he set his gaze on the Yun Clan's ancestral shrine and flew toward it.

Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er were the Heavenly Heaven Yun Clan's honored guests, and when they left, they hadn't told anyone about their departure besides Yun Shang. Since the lightning region didn't react to them, no one knew that the duo had left and returned to the clan.

The Yun clansmen on the ground were surprised to see them zipping across the sky like lightning, but no one thought to warn someone or stop them in their tracks.

They were getting closer to the ancestral shrine, but Yun Shang's life force was growing weaker and weaker. A short time later, a deep purple colored barrier that encompassed the entire shrine entered their vision.

The barrier wasn't particularly powerful. It was there mainly to warn people away from the shrine. After all, who would intrude the ancestral shrine with such an obvious barrier in place? Not any Yun clansmen at least.

"Break it," Yun Che said darkly.

The golden colored soft sword Qianye Ying'er hung at her waist flew out and caused a thousand-meter crack to appear in the air.

The golden crack immediately split open the purple lightning barrier and destroyed it in an instant.

An angry roar broke out of the ancestral shrine when the barrier shattered, "Who dares!?"

Bang!!

The thick and heavy stone door at the entrance was destroyed violently. The group of people who just finished constructing the Blood Transfer Formation and were about to perform the taboo were surprised when they saw who the intruder was.

The twenty two strongest profound practitioners of the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan were currently present in the ancestral shrine. Just the spirit pressure they emitted was enough to make most people unable to breathe.

Yun Shang was at the center of these auras. Deathly pale and barely breathing, she lay on the ground like a lifeless blade of grass. Beneath her, the flickering light of an eerie, red colored profound formation painted her body in red.

Divine Sovereigns naturally had strong minds, but everyone including Yun Ting looked panicked, not angry, when Yun Che suddenly barged into their ancestral shrine.

They couldn't tell anyone about the fact that Yun Shang was destroyed, much less the forbidden blood ritual. However, both facts had been exposed to the outsider, Yun Che.

The silence lasted for a fraction of a second. Then, Yun Che appeared next to Yun Shang and gently lifted her into the air.

His movement finally finally broke the group out of their shock. Yun Xiang strode toward Yun Che and said, "Let her go!"

However, an ancient hand caught him by the arm and stopped him in his tracks. Yun Ting shook his head at Yun Xiang and said powerlessly, "Leave him. He's Shang'er's savior."

Yun Che was the one who took care of Yun Shang during the half a year she went missing, not to mention that he was the one who saved her in the first place. It was obvious to everyone that Yun Shang held very special feelings toward Yun Che, and relied on him heavily... Yun Shang's destruction had already caused them great regret, but the sight of Yun Che only deepened that feeling even further.

“What did you people do to her?” Yun Che asked while pressing his hand against Yun Shang’s chest. He didn’t look up, and his voice sounded so calm that not even Qianye Ying’er could detect any emotion from it.

The same couldn’t be said for He Ling, however. The devil in Yun Che’s heart was clearly letting out a low, guttural growl. She hurriedly said, “Please wait, Master... everyone here is good to Yun Shang. There must be some kind of reason.”

Yun Ting let out a sigh and said, “Yun Che, you’re the one who saved Shang’er, and you share a close relationship with each other. I suppose we shouldn’t hide the truth for you since you’ve seen this with your own eyes.”

“We were working together to refine the ‘Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet’ our ancestors left behind. It was to improve Shang’er’s talent and cultivation. However, we never imagined that the pellet spirit would undergo a transformation during the hundreds of thousands of years it was sealed... we had no choice but to drive the rampaging pellet energy into her profound veins to preserve her life.”

Yun Ting closed his eyes painfully and continued, “We destroyed Shang’er and the hope of our clan... this is a grave error we cannot change. You’d be right to scold us for our failure.”

Yun Che was circulating both the Divine Miracle of Life and the Great Way of the Buddha right now. Yun Shang’s face slowly gained a bit of color as light profound energy carried the Rage God’s energy into her tiny body.

He had no doubt that Yun Ting was telling him the truth. The purple pellet that was sealed by Divine Sovereigns and emitting a strange spirit energy at the side, and the remaining pellet energy inside Yun Shang’s body were proof of Yun Ting’s words.

Suddenly, Qianye Ying’er spoke up, “If that’s true, then tell me, what’s with this Blood Transfer Formation?”

The people balked slightly when they heard her question.

“What do you mean?” Yun Che looked up and asked. He had heard her tone, and seen the obvious change in everyone else’s expressions.

Qianye Ying’er once told him that the Brahma God Clan had a unique bloodline power. Naturally, they knew some taboo arts such as the transference of bloodline power.

Yun Che might not recognize the crimson profound formation beneath Yun Shang, but Qianye Ying’er knew what it was the moment she saw it.

“This is a Blood Transfer Formation used to transfer one’s bloodline power from one person to another. It is considered an incredibly cruel sacrificial formation, and it is considered a taboo in any realm.”

“The sacrifice’s blood and vitality are fully drained so that their bloodline power can be transferred or fused into a person of a similar bloodline.”

Yun Che, “...”

Qianye Ying'er knew full well what kind of reaction her explanation would draw out of Yun Che, but she continued to pour oil onto the fire and said, "I guess the girl still has her uses even after she was crippled by them. They were planning to use a taboo art to strip her of her purple heavenly handle. It's no wonder someone wants to annihilate their clan."

The Blood Transfer Formation was an absolutely taboo formation that went against the human way and even the natural way. It was even a taboo among taboos to the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan. Literally no one here had ever come into contact with something like this before, and they definitely didn't think that they would be forced to operate such a cruel taboo one day.

Yun Che didn't move or react at all. Still circulating the Divine Miracle of Life, the memory of Jasmine and Caizhi being sealed into a sacrificial formation passed through his eyes...

The fact that Qianye Ying'er had revealed the Blood Transfer Formation, exposed their sin and taunted them in the end caused their humiliation to turn into anger immediately.

"Impudent!" The great elder let out an angry growl.

The second elder rose to his feet and sent his aura crashing down on Qianye Ying'er like a tidal wave while saying, "Kneel and apologize, and you'll get to live!"

"Stop!"

Yun Ting said before canceling out Yun Fu's aura with his own. He sighed heavily and said, "You saved Shang'er before. You're our honored guests and our benefactors... Leave in two hours, and we will not ask you to pay for your crimes of intrusion and offense."

Yun Xiang said urgently, "But if they were to spread word about this..."

"So what if they did?" Yun Ting let out a bitter laugh. "We chose to do this, didn't we?"

Yun Che lifted Yun Shang and slowly turned around. His gaze slowly swept across the twenty two Divine Sovereigns in front of him before finally stopping at Yun Ting. He asked, "Why did you do this?"

He sounded incredibly calm. It was as if he was a stranger asking about something that didn't matter to him.

"Put down Shang'er and get out of our shrine!" Yun Xiang said while stepping forward before Yun Ting could give him a reply. The young man stared coldly at Yun Che before continuing, "You've barged into our ancestral shrine and offended our clan. Our clan chief has given you much face by treating you as mercifully as he has... get out of this place right now before I change my mind!"

"Answer me. Why did you do this?" Ignoring Yun Xiang's angry yell completely, Yun Che calmly repeated his question a second time.

But for some reason, a chill suddenly entered Yun Ting's body out of nowhere.

"This... definitely isn't what we wanted." Yun Ting's reply sounded incredibly weak.

Yun Che continued to speak in a calm tone. "From the looks of this ancient pellet, only a Divine Spirit and above can consume it safely, and that's assuming the person is supported. Yun Shang has only

entered Divine Tribulation Realm, and the chances of something going wrong even if she had the support of a Divine Master are very high... are you seriously telling me that you weren't aware of this?"

"You are the ones who destroyed her with your own hands, and this Blood Transfer Formation is how you repay her?"

Yun Ting looked away and said sorrowfully, "The deadline is close... Everything—be it the Sacred Yun Ancient Pellet or the Blood Transfer Formation—is for the sake of an uncertain future. We don't have another choice."

"Clan Chief, you don't have to explain anything to him," Yun Xiang said and pointed his palm straight at Yun Che. He continued, "I don't care how close you are to Shang'er, but... she is a member of the Heavenly Handle Yun Clan, this is her sacrifice for the sake of the clan. But you are just an outsider from the beginning to the end. An outsider like you has no right to interfere with our business!"

"Your transgressions today have canceled out your earlier favor." Yun Xiang's expression and tone turned darker. "So this is your last warning... get out of here now, or you won't get another chance!"

Yun Che flipped his palm once, and the power of the Divine Miracle of Life changed with the movement. Right now, Yun Che was focusing all of his mind and power onto Yun Shang, and he did not dare to get distracted for even a second... Otherwise, the shrine might already be littered with bodies.

Shang'er was still deathly pale. He looked up from her face and smiled at the people in front of him. He said, "In your eyes, the clan's interest is far more important than her life. The reason you treated her well was for the sake of the clan. Even when you crippled her and are ready to sacrifice her in a cruel ritual, you still believe you're in the right because it's for the sake of the clan."

"It all sounds reasonable and fair. I will even admit that I've no right to interfere with your clan's business because I am an outsider."

His gaze slowly swept across the Divine Sovereigns faces as he continued, "To me, her life is far more important than all of yours combined. Going by that logic, does that mean I'd be perfectly in the right if I killed all of you for what you did to her?"