The Gods 1611

Chapter 1611 - The Girl Who Commands a Dragon (1)

"Our lord repeatedly warned us not to tell the young master of the matter regarding the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning. But now that I think about it, doing so will be able to ease the hesitation in the young master's heart," Qu Hui said. As the head of the Adjudicators, he had always been someone who played it by the book, even to the point of cutting off his own emotions. Perhaps it was only in front of Zhou Qingchen that he found himself smiling every now and then.

"I thank Uncle Qu Hui for letting me know. However, no matter what happens with the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning, I definitely won't disappoint the expectations of my royal father and all of my uncles."

Zhou Qingchen gave an easygoing smile as he flew downwards and entered an even deeper part of the God Realm of Absolute Beginning.

Honorable Qu Hui could sense a thick fighting spirit and desire emanating from Zhou Qingchen's body. It was clear that he was determined to give the Eternal Heaven God Emperor a pleasant surprise at the end of his training. He warned him from afar. "Young master, do not descend further than fifteen thousand kilometers. Wherever there are strange plants and spiritual treasures there will also be ancient profound beasts who have made that area their territory. You must be careful."

Just as Qu Hui was warning Zhou Qingchen, a huge shadow that was over three hundred meters long suddenly soared out of the ancient gray forest. Its wings generated millions of wind blades that tore straight at Zhou Qingchen.

Astonishingly enough, that gigantic shadow was a wild bird with the head of a phoenix!

The wild beasts that lived in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning rarely fought amongst themselves, and it seemed to be because the "world" they lived in was different from the outside world. However, they were quite sensitive to auras that came from the outside, and the moment they encountered such an aura, they would often directly launch attacks at these interlopers.

However, Qu Hui did not take action despite seeing this scene unfold in front of him. Zhou Qingchen possessed the cultivation of a level six Divine Sovereign, so he would not meet with any life-threatening danger in this outer region of the God Realm of Absolute Beginning.

Zhou Qingchen glanced to the side. Even though he was facing this wild bird which had suddenly launched an attack against him, his gaze was completely calm. He did not look like he was even going to defend himself and from an outsider's perspective, it looked like he did not have time to react to this attack.

However, it was at this moment that a loud roar rang in the air, accompanied by a violently howling storm.

Countless ancient trees were uprooted and tossed into the air by this storm. The wild bird which had been charging toward Zhou Qingchen suddenly changed the trajectory of its headlong rush and its body was flipped over. In the next instant, a figure soared into the sky and the storm grew even more violent. With a heavy ring, the dreadful storm snapped one of the wild bird's wings like a twig. The wild bird gave a shrill cry as it struggled to escape the storm. However, it did not retaliate in anger once it broke free of the storm. Instead, it desperately fled into distance.

The wind swirling around the newly-appeared person died down. He did not chase after the bird. Instead, he faced Zhou Qingchen and gave a nod of his head as he said, "Hello brother. This sort of wild bird likes to launch sneak attacks because the aura its body radiates is very similar to the surrounding area. It is better to be careful around here."

Zhou Qingchen replied with a faint smile, "Brother, I thank you for your help."

The other party was slightly taken aback when he saw Zhou Qingchen's calm and tranquil smile. After that, he laughed as he said, "It looks like this humble one was being a busybody, farewell."

As he spoke, a woman gracefully arrived at his side.

The woman's long light golden hair fell straight to her hips. It looked like a luxurious cascade of liquid gold. She wore a rather large mask that was shaped like phoenix wings over her face. The mask was a pure icy-blue color, but the icy light that glinted off it looked dull and washed-out compared to the glow of her jade skin.

"..." Zhou Qingchen's gaze violently froze.

"Let's go." Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er prepared to leave.

"...Wait a moment," Zhou Qingchen suddenly spoke just as Yun Che was turning around. Even though it was not obvious, his voice lost some of its previous calm elegance and it had gained an unnatural urgency.

Yun Che's gaze turned back toward him as he said, "Does this esteemed one have anything to say to me?"

Zhou Qinchen took a step forward. After that, he realized that he had lost some of his composure and he forcefully restrained his gaze. He gave Yun Che a small bow as he said, "Brother, you magnanimously lent your help to a stranger even though we met by chance in this dangerous place. For that, this humble one is deeply grateful. Brother seems to be rather familiar with this place, but this is this humble one's first time here, so every step fills me with apprehension. If you do not mind, I don't know if... the two of you would want to journey with me and we can watch each other's backs?"

In the distance, Qu Hui's forehead faintly wrinkled up.

The profound energy that radiated from these two people was at the fourth level of the Divine Sovereign Realm. So even if they harbored any ulterior motives, they posed no threat to Zhou Qingchen. What had puzzled and astonished Qu Hui was this. Given Zhou Qingchen's identity and temperament coupled with the determination he had shown toward this training mission, why had he suddenly suggested traveling with these two strangers of unknown origins?

Even though the other party had taken the initiative to help him, the most complicated thing in this world was the human heart, so they definitely could not determine whether he was a kind person based on that action alone... And there was no way that Zhou Qingchen did not know that as well.

At this moment, Qu Hui's gaze suddenly froze when it settled upon that golden-haired woman... After that, he averted his gaze and let out a silent sigh.

Ah, so that's why...

"This..." Hesitation appeared on Yun Che's face.

"The two of you can rest easy." Zhou Qingchen wore a faint smile on his face, but he suddenly released his profound energy, immediately causing the space around him to start swirling slowly. "Even though this humble one is unfamiliar with this place, I definitely won't drag the two of you down. This humble one will only take a third of any opportunities we manage to cut down, I won't be greedy for more."

Zhou Qingchen was someone who very easily gave other people a favorable impression of himself. When Yun Che had met him for the first time, this was something that stood out to him.

His genteel elegance and his modest and well-mannered behavior made it hard for others to believe that he was the son of a god emperor... Perhaps, among all the king realms in the God Realm, only a prince of the Eternal Heaven God Realm would behave in such a manner.

Yun Che shot Qianye Ying'er a look. After that, he pondered the matter briefly before saying, "Alright, one more companion means one more helping hand and less risk. As such, I ask that you give us lots of guidance."

For the other party to be proactive was a completely different notion from him being proactive.

Furthermore, trying to get the Eternal Heaven Crown Prince, whose status was above the heavens, to proactively approach two Divine Sovereigns he had just met by coincidence, two Divine Sovereigns of completely unknown origins, was something that should have been impossible.

Yet it had been realized all too easily by Yun Che at this precise moment.

And there was only one reason for that, Qianye Ying'er... More accurately speaking, it was the golden hair and celestial figure which "greatly resembled" Qianye Ying'er's own.

That one glance had shaken him to the depths of his soul.

Even though he was the world-renowned Eternal Heaven Crown Prince, the future Eternal Heaven God Emperor. Someone whose exalted status was unmatched amongst his male peers.

There was one person that this Eternal Heaven Crown Prince adored... to the point where he became as pathetic as dust when it came to her.

The Brahma Monarch Goddess had countless admirers spread out amongst the three divine regions. But when it came to status and future prospects, Zhou Qingchen could be counted as one of the admirers who could match up to her.

However, due to the limitations of the Eternal Heaven God Realm's method of inheritance, even though Zhou Qingchen was their crown prince, he could only fully complete his divine power inheritance after Zhou Xuzi abdicated his position as the Eternal Heaven God Emperor. Thus, even though his innate talent was peerless, given his status as a Divine Sovereign, when he was faced with Qianye Ying'er's cultivation, appearance, divine beauty, and fame... he became so ashamed of himself that even his breathing would become disordered.

As the Eternal Heaven Crown Prince, he had many more opportunities to see Qianye Ying'er than others. But he had only ever dared to gaze at her from afar. He had not dared to even approach her, much less take the initiative to speak to her.

Perhaps, no one would be able to believe that the grand Eternal Heaven Crown Prince, the future Eternal Heaven God Emperor, would actually act in such a pathetic manner in front of a woman.

However Qianye Ying'er's impression of Zhou Qingchen was summed up in five simple words:

The trash of Eternal Heaven.

Given her temperament and her way of doing things, the place she despised the most was the Eternal Heaven God Realm which always clung to righteousness and which took the law and order of the Eastern Divine Region as their personal responsibility. The people she despised the most in this world were toothless and genteel people like Zhou Qingchen... who would scramble to fulfill her every desire.

"I was just wondering. What's your name and where you are from?"

The three of them would be traveling together, so Zhou Qingchen asked that question out of courtesy... However, the answer did not seem to be important to him at all.

"This humble one is Ling Yun, and I am from the Southern Divine Region's Wind Song Sacred Realm," Yun Che said in a very easy-going manner.

"The Wind Song Sacred Realm?" Astonishment appeared on Zhou Qingchen's face.

"Oh? Could it be that Brother has heard of it?" Yun Che said as he looked to the side.

"This is indeed a happy accident." Zhou Qingchen said with a faint smile. "Back when I was traveling the Southern Divine Region by myself, I stayed in the Wind Song Sacred Realm for a few days. The wind element in that place was so active that it took my breath away, so it left a fairly deep impression on me. It's no wonder that Brother Ling Yun possesses such mastery over the power of the storm."

"Not at all," Yun Che replied modestly. "If we were to compare our cultivations, this humble one is far inferior to you, esteemed one. When I moved hastily just now, the esteemed one definitely must have laughed at me."

"Hahaha." Zhou Qingchen started laughing as well. "The God Realm of Absolute Beginning is still the most dangerous place in the universe. It is hard to even take care of yourself in this place. Very few people would be able to act so righteously as to help a stranger in need. It's an act that truly caused me to gasp in admiration."

"This humble one's name is Chen Qing and I was born in the Eastern Divine Region. This is the first time I've entered the God Realm of Absolute Beginning, so I ask that two of you look after me." After he finished speaking, Zhou Qingchen very naturally looked to the side and shot a glance toward Qianye Ying'er, "I wonder how I may address this lady?" "This is this humble one's junior sister, Ling Qianying. She very seldom goes out into the world, so she isn't good with words. I hope that you aren't offended by this," Yun Che said.

"Qian... ying." Zhou Qingchen was stunned by those words and he was left at a momentary loss.

"Oh?" Puzzlement appeared on Yun Che's face.

Zhou Qingchen came back to his senses and he hurriedly laughed as he said, "High waves and a dream of clouds, a thousand shadows paint a most beautiful picture. They are truly beautiful names, so my mind could not help but wander a little. When I think about it, the person who is worthy of this name is definitely a peerless beauty."

"Brother Chen's praise is a little over the top," Yun Che said as he smiled. "Qianying is very unused to showing her face to other people, so I hope that Brother Chen does not take offense at it."

"I'm not offended, not offended at all," Zhou Qingchen replied with a faint smile, but a trace of disappointment flashed in the depths of his eyes.

Qu Hui silently observed everything from a distant location. This was supposed to be Zhou Qingchen's personal training journey in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning, so he would not interfere unless he had no other choice. He also would not give him any reminders or interfere with any of his decisions.

He had originally believed that Zhou Qingchen would escape this "devilish obstacle" when Qianye Ying'er had become Yun Che's slave and been marked with a lifetime's worth of shame. After that, she "betrayed" the Brahma Monarch God Realm and fled from it, her fate unknown. Qu Hui had thought that Zhou Qingchen would finally be free from this trap by then, but from what he saw today... it looked like he was as deeply mired as he had ever been.

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In the depths of the God Realm of Absolute Beginning

Just like Qu Hui had said, Honorable Tai Yin and Honorable Zhu Liu had already descended into the depths of the God Realm of Absolute Beginning, and they were very close to the territory of the Dragons of Absolute Beginning.

The Dragons of Absolute Beginning were the most ancient and strongest dragon clan in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning. Perhaps it was because their ability to reproduce was limited, but there were not many Dragons of Absolute Beginning in existence. In fact, their numbers paled in comparison to the Western Divine Region's Dragon God Clan. However, any single Dragon of Absolute Beginning, even if it was just a wyrmling, could display a peerlessly powerful and earth-shaking draconic might.

This was also the reason that the God Realm could only obtain a Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning once every few hundred thousand years.

Even to the king realms themselves, barging into the territory of the Dragons of Absolute Beginning and stealing the divine object that they guarded was a gamble that could cost them their lives.

However, even though Tai Yin and Zhu Liu formed a party of just two, they were entering this place with quite a bit of confidence.

Because they were Eternal Heaven Guardians! Because they possessed mighty spatial powers!

In the history of the God Realm, the various realms that comprised the God Realm had only harvested six Divine Fruits of Absolute Beginning, and half of them had been obtained by the Eternal Heaven God Realm. They had accomplished this by relying on their mastery over space, a power unique to their realm.

The territory of the Dragons of Absolute Beginning lay in front of them. Even though it was still quite far away from their location, the shocking draconic might was already pressing against their hearts and souls. It felt as if this draconic might had engulfed the entire gray-white land around them.

As the supreme ruler of every living being, a dragon roar acted as a verbal command to all of the living creatures in the vast space that surrounded the Dragons of Absolute Beginning. If a mighty mid-stage Divine Master were to enter this place, they would be considered lucky if they escaped with their life.

The two of them restrained their auras as best as they could as they silently advanced. However, at a certain point in time, their bodies suddenly froze at the same time.

It was an incomparably pure... No, it was a strange kind of aura that could not be described with any words. It completely transcended the knowledge of these two great Guardians. It was as if it had come from some illusory dreamscape or a divine realm that had long since ceased to exist.

That aura spread throughout the bodies of the two Guardians in a single instant. The two great Guardians possessed a Divine Master power that allowed them to isolate any foreign energy, but this power did not even seem to exist in front of this aura.

Their senses suddenly became incredibly clear, and their spiritual perception which had been suppressed by the aura radiating from the God Realm of Absolute Beginning instantly cleared up. They felt as if their bodies were being bathed in some sort of mysterious and unfathomable spring.

The two Guardians could not help but suck in a breath at the same time. After that, they glanced at each other and saw the deep excitement in each other's eyes.

"This is the... divine aura of the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning!" Tai Yin exclaimed in a deep voice. As one of the Guardians, he had only ever heard of the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning, he had never actually seen one before. However, this aura, this aura which did not seem like it should exist in this universe, instantly allowed him to understand why it had been crowned with the title of "divine fruit".

"We can't be mistaken," Zhu Liu said with much excitement.

Right now, they had yet to truly approach the territory of the Dragons of Absolute Beginning. They were so far away from the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning but its aura was already so overwhelming. They were unable to imagine just what sort of miracle they would witness once they had drawn near to it! And what sort of miracle would occur when it had been consumed!

Chapter 1612 - The Girl Who Commands a Dragon (2)

"It truly is a divine fruit. Its aura alone is worthy of the word 'divine'," Honorable Zhu Liu said. "The young master's future is secured if we can obtain it."

"Our lord himself said that this Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning is very close to full maturity. The divine energy it contains may even exceed the three fruits our Eternal Heaven obtained in the past," Honorable Tai Yin said with excitement in his eyes. "The young master's future is Eternal Heaven's future. Failure isn't an option."

"There is no reason we should fail," Honorable Zhu Liu declared.

Since the Eternal Heaven God Realm wasn't aiming to fight a war against the Dragons of Absolute Beginning, greater numbers absolutely wasn't the way to go here. The reason they were the best candidates to retrieve the divine fruit was because they were incredibly accomplished in the art of space, and they had brought with them the realm's greatest spatial artifacts. With their knowledge of the dragons' territory, the Eternal Heaven Spirit's aura tracking, and their ancestors' experiences in retrieving the divine fruit...

There was no reason they should fail in their endeavor!

The duo tried their best to suppress their aura before approaching the dragons' territory. The closer they approached, the greater the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning affected their bodies and souls.

"Alright, this is it." Honorable Tai Yin stopped in his tracks and said, "The divine aura of the divine fruit will nourish the body and soul of a dragon by a lot. As a result, their spiritual senses will be a lot stronger than normal. We cannot get any closer than this."

"This distance is enough," Honorable Zhu Liu said.

The duo stood still and pushed out their palms together. A gray white colored cauldron immediately appeared in front of them.

The cauldron's name was "Great Void". It was the strongest spatial profound artifact not just in the Eternal Heaven God Realm, but the entire Eastern Divine Region. Even the super large transdimensional formation the Eternal Heaven God Realm had built to teleport directly to the edge of the Primal Chaos used it as its core.

The two of them pressed their hands against the cauldron at the same time. A moment of silence later, a weak, white light rose rose from the surface of the cauldron and spread into a small-sized spatial profound formation.

The two Guardians gathered all of their concentration and circulated the laws of space to the absolute limit. They didn't forget to keep the outgoing aura to a minimum either. A long time later, the spatial profound formation surrounding the cauldron slowly solidified. Although it looked very small and weak on the surface, the fact that it was the culmination of power of two Guardians and the Great Void Cauldron proved that it was no ordinary spatial profound formation.

"Alright..." Honorable Tai Yin opened his eyes and said in a low tone, "We've successfully pinpointed the orientation and position. Now it's all up to fate. Our lord once said that the position provided by the Eternal Heaven Spirit wouldn't deviate more than ten kilometers. If the heavens are truly with us..."

"A deviation of ten kilometers will not be a problem," Honorable Zhu Liu said.

"I'll control the formation while you take the fruit! Remember... the fruit is our only goal!"

Their gazes grew firm as they chanted something and took a step forward at the same time. They vanished alongside the cauldron the moment they entered the profound formation.

They were in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning. The act of teleporting was difficult enough already, much less teleporting to a specific location.

However, the teleportation was completed perfectly due to the power of two Guardians and the Great Void Cauldron!

The scene before their eyes changed, and the world was still gray white in color. However, the sudden change in aura made them feel like they had teleported into a completely different world.

An infinite amount of draconic pressure crashed down on them. It was so incredibly heavy and ancient that it was as if it came from the ancient past.

At the same time, they sensed a divine aura so rich it was as if it hailed from a distant god realm.

The Guardians got a surprise so pleasant that their blood stopped circulating for an instant. The source of the aura was very close.

Three hundred meters... the fruit was actually just three hundred meters away from them !!

To a powerful Guardian, this distance was almost the same as an arm's length. It was the best case scenario which they had only envisioned in their dreams!

However, they didn't waste even a single moment to express their excitement or look at their surroundings. Honorable Zhu Liu finally unleashed his hidden energy and charged toward the source of the divine aura like lightning.

Behind him, Honorable Tai Yin also unleashed his profound energy to sustain the spatial profound formation beneath his feet.

A ray of red light entered his pupils at this exact moment.

It was a red-colored fruit that was only as big a fingernail. However, it glowed like a star that dyed most of its surroundings blood red.

Hordes of giant, gray dragons could be seen sitting around the fruit and bathing in its rich aura. The Dragons of Absolute Beginning viewed the formation of every Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning as a heavenly miracle. Not only could its aura purify a dragon's aura and soul, it had the potential to wholly change a dragon.

Honorable Zhu Liu had appeared out of nowhere, and he had pounced toward the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning at the soonest opportunity. Naturally, the dragons weren't able to react in time... Even before the first dragon could angrily roar, Honorable Zhu Liu had already passed through them and made a grab for the fruit.

Since the dragons wished to bathe in the divine fruit's aura, no barriers were erected around it as a matter of course. That was why Honorable Zhu Liu was able to close in on the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning completely unobstructed... if he succeeded, his connection to the Great Void Cauldron would

teleport him back to the transdimensional formation instantly. Then, he would escape with Honorable Tai Yin.

Thirty meters... fifteen meters... nine meters... three meters...

He was a thousandth of a second away from succeeding. Then, a dragon's roar exploded beside his ears and inside his soul.

As an Eternal Heaven Guardian, Honorable Zhu Liu's experience and knowledge were far superior to the common profound practitioner. However, he had no doubt that the roar ringing in his soul was the most terrifying dragon roar he had ever heard in his life.

The roar caused him to black out and drop toward the ground. His hand grabbed only air as a result.

An even more terrifying result had happened alongside his blunder. The dragon roar had shaken his soul and destroyed his connection to the Great Void Cauldron!

Behind Honorable Zhu Liu, Honorable Tai Yin paled in shock seeing the impossible happening right before his eyes. When he looked up toward the dragon that blocked the sun itself, he immediately felt like his pupils were pierced by needles. He blurted out in shivering fear, "The... the Dragon Emperor of Absolute Beginning!"

The Dragon Emperor of Absolute Beginning was the emperor of his race. He was also the strongest dragon in the entire God Realm of Absolute Beginning.

The fact that he was called an "Emperor" should ring alarm bells in anyone's head. As its title might suggest, it was almost as strong as a god emperor!

Of course, Honorable Tai Yin and Honorable Zhu Liu had accounted for the possibility of encountering the Dragon Emperor of Absolute Beginning and made appropriate preparations. That was why they had used their strongest spatial technique to teleport themselves obscenely close to the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning... The Dragon Emperor might be incredibly powerful, but not even he could react toward their sudden ambush in time.

However, not only was the dragon emperor waiting right next to the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning, it had let out a soul shaking roar in that critical moment that was shorter than even a flash!

It was almost as if he knew they were coming and was waiting for this exact moment!

But that just couldn't be possible, could it? Both the teleportation and the ambush had happened in only an instant, and they had made sure to begin their preparations far enough from the dragons' domain! It was a fact that none of the dragons had detected them!

After Honorable Zhu Liu had collapsed toward the ground, angry, draconic roars started appearing from every direction. Space and even the blue sky above their heads started shaking as countless dragons focused their auras on the thieves... especially Honorable Zhu Liu, who was the closest person to the fruit.

"Run!!"

The shout pierced through Honorable Zhu Liu and woke him from his daze... Although the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning was right in front of him, the Guardian knew that he had missed his best, if not his only, chance to steal the fruit. Even if he were to make a second attempt, it was entirely possible that he would fail and lose his life because of it, even if he was a Guardian of the Eternal Heaven God Realm!

Honorable Zhu Liu let out a growl before summoning a strange glowing fan into his hand. When the fan was opened, the draconic auras holding him in place like real ropes instantly broke off from his body. He had no intentions of fighting whatsoever, and he gathered his spatial powers quickly to teleport back to Honorable Tai Yin.

However, a draconic might that felt like the sky itself froze all space within the area. Honorable Zhu Liu didn't even travel ninety meters before he was stopped dead in his tracks.

This teleportation was completely fueled by Honorable Zhu Liu's own spatial energy, not a profound artifact. Unfortunately, a huge amount of spatial energy was required to teleport even a short distance in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning.

The forceful freezing of space caused the spatial energy within the area to rapidly collapse. Honorable Zhu Liu trembled all over and nearly spat out a mouthful of blood.

Unfortunately for him, he didn't even have the time to take a breather. The Dragon Emperor of Absolute Beginning was already swooping down on him!

None of the dragons were moving toward Honorable Zhu Liu. In fact, they were moving away from him.

It was because the Dragon Emperor was taking matters into his own claws. Attempting to interfere would only be an affront toward their emperor!

The might of the Dragon Emperor was terrible and deadly. The second Honorable Zhu Liu was caught by the pressure, he immediately felt like his internal organs were wrung like a towel... Of course, he knew of the Dragon Emperor of Absolute Beginning. But he never thought that he would run into him the second he teleported into their territory.

They were supposed to be the ambushers who took the dragons by surprise, but they were the ones who got surprised by the Dragon Emperor's roar and had their initiative robbed from them instead.

The Dragon Emperor of Absolute Beginning was not an opponent they could fight just by working together, and to lose the initiative right in front of him... they might be the Guardians of Eternal Heaven God Realm, but even they weren't immune to death.

A giant claw descended from the sky, and absolutely everything beneath its claw was annihilated to dust. The Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning was the only thing that continued to glow quietly and unharmed despite how close the destruction was taking place.

Boom!!

Honorable Zhu Liu had no choice but to raise his hands and bear the full brunt directly. He was barely able to stop it from crushing it outright, but couldn't stop vomiting blood after the destructive blast of energy. He lifted his head abruptly and shouted hoarsely, "Leave me and run!!"

His connection to the Great Void Cauldron was severed, the Dragon Emperor was on him, and his profound energy was in chaos. This was without mentioning the fact that he was currently surrounded by countless other dragons. He knew that there was little to no chance he was escaping today. On the other hand, Honorable Tai Yin was still inside the profound formation and could teleport away at any moment. If his colleague tried to save him, this disaster might claim his life as well.

"Zhu Liu!" Honorable Tai Yin shouted and hesitated for an instant. Then, he moved out of the profound formation, charged forward, and threw a giant hand seal straight at the dragon claw.

The hand seal successfully threw the Dragon Emperor's claw away from Honorable Zhu Liu. Both Guardians immediately took off in different directions.

Honorable Zhu Liu was finally able to take a breather after escaping the Dragon Emperor's suppression. Again, he gathered his power and tried to circulate the spatial laws... but just the thought entered his mind, the terrible shadow of a blue wolf suddenly appeared in his soul. He instantly felt chilled to the very bones.

He turned around with difficulty, and the image of a giant wolf abruptly appeared above his head. Its gaping mouth was several thousand meters wide, and its teeth were glowing black and blue.

"Heavenly ... Wolf ... "

He was engulfed just as the words flashed across his mind.

BOOM

Honorable Zhu Liu was knocked heavily toward the ground, the blood spewing out of his throat in gouts at least dozens of meters long. The second he hit the ground, the Dragon Emperor's claw hit him again without mercy.

The earth instantly crumbled exaggeratedly. The fact that the attack caused a terrible spatial storm across the whole domain of the dragons showed just how deadly it was.

The Dragon Emperor removed his claw, revealing a bruised and bloodied Honorable Zhu Liu at the center of the crater. Nearly half his bones had shattered from the impact alone. Still, he was a level eight Divine Master. He wasn't going down easily.

His eyes regained their focus once more... but a delicate, colorful figure suddenly jumped off the head of the Dragon Emperor of Absolute Beginning.

It looked like a girl. There was a flash of rippling colors, and blue divine light suddenly enveloped the whole area. A huge sword at least three meters long dropped down on Honorable Zhu Liu while accompanied by the roar of a heavenly wolf.

It was almost as powerful as the Dragon Emperor's roar!

"You... are..."

Honorable Zhu Liu only managed to say two words before the blue sword pierced his solar plexus like it was made of rotten wood. It mercilessly nailed the Guardian of Eternal Heaven God Realm to the shattered ground.

Bang!!

The pierced body suddenly exploded into pieces. However, both the body and the fluid inside it turned to dust before they could scatter to the surroundings.

Chapter 1613 - Transformed Heavenly Wolf

"Zhu Liu!!"

Honorable Tai Yin's shout was engulfed by the storm of disaster that refused to fade until a long time later.

An Eternal Heaven Guardian was the foundation, soul, and symbol of glory of the Eternal Heaven God Realm.

Even today, the Eternal Heaven God Realm still hadn't found a suitable successor to replace the two Guardians they had lost to the Evil Infant a couple of years ago. But considering that their opponent was the Evil Infant, the worst heretic of the entire Primal Chaos, it was an understandable loss.

However, both the Devil Emperor and the Evil Infant were gone in this world, and an Eternal Heaven Guardian still died right before his eyes.

Worse, he was killed by a giant sword that was both familiar and strange to him.

The Heavenly Wolf Sacred Sword was the lifebound weapon of the Heavenly Wolf Star God. It was undeniably a powerful weapon. However, to Honorable Tai Yin's—or anyone's—knowledge, it wasn't strong enough to kill an Eternal Heaven Guardian so easily!

Honorable Tai Yin's gaze cut through the storm of destruction and settled on the fine figure of a girl. The rainbow-colored dress she was wearing was the last gift her mother had tailored for her with her own hands. It was why she willed her body to stay childish, and abandoned the more powerful Heavenly Wolf Battle Armor. She never wanted to wear something else, and it unwittingly became her symbol many years ago.

Heavenly Wolf Star God... Caizhi.

Honorable Tai Yin's pupils widened to their limits. He realized who the attacker was immediately, but as a Guardian of the Eternal Heaven God Realm, there weren't many people in the world who knew more about the Star Gods than him. Although Caizhi was known to be incredibly compatible with the Heavenly Wolf's divine power, it had only been ten or so years since she inherited that power.

Moreover, it was public knowledge that the Heavenly Wolf divine power was the strongest, but also the slowest and most difficult power to awaken out of all twelve Star Gods.

In the beginning, after Caizhi had inherited her Star God power, she often visited the Eternal Heaven God Realm. Zhou Xuzi was also very fond of her. She was undoubtedly the weakest Star God back then. Even if she was impossibly compatible with the Heavenly Wolf divine power, no one expected her to make much progress in a few, or even a dozen or so years. However, it was a fact that his heart, even his whole body was shaking uncontrollably... the giant sword she wielded was bigger than her, but next to her sword was the dusty remains of an Eternal Heaven Guardian.

Although Honorable Zhu Liu was injured and temporarily crippled by the Dragon Emperor of Absolute Beginning, he was still an Eternal Heaven Guardian. He was one of the most difficult profound practitioners to kill in the entire world. However, Caizhi still managed to kill him in one strike... It shouldn't be possible unless her power had reached... level ten Divine Master!

The Eternal Heaven God Emperor and Honorable Tai Yu were the only ones who had reached this level in the entire Eternal Heaven God Realm.

Even when the Star God Realm was at its most prosperous, Xing Juekong, the Star God Emperor was the only one who had reached level ten Divine Master.

She... she should be a "wolf cub" at best... could it be...

No... impossible... such a thing couldn't possibly happen!

Despite all of his experience, knowledge, and strength, the shock was so great that Honorable Tai Yin forgot to make his escape.

By the time he recovered his wits, the sword aura that annihilated Honorable Zhu Liu just a moment ago had already caught up to him. Unable to breathe, the shadow of a snarling blue wolf entered his vision.

The wolf became the only thing he could sense no matter which sense he used. It also felt as if his world would be torn to shreds in the next instant.

Honorable Tai Yin felt another bolt of shock when he realized that the gleam in the wolf's pupils was chaotic black in color instead of pure blue!

Had she... transformed into a devil!?

The thought passed through his mind at the same time his body reacted unconsciously. His Eternal Heaven divine power roared with all its might like an animal that was rudely awakened from its slumber.

He hadn't participated in the battle against the Evil Infant. Therefore, he couldn't remember the last time he had unleashed all of his power without holding anything back.

Dozens of defensive profound formations appeared in front of Honorable Tai Yin in an instant... That's right, he channeled all of his power into defense because the image of Honorable Zhu Liu being killed in one strike was still alive in his mind. Even if she was as weak as before, the Dragon Emperor of Absolute Beginning was right beside her. There was no way he could defeat him, so escape was his only option!

The storm of destruction hit him, and more than half of his defensive profound formations crumbled immediately. His face turned pale, and he nearly spat out a mouthful of blood.

The strike also killed his final vestiges of optimism. It was because the sword might he was enduring made him realize that Caizhi was definitely at the level his mind refused to believe even now!

Her power was clearly equal to... no, better than even her shining predecessor, Heavenly Wolf Xisu!

How... is... this... possible !?

Honorable Tai Yin was shocked, but he didn't panic. He let the shockwave push him away while simultaneously making a grabbing motion toward the Great Void Cauldron behind him.

However, he had just started circulating his spatial divine powers when the space around him was locked by force again. It was immediately followed by a draconic might none could match, and the Heavenly Wolf's divine power.

Pupils shrinking, Honorable Tai Yin had no choice but to withdraw his power and bear the Dragon Emperor's power head on.

Rumble!

The world turned upside down, and Honorable Tai Yin was knocked back several kilometers in an instant. Although he was still standing, blood was pouring out of all his orifices. However, he had no chance to recuperate or even breathe. Two powers far stronger than his were tightening their nooses around his neck, even as the rest of the dragons took to the sky to seal off all of his escape routes.

"Foreign human, you and your greed will be forever buried in this ground!"

The Dragon Emperor's growl resounded throughout the sky as if he was passing judgment. He was in the Dragon of Absolute Beginning's territory, and his opponents were the Dragon Emperor himself and the impossibly powerful and corrupted Heavenly Wolf Star God. He might be a powerful Eternal Heaven Guardian, but his death was all but certain.

Bang!

In the Eternal Heaven God Realm, Zhou Xuzi suddenly swayed on his feet before clutching his forehead. His complexion was deathly pale.

In front of him, Honorable Tai Yu rushed towards him before asking in a serious tone, "What happened, my lord?"

Zhou Xuzi's aura remained chaotic for a long time. Finally, he stood up straight and said in a weak voice, "Zhu Liu... is dead."

The God Realm of Absolute Beginning was an independent world. Normally, no soul connection could reach into that world. However, the Eternal Heaven God Realm was anything but normal.

"What !?" Honorable Tai Yu exclaimed in shock. "Who? Who killed him? Did they ... fail?"

The Eternal Heaven God Emperor shook his head. The most he could sense was his Guardian's death. It was impossible to sense anything else through the barrier that separated the God Realm of Absolute Beginning from the rest of the world.

The god emperor's face was still bloodless. There was nothing worse to the Eternal Heaven God Realm than the death of a Guardian. He murmured to himself, "With their spatial divine power and the Great Void Cauldron, they should be able to retreat safely even if they failed to steal the divine fruit..."

"Maybe the Dragon Emperor of Absolute Beginning happened to be guarding the divine fruit right at that moment?" Honorable Tai Yu suggested.

The Eternal Heaven God Emperor closed his eyes before replying, "Tai Yin controls the Great Void Cauldron. He must be fine even if they did encounter the Dragon Emperor. However, that is not their only task. They're also supposed to be protecting Qingchen in secret. I cannot rest easy knowing this."

"Tai Yu, you will head to the God Realm of Absolute Beginning yourself and cancel the trial. Please bring Qingchen back home!"

"Yes, my lord!" Tai Yu accepted the order and went away swiftly.

This was the first time Honorable Tai Yin knew what the words "nightmare" and "despair" truly meant.

The strongest dragon in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning, the corrupted Heavenly Wolf Star God. Either one of these opponents would've been impossible to deal with, but the two of them combined meant that he couldn't even hold out for a dozen or so breaths before crumbling completely. The violent power of the Heavenly Wolf and the tyrannical power of the Dragon Emperor struck him directly.

Bang!

The Dragon Emperor's claw struck him in the back, sending him crashing into the ground.

Boom!

A tremendous power immediately blew him back up into the air as a merciless wolf cut through his body, leaving behind dozens of holes and blood everywhere.

Boom!!!

Blood just burst out of his mouth before he was hit again by the Dragon Emperor's claw. All of his internal organs ruptured at once.

He was like a dying leaf that was caught in a violent hurricane. There wasn't a shred of resistance that he could muster against the destructive violence.

Bang...

Even the Great Void Cauldron he had a death grip on all this time was smashed far into the distance.

Caizhi's eyes were as cold and dead as an abyss that had claimed billions of lives. The sight of the horribly disfigured Honorable Tai Yin failed to inflict a shred of mercy in her eyes. She made a pushing motion, and the devilish Heavenly Wolf Sacred Sword struck the falling Guardian dead on with destructive power.

Considering Honorable Tai Yin's current status, it wouldn't be a surprise if the attack outright split him in half.

A dim flash appeared in Honorable Tai Yin's unfocused eyes. He was still able to move a little despite the crushing pressure and all the holes in his body.

Cha!!

The Heavenly Wolf Sacred Sword flew past Honorable Tai Yin, but didn't penetrate his body as expected. It only took away his right arm.

The right arm crumbled into bloody pieces.

Bang!

Honorable Tai Yin crashed heavily against the ground while bleeding all over. His breathing was almost non-existent, and his body was twitching uncontrollably, but he was still conscious. His eyes were wide open with darkness and despair... No one would believe that he was a Guardian of the Eternal Heaven God Realm and a level nine Divine Master if they saw his current appearance.

He wasn't able to stand up in a long time. Even his last aura was fading at an exponential rate.

The storm slowly subsided, and the Heavenly Wolf Sacred Sword flew back to Caizhi's hands. She looked up slightly at the Dragon Emperor of Absolute Beginning... and surprisingly, he withdrew his astounding pressure and relinquished the right to execute this intruder; her hateful enemy.

Caizhi walked forward slowly and stood in front of Honorable Tai Yin. She stared right into his eyes indifferently and raised her sword at the seemingly already unconscious man.

Suddenly, the cauldron that was knocked far away from Honorable Tai Yin's hands flashed weakly.

The Guardian disappeared immediately and reappeared right beneath the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning.

The Guardian looked like he was close to dying, but he flew into the air and grabbed the divine fruit with his left hand when everyone least expected it. The Eternal Heaven's special divine power enabled him to pluck the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning perfectly and with ease.

Caizhi turned around abruptly and summoned the enraged power of the Heavenly Wolf once more, but the Great Void Cauldron appeared back in Honorable Tai Yin's hand.

The unexpected turn happened so quickly that not even the Dragon Emperor of Absolute Beginning was able to lock the space around them again. By the time his pressure reached the intended spot, both Honorable Tai Yin and the Great Void Cauldron had vanished without a trace. The only thing he left behind was a crumbling profound formation still circulating with high level spatial laws.

Tai Yin... was a Guardian after all.

Angry roars resounded throughout the dragons' territory. No matter how far the true dragons extended their senses, they were unable to find any trace of Honorable Tai Yu at all.

The Heavenly Wolf Sacred Sword vanished from Caizhi's hand, but surprisingly she didn't look panicked or angry. She simply turned to face towards the south.

"Master." A dignified voice appeared in her mind. "Why did you purposely let him steal the divine fruit when you hate him so much?"

She didn't give him a response at all. She simply took to the air and flew toward the south.

Chapter 1614 - Good and Evil

Bang!

Yun Che and Zhou Qingchen killed yet another giant profound beast before Qianye Ying'er extracted its undamaged profound core and stored it safely. It was clear from her movements that she was very practiced.

"Miss Qianying's movements are truly elegant. I guess the two of you are here very often," Zhou Qingzi praised. It was the umpteenth time he had praised Qianye Ying'er... even if he never got any response out of her.

"Well, she definitely did a good job extracting the profound core." Yun Che sounded like he was praising, but it elicited a cold snort from Qianye Ying'er.

"Speaking of which, you haven't claimed any resources for yourself even though this is your first here. I don't even see any greed in your eyes." Yun Che smiled at Zhou Qingchen and said, "The fur of this ancient Divine Sovereign beast alone is priceless to most people, but not you. Quite the opposite, actually. You must have an incredible background."

Zhou Qingchen smiled, but didn't deny it. He unconsciously stared at Qianye Ying'er's back again and said, "You and I are kindred spirits, so I have no wish to lie to you, Brother Ling. It is true my background is incredible, but both our bodies are still made of flesh and blood, and our souls filled with emotions and desires. Incredible background or not, our essences are the same."

"You think you envy me, but I'm the one who envies you, Brother Ling."

"You... envy me?" Yun Che shot him a sideways glance.

Zhou Qingchen smiled without giving a reply, but his eyes were drifting.

"Are you envying me because of her, Brother Chen?" Yun Che asked suddenly with a half-smile on his face.

Zhou Qingchen's expression froze abruptly.

"I was wondering why a powerful, noble profound practitioner like you would want to accompany us on our excursion," Yun Che explained with a smile. "I often noticed you looking in her direction, and every time we ran into a profound beast you'll move in front of her immediately to protect her from any possible harm."

"Also..." Yun Che turned cool on the inside when he sensed that he had shaken Zhou Qingchen a little. "You're praising her a little too much, don't you think?"

Zhou Qingchen avoided his gaze and shook his head self-derisively. He smiled and said, "You are truly attentive, Brother Ling. I've made myself look like a fool in front of you."

"Wait, you're actually interested in her?" Yun Che asked in an astonished tone before shooting Qianye Ying'er a sideways glance. The latter was standing far away from them and seemingly out of earshot. But Zhou Qingchen shook his head before looking at the sky. He let out a sigh and asked, "Brother Ling... What do you think is the most difficult thing in this world?"

Yun Che didn't answer his question. Instead, he replied in a casual tone, "That answer differs depending on the person. I'd like to hear your answer first, Brother Chen."

Zhou Qingchen closed his eyes and said, "My background is rather special. I was told since I was young that I am different from others, but the status came with a price; a 'mission'. 'Righteousness' is the thing I value the most in my life, and 'desire' the least."

Yun Che, "..."

"It is why I'm the way I am. I'm strictly a pacifist, and I'm not interested in any form of conflict."

"After I had reached a marrigeable rage, my father and my clansmen introduced me to many women... Maybe it was because of how I cultivated my mind, but I was uninterested in all of them. Even if someone managed to leave a good impression, I would forget about them in the blink of an eye. I thought this would never change until one day, I met her..."

"Brother Ling." Zhou Qingchen asked, "Do you... believe in love at first sight? The kind that leaves a permanent mark you'll never forget for as long as you live?"

"I don't," Yun Che replied without hesitation.

When he fell into Phoenix Perching Valley and saw Feng Xue'er just before he fainted... When Shen Xi cast away the mist of light covering up her appearance and made him felt like his soul was departing his body...

He had experienced those feelings, and he would remember them for as long as he lived. But they were gone... and so he would never, ever feel the same again, now or ever.

"I used to think the same as you, until..." Zhou Qingchen's voice grew a little shaky, and his features involuntarily tightened. "I simply glimpsed her from a distance, but in that moment, I felt like I was dropped into a nightmare I could never awaken from."

"Is that so?" Yun Che sounded like he couldn't quite believe him.

Zhou Qingchen said, "I know how funny I must sound, Brother Ling, but... if one day you caught a glimpse of her true face, you would understand the 'nightmare' I speak of. She wasn't smiling at all, and her eyes were filled with indifference and even a bit of disdain, but she'd still trap you in a permanent nightmare. No one can escape from it."

"I see..." Yun Che put a finger to his chin and asked, "So, to you, forgetting her is the most difficult thing in the world, am I correct?"

"That's right," Zhou Qingchen replied. "I have tried countless ways to wipe her from my memory, but the ability is simply beyond my grasp, even when she did the unthinkable and transformed into a..."

He suddenly cut himself short right there.

Yun Che smiled and said, "You have successfully piqued my curiosity, Brother Chen. Now I want to see this woman myself."

"On the contrary, Brother Ling. I hope that you'll never encounter her. It is usually a wonderful thing to meet the one you love, but her... meeting her will only end in disaster." Zhou Qingchen exhaled once before whispering, "There is no one in the world who is deserving of even a warm look from her."

"That's not necessarily true. Some women only look arrogant, when in reality..." Yun Che placed his hands behind his head and answered cheekily. He didn't finish his sentence though.

Zhou Qingchen shook his head with a smile and looked at Qianye Ying'er again. He said, "Miss Qianying is very similar to her. I guess that's why I couldn't stop looking at her for even a moment. I guess you can call it..."

He smiled self-derisively at himself before finishing, "...a pathetic form of solace."

Yun Che replied, "I see... It is true that I haven't been disciplining her properly, so her manners are lacking when she's outside. Do forgive her, Brother Chen."

"It's fine," Zhou Qingchen said. "One should maintain their distance and caution toward a stranger who approached them without invitation. They are... similar even in this regard."

Qianye Ying'er continued to stare toward the front, searching for the Eternal Heaven Guardians' aura with her spiritual perception. Although she could hear Zhou Qingchen clearly, she didn't respond to his words at all.

Qu Hui was following them from very far behind. It was clear to him that Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er didn't want anything from Zhou Qingchen. In fact, they were maintaining quite a healthy amount of caution and distance toward him. Their attitude actually assured him they were being genuine because Zhou Qingchen was the one who had asked to accompany them on their excursion.

Zhou Qingchen's words also entered his ears. He said to himself, "What a sinful creature that demon spawn of the Brahma Heaven God Emperor was. I hope she's already dead."

When Zhou Qingchen came back to himself, he didn't wish to dwell on this matter any longer. He changed the subject and asked, "So, what is the most difficult thing to you, Brother Ling?"

Yun Che closed his eyes and answered, "It's probably the line between good and evil."

"Oh?" Zhou Qingchen looked at him in confusion. "Why do you say that, Brother Ling?"

"What are good and evil to you, Brother Chen?" Yun Che turned the question back on Zhou Qingchen.

Zhou Qingchen thought for a moment before answering, "There are many kinds of good in this world. Kindness, benevolence; they are all good. There are many 'smaller' goods that exist in this world, but 'greater' goods are so much rarer."

"What is a greater good to you, Brother Chen?" Yun Che asked in a casual tone.

"There is one person that I have deep respect for," Zhou Qingchen replied sentimentally. "For the sake of world peace, he chose to defy his principles, break his promise, and tarnish his reputation. He was even willing to give up his own life to satisfy the affected person's thirst for revenge. This is the greatest good I'd ever witnessed in my life. I doubt there's another person in the world who can do what he did."

"What about evil?" Yun Che asked.

"The number of evils is just as great as the number of goods," Zhou Qingchen answered. "My father once taught me that there is no such thing as pure evil in the world. There are also many evils that can be killed in their infancy or redeemed. However, if there is one evil that shouldn't exist in the world, they would be the devil people of the Northern Divine Region."

Yun Che wasn't surprised at all that Zhou Qingchen would hold such views. He turned away and asked, "Does that mean that devil people are an unforgivable evil to you, Brother Chen?"

"But of course," Zhou Qingchen replied. "Devil people are heretics whose humanity has become twisted, and darkness profound energy is a negative power that shouldn't exist in the world as well. If darkness profound energy can be wiped from this world completely, if there are no longer monsters or devils in this world, I'm sure the world will have far less darknesses and tribulations."

He shot Yun Che a glance and asked, "Don't you think so too, Brother Ling?"

It was clear from his tone that he meant—isn't this just common knowledge? Why would you be puzzled by something so simple?

Yun Che smiled at him and said, "You know, an interesting question suddenly occurred to me... If a devil person happened to have saved the world, which category do you think he'd fall under? Good, or evil?"

Zhou Qingchen laughed, "Hahahaha, that is an interesting question—"

Suddenly, Zhou Qingchen stopped laughing. His expression changed... It was because he suddenly recalled a certain person. He said in a very soft tone, "A devil person will never try to save the world. But if a messiah were to transform into a devil person, then there is even less of a reason for them to exist in the world. After all, people like them are even scarier than your normal devil person. If they can save the world while they are good, who is to say they can't damn the world when they are evil?"

"I see." Yun Che nodded as if he agreed with Zhou Qingchen's words. He let out a chuckle and added, "So, if someone were to become a devil person, then they are a heretic that cannot be allowed to exist no matter what they did. I cannot agree with Brother Chen more."

"Speaking of which," Yun Che continued. "Hasn't the Eastern Divine Region been going after a devil person called 'Yun Che' for the past two years? He was a proud child of the heavens and the Eastern Divine Region, and he was famous enough that even I in the Southern Divine Region have heard of his name. But no matter how amazing he is, he's just a junior, isn't he? I heard that every king realm in the Eastern Divine Region is doing everything in their power to hunt him down. Is there a reason behind this unusual reaction?"

Zhou Qingchen's expression tightened slightly. He didn't want to answer this question or even think about Yun Che.

Suddenly, Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er raised their eyebrows at the same time.

An incredibly high level presence was flying swiftly toward them. However, his aura was incredibly weak, and his flight pattern was unusual... It looked like he was injured grievously.

In the distance, Honorable Qu Hui's expression changed drastically because he sensed only one presence coming their way, and it was weak and drenched in the stench of blood. A sudden chill engulfed his whole body as he abandoned his hiding spot and flew toward the presence at top speed.

Honorable Qu Hui's sudden departure and pale complexion were shocking to say the least. Zhou Qingchen also sensed the incoming presence and felt his blood drain away from his face. He muttered "Uncle Tai Yin" and followed closely behind Qu Hui regardless of appearance.

"Hey... where are you going, Brother Chen?" Yun Che called out while spending an instant to exchange words with Qianye Ying'er through their auras. Then, they rose into the air and followed behind Zhou Qingchen slowly, making sure not to act unnaturally.

Honorable Tai Yin was currently drenched in blood. More than half of his flesh and bones were exposed to the air, and his right arm was completely missing. He looked like he was cut a million times before being submerged in a blood pool in purgatory... But he was still an Eternal Heaven Guardian. Any profound beast that tried to get near him was killed despite his terrible state.

He held a death grip on the Great Void Cauldron to avoid any accidents from happening. Despite dragging a broken body, he was able to meet up Qu Hui and Zhou Qingchen.

Honorable Qu Hui froze like a statue when he saw the blood drenched figure on the horizon. If it wasn't for the Guardian's unique aura, he would never believe that the sorry-looking man was the sixth strongest Guardian of the Eternal Heaven God Realm, Tai Yin!

"Tai Yin..." Qu Hui finally returned to himself after they had gotten within touching distance. He asked, "What happened? Where is Honorable Zhu Liu?"

Honorable Tai Yin exhaled deeply before swallowing a couple drops of spirit liquid. For a time, he couldn't speak due to how heavily he was breathing.

"Uncle Tai Yin!!"

Zhou Qingchen's voice reached them before his person. He also froze when he saw Tai Yin, unable to believe his own eyes just like Qu Hui.

Tai Yin quietly suppressed his wounds before opening his eyes... He was staring at the two figures landing some distance away from them in suspicion.

"Relax, they're not enemies." Qu Hui clenched his fists and asked again, "What happened? Honorable Zhu Liu... could he be..."

Knowing that two level four Divine Sovereigns were zero threat to him even if they were their sworn enemies, Honorable Tai Yin let out a long sigh before answering, "Zhu Liu... has passed."

"Wh... what ??" Qu Hui and Zhou Qingchen swayed on their feet in unison.

They knew better than anyone what the loss of a Guardian meant to the Eternal Heaven God Realm, the Eastern Divine Region or even the entire God Realm.

"However..." Tai Yin said urgently in the middle of correcting his breathing, "we did complete our mission successfully. The prince's gift is in hand, so we must leave... now!"

Success... He actually obtained the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning!

It was the best news they could hope for after the tragedy that was Zhu Liu's passing. Qu Hui nodded swiftly and said, "Alright!"

The old man waved a small profound ark about thirty meters long into existence without hesitation. He then grabbed Zhou Qingchen and said, "Let's go! The rest can wait until we return."

Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er's eyes changed at the same time.

They wanted Eternal Heaven to be successful in their endeavor to obtain the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning. It was why Yun Che had devised to get close to Zhou Qingchen from the start.

However, things were not unfolding the way they had expected at all.

In their imagined scenario, the two successful Guardians would satisfy Qu Hui and Zhou Qingchen's curiosity and show them the divine fruit. They might even gift Zhou Qingchen the divine fruit on the spot.

After all, who could possibly rob Zhou Qingchen of the divine fruit while he was protected by two Guardians?

It was Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er's best and only chance... They were close enough to make the attempt, and there was no way the Eternal Heaven Guardians would raise their guards toward two level four Divine Sovereigns.

However, one Guardian was killed, and Honorable Tai Yin was seriously injured. Even worse, the latter was so seized by a sense of crisis that he ordered an immediate departure from the God Realm of Absolute Beginning. He clearly wasn't planning to reveal the divine fruit at all.

It was because the divine fruit was the safest with him. Even in his sorry state, he was still far stronger than Zhou Qingchen and Qu Hui, and he had the Great Void Cauldron.

"I understand." Zhou Qingchen nodded seriously. "Allow me to bid our two new friends goodbye."

After saying this, he turned around and said urgently, "Brother Ling, Miss Qianying, we'll be leaving immediately due to an emergency. Maybe we'll meet again if your travels bring you to the Eastern Divine Region."

He stared at Qianye Ying'er for an entire breath before turning around and preparing to leave.

Yun Che nodded and took a small step forward... only to be stopped immediately by Qianye Ying'er.

"We are no match for Tai Yin," Qianye Ying'er said in a low tone. "An Eternal Heaven Guardian is far stronger than you can possibly imagine. Even in his current state, he has the power to kill us both before breathing his last!"

Chapter 1615 - Overpowering Tai Yin

Yun Che didn't doubt that Qianye had a much better grasp of an Eternal Heaven Guardian's strength than him.

However, the black gleam in his eyes grew even darker.

"I guess abduction is the only way left," Qianye Ying'er transmitted in a soft voice, "but..."

Suddenly, Yun Che's reply rang beside her ears. "Control Qu Hui and Zhou Qingchen."

Before Qianye Ying'er could mount a response, Yun Che suddenly exploded toward Tai Yin. The instantaneous burst of energy was like a crumbling volcano; so powerful that it knocked even Qianye Ying'er away from him.

The activation of the Heretic God's Gates only took an instant, and it was no exaggeration to say that no one was Yun Che's better in terms of explosive power. Honorable Tai Yin was trying to fly to the profound ark when Yun Che blasted toward him like a flash of light.

His action was so sudden that even Qianye Ying'er hadn't seen it coming, much less Tai Yin, Qu Hui, and Zhou Qingchen. They were close to one another, and Yun Che's explosive power was downright unnatural. Tai Yin might not have been able to react even if he was at full strength.

The Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor Sword glowed black as it pierced through space and struck Honorable Tai Yin just as he turned around.

Boom!!

The explosion of darkness profound energy sent the stunned Qu Hui and Zhou Qingchen flying.

The Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor Sword struck Honorable Tai Yin squarely in the chest. The man was heavily injured and completely unguarded, but the weapon still failed to penetrate his body.

This was all Yun Che needed to see to know how terrifying the Eternal Heaven Guardians truly were.

Tai Yin was already injured in the first place, so the attack caused blood to pour out of his mouth and his whole body at the same time. The sudden attack caused Tai Yin to widen his eyes to the max and clutch the pitch black sword with a death grip.

At the same time, Qianye Ying'er stopped hiding her profound strength and charged toward Zhou Qingchen. A ray of power that looked like a golden snake flew out from her waist and wrapped around Zhou Qingchen tightly.

Zhou Qingchen hadn't inherited his father's power yet, but his cultivation level was very impressive. He definitely deserved to be called a proud child of heaven. However, there was still nothing he could do against Qianye Ying'er's full strength. The moment the golden light caught him, his profound energy became sealed completely. Any struggle caused it to dig deeper into his flesh and elicit a howl of pain.

"Qingchen!" Honorable Tai Yin howled. His pupils contracted as quickly as it widened when he saw the weapon for what it was. "That's... the Divine Oracle!"

Boom-

The Guardian's power detonated like a bomb. Although it was a pale shadow of his full strength, it was still as terrible as a disaster and powerful enough to send Yun Che and the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor Sword flying far away.

Honorable Tai Yin did not waste a moment to breathe or rescue Zhou Qingchen. Despite the suddenness of the attack and his shock, he was able to make a terrifyingly cool decision. He sacrificed his precious blood essence immediately to grant himself a deadly burst of power before charging straight toward Yun Che.

He didn't know how Qianye Ying'er was able to conceal herself so well that even he was fooled, but the profound energy she displayed just now clearly marked her as a middle stage Divine Master. Even worse, the weapon binding Zhou Qingchen from head to toe was the infamous Brahma Gold Soft Sword known as the "Divine Oracle". It was a former weapon of the gods belonging to the Brahma Monarch God Realm and the symbol of Qianye Ying'er!

This meant that Qianye Ying'er only needed a thought to crush Zhou Qingchen to bits. It was highly unlikely that he would be able to force a rescue.

In that case, the best choice here was to abduct her partner in return and force a trade of hostages, no matter what the cost!

It was unthinkable that an Eternal Heaven Guardian—a level nine Divine Master—would sacrifice his blood essence just to deal with a level four Divine Sovereign, but Honorable Tai Yin had arrived at the decision without hesitation!

In that moment, the energy rolling off his body caused even Qianye Ying'er to turn and look at him in shock. It was as if an entire galaxy had exploded.

Even now, Qianye Ying'er couldn't understand why Yun Che had chosen to attack Honorable Tai Yin by force! It wasn't like she hadn't told him that they were no match for the Guardian even at his current state. Abducting Zhou Qingchen was all they needed to achieve their goal, but now? His rashness might very well cost him his life!

Honorable Tai Yin had done the impossible and sacrificed his blood essence without hesitation. Yun Che couldn't breathe even before the Guardian had tried to close the distance between them and unleash his true power. But he wasn't afraid at all, on the contrary, this was exactly what he was hoping would happen!

A look of terrible madness flashed across his eyes before he swung the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor Sword at the world's highest level of power.

Moon Star Restoration!

The elements crumbled, and the laws reversed before his weapon. The energy Honorable Tai Yin had unleashed at the cost of his blood essence abruptly reversed its course and struck the Eternal Heaven Guardian dead on.

The scariest part about Moon Star Restoration wasn't its forced reversal of any power that was thrown at it, but the fact that the reversal happened while the attacker was unleashing its power; their weakest

and most defenseless moment! In this case, it was extraordinarily effective because Honorable Tai Yin was seriously injured, and his attack was empowered by the sacrifice of his blood essence!

The world shuddered after a terrible explosion. The rebound was utterly illogical, but Honorable Tai Yin did not even have the time to feel fear or shock before he was struck by his own power. Countless streams of energy capable of casually destroying mountains and seas surged into his body, tearing apart everything in their path and ravaging whatever remained of his pitiful life.

The Great Void Cauldron flew out of his hands. Even his soul connection to the artifact was severed temporarily.

Honorable Qu Hui was going to charge toward Zhou Qingchen, but the unexpected outcome caused him to shout in utter shock. "Tai Yin!!"

Every injury Honorable Tai Yin suffered collapsed at the same time; the Guardian bleeding like a punctured bag of blood. A black flash stabbed him again, and this time the sword was able to penetrate his body as easily as if it was made of rotten wood!

"Ugh... Aaah..." A painful groan escaped Honorable Tai Yin's throat. His vision was so blurry he almost couldn't see the black shadow right in front of him. Almost by instinct, he threw out his remaining arm in retaliation.

Boom!!

Honorable Tai Yin was dying, but even at death's door a Guardian could still move mountains and seas. The counterattack easily sent Yun Che flying and caused a shower of blood to burst out of the latter's mouth. The Heaven Smiting Sword also slipped out of the Guardian's body as a result.

However, the shower of blood suddenly turned into a sea of golden flames before enveloping Honorable Tai Yin completely. At the same time, Yun Che charged toward him again with Star God's Broken Shadow and slammed the Heaven Smiting Sword through his solar plexus. He shouted in his mind:

"He Ling!"

A dark green light flowed through the sword and exploded soundlessly inside Tai Yin.

"Haah!!"

Although Honorable Tai Yin was tormented by immeasurable pain, he let out a shout and detonated his Eternal Heaven divine power once more. It annihilated the golden crow's flames instantly and shook Yun Che violently. The young man fell backward in a shower of blood, but it was impossible to tell if it was Yun Che's or Tai Yin's.

Bang!

Yun Che hit the ground heavily and swayed on his feet. However, he leaned against his sword and used it to prop himself upright.

To the front, Tai Yin stood with a bloody, empty hole where his chest used to be. The fact that his flesh looked more like the tattered fabric of a doll only made the sight even more gruesome.

Tai Yin was already heavily injured before Yun Che reflected his power and struck him twice with his sword. Had he been anyone else, had he just been an ordinary Divine Master, he would've been dead a long time ago.

However, Tai Yin was still standing. His aura was still imposing.

This was the strength of a Guardian of Eternal Heaven God Realm. His tenacity and life force were equal to his power.

Qianye Ying'er frowned deeply as she probed Tai Yin's remaining aura. She stretched a finger and summoned the Divine Oracle back to her hand, although the blade of the weapon was still wrapped around Zhou Qingchen.

Right now, Zhou Qingchen was drenched in cold sweat. Even the tiniest struggle caused golden flashes that ripped his body apart. But despite the pain wracking his entire body, Zhou Qingchen couldn't move his eyes away from Qianye Ying'er... As the Eternal Heaven Crown Prince, no one knew better than him what the golden light binding him was.

"You... you're..." He groaned painfully, but his eyes were unfocused.

"You're the Brahma Monarch Goddess!" Honorable Qu Hui shouted in shock. His muscles were completely stiff.

Instead of looking at Honorable Qu Hui, Qianye Ying'er moved her fingers lightly and elicited a terrible scream from Zhou Qingchen. She said, "Tai Yin, surrender the divine fruit now or I'll tear him apart!"

Honorable Tai Yin didn't respond to her threat, however. It was almost as if he hadn't heard her. He stared straight at Yun Che and said slowly, "The Golden Crow flame... that sword... You are Yun Che!"

"Wh... what!" Qu Hui abruptly turned towards Yun Che, and even Zhou Qingchen was staring at the young man with bulging eyes.

Yun Che wiped a hand across his face and revealed his true self. However, his expression was terrifyingly blank.

"You..." Qu Hui felt like he was dropped into a frozen pond in purgatory. His entire body was as cold as ice.

Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er—the two names that had vanished from the eastern divine region—had somehow appeared together in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning!

Yun Che... the man that the Eternal Heaven God Emperor and all three divine regions had sworn to destroy at all cost had shown himself before their eyes!

No, that wasn't all. These two monsters were even hanging out with Zhou Qingchen this entire time!

Qu Hui couldn't even begin to describe the shock, terror, and realization he was feeling right now.

"It... is... you!"

As one of the Guardians who spent his last few years chasing after Yun Che and only Yun Che, both Tai Yin and Qu Hui could hardly forget the young man. However, two years ago Yun Che was only a level one Divine King, but now his aura marked him as a level four Divine Sovereign.

Even more shocking was the fact that his strength was almost on par with a middle stage Divine Master!

No words could describe the shock he was feeling. Tai Yin suddenly understood why the Eternal Heaven God Emperor was so afraid of Yun Che, and why he had committed all those seemingly insane actions.

Tai Yin could still remember the gentleness in Yun Che's eyes when he was called the "God Child Messiah". But now, his eyes were so dark that he almost didn't dare to look him in the eye.

"Aaaaaaaaaaaah!!"

A terrible scream suddenly cut through the air as another dozen or so wounds appeared around Zhou Qingchen's body. Qianye Ying'er said coldly, "It looks like you missed me the first time, so I'll say it again: surrender the divine fruit now, or I'll turn him into mincemeat! This is your last warning!"

But Honorable Tai Yin didn't react to her threat at all. He had never been as hurt as he was now, and his consciousness was steadily fading. However, his tall, proud figure was unwavering as he said, "Not even the heavens can make the people of Eternal Heaven submit, much less the likes of you!"

"If Qingchen dies... you will pay with your life!"

Every word he spoke struck the heart like the sound of the heaven's bell.

But Yun Che replied in an icy, ridiculing tone, "You don't need to negotiate, Qianying. An old dog of Eternal Heaven isn't worthy of speech!"

"Both the divine fruit and their lives are ours to take!"

Qianye Ying'er shot him a sideways glance.

"Heh." Tai Yin looked like he was smiling. "You think you can make us submit? Do you really think that an Eternal Heaven Guardian is—"

He suddenly cut himself off and stiffened all over. His eyes started glowing dark green as his pupils widened.

Chapter 1616 - Devil

"You..." Honorable Tai Yin had stood tall and proud even when injured from head to toe, but now he was bending and and shaking like a leaf. His blood drenched face was clearly etched with terrible pain.

Soon, his pupils weren't the only things that turned green. Every bit of blood in his body had turned dark green as well.

The shaken Qu Hui looked at him before arriving by his side swiftly. He tried to hold Tai Yin steady. "Honorable Tai Yin, what's wr..." "Don't come closer!" Tai Yin backed off in a panic and pushed Qu Hui away from him with a breeze. The energy he used was miniscule to say the least, but it was enough to cause his face to scrunch up and his knees to hit the ground. He could no longer even get back on his feet.

"Poison... It's poison!" Tai Yin shouted painfully.

For all his years in the Eternal Heaven God Realm, Qu Hui had never heard so much terror from a Guardian.

"Poison... what poison?" Qu Hui's voice was shaking as well. At Tai Yin's level, what poison could possibly threaten him besides the Southern Divine Region's ancient devilish poison? However, the answer came to him the second the question escaped his mouth. He blurted, "Could... could it be..."

"The Sky... Poison... Pearl..." Tai Yin couldn't stop convulsing as he lay curled up like a prawn on the ground. The terrible poison had engulfed his entire body in an instant and covered every pore, and every cell in his body in despair. It was unlike any poison he had ever known in his life. It immediately enlightened him to the worst and only possibility.

The Sky Poison Pearl... There wasn't a single person in the entire Eastern Divine Region who didn't know that Yun Che was the master of the Heavenly Profound Treasure, the Sky Poison Pearl!

"..." Finally realizing what was going on, Qianye Ying'er shot a glance at Tai Yin and tried to say something, yet no words came out of her mouth.

She was going to say that their opponent was a Guardian, and their current course was too risky and aggressive. She was going to say that they weren't going to be this lucky next time... But when she recalled how much Yun Che hated the Eastern Divine Region and especially the Eternal Heaven God Realm, she swallowed her chastising words with cold indifference.

The right time was still far into the future, so they might as well collect some blood drenched interest from this encounter!

Qu Hui had never seen the Sky Poison Pearl in action before, but the despair rolling off Honorable Tai Yin's body was impossible to miss... That's right, despair!

The despair of an Eternal Heaven Guardian!

Tai Yin looked like he was trying his best to climb back to his feet, but as the poison spread his breathing grew progressively weaker and more erratic. Judging from the way he was swaying on his legs, even kneeling was becoming an extraordinarily difficult task for him.

The terrible poison was devouring his life mercilessly like an ancient devil of the abyss. He couldn't expel even a milliliter of poison from his body, much less destroy it.

Truthfully, the Sky Poison Pearl hadn't recovered much power at all. If Tai Yin was at his peak and there was no outside interference, he could've outlasted the Sky Poison that was injected into his body.

But in his current state... the only scent he could smell, was death.

Slowly, Yun Che walked toward Tai Yin and Qu Hui while dragging the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor Sword behind him. A black, devilish scar was left on the ground.

Qu Hui was the leader of the Eternal Heaven Adjudicators, and Tai Yin was the sixth strongest Eternal Heaven Guardian. They were tall and utterly unreachable by Yun Che back then.

But now, every time he took a step, it felt like the death god himself was stepping on their souls.

Who could've thought that so much would change in just a couple of years?

Behind him, the Eternal Heaven Crown Prince was firmly under Qianye Ying'er's control.

How lamentable, how sorrowful, how despairing.

They never thought they would encounter Yun Che here, much less lose to him this badly. The fight had lasted only a couple of breaths, but every fraction of a second was painted by the darkest nightmare.

Tai Yin tried to circulate his last bit of strength, but the Sky Poison immediately reacted by eating and destroying his life even faster than before. It was like a devil that was provoked into rage and madness.

Bang!

His upper body crashed heavily against the floor. The ground of absolute beginning beneath him started disappearing rapidly under the poison's corrosion. Tai Yin lifted his hand to try to recall the Great Void Cauldron, but the unstable soul connection was ruthlessly severed the second the thought took form in his mind.

Yun Che sucked the Great Void Cauldron into his hand and completely enveloped it in darkness profound energy. Tai Yin's consciousness couldn't penetrate it at all.

"Trying... to run?" The corner of Yun Che's mouth curled slightly. His sneer looked incredibly sinister to Tai Yin and Qu Hui.

Back when Qu Hui was the organizer and the supervisor of the Profound God Convention, Yun Che was nothing more than a talented, eye opening junior to him. But today, the pressure exuded by the approaching young man was absolutely stifling. The terror he felt when the devil emperor had shown up actually reappeared when he saw the sinister sneer on Yun Che's face!

This pressure and terror wasn't a product of Yun Che's strength. No, it was the product of a darkness so deep and murky that it was impossible to describe... Everything they thought would never appear on someone like Yun Che had manifested at the peak.

"Yun... Che!" Tai Yin looked up and begged with a voice that sounded like sandpaper. "Let the young master go! In return, I'll surrender the divine fruit and my life!"

Yun Che continued to walk with death accompanying his every step. He looked like he had heard a funny joke as his sneer turned even grimmer. "Your life? In my eyes, your life is cheaper than a dog's! How dare you use it as a bargaining chip!?"

Undoubtedly, these were the most humiliating words Tai Yin had ever received in his life. His pupils focusing, he summoned the pride that had supported him throughout his life as a Guardian before saying, "If you don't let the young master go... I'll destroy the divine fruit immediately!"

The second he finished speaking, Yun Che's figure suddenly became as transient as an illusion. Then, he shot toward Tai Yin like a black stinger from hell and plunged his sword into the Guardian's body.

Bang!!

Near death and poisoned, Tai Yin's divine body was as fragile as tofu to the Heaven Smiting Sword. The second the weapon pierced through his body, darkness profound energy and fire immediately spread and engulfed his skin, flesh, blood, bones, soul... everything. At the same time, the Sky Poison inside Tai Yin's body exploded in full force.

Tai Yin's eyes regained clarity during the final moments of his life and focused on Yun Che. The young man's eyes were only inches away from his.

If they were as pure as diamond in the past, then they were as murky as the abyss now.

Crackle... crackle...

The Phoenix flame and Golden Crow flame clinging to Tai Yin's body slowly merged together to form the crimson divine flames. Bit by bit, it burned the old man to dust.

At the back, Qu Hui stood with a face as white and blank as a corpse whose blood was drained completely. He wanted to save Tai Yin when Yun Che plunged his sword into the Guardian again and again, but his body simply refused to obey his thoughts. All he could do was shiver like a leaf.

As the leader of the Adjudicators, Qu Hui was righteous almost to the point of mercilessness. But now, the fearless man was terrified enough to suffer a complete mental collapse.

Tai Yin's last vestiges of consciousness disappeared only when the flames had burned down almost half his body.

And just like that, an Eternal Heaven Guardian perished under Yun Che's sword... the sword of a "junior" who was only thirty years old or so.

Bang!

Yun Che tossed the half-corpse away from his sword like it was some disgusting trash. He then swung his sword again to cut through the portable space Tai Yin carried before it could implode upon itself, causing a shower of items to rain from the sky all of a sudden.

A warm, nurturing aura spread across the world in an instant.

It was of course, the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning!

The fruit itself was incredibly tiny, but the light it exuded was as bright as any stars in the sky.

The moment the divine fruit appeared from the portable space, the Brahma Gold Soft Sword suddenly let go of Zhou Qingchen and caught the divine fruit a million times faster than a meteor would have.

Once the divine fruit was brought back to Qianye Ying'er's hand, it vanished into nothing just like that.

Yun Che's outstretched hand froze for a second before he slowly turned around to face Qianye Ying'er... The Brahma Golden Soft Sword had trapped Zhou Qingchen once again, and Qianye Ying'er looked as calm and unaffected as a breeze. It was almost as if she hadn't moved at all.

"Uncle... Tai Yin..." Lying flat on the ground, Zhou Qingchen was no longer struggling. As he stared at Tai Yin's burning corpse, he bit the tip of his tongue in an attempt to wake up from this nightmare. Unfortunately, it didn't work at all.

Right now, god didn't exist in the Primal Chaos.

If someone had to be god no matter what, then the Eternal Heaven Guardians were the most qualified candidates.

This was the view of the masses and Zhou Qingchen as well.

Zhu Liu was dead, and now Tai Yin too before the former could even have a proper burial... Not only had Tai Yin died right before his eyes, he had died at the hands of Yun Che!

The world turned upside down in Zhou Qingchen's head before graying. He couldn't even feel pain or fear anymore...

Yun Che slowly looked away from Qianye Ying'er before focusing on Qu Hui. The old man looked like his soul had been dragged out of his husk. He said emotionlessly, "Kill yourself."

"..." Qu Hui still didn't move a muscle. His lips parted slightly, but he couldn't utter a single sound.

"Waste of time," Qianye muttered to herself before moving her fingers. Divine Oracle immediately responded to her movement and passed through Qu Hui's body in an instant.

There was no profound explosion or the sound of cutting space. In fact, there was almost no sound at all. When the golden light returned back to Qianye Ying'er's hands, Qu Hui's body suddenly crumbled to the floor in nine tidy pieces. Each body part rolled far away in a different direction.

The old man hadn't struggled in the slightest.

This time, Qianye Ying'er wrapped the weapon back around her waist instead of using it to trap Zhou Qingchen like before. The prince was still trembling uncontrollably and looking completely unfocused on the floor.

Qianye Ying'er turned away, too haughty to look at Zhou Qingchen for even a second longer. She also didn't mention the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning at all. She asked in an indifferent tone, "What are you going to do to him?"

She was sure that Yun Che wouldn't kill Zhou Qingchen directly.

The amount of hate in his heart could fill up the entire abyss. There was no way he would let the son of Eternal Heaven escape with an easy death!

Yun Che stopped in front of Zhou Qingchen and looked down on his pale face. He smiled coldly and said, "Brother Qingchen, the dogs of Eternal Heaven seem pretty useless, don't you think?"

"It's one thing if they're only useless, but this blood! It's so cheap and nauseating!"

Boom!!

Yun Che pushed his palm backwards, burying Qu Hui and Tai Yin's bloodstained corpses completely in a cloud of dust and sand.

Zhou Qingchen shuddered and returned to himself as if his soul was stabbed by a poisoned blade. Although he was still shivering uncontrollably, his mind had regained its clarity and calm. He looked up toward Yun Che and said angrily, "My father was right. You... have turned into a devil!"

He meant "devil", not a "devil person".

Unfortunately, he didn't know that his words were nothing more than a hilarious joke to Yun Che.

Yun Che smiled at Zhou Qingchen without a trace of anger or killing intent. He said, "That's right, I'm the devil. You won't find a more evil devil than me in this world... and very soon, everyone in the Eternal Heaven God Realm and the God Realm itself will learn just how evil I can be."

Zhou Qingchen's pupils widened unconsciously as Yun Che stared at him... The young man's smile was gentle and warm, but Zhou Qingchen felt like every pore in his body was shaking with fear.

"Kill... kill me." Zhou Qingchen had to grit his teeth to stop them from chattering in fear. "Royal father... has always blamed himself for what he did... he has always felt regret for what he did... that's why he wanted to retire and cultivate in peace... if I die at your hands, then father can finally put this all behind him... one day, he'll take revenge for me and kill you with his own hands!"

"He... feels regret toward me? He blames himself... for what he did to me?" The corner of Yun Che's mouth twitch slightly. He wanted to look at the sky and laugh like a madman. He had seen and heard countless jokes in the past, but there hadn't been one that could make him laugh for a thousand days and nights until now!

"So, your royal father feels regret toward a devil. Surely the heavens will weep before such greatness." Yun Che extended his hand and grabbed Zhou Qingchen by his collar. Behind his seemingly calm eyes hid two wild flames that threatened to shatter his mask. He said in a low, quiet voice:

"Right now, I have nothing but a black heart and soul. My home, my family, my wives, my daughter, they're all gone."

"However, the one who gave me all of this... that great father of yours, has countless children and grandchildren. He even has a son he can be proud of, you."

His face moved closer and closer. "Tell me, how do you think I should repay him?"

Chapter 1617 - Forced Transformation

Despite shaking non-stop, Zhou Qingchen gritted his teeth and was able to gather a shred of courage somehow. He looked straight into Yun Che's eyes and declared, "Everyone in the God Realm views the lower realms like ants or grass. The Eternal Heaven God Realm and my father are the only ones who never took the life of an innocent lower realm being! In fact, we even do our utmost to protect them if we happened on them by chance."

"Your homeworld... the Moon God Emperor was the one who destroyed that lower realm planet called Blue Pole Star, not my father. My father's target has always only been you!"

If Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er had been other people, they might have felt real admiration toward his impassioned speech and the look in his eyes.

If there was a spectator, they also would've felt sorry and indignant on his behalf. The grudge between Yun Che and the Eternal Heaven God Realm might run deep, but Zhou Qingchen was completely innocent. He hadn't committed any atrocities or participated in any of his father's decisions. All he was was Zhou Xuzi's son.

So he was nothing more than an innocent and sorrowful man caught in a terrible situation... just like Yun Che's own family!

"Well said, well said." Yun Che raised his hand and patted Zhou Qingchen on the head. "This speech, this 'altruism', you really are that old dog's son. They were the qualities that won my respect back then, especially his 'kindness' and 'oath'. Once, I even thought that they were the most sacred and unbreakable qualities of the Eastern Divine Region. Tsk tsk..."

"Yun Che!" Qianye Ying'er suddenly interrupted him in an unkind tone. "If you want to act, then act quickly. Don't waste time on a piece of trash!"

"..." Zhou Qingchen's pupils suddenly trembled violently when he heard this. He strained his neck and turned around, barely catching a glimpse of the woman's figure with the corner of his eyes before saying, "Lady Goddess, you..."

"Trash? But he's the Eternal Heaven Crown Prince," Yun Che replied while beaming at Zhou Qingchen. Zhou Qingchen had been able to talk back to Yun Che despite being under the pressure of his hateful eyes, but one line from Qianye Ying'er shattered almost all of the light in his eyes.

"Hmph!" Qianye Ying'er never even looked at Zhou Qingchen. "And what else does he have besides his status? He is even lower than that Moon God Crown Prince who died a horrible death in the Moon God Realm. Yue Xuange at least had ambition and skills, but this one... the son of that old dog is nothing more than a naive and stupid puppy who deluded himself into thinking that he's noble and virtuous."

"..." Zhou Qingchen shuddered and turned deathly white in an instant. His searching eyes became murky and dark, and his heart clenched like it was about to burst into pieces.

"You're a man who swore to turn the God Realm into hell, and you're wasting your breath on someone like him?" Qianye Ying'er sneered. "Is this really the peak of your character?"

Yun Che shot her a look before replying, "Will you die if you stop insulting me for a day!?"

"You're the one who gave me the chance." Qianye Ying'er pressed her eyebrows together slightly before continuing. "There's no way Zhu Liu and Tai Yin's deaths escaped the Eternal Heaven God Realm's notice, so we don't have much time left. Deal with him already!"

"..." The light in Zhou Qingchen's eyes and soul broke apart like glass as their conversation—Qianye Ying'er's words—entered his ears. His pupils were without color and his muscles were refusing to respond to his thoughts. He was unable to speak at all.

It was at this moment that Yun Che pressed a hand to Zhou Qingchen's head and said slowly, "Brother Qingchen, you said that a person who transformed into a devil person is a sinful heretic who should be purged from in this world even if they never did anything wrong, am I right? Remember what you said. Never forget it for the rest of your life!"

Bang!

A boom happened in Zhou Qingchen's head, and he completely lost consciousness.

"What do you plan to do to him?" Qianye Ying'er asked idly.

Instead of answering her question, Yun Che stretched his fingers out and gathered a ball of infinite darkness at the center of his palm. The world immediately turned dark as if nighttime was about to fall.

The Eternal Calamity of Darkness? Qianye Ying'er turned to look at Yun Che... why did he need the Eternal Calamity of Darkness to torture a small fry like Zhou Qingchen?

In fact, the longer Yun Che circulated the power, the heavier the pressure on her shoulders became. It was clear that he was using almost all his power to do whatever he was planning to do.

A couple of breaths later, the darkness had engulfed Yun Che and the light within a radius of several dozen kilometers vanished completely.

Finally, Yun Che put his palm over Zhou Qingchen's chest. The eternal darkness that seemed capable of devouring even the world instantly engulfed its victim.

A bit of puzzlement flashed across Qianye Ying'er's mind. At Yun Che's current level, he had a million ways to annihilate Zhou Qingchen down to atoms. If all he wanted was to destroy Zhou Qingchen with darkness, there was no reason for him to go to such great lengths to achieve his goal.

However, she quickly realized that Zhou Qingchen's physical body was unharmed despite being bathed in enough darkness to destroy even an early stage Divine Master. His power was left intact as well.

Countless streams of darkness started flowing into Zhou Qingchen's body. The darkness power Yun Che inherited from the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor slowly became fused into the crown prince's skin, flesh, bones, nerves, profound veins, organs, soul...

Zhou Qingchen subconsciously tried to resist the transformation, but he was far weaker than Yun Che and unconscious, not to mention that the Eternal Calamity of Darkness was the devil art of a Devil Emperor. His struggle was insignificant and pathetic, and it only took the blink of an eye for the darkness to overwhelm his physical and mental resistance completely.

Could he...

Is he... trying to transform Zhou Qingchen into a devil person !?

Shock flashed across Qianye Ying'er's face.

Of course, it wasn't impossible for a profound practitioner to transform into a devil person. If the profound practitioner was influenced by terribly negative emotions or subsumed by an extremely pure bloodline of darkness, it was entirely possible for them to transform into a devil. However, the former

case happened very rarely, and the latter case... Forget the fact that the amount of ancient devil bloodlines in the Northern Divine Region could be counted on one hand, the people of the God Realm hated devil people so much that no one in their right mind would willingly transform themselves into one.

Besides that, Qianye Ying'er had never heard of a way that one could transform a normal person into a devil person by force.

The reason she herself was able to transform into a devil person was because she had refined a drop of the Devil Emperor's blood. Moreover, the transformation was successful only because she willed so. It wouldn't have worked otherwise.

But right now, Zhou Qingchen was clearly being transformed into a devil person against his will!

To think that the Eternal Calamity of Darkness had such a terrifying ability!

She called Zhou Qingchen weak, but that was only relatively speaking. He was a middle stage Divine Sovereign after all. It was no easy task to convert a middle stage Divine Sovereign into a devil person with Yun Che's current mastery of the power, but his widening pupils and his trembling fingers made it clear that he was enjoying every moment of it.

Buzz—

Seven and a half minutes later, the darkness dissipated without warning and allowed light to reach the ground once more.

The only thing left that was still glowing faintly with darkness... was Zhou Qingchen himself.

However, the darkness was no external attachment. It was a glow that originated from his body, his profound veins... and even his soul!

It was because Yun Che had converted all of his profound energy into darkness profound energy!

Just like the Heretic God Art, the Eternal Calamity of Darkness was an impossible power that shouldn't exist in this world. So far, all the abilities it displayed absolutely defied common sense.

Qianye Ying'er had witnessed the terror that was the Eternal Calamity of Darkness many times already, so her shock only lasted for a moment. After staring at Yun Che for a moment, the corner of her lips curled into an enigmatic smile. "What wonderful malice. You deserve praise this time."

She was correct. It was pure malice.

After all... he had just transformed the Eternal Heaven Crown Prince, Zhou Qingchen into a devil person!

Even she couldn't imagine a more malicious way to attack the Eternal Heaven God Emperor and the Eternal Heaven Realm!

She couldn't even imagine how the Eternal Heaven God Emperor would react upon realizing his most beloved son—the only son he had ever had with his main wife—had turned into a devil person.

Yun Che grabbed the unconscious Zhou Qingchen and threw him into the profound ark Qu Hui had released earlier.

"Brother Qingchen, I'm sure your new life will be an enjoyable one," Yun Che said with a smile before pushing the profound ark with his palm. The vessel instantly took off into the distance after it was forcibly started.

Earlier, Qu Hui had engraved a destination into the profound ark. If nothing were to happen to the vessel on the way, it should leave the God Realm of Absolute Beginning and return back to the Eternal Heaven God Realm on its own.

Yun Che wished from the bottom of his heart that Zhou Qingchen would return to his home safe and sound.

"Enjoy my first gift to you to your heart's content, old dog Eternal Heaven!"

Yun Che muttered to himself slowly after the profound ark vanished from sight, "Everything has only just begun."

Qianye Ying'er walked up to his side and asked, "Are we staying here, or are we going back to the Northern Divine Region?"

He and Qianye Ying'er wouldn't have exposed themselves if it wasn't for the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning. The divine fruit was now in their possession, but as a result they couldn't stay in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning any longer.

Undoubtedly, the Eternal Heaven God Realm would unite their worlds and scour every inch of the God Realm of Absolute Beginning for a very long time to come.

But if they returned to the Northern Divine Region now, they would have to face down the Soul Stealing Realm and the Burning Moon Realm.

"We return to the Northern Divine Region," Yun Che said with almost no hesitation whatsoever. "We left earlier because the time wasn't right, but now... it is time!"

"Oh?" The ghost of a smile passed through Qianye Ying'er's lips. "Is it because of the Untamed World Pellet?"

The legendary "Untamed World Pellet" was made from two ingredients, and they were the Untamed Divine Marrow and the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning. Now, they had both ingredients.

The "Untamed World Pellet" was originally mentioned in a record from the Era of Gods. At the time, everyone thought that it was a thing of the past.

However, the Eternal Heaven Great Ancestor did the impossible and used it to climb to the peak of power, turning the Eternal Heaven Realm into a mighty king realm. Since then, the Untamed World Pellet became a miracle that every profound practitioner desired, but only really entertained in their dreams.

It was because the Untamed Divine Marrow and the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning were impossibly rare. It would be a miracle to obtain even one of them, much less two.

If the Untamed World Pellet really was as miraculous as legend says, then...
"What else?" Yun Che countered expressionlessly.

"It looks like you're getting ahead of yourself," Qianye Ying'er said. "I'm the one who has the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning right now, but you don't look worried in the slightest. Are you that sure that I'll return this to you?"

Yun Che glanced at her and replied, "I was going to share half of the Untamed World Pellet with you. This is unsightly of you."

"..." Qianye Ying'er abruptly turned to stare at him with wide eyes. A moment later, she said, "You want to give me half the pellet? Do you know how miraculous the Untamed World Pellet is!? Or do you think I'm as naive and stupid as that Zhou Qingchen!?"

"There are records of the Untamed World Pellet in the Wood Spirit Royal Family's memory," Yun Che replied expressionlessly. "Shen Xi also brought this up to me specifically. That is why I'm sure that my knowledge of the Untamed World Pellet far surpasses yours."

Qianye Ying'er, "..."

"My Sky Poison Spirit knows the complete method to refine the Untamed World Pellet, not to mention that it will be refined using the Sky Poison Orb. I'm sure that even half of the pellet will surpass the one mentioned in the God Realm's history by far!"

"So what?" Qianye Ying'er narrowed her eyes slightly. "No one can resist the temptation that is the Untamed World Pellet, especially you who seek to take revenge even in your dreams. I don't believe that you'll give me half of it at all!"

"As my tool, you have no right to question me!" A chill entered Yun Che's voice. "Also, you seemed to have forgotten one thing."

"I may be as strong as a Divine Master, but my profound veins are still at Divine Sovereign Realm. There's no way they can withstand the power of the Untamed World Pellet right now... But you can."

"I plan to seek out that legendary 'Devil Queen' directly and cooperate with her after we return." A glint flashed across Yun Che's eyes. "The best and only way to ensure the best level of safety and 'bargaining chip' for ourselves is to increase your cultivation with the Untamed World Pellet... what do you think?"

Qianye Ying'er stared at Yun Che for a while. Slowly, she said, "The reason you purposely suppressed my recovery earlier was because you were worried that I would escape your control. Aren't you afraid that I will kill you after my cultivation level surpasses yours!?"

"That was then, this is now." Yun Che lifted a hand idly and summoned a black flash. Black mist immediately started pouring out of Qianye Ying'er's body as her aura became disrupted. "You are the incubator I used to refine my devil blood and cultivate the Eternal Calamity of Darkness... Do you really think you can escape my control with my current mastery?"

"Heh." Qianye Ying'er let out a chuckle before replying, "I thought you would get angry at least... what a boring and disappointing spar this turned out to be. You're right, and it doesn't look like I have a choice or the grounds to fight anyway."

She flipped over her palm, and the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning appeared between her fingers. It was still glowing like a star.

However, she didn't throw the fruit back to Yun Che. She held it in her palm and frowned deeply in puzzlement. "The Untamed Divine Marrow is one thing, but this divine fruit... don't you think that it fell into our grasp a bit too easily?"

Chapter 1618 - Caizhi, Qianye (1)

Qianye Ying'er was aware of just how difficult it was to obtain a Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning.

The Eternal Heaven God Realm was uniquely advantaged in the contest for the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning because of several reasons. First, they had the Eternal Heaven Pearl, which had a special ability that allowed it to detect the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning. Second, they had the Great Void Cauldron. Third, their Guardians wielded powerful spatial divine powers. Although the Brahma Monarch God Realm and the Dragon God Realm were far superior to the Eternal Heaven God Realm in terms of strength, they never thought they had a real chance in obtaining the Divine fruit because of this.

The Burning Moon King Realm schemed and plotted to keep the the Untamed Divine Marrow hidden from view for a very long time, so it wouldn't be incorrect to say that they desired the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning greatly. Unfortunately for them, they never caught a glimpse of its shadow even though tens of thousands of years had passed.

The main reason Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er came to the God Realm of Absolute Beginning was to escape the Soul Stealing Realm and the Burning Moon King Realm's inevitable efforts to hunt them down. While they were planning to take the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning for themselves if given the opportunity, it was less of a real plan and more of a passing thought. Despite having fought hidden for an entire year, they never managed to explore deeper into the God Realm of Absolute Beginning, much less discover the divine fruit itself.

Their sudden encounter with the people of the Eternal Heaven God Realm and the discovery that the latter had found the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning was an unexpected but very welcome surprise. It was why Yun Che had used Qianye Ying'er to bait Zhou Qingchen into making their acquaintance in the first place. Assuming that the two Guardians were successful in their endeavor, they could either steal the divine fruit while the Guardians were showing it to Zhou Qingchen, or hold the crown prince hostage and take the divine fruit by force.

Both plans were equally risky, however... it was because they always had to face down two Guardians!

But what actually happened was completely different from their predictions. Honorable Zhu Liu was killed in action, and while Honorable Tai Yin had returned with the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning, he was all but several steps away from death's door.

Although Yun Che's decision to choose to kill Tai Yin and rob the divine fruit by force wasn't completely risk free, it was nothing like the danger they would've faced had they gone through with their original plan considering how precious it was.

"It was way too easy." Yun Che wasn't surprised by Qianye Ying'er's comment. "What are you thinking?"

As incredible as it sounded, it was a fact that they had obtained a Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning and killed an Eternal Heaven Guardian almost effortlessly. Both missions should have strained their abilities to their limits; the latter was close to being impossible to achieve.

"Tai Yin and Zhu Liu are masters of space profound energy, and they had the Great Void Cauldron. They should've been able to retreat safely even if they were unlucky enough to stumble into the Dragon Emperor of Absolute Beginning," Qianye said with a frown. "The only explanation is that the dragon emperor knew that they would show up and ambushed them the moment they appeared in his territory, cutting off their means of escape in the process."

"However," Qianye Ying'er said, "protecting the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning was much more important than eliminating the intruders to the dragons. If they really were prepared from the start, then the divine fruit should have been protected better than ever before."

"In reality, Zhu Liu was killed, and Tai Yin returned with the divine fruit despite being severely wounded. This doesn't quite make sense no matter how you think about it."

Qianye Ying'er loosened her fingers slightly and allowed the divine fruit's indescribable aura to spread to their surroundings. It couldn't be anything but the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning.

That meant Tai Yin was really dead, and the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning in her hand was the real thing.

"I guess our luck really is that good today," Qianye Ying'er said. "First the Untamed Divine Marrow, now the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning. Did the blind heaven finally decided to open its eyes and grant us devils its favor?"

Yun Che scrunched his eyebrows together instead of replying.

His object of desire falling into his hands when he thought all hope was lost, the enemy he couldn't kill dropping dead right before his eyes...

Why did this feel so familiar?

Suddenly, he recalled the strange yet familiar aura he discovered lurking inside Tai Yin's wounds.

When a dark light flashed across his mind, he looked up abruptly and shouted, "Caizhi, it was you, wasn't it!?"

"?" Qianye Ying'er looked at him in confusion, but the blue sky darkened all of a sudden. A terrible pressure pressed down on her from the sky, turning every drop of blood in her body into ice. It was as if the galaxy itself was collapsing on her. A colorful but frigid figure appeared in the next instant and made a grab toward Qianye Ying'er with destructive might.

Despite having returned to the middle stage of Divine Master Realm, Qianye Ying'er found herself unable to breathe beneath the oppressive pressure. All she could do was to barely unleash the Divine Oracle.

Ding!

A finger that looked so delicate it might crumble at the slightest touch clashed against the golden weapon that could split even stars in half. A soul wrenching peal later, the Divine Oracle was sent flying like a dead snake with its aura crushed like it was nothing. Qianye Ying'er herself was falling backwards with a trail of blood sliding down the corner of her lips.

The clash also caused her to loosen her grasp over the divine fruit. It was instantly sucked back into the the colorful figure's palm.

"Caizhi!"

Yun Che shouted as he stared at the girl's back, a burst of complex emotions filling up his cold, dead heart in an instant. He even felt... a trace of joy that should have died a long time ago.

If he had one relative left in this world, it would be Caizhi.

The girl didn't respond to his call at all. Instead, she dashed straight toward Qianye Ying'er while summoning the Heavenly Wolf Sacred Sword. The divine might and killing intent she was unleashing were things that could make even the world tremble in fear.

Seven years ago, Caizhi and Qianye Ying'er had fought each other. At the time she wasn't able to leave a single wound on Qianye Ying'er despite working together with Jasmine. They were even injured, and they only escaped due to Jasmine's ability.

But today, Caizhi was able to hurt Qianye Ying'er, destroy her weapon, and snatch the divine fruit from her in one exchange.

It wasn't just because Qianye Ying'er was far weaker than she used to be. Caizhi's own strength had evolved beyond recognition.

"Caizhi!!"

Expression changing, Yun Che executed both Star God's Broken Shadow and Moon Splitting Cascade to appear in front of Caizhi, forcing her to halt her momentum and the giant sword that was even bigger than her own body. The blade of the sword was just a sixth of a meter away from his chest.

Just a couple of meters behind Yun Che was Qianye Ying'er.

Caizhi's pressure froze, but her killing intent didn't falter in the slightest. After years of separation, Yun Che and Caizhi finally saw each other again. However, a blue sword now stood in between the two.

"Don't kill her!" Yun Che said urgently. However, he suddenly couldn't breathe when he saw her eyes.

Caizhi's appearance hadn't changed in the slightest despite the passage of time. She was even wearing the same colorful outfit that accentuated her youthful innocence. She looked just like the first time they met each other.

However, her eyes had completely changed.

Once, her eyes looked like they were embedded with many colorful stars. Now, it looked like a bottomless, dark abyss. Both her beautiful spirit and winsome smile were completely gone. All that was left behind was the darkness and the cold.

Her aura had changed as well. As the darkness profound energy sensitive person in the current world, he could sense clearly that Caizhi's Heavenly Wolf divine power had undergone a drastic evolution... no, it wasn't even the Heavenly Wolf divine power everyone knew anymore. It had become a devilish wolf that hated the world after all the distortion it was subjected to!

Before this, Yun Che thought that there was nothing left in the world that could hurt him besides his own memories. Now, Yun Che felt like his soul was pierced by poisonous needles at the sight of Caizhi's eyes.

Jasmine's words after she forced Caizhi and him into a marriage replayed itself in his mind:

"Yun Che, I know you must think that this is all so absurd and ridiculous... but there is an abyss inside her heart. The reason I'm doing this is because I want you to save her from it. You are the only one who can do it."

"If for some reason I'm not by her side in the future, she'll still have you in her world. At the very least, she won't fall into the abyss forever..."

At the time, Jasmine knew that she was soon to become a sacrifice. The reason she forced Yun Che and Caizhi to marry each other in a ceremony that was so simplistic that it was borderline absurd was so that Yun Che would shine a light into Caizhi's heart even after she was gone. It was to prevent Caizhi from falling into darkness forever.

However, Jasmine's biggest fear still happened in the end.

It was clear that Caizhi had transformed into Jasmine's worst nightmare... no. It was worse. The sheer amount of devilish energy rolling off Caizhi's body shocked even him. The abyss she fell into was deeper than even the one Jasmine had foreseen.

"Cai... zhi..." Yun Che called out her name again, but his voice had become incredibly soft.

"You're... protecting... her?" Caizhi asked. The melody in her voice no longer existed. All that was left was a terrible grimness.

Before the sacrificial ritual had happened, there were two people that Caizhi hated the most: Yue Wuya and Qianye Ying'er. The former drove her surrogate mother to death, and the later plotted her older brother's death.

Today, Qianye Ying'er was much weaker than she used to be, and she was much stronger. She could finally take revenge for her older brother, Xisu, with her own hands.

Yun Che grabbed the Heavenly Wolf Sacred Sword by the blade. Although the blade of the weapon was crawling with dark blue energy, it didn't hurt him at all. He said, "Caizhi, I agree that she deserves to die, but not now."

His fingers tightened further around the blade as he stared into Caizhi's eyes. He said softly, "The Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor left behind her origin blood and devil art to me before she left. Right now, she's the best cultivation incubator I have."

"She was our enemy back then, but now we all share a similar goal. I'll be dedicating my life to vengeance against my enemies for my family, Jasmine, Master, and myself... And she is the perfect tool for this; a weapon. Without her, my journey will take much longer to accomplish."

Qianye Ying'er, "..."

But Yun Che's words failed to move Caizhi at all. The Heavenly Wolf Sacred Sword suddenly burst into light, splitting the flesh between his finger and thumb and throwing him into the distance.

The wolf howled again, and the world changed colors. The Heavenly Wolf Sacred Sword fell murderously onto Qianye Ying'er again.

Yun Che twisted his body unnaturally in midair before stepping in front of the Heavenly Wolf Sacred Sword again using Star God's Broken Shadow. At the same time, he conjured the Heretic God Barrier.

Bang!!

The Heretic God Barrier shattered instantly, and this time the blade touched Yun Che's solar plexus before it stopped.

"Caizhi." Yun Che looked calm despite blocking Caizhi from getting to Qianye Ying'er again. He said softly, "Her life doesn't belong to herself anymore. She is under my control completely. Please leave her until I have accomplished my goal. After that, you may kill her whenever you wish."

Caizhi was still unmoved. Her reply was as simple as it was short. "She... must... die!"

But this time, Qianye Ying'er was the one who walked out of Yun Che's shadow before stopping next to him. Not only did she look completely unafraid, a faint and enigmatic smile was dancing across her lips.

"Who would've thought that the wolf pup would become far stronger than the much praised Xisu one day? Xing Juekong must be stupid to think of sacrificing such an impressive daughter."

Infinite cold bloomed in Caizhi's gray eyes when she heard the name "Xisu" from Qianye Ying'er. A pair of dark blue eyes appeared on the Heavenly Wolf Sacred Sword.

"It's true that the Heavenly Wolf Xisu died because of me, but... are you sure you can kill me?" Qianye Ying'er said indifferently. The devil wolf Caizhi absolutely had the power to kill her, but for some reason she purposely said the words that were least helpful in keeping herself alive.

Chapter 1619 - Caizhi, Qianye (2)

Qianye Ying'er's quiet, almost provocative words incited immediate action on Caizhi's part. She vibrated her sword slightly and sent Yun Che flying. Then, she surrounded Qianye Ying'er with the power of the Heavenly Wolf Sacred Sword, completely cutting off the latter's chances of retreat or survival.

But before her sword could unleash its destructive might, Qianye Ying'er raised her arm slightly and opened her palm. A blue light landed at the center of her palm before a melodious ringing followed. "Do you still recognize this, little heavenly wolf?"

The object in her hand was a tiny, simple bell. The string was made from colorful vines, and the bell was carved from colorful jade. Right now though, it was flowing faintly with blue light.

Caizhi stopped, her grim pupils trembling a little. Of course she recognized the simple—one might even say crude—bell. It was the first ever gift her younger self had made with Jasmine's help and gifted to her older brother, Xisu. The bell held her purest, sincerest wish—the wish that her older brother would always be safe no matter where he went.

In fact, she had stood on her toes and tied the bell onto his waist herself.

However, the bell had been missing when he returned home with his dying breath.

"You..." Caizhi's vision blurred for an instant and she gritted her teeth.

"Relax, I didn't steal this from him. He was the one who gave it to me when he knew he was going to die, right before he returned to the Star God Realm."

Caizhi, "..."

"Honestly, I thought that the day I would need to use this would never come, but it appears that his thoughts weren't wasted after all." Qianye Ying'er shook the bell lightly, and the blue light covering the jade bell suddenly left its host. It quickly spread out and transformed into a blurry figure.

A person's figure.

The blue figure was almost the same size as Yun Che. His face was blurry and unrecognizable, but both Yun Che and Caizhi were still shaken when he appeared in front of them.

Yun Che wasn't unfamiliar with the figure or his aura. It was because he had already appeared once from the ring Caizhi gave him.

It was Xisu's soul shadow!

Caizhi couldn't mistake him for someone else even if his voice and soul aura were another ten times fainter than they were now!

Yun Che narrowed his eyes slightly... When the fragmented soul on the ring disappeared after telling him the truth, he thought that that was the last he would see of the Heavenly Wolf Xisu. However, that was obviously not the case!

"..." Caizhi's expression didn't change, but she was obviously transfixed by the increasingly distinct shadow of Xisu.

After so many years, she didn't think that she would have a chance to meet her older brother's soul in such close proximity again.

A weak voice came from the soul shadow. "You've grown up, Caizhi."

It was the exact same voice Yun Che had heard back then. However, this one was a lot weaker.

"..." Caizhi showed no overt reaction besides tightening her grip a bit.

"I didn't think that you would be the one to inherit the Heavenly Wolf's divine power. Once, you were as fragile as a young butterfly. But now, you've grown to the point where you could drive even the Lady Goddess into a corner. Both you and Jasmine are my eternal pride."

Xisu's voice was gentle and warm. He hadn't said much, but nearly half his soul shadow was gone already. Clearly, the fragmented soul he imbued the bell with was far weaker than the one in the ring. Xisu continued before Caizhi could reply. "I must have told you not to take revenge for me after my passing, but I know that neither you nor Jasmine will listen to me. That is why I left behind this, the most precious gift I have ever received, with her."

"It is my wish that both sides will be able to lay down whatever grudge and hatred they bear for my sake..."

"Lady Goddess, they are my closest relatives. I ask that you don't hurt them considering all that I've done for you. Otherwise, I who have given you my life will never forgive you."

"Jasmine, Caizhi. The Lady Goddess is a dream I'm willing to spend my whole life chasing after. I don't mind dying for her, so it goes without saying that it is my lifetime wish to see her safe and sound."

"Don't take revenge for me, for there was never any hatred between you three. I won't be able to rest easy if any of you were hurt."

Ring...

The unstable soul finally dissipated without a trace.

The blue light that was covering the jade bell earlier was also gone completely.

The world returned to silence once more. Caizhi stared blankly at the jade bell and didn't say anything for a very long time.

Yun Che let out a quiet breath. The cost of leaving a fragment of one's soul behind was a great amount of lifespan and soul origin. Xisu was already near death at the time, but he still chose to leave behind a fragmented soul with Qianye Ying'er.

One of the reasons he did this was to protect Jasmine and Caizhi. He knew that the sisters would want to take revenge for him, but he knew even better just how strong Qianye Ying'er was. The Lady Goddess would very likely have the upper hand if they attacked her recklessly... In that case, he hoped that Qianye Ying'er would acknowledge his wish and let them live considering everything he had done for her. His soul shadow would also stop the sisters from carrying out any future acts of vengeance.

Going by the same logic, the other reason he gave Qianye Ying'er the bell was to save her life in case the sisters were able to corner her.

However, it was obvious that Qianye Ying'er had no intentions of honoring his wish, at least not the part where he asked for Jasmine and Caizhi's safety. Not long after Xisu was gone, Jasmine almost succumbed to the Southern Sea God Emperor's poison. Of course, the real mastermind behind the poisoning was none other than Qianye Ying'er.

Qianye Ying'er was immune to all forms of emotions unless her father was involved. Qianye Ying'er might be someone Xisu was willing to give his life for, but Xisu... was just a useful tool to Qianye Ying'er. She wasn't moved at all by his death.

In fact... she was still using him after he was dead.

But there was no way Jasmine and Caizhi could ignore Xisu's wish, especially considering his last line. "I won't be able to rest easy if any of you were hurt".

He was practically putting a curse on himself to protect Qianye Ying'er.

How could Caizhi or Jasmine kill Qianye Ying'er after that, even if their hatred for her was ten thousand times greater than it was?

There were too many people who went mad in pursuit of the "Lady Goddess". There exist several pinnacles in this world such as the pinnacle of wealth, the pinnacle of authority, the pinnacle of the profound way, and so on... and Qianye Ying'er represented the pinnacle of beauty.

Out of all the people who fell for Qianye Ying'er, Heavenly Wolf Xisu might just be the one who loved her the most.

Unfortunately for him, the woman he fell for was literally the most heartless woman in the entire world.

Yun Che didn't know if he should feel respect, regret... or pity for Heavenly Wolf Xisu.

In the end, Caizhi chose to lower her sword.

But although her sword had vanished into thin air, her killing intent hadn't retracted in the slightest.

Sss!

There was a tiny rip in space, and Caizhi snatched the jade bell from Qianye Ying'er's hands. She slowly looked at the woman and said, "You're right to say I cannot kill you."

"Oh?" Qianye Ying'er raised her eyebrows slightly.

"But someone else can." She then looked at Yun Che and said, "You have two choices, Yun Che."

She called him "Yun Che", not "brother-in-law".

Yun Che, "..."

"Kill her." Her voice was icy and emotionless. The look in her eyes especially was as unfamiliar as a stranger's. "Kill her, and I'll come with you to the Northern Divine Region. I'll become your sword, your tool, and your incubator."

"..." Yun Che's eyebrows twitched slightly.

"Or you can keep her," her eyes darkened even further when she said this, "and sever what we have between us forever. You'll never see me again for as long as you live."

"Now choose!"

The radiant, impossibly naive girl who was weirdly conscious about her age and body shape might never appear to him again. Yun Che slowly opened his palm to the woman who said cruel things to him the old her would never say.

It was the ring Caizhi had given him a long time ago.

"You know your ultimatum is foolish, don't you?" Yun Che said softly as he looked at Caizhi. "Our 'ceremony' was so simple it felt like a joke, but it was still Jasmine's earnest wish. We traded tokens, we kowtowed thrice, and we were witnessed by your mother and Jasmine. From that point onward, we were husband and wife."

Qianye Ying'er, "...?"

Caizhi's lips moved slightly.

"You are my wife. She is my tool. This isn't a choice to me at all." Yun Che walked toward Caizhi and held up the ring. "So come with me to the Northern Divine Region, alright?"

As Yun Che moved closer towards Caizhi, a flash of panic actually flitted across the woman's face.

Her killing intent suddenly dissipated into nothing, and to everyone's surprise, she turned around and flew away. It only took her the blink of an eye to disappear into the horizon.

"Caizhi!"

Yun Che shouted after her, but she was too fast for him to follow. All he could do was watch her vanish from his sight.

Two glowing objects dropped slowly toward the ground where Caizhi had vanished. When Yun Che caught them and gave them a look, he realized that one of them was the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning, and the other a simple spatial crystal... there were hundreds of profound beast cores inside it!

Almost all the profound cores were perfectly intact. Each one was so powerful it was terrifying.

They were all collected from the ancient beasts of the God Realm of Absolute Beginning. Over three hundred of them belonged to Divine Sovereigns, and thirty of them... belonged to Divine Masters!

"..." Yun Che looked up and didn't say anything for a very long time.

"I didn't know you and the little Heavenly Wolf were connected this way," Qianye Ying'er said from behind. "So, both sisters are in your harem, hmm? You're truly worse than a beast."

Yun Che didn't react at all.

"The Heavenly Wolf's divine power is born from hatred. Obviously, the Heavenly Slaughter Star God did what she did because she was afraid that the little Heavenly Wolf would be devoured by hatred after realizing the truth. Though it looks like she succeeded," Qianye Ying'er said slowly. "The little Heavenly Wolf's power is completely deformed by hatred. One might even say that she has become a devil through and through. But surprisingly, her mind hasn't succumbed completely."

"Her father wanted to sacrifice her, the Star God Realm wanted to abandon her, and her last relative was exiled from the Primal Chaos. The only reason she's able to maintain her current state of mind, is you... If not for you, she would have already transformed into a devilish wolf who knew only hatred."

Yun Che continued to stay silent, but there was movement around the corner of his lips. It lasted for only an instant, but it was definitely a smile that had crossed his face.

Caizhi...

Qianye Ying'er was right. Caizhi's power had fallen completely to the dark side, and she was far stronger than ever before. But she didn't allow her mind to fall into the abyss of hatred completely... because she didn't want Yun Che to disappear from her thoughts and soul.

Jasmine, I once laughed at you for connecting Caizhi and I by force, but it was your "foolish" decision that has created this amazing miracle.

"She never wanted to kill you in the first place," Yun Che finally said. "She has had countless chances to do so if that was the case."

The Divine Fruit of the Absolute Beginning, the amazing quantity and quality of profound cores—it was clear that Caizhi had known of their presence for a very long time. She might even have been watching them as early as a year ago.

"I know," Qianye Ying'er replied. She knew from the moment Yun Che stopped Caizhi the first time that she didn't truly want to kill her. The little Heavenly Wolf's aura was almost as strong as Xisu's, so there was no way Yun Che could stop her if she truly set her mind to it.

Perhaps she just wanted to hear the answer she desired from Yun Che himself.

"A question." Qianye Ying'er wrapped her arms around her chest and asked, "You tried really hard to protect me earlier. Is it really just because I'm a useful tool and incubator?"

"What else?" Yun Che put away the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning and the spatial crystal.

"..." Qianye Ying'er didn't say anything.

"Well, there's another reason." Yun Che shot her a side glance before continuing. "All things considered, you are a pretty good plaything."

"Really? Just 'good'?" Qianye Ying'er let out a soft laugh before saying coyly, "To you men, I am the best plaything in the entire world. No one can hope to compare to or replace me. A tool or an incubator can be abandoned as the user sees fit, but never a plaything such as I."

"Heh." Yun Che snorted derisively at that.

"I do hope that you would be a little gentler when you're toying with your plaything though." Qianye Ying'er withdrew her gaze slightly as if she was complaining to a lover. "You won't be able to find a replacement even if you have the entire God Realm beneath your feet."

"Or are all men as violent and unruly as you are?"

Yun Che shot her another sideways glance before declaring coldly, "You won't know, because you'll never have another man besides me."

"Oh?" Qianye Ying'er narrowed her eyes slightly. "That is not for you to decide!"

Yun Che extended an arm and allowed his fingers to slide from her velvety, white neck to her chest. "You'll never escape from my grasp for as long as you live. Of this, I'm very certain." "What about after you're gone?" The ghost of a smile flitted across Qianye Ying'er's lips.

"...I won't die ahead of you." Yun Che pulled away and left after that.

Qianye Ying'er didn't follow after Yun Che immediately. Instead, she watched his back for some time before saying something not even the wind managed to catch, "Don't you forget that."

Chapter 1620 - Eternal Heaven Breaks Down

After Yun Che discovered that he could absorb the origin energy inside a profound beast core, the God Realm of Absolute Beginning became a cultivation paradise to him. It was because high level profound beasts were extremely common in this place, not so much everywhere else.

To be honest, Yun Che was actually a bit reluctant to leave.

So far, Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er had only hunted Divine Sovereign profound beasts. They had never dared to enter the territory of a Divine Master profound beast.

In the God Realm, most profound practitioners would never meet a Divine Master profound beast in their whole lives. Even a huge realm like the Flame God Realm only had two Divine Master profound beasts, the ancient horned dragons.

They could kill one, or even two low level Divine Master profound beasts if an encounter happened. However, a battle at this level would certainly attract a lot of attention. If a whole horde of Divine Master profound beasts were to show up because of the noise, their only choice was to flee with the risk of the unknown hovering over their heads. There was simply no need to take a risk like this.

That was why the profound cores Caizhi gave him... especially the thirty Divine Master level profound cores were an unimaginable wealth to Yun Che.

Setting aside the Divine Sovereign level profound cores for the moment, the fact that there were thirty Divine Master profound cores meant that thirty Divine Master profound beasts were killed to obtain them. That fact alone was enough to strike fear in anyone.

If he could absorb and refine these profound cores using the law of nothingness, his cultivation was sure to improve tremendously in just a short time.

Speaking of the law of nothingness... Yun Che never felt like he truly grasped or understood it in any sense, and yet he couldn't deny the various impossible powers it exhibited through him.

It was an existence that he was clearly using, but never truly made contact with.

Nothingness... Was the law itself "nothing"?

After putting the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning into the Sky Poison Pearl, Yun Che commanded, "How confident are you in refining the Untamed World Pellet, He Ling?"

"One hundred percent," He Ling answered without hesitation. "It is impossible to fail with my nature spirit energy and the power of the Sky Poison Pearl. Not just that, not a speck of the Untamed Divine Marrow or the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning will be wasted."

"Mn." Yun Che wasn't exaggerating at all when he spoke to Qianye Ying'er earlier. The Untamed World Pellet he created would be far superior to the one the Eternal Heaven Great Ancestor had created. The medicinal energy it contained would be several times, or even ten times stronger.

This result was possible because of the Sky Poison Pearl and He Ling!

"Make two," Yun Che said.

"Two?" He Ling asked weakly after a brief moment of astonishment. "Are we... really giving her half of the pellet?"

"Yes."

"...Alright," He Ling replied briefly in a small voice. It was clear she wasn't willing to split the Untamed World Pellet in half for Qianye Ying'er. After all, this Untamed World Pellet might very well be the last of its kind considering how rare its ingredients were.

"Wait!" Yun Che said suddenly. "Don't use up the Untamed Divine Marrow completely. Leave some behind... a hair's worth will be good enough."

"Mn, got it," He Ling replied.

"When are we leaving?" Qianye Ying'er's voice entered Yun Che's ears at this moment.

"We leave now," Yun Che replied directly. The experts of the Eternal Heaven God Realm should be arriving very soon, and they weren't strong enough to venture deep into the God Realm of Absolute Beginning. It would be incredibly dangerous to stay behind and face their enemy's wrath, not to mention the reinforcements that were sure to come later.

"Really?" Qianye Ying'er raised her eyebrows. "You're not going to collect that little Heavenly Wolf of yours?"

"I will find her," Yun Che said before changing his appearance and aura. Then, he flew straight toward the exit.

Originally, they planned to stay in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning for a very long time, but now they had to leave after just a year. Though this was the case, it was better than the time he was forced to run without any clue at all. This time, he knew what he would do after he returned to the Northern Divine Region.

The moment he left the God Realm of Absolute Beginning, the infinite space of the universe entered his sight. Suddenly, Yun Che turned back and looked at the God Realm of Absolute Beginning with a frown.

"What's wrong?" Qianye Ying'er asked.

"Are the Primal Chaos and the God Realm of Absolute Beginning really two completely separate worlds? Do they really exist independently?" Yun Che asked Qianye Ying'er a strange question out of nowhere.

Qianye Ying'er shot him a glance before answering. "The God Realm of Absolute Beginning dates all the way back to the Era of the Ancestral God, so it's even older than the Era of Gods. This world has been an

independent existence since ancient times, and it has no connection to the outside world besides that miraculous entrance. Why do you ask?"

Yun Che raised his hands and felt the surrounding flow of aura for a moment. Then, he looked away and said, "It's nothing. Let's go!"

Yun Che's frown didn't fade for a long time even after they were far away from the God Realm of Absolute Beginning.

That strange feeling he sensed earlier seemed to have originated from the law of nothingness. What could this mean?

"Are you worried about something?" Qianye Ying'er asked out of nowhere. After spending the last couple of years with Yun Che, she was capable of detecting any irregularity in his breathing and even his heartbeat instantly.

"I will share half of the Untamed World Pellet with you," Yun Che said. "Can you finally relax now?"

It was the same thing he told Qinye Ying'er earlier, but it made a world of difference because the Divine Fruit of Absolute Beginning was now in his hands. Qianye Ying'er's gaze froze for an instant before a faint smile spread across her face. "It was a perfectly logical choice, wasn't it? Why do you make it sound like you're doing me a favor?"

"Hmph," Yun Che snorted coldly. "Stiff-lipped woman."

"Oh?" Qianye Ying'er licked her lips before saying softly, "Do you really not know if my lips are stiff or soft?"

"..." The arc of Yun Che's flight dipped suddenly before he corrected himself.

Eastern Divine Region, the Eternal Heaven God Realm.

Not long after Honorable Zhu Liu had passed away, Zhou Xuzi also sensed Honorable Tai Yin's death and was shocked for a very long time. Two days later, when his restlessness reached a point where he decided to travel to the God Realm of Absolute Beginning himself, Honorable Tai Yu had finally returned.

Honorable Tai Yu didn't linger after returning to the Eternal Heaven God Realm. He ran straight for the inner palace where the Eternal Heaven God Emperor was waiting.

The face of the leader of the Eternal Heaven Guardians, the man second only to the Eternal Heaven God Emperor both in terms of strength and status, was completely missing its usual grace and tranquility. In fact, his expression was shockingly grim.

Following beside him was a barrier he constructed with his own power. The barrier prevented light, sound, and aura from entering, and no one, not even the guardians were able to perceive what it was hiding as Honorable Tai Yu made his way through the Eternal Heaven God Realm.

The Eternal Heaven God Emperor rushed out to meet him. He had known Tai Yu for tens of thousands of years, and he had never seen such an expression on him until now. The barrier behind Tai Yu was

especially concerning since it was constructed with his full power. The guardian was clearly terrified that someone would see its hidden contents.

"What happened?" The Eternal Heaven God Emperor asked seriously. "Why have you returned before you reached your destination?"

"Master," Honorable Tai Yu said while letting out a sigh, "please activate the palace's barrier. This cannot be leaked to anyone."

The Eternal Heaven God Emperor's frown deepened before he waved his hands. Their surroundings glowed white all of a sudden, and soon the entire palace was isolated from the outside world. "Now, speak!"

"Tai Yin, Zhu Liu, and Qu Hui have all... passed away," Honorable Tai Yu started.

"I already know..." Zhou Xuzi's expression changed slightly. "What? Qu Hui is... gone too?"

He could sense a guardian's death because he was the Eternal Heaven God Emperor, but not Qu Hui's.

Qu Hui had traveled to the God Realm of Absolute Beginning as Zhou Qingchen's supervisor and guide under his orders. He was supposed to act as the witness to Zhou Qingchen's every move.

He could attribute Tai Yin and Zhu Liu's deaths to the all powerful Dragons of Absolute Beginning.

But if Qu Hui was dead, then Zhou Qingchen...

A terrible chill instantly filled up his whole body. It was to the point where his voice was trembling slightly when he asked, "Qingchen... what about Qingchen?"

"I encountered Qu Hui's profound ark while I was traveling to the God Realm of Absolute Beginning. The young master was inside it."

Tai Yu didn't look happy at all when he said this. On the contrary, his nostrils trembled a number of times throughout the short sentence.

There were very few things that could truly affect a god emperor, even if it was about their descendants. But Zhou Qingchen was different. The boy was the successor of his bloodline, power, status, and will. He was also the only descendant he ever had with the love of his life. If there was one thing he couldn't lose no matter what, it would be him.

Tai Yu's reaction caused the Eternal Heaven God Emperor to freeze like a statue. Icy terror crawled throughout his entire body. "Qingchen... could it be..."

But Tai Yu shook his head with an indescribably complicated expression. "The young master is only lightly wounded. But... but..."

For some reason he couldn't say the words he meant to speak, so he waved his hand and dispelled the barrier behind him instead.

Zhou Qingchen entered the Eternal Heaven God Emperor's view. His white clothes were in tatters, and there were wounds all over his body. However, the boy hadn't suffered any internal injuries, and his life force was perfectly unharmed.

External injuries were nothing to a Divine Sovereign, but for some reason Zhou Qingchen was unconscious even now. Moreover, his facial features were twitching slightly as if he was holding back some sort of deep pain.

Zhou Xuzi strode forward and confirmed that his son was safe immediately. It was undoubtedly one piece of good news amidst the disasters. He let out a secret sigh of relief before saying, "Qu Hui must have died to protect Qingchen and bought him enough time to escape... the fault of this terrible tragedy is mine. It is I who have underestimated the dragons who guard the divine fruit and the dangers of the God Realm of Absolute Beginning too much."

"Still, it is good that Qingchen is safe."

"No... no." Tai Yu repeated the word heavily while shaking his head. "My lord, didn't you notice? Qingchen's body, bloodline, profound energy... everything is different from before."

Zhou Xuzi frowned a little and scanned his son with his spiritual perception. In that moment, his expression changed and his pupils contracted to the size of a pin. It was as if someone had stabbed a pair of poisoned needles into his eyes.

Holding his breath, he took a step forward and fell completely silent. He slowly touched a finger to Zhou Qingchen's body, but the second he made contact he withdrew his hand as if he was electrocuted...

A waft of dark energy slowly rose from Zhou Qingchen's body. It was only a wisp, but it was enough to turn the atmosphere dark and stifling.

"Darkness... profound energy..." Zhou Xuzi stumbled half a step backwards before freezing in his tracks. His murmur made it sound like he was stuck in a nightmare. "What's going on... what's going on..."

"It's not just his profound energy," Tai Yu said before closing his eyes. His voice sounded like it was infused with lead. "His flesh, blood, meridians... absolutely everything has been transformed into a devil's. In other words, Qingchen is an... incredibly pure devil person right now."

Tai Yu's words crushed Zhou Xizi's last hope mercilessly. A violent tremble coursed through his body as color faded from his vision. He was still murmuring like he was in a nightmare, "What's going on... what on earth is going on..."

There was nothing more heretical than devil people in the eyes of the Eternal Heaven God Realm and the three divine regions. The people believed them to be the purest representation of evil, which was why all devil people were killed on sight. In fact, it was one of the creeds the Eternal Heaven God Realm had obeyed and executed for the longest time.

But now, his son, the Eternal Heaven God Emperor's most important son, had transformed... into a devil person!?

"It was Yun Che," Tai Yu said.

"...What!?" Zhou Xuzi abruptly turned his head and looked at Tai Yu.

"Qingchen encountered Yun Che and the long missing Lady Goddess while he was in the God Realm of Absolute Beginning," Tai Yu explained slowly. "Their appearance and aura were very different from

before. Not even Qu Hui realized who they were until it was too late. After baiting Qingchen into approaching them, they... killed Qu Hui and Tai Yin."

"Tai... Yin?" The Eternal Heaven God Emperor moved slowly like he was an aging machine.

"Yes, Tai Yin was killed by Yun Che." Tai Yu's own reaction was almost identical to his lord's when he had heard the news from Qingchen. "Tai Yin succeeded in stealing the divine fruit where Zhu Liu was killed, but he suffered grievous injuries during the process. When he returned to Qingchen and Qu Hui, Yun Che ambushed him and took his life."

"As a result, the divine fruit was taken by Yun Che. Even the Great Void Cauldron is lost to him."

"I don't know what kind of evil technique Yun Che cast to transform Qingchen into a devil person, but he is the only one who could've done this."

"..." Zhou Xuzi was completely frozen. This time, his face wasn't the only thing that was twitching. Every hair on his body was twitching in fear as well.

Yun Che... killed Tai Yin...

Honorable Tai Yin was a level nine Divine Master and the sixth strongest Eternal Heaven Guardian. No one knew better than him how powerful the guardian really was. Even if Tai Yin was grievously injured and near death, an Eternal Heaven Guardian was no one an ordinary person could scoff at... And now, Tai Yu was telling him that Tai Yin was killed by Yun Che?

He clearly remembered that Yun Che was just a level one Divine King when he transformed into a devil person back then. He was as pitiful as a mosquito when the realms chased after him, and he wasn't able to mount even the tiniest bit of resistance at all.

It hadn't even been three years since that fateful day.

And now, Tai Yin was dead by his hands!?