The Gods 1691

Chapter 1691 - The Imperiled Snow Song Realm

The inner world of the Primordial Profound Ark.

Qianye Ying'er was enshrouded in incomparably dense profound light. The aura of her profound energy was extremely pure and clean but it had also formed an exceptionally violent vortex around her. A vortex of energy which engulfed the space five kilometers around her.

Yun Che sensed the changes in Qianye Ying'er's aura. She had refined nearly half of the second Untamed World Pellet. This was going much faster than it had the last time, when she had taken a full half a year to refine the first pellet.

However, this speed was something that Yun Che had already predicted.

Within half a month's time, Qianye Ying'er would successfully refine the second Untamed World Pellet. Once that happened, she would undoubtedly become his greatest strength. Even if he counted the Yama Ancestors and the Yama Devils.

He did not disturb Qianye Ying'er. Instead, Yun Che held He Ling's hand as he brought her to another area of the Primordial Profound Ark.

The world within the Primordial Profound Ark was sparse and barren. It was very rare to see plants and flowers, and the occasional profound beast that appeared would always be a low-grade one.

In order to reduce the Primordial Profound Ark's energy consumption, Yun Che had never tried to create a more fertile environment. Instead, he had just been maintaining it in a state where it would not collapse. He was naturally saving the rest of the energy for dimensional jumps in case they were caught in a bad situation.

"He Ling," Yun Che gently said as he looked straight ahead, "you must think that I've become very frightening now."

"..." He Ling's lips parted slightly but she was lost in her own thoughts, so she did not reply.

"I used to respect every life. Use to value the destiny of every living person. But right now, I only view them as one of two things. They are either useful tools or useless trash."

"Even when I faced off against my hated enemies in the past, I never killed them in a cruel manner or tortured them to death. Neither did I allow myself to lose my humanity when I fought my foes. But today, I can torture the Three Yama Ancestors in the cruelest of ways without even blinking an eye. Three people who I didn't even have a single grievance against. I tortured them in ways that made them long for death for six straight days, but there wasn't a single trace of reluctance in my heart."

"I once viewed saving the God Realm and the universe as a duty that I had to fulfill. And I had hoped that it would become the glory of my household, something that would protect us forever. But now, I thirst to see the God Realm wailing in pain and despair."

"Yet I don't even feel the least bit frightened by what I've become, and perhaps that's the most frightening thing of all." Yun Che slowly closed his eyes.

His talent was singular and he had an immeasurable future, one that was bound to break through all the limits of the current era. Yet he was missing one crucial component. He lacked the ambition to go with his talent, something that he sorely needed... Shen Xi had said the same thing to him years ago, and so had Xia Qingyue. Even the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor had said those words to him.

He understood what they were trying to tell him, but a person's desires and aspirations were not so easily changed.

On the other hand, if the Eternal Heaven God Emperor had not gone back on his word after the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor left and the three divine regions had not acted against him out of fear, then it would have been a "happily-ever-after" for everyone involved. Yun Che would have returned to the Blue Pole Star with Jasmine and even if he did return to the God Realm, it would only be to visit the Snow Song Realm or Shen Xi.

Even if Yun Che truly did break through the limits of this current age and surpassed the Evil Infant, the worries of all the powerhouses in the God Realm would never have come to pass... Because that was Yun Che's true nature, his greatest wish and desire, and it would never have changed.

However, their fear toward the Evil Infant and Yun Che's future growth caused them to bare their cruel fangs at the messiah who had just fulfilled his "duty"...

They had never in their wildest dreams imagined that when Yun Che was forced to pursue strength, he would become such a dreadful monster.

"Master," He Ling said as she looked at him. Her green pupils trembled and her gentle voice was as light and airy as the wind. "This isn't your fault. None of it is. Even if you end up destroying the three divine regions in the future, you are merely withdrawing the mercy you had shown to them previously."

Perhaps no one would believe that these words would come out from the mouth of a wood spirit.

Yun Che suddenly turned to look at her. He smiled as he gazed upon He Ling's beautiful face. Her expression was slightly dazed as he whispered to her, "Actually, you don't need to worry about me. Because you, Hong'er, and You'er still exist in my world, I will never abandon the last vestiges of my humanity."

"..." His words had plucked at the flustered strings of her heart. He Ling's lips parted slightly as an ethereal mist descended upon those beautiful emerald eyes.

He Ling had borne witness to the changes that had occured within Yun Che over the last few years. The current him oozed a terrifyingly dark and oppressive might. To the point where even people like Yan Tianxiao would tread very carefully around him.

It was only when he was speaking to Hong'er, You'er, or her that he was still as gentle as she remembered... Perhaps, this was the only bit of gentleness and warmth that still remained within him.

The eyes and the smile that Yun Che showed her were not dark or gloomy at all. In fact, they did not even contain a hint of coldness. "Let's dual cultivate. Your pure wood spirit aura will definitely help with my comprehension of the Law of Nothingness. At the same time, it will also aid the growth of your spiritual strength. In fact, it might help the Sky Poison Pearl recover its poison power quicker."

"..." He Ling looked down, flustered, she did not dare to meet his gaze.

"It will speed up the process of our revenge. However, you will never become a tool to me, you will always be a part of my life. This was set the moment our lives were connected, and it will never change, not until the day we die."

Gentle ripples spread throughout her heart without ceasing and it soundlessly carried away all of her worries, fears, and misgivings. She raised her delicate head and looked straight into Yun Che's eyes, her beautiful eyes shining brightly, as if all the stars in the universe were gathered in them.

She really liked it when Yun Che said these sort of words to her. It was a joy... that could not be described with words.

Yun Che suddenly stretched out an arm and sacred white light seemed to intermingle with viridian light as it shone from his fingers. After that, the light swiftly started to spread out and fill the surrounding area, causing a dense aura of life to fill the air.

The Royal Wood Spirit Orb that He Lin had given him had disappeared when he had triggered the Divine Miracle of Life back on the Blue Pole Star, but he still retained all of the memories contained within it and some of its wood spirit energy.

All of the vegetation in the area instantly started to sway as green leaves blossomed on the trees and covered them in the shade. The flowers were in full bloom and it was as if they had been transported into an entirely different world, one of ephemeral fantasy, in the mere blink of an eye.

He Ling's vision grew hazy.

The only things that had colored her world during the years spent in the Northern Divine Region and the God Realm of Absolute Beginning were gray ash, gloomy darkness, and fresh blood...

So the world in front of her seemed like a distant dream.

"Ah..."

She gave a flustered cry but her slender and delicate waist had already been embraced. After that, she fell heavily against Yun Che's arm before he gently pushed her down amidst a field of blooming flowers.

"..." Her heart leapt in her chest wildly and her gaze turned confused and evasive. She did not even know where to place her arms as she squirmed around, still flustered. The sounds and images that she had inadvertently witnessed now surged into her mind involuntarily, causing her body to go limp and her breathing to become rough.

"Are... are we... going to start... dual cultivating?" She tried her best to maintain her cool, but her breathing was growing rougher and rougher and her entire body was turning a bright shade of pink.

Qianye Ying'er, the Little Demon Empress, Feng Xue'er, Chu Yuechan, Cang Yue, Su Ling'er, the twins Feng Hanyue and Hanxue... Those images flooded her mind and she could not suppress them no matter how hard she tried.

Even though Yun Che hadn't lived for a very long time, he had already tasted all sorts of women. However, the wood spirit girl that lay beneath him was so lovely that it caused his heart to race. She had an ethereally beautiful face which looked like it had been bestowed upon her by a god. Furthermore, her beauty was different from all the other women Yun Che had been with. She was beautiful in a gentle and fragile manner, just like the first bloom of spring, like the newly-formed wings of a butterfly which had just crawled out of its cocoon.

"No," Yun Che said as he shook his head gently. He had not noticed, but his voice and actions had become far gentler than before. "First, I will make my He Ling into my Little Ling'er, someone who belongs to me and me alone."

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Snow Song Realm, Ice Phoenix Realm, Heavenly Netherfrost Lake.

"Big Sister, I've come to see you."

Mu Bingyun knelt by the shores of the Heavenly Lake as she cast a few freshly-bloomed Ice Feather Spirit Flowers into it, her icy eyes silently observed them floating into the distance.

That was the flower that her big sister loved the most when she was still alive... However, she had never known the reason why her sister had suddenly grown to love them so much.

"Big Sister, it's only after you left that everyone understood just how important you were to the sect, to the entire Snow Song Realm."

"It was only after I succeeded your throne that I truly came to understand just how outstanding you were."

She closed her icy eyes as her long hair dipped into the lake, stirring up melancholic ripples in the surface of the water. She softly whispered, "Sis, you are the greatest pride of my life."

"I brought Yun Che here, but he was the one who took you away from us. Even so, no matter how hard I try, I just can't bring myself to hate him... Because he was the person that Big Sister loved. Big Sister loved him so much, so how could I really come to hate him..."

"On the contrary... Every year, every day... I find myself pining for him..."

"The thing I fear the most is that I'll hear the news of his death."

She softly mumbled those words, as if she were speaking in her sleep.

"Big Sister, when you were still alive, you used your life and the future of the Snow Song Realm to protect him. And you're still trying your best to protect him in the land of the dead, aren't you..."

The untimely death of the beautiful Mu Xuanyin had cost the Snow Song Realm its greatest pillar of strength. If not for the stern warning the Moon God Emperor had given everyone back then, the Snow Song Realm would have long since been swarmed under by star realms who were either trying to take advantage of the situation or settle old scores with them.

Mu Bingyun's cultivation and fame were far weaker than Mu Xuanyin's, so after she had inherited Mu Xuanyin's throne and position within the sect, she had become pressured on all sides. However, the harder things got, the less weakness she could show.

She had previously been as gentle and soft as a cloud, but now, she had to force herself to be cold, decisive... and even merciless.

The only time she could fully display her weakness was when she was alone with her sister in this place.

She did not stay for long. Once the last of the Ice Feather Spirit Flowers floated out of her view, Mu Bingyun slowly got to her feet. In the blink of an eye, the mistiness in her eyes disappeared and the only thing left was a terrifying coldness.

When she returned to the Ice Phoenix Sacred Region, Second Elder Mu Tanzhi was already waiting outside her hall. His expression was exceptionally grave and he swiftly approached Mu Bingyun as he said, "Sect Master, something terrible has happened. The thing we've been worried about for the past few years has finally come to pass."

Mu Bingyun let out a gloomy sigh but the expression on her peerlessly beautiful face, which looked like it was carved out of ice, did not change in the slightest. "Is it the northern region or the southern region?"

There were three powerful Divine Sovereign profound beasts in the Snow Song Realm, they were the overlords of all of the profound beasts in the star realm. They ruled over three regions, the eastern, southern, and northern regions respectively.

When Mu Xuanyin had ruled the Snow Song Realm, all three of these overlords had been suppressed by her power, so they obediently submitted to her. Not only did not dare to set foot out of their own profound regions, but they even dutifully governed the regions they were in charge of and kept all of the profound beasts in line.

When the profound beast rampages were happening, the Divine Sovereign profound beast of the eastern region had charged out of its territory in a rage, but it had been incinerated by the Flame God Realm's Huo Poyun, who had hurried over to the Snow Song Realm for the sake of Mu Feixue.

But now that the Snow Song Realm had lost Mu Xuanyin, the two Divine Sovereign profound beasts who ruled the north and the south were no longer content to stay under the heels of the Divine Ice Phoenix Sect.

"The southern region," Mu Tanzhi replied.

Mu Bingyun gave a soft sigh of relief in her heart. If it was the Divine Sovereign profound beast in the southern region who had revolted, they still had the power to forcefully suppress it.

"Sect Mster, are we truly not going to ask the Moon God Realm for aid?" Mu Tanzhi asked. "If it's just one mid-stage Divine Sovereign profound beast, we can still kill it with our combined might. But the profound beasts under its command number in the millions. Even if we can suppress it... we will definitely suffer heavy losses."

"If something happens in the northern region..."

"No," The moment she heard the three words "Moon God Realm", Mu Bingyun's aura turned frigid and her words became cold and harsh. "Even if the Ice Phoenix meets its bitter end, we will never ask

anything of the Moon God Realm! If anyone dares to defy me, they will immediately be expelled from the sect!"

"Send a sound transmission to the great elder. Ask him to take care of the sect. This king will personally make a trip to the south... Also, suppress this news as best as you can. We don't want to stir up any panic."

Mu Tanzhi left to execute his orders, but his eyes were filled with worry.

Even though the Moon God Realm had warned the rest of the God Realm, the world still associated the Snow Song Realm with the word "sin" due to Yun Che and Mu Xuanyin, who had helped Yun Che escape.

What would the future hold for the Snow Song Realm...

1. Author footnote: In order to save everyone's money, I'm leaving out these eighty-seven thousand extra words!

Chapter 1692 - Murmur

The Primordial Profound Ark.

A mild wind blew underneath the green foliage.

He Ling wore cloud robes the color of a lush forest as she quietly leaned against Yun Che's chest. Her legs, which were as white as jade china, stuck out of her dress and her exquisite calves rested against the grass.

She loved this moment of peaceful stillness that she could not quite capture with words. A sense of peace and warmth that she had never experienced before washed over her and she quietly wished that time would freeze. that this moment would last forever.

Yun Che stared into the distance as he brooded over something. At some point in time, he had rested a hand on He Ling's jade thigh, his fingers caressing that satiny and supple flesh.

If this had been Qianye Ying'er, she would have slapped him into next week by now. But He Ling did not put up any resistance whatsoever. She merely nibbled on her lips as she let him wantonly explore her body.

Sometimes, she would furtively turn to look at Yun Che. But now, that pair of beautiful watery eyes had undergone a subtle change. She no longer looked at him meekly as her "master". Instead, she now looked at him affectionately, like a lover would.

Contrary to Yun Che's expectations, his comprehension of the Law of Nothingness had not seemed to improve even after he had cultivated with He Ling for six days.

On the contrary, it was He Ling's aura that silently began to undergo a strange and mysterious change. Her emerald eyes had undergone the most marked change, the divine light that shone within them was now much more ethereal and profound than it had been before.

He only had two of the three parts of the World-Defying Heaven Manual.

Did he perhaps require the last part of the World-Defying Heaven Manual to complete the puzzle? Maybe his progress would be blocked until he finally obtained the last part.

However, the last part of the World-Defying Heaven Manual had been in the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor's possession and now that she had left the Primal Chaos, it had vanished from their universe forever.

This also meant that... this might be the limits of his mastery of the Law of Nothingness.

In the following months, it might come to him as naturally as breathing, but he would never be able to take the next step.

The reason he had placed such a priority on cultivating with He Ling was because his trust in Chi Wuyao had been twisted into apprehension and killing intent that was several times stronger than that trust had been. All because of what had happened in the Burning Moon Realm.

It also made him painfully aware of one fact all over again; the fact that the only person he could truly trust and rely on in this world would always be himself.

He had forcefully connected his energy to the origin energy of four Star Gods using the Law of Nothingness. He had used that to support the opening of the "God Ash" gate and endure the backlash of using the gate, so even though he had been successful in killing Fen Daojun, he had destroyed those four Star God divine origin powers in the process. They were lost to the world forever.

But if he advanced even a single step further in his comprehension of the Law of Nothingness, he might even be able to forcefully absorb divine origin powers... Like the Burning Moon origin powers of Fen Daojun and Fen Daozang for example.

If he could make this a reality, his cultivation would grow by leaps and bounds.

It was now clear to him that the obstacle created by not having one of the pieces of the World-Defying Heaven Manual was a wall he could not overcome due to the missing part of the Law of Nothingness.

However, even though he had not been able to accomplish what he set out to do initially, his plan to seize the Three Yama Ancestors and the Yama Realm had gone off without a hitch. He no longer had any reason to fear Chi Wuyao now.

Furthermore, his state of mind had become a lot better after he had spent the last few days entangled with He Ling.

"Master, what are you thinking about?" He Ling's voice was very soft and gentle. Her life was connected to Yun Che's, so she could very clearly sense his change in emotions.

"It's about time for me to go meet that woman," Yun Che said unhurriedly.

He Ling raised her head and asked gently, "Is Master truly going... to kill the Devil Queen?"

When she said those words, her delicate head was still resting on his shoulders. She could not bear to lift it up. She had clearly been by his side day and night for the last few years, but for some odd reason, she had become far more reluctant to be separated from him after the last few days. Even the slightest distance between them caused her heart to feel empty. "She needs to die." Yun Che's voice suddenly turned cold before it immediately turned gentle once more. "It's just a pity that I found out about this too late. If I had found out a little earlier, I would have given her the gift I bestowed upon Fen Daojun. By using that power to kill her."

He Ling thought about it for a moment before speaking, "What Master needs the most right now is power. The Soul Stealing Realm is so strong but all of the Witches and Soul Spirits are completely loyal to the Devil Queen. If you choose to kill the Devil Queen now, you will be making a mortal enemy of the Soul Stealing Realm even if you do succeed. This is something that will be very bad for your cause, whether it's in the present or the future."

"If you continue to be allies, they will be a very strong support for you." After she said those words, He Ling's voice grew softer as she weakly said, "Furthermore... when the Devil Queen is around, she makes me feel as if everything will be alright."

"No." Yun Che shook his head. "If it was someone else, I would continue to feign ignorance and play along until I've flattened the three divine regions with our combined might. Then I would call all of my debts into account."

"But Chi Wuyao is too clever and frightening." Yun Che's chest heaved as he said those words. "I've only been allied with her for such a short period of time, yet I've already been used and backstabbed. If I continue to 'cooperate' with her, I'm afraid that I'll be jumping into the abyss of my own accord."

The only person who could cause Yun Che to feel such apprehension in the vast Northern Divine Region was Chi Wuyao and Chi Wuyao alone.

He Ling very clearly felt the killing intent radiating from Yun Che's body. Her tender lips quivered as she hesitated for a good long while before finally speaking, "Could... Could everything just be a coincidence? Could it be that the Devil Queen had no intention of harming Master in the first place?"

"Everything could be a coincidence except for one thing and that is the appearance of the Soul Sky Warship," Yun Che replied.

"But..." He Ling said hesitantly, "I just can't shake this feeling that she wouldn't harm Master. On the contrary... On the contrary..."

He Ling did not continue. She knew that this was merely a baseless and inexplicable feeling of hers.

"That is her most terrifying trait. She causes people to unconsciously put their trust in her." Yun Che's eyes narrowed. "Or perhaps I should say, as expected of a Devil Emperor's soul."

Yun Che stood up and stared into the distance. He could sense the change in Qianye Ying'er's aura and his eyes started to grow cold. "Let me see if she's truly dared to come, or if it's just another feint."

Yun Che immediately sensed Chi Wuyao's aura the moment he returned to the Yama Imperial District.

She had arrived and she was waiting for him in the imperial hall.

He could sense no other aura from the Soul Stealing Realm besides hers... Not a single one of her Witches, Soul Spirits, or Soul Attendants was attending to her. She had come alone!

Yun Che froze in midair, his brows knitting together tightly. Once again, Chi Wuyao had done something that was completely out of his expectations.

He had ordered Yan Tianxiao to seal off the Yama Realm but that had only been a feint to distract Chi Wuyao. He was not so naive as to think that Chi Wuyao would not find out how he had pressed the vast Yama Realm into submission.

Besides, her understanding of the Eternal Calamity of Darkness far exceeded Yan Tianxiao's.

The fact that he had forced the Yama Realm into submission by summoning the power of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness... should not be something unknown to Chi Wuyao. In fact, there was no reason she should not be aware of this. If she dared to enter the Yama Imperial District, Yun Che could easily force her into a dead end with the power of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness.

Then, why did she still dare to come to this place?

He could not bring himself to believe that someone as wise and cunning as Chi Wuyao would fail to sense his desire to kill her.

After pondering that question for a long time, Yun Che descended from the skies and landed in front of the imperial hall.

"I welcome my lord and my two venerable ancestors." Yan Tianxiao swiftly arrived to greet them. Five Yama Devils, one of whom was Yan Wu, trailed behind him. It was clear that they were on full alert now that the Devil Queen had come to pay them a visit.

"Hm?" Yun Che's eyes swept over them. "You actually left our guest alone?"

Yan Tianxiao replied, "The Devil Queen said that she only wants to see my lord. Since it might have something to do with my lord's personal business, I did not dare to make any decisions on your behalf."

"Did you confirm that she came by herself?" Yun Che asked.

"Yes," Yan Wu replied. "I went to investigate this matter personally and I found that the Devil Queen did indeed come by herself. I did not detect the aura of any of her Witches in a five thousand kilometer radius."

"Hmph, how interesting," Yun Che said as he started moving again. He walked past the Yama Emperor and the Yama Devils as he stepped into the imperial hall.

Yun Che immediately recognized Chi Wuyao's figure in that dim light. She was still shrouded by that thin and wispy black mist. She still radiated that invisible and bewitching devilish might that made people feel like they wanted to kneel before her in submission.

"To think that the Devil Queen would honor us with a visit. Please forgive my tardiness in coming out to greet you."

Yun Che said those words in a bright voice as he strode towards her. Yan One and Yan Three, who trailed behind him, released their auras, instantly dispelling the invisible energy field that radiated from Chi Wuyao's body.

Chi Wuyao turned around and those bewitching eyes concealed by black mist met Yun Che's own... She had not seen him for many days and the gloomy coldness in his eyes still remained. However, there was a penetrating sharpness in his gaze, like a naked blade thirsting for blood.

Because he no longer needed to pretend.

The casual greeting that he just gave had blatantly announced his status as the true ruler of the Yama Realm.

Her lips parted gently as a devilish voice that could melt one's bones rang in the air. "Why call me the Devil Queen when you can call me by my name?"

Her tone slowly changed, as she started to sound sad and wronged. "It has only been twenty-odd days since we last met, but you've suddenly become such a stranger."

"Heh!" Yun Che gave a cold laugh before his eyebrows sank deeply. "Chi Wuyao, cut it out with that seduction nonsense. Now that it has come to this, are you really so naive as to think that I'll pretend to be unaware of what you've done?"

The name "Chi Wuyao", those two same words, were now being pronounced in a more cold and bleak manner than Yun Che had ever said them before.

"..." Chi Wuyao gave a regretful sigh as she said, "The matter with Qianying was indeed my fault. I will definitely make up for it."

If she had not suggested that Qianye Ying'er duel with Fen Daojun, things would not have unfolded the way they had and this had become a deep and heavy knot in her heart.

Yun Che's eyes narrowed sharply and killing intent began to leak from that cold smile of his. "Previously you claimed total ignorance. But now, you happily admit your fault. You are indeed the famed and renowned Devil Queen of the North, you really do know how to judge the situation."

"My mistake was... that I should not have gotten Qianying to duel with Fen Daojun," Chi Wuyao said in a gentle voice. "I really did not know that she was pregnant at the time."

Yun Che's cold and sinister smile curved into a mocking grin, "So you're saying you summoned the Soul Sky Warship in such a timely manner because you were concerned about my safety? He... hehe. Chi Wuyao, take a guess. Do you really think I should believe such a ridiculous joke?"

"..." Chi Wuyao remained silent.

"I have no choice but to admit that both your cunning and viciousness are frightening. In fact, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that you are unrivaled in those aspects. After all, you went from being a mortal woman to the Devil Queen, whose name makes even the god emperors tremble. You are also the only one under heaven to have accomplished this."

"But it's a pity that you were still too anxious." Yun Che's voice turned low and deep. "Or perhaps that little bit of sacrifice was worth it if it could net you the vast Burning Moon Realm. Perhaps you thought that I'd happily accept the truth after I found out once I considered the complete capitulation of the Burning Moon Realm." "However, understanding a person is a very hard thing to do. Just like how I wasn't able to see through your actions. Though I am an evil spirit who will stop at nothing to achieve my vengeance, there are still... some lines that I will never cross! Some things which will forever be taboo to me!"

Chi Wuyao still did not speak. Instead, she stared unblinkingly at Yun Che from beneath the black mist that wreathed her body.

"I was wondering about something even before I stepped in here." Yun Che's eyes were also fixed on Chi Wuyao as he monitored her to catch any subtle actions. He did not detect anything. "And that is how exactly you plan to leave this place alive today."

Chi Wuyao: " ... "

"If it was just that joke you made previously, then that's just too disappointing. It's simply far too lacking when compared to the frightening and mighty title 'Devil Queen'."

Yun Che's grin grew more and more sinister as his eyes turned gloomy and dark. He slowly raised a hand, his palm pointed straight at Chi Wuyao. "You, the Devil Queen, can't be unaware of the reason why the Yama Realm had no choice but to capitulate to me. If I summoned the power of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness, you can forget about leaving this place alive, even if there were nine more of you."

"But since you dared to come, and come alone at that, you must have something to rely on. That does spark my curiosity."

Yun Che's eyes had already narrowed to two long slits. The auras of the two Yama Ancestors behind him had also locked onto Chi Wuyao. "Come, let me see just how you're going to get out of this situation today. I sincerely hope that you don't disappoint me."

Chi Wuyao's beautiful eyes opened beneath the black mist. She gently turned around as she spoke in a calm voice, "Fate is something that is incredibly mysterious. It can never be predicted and it is forever unknowable... At times, an impulsive decision can create many huge waves, many wonderful results."

"What?" Yun Che chuckled coldly before speaking in a mocking voice, "Could this be your opening play when you attempt to seduce someone and steal their soul?"

"Yun Che..." She said in a soft and breathy voice, as if she was murmuring. "Do you still remember... the person... who gave you the Amorous Frost Dew... in the Snow Song Realm's Thirty-sixth Ice Phoenix Palace... ten years ago..."

"That... Senior... Sister?"

Chapter 1693 - "Master"

"…"

Chi Wuyao's words seemed to come from an incredibly distant and ephemeral dreamland.

As he stared down Chi Wuyao, who had chosen to step into the Yama Imperial District herself, Yun Che was absolutely confident that he could defeat her with the power of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness. But he didn't dare to relax in the slightest. Her cunning and intelligence were simply far too terrifying, and she possessed the soul of a Devil Emperor, something unique to her alone. However... those soft and gentle words of hers still managed to penetrate his layers of defenses as they touched something in the depths of his soul.

Those words had clearly been as faint and gentle as wisps of cloud, but they had instantly caused huge tidal waves in his heart.

Ten years ago, the senior sister who had delivered the Amorous Frost Dew... to the Thirty-Sixth Ice Phoenix Palace...

That was the very first time in his life he had laid his eyes upon Mu Xuanyin. The very first time he had seen this woman who would change his life time and again, who would be carved into his very soul.

Every image of her, every word that she had said had been perfectly carved into the depths of his heart and soul. It was as if all of those things had been carved into the purest and most perfect crystal in the world. A crystal that was dripping blood.

How could he forget... He could never ever forget. He would not forget even if he died.

And he would never allow his memories of her to be profaned in any way!

His eyes trembled violently before they regained their clarity in the very next instant. Yun Che's eyebrows sank precipitously and his eyes turned into cold swords. "So you really can... steal another person's memories!"

When he had first met Mu Xuanyin all those years ago, it was the first time in his life that he had met a woman who would cause all of the blood in his body to rush to his head at first glance. He had practically made a stuttering fool of himself when he had spoken to her... He hadn't made such a fool of himself even when he had seen Shen Xi's true appearance later.

At that time, he had very nearly blurted out the four words "Big Breasted Senior Sister" in a daze. In the end, he had even tried to be a smart aleck and guessed that she was Mu Feixue.

Only Mu Bingyun and Mu Xiaolan had heard about what had happened that day, and even they did not know all the details. There was no way that anyone else knew a thing about it.

Chi Wuyao softly said, "I can steal the souls of any person in this universe. Only you… You possess the soul of the Primordial Azure Dragon and the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor's Eternal Calamity of Darkness. Given the current level of your soul, there is no one in existence who can forcefully steal your soul or memories."

"You should understand this point better than anyone else. You should be more sure of it than anybody else."

"..." Yun Che's eyes violently trembled but he desperately clung to rationality in the depths of his heart. In fact, he had even stopped himself from asking her any questions.

However, he had not felt any ripples of soul energy come from Chi Wuyao. Neither had he felt his soul being invaded. Even then, he knew that this was definitely due to Chi Wuyao's mysterious ability to steal souls.

It definitely had to be!

"You must be very curious as to why I would know about the events of that day." Chi Wuyao continued to lean toward Yun Che, her voice as soft and fluffy as cotton. "Because the person who entered the Thirty-sixth Ice Phoenix Palace to pass you the Amorous Frost Dew... was me."

"…"

"…"

"He...hehe!" His vision blurred yet again. But after that, Yun Che started laughing coldly. "Chi Wuyao, you really are terrible at telling jokes!"

"Furthermore..." His gaze and his voice were growing darker and colder by the second. He slowly curled his fingers as a cluster of dense and crackling black light appeared above his palm, "There are some things that I won't allow anyone to profane, no matter who they are! Good job, you've succeeded marvelously in enraging me yet again."

Bzz!

He raised an arm and black light blazed from his hand. Yan One and Yan Three also raised their old heads as they immediately unleashed their boundless dark power and locked onto Chi Wuyao.

Yan Tianxiao and the gathered Yama Devils who were keeping guard outside the hall sensed the change in energy. The Yama Devil power that had been coiled up in their bodies like a bent spring was begging for release. Once Yun Che gave the word, they would attack with all of their might.

As long as they eliminated the Devil Queen, the Soul Stealing Realm would be like a headless snake and swallowing them up would only be a matter of time.

One strong aura after the other locked onto Chi Wuyao's body. At this moment, the ancient yin energy of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness started to violently churn like colossal waves in an actual ocean. With a single thought, Yun Che could send it pummeling toward Chi Wuyao.

The mighty Devil Queen of the North had truly been checkmated for perhaps the first time in her life. It was also the first time she had been so alone while she fought her enemies. But not a single trace of panic or fear radiated from her body. Her aura still remained as calm and serene as ever.

She slowly turned around to look toward Yun Che... and in the instant she turned around, the air around her underwent a sudden but subtle change.

Her aura did not get any stronger. On the contrary, it started to grow weaker and it did not contain any sharpness or attacking intent. Instead it released a cold and rather stifling... dignity that would not pressure a Divine Master in any way.

Even so, it was in that exact instant that Yun Che, whose lips were hooked into a cold smile and whose eyes blazed with killing intent, suddenly shuddered. His cold and bleak eyes widened soundlessly.

"Che'er." Chi Wuyao gave a sad sigh. "Is this how you speak to your master now?"

Buzzzz———

It was as if all the stars in the sky had exploded in his eyes.

His rage, killing intent, and malice... Even his rationality had all been destroyed in a single instant. The only thing he felt right now was the violent shuddering of his own soul. His world had started to spin.

Yan One and Yan Three flew into a great rage. Yan Three could not suppress his anger as he launched his body forward. A ghost claw that was several thousand meters long appeared on his right arm and it was aimed straight for Chi Wuyao's throat. "How audacious of you, Devil Queen! How dare you speak to Master in such a manner!? Die!"

"Get back!!"

A furious roar exploded in Yan Three's ears... He had clearly only yelled two words, yet his voice was clearly trembling.

Yan Three tried to withdraw his power in a flustered panic while he was still in flight. Due to his chaotically fluctuating energy, it looked like someone had smacked him out of the air with a rod and he tumbled to the ground in an extremely sorry state.

He immediately flipped to his feet as he dragged himself back to his original position behind Yun Che in a crestfallen manner, unable to hide the confusion and fear on his ancient face.

"Get out..." Yun Che said in a low voice, "All of you get lost now."

"Yes... yes, yes." Yan One and Yan Three both noticed Yun Che's sudden bizarre state, but they did not dare ask him a single question about it. Instead, they hurriedly withdrew.

The vast and spacious imperial hall was soon occupied by only two people, Yun Che and Chi Wuyao.

The black light in Yun Che's hand had fizzled out at some point in time. He stared fixedly at Chi Wuyao, who was still wreathed in black smoke. He gritted his teeth fiercely as he strove to maintain his composure with all his might... However, his face was still trembling and his pupils were still contracting. He could not stop his body from reacting this way, no matter how hard he tried.

"Who are you..." He could hear how mightily his voice was trembling right now. "Who exactly are you!?"

Her aura, the way she was standing, her voice, her tone, her eyes...

That sigh, the way she had said "Che'er"...

All of his senses and his entire soul were screaming at him with incredible intensity. Telling him that the figure which only appeared in his most wonderful or melancholic dreams... was standing before him once more.

"At times, believing is indeed a very hard thing to do," Chi Wuyao said slowly. As those words entered Yun Che's ears, they seemed to come from a fantastical dreamscape. "Then let your master help you see a little clearer."

She suddenly laughed in a very soft, gentle and bewitching manner. Even under that black mist, he could still see Chi Wuyao's devilish body shift forward. "You were unwilling to do it with Feixue, could it be that... you want Master to be your dual cultivation partner?"

B0000M----

A countless number of bright lights exploded in his brain. His body violently swayed and he almost fell to the ground.

Those incredibly provocative and titillating words, that devilish voice that could melt bone... Yun Che would never forget them. When Mu Xuanyin had whispered those words to him all those years ago, he had felt as if a boundless fire was scorching his body. Despite him using the Dragon God's soul to suppress those emotions, he had still very nearly pounced on the master that he had so clearly respected without a single care in the world.

She had said the exact same words, in exactly the same alluring and seductive tone, with the exact same voice.

In fact, even though his mind was dazed and his soul was shuddering, his body still started to smolder with the fires of desire.

"You... You..."

Yun Che bit down on the tip of his tongue violently. The intense pain and the taste of blood assaulted him, but it still could not suppress the trembling of both his body and soul. He fiercely shook his head as he said with much difficulty, "No... You're not... Who exactly are you... You..."

Ever since Yun Che had set foot into the Northern Divine Region, this was the first time that he, who had killed all of his compassion and hesitation, had ever been thrown into such disarray.

"I am your master," Chi Wuyao said, "but I'm not Mu Xuanyin."

Yun Che's gaze grew focused.

"Your master had two personalities," Chi Wuyao said in a calm voice. It clearly did not carry any soul power but each word pierced through Yun Che's soul.

"The first was the Snow Song Realm King who had sealed her emotions in ice, Mu Xuanyin. Someone whose beauty was fairer than snow and whose icy might reigned over the world."

"Why don't you guess... who the other personality was?"

Yun Che was frozen in place and he did not make a single sound for a very long time.

Mu Xuanyin had two personalities. This was something Yun Che had been keenly aware of when he had first taken Mu Xuanyin as his master.

Normally, her gaze and body radiated a transcendent icy might which seemed like it could freeze the universe. Everyone in the Snow Song Realm and Divine Ice Phoenix Sect held boundless reverence for her. Even Yun Che behaved himself in front of her and when those icy eyes started to grow even colder, it would shut him straight up.

But at times, she would become as alluring and enticing as a temptress. Every inch of that icy body which no one would normally dare to profane suddenly started radiating a bewitching seductiveness which could instantly mesmerize a man and obliterate all of the rational thoughts in his mind.

This was especially true when it came to her eyes and her voice. She only needed a single look or word to hook a person's soul right out of their body and her "victim" would be willing to sink into that fantasy forever.

Yun Che had been with so many women, but not a single one of them were as bewitching as she was.

Two extremely different and completely contrasting personalities dwelled in that body. One was incredibly cold and the other was incredibly seductive, yet they existed in the same person's body. This had previously caused him to feel a deep sense of astonishment and bewilderment. Even the Ice Phoenix divine being who dwelt at the bottom of the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake responded with puzzlement when he had mentioned it to her.

However, Yun Che, who was very well-versed in medicine, also knew that humans could form a second personality due to an overly-traumatic event. Although it was quite unfathomable given Mu Xuanyin's cultivation and icy soul, it was not entirely impossible according to his medical knowledge.

Moreover, he could not find any other reason for it.

Later on, Yun Che gradually began to discover that Mu Xuanyin's incredibly bewitching personality would only appear in front of him and Mu Bingyun. It had never once appeared in front of the Ice Phoenix sect members or outsiders.

In the end, all of these things had become a distant dream that was lost to him forever.

But, right now, right before his very eyes, he saw that hazy seductive figure once more. He heard that voice that he thought had disappeared from his life forever...

And he realized a truth that threw his soul into complete disarray.

"Do you know why 'she', the Snow Song Realm King, would deign to visit the Ice Phoenix Palaces and personally deliver the 'Amorous Frost Dew' to you all those years ago? That was because Mu Xuanyin did so under my will, not her own."

"Do you know why she managed to find out about your Heretic God legacy so easily? Do you really think it's just as she said all those years ago? That you had been exposed by the 'Star God's Broken Shadow' you had performed?"

"No, it was because my Nirvana Devil Soul told me about the Heretic God aura radiating from your body the very first moment you stepped into the Divine Ice Phoenix Sect. And the reason I personally delivered that Amorous Frost Dew to you was to confirm the fact."

"..." Yun Che's face had gone slack and it was as if he had lost his soul.

"After we had taken you in as our personal disciple, we instructed Mu Feixue and any Ice Phoenix disciple whose talent and appearance were exceptional to be your dual cultivation partner. Given Mu Xuanyin's personality, how could she have come up with such a licentious idea? The one who suggested that method was also me..."

Yun Che: "..."

"The master that you knew, you interacted with, you loved had two personalities. She was always two different people."

"Half of it was Mu Xuanyin, and half of it was me."

"Both she and I guided your growth, witnessed your transformation. We indulged you in everything, protected you from everything... We also, at some point in time, allowed your figure to be carved into our very souls."

"..." Explosions were still echoing in Yun Che's mind and his world alternated between pure white and a chaotic frenzy of colors. He kept opening his mouth over and over again, but he could not make any sounds, no matter how hard he tried.

Chi Wuyao slowly closed her eyes, her voice turning as light and airy as the wispy clouds in the heavens above. "Do you still think that I would backstab you? That I would hurt you..."

Chapter 1694 - XuanWu YinYao

Yun Che's brain had never been thrown into such confused chaos before.

Master had two personalities but they didn't only belong to Mu Xuanyin alone? Rather each personality had belonged to a different person?

Chi Wuyao, the Devil Queen of the North, had been Master's other personality...

How could such a thing happen? How could such a thing...

What an absurd fantasy, what a wild tale.

Even so, he actually did not doubt it at all.

Whether it was her cottony words or her bewitching attitude which tugged at his very soul, all of it matched that memory, that figure, which was carved into the deepest parts of his soul.

This had clearly and utterly moved his soul, so there was no way it could be faked or imitated.

Moreover, no one else besides him and his master knew about this. This was a secret they wouldn't let anyone know!

But the woman in front of him... was clearly the Devil Queen of the North!

How could she be the one who had taken him as her disciple in the Snow Song Realm... The one who had hunted him down after he had run away after committing a mistake... The one who had abandoned her entire sect to help him with his cultivation before the Profound God Convention... The one who had protected him from any and all bullying... The one who was clearly cold and merciless most of the time, but had always indulged him every time he made a mistake... The master who threw away the Snow Song Realm and even her own life just to protect...

Wait a second!

He suddenly felt as if a dark light had violently pierced into his soul. His body went cold as his head jerked up to look at Chi Wuyao. He desperately suppressed the chaos in his heart as he said in a low voice, "You hijacked... her soul?"

Chi Wuyao shook her head gently, "I did think of doing that in the past. But for some odd reason, I gave up on that option in the end and I merely chose to 'attach' myself to her soul."

Yun Che's trembling eyes gradually grew focused as he spoke in a low voice, "As expected.... Just as expected... No, that's not right! When did you infiltrate the Snow Song Realm!? What exactly did you do to her!?"

Yun Che's reaction was completely within Chi Wuyao's expectations. She let out a long and languid sigh as she replied slowly, "I will tell you everything. I will also reveal... all of myself to you."

Yun Che: "..."

Black mist roiled as Chi Wuyao slowly walked toward Yun Che. She began speaking in that soft devilish voice of hers again, "Yun Qianying should have told you that I previously lured Qianye Fantian and Zhou Xuzi to the borders of the Northern Divine Region ten millennia ago and engaged in a fierce battle with them."

"To the god emperors of the Eastern Divine Region, the Yama Emperor, and the Burning Moon God Emperor, the reason I tested my strength against the two strongest god emperors of the Eastern Divine Region was to show off my ambition after my coronation as emperor."

"But in reality, and this is something that only I know, I had a very special goal to accomplish during that battle. I had planned to lure them into the Northern Divine Region and borrow the darkness energy within this place to secretly perform a successful soul infiltration."

When Qianye Ying'er had first mentioned the Devil Queen to Yun Che, she had told him about what had happened ten thousand years ago. At that time, as she faced off against the two strongest god emperors of the Eastern Divine Region along with the strongest Guardian and Brahma God, Chi Wuyao had been soundly defeated and she had fled back into the Northern Divine Region.

Qianye Fantian, Qianye Wubei, Zhou Xuzi, and Honorable Tai Yu had ventured into the Northern Divine Region as they wanted to take advantage of Chi Wuyao's defeat to bury her forever. But they had been lured in and assaulted by the devilish energy Chi Wuyao had gathered from thousands of kilometers around them. The dark energy had gnawed at their minds and souls, leaving behind a dark shadow in the hearts of the two strongest god emperors of the east, a shadow that refused to fade even after ten thousand years had passed.

Just like Chi Wuyao had said, Qianye Ying'er had told him that Chi Wuyao was clearly testing the Eastern Divine Region's strength during that battle. At the same time, she had exposed her enormous ambition.

The ambition to break out of the Northern Divine Region was also precisely the reason why Qianye Ying'er had tried her best to get Yun Che to ally himself with the Devil Queen.

But right now, Chi Wuyao was telling him something else altogether.

"The Brahma Heaven God Emperor, the Eternal Heaven God Emperor, a Brahma God, and a Guardian... They were the most important existences in the Eastern Divine Region, so they definitely had access to the most important power and secrets of the Eastern Divine Region and even the other two divine regions."

"If I could use my Devil Emperor divine soul to secretly attach my soul to one of these people, I could observe the true state of the three divine regions with my own two eyes and also discover many other important secrets."

"But alas, I had underestimated the strength of the Brahma Monarch God Realm and the Eternal Heaven God Realm. Though I managed to lure them into the borders of the Northern Divine Region, I still couldn't find the right opportunity. I tried to force it a few times, but all my attempts failed. I had no choice but to settle for the next best thing and grab someone who had entered the battle by accident."

"It was a woman who was holding an ice sword in her hand. Icy cold frost energy radiated from her body and her eyes were so cold that it looked like they could freeze one's soul. She had just entered the Divine Master Realm yet she had clearly underestimated the scope of this battle and her chosen opponent. She, who had forced her way into this battle, was easily subdued by me. After that, I took her to the Northern Divine Region with me."

Yun Che's brows violently twitched.

"I read her memories and discovered her name and background. She was Mu Xuanyin, the new realm king of the Snow Song Realm."

Yun Che's eyes trembled once more, but he forced himself to remain silent as he focused attentively on every word that rang in his ears.

"The Snow Song Realm was the closest star realm in the Eastern Divine Region to the Northern Divine Region so they would constantly encounter dark profound practitioners who had escaped the Northern Divine Region in despair. These are the people that the Eastern Divine Region call 'devils'. As the leader of the Snow Song Realm, many people from the bloodline of their realm king died at the hands of Northern Divine Region profound practitioners. This includes their ancestor and many of her close relatives... As a result, she also harbored a deep hatred towards the Northern Divine Region."

"..." Yun Che slowly tightened both his hands into fists. Mu Xuanyin had hated devils with a passion, this was something Yun Che was well-aware of. Her and Mu Bingyun's father had been killed by a devil.

They were to eliminate all devils they met. This was the most important rule and creed within the Divine Ice Phoenix Sect.

Yet for him, a person who possessed darkness profound energy, a devil that everyone had wanted to kill, she had...

"She had sensed this vicious battle because it had taken place too near the Snow Song Realm. Once she noticed what was happening, she, someone who hated devils with all of her heart, did not hesitate to join the battle and her sword constantly sought my life."

"After I captured her successfully, I originally wanted to steal her soul and transform her into my puppet. Given her status, even though she would not have any contact with the true core of the three

divine regions, she was still the realm king of a middle star realm. She also had the cultivation of a Divine Master so she would make a most excellent spy and pawn."

"However, just when I was about to steal her soul away, I discovered an extremely high level divine soul hidden in the depths of her own."

"That divine soul wasn't something that had just been simply merged together with Mu Xuanyin's original soul. Rather, it had connected another will to her as well. If I did not possess the soul of a Devil Emperor, I wouldn't have detected the existence of this will either."

"..." Yun Che knew that it was the Ice Phoenix divine being's divine soul that she was talking about.

So the Ice Phoenix divine being had already attached her will to her divine soul when she bestowed her powers to Mu Xuanyin ten thousand years ago. This would allow her to survey the outside world through Mu Xuanyin's eyes.

But later on, she had also subtly interfered with Mu Xuanyin's will for his sake.

However, the Ice Phoenix divine being was unaware that the divine soul she had imparted to Mu Xuanyin would save her life when she had been captured by Chi Wuyao.

"At that time, this independent will within the divine soul was still slumbering. If I forcefully seized her soul, the process would definitely rouse the slumbering will within it and it might very well trigger a counterattack that I would not be able to account for. Thus, I chose to attach my soul to hers in the end... I attached ten percent of my Devil Emperor soul to Mu Xuanyin's soul."

"..." Yun Che's body swayed slightly.

The Ice Phoenix divine being had never mentioned the existence of the Devil Emperor's soul to Yun Che. She had even voiced her doubts when Yun Che had asked her about Mu Xuanyin's split personality... She had not been pretending back then. She had truly been unaware of Chi Wuyao's existence within Mu Xuanyin for the last ten millennia.

Because the Nirvana Devil Soul that Chi Wuyao possessed was the only Devil Emperor soul in this universe. It existed on a much higher plane of power than the Ice Phoenix divine being.

Chi Wuyao had known about the existence of the Ice Phoenix Divine Soul, but the Ice Phoenix divine being had never been aware of Chi Wuyao's existence.

As for Mu Xuanyin... she did not know that either of these entities existed within her body.

When he had found out that the Ice Phoenix divine being had interfered with Mu Xuanyin, he felt an uncontrollable wrath toward the Ice Phoenix divine being, an entity that he had always greatly respected... Because her actions had been far too cruel towards Mu Xuanyin.

But he had never imagined that her will had not belonged to her alone since that incident ten millennia ago.

Chi Wuyao did not need to continue recounting the past. Yun Che could already imagine what had happened next. She only needed to release Mu Xuanyin in a very natural manner. After that, Mu Xuanyin would return to the Snow Song Realm once she woke up, but she would be completely unaware

of the fact that a passenger was riding shotgun in her soul—an incredibly terrifying Devil Emperor soul that she had no way of ever detecting.

This also meant that the master he had known from that day onward... from the very beginning had not purely been Snow Song Realm King Mu Xuanyin. The person he had come to know, respect, and love. The person who had walked into the deepest parts of his heart and soul. The person who had disappeared from his life forever. That person had not been Mu Xuanyin, it had been the combined personalities of Mu Xuanyin and Chi Wuyao.

Two personalities... Two personalities from two different people.

But..."

"Answer one question." Yun Che finally managed to speak after much difficulty. "Just how much did you interfere with her mind?"

"Very little," Chi Wuyao replied. "Just as shallow as you remember it to be. Even if it's a Devil Emperor's soul, attaching one soul's to another person is ultimately exactly what it sounds like. I was unable to independently control her body. Nor was I able to change her decisions. The only advantage I had was that I never had to worry about being discovered by her."

Yun Che, "…"

"I could see everything that she saw, hear everything that she heard, feel everything that she felt, and even listen in on her thoughts. She viewed my existence as a second personality that had formed in her mind. She rejected me at first but she eventually learned to accept me and in the end, she even started to enjoy having me around and she would even pass the reins over to me when she felt like it... So she could enjoy that sort of uninhibited and unbridled release."

"However, I had merely attached myself to her soul at the end of the day. When it did not compromise her principles, she would listen to the decisions that I, her 'other personality', made. But when she made up her mind, no matter how hard I tried to interfere as her 'second personality', I wasn't truly able to obstruct her from doing what she wanted."

"Even though your master was not purely Mu Xuanyin, she was still the master of her own mind and body. In the end, her will and her personality were dominant."

Chi Wuyao closed her eyes, and her cottony voice grew even softer. "During those ten millennia, I saw many things through Mu Xuanyin's eyes. It forced me to come to terms with something. If it was based on my power alone, changing the fate of the Northern Divine Region would be nothing more than a foolish pipedream."

"But when I was just about to remove the attached part of my devil soul from her own, you appeared. The Heretic God aura that rolled off you caught my attention the very first moment you stepped into the Divine Ice Phoenix Sect."

"And so, I gave her a few gentle nudges and she (I) met you, she (I) took you as her disciple, she (I) became very curious about the Heretic God divine power and the Dragon God divine soul that you possessed, so her (my) interest in you... grew deeper and deeper. She (I) started falling into a dangerous abyss before she (I) even knew it."

Yun Che, "…"

"During that time, I sensed the interference that came from the Ice Phoenix divine being and it was a command to 'always treat you well'. She didn't sense it and I did not stop it. In fact, I was powerless to stop it."

"However, the interference that came from the Ice Phoenix divine being was actually not necessary in the first place."

"This was especially true... after your shared experience in the Ancient God Burying Inferno Prison. Her heart and mental state underwent a colossal change. When she had been unable to track you down after you had run away, that was the most worried and confused she had been for the last ten millennia. I, myself, am deeply aware of why she became so confused."

Her bewitching eyes, which had been closed, gently opened, and they glimmered like crystals which had been infused with starlight.

When she recounted Mu Xuanyin's past with Yun Che, every time she said the word "she", she was actually also saying the word "I".

At that time, she had been thoroughly amused by the fact that Mu Xuanyin, the Snow Song Realm King who cultivated the Ice Phoenix God Investiture Canon which sealed away all emotion, would actually start to fall deeply and irrevocably in love with this young and profligate troublemaker. Someone who was even her direct disciple.

But, attaching one's soul to another person was in reality a secret merger of two souls and even the feelings of the host would be shared to the soul attached to it.

So when she was laughing at Mu Xuanyin, she was completely unaware that while her own thoughts could influence Mu Xuanyin, Mu Xuanyin's thoughts could also influence her own.

Everything that Mu Xuanyin had experienced with Yun Che also became something that she herself had experienced with him.

As Mu Xuanyin quietly fell in love with Yun Che, she was also experiencing the same thing... It did not matter that her true body and original soul were in the distant Northern Divine Region.

This was especially true for their shared experiences in the Ancient God Burying Inferno Prison and the Primordial Profound Ark...

When Yun Che had sullied Mu Xuanyin's body, Mu Xuanyin's consciousness had been muddled. And even though Chi Wuyao had attached her soul to Mu Xuanyin's soul, she was not able to independently control her body so that she could rouse herself or resist Yun Che. However, her devil soul had remained completely awake during the entire process.

At that time, Mu Xuanyin's body had been sullied while she was unconscious but Chi Wuyao's soul had been sullied while she had been conscious of every single detail.

Chapter 1695 - The Devil Queen's Vow

It was no wonder Chi Wuyao could tell him about his Heretic God Profound Veins the very first day we met. Even the explanation she had given him after that had been incredibly strange and mysterious.

It was no wonder she almost seemed to be able to read his mind.

It was no wonder she understood him so well that it shocked him each and every time, making him think that her eyes could see through other people's souls time and again.

As it turned out, she had already appeared in his life ten years ago. She had always been observing him and teaching him from the years he had spent in the Snow Song Realm... up until the day his heart and soul were broken at the Blue Pole Star.

"You possessed far too many secrets." Chi Wuyao continued, "When a woman wants to dig up a man's secrets, she normally ends up sinking into an abyss before she can even notice. Even she (I) was no exception."

"This was especially true for her (me) after the events that occured within the Ancient God Burying Inferno Prison... Even she (I) had completely given in to despair, yet you used your strength, wits and even your own life to rescue her (me)."

"You had not only stolen her body, you had also stolen her heart... For a woman who had sealed her emotions in ice for the last ten millennia, for a woman who could not fall in love, the moment she did fall in love, it would be something that would last beyond even death."

Yun Che: "..."

"It was also after that moment that she would regularly use my 'personality' to face you. In fact, she had become far more willing than ever before to use that 'personality'. Perhaps, she subconsciously thought that my 'personality' would be able to draw you to her more, would be able to make you fall head over heels for her."

"However..." Chi Wuyao briefly paused as her voice became tinged with a deep melancholy. "Right before she met her untimely end outside the Blue Pole Star, as her soul was slipping into death, she finally learned of my existence in the few instants it took for my devil soul to leave her body."

Yun Che's vision spun violently as the world grew blurry. The sounds and the images which pierced his heart and cut his soul clearly played out in front of him yet again.

"You are not the only one ... who gets to act selfishly ... "

"Che'er, live ... on ... "

His body started to violently shake as a wave of sorrow that was far too intense for him to handle overtook him. He lifted his head to look at Chi Wuyao, who was still veiled in black mist. His gaze was frightening and his voice was low and deep. "What the hell... did you take her for..."

The Ice Phoenix divine being had inserted her divine soul into Mu Xuanyin so that she could see the outside world through Mu Xuanyin's eyes. It was only when Yun Che had appeared that she interfered with Mu Xuanyin's will for the first and last time.

That had already stirred up Yun Che's wrath.

Even if getting rid of that suggestion meant that Mu Xuanyin's doting love for him might turn into hatred, he still insisted that the Ice Phoenix divine being do it. Because it was much too cruel and unfair... for Mu Xuanyin, for anyone at all in fact, to have their own mind and will tampered with.

As for Chi Wuyao... Although she had only attached her soul to Mu Xuanyin and could not forcefully interfere with her, she had subtly influenced Mu Xuanyin for nearly her entire life.

This also meant that Mu Xuanyin had been used and manipulated by other people for nearly her entire life and she never had a clue about it.

"What the hell do all of you take her for..." Yun Che muttered under his breath, his fingers curling into tight fists as they trembled. "Why did each and every one of you... have to treat her this way!?"

Pain, self-recrimination, and rage that were too intense for him to bear chaotically surged through his heart and Yun Che's vision swam. He instantly closed the gap between him and Chi Wuyao as his arm suddenly shot out violently. His fingers pierced the black mist as they shot toward her throat.

Chi Wuyao did not move and allowed him to grab her violently by the throat, his fingers painfully digging into her flesh.

It was also in this instant that Chi Wuyao's black mist slowly started to scatter... For the first time ever, Yun Che beheld Chi Wuyao's true appearance through blurry eyes.

The Soul Stealing Realm's Devil Queen, Chi Wuyao. She was the most beautiful woman in the Northern Divine Region. That was something that every living creature in the Northern Divine Region knew and no one had ever doubted.

As the black mist blew away, an alluringly beautiful face that seemed to hold all of the bewitching seductiveness in the world appeared before him.

Just based on the exquisiteness of her physical features, she would already be considered a peerless beauty in the God Realm. Her beauty was just a step lower than Shen Xi and Qianye Ying'er's beauty.

However, her crescent brows and phoenix eyes effortlessly released a boundless bewitching allure that threatened to yank a person's soul out of their body. Her exquisite lips were pink and dewy. A single small glance from her would penetrate a man's soul and topple his will, causing his body to burn up with boundless desire.

As his eyes swept downward, he saw that she was wearing an unadorned black robe which wrapped around her, showing off her ample chest and every bewitching curve of her body. She quietly stood there, her breasts gently rising and falling from simply breathing, creating a sight that was so seductive and mesmerizing that Yun Che's veins almost popped open.

It was also in that moment that Yun Che blurrily realized what the words "devilish figure" truly meant for the first time in his life.

Yun Che had seen many seductive and alluring women and he was familiar with more than a few arts of seduction. But he had never known that a woman could actually be this alluring and mesmerizing.

Every inch of her body... even her snowy skin, even the jade neck that he was gripping with his hand, seemed to glow with a fantastically mesmerizing light.

Yun Che's entire body was frozen in place as he dumbly stared at her.

The incredibly intense pain, sorrow, and rage that he had clearly felt an instant ago had vanished into thin air. It was as if all of these emotions had been sucked into the boundless abyss of her spellbinding magnetism.

"Che'er," Chi Wuyao softly whispered, her misty and limpid eyes staring straight into Yun Che's own. "Do you truly want to kill your master?"

Master's eyes, Master's bewitching voice, the way that Master sighed, those provocative and alluring words...

Yun Che's hand retracted from Chi Wuyao's neck as quick as lightning.

"No, no..." Yun Che stumbled backwards. In that instant, he could scarcely believe that he had done such an outrageous thing to his master.

But as he retreated in panic and nearly lost his balance, a calming fragrance gently tickled his nose. His muddled senses barely registered her movement as Chi Wuyao gently enfolded him in an embrace, burying his face in what felt like a warm pile of cotton.

"Che'er..." An ephemeral voice softly entered his ears. "She was your master, but I am also your master. We watched your growth together, we watched you go farther and farther, we quietly watched over you all this while... We shared your joys, lamentations, hurts, and tears."

"..." Yun Che's body was shaking and the black wall that had been erected in his heart was soundlessly crumbling in this moment.

"When she used her life to protect you, that was the ... one choice she least regretted in her entire life."

"Thus... I inherited her desire to protect you."

"I won't allow anyone to harm you or let you down. Anyone who bullies you, hurts you, or betrays you, I will pay them back ten thousand fold, no matter who they are."

"Everything you desire, all of the best things in this universe... I will give them all to you to make it up to you, even if I have to take them by force."

"Is that okay ... "

"…"

Yun Che's body was shaking and his teeth clattered together noisily. He tried to clench his teeth together hard but he couldn't summon up any strength to resist.

"Mas...ter..."

That soft cry had come from the depths of his soul. The black ramparts in his heart had come crumbling down in front of the master he had once thought was lost to him forever. For the first time since that dark day, his deeply hidden vulnerabilities finally saw the light of day.

"Master... Master... Master..."

He cried out that word again and again, and the tears which he had thought had long ago dried up were gushing out of his eyes once more, soaking the front of Chi Wuyao's robes.

This was an illusion which he'd be willing to wallow in forever... What's more, it wasn't entirely a dream.

Chi Wuyao gently closed her eyes as she enfolded the man in front of her in a tight embrace.

Maybe it was because she cherished Yun Che, or perhaps it was influenced by the guilt she felt toward Mu Xuanyin... But her words were not just meant to comfort Yun Che.

This was a vow she had already made before she had even found Yun Che again.

Eastern Divine Region, Snow Song Realm, Southern Region.

The Azure Snow Ice Kirin was the overlord of the profound beasts in the Snow Song Realm's southern region, one of the two remaining giant Divine Sovereign beasts in the Snow Song Realm. Its power was equivalent to a human level six Divine Sovereign.

Its "rebellion" was always one of the things that the Divine Ice Phoenix Sect had been most worried about.

The Snow Song Realm had two Divine Sovereigns total, Mu Bingyun and Mu Huanzhi, so it was not hard for them to suppress a single Azure Snow Ice Kirin. But its status as the ruler of all of the profound beasts found in the south of the Snow Song Realm was far more terrifying than its individual strength. Because it could summon a profound beast horde that stretched from horizon to horizon.

If they attacked human settlements to enlarge their own territory, the humans living in the southern region would be plunged into a terrible situation.

This time, Mu Bingyun had personally come to the southern region and nine great elders and countless disciples had followed her. She had also mobilized the strength of all of the branch sects in the south. But when this force descended upon the territory of the profound beasts, they found an incongruous scene waiting for them.

The Azure Snow Ice Kirin was more than two hundred meters long. Its beastly might was boundless and it could topple a mountain with a single strike from its claw.

Yet when they encountered it, they found it lying prostrate in front of the border of its territory. Not a single trace of malice or might radiated from its body.

However, there was an enormous horde of profound beasts behind it, a horde which was too vast to count.

Yet none of the humans could sense the slightest danger or threat from this gigantic profound beast horde. Furthermore, all of them were also lying prostrate on the ground motionless.

Mu Bingyun had brought her own army of Ice Phoenix disciples and Snow Song Realm practitioners to confront this horde, but they were greeted with a scene that made her brow furrow deeply.

A vicious and terrible battle had just taken place in this snowy region a day ago, but a bizarre silence had fallen upon it today.

As it "stood" at the head of the profound beast horde, the Azure Snow Ice Kirin spied Mu Bingyun's arrival when she was still a fair distance away. Its entire body trembled, and it slammed its upper body against the ground and bowed its head toward her. It cried out, "This lowly beast greets the Snow Song Realm King!"

"...?" Mu Bingyun's body froze in midair. She looked into the distance, shock and puzzlement blossoming on her snowy mien.

The Ice Phoenix disciples behind her and those Snow Song profound practitioners who had just engaged in a fierce battle with these profound beasts yesterday glanced at each other, stunned shock apparent on their faces.

"Sect Master, be careful. It must be a bluff," Mu Tanzhi said in a low voice.

Clang!

Mu Bingyun drew the Snow Princess Sword out of its scabbard and pointed it towards the distant Azure Snow Ice Kirin. She pronounced in a cold voice, "Azure Snow Ice Kirin, you went against the deal you had struck with the previous realm king and you rallied the profound beasts of the southern region to steal human land and resources. Today, this king has personally come to settle things with you once and for all!"

Despite being confronted with the cold glint of her sword and her icy might, the Azure Snow Ice Kirin did not get up. Its profound energy did not fluctuate at all. It pressed itself even deeper into the ground as it said in a pleading voice, "This lowly beast was wrong, this lowly beast was wrong! This lowly beast lost its mind recently so I committed an unforgivable crime. This lowly beast already understands the error of its ways, so I beg that the Lord Realm King show me mercy... I beg that the Lord Realm King show me mercy!"

Just the angry bellow of the Azure Snow Ice Kirin would display a heaven-shocking beastly might. But right now, every word it said was filled with fear and trembles as it pathetically prostrated itself on the ground and pleaded with her. Its gigantic body was actually shaking as it said those words.

This time, even those who had not been stunned by the scene that greeted them felt their jaws dropping open.

"..." The Snow Princess Sword stopped in midair and Mu Bingyun found herself at a complete loss all of a sudden.

"What... What is going on?" Mu Tanzhi's brow deeply creased. He released his divine sense only to discover that every single profound beast in this vast profound beast horde that stretched to the horizon was lying prostrate on the ground. Fear was practically dripping from their bodies and they did not even dare to release the slightest bit of malice or attacking intent.

When it saw the Mu Bingyun had remained silent for a long time, the Azure Snow Ice Kirin's trembling grew even mightier as it anxiously said, "This lowly beast knows its crimes are extremely wicked... This

little beast vows to retreat into the southern region from today onward and I will never take another step out of it. Neither will the profound beasts of the south dare to leave their territories."

"We will definitely compensate you for all the damages we have caused within three months. Furt... Furthermore, from today onward, our southern beast region will send two hundred fifty thousand kilograms of the best ice profound crystals to the Divine Ice Phoenix Sect as tribute every year... We beg Lord Realm King for mercy. We beg Lord Realm King for mercy!"

As it pleaded with Mu Bingyun, the Azure Snow Ice Kirin pounded its head into the ground. Every profound beasts behind it also began to desperately beg for mercy.

The fact that Mu Bingyun had to come here personally showed how powerful the Azure Snow Ice Kirin and its hoard were.

Even if Mu Bingyun could successfully suppress it and force it back into the southern region, that would already be the best case scenario... and they would have to pay a rather heavy price to accomplish that.

But before they had even started their suppression, the Azure Snow Ice Kirin and the gigantic horde had already started to plead for mercy. They had even offered outrageously generous terms in order to obtain said mercy.

Moreover, the way that they begged her and the fear that they showed were not things that could be faked.

Chapter 1696 - An Evanescent Blue Glimmer

She had brought a mighty force with her, but the battle had ended before it had even begun.

The Azure Snow Ice Kirin departed into the depths of its territory with its mighty beast horde behind its back. It showed effusive gratitude when Mu Bingyun had given her nod of approval. The Azure Snow Ice Kirin was actually so happy that it was moved to tears and it practically broke its head open as it kowtowed repeatedly to Mu Bingyun.

Once it had retreated a certain distance, the Azure Snow Ice Kirin suddenly picked up speed as it practically scrambled to get as far away from Mu Bingyun as it could. It was as if it was afraid that she would change her mind. It no longer had a single shred of might and dignity befitting its status as a lord of the profound beasts. The only thing left in its mind was that deep terror which could cause its will to collapse again and again, a fear so terrible that it would ensure that the Azure Snow Ice Kirin would never even think of rebelling ever again.

"To think that this mission actually ended with no blades crossed and no blood spilled," Mu Tanzhi said happily. Just like everyone else, the pressure in his heart had completely vanished into the wind.

Mu Bingyun stared into the distance and muttered to herself, "Who exactly..."

She asked the Azure Snow Ice Kirin to tell her who exactly pushed it into this corner, but the extreme fear on the Azure Snow Ice Kirin's face was plain for all to see as it frantically denied there was such a person.

When a Divine Sovereign profound beast displayed such fear, it was very likely that it had come into contact with the imperious might of a Divine Master.

Furthermore, it seemed like this person had been extremely vicious toward the Azure Snow Ice Kirin as it was clearly frightened out of its wits.

"There are two possibilities," Mu Tanzhi said. "The first is the Moon God Realm."

Mu Bingyun's icy eyes instantly grew even more glacial. She said in a cold voice, "It won't be them. When the Moon God Emperor publicly announced that she owed a debt of gratitude to the Snow Song Realm and warned everyone not to attack or offend us, it was merely to show that she wasn't an ungrateful person... Heh, if she truly did send someone to help us with this matter, she'd already be clamoring to announce it to the entire Eastern Divine Region."

"Then it has to be the Flame God Realm." Mu Tanzhi spied Mu Bingyun's expression with a single glance as he let out a soft sigh.

Everyone in the Flame God Realm and Snow Song Realm had known since long ago that the Flame God Realm King Huo Poyun was infatuated with Mu Feixue. In reality, as long as Mu Feixue said a single word, the Flame God Realm King could easily suppress the overlord of both regions even if they revolted at the same time.

However, favors were things that still had to be returned. Moreover, everyone was keenly aware... of just how the Flame God Realm King hoped that these favors would be returned.

As a result, neither answer was one that Mu Bingyun wanted to hear.

"Let's return to the sect."

She barked out that command before she took to the skies and flew back in the direction she had come from.

This large profound beast revolt had been resolved far better than she could ever have hoped for, but Mu Bingyun's heart was still restless.

After the profound beast army had retreated into their nests, the Divine Ice Phoenix Sect disciples departed as well.

This region of boundless snow had fallen into silence once more.

In the distant skies above, in a space where no one had bothered looking, a faint, icy blue light suddenly flashed through the sky. It was like the twinkling of a falling star and it vanished in the blink of an eye, leaving no traces behind.

Chi Wuyao left.

With the Yama Emperor walking ahead of her and the Yama Devils trailing behind her, they politely escorted Chi Wuyao out of the Yama Imperial District and dazedly watched her fly into the distance.

Inside the imperial hall, Yun Che was a motionless and silent statue. He closed his eyes as he quietly contemplated what had just happened.

Just a little while ago, he had connected his aura to the dark yin energy of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness as Yan One and Yan Three had used their energy fields to restrict Chi Wuyao's movement. The Yama Emperor and his Yama Devils had all been lying in wait outside the hall... As he pointed a single finger toward Chi Wuyao, he had arrogantly asked her how she was going to escape from this situation now.

This had undoubtedly been a "duel" between Yun Che and Chi Wuyao, but Chi Wuyao had not only successfully turned the tables on him, he'd even... been completely defeated.

In fact, his heart and mind had practically collapsed in front of this "master" that he had suddenly regained.

There really was nothing more beautiful in this world than regaining something you had once thought was lost forever. The more pain and suffering caused by its loss, the more impactful its return.

Even though he had only regained a part of what he had lost...

Even though it had happened in a rather bizarre and unbelievable manner...

Yun Che quietly stood in place for a very long time and his face had regained its usual impassivity. But an even deeper feeling of blankness now engulfed his heart even after he had managed to calm down.

During those years, she had indeed been his master... This was one point that he did not suspect.

But his master's body had been Mu Xuanyin's own and his master's will had been dominated by Mu Xuanyin.

As for Chi Wuyao... She had a more important and complete identity and that was as the Devil Queen of the North.

"He Ling..." He asked somewhat absent-mindedly, "Can I truly... continue to treat her as Master?"

"I... I don't know," He Ling was even less equipped to answer a question that Yun Che himself had no answer to. Furthermore, He Ling had not been by Yun Che's side during the years he had spent with his master, so she had not witnessed the most important moments between them.

"Do you think the words that she said were true?" Yun Che asked, his eyes unfocused and distant. Now there was one other emotion swirling in his heart besides that blank feeling of vacancy, it was a deep anxiety and worry that he would lose something he had just regained.

"I won't allow anyone to harm you or let you down. Anyone who bullies you, hurts you, or betrays you, I will pay them back ten thousand fold, no matter who they are."

"Everything you desire, all of the best things in this universe... I will give them all to you to make it up to you, even if I have to take them by force."

When he recalled those words which had been whispered into his ear, no one else would be able to believe that they had come from Chi Wuyao's mouth.

It resembled the doting love a mother had for her child, but at the same time it also resembled the bottomless infatuation a woman had for the man she loved... and neither of these two emotions should have existed within Chi Wuyao.

Because she was the Devil Queen of the North whose devilish might reigned over the entire region, the emperor of the Soul Stealing Realm, the most terrifying woman in the universe!

"I don't know." He Ling shook her head yet again. But after that, she whispered softly, "But I have this feeling... that the words she told Master came straight from her heart."

"Furthermore, your master has always doted on Master like this, correct?" He Ling said softly.

Yun Che: "..."

That was right, Master had always doted on him like this.

When he had committed such a grave mistake the last time, he was only given a harsh rebuke when she caught him. After that, she even spent all of her time and effort on him and him alone. The other core disciples were only allowed to enter the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake for a single day, but he had been allowed to bathe in it for an entire year.

She had picked a fight with the Sword Sovereign because of him. She had cut off Luo Guxie's arm in a rage because of her sneak attack against him.

She would even face all of the god emperors of the three divine regions alone for his sake.

Those thoughts were entirely Mu Xuanyin's own.

But as for Chi Wuyao... Master's other face, could she really do what Master did?

"Moreover," He Ling continued gently, "even though she wasn't the dominant will within your master's body, Master mustn't ignore one thing. She experienced and felt everything that Mu Xuanyin did, so everything Master went through with Mu Xuanyin was also what she went through with Mu Xuanyin. Not an iota less."

"If Mu Xuanyin can love master so deeply, why can't Chi Wuyao do the same thing?"

"No, it's not the same." Yun Che shook his head when he heard He Ling's words, but his eyes were still fogged by doubt and confusion. "She climbed her way up the ladder step by step, and went from a mortal woman to the Devil Queen of the North by her own strength. Her experiences, cunning... and her Devil Emperor soul especially are not things Mu Xuanyin can come close to."

"Xuanyin's experience with me was her everything. As for Chi Wuyao... it was only a small part of her soul."

"So how can she be exactly like Xuanyin? Why would she truly have such deep emotions... for me, someone who she only knew through a detached part of her will."

Yun Che could not completely convince himself when it came to Chi Wuyao and no one else would be able to do so either. After all, if Chi Wuyao could become so easily "infatuated" with a man, how could

she ever become the Soul Stealing Realm's Devil Queen, someone who stood above the rest of the Northern Region?

"I'm unable to answer Master's question," He Ling said softly. "Just like how I could never understand why Master Shen Xi was willing to give her body to Master."

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

"However, Master's words made me recall something from the past. I previously asked Master Shen Xi this question," He Ling said as she started recounting the past. "At that time I asked Master Shen Xi this. No matter whether it is his cultivation or status, the Dragon Monarch is the strongest person in the universe. He has such an exalted position and he is so infatuated with you, so why hasn't Master's heart ever been moved by him even a little? Could it be that love didn't exist in Master's world?"

"Master Shen Xi gave me this reply. It wasn't that there was no such thing as love in her world. On the contrary, even the most emotionless woman would never be able to fully extinguish the embers of desire when it came to a beautiful thing like love. However, women were often more willing to be subdued by men who were stronger than them. The more powerful a woman and the loftier her position, the more likely this would apply to them."

"If there ever came a day where a man who was worthy of her infatuation appeared in her life, she might even choose... to proposition that person herself."

"..." Yun Che was slightly stunned by those words. He was surprised that Shen Xi had given such an answer.

"At that time, I couldn't understand the answer that Master Shen Xi had given me. But..." He Ling paused as her voice grew even softer, "I think I understand now."

"There are many powerful people in this world, but Master is the only person who is truly qualified to be with Master Shen Xi. You are the only one who can meet her standard in this universe," He Ling said. "It's the same thing with Yun Qianying. She used to view every man with contempt, even people who were as strong as the Southern Sea God Emperor and as infatuated as the Heavenly Wolf Xisu were nothing more than tools in her eyes."

"Yet she's changed so much after just a few short years at Master's side."

"No, Chi Wuyao is different. She's a different breed from either of them." Yun Che shook his head in disagreement when he heard He Ling's word. "Chi Wuyao is not only good at using men, she is also a master at manipulating their emotions. She's experienced far too many men over her long life and even the Clear Sky God Emperor fell at her hands."

"How could someone like her fall so easily in love with someone else? How could someone like her fall so completely in love with someone else?"

Even though Chi Wuyao had the Devil Emperor soul from the very beginning, she had been alone and she had no power backing her. Thus, even as her strength grew, she used men to climb the ladder of power. When she conquered them, she also slowly gained control of their power and wealth. She used that method to slowly grow more and more powerful as she went from a middle star realm to an upper star realm to a king realm.

When she finally conquered the Clear Sky God Emperor, she had used some truly shocking methods to capture the entire Clear Sky God Realm. After that, she slowly transformed the Clear Sky God Realm into the Soul Stealing Realm, a star realm that was loyal to her alone, before she ascended the throne.

There was not a single woman in the history of the God Realm who could compare with her.

Even the most infamous woman in the God Realm, the Brahma Monarch Goddess Qianye Ying'er, had built her reputation off the back of the Brahma Monarch God Realm.

He Ling lapsed into a long silence before she suddenly said, "Master, just now... just now, when Chi Wuyao hugged you, I discovered something that was very strange."

Yun Che, "?"

"Chi Wuyao ... is ... a virgin."

Those words threw Yun Che for a loop. He blurted out, "That's not possible!"

Chi Wuyao had relied on her bewitching allure to scale the heights of power. She had ensnared one man after the other in order to finally become the Devil Queen of the North. This was something everyone in the Northern Divine Region knew.

In fact, Qianye Ying'er had been well-aware of this fact even before she had taken a single step into the Northern Divine Region.

"Though it is at odds with what we know, that is what I sensed." He Ling's voice was very soft and gentle, but it brooked no argument.

The wood spirit race had been created by the Creation Goddess of Life Li Suo; they were as pure a race as you could find in this universe. They were extremely sensitive to wickedness and extremely close to all pure things.

The purest thing within a woman's body was her vital yin, so He Ling would be able to sense its presence clearly if she was in close contact with a virgin woman.

"..." Yun Che froze in place and he did not utter a single sound for a very long time.

"Perhaps the real Chi Wuyao isn't anything like the rumors say she is. After all, rumors are only rumors and they are often unreliable."

"Furthermore, just like Master always says, truly understanding someone is a very hard thing to do. But does Master truly... understand her?"

Yun Che closed his eyes. He lapsed into a long silence which no one dared to disturb as the cogs in his mind spun furiously.

Chapter 1697 - Peak Qianying

When Yun Che finally strode out of the imperial hall, nearly a dozen hours had flown by, but Yan Tianxiao and the gathered Yama Devils were still waiting for him outside.

The moment they saw Yun Che emerge from the hall, Yan One and Yan Three sped over to Yun Che's side as quick as lightning. Their only fear was that one of their descendants suddenly had a brain cramp and did something to offend Yun Che.

Yan Tianxiao stepped forward and asked, "Could it be there has been a change in my lord's plan to take over the Soul Stealing Realm?"

Yun Che did not even bother answering that question. Instead, he asked in a cold voice, "How are the preparations for the coronation ceremony going?"

Yan Tianxiao said, "We've already prepared all of the invitation cards and we can begin sending them to all the star realms starting from tomorrow. As for the ceremony proper..."

"There's no need for that any longer." Yun Che cut him off mid-sentence. "Change the location of the ceremony written in the invitation cards to the Soul Stealing Realm. We will decide on the date... later!"

"!?" Yan Tianxiao's head jerked up and shock appeared on the faces of all the Yama Devils behind him.

"This..." Yan Tianxiao swiftly rephrased the words he was about to say before speaking, "Did something unforeseen happen? Is the Devil Queen willing to lead the Soul Stealing Realm under your banner after you had a word with her? And you now have her support to be the lord of the Northern Region?"

He knew that there was no way that had happened. If Chi Wuyao was so easy to deal with, the Soul Stealing Realm would not be the power that it was today.

"Correct," Yun Che replied.

This answer utterly floored the Yama Emperor and the gathered Yama Devils. It had completely exceeded their expectations and imagination.

Yan Tianxiao froze for two whole breaths before his eyebrows sank dramatically. He said, "My lord, you are not well-acquainted with this woman Chi Wuyao. Her dreadfulness isn't something most people can even fathom. Her cunning and the methods she uses... especially when it comes to enthralling men, can be said to be unrivaled in this universe. Her ambition is even greater than her cunning and she definitely won't be content to serve under someone else. There's no way that she actually capitulated so easily."

"My lord must not become ensnared by her!"

Yun Che had already grabbed hold of the Yama Realm's Yama Ancestors, legacy and lifeline, so they had no choice but to submit. But no matter how hard Yan Tianxiao thought, he simply could not find a reason for Chi Wuyao to be content to support Yun Che as her ruler.

"Hmph, this isn't something you should concern yourself with," Yun Che said as he shot a pointed glance toward Yan Tianxiao.

Yan Tianxiao lowered his head again... He suddenly realized that other people also would not be able to understand how the Yama Realm, which had stood at the top for more than eight hundred thousand years, had submitted to Yun Che in the span of a day.

Had the Soul Stealing Realm also been forced to their knees by some power they had no hope of resisting?

If that was truly the case, then the man in front of him... was simply far too terrifying.

Once those thoughts occurred to him, Yan Tianxiao's heart was filled with dread and his already deep apprehension and fear of Yun Che grew even deeper.

"The Burning Moon Realm has come under the Devil Queen's complete control," Yun Che said calmly. "The Soul Stealing Realm has also decided to support me as the ruler of the Northern Region. In other words, the Soul Stealing Realm, Yama Realm, and Burning Moon Realm are all willing to serve under me. As for the rest of them... it won't be long now."

Yun Che's words shook the hearts of the Yama Emperor and the Yama Devils and their eyes started trembling.

Everything was happening too fast. It was so fast it nearly seemed like a dream.

Just a month ago, the Northern Divine Region was still being dominated by the three king realms.

But now that this short month had passed, the Burning Moon Realm had fallen, the Yama Realm had submitted, and the Soul Stealing Realm had bent the knee...

The three vast king realms, three exalted existences which ruled over the rest of the Northern Divine Region... In just a single short month, they had all bent the knee to a single person with scarcely even a single ripple. There had been no momentous struggle or long and drawn-out war. It had simply... happened.

How mystical, how terrifying.

The way they regarded Yun Che underwent a quiet but dramatic change. Now that they thought about it, these were unprecedented and world-shocking accomplishments, no one in the Northern Divine Region had ever achieved or even dreamed of achieving such things. Yet it had seemed all too easy for him.

He was only thirty-odd years old and he had only been in the Northern Divine Region for a few paltry years!

They felt as if tidal waves were crashing about in their hearts as their respect and fear toward Yun Che dramatically deepened. The already faint and weak desire to rebel against him was swiftly extinguished after this realization and not even a hint of it remained.

Conquering the three king realms was equivalent to conquering the entire Northern Divine Region.

Since the three king realms had bent the knee, it was not even "a matter of time" for all the other star realms.

The Burning Moon Realm's fall had been accidental, his attempt to subdue the Yama Realm had gone exceptionally smoothly, and the capitulation of the Soul Stealing Realm... had been a dream-like occurrence.

Yun Che had initially set a timetable of three years when he had entered into an alliance with Chi Wuyao so it was clear that even he himself had not expected everything to move this quickly.

"We congratulate our lord! You will soon complete a great undertaking that has never been accomplished in the history of the Northern Divine Region!" Shock still reverberated in Yan Tianxiao's heart as he swiftly bowed his head. In fact, he had even started to greatly rejoice in the fact that he had chosen to bend his knee to the man in front of him, this man who seemed to transcend all of his knowledge. He even embraced his deferential and respectful behavior towards him.

If he had chosen to fight to the death, he would not even have had the chance to regret his decision.

"Hmph, what a bunch of disappointing and ignorant brats," Yan One suddenly snorted. "To think that all of you actually chose to defy your venerable ancestors' choice in the beginning. How preposterous."

Embarrassment appeared on Yan Tianxiao's face as he hurriedly said, "Ancestor is right. The wisdom of the three venerable ancestors shines like a torch in the darkness so it's natural that we, your descendants, pale in comparison to you."

"Let the Soul Stealing Realm take over the preparations for the coronation ceremony." Chi Wuyao's devilish figure floated up in Yun Che's mind unbidden. He felt his heart stir up restlessly and he quietly sucked in a few breaths to calm himself down. "From tomorrow onward, all of the Yama Devils and Yama Ghosts are to follow me into the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness."

Yan Tianxiao's heart leaped and he fought down the urge to express his ecstatic joy as he said, "Does my lord mean to..."

"Heh!" Yun Che glanced at Yan Wu and said, "As long as you show me sufficient loyalty, I won't treat you unfairly. I will soon complete the dark transformation of all the Yama Devils and Yama Ghosts, so I hope... you won't disappoint me in the future."

Yan Tianxiao was over the moon, and the gathered Yama Devils found it hard to contain their excitement... They had all clearly witnessed the miraculous changes in Yan Wu's body. Now that this blessing was going to finally descend upon them, they could scarcely contain their emotions.

"We sincerely obey our lord's commands!" Yan Tianxiao and the Yama Devils shouted as they bowed deeply.

Yun Che completed the transformation of the Yama Devils and the Yama Ghosts in the span of a single day. After that, he remained inside the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness and silently absorbed the primordial yin energy found in this place.

Meanwhile, the steps he was going to take next were quietly forming in his head.

Ten days later, he suddenly opened his eyes and departed the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness. His body blurred and he found himself in the imperial hall in the blink of an eye.

Yun Che made the shrunken-down Primordial Profound Ark appear with a single thought. A dull red light flashed from it and a golden-haired woman with the body of a goddess appeared in front of him, her hair floating in the air.

It was Qianye Ying'er, who had been inside the Primordial Profound Ark refining the second Untamed World Pellet.

Her appearance caused Yan One and Yan Three, who were right behind Yun Che, to frown as they started to secretly gather their energy.

Because what accompanied Qianye Ying'er's appearance was the aura of a level ten Divine Master!

Besides the three of them, the only level ten Divine Masters alive in the present Northern Divine Region was the Yama Emperor, Yan Wu, the Devil Queen, and the Soul Stealing Realm's twin Great Witches. This unfamiliar tenth level Divine Master had undoubtedly alarmed them.

While this was happening, Qianye Ying'er's eyes also darted toward them the instant she appeared as she stared at Yan One and Yan Three with knitted brows.

"Level ten Divine Master?" Yun Che's eyes swept over Qianye Ying'er's body. To his surprise, he had actually found her recent absence discomfiting. But his voice remained as cold and indifferent as ever. "You didn't disappoint me."

Qianye Ying'er eyes turned from Yan One and Yan Three to him. Her golden eyebrows knit together slightly, but her beautiful eyes were calm. "That's right. Level ten Divine Master. Though I still haven't reached my previous peak, it..."

She raised a hand and wiggled her delicate and slender fingers. "might just be enough to kill you."

"How dare you!" Yan Three immediately roared in rage. "You outrageous girl! You actually dare to..."

"Get out of here!" Yun Che shouted in a deep voice.

" $(\top o \top)$ " Yan Three's neck abruptly stiffened and he instantly swallowed the words that were about to come out of his mouth. He then beat a panicked retreat together with Yan One.

"Old Gui! Has your head been kicked in by a donkey!?" Yan One blurted out in irritation once they had left the hall. "Do you think just any person can speak to Master in such a way!?"

"I... I just couldn't tolerate seeing anyone disrespect our master," Yan Three said in an aggrieved voice.

"That's why I always say that you use your ass to think, you never learn from your mistakes!" Yan One said. "If a man is disrespectful to Master, you go out and trash him silly. If it's a woman... you need to ask Master first before you do anything! Do you get it!?"

Yan Three thought about it for a moment before a look of enlightenment finally dawned on his face. He smacked his own forehead, "Ah, I see, I see!"

"Those two..." Qianye Ying'er surveyed her surroundings. The clearly abnormal aura of darkness in this place caused her brow to deeply crease. After that, she swiftly recalled something. "Could this be the Yama Realm?"

"That's right." As Yun Che answered Qianye Ying'er's question, a soul fragment formed above the tip of his finger. He tapped a finger in between her eyes.

Qianye Ying'er had been concentrating on observing the area around her, so Yun Che's not-so-gentle tap caused her head to tilt backwards. She glared at Yun Che before closing her golden eyes. When she

finally opened them again, an astounded look appeared in her eyes. "The Yama Ancestors, the Yama Realm, the Devil Crystal of Eternal Darkness, Tian Guhu, the Soul Stealing Realm, and a... grand coronation ceremony?"

Yun Che had not included what had happened with Chi Wuyao in the memories that he had shown Qianye Ying'er. After all, even he was still trying to process what had happened. His mind descended into a daze every time he thought about it.

"I only haven't been around for one short month, but you've actually accomplished so many things." Qianye Ying'er's beautiful eyes narrowed slightly as she stared at him. "I've actually never been aware that you had such impressive time management skills."

Yun Che: "..."

"What I really didn't expect was that you could torture the Three Yama Ancestors without even flinching for six straight days." Qianye Ying'er's eyes grew slightly hooded and complex emotions sprang forth in her heart. "As beings of pure darkness, having one's life and soul consumed by light is no less painful than being afflicted with the Brahma Soul Death-Wishing Mark."

"It looks like those people that you hate will definitely regret even being born in the future."

"Heh, I think so too." Yun Che let out a low icy chuckle. He had only said a few words, but they contained a boundless sinister darkness.

"..." Qianye Ying'er's eyes faintly trembled.

When they had first teamed up together in the Northern Divine Region, she had practically clamored for Yun Che to become cold and cruel, to become someone who would do anything for the sake of revenge.

But now that she heard what Yun Che had just said, she did not feel a sense of satisfaction at seeing his "growth". Instead, she actually... felt a bit uncomfortable.

"As it turns out, you didn't rush me to refine the second Untamed World Pellet because you urgently needed power. Your real goal was to come to the Yama Realm by yourself," she said with a cold snort. "Why? Did you think I'd get in your way."

Yun Che replied, "Without you around, my trip to the Yama Realm went swimmingly well."

"..." Qianye Ying'er suddenly giggled as a mysterious smile crossed her face. "Speaking of which, I discovered something by coincidence when I was in the Primordial Profound Ark."

"...?" Yun Che's brow faintly creased.

If it was something Qianye Ying'er brought up deliberately, it couldn't be any ordinary thing.

The Primordial Profound Ark used to be owned by the Sword Spirit God Clan, the clan which Hong'er resided in during the Primordial Era. Could it be something that they had left behind?

Qianye Ying'er stretched a hand toward Yun Che as she slowly uncurled her fingers... then, her fingers darted forward and flicked Yun Che's nose with no small amount of force.

"~ ! @#¥%..." Yun Che staggered backwards, his hand covering his nose. "You!"

"You poked me in the forehead just now, so now we're even." Qianye Ying'er said as she folded her jade arms underneath her soft and ample bosom. She turned her face to the side and refused to look at him.

Yun Che angrily flung out the hand that was covering his nose as he said in a deep voice, "Yun Qianying! Don't forget that you..."

"That I am your tool, right? I've never dared to forget that." Qianye Ying'er's cherry lips parted as she answered him in a languid and indolent voice, "However, you just tossed another Untamed World Pellet into this tool of yours, so now it's even more useful and valuable than it used to be."

"So you had better treat it with care. Otherwise, it'd be such a pity if you accidently broke it because you threw an unneeded fit."

Yun Che's face furiously twitched... because he suddenly did not quite know how to respond to her.

"Enter the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness with me!"

He shouted angrily before striding out of the hall.

Chapter 1698 - Silent and Unseen Changes

Qianye Ying'er trailed behind Yun Che as they ventured toward the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness.

Qianye Ying'er had stopped speaking, as if she was focused on digesting the news that Yun Che's soul fragment had imparted to her.

"How come you didn't ask me about what happened with the Soul Stealing Realm?" Yun Che suddenly asked her.

Qianye Ying'er raised her head and answered Yun Che's question with another question, "Why do I need to ask about that?"

When he saw the look on Qianye Ying'er's face, Yun Che's brow creased. "So you're saying that you don't think... To put it in other words, you are convinced that Chi Wuyao didn't backstab us during the affair in the Burning Moon Realm?"

"Of course." Qianye Ying'er gave a short and direct answer.

Yun Che lapsed into a short period of silence before speaking, "Why do you think that she didn't? And why are you so sure of your answer? Everything that happened that day, including the uncannily timely appearance of the Soul Sky Warship, screams that she was behind it all."

He had obliterated Fen Daojun in the Burning Moon Realm that day. Chi Wuyao had appeared with the Soul Sky Warship after that and he had coldly mocked her before fainting dead away... By the time he woke up again, the enormous amounts of rage and alarm in his heart had prompted him to immediately usher Qianye Ying'er into the Primordial Profound Ark so that she could refine the second Untamed World Pellet. He had then immediately headed out to the Yama Realm.

Naturally, he was unaware of what had happened between Chi Wuyao and Qianye Ying'er when he had been unconscious.

"I have my own way of judging things," Qianye Ying'er said.

"...Since you had some basis for your judgement call, then why didn't you tell me?" Yun Che's voice grew stiff.

"I didn't have any solid basis or evidence. This was a judgement I made based on my instincts and Chi Wuyao's body language."

When Chi Wuyao had grabbed her as she fainted in the Burning Moon Realm, her trembling aura and the shock that she felt the instant she caught her were not things that could be faked.

This was on top of the words that Chi Wuyao had said to her later on, words which had deeply unsettled her heart...

"Furthermore, if Chi Wuyao couldn't even dispel all of your doubts and get you to obediently listen to her, then her title as Devil Queen would have been in vain," Qianye Ying'er said unhurriedly. At the same time, she was eagerly looking forward to Yun Che's reaction.

"..." Yun Che did not know how to respond to that.

"As expected," Qianye Ying'er said as her jade lips curved up into a small smile, "without me around, you weren't even able to fend off her simplest attacks. In fact, you probably wouldn't even be aware of her eating you alive until it was over."

"Heh." Yun Che chuckled mockingly. "You're so great, aren't you? But you know, I can still toy with you however I please."

She used to glare at Yun Che with icy eyes when he used to bully her with his mocking words but she did not look the least bit infuriated this time. Instead, her eyebrows arched as her golden eyes narrowed slightly. She replied in a sweet and cottony voice, "Are you sure that you can still fiddle with me as you please?"

Yun Che's dark eyes narrowed as well. "Yun Qianying, you're becoming increasingly disobedient. It can't be that you think that you can escape from the palm of my hands now that you've become a level ten Divine Master once more, can it?"

"I do indeed have the power and qualifications to be a little disobedient. You gave me the power but I always had the qualifications." Qianye Ying'er gave a smile that was not a smile as she moved forward to walk next to Yun Che. She stared into the distance as she continued, "When I first came to the Northern Divine Region, revenge was my only reason for living. I didn't even hesitate to become your slave in order to accomplish this goal."

"But people really do change. To the current me, even though revenge is still important, it isn't as important as it was before." Qianye Ying'er smiled sweetly at Yun Che before she continued, "So, when a tool isn't completely reliant on its master, there are times when it will run away."

"Heh, now that your wings have hardened, your words have gotten a lot bolder," Yun Che replied in a cold voice.

Qianye Ying'er turned her jade face toward him, ripples appearing in her clear and bright eyes. "Are you beginning to regret that you didn't plant that slave imprint in me when you had the chance?"

"No, not at all." Yun Che's eyebrows sank as a wicked smile played across his lips. "It's far more interesting to toy with a Goddess who will struggle and resist, isn't it!?"

He could sense that Qianye Ying'er had subtly changed.

This change had not been brought about by the strength she gained after refining the second Untamed World Pellet. Rather... it was a change that had occurred after that incident in the Burning Moon Realm.

He was unable to forget the scene of her body curling up in a corner of that dark profound warship as tears soundlessly streamed down her face.

However, it was not only Qianye Ying'er who had changed. Even his heart had undergone a bizarre change that day... It made him suddenly feel like he might want to continue living even after he had completed his vengeance.

Because there was now something else he needed to do other than take revenge... something that he was actually willing to do as well.

Against his humiliating sarcasm, Qianye Ying'er slightly pursed her lips. Instead of making a retort, she made a sudden announcement, "When you were unconscious, I made a decision on your behalf."

Yun Che, "?"

"If you become emperor in the future, you will take Chi Wuyao as your empress." Qianye Ying'er said in an incredibly smooth manner.

Yun Che was stunned by those words. But after that, he scoffed and said, "Those decisions aren't up to you."

"Don't you want to hear the reason first?" Qianye Ying'er replied. She continued without even waiting for Yun Che to say yes, "If you aim to become the true emperor of the north in the short span of time, the grand coronation ceremony is only the first step you must take. As for how to marshal, arrange, and control the power of the Northern Divine Region in the shortest amount of time possible... Chi Wuyao is much more suited to this task than you, than anybody else in fact."

"Whether it be her understanding of the Northern Divine Region, her ability to manipulate others, or the devilish might she has accumulated in the Northern Divine Region, she far surpasses you in all of these aspects."

"The next thing you need to do is to swiftly increase your own cultivation while bestowing the dark blessing of the Eternal Calamity of Darkness on as many dark profound practitioners as you possibly can. After you've been made emperor, you'll need to swiftly unite the hearts of the Northern Divine Region and pool its strength together. You'll also need to balance how the region will function under a single ruler now that the three king realms have all submitted to you..."

"Since the time limit you set for your revenge against the three divine regions is so short, you can only focus on two things. Increasing your own strength and using the Eternal Calamity of Darkness to increase the strength of our forces. The most suitable person to deal with everything else is precisely Chi Wuyao!"

"If she's your empress, then everything will be made far more simple and direct."

"In the long run," Qianye Ying'er continued without giving Yun Che a chance to interject, "if you really fulfill your wish to trample the three divine regions in the future, if you have become someone who has surpassed the Dragon Monarch as the new ruler of the God Realm and Primal Chaos, you would still need someone able to assist you, because you... are utterly incapable of managing or settling a God Realm which would have been thrown into complete chaos."

Yun Che: "..."

"Chi Wuyao, however, is definitely capable of it." Qianye Ying'er's eyes grew focused. "This is something that she's always aspired towards. She will definitely perform far better than you can even imagine and the only thing you'll need to do is to reap the rewards of someone else's effort."

Yun Che stared at Qianye Ying'er for a good long while. He finally spoke in a low voice, "You... seem to have engaged in quite a few deep conversations with her."

"Was I not allowed to do so?" Qianye Ying'er didn't deny his words. Her delicate eyebrows suddenly slanted as she said, "Oh, so what did happen between you and her during the time I was holed up in the Primordial Profound Ark?"

An unnatural light flashed in Yun Che's eyes. "Why do you ask that question?"

The strange glimmer that flashed through his eyes confirmed Qianye Ying'er's assessment of the situation. She spoke in a slow and enunciated manner, "Because the way you talk about her now is very different from before."

Yun Che avoided Qianye Ying'er's gaze. He looked toward the entrance of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness and said in a cold voice, "I don't need some empress. This so-called coronation is only to make things even more convenient."

"You will need one," Qianye Ying'er said in a calm voice. "What's more, it's only a title that will make 'things even more convenient'. If even I can accept it, then what do you have to..."

Qianye Ying'er's lips froze the moment those words came out of her mouth and the look in her eyes grew disordered.

Yun Che turned toward her as expected and gave a cold and dull chuckle. "Even you can accept it? Hah, it sounds as if you're sacrificing even more than me. As a tool, it can't be that you've mistaken your own position by accident, right?"

Qianye Ying'er ignored him and said in an even harder voice, "You need to listen to me regarding this matter!"

"Ridiculous," Yun Che retorted with a cold snort.

"There's still enough time." Qianye Ying'er's voice grew gentler and her eyes turned languid. "I have my ways to make you listen to me."

Yan One and Yan Three were eavesdropping on their conversation as they trailed behind them. Their bodies trembled... as they were worried that they might be silenced forever.

"I know a secret concerning Chi Wuyao. You might be very interested in it." Qianye Ying'er's lips curved up into a small smile and her gaze was furtive and mysterious.

Yun Che said, "Speak."

"She still has her vital yin."

Yun Che: "..."

"I know it sounds really absurd, but... Hmmm?" When she noticed that Yun Che was not the least bit surprised by her revelation, her beautiful eyes flashed. "You already knew about it?"

"How did you find out about it?" Yun Che asked.

"This is something I should be asking you." Qianye Ying'er whirled around as she craned her exquisite neck forward. Her eyes bored into Yun Che's own like drills. "No wonder... Could it be that you've already slept with her?"

Thunk!

Yan Three's head collided with the back of Yan One's skull.

"No," Qianye Ying'er immediately corrected herself. "Since I wasn't around, you took the opportunity to sleep with Chi Wuyao."

"~ ! @# \pm %..." The corner of Yun Che's mouth twitched.

At this time, two figures suddenly appeared at the entrance of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness.

Yan Two and Tian Guhu.

Compared to when they had just managed to force the inheritance into his body, Tian Guhu's Yama Devil aura was far more stable now. This was largely due to his stay in the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness and Yan Two's assistance in helping him merge with his power. The black profound light that belonged to the Yama Devils was also glimmering in his eyes.

He was the first person in the history of the Northern Divine Region to have successfully inherited the Yama Devil power without having the required bloodline. However, according to Yun Che's own words, even though he had inherited the power of a Yama Devil, he was not one of them. He was not bound the same way the other Yama Devils were and he had no need to swear loyalty to the Yama Realm either.

When Tian Guhu saw Yun Che, his body came to a halt and he immediately fell to his knees. "Tian Guhu greets my lord."

"It looks like your merging with the Yama Devil power has been going quite well," Yun Che said with a nod of satisfaction. Tian Guhu's darkness profound energy had stabilized at around the eighth level of the Divine Master Realm. Even though he did not have enough time to boost his compatibility with the Yama Devil power and reach the ninth level before they attacked the three divine regions, it was still a world of difference from when he had just been a level seven Divine Sovereign.

"I thank my lord and Senior Yan for helping me succeed," Tian Guhu said as he inclined his head.

Yun Che noticed that Tian Guhu no longer looked as confused and dazed as he did when he first arrived here. The Tian Guhu who had emerged from the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness looked as sharp and hardy as a good sword.

"Tian Guhu, answer this question of mine," Yun Che said. "How did you come to those convictions?"

He was actually rather curious about that.

He had been born with such a high status and his halo of brilliance was blinding, yet he had chosen to call himself "Guhu" and the conviction to change the Northern Divine Region's circumstances burned in his very bones.

"Because of hatred," Tian Guhu replied. He raised his head to look at Yun Che as his voice turned grave. "The woman that I loved the most died in the ceaseless squabbles over power and territory that has plagued the Northern Divine Region since its inception. And these things will never change... unless we can escape the fate of being locked up in this cage."

"So that's how it is." Yun Che laughed. "No wonder I thought I sensed something familiar about you when we first met."

Tian Guhu's eye bulged at those words.

"Return to the Imperial Heaven Realm," Yun Che said. "It won't be long now. The day that you thirst for is right in front of you, so you definitely mustn't waste the influence that you've painstakingly garnered over the years."

Tian Guhu sucked in a deep breath before saying in a solemn voice, "Guhu understands."

Tian Guhu left but Yan Two remained where he was.

"A forced inheritance. Did the Eternal Calamity of Darkness have such an ability?" Qianye Ying'er said as she shot a glance at the departing Tian Guhu.

"It was not entirely the work of the Eternal Calamity of Darkness," Yun Che replied.

"But what I really want to know is what the side effects of this forced inheritance are?" Qianye Ying'er asked as she looked to the side. If there were no negative side effects, Yun Che would definitely have used it on her first rather than "waste" it on someone else.

"You will lose seventy percent of your lifespan," Yun Che calmly replied. "Furthermore, after he dies, the origin power will dissipate, never to return."

"Oh?" Shock and astonishment colored Qianye Ying'er's face. "He actually didn't object?"

"This was also the reason I chose him," Yun Che said in a deep voice. "I am well aware of how frightful obsession can be. Not only would he not have any objections, it would even increase his obsession. After all, since he has already paid such a heavy price to obtain this power, it will only increase his desire to exert in the fulfillment of his 'dreams and desires'!"

"..." Qianye Ying'er quietly glanced at Yun Che and her eyes misted over. "I think it'd be better for you to preserve the two Burning Moon Realm devil origin powers that you have with you. As long as you

control it and follow its rules of inheritance, you will possess a power that will never die out. It's simply far too wasteful to force an inheritance on someone and have it dissipate forever after that."

Yun Che agreed, "I'm afraid we won't be able to find a second Tian Guhu in this Northern Divine Region either."

"Let's go!"

He grabbed Qianye Ying'er's hand and flew straight into the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness.

Just as the Three Yama Ancestors were about to follow, a shout sent them reeling backwards. "The three of you are to keep watch outside and seal it with the barrier! No one is allowed to enter!"

Chapter 1699 - Yun Che Ascends the Throne (1)

On this day, an intimidating-looking invitation card was delivered throughout the still-shaking Northern Divine Region, stirring up even bigger waves in the region.

These invitation cards were personally delivered by people from one of three king realms and they were sent to all the realm kings and core sects of the upper and middle star realms. There were even a few invitation cards sent to the most important lower star realms.

Moreover, an invitation card from a king realm had never merely been just an invitation. It was, in reality, an imperial decree that could not be defied!

If they refused an invitation from another star realm, it would, at worst, mean that they were not showing them any face. But none of them would dare to reject an "invitation" sent to them by one of the king realms, unless they were tired of living of course.

It was quite common for a king realm of the Northern Divine Region to send out so many invitations. They would do so every time a new emperor was being crowned.

However, this invitation card had been sent out in the name of all three king realms!

The words "We invite all kings to come and greet our new ruler" contained a transcendent might that shook them to the core.

The meaning contained behind those words was even more shocking than the might that emanated from them. They caused huge waves to crash about in the hearts of all the realm kings of the Northern Divine Region.

The three king realms were jointly declaring that they had a "new ruler"?

The three king realms were jointly appointing a new ruler?

A new ruler who stood above the three king realms!?

This was something unprecedented in the Northern Divine Region, a notion that had never crossed any of their minds.

Yun Che. This name had swiftly spread through the upper echelons of the Northern Divine Region ever since he had appeared in the Heavenly Sovereign Assembly hosted by the Imperial Heaven Realm.

The Burning Moon Realm had fallen within the span of a single day. The news that Yun Che had inherited the legacy of a Devil Emperor and could release the power of a True God shot through the Northern Divine Region like a bolt of heavenly lightning... and Chi Wuyao was naturally also the one who was orchestrating everything behind the scenes.

Chi Wuyao had already started campaigning for Yun Che from the very beginning, causing his "name", which was quite new to the Northern Divine Region, to crash into the minds of all the powerhouses of the Northern Divine Region. But this "invitation" and "grand ceremony" were still far too sudden, far too shocking. So much so that all of these wise and experienced overlords were left dumbfounded by the news.

Amidst their shock, all of these rulers began to sense that something incredible was afoot.

The event was to be held a month from now. The location? The Soul Stealing Realm Sacred Region.

The Burning Moon Realm had initially submitted for three reasons. The divine might Yun Che had displayed when he had obliterated Fen Daojun in a single instant, the devilish and seductive words of Chi Wuyao, and the transformation of the Witches.

But there was no doubt that this intimidation and Chi Wuyao's persuasion would slowly erode with the passage of time, so she would have to continue to suppress any dangerous ideas the Burning Moon Realm might have.

However, once the Burning Moon Realm saw that the Yama Realm had capitulated as well, they lost all desire to rebel.

Furthermore, once Yun Che had bestowed his dark blessing upon them, the remaining Moon Eaters felt their bodies go through a miraculous transformation, one that they had never dared to dream of. All of them were filled with wild joy and were overflowing with gratitude.

There was no such thing as unearned loyalty in this world. It was just like the concepts behind "the carrot and the stick"... He had shown enough of his stick and he had given them many bites of the carrot. In fact, even their legacies and lifelines were held in his hands—whether it was the Burning Moon or the Yama Realm.

Yun Che's grand coronation ceremony was already being prepared with much fanfare within the Soul Stealing Sacred Region. The Yama Realm and the Burning Moon Realm were also involved. When Yun Che had selected the Soul Stealing Sacred Region as the venue, it had sent a loud and clear signal to the other two realms.

During these turbulent times for the Northern Divine Region, ironically, the man responsible for it all was currently unoccupied and relaxed.

Qianye Ying'er's strength had not been the only thing that had been greatly boosted by the second Untamed World Pellet. Her fusion with the Devil Emperor blood had also progressed greatly. To Yun Che, she had now become an even more excellent dual cultivation incubator. After he had pulled Qianye Ying'er into the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness, he borrowed the primordial devil energy to tirelessly dual cultivate with her day and night. In the short span of half a month, Qianye Ying'er's profound strength, which had undergone a complete transformation, was much more solid and stable. Yun Che's mastery of the Eternal Calamity of Darkness had also taken a great leap forward during this time.

Even though he still remained in the middle stages of mastering it, his ability to control and use it had gone up several markers.

In the past, he would still need to concentrate a little when he was helping the dark profound practitioners undergo their dark rebirth. If an external force or internal resistance interfered with the process, it would cause him to fail.

But he could basically perform this dark blessing with a single thought now. However, the most important thing... was that it was much easier for him to transform large amounts of people.

The Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness was undoubtedly the best place for both Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er to cultivate. The level of the primordial yin energy in that place was extremely high and the energy itself was extremely dense. No other place in this universe could compare to it.

Within the Soul Stealing Realm's sacred region, on the Soul Sky.

Yun Che sat on the ground cross-legged. His eyes were closed and no auras radiated from his body.

He had been spending the last few weeks dual cultivating with Qianye Ying'er inside the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness, so his cultivation and his mastery of the Eternal Calamity of Darkness had grown by leaps and bounds. Even so, no matter how hard he tried, he was not able to access the next level of the Law of Nothingness.

It seemed like he had really reached the limit at this point in time, and perhaps, this would be as much as he would ever comprehend the law... Because with the departure of the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor, there was no way that a complete World-Defying Heaven Manual would appear in the universe.

However, though he could only access and manipulate the weakest form of the Law of Nothingness, it was still a bizarre power that easily transcended all the knowledge of this universe.

Qianye Ying'er stood at the borders of the Soul Sky. Her hair and skirt fluttered in the air as a gentle breeze brushed past her and she looked like an immortal that transcended the mortal realm.

Yun Che would normally spend hours in this state, so she had grown used to it.

"The three king realms have united under one banner and the coronation ceremony is near at hand. This took far less time than we had originally expected. Furthermore, the whole thing went unimaginably smoothly."

Qianye Ying'er seemed to be talking to Yun Che, but she also looked like she was also talking to herself.

"Should we say that the Heretic God's power and the Eternal Calamity of Darkness are simply far too powerful, or... has everything gone according to the will of the heavens?" It was true. Everything had happened too fast, too easily.

Qianye Ying'er was deeply aware of just how strong a king realm was.

They definitely had to start by forming an alliance with the Soul Stealing Realm, but this alliance had happened much too smoothly.

After that...

The Yama Realm had originally been the biggest and hardest obstacle for them to overcome. How could their reputation as the king realm who had risen to the peak of the Northern Divine Region for the last eight hundred thousand years be a lie? Even if they managed to easily conquer the Burning Moon Realm first, conquering the Yama Realm would have been a long and bitter struggle.

However, in the cruelest of ironies, it was precisely because of the existence of the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness, a big reason for their ascendance in the first place, that they were forced to surrender without a fight. Their strongest guardians had even become three powerful and loyal dogs who served Yun Che as their master.

The Burning Moon Realm was the weakest king realm, but its deep resources and powerful core of strength were not to be underestimated. if Fen Daojun had chosen to fight to the bitter end, they would have paid a terrible price to defeat the Burning Moon Realm.

However, in a fit of rage, Yun Che had shattered their strongest Moon Eater with a single strike of his palm and had obliterated the Burning Moon God Emperor with a single stroke of his sword... The imperious might he had displayed, a power that belonged in the domain of the gods, had toppled the convictions and beliefs of the Burning Moon Realm in a single instant. They had submitted without a single shot needing to be fired.

As for the Soul Stealing Realm...

If Chi Wuyao had not been his master and they were in a relationship of mutual benefit, she might have become the most terrifying enemy they had to deal with out of the three god emperors.

This was a breathtakingly grand undertaking, something that had never been accomplished in the history of the Northern Divine Region, but in reality... not even a single desperate battle had taken place.

Yun Che opened his eyes and spoke in a low voice, "Back in the God Realm, I moved as if I was walking on thin ice and I brushed shoulders with death countless times. The world only heard of my evergrowing fame, my increasingly brilliant halo, no one knew about the life and death struggles I had to go through to get to where I was."

"..." Qianye Ying'er's golden eyes quietly turned toward Yun Che... the biggest "life and death struggle" he had to go through in the God Realm was a situation that she had plunged him into.

The closest he had ever been to death and the greatest torture he had ever experienced in his life had both come from her.

"I was grateful for all the blessings that life has given me so I took saving the world as a duty and mission I had to fulfil. I thought that I was the messiah that the heavens had chosen. I had even asked Wuxin this exceedingly arrogant question. 'Don't you want your father to become the hero who saved the world?'... Hah!"

Yun Che slowly lifted his head towards the sky. Black clouds roiled in the heavens above as he spoke, "The Northern Divine Region. In this barren and vicious land of darkness, I thought that only boundless trials and malice awaited me. However... even though the road to becoming the messiah was fraught with peril and death, the journey to devildom, this descent into darkness, seems to have been guided by the very hand of destiny."

His gaze started to grow cold and sinister as he said in an even deeper voice, "As it turns out, I have always been mistaken about my raison d'etre, my own identity. I was never supposed to be some sort of saint who would save the world! I was always destined to be a devil lord who would bring calamity!"

"But right now, what I really want to know is..." He started chuckling and his lips curved into a cold and wicked smile. The devilish light in his eyes grew even more sinister as he said, "Who in the three divine regions is going to be the 'hero' who finally slays me and saves the world in the end?"

"Heh." Qianye Ying'er snorted at those words contemptuously. "A devil lord who brings calamity? Even if you saved the world ten times over, there would still be countless men in the God Realm who would drool at the thought of cutting you to pieces. Just because you slept with both the Dragon Queen and Goddess!"

"..." Yun Che shot a glance toward her. The cold wind had pressed her clothes against her body, revealing her enchantingly beautiful curves. He chuckled mockingly. "You were the ones who presented yourselves to me, yet I am the great sinner here? What a joke!"

"Then you deserve to be ripped apart all the mo..." Qianye Ying'er's voice halted and her golden eyes swivelled towards him. "So Shen Xi also presented herself to you?"

Yun Che, "..."

"Hahahahahaha..." Qianye Ying'er bent forward and her luxurious bosom heaved as she started laughing unrestrainedly. "Just as expected! The more pure and noble a woman looks, the more lewd and unrestrained she actually is. Hahahahaha!"

"Shut your mouth," Yun Che rebuked her coldly. "I'll say this for the last time... You are not to say a single bad thing about her!"

"Bad thing?" Qianye Ying'er rolled her beautiful eyes insouciantly. "When you use those words to describe me, you call it high praise. But when it comes to her, it becomes something unpleasant?"

"..." Yun Che was stunned by that riposte.

"Aiyah, it looks like this queen has come at the wrong time."

A cottony and devilish voice that could melt bone rang out in the air. Chi Wuyao descended from the sky and no black mist covered her body this time, fully revealing her beautiful face and devilish figure. The small smile that played across her lips was so enthralling that it could bewitch a man a thousand times over and her exquisite body seemed to have been carved by the universe's most skilled and lascivious sculptor. Her arrival caused Yun Che to scramble to his feet as if by instinct.

"..." Qianye Ying'er's brow crinkled.

"Yun Qianying." Chi Wuyao's brows arched into crescents as she giggled. "Can I borrow Yun Che for a second?"

Chi Wuyao had only taken a single graceful step forward, but her ample bosom already started to jiggle in an alluring and provocative fashion... Qianye Ying'er's brows twitched violently as she swiveled her head toward Chi Wuyao. She said with a cold snort, "I'm not lending him to you!"

A bewitching and delicate fragrance assaulted their nostrils as Chi Wuyao appeared at Yun Che's side. She gave him a flirtatious smile as she said, "You clearly said that you wanted to make this queen Yun Che's empress, but you're stuck to him twenty-four seven. You're not even willing to give this queen a little bit of him. The nine children beside me, and even this queen herself, keep grumbling about the situation as we anxiously wait for a resolution on your end."

"..." Her warm and gentle breath caressed Yun Che's neck. Yun Che did not flinch but he felt his body heating up quickly as his blood started to boil uncontrollably.

To Yun Che, Chi Wuyao's most frightening aspect was not her Devil Emperor soul. Rather... it was the demonic seductiveness she exuded with every breath she took, something that the heavens had blessed her with from the very beginning.

Back then, she had used Mu Xuanyin's icy and beautiful face, and her goddess-like body, a cold beauty which resembled a proud and lofty ice lotus, to push him over the edge. The effect was only amplified now that she approached him as the bewitching Devil Queen.

Chi Wuyao's words made Qianye Ying'er swivel in her direction. As she stared at those devilish curves which even caused a woman's heart to flutter, a bland smile crossed her face as she said, "Chi Wuyao, I keep endorsing you to be made Yun Che's empress and this is also one of the conditions of our alliance and sincerity toward each other. However, the only person who can sleep with him is me. Those are two seperate things. Do you get what I'm saying?"

Yun Che: "...???"

"Pffft..." Chi Wuyao giggled seductively. A multitude of enchanting ripples danced in her eyes and even Qianye Ying'er was forced to swiftly avert her gaze.

"How can I help you?" Yun Che asked as he quietly exhaled.

Even though he was doing his best to control his actions, he still tried to avoid her gaze in a rather unnatural manner.

He still hadn't truly figured out how he should interact with Chi Wuyao.

"There are two things on the agenda." Chi Wuyao's bewitchingly beautiful eyes slanted towards Yun Che as she smiled at him. "The first matter we have to deal with is this. Your grand coronation ceremony will be held in seven days and all of the heroes of the Northern Divine Region will have gathered to witness it, but you still haven't decided on your title as god emperor." "As the very first 'Devil Master' of the Northern Divine Region, your imperial title happens to be very important indeed."

Chapter 1700 - Yun Che Ascends the Throne (2)

Yun Che truly hadn't thought of his imperial title yet.

A god emperor was an existence that stood at the pinnacle of this universe. All those who ascended the throne either did it for power or to pursue the peak of the profound way. They had risen above all other living creatures and lorded over all creation.

But Yun Che only wanted revenge. To him, his imperial title was of absolutely no importance.

"Since you brought this up, you must already have something in mind," Yun Che pointedly replied.

"I actually have two titles in mind," Chi Wuyao replied languidly. "The first one has to do with the fact that you've inherited the devil blood and devil art of the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor. You are her sole successor. So it is entirely reasonable for you to inherit the name 'Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor' as well."

"This imperial title would carry unsurpassed authority in the Northern Divine Region."

Yun Che's brow furrowed slightly as he asked, "What about the second?"

"Heretic Emperor." Chi Wuyao continued in a captivating voice, "Your fate turned the moment you inherited the Heretic God's legacy. For you, who has the Heretic God's powers running through your veins, it would not be inappropriate to take his title either."

"In addition, the word 'Heretic' is neither good nor evil. It includes lack of restraint and disdain which very much agrees with the turn your fate and frame of mind have taken.

Chi Wuyao finished speaking. However, she did not ask Yun Che for his opinion. Her beautiful eyes turned to look at Qianye Ying'er. "So, what do you think?"

Qianye Ying'er replied with a cold, stern expression, "He is neither the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor, nor is he the Heretic God. He is... unique and unmatched. He is Yun Che, someone who has no need for any other person's prestige or titles."

"Oh?" Chi Wuyao gave a small smirk as her gaze lowered slightly. "It looks like you... already have a title in mind."

"Devil Master of the North—Emperor Yun!" Qianye Ying'er announced with a fierce glare. "Clouds have covered the blue dome of heaven since time immemorial and they've overlooked all of creation since the very beginning. His clouds will descend and engulf the entire world, they will overturn the earth and seas and his wrath will be like the thunder of the nine heavens themselves."

"Furthermore, that is his surname. Since he is crowned emperor, the word 'Yun' shall be ingrained in the hearts of all of creation!"

Qianye Ying'er had just finished her sentence but her lips moved lightly. Her brow furrowed slightly as she directed her words toward Chi Wuyao using sound transmission, "This is also the eternal glory that he can bestow upon his family and clan members!"

The reason she had said those words was because she wanted the word "Yun" to rise above everything else, so that he would be able to wipe away some of the deep guilt that he felt toward his family. This way, he would be able to bestow eternal glory upon his family and his clan... He would immortalize them in this manner.

Compared to Qianye Ying'er's hostility toward her, something which had clearly increased drastically from before, Chi Wuyao did not show the slightest intention to "engage" her. She gave Qianye Ying'er a small smile instead as she inclined her head and praised her words. "Very good. Devil Master Emperor Yun. It is decided then."

Qianye Ying'er, "..."

Yun Che raised his head, "I haven't even given my answer yet..."

"The second matter is regarding that lass from the Eastern Divine Region's Glazed Light Realm," Chi Wuyao said.

Yun Che was startled for a moment. He violently turned around, "Shui Meiyin? What's happened to her?"

Chi Wuyao had never interacted with Shui Meiyin in her true form before, but as "Mu Xuanyin", she had met her more than once. Back then, she had single-handedly facilitated Yun Che and Shui Meiyin's marriage... Although her efforts had all gone to waste in the end.

"Approximately two years ago," Chi Wuyao replied languidly, "news that the Glazed Light Realm provided refuge to you was made known and they were punished by the Moon God Emperor."

The three words, "Moon God Emperor" simultaneously pricked the nerves of Yun Che and Qianye Ying'er.

Yun Che's core shook violently as he growled in a low voice, "What... do you mean by punished?"

Chi Wuyao's devilish voice was gentle and unhurried as she replied, "It was rumored that Glazed Light Realm King Shui Qianheng assumed responsibility for the whole matter. The Moon God Emperor wanted to execute him on the spot, but luckily for him, the Eternal Heaven God Emperor managed to intervene in the nick of time... He pleaded their case and asked the Moon God Emperor for mercy, so Shui Qianheng was crippled instead. But at the same time, Shui Meiyin was also sentenced to be imprisoned in the Moon God Realm for a thousand years."

"..." Yun Che neither spoke nor moved, but a dark malice appeared on his face.

In Yun Che's heart, there was only one other pure land in the Eastern Divine Region besides the Snow Song Realm. There was only one other girl who still chose to hug him as her tears stained his back, even after his darkness had been exposed to the world and it had become his enemy.

On that day, a day so cold that it seemed like he had been plunged into a hell of ice, it was... his only source of warmth.

"After Shui Qianheng was crippled, he stepped down from his position as realm king and Shui Yingyue has been the Glazed Light Realm King ever since. As for Shui Meiyin, there has not been any news of her ever since she was imprisoned in the Moon God Realm. The Glazed Light Realm tried to visit her many times, but they were always chased away when they did."

Crack!

Yun Che gripped his fists so tightly that his bones nearly shifted out of position as he ground his teeth in anger.

Back then, he had left the Glazed Light Realm the instant he awoke. Moreover, he had tried his best to cut off all relations with them and erase any evidence involving them. But in the end, they had still been implicated to such a great extent.

"No matter how the world sees you, you'll always be the best... best person to ever exist in my heart. So please... stay alive... you and all your loved ones must all stay alive... okay?..."

Back then, when they had last met, the gentle reminders she sobbed out and her tear-filled gaze were the precious light that kept him from completely falling into darkness during the months that followed, the bleakest months of his life.

Moon God Emperor...

Xia Qingyue!!

Yun Che's eyes hardened as threads of wild killing intent interwove chaotically within their depths.

The beautiful and heartrending destruction of the Blue Pole Star had been the cruelest nightmare of his entire life.

His hatred and murderous intent towards Xia Qingyue was definitely above that of Zhou Xuzi.

"The Moon God Emperor is living up to her title as god emperor. She really is merciless and decisive enough to be one," Qianye Ying'er said in a low voice before shooting a troubled glance at Chi Wuyao.

What Xia Qingyue had done was completely normal. Firstly, she would be able to completely disassociate herself from any association she had with him, expunging all doubts cast on her due to once being a devil's wife. Secondly, she was able to remove any possibility of future disasters that might arise from Shui Meiyin's deep love for Yun Che.

As the merciless and decisive Moon God Emperor, she would definitely use this perfect reason to gain complete control over Shui Meiyin, who possessed the Divine Stainless Soul and could potentially cause many disasters.

"There is no need to wait till the coronation ceremony is over." Yun Che spoke slowly and growled in a low voice, "Let's start rallying the troops... Dispatch Hua Jin to the Eastern Divine Region now!"

"That seems slightly hasty," Chu Wuyao shifted her gaze toward him and replied. "However, since this is the command of the Devil Master, how can I refuse... She already departed an hour ago."

She understood Yun Che all too well. She had already anticipated what his reaction would be when she told him about Shui Meiyin.

But, she had no intention of keeping Yun Che in the dark. No man liked secrets to be kept from him, even if the reasons for it were good.

Yun Che did not say a single word. He let out a long sigh. His figure flashed and he started descending from the Soul Sky. He needed to find a place to cool off.

"Oh?" Chu Wuyao's beautiful eyes glanced at Qianye Ying'er. "Why didn't you follow him? Aren't you afraid... that other women may take advantage of the situation?"

Qianye Ying'er stared back at her. It was as if she was trying to see into the depths of her soul through the windows of her eyes. "Given how isolated the Northern Divine Region and Eastern Divine Region are from each other, you must have taken great pains to obtain such detailed information."

"Because the Eternal Calamity of Darkness has made our bodies perfectly compatible with the darkness, the possibility of exposing our aura of darkness outside the Northern Region has dipped dramatically, so..." Chi Wuyao continued, her eyes smouldering with a hazy seductiveness, "It isn't that difficult to get information anymore. Conversely, it is still extremely difficult for the other three divine regions to try and gather any news on us."

"Why would you specifically come here to tell him about that girl from the Glazed Light Realm!?" Qianye Ying'er asked, "He shouldn't have been bored enough to mention anything about her to you."

"Girl?" A small smile played across Chi Wuyao's lips, "I am able to call her that, but I'm afraid that you can't. After she went through those three thousand years in the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm... she could be considered your big sister in terms of both age and seniority.

"...Answer my question." Qianye Ying'er once again posed the same question, "Who are you exactly?"

"I will tell you after the grand coronation ceremony. Although..." Chi Wuyan spoke softly, "It'd better for you if you didn't know."

Qianye Ying'er no longer pursued the question. But she did not leave to look for Yun Che either. She changed the topic instead as she asked Chi Wuyao another question, "Do you know who Xia Qingyue is?"

"I do." Chi Wuyao answered. "Perhaps I even understand her better than you do."

"Oh? Qianye Ying'er did not bother to question her words. She asked yet another question instead. "Then, based on your understanding of her, what kind of person is she?"

Chi Wuyao's small smile disappeared and her eyes were clouded by a layer of dark mist. "I carry the soul of a Devil Emperor and used to brag that my skill of seeing through others was unmatched. But Xia Qingyue greatly damaged my confidence in that aspect. Back then, my judgement of Xia Qingyue was that she was someone who would never harm Yun Che."

"In the end, she was the person who was most cruel and merciless to him." Qianye Ying'er gave a cold laugh.

"That's why they say that the most difficult thing in this universe is to be able to see the heart of a woman clearly." Chi Wuyao stared into Qianye Ying'er's golden orbs, her lips pouting slightly. "After all... women are far too fickle."

Qianye Ying'er's golden brows knit together. "Are you talking about me?"

Chi Wuyao smiled faintly. "Back when you stripped Chanyi of her clothes in the Central Ruins Realm, you really must have wanted to see Yun Che's animal lust explode so that he would violently ravish Chanyi, am I correct?"

Qianye Ying'er: " ... "

"Back in the Imperial Heaven Realm, when you were dueling against Yao Die, she asked you what kind of profound art you were cultivating. You told her that she should 'ask her future master' instead, and you even emphasized that she would be 'asking it in bed'."

Qianye Ying'er: " ... "

"Back then, you couldn't wait for Yun Che to trample all over the women who were of high status and met your standards... Because you were once in those exact circumstances, so you would gain a twisted sense of pleasure and justice from seeing your suffering inflicted on someone else."

"..." Qianye Ying'er's gaze froze slightly but she did not speak a word.

"The current you has jumped from one extreme end to another." Chi Wuyao's words had a lingering overtone, "I didn't intend for this outcome when I wanted you to look at yourself clearly." Qianye Ying'er's soul was twisted... Be it in the past or the present.

"Even when I become his empress, the only one allowed to sleep with him is you?" Chi Wuyao laughed as her lips pursed up. "Even prostitutes would be hard-pressed to say such vulgar words, but they actually came out of the mouth of the Brahma Monarch Goddess. You even said them in such a hurried and flustered manner. The unsightly way you scrambled to stake your claim was worse than that of a newborn chick.. Are you... that afraid of me?"

"Me...afraid of you!?" Qianye Ying'er's jade face was expressionless but chaos surged and roiled within her heart.

Almost every word coming from this frightening woman in front of her shook her to the core... and this included the deepest parts of her that even she herself was blind to.

She was afraid... She found that she was truly afraid when Chi Wuyao's words drifted into her ears.

Back then, when she lost the family she treasured the most, she fell into an abyss.

Now, fear gripped the deepest parts of her soul and every strand of her faith... It was something she dared not even think about, because if she lost something once more...

It was exactly as Chi Wuyao had stated, the Brahma Monarch Goddess, who once considered all creation to be either her tools or fodder, had now been reduced to an anxious little chick who had lost herself.

And the only one who could "save" her was herself.

Chi Wuyao strolled forward unhurriedly and came to a stop beside Qianye Ying'er, their shoulders gently brushing against each other. She slowly exhaled before speaking in a gentle voice, "You really don't have to be afraid of me. As long as you don't turn into another Xia Qingyue, I will never be your enemy or take him away from you. On the contrary, just as what I told you from the start... What I feel toward you is mostly gratitude."

"Moreover," she said as her voice turned soft and seductive, "I eagerly await the day that I am able to serve the same man in bed together with the Brahma Monarch Goddess... I believe that he would be delighted."

"…"

Qianye Ying'er's body went numb, and Chi Wuyao had vanished by the time she had managed to snap out of her stupor.

But her terrifying devilish voice continued to linger in her soul, refusing to fade.

It seemed as if all of creation had gathered in a thronging mass inside the Soul Stealing Sacred Region. Furthermore, every single aura that was present in this place was so powerful that it caused one's heart to skip a beat.

Devilish clouds gathered densely over the skies of the Soul Stealing Realm, causing the skies to look much lower than normal. The sky looked grim and dark and seemed as if it could collapse at any time.

Countless realm kings and lords had gathered in the Soul Stealing Realm. The upper star realms had already seated themselves within the Sacred Region while a seemingly endless crowd thronged around its outer parts.

Dark clouds were roiling in the air and a dark fog started to form as countless dark formations were being channeled in every corner of the Soul Stealing Sacred Region. These dark profound formations used the legacy artifact left by the True Devils to the Burning Moon Realm as their core. With the united efforts of the three king realms, the coronation ceremony could be projected to every corner of the Northern Divine Realm.

All of the Soul Stealing Realm's floating islands were gathered around the Soul Stealing Sacred Region. What was even more shocking was the three gigantic shadows which hung in the sky, a sight that even struck fear into the hearts of the higher realm kings who gazed upon them.

The main profound warships of all three king realms, Soul Stealing, Yama, and Burning Moon, were here!

All three warships were gathered in the skies above the Soul Stealing Realm. It was as if three devil gods had reappeared in this era and were presently looking down upon all the living beings in the Northern Region.

There had never been such an enormous spectacle in the history of the Northern Divine Region.

Even though there were a vast number of profound practitioners in the Northern Region, a shocking silence filled both the inner and outer parts of the Sacred Region. People were hardly even whispering

to each other as they gazed at the skies. At times, they even found it hard to breathe... because all of them knew that they were going to be witnessing a historic moment for the Northern Divine Region.

This day would be eternalized in the history of the Northern Divine Realm.

Yun Che, the Devil Master who was crowned by the three king realms, the one who reigned supreme in the Northern Divine Region.

Was this a scheme that the three king realms had hatched together, or... Was it true that this young man, who was rumored to be from the Eastern Divine Region, who had not even been alive for forty years, had managed to completely subjugate the three king realms in such a short period of time!?

Time flowed by slowly. After a long period of silence, finally...

Rumble!

A dull rumble rang out in the air above as the profound warships of the three great king realms started to slowly descend. A formless and terrifying oppressive might started weighing down on them and it felt as if the entire sky was slowly pressing against their shoulders.

A voice filled with a soul-shaking imperial might reverberated in the air as it resounded through every corner of the Northern Divine Region. "The time has come to respectfully welcome the Devil Master!"

To everyone's utter astonishment, the one who had shouted that sentence was Yan Tianxiao.

The former number one god emperor of the Northern Region was actually personally hosting this grand coronation ceremony.

The shock that raced through the hearts of all the profound practitioners in the Northern Region could not be described in words.

Yan Tianxiao had just finished speaking when the three main warships ceased their descent. A ray of devilish light passed through the space between the warships as it formed a road of pure darkness in the air.

At the end of this road of darkness, a man wearing black robes was standing on top of that devilish light. His eyes looked like two dark abysses as he appeared before all the profound practitioners of the Northern Region.