

The Gods 1911

Chapter 1911: The Holes in The Truth (2)

To continue investing oneself in something despite being unable to find any reason to support it was to delude oneself... and to hurt everyone else around you.

So Yun Che exhaled deeply before saying, "You are right, Meiyin. I've been thinking about that on my way over, and even now I can't not find a single reason to explain it. It is as you say. My subconscious already knew that I was just deluding myself, but I just can't..."

"It's okay. It really is okay," Shui Meiyin consoled him smilingly. "Who knows, maybe this experience will actually help you overcome your trauma faster?"

"Yeah." This time, it was Yun Che who nodded strongly. His gaze also looked a lot more stable than before.

"So... is Wuxin in the Snow Song Realm right now?" Shui Meiyin changed the subject tactfully. "Assuming that you just ran off without warning, she must be really worried right now."

Yun Che thought for a second before answering, "She'll be fine with Xuanyin watching over her. Anyway, I'm going to visit father-in-law right now."

"Eh?" Shui Meiyin exclaimed in surprise.

Yun Che smiled. "It's about time father-in-law gets his final treatment. I may as well make it so the trip is not a complete waste of time, right?"

"Okay!" Shui Meiyin beamed.

.....

Shui Qianheng sat on the floor with his eyes closed and his face flushed.

Sitting on the opposite side of him was Yun Che, circulating streams of light profound energy around his whole body and through his fingertip.

A long time ago, he had thought that the damage he suffered was completely irreversible. In reality, they were healing under the power of Yun Che's Divine Miracle of Life right now.

After today's treatment, even his powers would return to their prime in the very near future.

Although he had already passed down his title to Shui Yingyue, he was the commanding enforcer of the entire Eastern Divine Region right now.

It was way cooler than being the Glazed Light Realm King!

For the past two years, he couldn't help but lament that sometimes, having one great son-in-law was way better than having many sons. At the very least, he definitely hadn't pampered his daughter for nothing!

Four hours passed, and the final treatment was reaching its end. Visible traces of excitement started flashing across Shui Qianheng's features as he felt the awakening power in his profound veins. His reaction was perfectly understandable.

Shui Meiyin had been guarding by her father and her husband's side throughout the process, although she had spent most of that time watching Yun Che with a besotted expression on her face.

It was at this moment a loud woman's voice rang from outside the door:

"Yinyin! Come out and follow mommy somewhere, will you!?"

There was only one person in the entire Glazed Light Realm who could act like this at the heart of the Glazed Light Realm. She was the concubine who would rather die than become the queen mother, and the birth mother of Shui Yingyue and Shui Meiyin:

Cheng Wanxiao!

"Ah!" Shui Meiyin rose to her feet in a hurry and tiptoed her way toward the exit because she didn't want to disturb either Yun Che or her father. When she was outside the door, she finally whispered, "Where are we going, mom? Big Brother Yun Che is still inside."

Cheng Wanxiao moved closer to her daughter's ear before whispering sneakily, "Your older sister is about to come home. We gotta make room for her, understand?"

Not only did Shui Meiyin understand immediately, she even pulled her mother away in excitement and said, "Ooh, we gotta leave now before she sees us!"

"Slow down. We can go after I send her a message."

The sound transmission was done in no time. The mother and daughter exchanged knowing smiles with each other before leaving shoulder-to-shoulder. They didn't inform anyone about their departure.

Back in the room, Yun Che suddenly opened his eyes and withdrew the light profound energy.

"It's done," He declared with a confident smile. "Your profound veins are completely fine now, father-in-law. Your profound energy should return to normal in three months to half a year."

No one knew about his profound veins better than Shui Qianheng himself, so of course he knew that Yun Che's declaration was absolutely true. He pushed down the urge to whoop like crazy before booming out a laugh, "Hahahaha! With the Great Emperor of the God Realm as my son-in-law, it doesn't really matter if my powers recover or not!"

Yun Che swept the area with his spiritual perception but couldn't find Shui Meiyin nearby.

"By the way, weren't you heading north with Little Wuxin? Why did you come back so suddenly?" Shui Qianheng asked.

He didn't believe that Yun Che had come back specifically to treat him.

Yun Che replied, "To be honest with you, it's because I've run into a couple of difficult conundrums."

“Difficult conundrums?” Shui Qianheng looked puzzled. “What is left in this universe that can puzzle Emperor Yun so?”

“Now that I think about it, there is something that I would like to consult you about, father-in-law, about.” Yun Che’s tone and expression were so casual that it was almost as if the matter was of no importance whatsoever.

“Oh?” Shui Qianheng grew interested.

Without giving Shui Qianheng any explanation whatsoever, Yun Che asked directly, “Seven years ago, on the day the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor left the Primal Chaos, someone delivered an unconscious me to the Glazed Light Realm... did Meiyin watch over me the whole time I was out?”

“But of course.” Shui Qianheng nodded without any hesitation. “You were a ‘vile devil person’ who was being hunted by the entire Primal Chaos at the time. At first, she cried like the heavens had fallen when she saw that you were unconscious. After she recovered, she kept watch and didn’t take even a single step away from you.”

Shui Qianheng shook his head smilingly. “It’s not like I don’t understand her. Considering the circumstances at the time, nothing could’ve removed her from your side.”

“... not even a single step, huh?” Yun Che continued smiling. Looking at him, you would think that he was simply enjoying some small talk and indulging in the little, inconsequential secrets that he didn’t know at the time.

“Yep.” Right as Shui Qianheng was about to nod though, he suddenly paused for a second before breaking into an expression of remembrance. “Actually, I’ve misspoken. Now that I really thought about it, there was a time she vanished somewhere in the middle.”

Yun Che’s eyebrows twitched, but he retained his casual expression and asked, “She did? Where to, and for how long?”

Shui Qianheng tilted his head slightly before answering, “I don’t exactly remember because I was busy laying down the isolation barriers back then, but it couldn’t have been more than half a quarter of an hour though... when I asked her where she went, she ignored me like she hadn’t even heard my question. In fact, she probably hadn’t. You were the only thing in her head at the time.”

“I see.” Yun Che nodded.

“Why are you asking this suddenly?” Shui Qianheng asked. “Is this somehow related to that ‘difficult conundrum’ you speak of?”

“It is just a casual question. You don’t need to overthink it, father-in-law,” Yun Che replied smilingly.

It was at this moment that the door opened to admit a pair of long, beautiful legs wearing a pair of jade shoes that shimmered a gemlike blue and the Glazed Light Fairy Dress. The room suddenly lit up, and Shui Yingyue’s extraordinarily beautiful countenance entered their view.

“You’ve returned, Yingyue,” Shui Qianheng greeted her smilingly.

Shui Yingyue gave her father a nod before looking at Yun Che. “What was your business with me, Emperor Yun?”

Both Shui Qianheng and Yun Che were caught off guard by the question. What business?

However, Shui Qianheng figured out what was going on immediately and kept silent.

A strange gleam also appeared in Yun Che’s eyes after his surprise had passed.

He rose to his feet and shot Shui Yingyue a smile. “I have something that I would like to speak with you alone. If you don’t mind—”

ALONE?

Shui Qianheng shot to his feet before Yun Che could get another word out and shouted, “I suddenly recall that I’ve forgotten to feed the rocks behind the mountain so I need to leave now before it’s too late no need to say goodbye have a nice chat!”

BANG!!

Shui Qianheng was gone right as he slammed the door shut. He even applied a sound isolation barrier for them.

Yun Che: “...”

Shui Yingyue: “...”

Their surroundings turned silent. They stared at each other for a moment.

When it finally clicked in Shui Yingyue’s mind that they were locking gazes with each other, alone and in the same room, her heart immediately began to quicken a little. She forced herself to calm down and asked again, “So, what instructions do you have for me, Emperor Yun? Please, don’t hesitate to tell me.”

“No—excuse me, I mean no, it’s not an instruction.”

Surprisingly, the usually unflappable Emperor Yun looked a bit nervous.

“I just wanted to ask about... you know... last time?”

His stuttering words and slightly shifty gaze were all clear signs that he was nervous. It immediately chipped away at Shui Yingyue’s own calm.

“What mother-in-law said last time... what... what are your thoughts about it?”

Yun Che then stared straight into Shui Yingyue’s eyes as if finishing those words had finally freed him from his nervousness.

What he said and his piercing gaze caused Shui Yingyue’s heart to skip a beat. Her own eyes became as shifty as Yun Che’s were earlier.

She obviously knew what he meant.

It was impossible not to when Cheng Wanxiao couldn’t speak three sentences without bringing it up every time Yun Che visited.

In fact, it was starting to look like she would nag them both for the rest of her life unless they did exactly as she wished.

“Mother has lectured me on many things. I’m... not sure what you’re referring to, Emperor Yun.” At this point, Shui Yingyue couldn’t even claim that her reactions were natural anymore. “Please clarify, Emperor Yun.”

“...” Yun Che looked a bit disappointed, but the corners of his lips quickly curled into a smirk. Then, both his gaze and his words grew invasive. “Do you really not understand what I’m talking about?”

While speaking, he stepped closer and closer to Shui Yingyue.

They were standing very close to each other to begin with. Shui Yingyue was unable to react in time before Yun Che had gotten right in front of her.

She opened her lips to say something... but his manly scent right at the tip of her nose robbed her of whatever words she was going to say.

She was one of the Four God Children of the Eastern Divine Region before she became the Glazed Light Realm King. Some time after that, she even became the older sister-in-law of Emperor Yun himself. There had never been an unglamorous moment in Shui Yingyue’s life. One might even say that she was currently enjoying some of the highest positions available in the God Realm right now.

However, she was as pure as a piece of blank paper in regards to romance.

She had no idea how to react in this situation, much less deal with it accordingly.

She was as powerless as a baby rabbit under Yun Che’s shadow, aura and gaze.

Her back suddenly hit something hard. She had no idea that she had backed herself into a corner until then.

“Very well. If you won’t say it, then I will.”

The soft, gentle voice felt like a tangible thing playing away at her heartstrings. It was only now Shui Yingyue realized that his eyes were just inches away from her, and his breath was almost brushing against her cheeks.

“You...”

If he was anyone else, she would’ve stabbed them with the Jade Rivulet Sword before they even came within ten steps of her.

But he was Yun Che, and his aura, his eyes, his... everything about him tore away at her resistances and invaded her soul itself.

She was scared when he said “if you won’t say it, then I will”, but she couldn’t deny feeling a great deal of expectation as well. However, instead of saying the words, his lips kept moving ever closer to her own...

Her brain lost the ability to think. She couldn't muster even the slightest bit of resistance in her body. She somehow managed to turn her head slightly to one side, but what did it matter? Her heartbeat was rocketing off the charts, and her eyes closed involuntarily when her senses became too much to bear.

It was at this moment a purple gleam suddenly shone in his warm eyes.

It slipped right through Shui Yingyue's glabella and into her soul.

It was the Profound Handle Soul Search!

Shui Yingyue immediately froze like a statue. Her shut eyes slowly opened, but there was none of the radiance from a moment ago.

Not wasting even a second, Yun Che asked as quickly as he could, "Seven years ago, on the day the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor left the Primal Chaos, was Meiyin guarding me the whole time I was unconscious in the Glazed Light Realm?"

The soul of a Divine Master was immeasurably powerful. Although Yun Che's profound energy and soul energy were absolutely superior to Shui Yingyue's, there was still no way he could've soul-searched her normally.

That was why he had employed this most despicable method.

Shui Yingyue wasn't guarded against him to begin with, and the moves he put on her had put her in one of, if not the most disarrayed, positions she had been in in her life... That was why the profound art had ultimately succeeded.

Even so, he only had an extremely short amount of time to question her before she broke free.

Shui Yingyue opened her mouth and answered in a wooden tone, "Meiyin... was guarding you... the whole time."

"She never left my side for even an instant, did she?" Yun Che asked again.

Shui Yingyue's pupils started trembling unnaturally. Her soul was already starting to struggle against the profound art. "Not... even... an instant."

The answer froze Yun Che's expression completely.

Lying was impossible while the Profound Handle Soul Search was active.

"..." A very short pause later, his mind clinging onto the last straw of hope like his very life depended on it, he asked one last question in a weak voice, "Did Meiyin ask you and your father... to answer that she was gone for a short moment... if there came a day I asked you this specific question?"

The struggle in Shui Yingyue's eyes were reaching a breaking point, but she still managed to squeeze out a slightly garbled, "Yes."

"..." Yun Che's mind dissolved into white thunder.

"Gg... ah!!"

Shui Yingyue finally broke out of the trance.

Leaning against the wall and pressing a hand to her forehead, she stared at Yun Che in panic and asked, "What... what did you do to me?"

"..." He didn't give her an answer.

Eyes unfocused and complexion deathly pale, he turned away and slowly made toward the exit with stiff, powerless footsteps.

He looked like a soulless zombie.

Chapter 1912: The Lie

"I'm back, sister!"

"Eh?"

Shui Meiyin noticed that the atmosphere was off the second she descended outside the room.

Shui Yingyue was frowning deeply, and her aura exuded deep disturbance. Shui Qianheng was standing next to her with a serious expression on his face as well.

Yun Che was nowhere to be seen.

"What happened?" Shui Meiyin asked as a bad feeling rose in her heart.

"I'm the one who should be asking you that." Shui Yingyue exhaled slowly. "What happened to Yun Che?"

Shui Meiyin strode forward and caught Shui Yingyue's sleeve. "You first, sister! What happened?"

It was because Shui Yingyue's expression was a mixture of puzzlement, worry and indignation.

"He... he used a most despicable method to confuse me before taking temporary control of my soul using a strange method. Then, he asked me a couple of questions."

"... !!" Shui Meiyin's heart sank.

"What... what question?" Her voice grew a tad weaker.

Shui Yingyue's soul was powerful, so she was able to recall the short period she had lost her senses perfectly after calming down. "He asked me that question you repeatedly reminded us to prepare for in the past two years... about whether you had left his side while he was unconscious."

Shui Meiyin's lips quivered visibly.

"And... how... did you answer him?" Shui Meiyin asked a bit dazedly.

She knew about Yun Che's Profound Handle Soul Search, and she knew that the affected person couldn't lie while they were under the effect.

"The truth... that you never left," Shui Yingyue replied. "He also asked if you told us how to answer in case he brought up that question, and I answered yes."

Shui Meiyin: "..."

“He asked me the same question before,” Shui Qianheng said seriously. “I remembered what you said to me and told him that there was a time you had temporarily left his side... but it looks like he didn’t believe me.”

“Meiyin,” Shui Qianheng asked solemnly despite his daughter’s increasingly pale complexion, “Can you still not tell us what these questions are about? Yingyue had said that he looked like he had lost his soul when he left the room... and I can hardly believe there’s anything left in this world that can affect him like that.”

“...” Shui Meiyin moved her lips, but it took her a while to finally exhale her next question, “Did he... did he ask if I left before he was delivered to the Glazed Light Realm?”

“No,” Shui Yingyue answered without hesitation.

However, Shui Meiyin’s face grew even whiter.

“I understand... I’ll go look for him. Don’t come after us.”

Shui Meiyin left the room after those parting words. She looked exactly the same as Yun Che had.

For a long time, Shui Qianheng and Shui Yingyue could only exchange silent glances with each other.

.....

Beneath a tall, dry, ancient and wilted tree, Yun Che sat quietly while gazing into the distance.

A couple of dead leaves would occasionally fall on top of his head, but they were instantly blown away or crushed to pieces by his chaotic aura.

Shui Meiyin bit her lips as she slowly walked toward him. Her footsteps sounded unsettling on the thick, dead leaves.

After she arrived next to him, she stared at one side of his face and called out silently, “Big Brother... Yun Che.”

Yun Che didn’t turn his head to face her. He continued staring forward as he began in a hoarse voice, “You provided a proper explanation to all of my doubts and contradictions. You tried to make a vicious oath to convince me of your words, and your final explanation is something that I cannot refute even now.”

“But even so, I wasn’t able to convince myself... Do you know why?”

“It’s because everything we had talked about up to this point falls under suspicion or possibility... except one. I knew for certain that you lied to me about that one thing.”

“...” Shui Meiyin bit her lips even harder. She knew what Yun Che was talking about, and she had in fact worked to fix that flaw in her lie a long time ago. In the end though, it wasn’t...

Yun Che continued, “Back when you were explaining everything to me, you told me in no uncertain terms that you had teleported the Blue Pole Star to the Southern Divine Region after the news of my transformation into a devil person and the subsequent manhunt was spread throughout the Primal Chaos... after that, an unconscious me was delivered to the Glazed Light Realm.”

“However, I knew that the Blue Pole Star couldn’t have been teleported to the Southern Divine Region during that time.”

“I... I...” Shui Meiyin sounded like she was about to cry, but she knew that no amount of explanation would be enough at this point.

“Wuxin had engraved that scene with the Eternal Imagery Stone at Floating Cloud City,” Yun Che said with absolute certainty. He couldn’t mistake his own hometown. “As the small city of a lower realm, Floating Cloud City follows an incredibly strict and rapid day-night cycle.”

“The Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor was the one who chose her own time to leave, and she informed me about it very quickly. If I were to translate that time to Profound Sky Continent time, it should be in the Zi Hours (between 11 pm to 1 am), in other words during the night at Floating Cloud City.”

“I was betrayed the moment the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor left the Primal Chaos. The Void Illusion Stone Qianying used to knock me out then teleported me to where Luo Changsheng and Huo Poyun were.”

“Thanks to Wuyao’s Soul Stealing, I was able to read the memories the Sword Sovereign had sealed away in Luo Changsheng’s mind. It was how I knew that I was saved by Huo Poyun. I also knew the exact time and star realm where they had encountered me.”

“At full speed, it would only take Huo Poyun two hours or so to deliver me from that star realm to the Glazed Light Realm.”

“The Profound Sky Continent would have just entered the Chou Hours (between 1 am to 3 am) by then. Even if Huo Poyun, for whatever reason, only traveled at half his top speed and took four whole hours to deliver me to Glazed Light Realm, it still wouldn’t be daytime at Floating Cloud City.”

“If you had teleported the Blue Pole Star before I was delivered to the Glazed Light Realm, then the phenomenon Wuxin engraved should’ve happened at night.”

“However, the Eternal Imagery Stone made it clear that it had happened... during the daytime.”

The purple flash, the soul-imbued barrier, the Illusory Glazed Light Jades... he could’ve hypnotized himself to believe all of her explanations...

But this one confirmed lie... was enough to destroy everything.

Shui Meiyin’s lip was almost bleeding at this point, but she still didn’t refute a single word. She couldn’t.

Even if she could convince herself to lie and say, “Who knows, maybe Huo Poyun did take four to six hours to make it to the Glazed Light Realm, and he took a nap somewhere in the middle?” it would only take Yun Che a bit of effort to confirm the time he was delivered to the Glazed Light Realm.

Shui Qianheng knew about it, Shui Yingyue knew about it, Huo Poyun knew about it... if Yun Che put his mind to it, he could even confirm the exact instant he had arrived in the Glazed Light Realm.

“On my way here, I told myself again and again it was just a slip of the tongue or a misremembered memory... that you had teleported the Blue Pole Star after I arrived in the Glazed Light Realm.”

“In order to prove that my impossibly flimsy theory was true, I even asked for confirmation from your father... and he gave me the answer I wanted. He told me that you had left for a short period when I was unconscious.”

“However...” Yun Che closed his eyes and slowed his voice. “My Meiyin is such an incredibly smart and scrupulous girl. You may not know a thing about the Profound Sky Continent back then, but you have visited it enough for the past two years to become familiar with its various characteristics and features. You would’ve found out that its day-night cycle, weather, seasonal changes and more were almost exactly identical to when it was still in the Eastern Divine Region.”

“You wouldn’t grow complacent either. That secret you buried in your heart would never allow you to do so.”

“It was a matter of time before a smart girl like you realized the flaw in your lie. When the phenomenon had happened, practically everyone in Floating Sky City could confirm that it had happened during the daytime... when you compared it to the time you had supposedly performed the feat though, you realized that it should’ve been nighttime in Floating Cloud City.”

“It would be difficult for you to explain yourself if one day for whatever reason, I found out about this.”

“The possibility was very low, but you’re not someone who would let something like this go without trying to fix it. You began thinking of a way to fix your lie. Perhaps you could say that you misspoke, and that you really teleported the Blue Pole Star while I was unconscious? Perhaps you even spoke with your father and your sister so that they would corroborate your lie?”

“That is why I didn’t believe your father’s answer immediately. When I was alone with your sister, I used the Profound Handle Soul Search to ensure that the answer I got would be the absolute truth.”

Shui Meiyin already knew what had happened after that.

When Shui Meiyin had told the “truth” to Yun Che, she had purposely mentioned that she had teleported the Blue Pole Star to the Southern Divine Region before he was delivered to the Glazed Light Realm to cover this up... it was because she knew that she hadn’t taken a single step away from Yun Che during the period he was unconscious. Both Shui Qianheng and Shui Yingyue could attest to that.

She never imagined that it would become the biggest flaw in her lie.

No, thanks to Yun Che’s Profound Handle Soul Search, even her attempts to fix that flaw had become ironclad proof that she had lied.

“The Blue Pole Star couldn’t possibly have been teleported before I was delivered to the Glaze Light Realm... but when I was unconscious in the Glazed Light Realm, you didn’t take a single step away from me... not only that, you expressly told your father and sister to lie in case I asked...”

Yun Che had to take a moment to calm his breathing. “As matters stand... are you still going to lie to me, Meiyin?”

Shui Meiyin slowly sat down beside Yun Che and hugged his arm. From time to time, her thin shoulders would shake as if she was sobbing. She couldn’t say anything for a long time.

When she realized that the lie encompassing her older sister, her father and herself had been revealed, she knew then... that she could no longer even feign ignorance.

Yun Che finally turned toward her and placed both hands on her shoulders. "Tell me. The person whom the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor gave the World Piercer and the World-Defying Heaven Manual... it was Xia Qingyue... right? Tell me!"

Afraid to meet his eyes, Shui Meiyin shook her head strongly before saying in a near-begging voice, "Can you stop your questions here, Big Brother Yun Che? Please... just treat all of this as a dream... and believe that she is still that vile woman who wanted to hurt and kill you... please..."

"Kill me... hurt me..." Yun Che's voice started shaking, his expression growing more and more painful. "But she's Qingyue... how could she do either of those things...?"

He still remembered the two times Xia Qingyue had tried to kill him. The first time had happened in front of the Wall of Primal Chaos, and the second time had happened outside the "destroyed" Blue Pole Star. Both times, she had done something odd.

She had summoned the Purple Pylon Divine Sword and wreathed it in an extraordinary amount of Purple Pylon divine power.

Xia Qingyue was the almighty Moon God Emperor at the time, and he was just a lowly Divine King. If Xia Qingyue had really wanted to kill him, forget the Purple Pylon Divine Sword or the absurd amount of power she had summoned, she could've done it with the merest flick of a finger.

At the time, everyone thought that it was just Xia Qingyue showing everyone just how resolved she was at slaying a devil person and cutting ties with Yun Che.

All of them, including himself, believed that she wanted to kill him with the most ruthless power she was able to wield and leave not even a speck of him behind.

However...

If she was the master of the World Piercer...

If she had unleashed the terrific Purple Pylon divine power to hide the World Piercer's crimson glow...

If she had planned to send him away with the World Piercer right before the purple power of the Purple Pylon Divine Sword struck...!

The World Piercer's spatial teleportation was seamless and leaves no traces behind. With the Purple Pylon divine power as cover, no one would suspect that the vanished Yun Che had really been teleported to the Northern Divine Region.

While everyone thought that he was dead, he would be able to grow in secret and without hindrance.

He recalled the words she had said during the two times she had tried to "kill" him, and they now took on a completely different meaning:

.....

“Yun Che, I admit that I am partly responsible for this situation you’re in, but you are a devil person. You understand why I have to be merciless, don’t you? But don’t worry, we were husband and wife. I promise to annihilate you completely!”

“Think on what you should do after you’ve reached the underworld!”

.....

“Will you turn into a crying wraith, or a vengeful devil god in the hell of the afterlife?... I very much look forward to that day. Now... die!”

.....

At the time, he only felt pain and hatred toward her cold, ruthless words.

Moreover, both of her “murder” attempts had been thwarted right before they could be fulfilled.

The first time, the enslaved Qianye Ying’er had teleported him away with the Void Illusion Stone.

The second time, the concealed Mu Xuanyin had interrupted her.

“Tell me, tell me now... it was her, wasn’t it?” Yun Che’s tone was starting to turn hysterical. “She was the master of the World Piercer... She was the one who engraved the Illusory Glazed Light Jades... She was the one who teleported the Blue Pole Star... It was her... it was all her, right?”

“I...” Shui Meiyin shook her head repeatedly even as tears started falling off her cheeks. “Please... please don’t ask me any more... I can’t... I can’t say it... I...”

Why did this projection have to appear after the dust had settled... and why did it have to capture the Purple Pylon divine light of all things!?

For the longest time, Xia Qingyue had been a nightmare that Yun Che had refused to even think about.

In a twist of irony, the very same nightmare had given birth to an unprecedented level of obsession and the need to discover the truth when Yun Che saw the projection. It had exposed even the flaws that couldn’t be considered flaws in her lies completely, much less the actual flaw...

Worst of all, everything was collapsing faster, fiercer and more irreversibly than even the worst case scenario she had imagined.

Chapter 1913: The Truth (1)

“Tell me, Meiyin... the World Piercer is in your hands, so you are the only one who knows everything. You must tell me!”

Yun Che was mustering his full willpower to control his emotions. On the day he was crowned the great emperor of the four divine regions, he even believed that there was nothing in the world that could crack his mind anymore.

In reality, his control was already on the verge of being overwhelmed by the unending tidal wave of emotions.

“...” A bead of scarlet blood finally appeared on Shui Meiyin’s lip.

She looked down and answered in a difficult and pained voice, "If... she was the one who did everything... there's no reason... why she wouldn't tell you anything after you returned... So please, Big Brother Yun Che... please don't force yourself to believe the fiction anymore..."

"You're the one who's forcing me and yourself to believe in it!"

Despite having lost any ability to defend herself, Shui Meiyin still stubbornly resisted admitting the truth for some reason. It made Yun Che even more frustrated as he growled out uncontrollably, "Everything was a lie! Even the flimsy theories I thought up to support your lies were lies, so why are you denying it still!? What are you hiding! Why won't you tell me even after we've come this far!?!"

"..." Shui Meiyin didn't give a reply. She simply shivered even harder, almost as if she was submerged in an icy, hellishly cold pond.

"...!" Suddenly, Yun Che realized something and pulled his hands away from Shui Meiyin's shoulders in a hurry. His eyes trembled at what he saw.

He had lost control of his profound energy during the outburst. As a result, the fabric where he had grabbed her was shredded, and her snow white skin was covered in finger-shaped bruise marks.

For a time, Yun Che's hands were frozen in the air. Then, light profound energy seeped out from his fingers, enveloped Shui Meiyin's shoulders and slowly removed the bruise marks.

Drip...

Drip...

Drip...

Physically, the teardrops dripping on his knees were warm and soundless. But mentally, Yun Che felt like his heart was being gouged out with every drip.

For the past few years, Shui Meiyin had become a crybaby.

He recalled the time Shui Meiyin broke down suddenly and cried for a long time into his chest after he had informed her of Xia Qingyue's demise.

She had told him that it was tears of joy and elation, but he should've realized sooner that such wouldn't sound so broken-hearted.

During the three years they cultivated in the Eternal Heaven Divine Realm, he had occasionally woken from his meditation to find Shui Meiyin staring at nothing in particular with tear streaks on her cheeks.

She had smiled at him and explained again that she was crying out of sheer happiness. Days like those felt like a dream considering how dire the circumstances had been back then.

Even when they were enjoying moments that should be heartwarming and relaxing on the Blue Pole Star, her eyes would occasionally tear up for seemingly no reason whatsoever.

"My Meiyin is forever fifteen years old" ... It was a half-joke he had cracked countless times to Shui Meiyin because she had become way too prone to crying for the past couple of years.

It was only now that he realized that it wasn't without a reason after all.

Perhaps every drop of tears she shed was a drop of sorrow and pain she had failed to lock inside her heart.

"I'm sorry, Meiyin." He placed his hands on her shoulders again, but this time his movements were gentle, and his voice much softer than before. "That was a most ugly outburst from me. I thought I had grown strong enough to face anything, but it looks like I was fooling myself again."

"But the truth of this matter is just too important for me to let go of... can you please, please tell me?"

However, her head remained bowed, and her tears kept dripping like they were never-ending. Had her eyes been visible, Yun Che would've realized that they were fully dyed by grayish despair. For the owner of the Divine Stainless Soul, it was almost unthinkable.

"I can't... I can't..." She kept muttering seemingly more to herself than Yun Che. Her voice had lost its melodious quality and become wooden out of sheer pain. "I promised her... it was her... final wish..."

"So I cannot... I cannot..."

Promise...

Final wish...

Wish!?

"Meiyin, listen to me. Look me in the eye and listen to me."

Yun Che very gently cupped her tear-stained cheeks and lifted her head. "I know you've made some sort of promise with her. You probably promised that you will keep all of her secrets until the end, and the fact is you've done very well until now. You haven't leaked even a single word throughout these years."

"Lying to someone close to you is a painful thing, and you had to make up lie after lie in order to keep your promise with her... You've already done the absolute best anyone could possibly hope to do."

"It was a combination of pure luck and my existing suspicions that unearthed these truths. You've never tried to reveal them of your own accord, and you did everything in your power to keep them under wraps until the end. If you confess everything now, it is simply because it is the inevitable outcome after I found out. You are in no way breaking your promise to her or letting her down."

Yun Che's words unsettled the dark despair in Shui Meiyin's eyes a little.

There was not a flicker of blame in his eyes despite all of the lies she said to him, only deep love and pain for everything she had gone through. His voice grew even softer and he said, "Not only are you shouldering all of the secrets and truths on your own, you knew everything she did but could only watch the world slight, shame, belittle and ridicule her. You were even forced to watch me hate and resent her so much that I refused to even hear her name from anyone's mouth..."

"It must have been painful, wasn't it?"

His words drove into the innermost depths of her soul with the strength of a hammer. The shivering in her pupils and across her body abruptly grew many times more intense than before.

“Have you forgotten?” Yun Che’s lips curled into a very soft, very gentle smile. “We are longer who we were back then. We are now husband and wife, and as husband and wife, we are supposed to shoulder the happy things, the sad things, the heavy things, and even the sinful things together, right?”

“So, please, tell me the truth. Would you rather keep your silence, watch me continue on with my life like a soulless zombie, and leave her name blackened by the world despite everything she has done for it behind the scenes. Or would you rather confess everything to me?”

The darkness in her eyes shook harder and harder until finally...

“Uu... Ss...”

At some point, the darkness in her eyes finally shattered into countless tears that looked like beautiful yet sorrowful crystals.

“Uu... uuu... uuuahhhhhh!”

Her heart, emotion and her tears reached their breaking point all at the same time. She clung to Yun Che and cried her heart out.

For the past few years, every smile she made was accompanied by a prick to the soul. Every time it happened, it would hurt her heart so bad that it took her forever just to recover her breath.

“It was her... it was sister Qingyue... it was her World Piercer... it was her... Uu... uuaahhhh...”

She finally cried out that name.

She finally didn’t need to shoulder everything on her own any longer.

She cried as if the ten thousand mountains she had held inside her heart had toppled all at once. She screamed as if she was trying to vent all the pain, suffocation and torture she had endured for the past couple of years...

It would be a long time before she was able to form even one coherent word.

Yun Che hugged her, closed his own eyes and gritted his teeth tightly.

He already knew it was true before Shui Meiyin said it, but to hear it from Shui Meiyin herself still shattered his world like never before.

.....

Somewhere in the sky, Mu Xuanyin’s breathing was unusually out of control.

If Yun Che himself wasn’t a hundred times more disarrayed than she currently was, he would’ve noticed her existence already.

Although she had promised to leave him alone, her worry ultimately triumphed over the resolution.

Not in a million years was she expecting to hear such a shocking truth.

If Yun Che was the most wounded and disbelieving when Xia Qingyue had dealt him the greatest betrayal of his life, she and Chi Wuyao would be the second.

Chi Wuyao in particular still couldn't let go even though it had been many years since Xia Qingyue had passed away.

"Devil Queen," she murmured to herself, "your assessment of her character wasn't your biggest mistake in life after all..."

.....

"... do you remember that time where the world somehow learned that it was the Glazed Light Realm who had concealed you for a day? Not long after that, Sister Qingyue showed up to personally cripple my father's profound veins and imprison me in the Moon God Realm."

After Shui Meiyin finally calmed down, she began telling her story. Her eyes were completely red at this point, and there were still bits of tears clinging to her eyelashes.

"Father, sister and I had known that it was only a matter of time before people found out about it, and we had all resolved ourselves to our inevitable fate. However, the leak still happened sooner than we expected. It was because Sister Qingyue was the one who had leaked it on purpose."

"... I thought so." Now that he knew the most crucial truth, many things started to take on a whole new outlook in his mind.

"If the other king realms—especially the Brahma Monarch Realm—had discovered this first, the consequences might've been much more severe and unpredictable. So, she eliminated this possibility by exposing the truth herself and leaking it to the Eternal Heaven Realm first. After Zhou Xuze had traveled to the Glazed Light Realm, she severely injured father, crippled his profound veins, and announced that she would imprison me in the Moon God Realm for a thousand years right to his face."

Shui Qianheng was the realm king of one of the three strongest upper star realms in the Eastern Divine Region. It was one thing to injure him severely, and another to cripple his profound veins permanently. The latter was among the cruelest of punishments that could happen to a profound practitioner.

Moreover, Shui Qianheng was the central pillar of his star realm at the time. To cripple him was to deal a terrible blow not just to the Glazed Light Realm, but the Eastern Divine Region itself.

It was such a harsh punishment that even Zhou Xuze had tried to beg for clemency on behalf of the Glazed Light Realm.

Everyone in the Eastern Divine Region knew that Zhou Xuze adored Shui Meiyin and had tried really hard to recruit her to be his disciple a long time ago. However, he couldn't request Shui Meiyin to be imprisoned in the Eternal Heaven God Realm instead because the world would only think that he was protecting her. So begging for clemency was all he could do.

Even so, Xia Qingyue stayed her course and dealt out the punishment that could only be described as cruel and bone-chilling. That was the point. If the punishment was light, the Brahma Monarch Realm would be able to call her out and attempt to wrestle the right to punish the Glazed Light Realm away from her. As it was, no one could even attempt to intervene in the matter.

At the same time, anyone who wished to exploit Shui Meiyin's Divine Stainless Soul while the Glazed Light Realm was down would have to face the Moon God Emperor first.

“On the surface, it looked like a harsh punishment. In reality, it protected both me and the Glazed Light Realm.” Shui Meiyin sniffled. “She told me that Big Brother Yun Che... would surely be able to heal father’s profound veins after you came back.”

“And she was right.” Her tears started falling against her will again as she looked up. “Father is completely healed, and I only wish that I could’ve told her about the news in person.”

Yun Che asked quietly, “She told you... everything after she took you to the Moon God Realm, right?”

“Mn!” Shui Meiyin nodded. “She purposely spread the news of the harsh punishment not just to protect the Glazed Light Realm, but also to keep anyone from claiming ignorance and trying something while she was taking me to the Moon God Realm.”

“After that, at the bottommost Moon Prison of the Moon God Realm, she showed me the World Piercer and told me... everything.”

Yun Che’s breath caught in his throat.

Chapter 1914: The Truth (2)

“Most of the things you guessed are correct except for a couple details here and there, Big Brother Yun Che. For starters, Sister Qingyue did engrave the recordings in the four Illusory Glazed Light Jades, but she was using the Hidden Moon Floating Image Pearls when she performed the act.”

Yun Che wasn’t surprised by this at all. “They’re similar to the Illusory Glazed Light Jades in that they can record something without being detected, right?”

The recordings were transferred to the Illusory Glazed Light Jades later on to create the illusion that Shui Meiyin was the one who engraved them.

“In terms of the ability to avoid detection, the Hidden Moon Floating Image Pearl is actually inferior to the Glazed Light Realm’s Illusory Glazed Light Jade. However, she was the Moon God Emperor, and the aura leaking out of the Hidden Moon Floating Image Pearl when it was recording could be subsumed perfectly by her own Moon God aura. For her at least, the Hidden Moon Floating Image Pearl was definitely more undetectable than the Illusory Glazed Light Jade.”

“Also, she engraved five recordings in total instead of four.”

“Five... it’s the day the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor left the Primal Chaos, right?” Yun Che leaned forward with an obvious note of urgency in his voice.

“Mn.” Shui Meiyin nodded. “However... I wasn’t present on the day the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor left, so the recording was unusable.”

“Do you have it with you?” Yun Che’s voice grew even more urgent.

The recording was of course useless to them now, but it might’ve been preserved for some other purposes.

The recording was made by Xia Qingyue, so of course she wouldn’t appear in the scenes. Her voice though? That should definitely be in the recording.

Even her voice would be better than nothing...

However, Shui Meiyin shook her head lightly before replying, "Sister Qingyue... destroyed it."

"..." Yun Che's eyes immediately became filled with disappointment.

"All of the recordings that were copied into the Illusory Glazed Light Jades were processed by Sister Qingyue herself. She made sure to wipe out every scene with me in it, her own voice, and anything else that may expose the deception."

"Then, she destroyed all five Hidden Moon Floating Image Pearls... she didn't want to leave even the tiniest trace behind."

This meant that Xia Qingyue had decided as soon as that point in time to transfer all of her achievements to Shui Meiyin.

Yun Che desperately needed to know why she was even doing all this, but he forced himself to calm down and let Shui Meiyin continue at her own pace. He didn't want to miss even a single word.

"I knew how useful these recordings would be for Big Brother Yun Che. If they were revealed to the public at a suitable time, they would help you tremendously be it in terms of reason, standpoint or morale."

"I immediately asked her why she made all these preparations or went so far as to use the precious Hidden Moon Floating Image Pearls to record these moments. I asked her if she noticed some signs that hinted at the tragedy long before it happened."

Back then, the explanation Shui Meiyin gave him was that her Divine Stainless Soul had warned her about some sort of future danger. That was why she had recorded those moments.

The real reason, or rather Qingyue's reason was...

"She told me it was because the you at the time worried her too much."

"..." A shiver rippled across Yun Che's eyes.

"She had expected you to return to your usual sharpness after dying in the Star God Realm and being reborn, but not only was that not the case, you became softer than ever before. Bad enough that your killing intent didn't grow, your edge actually even became duller after the experience."

Yun Che: "..."

"Later on, she found out that you weren't just reborn on the Blue Pole Star, but you also found Sister Yuechan and the daughter you'd lost for more than a decade."

"When you had lost all of your profound energy and returned to being a cripple, it was your daughter, Wuxin, who sacrificed her own Heretic God talent to revive it..."

"As a result, you became pious toward the heavens, grateful toward fate, hopeful toward the future, and filled with the desire to accompany your daughter and make up for lost time... However, it came at the cost of the one thing you needed the most: your ambition."

“As the successor of the Heretic God and the owner of many precious treasures, complacency is the worst state you can be in.”

“...” There were many times Yun Che’s lips had parted as if he wanted to say something. However, he forced them shut because he didn’t want to interrupt Shui Meiyin.

In fact, Xia Qingyue had directly or indirectly mentioned this to him many, many times in the past.

“Did your heart become soft because of your daughter?” she had once said with a hidden sigh in her voice.

Shui Meiyin continued, “Not long after that, the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor broke into the Primal Chaos, but you were able to quell her fury and gain a patron like nothing the universe has ever seen. All of the realm kings and god emperors thanked you for your deeds and worshipped you as the God Child Messiah...”

“Not only that, you found Jasmine again with the power of the Evil Infant’s Wheel of Myriad Tribulations inside of her. It both filled another hole in your life and net you another powerful patron.”

“However, Sister Qingyue said that these were all meaningless because they are ultimately not your own strength. Worse still... their presence completely removed the last vestiges of ambition and sense of crisis inside of you.”

Yun Che remembered this clearly as well. At the time, all he thought about was the peaceful life he was going to lead after he returned to the Blue Pole Star with Jasmine. He had thought that his achievements as the “God Child Messiah” and the promise made to him by the Eternal Heaven God Emperor himself were enough to secure his safety.

It wasn’t completely a false misconception. Everyone already knew that he was the Heretic God’s successor and the owner of the Sky Poison Pearl. After the Crimson Calamity, the god emperors and realm kings had also treated him with the greatest reverence. In terms of status at least, he was elevated to their equal or higher.

He was the one and only bearer of a Creation God’s inheritance. It didn’t take a brain to know that it was only a matter of time before he surpassed absolutely everyone in the Primal Chaos.

And therein lay the greatest problem. He wasn’t the great emperor of the Primal Chaos yet at the time. He was just a Divine King.

Take himself for example. If one day he came to know of a greenhorn who would surpass him in reputation the moment their achievements were announced to the world, and would also surpass him in power if given the time to grow...

Even he would do everything in his power to remove them!

He had been oh-so-proud, satisfied, content, at peace with his current self and full of yearning for a bright future at the time... and what a childish, amusing and fragile mindset it was.

“You may have had Sister Jasmine to protect you after the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor was gone, but a god emperor’s ambition can never be predicted, and she had already noticed that Long Bai intended

to kill you at the time... Even if that wasn't the case, what if something happened to Sister Jasmine herself? Who could protect you or her if, say, she suddenly lost control of the Evil Infant one day?"

"If your power proved insufficient on the day it was needed, then Big Brother Yun Che wouldn't be the only one who'd suffer. The entire Blue Pole Star would suffer as well."

Shui Meiyin then stared into Yun Che's eyes and repeated exactly what Xia Qingyue had said to her back then:

"He was believing in, and yearning for, the beautiful future with everything he had. Therefore, I must plan and prepare for the worst case scenario as well."

"..." Yun Che gritted his teeth unconsciously. His fingers were clenched almost tight enough to crush his own knees.

"The true devils have never been the devil race which lives within the darkness. Instead, they exist within the depths of every living being's soul. Therefore, do not be so naive as to expect your kindness to be repaid in turn and never ever underestimate the depths that people can stoop to."

Shui Meiyin paused for a brief moment before continuing, "Big Brother Yun Che, I told you that it was the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor who said this to me, but... it was really Sister Qingyue."

"... continue." His teeth were still clenching completely against his will. He had to take a moment to adjust his breathing before he finally squeezed out the word.

"After Sister Qingyue obtained the World Piercer from the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor and gained full control over it, she began looking for a planet that could act as the Blue Pole Star's substitute... at the time, neither the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor nor sister Jasmine had left yet."

That was obvious. It had to have taken Xia Qingyue an incredible amount of time to find an inhabited planet that was nearly identical to the Blue Pole Star both in terms of aura and appearance.

At the time, he was looking forward to a peaceful future.

Having no idea that someone was wordlessly doing everything in her power to fill up the abyss that was right beneath his feet.

Yes, the chance of the ground he was standing on collapsing was very small.

But she did it anyway because... deeper than even the abyss was her love for him.

At this point, his fingers had become completely bloodless.

And after all that she had done for me, I killed her...

I... killed... her...

"When did the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor... give Qingyue the World Piercer?" Yun Che asked in the calmest voice he could manage while withholding a pain that felt like it was about to drill out of his chest.

Shui Meiyin answered without hesitation, "Sister Qingyue said that it was the day you implanted the slave imprint in Sister Qianying."

Yun Che exclaimed in shock, "That day...?"

There was no one Xia Qingyue hated more than Qianye Ying'er.

Even before she fell into the Abyss of Nothingness, she had tried everything in her power to kill Qianye Ying'er.

That year, she had driven Qianye Fantian into a corner and forced Qianye Ying'er to submit to her. But despite hating the woman to the bone, and wanting to kill her with her own hands, she had forced her to become Yun Che's slave instead.

Today, Yun Che understood that it wasn't just because she wanted to humiliate Qianye Ying'er. It was another one of her measures to protect him... even though she wanted so bad to kill her with her own hands.

"Not long after you planted the slave imprint in Sister Qianying and left the Moon God Realm, the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor herself sought out Sister Qingyue and gave her both the World Piercer and the World-Defying Heaven Manual."

"Why did she do that?" Yun Che asked, "Was it simply because Qingyue could control the World Piercer?"

In terms of the ability to pilot the World Piercer alone, Shui Meiyin's Divine Stainless Soul was actually much better than Xia Qingyue's Heart of Snow Glazed Glass.

Also, why did she give Xia Qingyue the World-Defying Heaven Manual when she could've just given it to him directly?"

However, Shui Meiyin shook her head and said, "Sister Qingyue didn't tell me why. She said that it was a secret that mustn't be spoken, and that the contents would eternally remain between herself... and the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor."

Yun Che: "..."

The Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor had left the Primal Chaos, and Xia Qingyue had fallen into the Abyss of Nothingness... so this was one thing he would never know.

"Despite everything she had prepared, Sister Qingyue wanted nothing more than to be proven wrong. She wanted it to be proven that she was just being overly worried and pessimistic..."

"However, Sister Jasmine was attacked from behind the moment the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor left the Primal Chaos, and the worst case scenario she imagined happened faster than she could possibly react to. Even worse, your dark profound energy was exposed as well."

"At the time, almost everyone was standing against you."

“Sister Qingyue could’ve escaped with you using the World Piercer... but she would reveal the fact that she owned a Heavenly Profound Treasure, the entire Moon God Realm would go down with her, and you two would be hunted until the end of time.”

“So, Sister Qingyue did the best thing she could think of at the time. She joined your enemies, pretended to sever ties with you on account of you being a devil person, and attempted to ‘kill’ you in the most ruthless manner imaginable.”

“Hidden behind the Purple Pylon Divine Sword’s powerful light was none other than the World Piercer itself. She was planning to teleport you away seamlessly right before her power could kill you and create the illusion that you were utterly annihilated...”

“This way, the World Piercer wouldn’t be exposed, the Moon God Realm wouldn’t be implicated, and Big Brother Yun Che will be saved and free to grow as long as you liked because everyone would have thought that you were already dead.”

“Naturally, you would find out her intentions immediately after you were teleported to safety, and Sister Qingyue could find you just as quickly since she was the one who teleported you using the World Piercer.”

“That should’ve happened... if Sister Qianying hadn’t interrupted at the last possible moment.”

Chapter 1915: The Truth (3)

“Sister Qingyue searched for you for a very long time after you were sent away by Sister Qianying. After all, the Void Illusion Stone’s teleportation is completely random. She was terrified that you would fall into the hands of your enemies.”

“After eight to ten hours of fruitless searching, she finally gave up temporarily and teleported to the Blue Pole Star using the World Piercer. She first teleported the Blue Pole Star from the east of Eastern Divine Region to the south of the Southern Divine Region, then teleported the Sky Water Star from the southern of the Southern Divine Region to where the Blue Pole Star used to be.”

“The miraculous, planetary scale teleportation nearly exhausted all of Sister Qingyue’s strength, making it impossible for her to keep searching for you. Left with no choice, she teleported back to the Moon God Realm to recuperate. However, she didn’t get to rest long before the Eternal Heaven God Emperor announced the existence of the Blue Pole Star.”

Shui Meiyin sniffled again before adding, “You know what happened after that, Big Brother Yun Che.”

“...” Yun Che exhaled lightly. Yes, he knew everything that had happened afterward because he had experienced it personally... and yet he also knew nothing at all.

Shui Meiyin continued, “That fateful day seemed like it had happened naturally, but much of Sister Qingyue’s plans were hidden among them.”

“She knew that you would rush to the Blue Pole Star as soon as you heard that it was surrounded. She knew you would make it there in the shortest amount of time possible even though you knew you wouldn’t survive what awaited you.”

“You were also carrying the Vanishing Moon Celestial Palace she had given you back then. Again, she knew for certain that you would use it.”

“Therefore, Sister Qingyue took the fastest Moon God of Moon God Realm, the Golden Moon God Yue Wuji with her and rushed over.”

“Then, she used her unique status to persuade the god emperors to surrender control of you to whoever captures you first.”

“As expected, you soon appeared on the Vanishing Moon Celestial Palace. Since Sister Qingyue is the Moon God Emperor, she easily wrestled control of the structure from you.”

“While you were incapacitated, Yue Wuji captured you faster than anyone else just as Sister Qingyue planned. After that, she destroyed the Blue Pole Star in front of you.”

That wasn't true.

What she destroyed was Yun Che's weakness, softheartedness, attachments, naivety, goodness, hesitation and longing.

She had saved the entire Blue Pole Star without letting anyone know about it.

“After that, she attempted to ‘execute’ you just like the first time,” Shui Meiyin said quietly. “She wanted the entire world to think you were dead when you were really teleported somewhere else. In fact, she's decided to teleport you straight to the distant Northern Divine Region this time.”

“You would know that she really saved you after you appeared at the Northern Divine Region safe and sound, but that wouldn't nearly be enough to dispel your hatred toward her for having destroyed your home planet. With only vengeance left inside of you, she was certain that you would evolve and grow at the fastest speed possible.”

“Everything went exactly as Sister Qingyue hoped, and yet once again, she was...”

Mu Xuanyin had finally broken her concealment and stabbed Xia Qingyue right before the deed could be done.

He ultimately escaped, but Mu Xuanyin perished as a result.

“Was it fate?” Xia Qingyue had murmured with a sigh when she lowered the Purple Pylon Divine Sword powerlessly, and the hot remnants of the “Blue Pole Star” illuminated her features.

“After that, Sister Qingyue did many, many things in secret while awaiting the day you returned to the God Realm. Also—”

“Meiyin,” Yun Che finally broke his long standing silence because he could no longer suppress the burning urge to ask that question, “before that, tell me why she wasn't willing to tell me everything after she returned. Why... why did she choose to push everything on you!?”

He stared at Shui Meiyin's eyes with intense desire.

However, Shui Meiyin did the unthinkable and shook her head.

As if to confirm that he wasn't hallucinating, she mumbled in a powerless voice, "I don't know."

"... you don't know?" Yun Che's pupils dilated, and his voice grew impatient once more. "What do you mean you don't know?? You said she told you everything!"

Shui Meiyin simply shook her head again. She and Xia Qingyue saw each other quite frequently during her time inside the Moon Prison. She knew the whole truth much, much earlier than Yun Che, which was why the damned question that would never be answered had tormented her for just as long.

.....

At the bottom level of the Moon Prison of the Moon God Realm, Xia Qingyue placed the World Piercer in her hands so that she could nurture its slumbering spirit with her Divine Stainless Soul.

"... I know I'm being terribly selfish. I know I'm asking something terribly cruel of you, but you are literally the only person in the entire world whom I can ask this of."

"I don't understand. I don't understand at all." She shook her head in confusion. "If you're so certain that he will return and become the true king of the Primal Chaos, why don't you just tell him everything directly when you see him? I don't get why you want me to tell him that everything was my doing at all, I really don't."

"It's because I want him to hate me as deeply as the time I destroyed the Blue Pole Star in front of him," Xia Qingyue answered calmly. Her eyes looked as calm as a pair of moons. "Only by hating me will he remember me as the vile, ruthless woman who destroyed his home planet instead of his wife. Only then will I not become the eternal regret that will haunt him forever after I die."

"Die?" She shook her head again. "You are the Moon God Emperor. You are both incredibly smart and powerful. How can you die? Who can even kill you? I... I don't understand what you're saying at all."

"I cannot make you understand," Xia Qingyue said quietly. "All I can tell is that there are many things in this world that can never be defied."

"When he ascends to the peak, death will be my best choice and ending."

"..." She shook her head again. How could she not when she still didn't understand a single word of what she was hearing?

"You love him so much, Meiyin. You don't want him to spend the rest of his life regretting my passing, do you? I will die as an evil person, and he will obtain his vengeance and all the things he thought he lost... there is no better ending than this."

"We are husband and wife, and I dare say that I have fulfilled my wifely responsibilities to the best of my abilities."

"I have wronged you, but I'm sorry to say that I won't be able to repay your favor in this life. Perhaps in the next life..."

"The next life..." Xia Qingyue's voice suddenly paused, and she kept repeating these three words with unfocused, sorrowful eyes...

.....

After that, a soul connection slowly appeared between Shui Meiyin's Divine Stainless Soul and the World Piercer. She could immediately become the World Piercer's new master once Xia Qingyue had separated herself from it.

However, she never found out why Xia Qingyue had made that choice even after Yun Che had returned to the Eastern Divine Region, and she had "escaped" from the Moon God Realm with the World Piercer.

All she could do was to bear everything and fulfill her final wish.

And she did, until...

"... she said she would rather you hate her so that you won't become saddened by her death. She hoped that you would forget about her in time and treat her as naught but a distant memory."

"But why did she choose to die? WHY!?!?" Yun Che roared with bloodshot eyes. It was a question not even Shui Meiyin could answer, and his heart felt like it would explode at any moment. "She only needed to explain a few words to convince me of everything... why did she have to choose to die..."

"I've asked her the same question many, many times, and I've tried to change her mind just as frequently, but..." Shui Meiyin sobbed. "She always answered that she couldn't give me an answer. She said that death was the ending she must choose, and..."

"... that it is her final rebellion against fate after having submitted to it."

Yun Che was startled. "Rebellion against... fate? After having submitted to it?"

"Sister Qingyue didn't explain to me what it meant. Also, she often muttered many strange things when she was lost in her own mind," Shui Meiyin whispered. "I remember her saying that she was an unforgivable sinner... that she had brought death to her younger brother, her father and her mother..."

"!?" Yun Che abruptly looked up and retorted in a hoarse voice, "Yuanba has been doing fine since I saved him from that one near death tribulation! Not only did he become the master of the sanctuary, he is embarking on an adventure across the God Realm right now. What did she mean she brought death to her younger brother??"

"Her father is safe and sound at the Black Moon Merchant Guild as well. He may be lonely, but no danger has befallen him whatsoever... As for her mother, Qianying was the one who doomed her, so what the hell is she even talking about!?"

"I don't know." Shui Meiyin shook her head and repeated the three words she had repeated too many times throughout this conversation already. "She also said that her death was enough to keep the Moon God Realm safe."

"However..."

"..." Yun Che's eyes lost color, and his entire body shook like a leaf.

The Moon God Realm was the first and only star realm he had utterly annihilated.

No other star realm had even come close to being subjected to the same level of ruthlessness.

He had hated Xia Qingyue so much that the moment he saw her flying out to meet him, he detonated all of the Devil Crystals of Eternal Darkness he had obtained from the Bone Sea of Eternal Darkness and turned the Moon God Realm to cosmic dust...

Oh, he had been so delighted at the time!

Even more delightful was watching the final rays of purple light in her eyes extinguishing into perfectly blank holes with the crumbling Moon God Realm as the backdrop.

He even heard her muttering soullessly to herself,

“Is fate... really that... inexorable...”

.....

What...

What... have... I... done...

His chest felt like it was being sat on by innumerable mountains or gouged out by countless icy blades. His hands had clutched onto his skull before he realized it, and they were threatening to break under the sheer amount of force they were put under.

He had been doing his utmost to control himself and stay calm, but Shui Meiyin’s final words had obliterated that effort completely.

The crumbling light in his pupils and his suddenly collapsing aura frightened Shui Meiyin terribly. She hurriedly hugged Yun Che and said in a panic, “Big Brother Yun Che, don’t... don’t scare me. It’s not your fault, it’s really not your fault. For Sister Qingyue’s final wish, you... you cannot allow yourself to fall apart...”

Yun Che stretched out a trembling arm and pushed Shui Meiyin slowly but stiffly away from him.

Then, he rose to his feet and stared blankly forward.

“Please... leave me alone for a bit.”

After tossing out a line that sounded so off that it would worry even a complete stranger, Yun Che woodenly walked away from her.

“Big Brother Yun Che!”

Shui Meiyin hurriedly rose to her feet and tried to follow him, but a hand caught her shoulder and stopped her.

Shui Meiyin turned around to see who it was before sobbing out, “Sister Xuanyin...”

“Give him the time he needs.” Mu Xuanyin shook her head while watching Yun Che stepping further and further away from them.

Chapter 1916: Severed Soul

“Where... would he go?” Shui Meiyin said tearfully.

“Don’t worry too much. He will come through. After all, he’s no longer the...”

Her voice faded into silence before she could finish her sentence. In the end, Mu Xuanyin lowered her gaze and whispered, “I will follow him from afar. While I do so, please inform the Devil Queen about this. She’ll come up with something.”

“Mn,” Shui Meiyin responded as Yun Che’s back gradually vanished from their sight. “I can spy on a person’s soul, but I have never been able to see through Sister Qingyue’s. I can nurture a person’s soul, but again the one person I cannot help is Big Brother Yun Che.”

“It’s all my fault... if only I did better...”

“It’s not your fault.” Mu Xuanyin shook her head. “It is impossible to do any one thing to absolute perfection in this world. The coincidence with Wuxin’s Eternal Imagery Stone... was more like a twist of fate than it was an accident.”

She understood Shui Meiyin’s feelings better than she might think. It was because she too hid a secret she could never speak to Yun Che about.

The daughter he had lost forever before he even met her.

As Yun Che’s chaotic aura moved further and further away from them, Mu Xuanyin concealed her presence and started to follow him.

However, she paused in her tracks almost immediately before turning around to ask, “Meiyin, do you happen to know where the Moon Gods and divine envoys of Moon God Realm have vanished to?”

Surprise flickered across Shui Meiyin’s features for a moment before she nodded slowly. “Sister Qingyue used the World Piercer to create a special space at a faraway lower realm... it was the last resort in case her death wasn’t enough to save the Moon God Realm. At the very least, the core lifeline of the Moon God Realm would be saved.”

“... I thought so.” Mu Xuanyin sighed quietly.

For the past few years, Chi Wuyao had mobilized the forces of the divine regions to seek out the concealed Moon Gods and Moon God Divine Envoys to no avail. It was yet another thing that remained an unsolved knot in the Devil Queen’s heart.

Now she knew the truth.

There was one other thing that Mu Xuanyin noticed. Xia Qingyue wasn’t born in the Moon God Realm, and she wasn’t even its Moon God Emperor for more than a decade. However, she seemed unusually attached and even obsessed with it for some reason.

.....

The universe was a place that contained vast star regions and countless stars. However, their light failed to reflect even a bit of light in his eyes.

His body was dragged along by the chaotic streams of space to god-knows-where. He had no idea where he had even drifted to.

Once upon a time, he believed that Xia Qingyue was the one who destroyed the Blue Pole Star.

However, he was the one who really sowed the seeds of its destruction, while Xia Qingyue was its true silent protector.

She was the one who forced him to evolve and walk the path he should've walked from the beginning. She even saved him, his homeworld, his family, his soul, his everything...

Without her toiling away silently behind his back, he still would've lost everything even if he somehow survived the death trap. He would still be stuck in the cold and desolate Northern Divine Region right now; lost, lonely, and barely surviving.

But...

Why...

Why did you choose to leave without telling anyone...

I have become the man you wished for me to become. I am standing at the height you dreamed of me standing right now.

So why aren't you here to witness it?

You couldn't tell me the truth back then because the best way to spur on me to grow was to sever my attachments and hesitations completely.

But why did you choose what you did after that...?

What on earth were you bearing on your shoulders... Why wouldn't you let me carry it and face it with you, no matter how hopeless it might be...?

You paved the road for me and guided me to the best life I could ask for, but why did you give yourself such a bleak ending?

.....

"The Yun Clan's Yun Che has a wife from the Xia Clan, Qingyue. She is unfilial to her parents-in-law, she is enemies with her clansmen, she murdered her own father and brother, she is heartless and devoid of righteousness, she is as venomous as a scorpion and a snake... Even if I were to use ten thousand words, it would still be hard to list down all of her crimes."

"I've decided to divorce you and we will sever every relation we have with each other from now on! From today onward, we owe each other nothing but hatred, a hatred that will carry on for all eternity!"

.....

"Hah... haha..." Yun Che laughed, but it was more sorrowful than tears. Scarlet beads of blood slid down his twitching lips again and again.

She had saved his whole life.

But he had left her with only the most hateful of gazes, the vilest of curses, and... the destruction of everything she treasured...

Even more soul rending was the fact that she was gone forever, so there wasn't even a sliver of a chance for him to make it up to her or atone for his sins.

Before he knew it, he had arrived at an unusually silent space.

It was the emptiest star region in the vast Eastern Divine Region by far.

Just a couple of months ago, he had explained to Yun Wuxin in the calmest, most indifferent tone he could muster that it was the location of the former Moon God Realm. At the time, not a speck of the former star realm could be found already.

That's right. No matter where he looked, not a trace of the Moon God Realm could be found anymore.

Yun Che stretched out a trembling hand toward the void in front of him.

Once upon a time, here lay the star realm she had commanded; the space she had lingered in for a long time.

His fingers gradually lost strength, but he couldn't touch even a speck of her presence any longer.

His mind and body drifted once more. When he came back to himself after an indefinite amount of time later, he discovered that he was standing at yet another empty star region.

It was where he, Qianye Ying'er and Xia Qingyue had battled each other to the death. All the planets and stars in the surrounding star regions had been destroyed as a result.

"With my current power, I can only maintain this divine domain for a hundred breaths."

Back then, Xia Qingyue had ignited her vitality to create the incredibly powerful Purple Pylon Divine Domain immediately after the battle began. She had even managed to put him and Qianye Ying'er at a disadvantage for a time.

Later on, she had spent nearly all of her power trying to kill Qianye Ying'er.

She had sentenced herself to death right from the get go. Everything she did during the battle was just to kill Qianye Ying'er.

.....

"Qianye Ying'er is now your slave. You can order her around, make use of her, vent your anger on her, humiliate her, and ravish her as you please... you can do whatever you want to her. But there is something that you must remember!"

"She is still someone that I must kill! Making her your slave with this scheme of mine does not mean that I don't wish to kill her. Rather, it only means that I can't kill her right now! Whatever happens between the two of you is none of my business. But... you definitely must not develop any feelings for her! Even more than that, you definitely must not have any children with her! Understand!?"

 "..."

"A thousand years from now, Qianye Ying'er must die by my hands!"

.....

On that day, after having driven Qianye Ying'er into the Purple Moon Prison, Xia Qingyue had thrust the Purple Pylon Divine Sword toward the middle of her back. It was a blow that could've severely injured or even killed Qianye Ying'er outright.

However, he had blocked the attack with his own body and earned a bloody hole in the waist for his effort. Then, his counterattack had severely wounded Xia Qingyue and scattered her blood across the entire space...

She looked like she couldn't feel any pain even though her sword arm was marred by his attack, and the light of the crumbling Moon God Realm was illuminating her deathly pale complexion. She had asked in a voice so fleeting it was almost transient:

"Yun Che, do you still remember the vow you made to me back then?"

.....

The Moon God Realm she wished to protect the most...

The Qianye Ying'er she wished to kill the most...

Every corner of his soul felt like they were being torn to shreds and consumed alive.

"Guh... ah... guh..."

Blood sloshed between his teeth, his pupils dilated and contracted unnaturally, and a painful groan that could only be described as inhuman escaped his throat.

That day, every hit, every blast he had dealt to her... they all returned to torment his heart and soul like the worst torture in the entire world.

When he looked up in soundless pain, he felt like he could almost see the bloodied Xia Qingyue again. She had painted a picture of infinite loneliness, coldness and bleakness as she flew away from him in her blood-drenched red dress.

He flew mindlessly after the illusion, hoping to find even the slightest trace of her from all those years ago.

Eventually, he left the Eastern Divine Region and arrived at the God Realm of Absolute Beginning.

.....

White mist surrounded the Abyss of Nothingness.

He stood at its edge and watched the bottomless abyss that turned everything into nothing.

This was the graveyard she had chosen for herself.

He and Xia Qingyue had grown up together in Floating Cloud City.

However, his clearest memory of her was her in her red wedding dress.

That was sixteen years ago. Everything else before that—his childhood and adolescent memories of her—was just a blur now.

In a twist of irony, his final memory of her was also of her in a red dress.

In one memory, she looked as beautiful as a goddess who descended from the heavens. In the other, she looked like a cracked sculpture that tethered on the brink of collapse.

“... Yun Che, remember this. In the end... I didn’t die at your hands...”

Bang!

Yun Che sank powerlessly to his knees. At this point, even the gray despair in his eyes was fading away bit by bit into soulless, mindless nothingness.

The chance was miniscule at best, but you knew that there was a chance I might come to know everything one day... that was why you spent your last strength breaking free from my grip and killed yourself before I could.

You never stopped caring about me even in your last moments...

I...

“Yun... Che?”

He wasn’t sure if he hallucinated it, but he thought he heard the shocked, disbelieving voice of a woman.

Jun Xilei couldn’t believe her eyes or her senses when she arrived and saw the kneeling, trembling Yun Che. He didn’t react to her arrival or her voice, and the hand clutching the place where his heart was bloodless and strained to breaking point. It almost looked like he was trying to claw out his heart with his bare hand.

“Are... are you okay?” Jun Xilei took two tentative steps forward, but she froze like a frightened rabbit when she finally made contact with his aura.

He wasn’t hurt anywhere, but his aura had fallen into complete chaos. His complexion was so impossibly pale that it resembled a wax paper.

Jun Xilei didn’t know what to do.

He’s Emperor Yun, ruler of the four Divine Regions. What in the world could make him—

Suddenly, Yun Che’s deathly pale face flushed red.

Pwack—

Then, he spat out a long, long jet of blood into the bottomless Abyss of Nothingness in front of him.

As the last vestiges of color in his pupils faded completely, he collapsed forward like a lifeless puppet.

“Yun Che!!”

Jun Xilei let out an exclamation of utter shock. Finally discarding her reservations, she rushed forward to catch him before he hit the ground.

Because she had reacted instinctively, she didn't realize that she had positioned herself in a way where Yun Che's face would fall right on top of her chest. For a second, Jun Xilei froze and couldn't process what just happened to her. When she came to and tried to push Yun Che away though, she abruptly realized that he wasn't moving at all.

After shifting Yun Che's head from her chest to her knees a bit panickedly, she discovered that he had fallen unconscious. However, even in this state, he was gritting his teeth, and his features were twisting uncontrollably in pain.

The bloody bite marks on his lips only made this whole situation even more shocking.

Behind her, an ancient presence slowly approached.

"Master," Jun Xilei asked in a daze, "what... what's happening to him?"

Jun Wuming let out a small sigh before answering, "'To hurt so bad it was as if the soul was severed, and the heart was burned.' He must be suffering from a terrible psychological trauma."

"Psychological... trauma?" Jun Xilei looked at the man beneath her and felt a rare pang of pain.

"At his height and life experience, the only person who can corner him to this extent is himself," Jun Wuming said in a murky tone. "If I had to guess, he probably discovered that he had a hand in something that he absolutely can't forgive himself for."

Something... he absolutely can't forgive himself for?

She subconsciously caressed his cheek in an attempt to alleviate some pain from his twisting features.

Despite her master's reply, she still couldn't imagine the thing that had driven him to this state.

He was untouchable both in terms of power and status today, so what else was left in this universe that could pain him so? What could he not forgive himself for?

Chapter 1917: Memory of the Moon (1)

A distant, transient sigh cut through a world of infinite gray:

"To think that the truth of everything... would hurt you so."

Yun Che's consciousness was falling and falling in the gray world. It felt like he would never reach the bottom.

"It's... you."

The distant voice of a woman gradually became familiar to him.

This wasn't the first time he had heard her voice, but his memories vanished every time he left this strange soul world. He would only recall them when he returned to it.

"I shouldn't have forced myself to manifest, but too many cracks have appeared in your heart. At this rate, the name 'Xia Qingyue' will become your eternal wound and suffering."

"She (I) can never accept that, and so your eternal wound will become her (my) eternal wound as well."

“That is why I must interfere even when I shouldn’t.”

Qing... yue...

He didn’t expect to hear her name in this world.

The pain felt as raw as ever.

“Who are you, and... what do you mean?” He asked.

“You will know who I am. It is still too early, but there is probably no other way to save you besides showing you the whole truth... unless...”

“You are willing to let me wipe away your memories of her.”

“Xia Qingyue would forever vanish from your mind, and with it all of your sorrow, regrets, and hatred. You would not hurt or suffer if you didn’t remember her in the first place. You would be able to live the rest of your life happy and carefree.”

Forget Xia Qingyue... forever?

No...

No...

NO...

“Never... NEVER!!”

His roar was so terrible that he nearly knocked himself out.

“I will never forget her... I mustn’t!”

His soul’s struggle was so intense that the gray world itself was distorting slightly. “All I have left of her are these memories, and no one will take them away from me! No one!”

“The expected answer.”

The distant woman’s voice answered with a quiet sigh. “I have witnessed the bonds of the living for countless lifetimes, and still they remain as enigmatic as ever.”

“Then again, I hardly have the right to scorn another for their bonds when I’ve fallen into the same trap myself.”

“Yun Che,” she said his name, “I will tell you all of the karma that has bound the person named Xia Qingyue. I don’t know if it will be enough to heal the damage you’ve suffered, but at the very least, I hope it will stop you from plunging deeper into the abyss.”

“Otherwise, in the future, she (I) will never be able to forgive myself.”

Mad desire and hope rose from his chest as he asked, “You... you know everything... about Qingyue?”

“I can imprint the karma and the truth of everything to your soul right now, but I believe you would prefer to experience her unknown past via your own senses.”

“She possesses the mark of Nothingness just like you, although hers is nowhere as pure as yours. Still, it should be enough to perform one ‘Recollection of Nothingness’. You only need to find a possession that has become tinged with her aura of nothingness.”

“Now then. If you wish to live through her past with your own senses, then seek out a possession that has accompanied Qingyue for three years or more.”

“You will find it.”

.....

The voice faded away, and the gray world slowly dissipated like smoke.

Yun Che abruptly opened his eyes in the real world.

This time, the memories of that mysterious gray space and transient voice didn’t fade away from his mind.

He remembered every word as clear as day.

Seek out a possession that has accompanied Qingyue for three years...

A possession of Qingyue!!

He sat up before he could even identify his current location. However, a feminine cry of surprise temporarily caught his attention.

“You are...”

His mind clicked. He was currently at the center of the God Realm of Absolute Beginning. The Abyss of Nothingness was behind him, Jun Xilei was next to him... and Jun Wuming was looking in his direction a short distance away.

He didn’t have the time to explain even a single word, however. He lurched forward—his disorientation causing him to hit the ground hard before he staggered back to his feet—and took to the air.

.....

A possession that has accompanied Qingyue for three years or more...

The words replayed themselves a bit disjointedly in his mind again and again.

He should probably wonder about the identity of the owner of the voice and why she knew everything. He just couldn’t spare the thought right now.

The Moon God Realm, the easiest place to find such an item had been annihilated by none other than himself.

It was the same for all the possessions of Xia Qingyue on his person. He had destroyed them in hate during his time at the Northern Divine Region.

A million regrets wouldn’t be enough to describe even one millionth of the regret he was feeling right now.

He rushed out of the God Realm of Absolute Beginning and traveled to the Southern Divine Region immediately.

His return to Emperor Yun City had been accompanied by a violent storm that scared all of its guards sh*tless. Before they could figure out what was going on, he had already passed through the dimensional formation linking Emperor Yun City to the Profound Sky Continent and teleported there.

Floating Cloud City, Xia residence.

After descending in the courtyard with a thump and sucking the nearest servant into his grip, he asked, "Which one of these rooms is Qingyue's bedroom... tell me now!"

When he was younger, he often came here to play with Xia Yuanba... but for some reason, he couldn't remember where young Xia Qingyue's bedroom was at all.

The poor servant was of course scared out of his wits. For the second time (the first time being Chi Wuyao), he pointed a shivering finger toward the innermost bedroom.

He appeared in front of the room in a flash, but he caught himself and withdrew his aura to harmless levels. Then, he slowly pushed the door open with a trembling palm.

He found exactly what Chi Wuyao had found back then. All he found was the simplest of furnishings and not even a speck of Xia Qingyue anywhere.

He turned around and sucked the stunned servant into his grip again. He asked while breathing heavily, "Why is her room so empty? Where is all the stuff she left behind? Where is it!?"

"I..." The deathly pale servant opened and closed his mouth at least a dozen times before he finally remembered how to speak, "We... never touched... the miss' room..."

After he swept the entire Xia residence a dozen or so times to no avail, he pushed the servant away and vanished into the spatial rift he tore.

Shred!!

At the Black Moon Merchants Guild, a rift suddenly appeared right in front of Xia Hongyi. Yun Che then stepped right out of it.

Before he could say a single word, a wild-looking Yun Che appeared right in front of him and said in a most urgent voice, "Uncle Xia, do you have any of Qingyue's possessions with you?? Clothes, jewelry... anything?"

Yun Che was already doing his best to control himself, but he still looked absolutely shocking to Xia Hongyi. Thankfully, the old man quickly calmed himself and replied without thinking, "I don't have anything of Qingyue with me."

"Nothing? Not even one?" Yun Che asked in a disbelieving tone.

"No." Xia Hongyi shook his head with great certainty. "You need to calm down, Che'er. What happened?"

He didn't get a reply. It was because Yun Che was already gone.

It's fine, it's fine...

There's still Frozen Cloud Immortal Palace... she stayed there for years, she must've left something behind!

A spatial rift appeared at the Snow Region of Extreme Ice. The nearby wind and snow were immediately blown away.

The unnatural disruption caused both Chu Yuechan and Chu Yueli to look up. It was Yun Che descending toward them.

"Why have you returned at this time?" Chu Yuechan frowned slightly. "Where's Wuxin?"

There was no time for any of her questions. He grabbed her shoulders and asked hurriedly, "Yuechan, did Qingyue leave behind any possessions in Frozen Cloud Immortal Palace? Give them to me. Give me everything!"

Both Chu Yuechan and Chu Yueli were very astonished.

Chi Wuyao had made the almost same strange request when she first visited Frozen Cloud Immortal Palace.

Even more shocking was the fact that Yun Che was saying Xia Qingyue's name in such an urgent, trembling tone when he had avoided it like a plague before.

Instead of asking Yun Che what happened, Chu Yuechan stared into his eyes and answered, "Did you forget? The old Frozen Cloud Immortal Palace was completely destroyed during the battle between Xuanyuan Wentian and the Little Demon Empress. Naturally, all of her possessions were destroyed."

"This Frozen Cloud Immortal Palace is brand new. Of course we don't have Xia Qingyue's possessions here."

"..." Yun Che turned stiff for a second, but he recalled something and turned to Chu Yueli next. "Yueli! You used to be Qingyue's master, right? You must have something that she gifted you or whatever, right!?"

"Unfortunately, no." Chu Yueli shook her head. "Not having a possession of her to remember her by is, in fact, one of the deepest regrets of my life."

"..." The color in Yun Che's eyes faded away. His arms fell limply by his sides, and the breath he had been holding escaped through his lips. He then sat down powerlessly on the cold, icy snow beneath him.

Her home... Frozen Cloud Immortal Palace... the Moon God Realm...

These were the only three places Xia Qingyue had stayed for a long duration during her short life.

However, her house was empty, the Moon God Realm was destroyed by himself, and even Frozen Cloud Immortal Palace was...

It was as if nothing except the memories of her were left in this world.

No...

This cannot be... I must be missing something!

Calm down... calm down!

Chu Yueli looked back and forth between Yun Che and her older sister. She didn't know what to say in this situation.

Chu Yuechan slowly crouched down in front of Yun Che and asked him, "Tell me what happened. Is it... related to Qingyue?"

Yun Che didn't answer her. All of his thoughts were focused on clutching his own skull and calming himself down.

However, the chaotic thoughts in his mind were impossible to stop. Every cell in his body was screaming to find Xia Qingyue's possessions as soon as possible.

It was at this moment a cute and delicate girl bounced up to them with a look of pure happiness on her face. She said in a childish voice, "Great Palace Master, look! It's my very first Ice Mirror!"

The girl was a poor girl Chu Yueli had picked up from outside just three months ago. She had just begun practicing the Frozen Cloud Arts, and this was the first time she converted her profound energy into ice. To her, it was a memory that she could remember for a lifetime.

The girl's naturally ethereal voice seeped into Yun Che's confused soul and brought him a sliver of clarity.

Ice Mirror...

Mirror...

The mirror!!

It was like a lightning bolt had struck him, or a spirit light had pierced through his soul. Yun Che abruptly looked up and exploded toward the sky, leaving behind a storm of ice and a childish cry of surprise.

The bronze mirror!!

Yun Che was gone the second his mind made the connection, not pausing even to explain things to Chu Yuechan or Chu Yueli. The two women could only exchange stunned glances with each other, and it would be a long time before they finally regained their calm.

Chapter 1918: Memory of the Moon (2)

Southern Divine Region, Seven Star Realm.

At a calm river covered by swaying willow trees, Jin Yue and her younger sister were strolling along an emerald green riverside.

As it turned out, the dark devil people were nowhere as scary as the people had imagined them to be, and the enforcers carried out Emperor Yun's laws strictly but fairly. Amazingly, the world was actually a fairer and more peaceful place compared to what it was before.

After the initial panic had faded, the atmosphere of the Seven Star Realm had become much different in just a couple of years.

“Sister, father and grandpa have decided the date they will return to the Eastern Divine Region. Are you... really not going to follow them?”

Wei'er had grown into a quick-witted girl over the past few years. Many of her childish features had faded away and become replaced by an exquisite countenance not unlike her older sister's. But despite her growth, Wei'er never stopped liking to stick by her sister's side. She loved holding her hand and watching her gentle smile, even though behind it was a pool of sorrow that seemed like it would never fade.

Jin Yue shook her head while staring at the path that seemed to stretch endlessly before her. “Seven Star Realm is a very peaceful place. I like it here even though it's only been a short few years. Maybe I'll even spend the rest of my life here.”

It wasn't like she never wanted to leave the Seven Star Realm. She just couldn't.

“Listen up, you'd better leave this black sigil exactly where I put it. Don't ever think of trying to get rid of it. If I ever sense its existence disappearing... I will come back and annihilate your entire clan!”

Those eyes that used to be so warm and gentle had become a pair of violent, black storms, the Young Master Yun she used to be on amicable terms with had become the Devil Master, destroyer of the Moon God Realm... and this cruel, black sigil he planted in her person was a curse she would never be able to escape for as long as she lived.

That was why it was a good thing that her family was leaving. The further away they were from her, the safer they would be.

“In that case, I'll stay behind and keep you company, okay?”

Wei'er had said this with grave determination. It wasn't a product of quick impulse; she seemed to have arrived at this decision a long time ago.

“No.” However, Jin Yue denied her without hesitation and faced toward her younger sister with stern, immovable eyes. “Wei'er, great grandpa's star realm is no king realm, but it is still an upper star realm. The environment decides a person's growth and future, and this is especially so for someone your age. You are not to act willfully in this matter, or you'll quickly find that I am not the only one who'll disagree with you.”

Jin Yue's tone alone made it clear that there was absolutely no chance Wei'er was going to change her mind. The girl lowered her head a bit dejectedly before asking, “Say, sister... do you think you will marry in the future?”

“...” Jin Yue shook her head and shot her a sorrowful smile. “No.”

“Won't you feel lonely if you're always alone?”

“I'll get used to it,” she replied quietly.

Although Wei'er wasn't an adult yet, she could still sense the sorrow and helplessness buried deep within her heart. A short while later, she asked another question, "Do you... still miss the Moon God Emperor, sister?"

"..." Jin Yue's footsteps slowed for a second. She wasn't able to say a word in response.

Wei'er continued, "These days, everyone says that Emperor Yun is really a very good person. They say that he once saved the God Realm from a world-ending calamity, and that he chose forgiveness even after he became Emperor Yun... They also say that the God Realm will definitely march to a brighter future under his leadership."

"He... was a very good person," Jin Yue muttered in a daze. "But..."

"But," Wei'er's voice grew softer, "they also say that the Moon God Emperor was a terrible person. They say that she chose ingratitude during Emperor Yun's direst moment, and that karma came back to bite her and the Moon God Realm because of her actions. They say that she was one of the main reasons Emperor Yun chose death and destruction when he took his revenge, which means that she was at least partially to blame for all the star realms and people who have been destroyed..."

"Stop. Stop."

Jin'er interrupted Wei'er and carefully looked into the distance so that her younger sister wouldn't notice the pain in her eyes. "Remember this, Wei'er. No matter what the world thinks of her, she will always be the person I admire the most."

"Although she changed a lot after that fateful day, and it grew to the point where she wouldn't even allow me to get close to her, it is still the greatest honor of my life to have served her."

Her eyes gradually became unfocused and misty as she murmured more to herself than Wei'er, "Also... despite what people say, I kept having this strange feeling... that she was hiding some sort of secret and sorrow... that she hadn't chosen to do what she did because she wanted to..."

"Even now, I can't stop wondering if the real reason she chased me away... was to protect me..."

RUMBLE

Suddenly, a dull, distant rumble hit them. Then, Jin Yue felt an unnatural, terrifying aura surging toward them at high speed.

Heart suddenly leaping to her throat, Jin Yue tried to push her younger sister away from her, "Run, Wei'er!"

Shred!

She was too late. The person she dreaded the most to meet since that day appeared so fast that space itself was temporarily severed.

Jin Yue felt like someone had submerged her entire body in cold ice. She pulled Wei'er behind her before saying, "Emperor... Yun."

Yun Che didn't waste any words. He simply stretched out his hand at her and ordered, "Give me the bronze mirror she left behind!"

Jin Yue's heart sank to the bottom.

Something wasn't quite right about the man in front of her. His eyes were a pair of black pools of enigma as usual, but she felt like something was shivering behind them. His voice was also strangely raspy for some reason. Still, his domineering tone and natural pressure were enough to choke her with fear and terror.

The bronze mirror Xia Qingyue had ordered her to destroy was an inheritance from her own mother. It was the first time Jin Yue had disobeyed her orders because she was afraid that her master would come to regret her decision. She never thought that it would become her one and only memento of Xia Qingyue.

Yun Che had killed Xia Qingyue... and now, he was going to take away even her last memento of her.

But he couldn't deny him.

Wei'er was right behind her, not to mention her family.

She dared not hesitate for too long, nor did she possess the power to reject him. Slowly and painfully, she fished out the most important possession of her life.

She hadn't even managed to relinquish her grip when a surge of profound energy snatched it right out of her fingers. When she looked, she saw that the bronze mirror was already in Yun Che's hands.

The dam in Jin Yue's eyes instantly broke. She felt as if someone had gouged out a hole from her heart, and it felt both unbearably painful and empty. It took all of her power to keep herself from sobbing out loud.

The bronze mirror was small and delicate. It was made from a metal that was considered extremely common even among the lower realms. Yun Che felt a moment of great excitement and relief when the mirror was finally in his grasp, but they were soon overwhelmed by even greater sorrow.

He had the entire universe beneath his feet.

But Xia Qingyue only had this tiny bronze mirror.

He slowly and carefully held the mirror tight before turning his back on Jin Yue and Wei'er. Then, he prepared to leave.

"Young Master Yun!"

A sobbing shout reached him from behind. Jin Yue was so desperate that she called him what she used to call him a long time ago instead of the far more appropriate "Emperor Yun" or "Devil Master".

Perhaps Yun Che had always been "Young Master Yun" to her.

"I... I know that master is unworthy of you, but... but that's literally her last possession in this whole wide world. Whatever you do, just please... please don't destroy it!"

A girl's cry resounded across the emerald green riverside for a very long time. She had cried by herself in secret for countless times throughout the years, but none was as relieving and refreshing as this one.

.....

Yun Che didn't leave the Seven Star Realm. He simply found an uninhabited place and chased away all the creatures with his aura before settling down.

He leaned against a dry, hard stone wall and held the bronze mirror lightly against his chest. Then, he slowly closed his eyes.

This time, he heard the transient voice immediately after he submerged into the soul world:

"It looks like you've found a medium that can be used to perform a Recollection of Nothingness."

"Her mark of nothingness is incomplete to begin with, and the aura of nothingness on this object has faded with time. The recollection will not cover her whole life."

"I cannot predict what you may experience from it, but I believe that it will be... enough."

Yun Che didn't respond to the voice. He was fully focused on his desire to know everything.

An invisible, untouchable, soundless power connected the bronze mirror in Yun Che's hands and his soul.

The woman's voice became distant, and the gray world suddenly faded away into nothing.

There was a bright light and a rush of wind, and an impossibly clear world suddenly appeared around him.

His soul became as taut as a string the second he made sense of the world. All of his focus became concentrated on a certain snow white figure.

Blood was dripping down her lips, and her arms were stained in red. Even so, her pale complexion failed to diminish the beauty that couldn't be portrayed by mere ink and color.

Qing... yue...

His soundless cry reverberated across every corner of his own soul.

An empty illusion this might be, but he had finally met her again.

The Qingyue he was seeing was not the Moon God Emperor she became, however. Her younger features and eyes that hadn't yet become tainted by the weight and pressure of reality were from an older time.

The white robes she wore... Yun Che recognized them immediately as the robes of Frozen Cloud Immortal Palace.

Chapter 1919: Memory of the Moon (3)

It was one of the darkest moments of Xia Qingyue's life.

Yun Che had perished in the Primordial Profound Ark, the Blue Wind Nation was being trampled by the Divine Phoenix Empire and facing the threat of annihilation, and even Frozen Cloud Immortal Palace was backed against the wall and just waiting for death to claim them...

It had been so bad that the entire Frozen Cloud Immortal Palace had unanimously agreed to send her, their final hope through the dimensional formation left behind by the great ancestor master, Mu Bingyun, to carry on the flame.

However, the world she was teleported to was of a higher plane than she ever knew.

The natural spirit energy of this world was unnaturally rich, and the people here were powerful beyond imagination and resistance.

Xia Qingyue was a Tyrant Profound Realm profound practitioner at the age of twenty; an unprecedented achievement back in her homeworld. In this new world though? The very first two people she met had backed her into a dead end with the merest flick of a finger.

Standing before her were two profound practitioners in blue robes. They were both in the Divine Origin Realm.

In the God Realm, the Divine Origin Realm was but the starting line of one's divine way. However, to Xia Qingyue, it was a wall of despair she couldn't hope to surpass no matter what.

"My oh my, she probably rivals even the legendary Dragon Queen and Lady Goddess," the man to her right said with lust filled eyes and grabby hands. "If we offer her to the sect master as tribute, I bet that he would reward us with ten Blue Scale Pellets at the very least!"

"Shh! Shut your trap. We are dead if anyone happens to hear your blasphemy," the guy to her left rebuked his companion harshly. However, his lips quickly curled into a smirk. "I've seen many beauties, but one so extraordinary... I dare say that she may tempt even a God Emperor to sinfulness."

"In a different place and time, she would be the exclusive property of a realm king, and we would be punished for the crime of staring at her for too long. However, she's clearly no one important, and she is only a Mortal Realm Tyrant..." He looked at his companion with half-lidded eyes, "Are you sure you want to offer her to the sect master?"

"If even you don't want to give her up, then I can only support your decision, can't I?"

The two men exchanged a most ugly and evil laugh with each other.

Everything Xia Qingyue had heard, Yun Che also heard as a matter of course.

He locked his spiritual perception on the duo and memorized every characteristic of their persons.

He almost hoped that they were still alive and well in the present.

If they were, he would personally put them through the cruelest torture imaginable in the Primal Chaos even if they didn't deserve even one lick of his attention.

Xia Qingyue slowly raised her blood-drenched arm and summoned a new sheen of ice across her sword.

"Hoh? Still going to resist futilely?"

The profound practitioner to her right casually pointed a finger at her and flicked it as if in jest.

Ding!

The ice shattered, and the sword snapped in half. However, the broken sword Xia Qingyue was holding traveled toward her neck instead! She had baited them into “assisting” her in committing suicide!

At the same time, she gathered all of her profound energy to destroy her own life vein.

Both profound practitioners blanched when they realized what was happening. They didn’t think that Xia Qingyue was the type of woman who would rather break than yield to them.

They let out strange cries and pounced toward her, but everything was moving too quickly. Divine Origin Realm or not, there was no chance they would be able to stop her in time.

It was at this moment a dull yet impossibly terrifying boom resounded from the distant sky.

It was the sound of space itself being shifted.

At the same time, a pressure powerful enough to encompass the entire world fell from the sky.

Xia Qingyue’s sword froze before it could make contact with her snow white neck. The profound energy she gathered to destroy her own life vein had frozen as well. The pressure enveloping her entire being was utterly ineffable. It froze her body and aura so thoroughly that she couldn’t move a finger even if she mustered all of her strength into one point.

It was the same for the other two profound practitioners.

A small profound ark about three hundred meters long appeared in the sky.

Standing at the bow of the ark was a middle-aged man in light purple robes with his hands clasped behind his back. The profound ark was kicking up a powerful gale as it moved, but none of them could affect the middle-aged man in any way. All the light in the world seemed to focus on his person until one could see nothing but him.

The mere sight of him made the two profound practitioners feel like dropping to their knees and kowtowing in submission.

That wasn’t all. The profound symbol they glimpsed on the profound ark right before it shifted out of view caused their pupils to dilate to breaking point.

It was a divine moon, the totem of the Moon God Realm!

Not even in their wildest dreams did they imagine that they would make contact with a king realm one day!

Suddenly, the man on the bow shifted his gaze.

As if in response, a soul-shattering beam of divine energy flew toward Xia Qingyue and the duo.

However, both the beam and the profound ark suddenly froze as if time itself had skidded to a stop.

Then, amidst the frozen space, the man slowly descended on soil so humble that it wasn't even worthy to be stepped on by him.

Three figures followed behind their master and descended the ground as well. However, their eyes were filled with surprise and puzzlement.

By now, the two blue-robed profound practitioners were so shocked that their hearts and even their blood flow had slowed to a complete stop. It took all of their remaining willpower to bend their knees and speak in trembling voices, "We... we greet... the V-venerable... Moon Gods."

They didn't know, and would never believe it even if they did know, that the man standing before them was none other than the Moon God Emperor, Yue Wuya himself.

To be fair, the three Moon Guards behind Yue Wuya couldn't understand why their Moon God Emperor had personally descended to deal with something so trivial and common.

While Xia Qingyue was breathtakingly beautiful, they all knew that their Moon God Emperor wasn't a wanton man, especially since a certain incident. He had barely had any physical contact with any other woman except her.

Suddenly, a thought crossed their minds all at once.

Wait a second, this woman...

"Is it just me, or does she look a little like..." A Moon Guard couldn't help but send his companions a sound transmission.

"Silence!" He was immediately quieted by both of his companions.

Yue Wuya didn't afford the two blue-robed profound practitioners even an instant of his attention. From the beginning, he had been watching Xia Qingyue and Xia Qingyue alone. He was the one who froze her broken blade and her profound energy before she could kill herself.

"What is your name?" he asked.

His voice sounded about as indifferent and dignified as one might expect from a God Emperor, but no one knew that he was really pushing down an unnatural surge of anticipation and hopefulness that even he had no idea of where it was coming from.

"..." Xia Qingyue watched the man who descended from the sky and cowed the two villains to utter stillness with just his presence. She had no doubt that he was an extraordinarily powerful and important man even in this world.

His eyes showed that he was a man who was long used to being in power, and common sense dictated that she should tread very carefully around him. And yet... not only did she feel no danger from him, she even felt a sense of inexplicable trust toward him.

"Xia Qingyue." This was the first time she spoke her name in this strange world.

An unfamiliar name, a profound aura that hadn't yet entered the divine way. Yue Wuya frowned and was about to ask another question when he noticed something. His pupils contracted in realization.

“The Heart of Snow Glazed Glass!”

At Yue Wuya’s height, there was almost nothing that could unsettle him anymore. However, he and the three Moon Guards behind him were clearly stunned by his words.

One would think that Yue Wuya’s next question would have something to do with the Heart of Snow Glazed Glass, but instead it was something that seemed to make no sense whatsoever. “Are you twenty-two years old right now!?”

“?” A trace of confusion flashed across Xia Qingyue’s eyes.

“Yes, or no?” Yue Wuya asked in a harsher tone. His eyes were even trembling a little.

“Yes,” Xia Qingyue replied.

Her answer caused Yue Wuya’s chest to heave greatly for an instant.

A short silence later, he said, “Kill them.”

The Moon Guard in the middle acted the moment he said those words. The two blue-robed profound practitioners never even got the chance to scream before they dissolved into ashes under a burst of moonlight. By the time the blast faded, even those ashes had become completely scattered into nothingness.

Still standing where he was, Yue Wuya said, “Now, kill yourselves.”

The emotionless voice caught all three Moon Guards by surprise. All three of them dropped to their knees as the Moon Guard to the right said panickedly, “God Emperor, we are absolutely loyal to the Moon God Realm—”

He didn’t finish his sentence because a sudden explosion had interrupted him. It was the Moon Guard who killed the two profound practitioners earlier committing suicide via detonating his own life vein.

“In this world, there is only one type of person that can be trusted to keep a secret. The dead.” Yue Wuya slowly closed his eyes. “The Moon Guards of my Moon God Realm cannot not understand something so simple?”

The two remaining Moon Guards shivered, but fell silent. If their God Emperor wanted them to die, then they must die.

Disobeying him would only earn them a worse death and bring harm to their families.

Buzz!

And so the two Moon Guards unleashed the final moonlight of their lives and committed suicide.

All three Moon Guards were powerful Divine Sovereigns who could reign as kings in a middle star realm. Now, they were all dead because Yue Wuya willed it so.

At the time, Xia Qingyue was far too green to even understand what was going on around her. After rising to her feet and gathering the only wisp of profound energy she could control to her fingertips, she asked, “Who... are you?”

“She looks like her... her age is a match... and it’s clear from her murky profound energy that she just ascended from a lower realm.”

He muttered dazedly to himself instead of answering Xia Qingyue’s question, “For a second Heart of Snow Glazed Glass to appear in this world... it can only... be her...”

It was impossible to tell if his expression was one of excitement or pain right now.

“Answer me one last question,” he asked again. “Did your mother leave you when you were four years old?”

“!?” Xia Qingyue’s eyes shook violently.

“Actually, forget it.” However, Yue Wuya had turned away before he could even see her reaction. Was it because he was afraid of hearing the answer he expected, or the opposite? “Come. I will take you to someone.”

“Don’t worry, I have no wish to harm you. If I did, you would not survive the flick of a finger even if you have a million spare lives.”

“If you turn down my offer, you will realize that your cultivation and your Heart of Snow Glazed Glass will quickly drive you into the abyss.”

.....

The scene turned blurry, and Yun Che’s surroundings reverted to the previous gray.

Xia Qingyue had encountered Yue Wuya the first day she was teleported to the God Realm.

She had actually told him about this, but it still pained Yun Che to witness the actual experience with his own eyes.

She wasn’t a divine way cultivator, and yet her features were excellent enough to tempt even a god emperor. No matter what Xia Qingyue did, it was always going to end in a horrible way for her unless a miracle happened.

In fact, she had escaped one fatal situation only to enter a deeper abyss almost immediately.

However, a miracle did happen. She had encountered Yue Wuya of all people and been taken away to the Moon God Realm before any real harm could be done to her.

Something was curious about this memory, however.

Yue Wuya’s reaction after meeting Xia Qingyue for the first time had puzzled Yun Che greatly.

Yun Che had never met Yue Wugou personally, but he had heard from Mu Xuanyin that Xia Qingyue was at best three to four-tenths similar to her mother in terms of appearance. At first glance, no one would think that she was the daughter of Yue Wugou.

So why did Yue Wuya, a god emperor, choose to speak with Xia Qingyue after just one glance from the bow of his ship?

Age, Heart of Snow Glazed Glass, lower realm...

As far as Yun Che could tell, Yue Wuya hadn't made the connection that Xia Qingyue might be Yue Wugou's daughter after asking these questions. It was the opposite. The possibility had popped in his mind almost the second he saw her, and the questions were just to confirm his suspicion.

The grayish world faded once more, and a new scene unfolded in Yun Che's soul sea.

It was an incredibly beautiful pocket world with green grass, clusters of flowers, and soothing rivers. The gentle moon hanging in the sky also added a layer of mystery to the landscape.

The pocket world that practically no one could enter and no one knew about was located in the Divine Moon City of the Moon God Realm.

Xia Qingyue was standing beneath a tall, massively broad tree with a bluish green canopy. Two people were sitting face to face in front of her.

The first person was the Moon God Emperor, Yue Wuya. The second person was a pale-looking woman in a red dress.

Yue Wuya had one finger pressed against the area just above the solar plexus. It was where the heart vein was.

His eyes were closed, and his mind was fully focused. An indefinite amount of time later, pain suddenly flashed across his features.

Pwack!

His eyelids abruptly fluttered open, and his body began shaking violently. Despite his best attempts to suppress his reaction, he still spat out a mouthful of smelly blood that dyed the ground red.

"Wuya!" The woman in red dress hurriedly raised her hands to catch him. Her weak voice was tinged with deep panic.

However, Yue Wuya caught her instead and smiled at her. "Calm down. It's just a bit of blood essence. It doesn't affect me at all."

He was probably the only person in the entire universe who would make such an outrageous claim.

Chapter 1920: Memory of the Moon (4)

The woman in the red dress looked pale and haggard. The light in her eyes looked like it was losing strength. Her illness was so severe that her countenance was beginning to show signs of age.

Even so, no one would doubt that she used to be devastatingly beautiful during her better days.

Yun Che knew immediately that she was the mother of Xia Qingyue, Yue Wugou.

He never thought that he would "meet" his mother-in-law—a woman who once shook the God Realm with her beauty, and yet led a life that could only be described as miserable—under such circumstances.

Yue Wuya rose to his feet and smiled gently at her. "The healing process is growing smoother and smoother as of late. If you take about twenty four hours of rest and avoid using your profound energy during this time, I'm sure you'll get better over time, Wugou."

His expression was relaxed, but there was a flash of well-hidden pain in his eyes.

Yue Wugou knew that he was trying to console her, so she responded with a peaceful smile and said, "Don't worry, Wuya. I'll do my best to recover. I still wish to accompany my daughter a couple more years after all."

"Thank you for your aid, senior."

She had witnessed this scene countless times already, and yet she never failed to be touched by it.

Back then, her mother had suddenly regained her memories and even some of her profound energy. However, it really was just a case of terminal lucidity.

Yue Wugou was going to commit suicide, but she ultimately chose to return to the Moon God Realm with all her power just so that she could meet Yue Wuya one final time. She did this knowing full well she might be rebuked and shamed for her infidelity. She was even prepared to be killed by her old lover.

However, Yue Wuya did the opposite of her fears and tried almost every method he could think of to drag out her life until now. He even went so far as to expend his precious blood essence again and again.

It was almost as if her mother's life was so tragic that even the cruel heavens couldn't help but shower her with a bit of good luck.

Yun Che was deeply moved by what he saw.

It was just an illusion, but he could still see that Yue Wugou was a candle in the wind that could be extinguished at any moment.

He found it difficult to believe that the god emperor of a king realm would go so far as to expend his blood essence to extend a lover's life. It clearly wasn't even the first time he did it.

Anyone would be stunned in his place.

Suddenly, he recalled that Yue Wuya was the only god emperor to have died in Jasmine's hands when the king realms of the Eastern Divine Region had ganged up on her. That Yue Wuya was one of Jasmine's most hated enemies was of course one of the reasons he died, but the prolonged expenditure of his blood essence might very well be the other.

"Qingyue," Yue Wuya turned his gaze on Xia Qingyue, "I have something important I would like to speak to you about."

"Please speak, senior." She could see that Yue Wuya was serious about this.

The Moon God Emperor took a moment to choose his words, but in the end he decided that he would speak frankly, "I wish for you to become the Moon God Empress."

Yun Che had known about this back then, so of course he wasn't shocked by the revelation at all. However, the same couldn't be said for the Xia Qingyue of the time.

"What did you say!?" Her brows knitted, and the gratefulness in her eyes instantly became replaced by frigidness. She even took a step away from him.

“It is not what you think it is. Please allow me the time to finish.” Yue Wuya wasn’t surprised by Xia Qingyue’s reaction in the slightest. He continued in an indifferent tone, “To put it simply, it will just be an empty title to you. You don’t have to perform any of the duties that are expected of the Moon God Empress.”

“Empty?” Xia Qingyue’s frown remained deep and frigid. “If you are simply ‘bestowing’ me the title of an imperial concubine, then sure. However, the Moon God Empress is a different thing entirely! A great wedding must be held, and an invitation must be sent out to the entire God Realm! The title is anything but meaningless!”

“Calm down, Qingyue.” This time, Yue Wugou was the one who spoke up. She shook her head with a smile and spoke with a voice that sounded like the soothing wind, “I promise you that he has no interest in you that way. Just let him finish first, will you?”

Yue Wuya nodded. “You are correct. I will be holding a great wedding, and I will send out invitations to all the realms... However, the bride who will be attending the marriage is your mother, not you. All I ask of you is to show your face one time.”

“...?” Xia Qingyue grew even more confused. “What are you saying, senior?”

Yue Wuya explained, “When the time comes, I shall hold the greatest ‘divine moon in the sky’ in history in Divine Moon City. Before the wedding ceremony, you will appear briefly so that the world will memorize your face, your aura and your name. They will realize that you possess the ‘Heart of Snow Glazed Glass’ and ‘Nine Profound Exquisite Body’ and understand why I made you the Moon God Empress.”

“After that, I will execute the ‘Moon Star Substitution’ technique and transfer your aura to your mother. It won’t last for too long, but combined with the rich moon aura of the ‘divine moon in the sky’, it will fool everyone long enough for us to finish the wedding ceremony with your mother.”

Yue Wuya slowly closed his eyes and said solemnly, “It has always been my lifelong regret that I wasn’t able to marry your mother back then.

“Ridiculous!” The favors she owed to Yue Wuya were as heavy as a mountain, but she still couldn’t stop herself from blurting the word. “If you truly love my mother, if you truly wish to marry her, you wouldn’t care about the opinions of the masses.”

Yue Wuya shook his head slowly. “I won’t defend myself. If one day you are in my position, you will understand that there are too many things which even a god emperor cannot resolve.”

“However, marrying your mother and eliminating one of my lifelong regrets is but the secondary objective of my proposal. I’m doing this... for your sake.”

“... for me?”

“Qingyue, you may have come from the lower realms, but you understand how special you really are, right?” Yue Wuya’s voice deepened. “The Heart of Snow Glazed Glass, the Nine Profound Exquisite Body. Both of these traits—especially the Heart of Snow Glazed Glass, which hadn’t appeared again since six hundred thousand years ago—would be considered an unparalleled gift from the heavenly way.”

“In fact, the previous owner of the Heart of Snow Glazed Glass was the founding ancestor of the Eternal Heaven Realm herself.”

“However, for both the Heart of Snow Glazed Glass and the Nine Profound Exquisite Body to appear on the same person...” Yue Wuya sighed a little. “I have gone through many scriptures in the past couple of years, so I can say with certainty that it is unprecedented in the entire history of the God Realm.”

She did understand what he was saying. She was no longer the child who knew nothing when she first arrived in the God Realm after all.

“For the past few years, you haven’t taken a single step from this pocket world. It isn’t an imprisonment, but it may as well be one. It is because your existence will shake the entire God Realm the moment you reveal yourself to the world. The moment they learn that you have the Heart of Snow Glazed Glass and the Nine Profound Exquisite Body, you will never enjoy peace in your life ever again.”

“Will that title really protect me?” Xia Qingyue asked dubiously, “Back then, the entire world knew that my mother was your Empress back then, but she still failed to escape her villains’ clutches...”

Xia Qingyue’s accusation dragged Yue Wuya’s most painful memories into the light. His features contorted, and it took him a couple of moments before he finally calmed himself enough to say, “And I have learned my lesson. The empty title will not protect you, no...”

He raised his arm and summoned a purple light that looked as pure as crystal. “But my Purple Pylon divine power and my throne will!”

This time, even Yue Wugou was surprised by his declaration.

“He wasn’t joking after all,” Yue Wugou whispered to herself.

“You want me... to inherit your Purple Pylon divine power?” Xia Qingyue could hardly believe her ears.

She was born in a lower realm, so of course she didn’t possess the bloodline of her Moon God. However, her Nine Profound Exquisite Body allowed her to inherit any divine power perfectly—even if it was the divine power of a Moon God.

“And my throne,” Yue Wuya emphasized tirelessly. “Qingyue, you are ultimately an outsider to the Moon God Realm, and even the fact that you carry both the Nine Profound Exquisite Body and the Heart of Snow Glazed Glass isn’t enough to make my realm treat you like one of our own. If we are to make you the Moon God Empress, however... then the objections against me passing my powers and my throne to you will not be so overwhelming that I cannot force it to happen.”

Xia Qingyue shook her head slowly. “I don’t understand...”

Yue Wuya looked Xia Qingyue in the eye with none of the pressure a God Emperor should have, and only the purest sincerity. “Believe me when I say that I haven’t made this choice out of impulse. I have thought long and hard before I made up my mind.”

In summary, Yue Wuya was offering Xia Qingyue his Moon God divine power and the throne of a god emperor... for a time, even he couldn’t believe that he would make such a decision.

He was certain that Xia Qingyue would accept his offer though. There was no reason for her to reject the highest level of power and status available to the current universe be it for her own safety or control over her own fate.

However, he saw Xia Qingyue slowly but firmly shaking her head in clear rejection.

“Senior, the favors my mother and I owe you are as heavy as a mountain. If one day I have to die to repay them, I will still march to my death without a shred of regret or resentment in my heart.” Xia Qingyue’s eyes were as clear as a mirror, and there was almost no struggle or hesitation in her voice whatsoever. “However... I cannot agree to this.”

“Why?” Yue Wuya frowned deeply in puzzlement. “Be it you, your mother or me, this arrangement is absolutely beneficial to all of us! Even if something were to happen during the wedding ceremony, I am the one who will be bearing all the consequences. What possible reason do you have to reject this?”

Xia Qingyue simply closed her eyes and said, “I’m sorry for disappointing you.”

No one could possibly know what she was thinking right then.

“Qingyue, you—”

“Enough, Wuya.” Yue Wugou lightly interrupted her lover. “Do not force her if she doesn’t wish to accept it.”

Her soft rebuke was enough to make Yue Wuya swallow his words back down his throat. He let out a quiet sigh and said, “Maybe I was too hasty. Do take your time to consider this, Qingyue... just know that I don’t have much time left.”

“What do you mean?” Xia Qingyue looked up.

“It is exactly what it sounds like,” Yue Wuya replied in an indifferent tone. “I have received a prophecy from the Heavenly Mystery Realm. I will be dead in five years at most.”

He wanted to tell her that her mother was running out of time as well... but he couldn’t possibly say such cruel things in the presence of Yue Wugou.

Xia Qingyue frowned slightly. “Senior, you are the Moon God Emperor. How can you believe in such—”

“I know what you mean.” Yue Wuya interrupted her before continuing in a low tone, “However... it is a prophecy from the Heavenly Mystery Realm.”

He ended his talk with Xia Qingyue on that ominous note before half-crouching beside Yue Wugou. After enveloping her in a blanket of gentle moonlight, he said, “Rest well, Wugou. I will return to see you tomorrow.”

Yue Wugou looked at him and said, “You are a busy man. You don’t need to visit me so frequently.”

Yue Wuya simply smiled and brushed a finger across Yue Wugou’s cheek. His movement was so gentle that it looked like he was touching a warm jade that might shatter at the slightest touch. Finally, he rose to his feet and walked away from the pocket world.

After seeing Yue Wuya off, Xia Qingyue moved to her mother's side and asked her in a soft tone, "Was what he said... your wish too, mother?"

Yue Wugou held her daughter's hands and said in an even but weak voice, "Yes. It is my lifelong regret that we weren't able to marry. But..."

Xia Hongyi's image flashed across Yue Wugou's eyes, pierced her heart and spread the pain across her entire soul. She shook her head to clear the image before smiling. "It doesn't matter. You are my daughter, Qingyue. I want you to be able to live the life you wish to live. You don't have to force yourself to do something you don't want to do."

Xia Qingyue's lips parted, but she didn't say anything.

"Speaking of which..." Yue Wugou's gaze and smile suddenly grew warmer. "It looks like your relationship with that Yun Che you spoke of was much deeper than you described."

Startled, Xia Qingyue answered a bit dazedly, "We were husband and wife, but we didn't consummate our marriage. Moreover, I left him after our wedding day, and the number of times we met each other again after that can be counted on two hands. With that in mind, how could it possibly be a deep relationship?"

"Even so..." Xia Qingyue shook her head. "I find it... difficult to accept such a proposal even though he is no longer in this world."

Yue Wugou watched her daughter's eyes dotingly. "I am sad that your boy didn't survive the jealousy of the heavens, but I still think he is very lucky to have someone like you care for him."

Yue Wugou then changed the subject and said, "However, you should understand just how great of a fortune and misfortune it is to possess both the Nine Profound Exquisite Body and the Heart of Snow Glazed Glass. Had you cultivated without guidance in this ambitious and dangerous world... heaven knows how long it would've taken for you to leave this place."

Xia Qingyue looked at the sky and said dazedly, "I didn't even realize so much time had passed."

When she wasn't accompanying her mother, she was either reading up on the God Realm or cultivating. The latter took up at least eighty percent of the time she had been here.

"Now that he mentioned it, I actually feel like heading out to see how the outside world is doing."

"Oh, no you don't." Yue Wugou shook her head smilingly. "Even if you somehow convince me to say yes, he was the one who set up the barrier at the entrance. Only those who are directly connected to him by blood are allowed to enter this place. Also, you know why he 'imprisoned' you here. It is so that you can enjoy the peace and quiet."

"I understand."

"Speaking of the outside world," Yue Wugou's voice suddenly softened, and her eyes grew unfocused. "Today is your father's birthday, isn't it?"

"..." Xia Qingyue's lips parted as she mumbled. "Father's... birthday..."

Suddenly, she realized that she didn't remember her father's birthday.

Maybe it was because she had spoken for too long for the day, but Yue Wugou's aura suddenly showed signs of weakening. Xia Qingyue hurriedly supported her mother, lay her down on the grass and said, "Rest well, mother."

"Mn." Yue Wugou responded and closed her eyes. A short time later, she had fallen into a peaceful slumber.

After watching over her mother for a moment, Xia Qingyue rose to her feet and walked almost aimlessly.

Xia Hongyi, my father.

It had been years since I met him, but I hadn't visited him even once after I entered the Frozen Cloud Immortal Palace.

Today, I just realized that I didn't even remember his birthday.

He deeply loved my mother... he would cry soundlessly to himself watching images of her... He often mumbled her name beneath his breath... He never played the string again after she left... I wanted him to reunite with my mother... It was the reason I began cultivating in the first place.

So why... why do I remember so little about him...? And why do I only have memories that are related to my mother...?

During my time in the God Realm, I had thought about Frozen Cloud Immortal Palace, Yuanba, the fate of the Blue Wind Nation and many more things... but not him. Not even once.

I... don't even remember his face very well anymore...

He was my father for sixteen years...

Sixteen years of memories... and they are so faint it's almost as if they never existed in the first place.

Am I... really such a cold-blooded person?

She continued walking in this state for god knows how long. Before she knew it, she had arrived at the entrance of the pocket world.

The light purple barrier glowed with a gentle but tenacious light.

After staring at the barrier she couldn't step through for both tangible and intangible reasons, she suddenly found herself lifting a hand to touch it. She didn't know why.

Instead of the expected resistance and dissonant noise, her hand passed right through it like it never was.

"..." For a long time, Xia Qingyue could only stare at her hand and the pierced barrier.

After she withdrew it, she abruptly flew all the way back to her mother's side.

Yue Wugou was still sleeping peacefully. Nearby her was the pool of blood that Yue Wuya had spat not long ago.

Heart beating wildly for no apparent reason, Xia Qingyue summoned a bead of blood from her fingertip and another from Yue Wuya's blood.

When the two beads of blood made contact with each other and mingled perfectly with one another, her eyes lost focus entirely...