

The Gods 271

Chapter 271 - The Bamboo Forest Phantasmagoria

A clan dispute that had exploded after being pent up for a long time finally reached a conclusion that no one could have expected. Yun Che didn't actually know how Su Hengshan was going to treat the Su Hengyue and his son, as well as the elders and disciples that always supported him. He didn't really care about it. When Blackwood Stronghold left, he took Su Ling'er and left.

During this matter, Yun Che had roughly gained an understanding of Su Hengshan's nature. Evidently, this was an upright, honest, modest person, and he put a great deal of affection in his heart, but this wasn't such a good clan leader... because he wasn't fierce and determined enough with the way he did things. Otherwise, a person, such as an elder, wouldn't go rampant like that. Although it reached this step and Su Hengyue had already betrayed the clan, Yun Che could imagine the way he'll treat this matter still wouldn't be very decisive. After all, Su Hengyue was his elder brother. Also, it wasn't just him, there were many elder characters who supported him.

From the matters today, Yun Che was able to see the potential crisis that Grandwake Clan was in.

"Big brother Yun Che, you and Papa said that I'm already a... fiancée, what's a fiancée?" Su Ling'er grasped Yun Che's hands with a confused gaze and asked. She had a faint idea of what the word fiancée meant, but she wanted to hear the answer from Yun Che's mouth.

Yun Che smiled and said: "It means that when Su Ling'er grows up, you will marry me and become my wife... like your beautiful big sister."

Xia Qingyue slanted her eyes at him with a peculiar expression.

"Wi... fe... What does that mean?" Su Ling'er mouth was slightly agape, this form of address made her even more puzzled.

"This means that only I can call you Ling'er. After Ling'er becomes my wife, we'll be together forever to accompany each other, take care of each other, and make each other happy and do all the things that make us happy together." Yun Che lightly said. These words were really simple to say, but Su Ling'er at that time, until she disappeared and withered, wasn't able to hear it from his mouth.

Su Ling'er's footsteps immediately became a lot slower, as if Yun Che's words made her stupid.

Yun Che lowered his head and carefully asked: "Ling'er, then when you grow up, do you want to become my wife?"

Su Ling'er raised her snowy tender cheeks, then nodded with all her might. She laughed sweetly: "Mnn! I like being with big brother Yun Che!"

Yun Che held Su Ling'er's little hand even tighter. His heart was filled with warmth... mixed together with the pain.

Finally, Xia Qingyue could no longer remain silent. She slanted her gaze towards the tender little Su Ling'er, instantly guessed her age, and furrowed her brows and asked him: "Are you serious?"

Yun Che knew what Xia Qingyue was thinking. Anyone who saw him actually be so serious and determined for a ten year old girl to become his wife would only have one word in their heart: "beast". He stuck up the corner of her mouth and helplessly said: "I'm actually serious... But, I have my own reason. Besides..." Yun Che's expression was slightly painful: "This is only a dream, isn't it? Since it's only a dream, then let it... become as beautiful as a fantasy."

"..." Xia Qingyue had absolutely no idea what he meant, but looking at the sincerity and melancholy in his eyes, she turned her cheeks around and didn't ask again.

"Qingyue my wife, today you..." Yun Che very carefully asked: "Why are you that... Umm... obedient."

Xia Qingyue lowered her eyes and lightly said: "The strength that I have now should have originally belonged to you. If you wanted to use it, I wouldn't have refused."

Yun Che stared blankly, pinched his nose a bit, and didn't continue with this topic: "From the Earth Profound Realm all the way to the Emperor Profound Realm, this progress is too frightening. However, if the progress is too great, then there might be realm instability issues. Qingyue, it'd be good if I'll accompany you back to the Dragon Perching Pavilion to harmonize your aura for a bit to avoid any backlash that might be left behind."

Xia Qingyue nodded: "It's enough if I return myself. You can play with Ling'er."

Yun Che did not keep insisting. After warning her to be on guard, he brought Su Ling'er and left. After all, he promised Ling'er that after Xia Qingyue woke up, he'll keep on playing with her.

After Yun Che walked far away, Xia Qingyue turned around to look at Yun Che's figure from behind. Her mood was blank as she absent-mindedly soliloquized: "Is it because... we're husband and wife... ?..."

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"Ling'er, where do you want to go and play?"

"Hehe... when I'm together with big brother Yun Che, my mood will turn especially good. It'll be fine to go anywhere and play... Oh... let me think! That's right, let's go to the bamboo forest in the back, and play, okay?"

"Bamboo... Forest?" These two words touched upon some of Yun Che's nerves.

"Mnn! At the foot of the mountain, there's a big big bamboo forest. I like the wind in there the most. Only, Papa said that many dangerous profound beasts might appear there, and he never lets me go there by myself. Papa is always so busy too, so he rarely brings me there to play."

"Bamboo forest... bamboo forest... okay, then let's go to the bamboo forest and play."

South of the Grandwake Clan, was a huge area covered with a bamboo forest that extended all the way to the foot of the mountain in the distance; dense emerald green color flooded that entire area. Along with the rustling of bamboo leaves, dense bamboo branches and the waves of unceasingly refreshing wind that brushed by, made people incredibly relaxed and carefree.

“Wow! So relaxing!” Standing in the middle of the bamboo forest, Su Ling’er closed her eyes and extended both her arms, and raised her little nose to sniff the refreshing air from the bamboo forest with all her might.

The bamboo forest in front of them wasn’t as dense as the one where Yun Che and Su Ling’er lived before, but after seeing that same emerald green, the same delightful refreshment, and feeling the brush of the oncoming wind, it felt like his spirit was being lightly rinsed. Looking at the bamboo forest, then looking at Su Ling’er, Yun Che became silly for a moment... At the time, that beautiful bamboo forest and that beautiful Ling’er, that beautiful world with two people, why was the only thing he saw hatred...

Su Ling’er was always that melancholic, she always told him to let go of his hatred... Perhaps, at that time, she had already let go of her past and only wanted to stay together with him. The melancholy she had later, wasn’t from her past at all, but had probably come from him instead...

“Big brother Yun Che, it’s really beautiful here right?” Su Ling’er smiled and said: “This is my favorite place ever. Every time I come here, it feels like I’ve become a fairy, and I’ll forget all the unhappy things. I like everything here... I often think, if I grew up in the future, I’ll certainly place my family within a bamboo forest... Oh! Just thinking about it makes me so happy.”

Yun Che’s heart violently shook.

No wonder... no wonder when master died, she dragged his unconscious and heavily injured self for several days, and stopped within a patch of bamboo forest. At that time, he only believed that Su Ling’er felt it was safe and concealed... As it turns out, she was sincerely fond of bamboo forests and had a dream about bamboo forests since young.

In the bamboo forest, her heart could calm down, she could imagine herself as a fairy... and only within a bamboo forest, could she overcome her loneliness, worries, fears, depression and problems... Day after day, year after year, when forever waiting for his return.

Yun Che clenched both his fists tightly, and his heart sored like a pincushion. Shame filled his soul like a tide. He realized more and more that he wasn’t worth of Ling’er, that he wasn’t able to make it up to her even after ten lifetimes...

“Ling’er, let’s build a home here okay?” Yun Che lightly asked.

“Huh? Build a home... here?” Su Ling’er was full of astonishment.

“Mn!” Yun Che smiled and nodded: “Didn’t Ling’er always dream of living in a bamboo forest? Then let’s build a little bamboo house in the midst of these bamboos. This way, Su Ling’er can live here as long as she wants to.”

“Bamboo... house?” After Su Ling’er was startled for a while, her starry eyes immediately became incredibly bright: “Can we... really? But if the bamboo here gets hurt, isn’t that a bit too unfortunate...”

“Haha!” Yun Che began to laugh. He lightly comforted Ling’er’s cheeks and lovingly said: “There are so many bamboos here, and there are only a few that can be part of a little house. If these bamboos knew that they could be made into a house for an adorable Ling’er, then they would definitely be very happy.”

“Mn!!” Su Ling’er let her inner worries go and yelled with incomparable happiness.

Yun Che pointed his fingers out and directed his profound strength like a knife. With a sweep of his finger, over ten bamboos were neatly severed. Not long after, a huge pile of bamboo stalks that were thick enough stacked up by their sides, and a large enough open space was cleared up in this dense bamboo forest.

With Yun Che’s profound strength, this engineering feat wasn’t too difficult, but it wasn’t relaxing either. However, with Su Ling’er excitedly cheering him on by his side as he wiped his sweat from time to time, even though sweat rolled down his back, he didn’t feel the least bit exhausted.

The sky gradually dimmed and a simple little bamboo house finally took shape. This little bamboo house was much smaller and cruder than the one Su Ling’er and him lived in. It wasn’t even enough to shield them from the wind and rain, but this delicacy certainly had a clean and refreshing feeling. Also, this wasn’t just a small bamboo house, there was a little bed and a little chair inside as well.

After the bamboo house took shape, Yun Che’s ears were filled with Su Ling’er’s excited cheers. She excitedly ran around the little bamboo house. Her free spirited and beautiful voice reached his ears from very far away... She was actually like a carefree fairy.

“Big brother Yun Che, let’s just live in here today, okay? This was my dream before... also, with big brother Yun Che keeping me company, I won’t be afraid at all.”

“Mnn, okay!”

In the middle of the bamboo forest, they played from the afternoon all the way until the moon hung in the night sky. The laughter that came from Ling’er today was more than what Yun Che had heard from her during those times. This afternoon, the cheers and laughs that came from Ling’er became his entire world. Today, he belonged only to Ling’er.

The bright moon hung high up in the sky, and Ling’er, who ran around all afternoon, was finally tired. She and Yun Che slept shoulder to shoulder on the bamboo bed they built together... The bamboo house was very simple and very stiff... moving just a little would cause it to creak all over. However, laying on top on it, breathing in the fresh air, sniffing the odor of the emerald green bamboo, and feeling the breeze that slipped through the cracks from time to time, the two were were incredibly content. Of course, the thing that was even more important was that they were by each other’s sides.

“Big brother Yun Che, I really want to... be together with you forever... Oh... If I say it like that, would it make big brother Yun Che feel weird... Obviously, we’ve only just met today, but I liked big brother Yun Che from the first moment I saw you... Am I a really strange girl?”

The little bed was incredibly narrow. Su Ling’er lightly leaned against Yun Che’s body and asked in a little voice.

“No.” Yun Che began to smile: “Because it’s the same when I saw Ling’er. During an entire lifetime, it’s very difficult for a person to inexplicably like someone during the first time they see each other. If two people felt the same way about each other, then, perhaps they are destined by the heavens to be together, or perhaps... have lingering affection from a previous life.”

Chapter 272 - The Dream-Waking Hour

Ling'er turned around, and rested her head on Yun Che's arm. Her eyes were hazily looking at the moonlight shining down between the gaps of the bamboo trees. A long time later, she gently said. "If I can sleep in a bamboo forest, while under the moonlight, it will definitely be a very beautiful, beautiful thing."

Yun Che gazed upwards, and gave a gentle and natural smile. Pushing out his palm, with a "bang" sound, the bamboo ceiling above revealed a large enough hole. A full moon, completely appeared within Ling'er's line of sight. A huge amount of moonlight took the opportunity to pour down as well, lighting up every corner of the bamboo house.

"Wa!" Su Ling'er let out a tender cry. Looking at the full moon in the sky, and feeling the atmosphere coming from the man beside her, this was the first time she ever experienced the sort of feeling where even her heart was intoxicated.

"Big brother Yun Che, can I really become your wife, like beautiful big sister, and be with you together forever?" Su Ling'er asked sillily. The current her, still did not really understand the relationship between a man and a woman. However, she really purely, really strongly, liked and wished to be together with him.

Yun Che held onto her small hand, and gently said. "Of course! Your papa, had already betrothed you to me in front of so many people. When the day I return comes, and Ling'er is grown up, we can then marry, and then, be together forever..."

Su Ling'er first laughed lightly, and then, reacted over something, as she instantly grabbed onto Yun Che's arm. "When you... return? Big brother Yun Che, you're... you're going to leave?"

This was an illusory realm created by the Evil God's soul. Things like illusory realms, Yun Che was not foreign to them. Within the Phoenix's trials and the Dragon God's trials, the places that he had been to, were all illusory realms. The people that appeared in illusory realms, would not know they were actually illusions either. However, illusory realms were, after all, illusory realms. He could only stay here for twenty four hours, and after he leaves, everything here, would all disappear as well.

Sensing the panic in Su Ling'er's voice, his heart stifled, and said. "Ling'er, I'm not someone that belongs to this place. My home is in a place that's very far, far away. Even though I don't wish to leave, I still have to return, and I must leave, by tomorrow... But, Ling'er, don't worry, when you're grown up, I will definitely return... I will return to marry you, and then, bring you away, and stay together with you... alright?"

These were all lies that could not be fulfilled. Because, after the end of twenty four hours, every single thing here would disappear. No matter was it Su Ling'er of the past, or the current Su Ling'er, both of them could never appear again in his world. However, this promise of his, actually came from his soul, and did not have any hint of falsehood. If Su Ling'er was still alive in this world, then, no matter how heavy the price, he would definitely fulfill it, and never would he allow her to painfully wait for him again.

The night instantly became very quiet. The moonlight no longer shone, and even the intoxicating night wind had seemingly disappeared without a trace. When the information of Yun Che leaving tomorrow, and was even for a long period of time, entered Su Ling'er's mind, she realized everything she was

currently feeling revelled about, had quietly turned into reluctance and sadness... She and her father had come to this bamboo forest many times, and every single time, she would always be happy. However, she definitely had not felt as blessed as tonight. What she liked the most was not the bamboo forest, but the person who was currently accompanying her in watching the bamboo forest together...

Su Ling'er threw herself onto Yun Che's body. She did not cry, she simply closed her eyes tightly, and said gently, as though she was sleep-talking. "Big brother Yun Che... You must come back. I will properly, and obediently grow up. I will wait for you to come back and marry me, no matter how long, I will always be waiting... I will continue to wait till you come back and marry me..."

Although these words of infatuation that came from a ten year old girl were filled with innocence, it was more refreshing than a mature woman's emotional words. Because, the words from a girl at such a young age would not carry even a hint of falsehood, purposefulness and deliberateness, but only the purest and simplest of emotions, feelings and desires.

On the second day, when Yun Che carried Su Ling'er back to the Grandwake Clan, it was already noon. Based on the time, the twenty four hours stated by the Evil God's soul, they were only left with less than an hour.

Last night, they slept in each other's embrace, and in the morning, when the sky was still dark, Yun Che carried her and climbed up Grandwake Mountain, where they watched the sunrise together, and ate the wild fruits that came from Grandwake Mountain. They left many of their voices and footprints on Grandwake Mountain... And just like that, unknowingly, the deadline had approached.

"Che'er, are you really not considering to stay for a few more days? Ling'er isn't the least bit willing to see you go, you know."

Seeing Su Ling'er who was lying on Yun Che's back, and refused to get down at all, Su Hengshan helplessly said with a smile. To Yun Che and Xia Qingyue, he was naturally grateful in his heart, however, before he could even accommodate them, they actually come forward to say their farewells.

"I really wish to stay as well, however, I really do have a reason which I have no choice but to leave for. I seek Father-in-law for your forgiveness..." He turned his head and glanced at the girl he was carrying. With the calmest voice he could possibly use, he said. "I'm unwilling to let Ling'er go as well."

Su Hengshan nodded. He had already firmly believed that Yun Che and Xia Qingyue must be disciples born from a Sacred Ground-level Sect. Their actions and decisions, even with his title as 'Father-in-law', he basically did not dare to interfere either. Glancing at the girl who was quietly lying on Yun Che's back, with her two hands strongly hugging onto his neck, he silently sighed, and said. "Are you going to leave now?"

"Yes..."

"Have Ling'er take my place to send you two off then."

The one who sent off Yun Che and Xia Qingyue, was only Su Ling'er. Because, Su Hengshan knew that the person Yun Che cared about was only Ling'er, and even if he were to personally send them off, it would simply be excessive.

After leaving Grandwake Clan, Su Ling'er accompanied Yun Che and walked a very far distance, where they could not even see the silhouette of the Grandwake Clan. The time left from the full twenty four hours, had finally reached its final countdown as well.

Su Ling'er tightly grabbed onto Yun Che's hand. She was filled with sweet laughter while they walked, and did not even reveal a depressed look in the slightest. Walking up to here, Yun Che's feet stopped, and he gently said. "Ling'er, you can stop sending us off from here. If we go any further, I'm worried for the safety of your return journey."

Su Ling'er did not have the slightest resistance, as she nodded, and said with a grin. "Mn! I shall listen to big brother Yun Che's words. You and beautiful big sister must be careful on the road... Uuu, big brother Yun Che, can you give me something... something... something that will allow me to feel big brother Yun Che is always by my side..."

As she smiled... a teardrop that she did not control well, actually fell from the corner of her eye, a long tear mark drew down her tender face.

Yun Che's heart trembled, and then, he was instantly filled with a complicated sourness. He squatted down, and gently took off Su Ling'er's outer clothing. Then, he took off the Dragonscale Armor from his body, and under Xia Qingyue's surprised gaze, he put it onto her body. The Dragonscale Armor could automatically adjust itself according to the wearer's figure, so, even if Su Ling'er's figure was very slim and small, it was still very compatible. "Ling'er, this clothing is called the Dragonscale Armor, and it can protect you very well. You must wear it frequently, just like how I will be by your side, protecting you."

Taking off the incomparably valuable Dragonscale Armor, and giving it to Su Ling'er who was within a illusory realm, this seemed to look utterly ridiculous, however, Yun Che simply could not control himself at all... Because this was the best protection he could give Su Ling'er after leaving her.

He took out a purple spatial ring, and transferred all of the various food and water stored in the Sky Poison Pearl into it. Then, he took out the various medicinal pellets that he had usually refined himself, and put them into the ring as well, as he taught her the usage of each one. "These are Small Heaven Returning Pellets, use it when you're injured... These are Green Dew Pellets, when you're accidentally poisoned, eat one of these... These are Profound Recovering Pellets, when you do not have any energy left, eat one of these... In the future, if... I'm saying if there comes a day that you have no choice but to leave your home, and constantly encounter danger, you must definitely remember the items inside here. You must use the items here, to protect yourself well, alright..."

Su Ling'er listened to his words, constantly nodded, and nodded...

Yun Che did not wear this spatial ring on Su Ling'er's hand, because that would be too easily eyed by people, after all, purple rings which have a gigantic space and a long shelf life were still considered to be rather valuable treasures even in the Grandwake Clan. He passed a gold silkworm thread through the ring, hung it on Su Ling'er's neck, and had the spatial ring that was sparkling with purple light enter under clothes.

Within Su Ling'er's pair of eyes, teardrops were currently falling. Patapata. Every single teardrop, fell into the deepest part of Yun Che's soul. He carried Su Ling'er in his arms, and gently said. "Ling'er, don't be sad. We're not going to be separated forever, after all. Once you grow up, I will then return... return

to marry you! So, you must grow up happily, and cheerfully, so that when I return, I will be able to see the most beautiful Ling'er... If in the future, you were to encounter some difficulty, you must not be afraid, and you must not despair either. You have to forever remember that, in this world, there will be a person who, even if he can't see you, he will still forever think of you, and miss you..."

"Mn... Mn!!" Su Ling'er strongly nodded, and struggled to suppress her crying voice. Her thin teeth, had already bit rows of deep teeth marks into her small red lips...

The time left, had begun to enter the end of the end. Yun Che released Su Ling'er, held her face with his two hands, and gently kissed on her forehead. Then, he turned around, gritted his teeth, and walked forward, step by step... further and further away from Su Ling'er's line of sight...

Su Ling'er did not chase after him. Her two hands hugged the front of her chest, and she hugged onto the Dragonscale that came from Yun Che, which still carried his lingering scent. Within her blurry vision, she stared at his gradually disappearing figure. Finally, she could no longer hold it in any longer, and her tears poured out. Loud shouts accompanied by crying voices resounded through the entire large open patch of land...

"Big brother Yun Che! I will wait for you... I will wait for you to return and marry me..."

"Big brother Yun Che, you must think of me... you definitely have to think of me... You can't not think of me..."

"Big brother Yun Che... I will grow up quickly... You must return... You must... You must... You must return..."

"Big brother Yun Che... I'm unwilling to see you go... Uuuu... Uuuuuuuu...."

Yun Che's figure went further and further away, and finally, at a certain moment, he disappeared completely from her line of sight. She gently knelt on the ground, held onto her face, and began to cry out loudly... Her big brother Yun Che had left, and even her soul, had been brought away as well...

Su Ling'er's loud cries entered Yun Che's ears through the wind, causing his every step, to become incomparably more difficult than the previous one. His expression was painfully bitter, yet, he did not dare to turn back. Because, he was afraid that if he were to turn, he would no longer be able to take another step.

"The relationship between you two, is very strange." Seeing Yun Che's expression, Xia Qingyue softly said. She was unable to understand how a grown man and a girl who was only ten years old, create such a strong bond in just a short period of time of a single day.

Yun Che raised his head, and looked towards the sky. "Qingyue, do you believe in... past lives?"

Xia Qingyue was slightly startled. She silently looked at Yun Che for a moment, and gently nodded. "I do."

At this moment, in Xia Qingyue and his surroundings, a ripple of spatial distortion suddenly appeared.

"We're finally about to return." Yun Che closed his eyes, and softly whispered. "Good bye... My Ling'er..."

As he whispered, his and Xia Qingyue's figure had already disappeared within the spatial distortion at the same time. Following after, the feeling of a spatial shuttle assaulted over, and then, in a flash, it disappeared again. Within that moment, a cold wind blew over.

When opening his eyes, his vision was filled entirely with white snow... He and Xia Qingyue, had returned to the Heavenly Basin Secret Realm, however, their position was not at the top areas of the Heaven Basin.

"Huu..." Yun Che heaved a long sigh. Even though that was just a young Su Ling'er from an illusory realm, and only an illusion constructed by the Evil God's powers, even if that was the case, his separation with Su Ling'er still caused his chest to sink, as though it was about to explode.

"No matter how the beautiful the dream, eventually, there will come a time when one still has to wake up from it." Yun Che looked in front of him, and said with melancholy. Right after, he entered his subconsciousness, and said to Jasmine. "Jasmine, why did the Evil God's soul use the last of its powers to send me to such an illusory realm? Could it be, after reading my memories, it helped me resolve some of my regrets?"

"Illusory realm?" Jasmine's voice sounded. "So you're saying, you have been thinking the entire time that the world you stayed in for a single day earlier, was just an illusory realm?"

"... That's obviously an illusory realm." Yun Che powerlessly said. If it was not an illusory realm, then how would Su Ling'er, who had long passed away, appear? And she was even Su Ling'er who was still at a young age.

"Heh..." Jasmine suddenly began to laugh out strangely, as though she had found out something interesting, as she slowly said. "I see, it's no wonder your emotions and actions were so unusual. You actually treated that place as an illusory realm... But, I can very responsibly tell you this. That world you were at earlier, definitely... wasn't... an... illusory... realm!"

Chapter 273 - The Sudden Truth

"Not an... illusory realm?" Even though these were Jasmine's words, Yun Che was still shaking his head: "Impossible! I'm very certain that can't possibly be the real world. It's only an illusory realm!"

Jasmine faintly said: "Although I'm not sure why you are so sure that was an illusory realm, I am even more sure that it was the real world. Also, in deciding whether or not a world is real or not, I'm much more qualified than you! With your current strength, you're also absolutely unqualified to determine whether or not it's an illusory realm."

Yun Che: "..."

He was certainly incapable of determining whether or not that was an illusory realm... Even in realms of the Phoenix Trial and the Dragon God Trial, apart from them being incredibly dangerous, he felt that they were no different than the real world. If he hadn't entered them during a trial, but had entered them under different circumstances, he wouldn't have even believed that they were illusory realms.

But Jasmine wasn't the same. The realm she was in was something that Yun Che had absolutely no way of comprehending. Her understanding of the elemental laws and her comprehension and understanding of spatial laws was something that Yun Che had completely no chance of reaching up to. When they

entered the Heaven Basin Secret Realm, Jasmine could immediately tell the time that the Secret Realm was in and the fact that this was something that wasn't created by the people of this plane... Finally, with the confirmation from the Evil God's soul, he found that that it indeed wasn't something created with human strength, but something that the Evil God had created.

"The place we were in before that you believed to be the Azure Cloud Continent, had complete and stable elemental laws, natural laws and order laws. These laws are the basic laws that are absolutely impossible to create instantly in an illusory realm! Also, from the completeness of the laws, that was a continent that had existed for several billion years!! It's absolutely impossible for it to be some illusory realm... Even if the True Gods still existed, it's still impossible to create an illusory realm that has more stable and complete laws than a continent that had existed for several billion years!"

Yun Che: "!!!!"

"It's absolutely impossible even for the Evil God... let alone a soul fragment of the Evil God. That piece of soul you conversed with was already extremely weak. Using its final strength to be able to complete a round trip teleportation is already its absolute absolute limit. It's absolutely impossible to create an illusory realm! Even a most simplest of spirit realms is impossible!"

Jasmine's words were like one strike of shocking lightning after another that exploded in Yun Che's brain. It turned his entire brain into utter chaos, as if it was a huge wave that crashed into heaven...

That wasn't an... illusory realm?

That was... the real world? A real world that actually exists? It was the Azure Cloud Continent that he was so familiar with?

Then Su Ling'er... and time...

No! Impossible! Ling'er had obviously already passed away. She passed away in my arms and I personally buried her. How could that have been the real her... and also the time. If they were actually in the Azure Cloud Continent, it shouldn't be that time at all...

"There's more..." Jasmine's voice continued during this moment: "Not only is that Azure Cloud Continent an actual existence, its distance from the Profound Sky Continent shouldn't be too far, because its laws of elements, nature, and order have many similarities with the Profound Sky Continent. It and the Profound Sky Continent might actually be on the same planet. Only..."

Jasmine stopped for a bit. Her voice had a little doubt to it: "Azure Cloud Continent's fundamental laws are the same as Profound Sky Continent's laws, but the temporal law which should have the most similarities are actually a bit different... Hmph! Although interfering with the time law is fundamentally impossible, for these sort of lower planes, it's absolutely impossible for my perception to be wrong! Perhaps, Azure Cloud Continent's temporal law has been tampered with, or maybe Profound Sky Continent's temporal law has been tampered with, or maybe both have been tampered with!"

Jasmine's words have been filtered time and time again within Yun Che's head, making his originally impatient and disorderly brain even more chaotic... Now, he suddenly raised his head as if lightning struck his brain...

He suddenly remembered that in the realm of the Phoenix Trial, the Phoenix spirit told him something very strange...

"...It seems that the girl whom you call Ling'er must have really been very important to you. And also because of her, your inner self holds heavy regret. However, you don't have to suppress this regret in the depths of your soul. You have passed through the reincarnation cycle due to the Heavenly Profound Treasure and it has tampered with this world's karma. Under the butterfly effect, time, dimension, and planes will also change as well. Your regret and debt, you may have not yet lost your chance to make up for them."

"..."

"..."

Heavenly Profound Treasure...

Passing through the reincarnation cycle...

Butterfly Effect...

Tampering with karma...

Interfering with time...

These words rampaged within Yun Che's brain until they finally slowed down. With his unimaginable rebirth, with Jasmine's words, with Su Ling'er in the Azure Cloud Continent within the "illusory realm"... Everything began to slowly make sense...

Passing through the reincarnation cycle... after he died in the Azure Cloud Continent, he woke up in a dead body in the Profound Sky Continent...

Isn't this precisely going through the reincarnation cycle... Since after a person's death, all of their memories and life should have been washed away, since they reincarnate into a completely brand new next life. But for himself, he retained all of his memories from his previous reincarnation...

If the Azure Cloud Continent that he was in wasn't an illusory realm, then the Su Ling'er he met wasn't an illusion... Then, wasn't it precisely... karma and time that had changed...

Him "passing through the reincarnation cycle" was a fact, because it was his most genuine and strange experience, then... then... Azure Cloud Continent's time interference, Ling'er's existence... were real too!?

However, even Jasmine had said interfering with time was fundamentally impossible... Also, he didn't have the so called Heavenly Profound Treasure that was able to "pass through the reincarnation cycle" on his body. The only Heavenly Profound Treasure that he had was the Sky Poison Pearl, and its powers were concentrated in poison, medicine, refinement, containment and finding things; they had nothing to do with "reincarnation" at all. Apart from the Sky Poison Pearl, he had no other Heavenly Profound Treasures at all. If he really had one he didn't know about, how could Jasmine not sense it?

“Jasmine...” Yun Che breathed a deep breath and quietly asked: “Within the Heavenly Profound Treasures, is there anything that allows... passage through the reincarnation cycle, and tampering with karma?”

“...I just said, temporal laws are fundamentally impossible to be tampered with, but I never said that it’s absolutely impossible to tamper with them, precisely because among the seven Heavenly Profound Treasure, there exists a heaven opposing item that can cause time to flow in reverse. It’s precisely the seventh treasure of the Seven Heavenly Profound Treasures, the “Mirror of Samsara”. The power of the Mirror of Samsara is precisely ‘tampering with cause and effect and transmigration’! After the complete destruction of the True Gods, there hasn’t been another power that was sufficient enough to tamper with time and dimensions. Apart from the ‘Mirror of Samsara’ that is able to interfere with time, there’s also the sixth treasure of the Heavenly Profound Treasures that could interfere with dimension, the ‘World Needle’.”

“The abnormalities of the temporal laws within the Azure Cloud Continent made me precisely thinking about the possibility that someone used the ‘Mirror of Samsara’... this is an extremely interesting discovery since at least this shown that the ‘Mirror of Samsara’ once manifested on the Azure Cloud Continent! If ‘those people’ knew about this fact, then perhaps a terrifying wave of carnage would sweep through this plane!”

Mirror of Samsara... Mirror?

Yun Che’s heart suddenly throbbed, and he subconsciously held the pendant that he always wore.

Could it be...

“Jasmine,” Yun Che calmly said: “If the Mirror of Samsara actually manifested, then you can probably sense its existence with your power right?”

“No,” Jasmine denied: “Amongst the seven Heavenly Profound Treasures, the Mirror of Samsara’s abilities are the most heaven opposing, but the reason it’s ranked last is because every time it activates, it must hibernate for twenty years. Within these twenty years, it does not have a shred of power. It’ll become the same as most ordinary mirrors.”

“...”

Yun Che’s heart rate accelerated. He held his pendant tightly... In his memories of the Blue Wind Empire, he wore a pendant since young and never took it over. Similarly, in the Azure Cloud Continent, he had always worn it. In two different continents, two different lives, he had a pendant that he always wore with him.

After opening this pendant, there was a little mirror... A little mirror that could not possibly be more ordinary.

But according to Xiao Lie, the reason his birth parents were chased and killed was because of an item known as a... “Heavenly Profound Treasure”!

Could it be that it actually is... one of the seven Heavenly Profound Treasures, the Mirror of Samsara?

If it really was the Mirror of Samsara, it would explain why he went from the Profound Sky Continent to the Azure Cloud Continent and the period from the Azure Cloud Continent back to the Profound Sky Continent...his memories, his life's transfer, without any breaks! All the questions could have a correspond explanation...

If it really was the interference from the Mirror of Samsara, then... then... the Azure Cloud Continent that he just went to... the Su Ling'er he had personally embraced...

Were also real!!!

His life in the Azure Cloud Continent, disruption in reincarnation, disruption in space and time... everything was real!!

Su Ling'er... is still in this world! Still on the Azure Cloud Continent that he was familiar with and grew up in!

Then, his master... perhaps with the reverse flow of time, might still be alive! After all, when Su Ling'er was ten, he was only twelve. At the time, he was still traveling the world with his master!

"That was Ling'er... that was Ling'er... that was actually Ling'er... She didn't die... she's really Ling'er..."

The sudden facts exploded Yun Che's brain. All the blood in his body practically began to boil. He looked at both his hands and violently trembled all over... He always thought the Ling'er that he had obviously seen and closely embraced was nothing but an illusion created by the Evil God. Jasmine's words, combined with his experience with the voice of the Phoenix spirit made him hear the morning bell. His Ling'er had just been in front of his eyes, by his side. He treated her like an illusion and then left just like that...

Yun Che growled from the bottom of his throat, then fiercely reached out and pounded his head. He was occasionally mad with joy and then occasionally had a nervous breakdown... the Ling'er he was madly in love with was still alive. In his anger and regret, he treated her like an illusion, and didn't bring her back at all...

All of Yun Che's weird reactions had finally started to make Jasmine understand them. Looking at the pendant that he had been grabbing onto in his hand, she suddenly said: "So that's how it was, no wonder you went to that continent and lost control when you saw that little girl... It's also no wonder why Sky Poison Pearl fused together with your body..."

"Don't tell me, the one who activated the Mirror of Samsara's power... was you!?"

Chapter 274 - Leaving Heaven Basin Secret Realm

"I don't know." Yun Che didn't refute Jasmine, but he was unable to confirm it either. After a slight hesitation, he frankly said: "But I actually did transmigrate because I was originally poisoned to death in the Profound Sky Continent, and in the Azure Cloud Continent, I fell off a cliff when I was twenty seven... After waking up, I returned to the Profound Sky Continent, and awoke under the condition in which I had been poisoned to death... All the way until now. And Ling'er, was my most important person in the Azure Cloud Continent, but she had obviously died!"

Jasmine: "..."

“These sorts of things actually happened to you!?” Jasmine was truly startled. She had heard of the legends concerning the Mirror of Samsara, but she hadn’t seen the Mirror of Samsara and its powers at all. If what Yun Che said was true, then it would fit perfectly with the Mirror of Samsara’s “passing through the reincarnation cycle” in the legends! Only the Mirror of Samsara could achieve these things!

“Then, in your memories, was there an item that was always on your body... If I’m guessing correctly, it should be the pendant that you’ve always worn on your neck? I remember when you opened it, there was only a mirror inside...” Jasmine slowly said: “Then, apart from the Sky Poison Pearl, there was actually another Heavenly Profound Treasure on your body! Except, where did you get this Heavenly Profound Treasure from?”

“I don’t know... it had always been on me. I always thought that reason that I kept wearing it was because it was the only evidence to find my birth parents.” Yun Che shook his head: “The only thing that I want to know now is: since the Azure Cloud Continent is real, then where is it? How do I return there... That was the real Ling’er... I must find her again!”

“...If I can leave your body and move as I wish, then I can find where the Azure Cloud Continent is within three days, but it’s completely impossible for me right now. Azure Cloud Continent shouldn’t be too far away from the Profound Sky Continent. When my powers reach a certain height, I can naturally see a wider portion of the world... For you, this is the only way to return to that Continent.

Not too far away... This was in regards to Jasmine’s power level! If it was actually not too far away, how could there be no records of the Profound Sky Continent in the Azure Cloud Continent. Even if Jasmine’s guess was correct, and the Azure Cloud Continent and the Profound Sky Continent were on the same planet, then the distance between the two would certainly be impossibly far, a distance that’s even harder to reach than the sky.

Jasmine’s final words also tapped Yun Che’s confused brain heavily and suddenly made him clear-headed.

Right... That’s right! No matter how much I think about it right now, it’s useless! At least the conclusion is that Su Ling’er is still in this world. This was an incredibly pleasant surprise. To meet Ling’er again, the only way was to become strong. As long as he was stronger, strong until the point that he could shun the heavens and earth, then Azure Cloud Continent would appear in his sights, and he could find Ling’er again!!

Yun Che’s mood became incredibly calm. He breathed in a breath of air and suddenly asked: “Jasmine, if it’s really because of the Heavenly Profound Treasure’s interference that made Azure Cloud Continent’s time flow backwards, then on the Azure Cloud Continent right now, could another Sky Poison Pearl appear?”

“This is unlikely.” Jasmine faintly said: “There’s also something you’re mistaken about. If the power of the Mirror of Samsara really activated, then the reverse flow of time would be a small part of it. The thing it’s most suited to interfere with is ‘karma’ and ‘reincarnation’. Right now, not only would you and the Sky Poison Pearl not be on it, it’s possible that... they’ve never existed.”

Yun Che: “...”

“Karma”, “Reincarnation”... these were illusory and mythical words. They were things that were impossible to touch no matter what. Yun Che never thought that such incredibly illusory things could actually be interfered with. He spread his palm out, looked at the dim pendant, and quietly asked: “If this is really the Mirror of Samsara, then what kind of person... could actually create such an item...”

“This fact is impossible to trace back to.” Jasmine said: “But the only thing that’s certain is that interfering with ‘karma’ and ‘reincarnation’ is tens of millions times harder than interfering with ‘dimension and ‘time’. When the True Gods existed, there were certainly powers that could interfere with the flow of time, but not one True God had the ability to interfere with ‘karma’ and ‘reincarnation’. Since they were the most fundamental laws since universal order, they should absolutely be untamperable; otherwise, there would be chaos beyond the control and expectation in the universal order. However, the Mirror of Samsara could actually tamper with the most fundamental universal laws... The Sky Poison Pearl fusing with your body, is completely because of the ‘karma’ interference. It made what should have been impossible, possible. No one knew who created it, and what power created it.

“There are many legends that involved the Mirror of Samsara. In its history, it fell into many people’s hands until it finally fell into somewhere unknown... But in all these years, I’ve never heard of anyone being able to activate its power. And for the Heavenly Profound Treasures, what was even more unimaginable was that you... You are clearly an inferior human, but you possess two Heavenly Profound Treasures... If it wasn’t for the fact that I have to rely on the Sky Poison Pearl, and the Sky Poison Pearl is fused with your body, I’ll unhesitantly choose to kill you and seize both of your Heavenly Profound Treasures.”

“Yun Che, what happened to you?”

A deeply doubtful voice arose from the crisp and cool air beside Yun Che’s ears. He gripped his palms, didn’t put the pendant back around his neck, and stored it into the Sky Poison Pearl. Then, he smiled bashfully at Xia Qingyue: “Nothing’s wrong, I just have some sudden regrets.”

After swallowing the Evil God’s Water Seed, Yun Che was feeling very intimate with water element right now, and it far surpassed Xia Qingyue. He didn’t feel the slightest bit cold in this world of ice and snow. He gazed at Xia Qingyue all over with a strange expression and said: “I really want to take a look at how surprised your master and everyone else would be when they find out that you entered the Emperor Profound Realm.”

Without a doubt, after they leave the Heaven Basin Secret Realm, once Xia Qingyue’s profound strength was exposed, there would be huge indescribable commotion. A seventeen year old at the Emperor Profound Realm, that was truly an achievement on a level of the Four Great Sacred Grounds... For a Sacred Ground-class disciple to emerge from a little Blue Wind Empire, perhaps the entire Profound Sky Continent would be shaken.

Xia Qingyue looked deeply at Yun Che, and suddenly said: “Thank you.”

“...Why thank me?”

“Formidable power is very important to me, and it’s something that I’ll chase after for my entire life. If not for you, I wouldn’t have been able to reach my current height. So, thank you...” Xia Qingyue said

lightly as she controlled her gaze. Back then, when he was in Floating Cloud City, he was powerless and helpless, so he was always being bullied until he was eventually expelled from his clan with no power to resist the other youths. If it wasn't for her assistance, his most beloved relatives would encounter hardships... After meeting again, he had already matured into a tree that pierced the heavens. The help that he had given her at the time was ten of millions times more than she had given him.

"Heh, we're married, we don't need to thank each other." Yun Che grinned and laughed: "If you really want to thank me, hmm... let me see you smile. We've known each other for so long, but I've never see you smile before."

Xia Qingyue lightly shook her head: "It's impossible for me. Ever since I was four years old, I had already forgotten how to cry, and how to smile..."

Yun Che was immediately stunned. He saw a dismal confusion flash past both of Xia Qingyue's eyes. He thought for a while and said: "Then can you tell me why you're so persistent on seeking power?"

When he was young, he was full of curiosity about his fiancée Xia Qingyue. When he played together with Xia Yuanba, he would often ask about Xia Qingyue, but Xia Yuanba had the same response every time... she was cultivating.

Practically all of her time was devoted to cultivating profound strength. Until Yun Che was sixteen years old, he had only seen her a couple of times, and they were all fleeting glances. She had an attachment to profound strength that was incomprehensible for other people to understand.

Xia Qingyue stayed silent for a while. She reached out her jade hands, cupped some flying snow and gently replied: "Aren't you the same as me... You, why are you so attached?"

"For myself, and for all the people I care about to not be mistreated." Yun Che said without the slightest hesitation.

"Not be mistreated..." Xia Qingyue's eyelashes softly closed as she answered with a voice as gentle as fluttering snow: "I only seek... to reunite my family."

Yun Che's heart was moved as he looked at Xia Qingyue with shock. He silently pondered about the meaning of her words for a while then asked: "This 'family', does it include me? If you talk about a family, then as your husband, I should be your... most intimate of family on paper."

Ice and snow slowly accumulated on Xia Qingyue's palm, and didn't melt for a long while. Her jade hands moved slightly and the white snow scattered into all four directions in the frigid wind. She touched the indescribable and bleak pain in her heart that was silently spreading out: "I am a person who's not fit to have a husband... because I might never be able to fulfill the responsibilities of a wife... There will be a day when I will leave here to go to a distant place, and it might be impossible to return anymore..." She shut her eyes and softly spoke as if she were in a dream: "Once, you were as ordinary as sand and only made me occasionally worry about you. Now, you are as dazzling as diamond, and makes me, who is destined to have no future, feel more and more terrified..."

Rumble Rumble...

A deep and distant rumbling noise sounded, and slight vibrations began to arise from the ground. Two rapidly expanding spatial whirlpools individually appeared beside Yun Che and Xia Qingyue.

“It looks like we’re returning...”

Before Yun Che even finished his sentence, the two were simultaneously sucked into the spatial whirlpools.

Chapter 275 - Gargantuan Favor

In the blink of an eye, two days had passed since members of the ranking tournament’s top ten entered the Heaven Basin Secret Realm.

Several tens of people anxiously stood waiting on the vacant space in Heavenly Sword Villa’s rear mountains. These were precisely the members of the various sects who could not enter the Heaven Basin Secret Realm. Heaven Basin Secret Realm was a completely isolated world, and news of anything that happened in there could not be transmitted, so they had absolutely no idea as to what happened in there during these two days.

Cang Yue and Xia Yuanba were undoubtedly the most worried of persons there, because not only did Yun Che enter with serious injuries that had not fully healed, his profound strength had not even fully recovered either, which meant that the danger of him entering this unknown area was increased exponentially. In these past two days, Cang Yue could barely eat and could barely sleep. She had long since been waiting in this spot, and anxiously waited for Yun Che’s figure to appear.

Ling Kun stood in the middle of the open space and silently looked on ahead.

Zzzt!

In the wake of the brilliant radiance brought along by the spatial vortex, a person dressed in white was tossed out. His hair was disheveled and his clothes were worn out, as if he had recently fought a fierce battle... The first person to come out, was surprisingly Ling Yuefeng.

Ling Kun opened his eyes, and faintly asked: “Any finds?”

Ling Yuefeng slightly exhaled, and answered with knitted brows: “We were not lucky this time, and encountered Heaven Basin Secret Realm’s harsh winter. Everything was sealed in ice and covered by snow, so there weren’t any great gains. But, I made an astonishing discovery, inside this Heaven Basin Secret Realm, unexpectedly dwells a Tyrant Profound Beast!”

“Oh?” Ling Kun’s gaze flashed: “What kind of Tyrant Profound Beast?”

Ling Yuefeng shook his head: “I have only perceived its sound force and did not dare to approach it. Perhaps someone had the misfortune of angering it.”

“Hmm...” Ling Kun muttered: “There was actually a Tyrant Profound Beast inside. If I knew that, I would’ve went in together with you. Wanting to find a Tyrant Profound Beast, is not that easy.”

Although Heaven Basin Secret Realm was mysterious, the things that could be found inside were too inferior to Ling Kun. After he had entered once, he had no interest entering again, which was why he didn’t go this time.

Zzzt Zzzt Zzzt Zzzt...

After Ling Yuefeng, were the flickering of many rays of light. More and more people were being tossed out. Even though Ling Yun and Ling Jie were both in tattered clothing, they were both perfectly fine, and also had some findings.

Members of the various large sects appeared one after another. Very quickly, Xiao Sect's members were all present, and Burning Heaven Clan's members were appearing one after another... but in the end, only four had come out.

Fen Moli appeared with a murderous aura that filled the sky. The moment he appeared, he loudly roared with extreme rage: "Mu Tianbei!! You brute, come out right now!! To actually have murdered my Second Young Master... I will exterminate your entire clan!!"

Fen Moli's anger and shout instantly made the members of Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress tremble with fear, and also stunned everyone present... Mu Tianbei killed Fen Juebi? Nobody had heard that there were any grievances between Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress and Burning Heaven Clan. Why would Mu Tianbei kill Fen Juebi... To have killed Burning Heaven Clan's Second Young Master, had Mu Tianbei gone crazy!?

"Great Elder!" Fen Juecheng immediately went to Fen Moli's side, pulled him to the side, and said whispered something with gritted teeth.

More and more people were coming out, and every time one came out, Cang Yue's heart would tightly squeeze a little. Xia Yuanba incessantly comforted her on the side: "Senior Sister, rest assured. Brother-in-law is so strong, so he definitely be fine."

Zzzt...

The last rays of light flashed in the empty space, and Yun Che simultaneously appeared with Xia Qingyue. They stood side by side.

"Junior Brother Yun!" Cang Yue shouted out with pleasant surprise and immediately let go of all her worries. She sucked in a long breath of air, and hurriedly dashed at Yun Che.

And at this time, an angry roar suddenly exploded like a clap of thunder: "Despicable junior... Die!!"

In the midst of the roar, Fen Moli immediately pounced like an angry lion. His entire right arm ignited with deep purple flames, as he directly burst towards Yun Che.

Everyone present were all basically discussing their findings and gains within the Heaven Basin Secret Realm. No one would ever think that the situation would change in this way. Qin Wushang immediately turned pale with fright. Chu Yueli and Chu Yuechan's complexions had also abruptly changed... because Xia Qingyue was standing right next to Yun Che. Under this attack from Fen Moli, it was extremely possible for Xia Qingyue to be harmed as well. How could two juniors possible withstand an attack from an expert half a step into the Emperor Profound Realm?

But since everything was so unexpected, once they had time to react, Fen Moli had already flown in front of them. There was simply no time for them to block it, and they could only simultaneously yell out: "Stop!!!"

Cang Yue, who had almost arrived at Yun Che's side suddenly felt an incomparably scorching air current come from her rear, and the dangerous feeling made her rosy complexion lose color. Fen Moli's attack in extreme rage was fast and ferocious. He wanted to instantly kill Yun Che, and judging by the direction in which he had charged at, Cang Yue would be the first to be affected.

Yun Che's brows immediately sank. Instead of withdrawing, his figure flashed forward, and he rapidly sound transmitted to Xia Qingyue: "Help me cripple him!!"

After leaving behind an afterimage, Yun Che had already flashed beside Cang Yue, tightly embraced her, and activated "Sealing Cloud Locking Sun"...

In the midst of everyone's surprised gazes, as if mad, Xia Qingyue confronted Fen Moli's attack. Blue light curled around her right hand as she extended one hand forward and met Fen Moli's purple flame.

"Qingyue!!" This scene made Chu Yueli turn pale in horror, as she could only helplessly watch the two people's attacks collide...

A muffled sound echoed as an enormous ice lotus instantly blossomed between the two people. Under the swiveling of the ice lotus, the purple flames on Fen Moli's arms instantly extinguished completely. Without even having time to be bewildered, the enormous ice lotus suddenly split open, transforming into nine smaller ice lotuses that separately smashed onto Fen Moli's face, neck, body, ribs, and limbs...

Though they were both at the Emperor Profound Realm, if Xia Qingyue had to go against Chu Yuechan, she would be defeated without question, because in terms of battle experience and mastery of the Frozen Cloud Arts, she was far inferior compared to Chu Yuechan. However, in regards to pure profound strength, she had already completely surpassed Chu Yuechan by one level, and had surpassed all of the Frozen Cloud Seven Fairies. In this kind of direct collision, even Chu Yuechan would be at a disadvantage, let alone a Fen Moli... Even though half a step into the Emperor Profound Realm only had half a step of distance from the Emperor Profound Realm, this half step was a tremendous chasm!

The scene that everyone had expected to happen did not appear. What they saw, was actually Fen Moli being thrown backwards outside of the fluttering ice crystals. He landed with a groan, and his eyes protruded outwards. His complexion was pale as he widened his eyes and firmly fixed his gaze at Xia Qingyue. His throat surged with movement, until finally, his entire body trembled all over. With a thump of his heart, he knelt on the ground as his entire body twitched in pain.

Xia Qingyue casually withdrew her arm. During this entire course of events, she had not moved from her current location. The profound energy produced by the exchange between her and Fen Moli was obviously incomparably frightening, but under the protection of Sealing Cloud Locking Sun, Yun Che and Cang Yue had only been thrown into the distance, and was not even the slightest bit injured. He promptly released Cang Yue and worriedly looked her up and down: "Senior Sister, are you alright?"

Cang Yue's little face had turned pale from the change of events earlier. With her profound strength at the True Profound Realm, being immersed in the collision between one at the Emperor Profound Realm and one half step into the Emperor Profound Realm was a sensation similar to dropping down the abyss of death. When she saw the safe and sound Yun Che, she laughed in relief: "I'm alright..."

After she said those two words, she discovered that their surroundings had become frighteningly quiet... Everyone's gaze were focused upon Xia Qingyue. Regardless of whether it was the young disciples or those imposing experts, all of their faces had suddenly warped into that of shock.

"Emperor... Profound... Realm!" Ling Kun looked at Xia Qingyue with sinking eyebrows, and an elusive tint flashed in his eyes. The three words he had said aloud resonated like three claps of thunder beside everyone's ears.

"This isn't... possible..." Ling Yuefeng absent-mindedly murmured. The shock in his heart was indescribable. Although Chu Yuechan stepping into the Emperor Profound was surprising, it was still completely acceptable. After all, she was originally half a step into the Emperor Profound Realm. But Xia Qingyue... a seventeen year old Throne. In Blue Wind Empire, this was practically even more fantastical than myth! Even if one were to personally witness this, they were incapable of believing it.

Everyone had become completely dumbstruck. A seventeen year old Throne, this was a concept that they were fundamentally unable to comprehend, and also something they were simply unable to accept.

"Qingyue, you... you actually..." Chu Yueli walked over. She looked at Xia Qingyue with beautiful eyes filled with shock and incredibility. Since a disciple had made a breakthrough, she ought to be happy, but the breakthrough Xia Qingyue had made this time was just too exaggerated, and too terrifying. What she first felt, was actually terror.

Standing in front of Xia Qingyue, and sensing the aura of a Throne coming from her, even as her Master, Chu Yueli, still felt a deep oppression.

Xia Qingyue walked forward, gently made a disciple's courtesy, and softly explained in front of everyone's gazes: "Master, disciple had a fortuitous encounter within the Heaven Basin Secret Realm, and consumed a fully bloomed Emperor Awakening Heart Lotus... Only, this disciple never thought that the effectiveness of the Emperor Awakening Heart Lotus far surpassed the rumors. In the span of one day, it unexpectedly allowed this disciple to directly break into the Emperor Profound Realm."

The intelligent Xia Qingyue knew that she had to explain this matter in front of everyone present. The breakthrough she had this time was too world-shocking. Those shocked, were not only a little Blue Wind Empire. If she did not explain it properly, there would inevitably be many people or forces... outside of Blue Wind Empire that would do their utmost to investigate the reason behind it in attempts to reap some profit. It was extremely possible for this to attract unexpected trouble, so she simply publicized the reason behind it, cutting off any sort of future troubles. At the same time, since she had already consumed the Emperor Awakening Heart Lotus, others would obviously not covet any remaining surplus. Even if they longed for it, it would still lead to nowhere.

"So that's... it... So that's it!"

The name, Emperor Awakening Heart Lotus pierced like thunder through the ten large sects' ears. That was the sacred object written about in Blue Wind Empire's records! Rumors of the Emperor Awakening Heart Lotus' existence being within the Heaven Basin Secret Realm had also been there for several hundred years. After hearing the cause of this change, a portion of the terror within Chu Yueli's mind naturally dissipated, and was replaced by extremely pleasant surprise and excitement: "Four hundred

years ago, a late senior who had fallen within the Heaven Basin Secret Realm had left behind news of an Emperor Awakening Heart Lotus within the Secret Realm. In these several hundred years, numerous seniors had also attempted to find it. I didn't expect that this great opportunity had actually fallen onto you... This is truly a blessing from Heaven."

As the other sects' members listened in on their conversation, the shock, admiration, and jealousy in their eyes were practically leaking out of their body... The Emperor Awakening Heart Lotus, a sacred object from legends! No wonder why a young girl had reached the Emperor Profound Realm in one step. This was Xia Qingyue's good luck, and was also Frozen Cloud Asgard's good luck... In front of this heaven-sized great luck, they seriously felt that even with their several hundred years of luck added together, it would not even reach this Frozen Cloud Asgard that had recently obtained an Emperor Awakening Heart Lotus!!

They simply could not imagine what sort of realm the seventeen year old Xia Qingyue, who had entered the Emperor Profound Realm, would reach in the future... But what they did expect, was that when Xia Qingyue fully matured, as long as she was there, it was impossible for Heavenly Sword Villa to maintain their stable and unmoving, millennium long, number one position!

Xia Qingyue actually shook her head, and softly replied: "Master, this actually isn't disciple's good luck. The Emperor Awakening Heart Lotus wasn't actually found by this disciple. And was instead..." She used her eyes to hint at Yun Che, and continued: "And was instead discovered by Sir Yun. At that time, disciple had encountered a gigantic beast within the Secret Realm, and was bound for death. To save me, Sir Yun allowed me to consume the Emperor Awakening Heart Lotus... If not for Sir Yun's rescue, not only would it be impossible for me make a breakthrough, even my life would remain inside Heaven Basin Secret Realm."

Xia Qingyue's words were even a bit unexpected to Yun Che... because the few sentences she said to play it down, had actually made Frozen Cloud Asgard owe him a gargantuan favor!!

Chapter 276 - "Demon" (1)

Everyone used an incredibly amazed expression to look at Yun Che. Each and every one of them truly found it difficult to believe that someone would freely give away an item that was hard to come by even in a millennia, to someone else. If he did that under the state in which he clearly knew that it was the Emperor Awakening Heart Lotus, then this boldness, and this sort of sensibility could both be said to be larger than the heavens.

Chu Yueli lightly nodded towards Yun Che: "Yun Che, this favor of yours, our Frozen Cloud Asgard will remember it. From today onwards, you are our Frozen Cloud Asgard's most important friend! If you need anything, do not hesitate to ask our Frozen Cloud Asgard."

"This idiot... just for the purpose of gaining a beauty's favor, he actually gave away the legendary Emperor Awakening Heart Lotus!! The Emperor Awakening Heart Lotus!!" Xiao Kuangyu murmured while gritting his teeth. Even though he said that, he was extremely clear in his heart that the seventeen year old Yun Che, who was able to obtain first place in the ranking tournament, was not an idiot no matter what!

What they saw were only two people lucky enough to find the Emperor Awakening Heart Lotus, and simply did not know of the fatal calamity that had befallen them when they found it.

What Chu Yueli had said was not out of anyone's expectations. If Yun Che had willingly given the Emperor Awakening Heart Lotus to them, no matter which sect it was, they would all be willing to treat him like an ancestor. This kind of favor was truly too great. Not only did he save Frozen Cloud Asgard's most outstanding disciple since their founding, he had also allowed Frozen Cloud Asgard's level to greatly increase.

Yun Che originally did not care about some Frozen Cloud Asgard's favor, but once Chu Yueli had said those words, his heart moved as he asked: "Chu fairy is too courteous. With the friendship between me and Qingyue, this isn't really that much... But, erm, can I really ask for anything?"

When he said those words, his gaze shifted towards Chu Yuechan. Sensing his gaze on her, Chu Yuechan's looked to the side with a face full of coldness.

Chu Yueli's eyelashes softly fluttered, and she simply answered with elegance: "This great kindness that you have given our Frozen Cloud Asgard is too difficult for us to repay. If you have any requests, as long as we can accomplish them, as long as they don't violate our Frozen Cloud Asgard's principles, we would certainly not refuse."

"Okay!" Yun Che nodded. That being the case, he no longer had to be modest with Frozen Cloud Asgard: "I hope that the noble Asgard would remember today's words. If this junior requires any help from the noble Asgard in the future, then this junior would definitely not hold back."

"Our Frozen Cloud Asgard would never go back on its word. It is only right for us to do this because of the great kindness you have bestowed upon Qingyue." After finished speaking, Chu Yueli shifted her gaze towards the extremely ugly sight of Fen Moli. At this time, her eyes became as cold as ice crystals: "Fen Moli! My Frozen Cloud Asgard and your Burning Heaven Clan have no grudges nor grievances, yet you, with your status as your clan's Great Elder, had the nerve to actually dare attack our disciple with a deadly strike! If Qingyue did not have such heavenly luck, then she would've died by your hands! Do you, Burning Heaven Clan, wish to become mortal enemies with our Frozen Cloud Asgard?"

In Fen Moli's previous explosive rage inducing strike, he used around seventy percent of his strength. As for Xia Qingyue's counterattack, she used at least ninety percent of her strength. In that one exchange, Fen Moli's internal injuries could be said to be extremely severe. If not for his unwavering profound strength that firmly suppressed it, he would have already fainted long ago. With fury written all over his face, he took in a large mouthful of air and pointed at Yun Che: "That... That brute! He killed... our clan's Second Young Master!"

Following the last flickering lights from midair, Heaven Basin Secret Realm had completely closed. But two people had not come out. One was precisely Fen Juebi, and the other, was Mu Tianbei.

"I killed your clan's Second Young Master?" The corner of Yun Che's mouth slanted. That disdainful expression looked as if he had heard an amusing joke: "Elder Fen, with which eye did you see me kill your Second Young Master? Hmph, in fact, it was your Burning Heaven Clan's Fen Juecheng and Fen Juebi who plotted to take advantage of me when I had not fully recovered my strength in Heaven Basin Secret Realm. Not only that, they did not even hesitate to involve Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress'

Mu Tianbei! If it weren't for Xia fairy's rescue, I would've already died in your Burning Heaven Clan's two despicable people's hands!"

"What?" Qin Wushang's expression changed into that of fury.

"Bullshit!!" Fen Moli angrily replied: "Why would our great Burning Heaven Clan target a nameless junior like you! It was obviously you who had evil intentions and plotted against my Second Young Master!!"

His words "nameless junior", made many secretly laugh to themselves. Before the ranking tournament, Yun Che was indeed a nameless junior. But now, Yun Che's overall strength and fame, had far surpassed every member of Burning Heaven Clan's younger generation. If he was still considered to be a "nameless junior", then wouldn't it mean that his Burning Heaven Clan disciples were not even worthy of being called "nameless"?

"Hahahaha!" Yun Che laughed wildly: "Your Burning Heaven Clan's despicable shamelessness, distorting of facts, and ability to blame the victim first as the guilty, has truly opened my eyes. Fen Juebi did indeed die, but he had clearly died by Mu Tianbei's hands! At that time, Xia Qingyue and your Young Clan Master were present. Furthermore, I have also heard your Young Clan Master say that you had planted some kind of special soul imprint on Fen Juebi's body. If he had been killed, then you would immediately know who had killed him... Do you swear on your Burning Heaven Clan's thousand years of honor, that the person you saw, who killed Fen Juebi, was truly me?!"

"You..." Fen Moli was suddenly at a loss for words, as his face turned purple. His reaction, had also let everyone clearly understand the truth. They were not at all unfamiliar with such a thing like a dying imprint. But seeing Fen Moli's reaction, the person he saw, who had killed Fen Juebi, was definitely not Yun Che. Due to that, it was clear that Burning Heaven Clan had shifted this crime on Yun Che's head. As for everything else Yun Che had said, they ought to be true as well.

Chu Yueli's crescent brows tightened slightly while asking: "Qingyue, you were really present at that time? What exactly happened?"

Xia Qingyue calmly replied: "Reporting to Master, at that time, disciple was indeed nearby and had heard about the Burning Young Clan Master resenting Sir Yun because of Princess Cang Yue. After he entered the Heaven Basin Secret Realm with Fen Juebi, they had continuously tailed behind Sir Yun together. Furthermore, they had also brought along Heavenly Spear Thunderfire Fortress' Fort Master Mu, who wanted to put Sir Yun to death. But when they took action, Fort Master Mu had accidentally killed Fen Juebi. With the support of the concealment of ice and snowy weather, disciple took Sir Yun and helped him escape that life-threatening situation. Elder Fen saying that Fen Juebi had died by Sir Yun's hands... are completely false."

Xia Qingyue had said the complete truth, but her narration was extremely ingenious. Mu Tianbei accidentally killing Fen Juebi was true, but the one who concocted the "accident" was Yun Che.

Xia Qingyue was like a fairy in snow. With her incomparably beautiful complexion and extraordinary temperament, it was impossible for anyone to doubt her words. Once her words fell, a hissing sound immediately echoed from the surroundings. All kinds of contemptuous gazes lowered onto the six Burning Heaven Clan members and pressured them. They had recently suffered a crushing defeat in the

ranking tournament, angered Frozen Cloud Asgard, and now they were held in contempt in everyone's eyes. If this were to go out, it would very negatively affect their Burning Heaven Clan's prestige.

Fen Juecheng's expression continuously changed. He finally clenched his teeth and said with complete discomfort: "Yun Che! You are well aware of how my Second Brother died! This grudge, our Burning Heaven Clan will make you pay in blood!"

Yun Che laughed coldly. Just when he was about to counterattack, a low voice suddenly sounded: "Enough!!"

Ling Kun swept the crowd with a gaze full of coldness. His gaze possessed an incomparably heavy oppression. Everyone who was swept past had all stopped breathing instantly. He spoke with indifference: "Wait until you leave Heavenly Sword Villa to settle whatever grudges and grievances you have with one another. How you want to settle it, is none of anyone's concern. But this Heavenly Sword Villa, is not a place for you to resolve your resentments! I don't want to know who killed who, or who wants to kill who. What had happened earlier, I can pretend that they did not happen. But after we return to the Villa, if anyone takes action or continue to bring up past grievances, don't blame me for being impolite!"

The incomparable might brought along by Ling Kun's words made everyone shut their mouths. As for Burning Heaven Clan's side, they had also breathed in a sigh of relief. Ling Kun said to Ling Yuefeng: "Yuefeng, I have stayed here long enough. I must leave tomorrow, so the Demon Sealing Ritual should start right now.

Ling Yuefeng nodded: "Everything will be as Elder Ling has planned." After he finished speaking, he turned to face the crowd: "All of you have already heard what Elder Ling said previously. Everyone has only recently left the Heaven Basin Secret Realm and had spent quite a large amount of their profound energy, so much that some of you still retain injuries. But this is the first time that the Demon Sealing Ritual became open to the public. This 'demon' had also used to be an enormous secret. To be able to personally see this demon, as well as the Sealing Ritual, is an extremely rare and valuable experience. I ask everyone to follow Elder Ling and I to the Sword Management Terrace. If you do not wish to come, you may return to your courtyards to rest. Everything is up to you."

Sealed under Heavenly Sword Villa's Sword Management Terrace was a mysterious "demon". All the various sects had heard of this matter, and were all curious as to what kind of "demon" it was since the start. It was only natural for them to not want to miss this kind of opportunity. As a result, everyone neatly followed Ling Kun and Ling Yuefeng, and headed for Heavenly Sword Villa's Sword Management Terrace.

But not everyone was interested.

"Qingyue." Chu Yuechan stopped Xia Qingyue: "Are you interested in this so-called 'demon'?"

Seeing Chu Yuechan, who was like an icy moon, Xia Qingyue immediately understood why she had stopped her. She slightly shook her head: "Disciple isn't really that interested."

"If that's the case, then follow me. The range of your profound strength's increase is too large, it would easily cause your profound strength to become unstable and harm your profound veins. It must be

stabilized as quick as possible." After speaking, Chu Yuechan rose in the air and flew in the direction of the courtyards.

"Yes, Senior Master." Xia Qingyue informed her master Chu Yueli, then followed Chu Yuechan.

Members of the ten large sects quickly returned to Heavenly Sword Villa, and then headed towards the Sword Management Terrace. The assembly of Blue Wind Profound Palace's four, were undoubtedly conspicuous. Qin Wushang was at the front. Following right behind him were Yun Che, Xia Yuanba, and Cang Yue. Yun Che and Cang Yue were constantly whispering on the way, and Xia Yuanba's eyes glittered as he eagerly rubbed his hands in anticipation. It was obvious that he was looking forward to see the rumored "demon".

"Fen Juecheng and them really wanted to kill you?" Cang Yue tightened her brows as she asked while holding back her rage.

"Mn. But don't worry, a mere Fen Juecheng is no longer a threat to me anymore. But..." Yun Che secretly sighed: "Senior Sister, I probably can't return to the Blue Wind Profound Palace with you anymore. After we leave Heavenly Sword Villa, Burning Heaven Clan will definitely make their move. I have to escape their notice and then leave alone. They definitely won't do anything to you, Palace Chief Qin, or Yuanba. Burning Heaven Clan will be hunting me down. I probably cannot return to Blue Wind Profound Palace for a long time, but don't worry Senior Sister, I have never been afraid of things like people hunting me down. If there is someone chasing me from behind, it would force me to become even more powerful."

Yun Che's words immediately tightened Cang Yue's heart... Burning Heaven Clan firmly believed that Yun Che was Fen Juebi's cause of death. The death of the mighty Burning Heaven Clan's Second Young Master would inevitably invoke the sky filling fury of the entire Burning Heaven Clan. The result, would precisely be an unceasing hunt for blood...

That was an assassination from one of the Four Major Sects that the Blue Wind Imperial Family had always been deeply afraid of!!

Even though he had said those words with the most relaxed of tones, he still sensed that Cang Yue's breathing had momentarily stopped. Her complexion had also become slightly pale, and a pair of small hands firmly grabbed onto him. He immediately comforted: "Senior Sister, there really is no need to worry. Don't forget, I also have the protection of Frozen Cloud Asgard. If worst comes to worst, I'll go hide in Frozen Cloud Asgard."

Chapter 278 - Frightening Change of Events

"The profound formation used to seal this demon is called the Heaven's Might Soul Suppressing Formation." Ling Kun pointed his finger at the continuously flashing light from the profound formation beneath them, and said: "No matter who it is, in this Heaven's Might Soul Suppressing Formation, their profound strength would be suppressed to the maximum limit. When this demon is being locked under Heaven's Punishment, he shall never even think of ever escaping this Heaven's Might Soul Suppressing Formation."

Ling Kun said expressionlessly: "This demon's outer appearance is completely the same as us, and profound strength is also what he cultivates, yet he possess a type of special ability called 'Profound

Handle'. However, amongst the demons, those who possess 'Profound Handles' are also few in number."

"And now, you have already seen what you all ought to have seen. Remember what I had said previously." Ling Kun's gaze swept across the entire audience. Then, he took a step forward and coldly smiled as he stood in front of the barrier: "Demon, you must be really thankful to me since I have allowed you to see sunshine for this long, right? Before sending you back, I have another piece of news that I wish to tell you about... Heh, your son, and your daughter-in-law overestimated themselves and charged straight into Mighty Heavenly Sword Region twenty years ago to save you. But alas, they didn't know that you had been transferred here a hundred years ago. Hahahahaha."

The demon trembled all over. Fiercely raising his head, he roared like a madman: "You... What did you do to my son!! What did you do to him! If you harm a hair on my son's head, I wouldn't forgive you even if I become a ghost!"

"Tsktsk." Ling Kun coldly laughed as he shook his head: "Your son was quite crafty, and had actually escaped our Mighty Heavenly Sword Region. He had almost found this place too, but alas, we found them first. What was even more unfortunate is that they thwarted us again, and escaped back to the Illusory Demon World. However, both of them were seriously injured, and had been fleeing for several months, so their life force were pretty much burnt out. Even if they ran back to the Illusory Demon World, they practically had one foot in the grave. I'd reckon that they had already died more than ten years ago."

The demon's eyes grew wider without wavering. An endless sadness, anger, and despair crazily erupted from his body. He struggled hysterically, and shouted frantically: "You're lying!! You're lying! My son would never die! AHHH!!! Mighty Heavenly Sword bastards... You guys are the ones who deserve to die!! AHH!!"

In the midst of his roar, a hand suddenly extended from the crack within the sealed demon's chains. Bringing about a boundless hatred, the hand shot straight for where Ling Kun was standing, and a beam of profound energy shot forward.

Cries of shock immediately sounded from the surroundings. Everyone had all subconsciously retreated backwards. Ling Kun had also revealed traces of astonishment, but he was not scared, nor was he in a panic as he stood completely still. The profound energy beam struck the barrier, but did not pass through it. After a light "bang", it disappeared completely.

"Everyone, fear not. Even though this profound formation barrier cannot prevent others from entering, it can completely keep all kinds of power from going out. The demon cannot harm us." Ling Yuefeng explained. However, he was not at all calm, because he was well aware of how powerful this Heaven's Might Soul Suppressing Formation was. It was strong enough to suppress someone's profound strength down to not even one percent of their true strength. But under this suppression, the profound energy aura that came from the attack this demon activated under his rage, was actually not the least bit inferior to his all out strength!

To still be able to unleash an early-stage Emperor Profound strength after being sealed an entire hundred years, and it was even under the Heaven's Might Soul Suppressing Formation... his complete

strength in a normal situation was simply unimaginable! He was at least, stronger than Ling Kun by who knows how many times.

“Hmph!” Ling Kun coldly snorted in disdain: “To have allowed one of your hands to break through, looks like the previous seal was not tight enough. But no matter, you aren’t that naive to think that you could escape the Meteorite Chain’s seal and Heaven’s Punishment Sword’s suppression, right?”

“You despicable mongrels, I want to kill you... kill you all... AHHHH!!”

Ling Kun’s words from earlier had obviously upset the “demon” greatly, because perhaps to this “demon”, what had kept him going all along without giving in to death, was not the Demon Emperor, but his family. His roar was full of resentment and despair. He waved the only arm he could move, and lines and lines of profound light crazily smashed towards Ling Kun. The shouts he released were no different than that of a wild beast’s. The sounds of his struggles as he twisted and turned within his shackles were ear-piercing.

“Tsktsk, how pitiful.” Ling Kun shook his head: “The former Demon Emperor’s guardian angel, the ‘King’ of Illusory Demon World’s millions of inhabitants, has now become a pitiful mad dog. Even I, am not willing to see such a sight. I guess it’s best to let me... send you down!!”

With a flip of his palm, a strange profound formation crystal was pinched between his fingers. A small scaled profound formation appeared before his body. Subsequently, the profound formation underneath the Heaven’s Punishment Sword began to flicker again in response. Then, it slowly rotated, and gradually moved the Heaven’s Punishment Sword, and the area in which the demon was sealed, downwards.

Even though Ling Kun was strong, he absolutely did not have the power to move this huge seal formation, nor did he have the power to steadily move it. Only with the profound formation made by over ten of Heavenly Mighty Sword Region’s top experts and the sealing power within that heavenly crystal, could he do that. As for Ling Kun himself, frankly speaking, he was just an errand boy and nothing more.

“This demon is really scary.” Cang Yue said with a small voice.

“He really is scary. I wonder what kind of great hatred exists between his Illusory Demon World and Heavenly Mighty Sword Region to have made him be sealed here within a world of no daylight for a full hundred years. There’s not many in this world that could go through that. Even though it looks as if he’s a bit mad, he actually has not truly gone insane. The strength of his spirit, is truly astounding.” Yun Che lamented.

“I also think... that he’s really pitiful, and don’t think that he’s bad person.” Xia Yuanba said carefully in a low voice.

“The grudges and grievances within such a plane like the Sacred Grounds, are things that we can never touch. As such, we even more so, do not have the qualifications to judge whether or not this demon is a bad person... We can only look from afar.” Qin Wushang said.

As the Heaven’s Punishment Sword slowly lowered, the demon’s figure was also beginning to gradually fade from their line of sight. But he still howled like an evil spirit, and the sound resonated past

everyone's ears. His hysterical attacks had also not stopped as chaotic profound streams of light smashed against the barrier: "I will definitely kill you... ALLL!!! I will definitely kill you all!!"

In the midst of his crazed roar, he suddenly stopped his assaults. He stretched his arm out in front of him and fiercely pulled inwards.

Whoosh!!

A burst of wild wind suddenly blew out from within the barrier. Then, it weakly expanded as it passed through the barrier while bringing along a magnetic force. It was obvious that in his extreme rage, this half crazy demon wanted to kill someone, and wanted to drag someone inside to kill them. As long as he could suck them into the barrier, no matter who it was, even if it was Ling Kun, once inside the "Heaven's Might Soul Suppressing Formation", they were bound for certain death, because even if it was someone stronger than Ling Kun, once inside the Heaven's Might Soul Suppressing Formation, their profound strength would also be suppressed down to at most the Spirit Profound Realm.

It was just that after passing through the barrier, the attraction force was extremely feeble, and those currently present were Blue Wind Empire's strongest experts. This gravitational force was simply too weak to affect them.

"AHHH!!! GRAHHHH!!!"

The Heaven's Punishment Sword continued to descend, and the demon's voice had begun to become gloomy. At this time, the nonthreatening attraction force stopped... Two breaths later, an energy current suddenly narrowly centralized outwards, and ferociously charged outwards... And the direction in which the energy current surged towards, was surprisingly... the spot where Yuanba was standing at!!

Everyone present could easily resist the energy current the demon had released with all his strength. This included Cang Yue, who was only at the True Profound Realm. But there was one exception...

Which was the Yuanba with the lowest level profound strength, who was only at the Elementary Profound Realm!

Beneath the energy current, Xia Yuanba was suddenly, and fiercely, sucked in and flew towards the barrier. It was only up until the instant his body touched the barrier, did he let out a frightened cry.

No one had expected this sudden, misfortunate turn of events. None of them would have anticipated that the demon, who was about to be sealed back into the ground, would actually go frenziedly latch onto a youngster who was only at the Elementary Profound Realm. With the Heaven's Might Soul Suppressing Formation and the barrier in place, the demon was not suppose to bring them any harm in the first place. But these super strong practitioners that transcended strength, had all subconsciously forgotten about the existence of a super weak practitioner, and did not even think that the demon would use all his strength to take action on a weakling that wasn't suppose to be there anyway.

"Yuanba!!!"

This was an event that Yun Che totally had not foreseen. They were suppose to be mere spectators here. With numerous experts around them, how could they possibly anticipate that such a disaster would suddenly arrive and target them? As he watched Xia Yuanba get sucked into the barrier, Yun Che paled in fright, and then fiercely charged over in the midst of his explosive roar.

“Don’t go over there!!”

Qin Wushang immediately reached out to pull Yun Che back, but with the swift and mystical movements of “Star God’s Broken Shadow”, Qin Wushang’s lightning fast hands could only grab at his afterimage.

Sss!!!

Yun Che’s speed at this time, had greatly surpassed all of his previous peak speeds. The flashing of his figure had unexpectedly raised the sound of an ear-piercing spatial friction. At the speed of light, he had finally chased towards Xia Yuanba’s rear, and grabbed at his left ankle... But at this instant, both he and Xia Yuanba were sucked into the barrier at the same time, inside the Heaven’s Might Soul Suppressing Formation!!

Without the barrier’s obstruction, energy current that had been aimed at Xia Yuanba was immediately a thousand times stronger, and quickly dragged them towards the demon at an extremely fast speed... What accompanied them, was the demon’s deranged laughter: “Hahahahaha... Kill! I’m going to kill you all! Kill you all!!”

“Junior Brother Yun!”

“Yun Che!”

“Boss!!”

“Don’t go over there!!”

Cang Yue was firmly locked in place by Qin Wushang. The startled Ling Jie was slapped backwards by Ling Yuefeng. As they watched Yun Che and Xia Yuanba get sucked deeper and deeper into the barrier, everyone’s face had changed color. Ling Kun had previously explained what the Heaven’s Might Soul Suppressing Formation did to them, and they were incomparably clear about what it meant to be sucked into the Heaven’s Might Soul Suppressing Formation.

Ling Kun’s expression had also changed greatly. In his eyes, he had undoubtedly lose a large amount of face because this kind of event happened under his watch. But even if he was given ten times more courage, he would not enter the Heaven’s Might Soul Suppressing Formation to rescue them... And even if he did go in, it was simply impossible for him to rescue them. Instead, it would’ve been like setting himself up for suicide. He could only look on helplessly as the two youths continued to get sucked towards the demon.

“Br... Brother-in-law!!” Xia Yuanba screeched out loud. His face had turned deathly white when he looked behind him and saw Yun Che, who had firmly grabbed onto his ankle.

An incredibly huge suppression surged forth from every direction and firmly locked onto Yun Che’s profound veins, making him feel as if his profound strength was being frozen by a force that he was unable to expel... But this feeling of suppression could only last for a short period of time... The Heaven’s Might Soul Suppressing Formation could indeed maximally suppress any human’s profound strength at will, but at this moment, Yun Che had become Heaven’s Might Soul Suppressing Formation’s sole exception, because his profound veins were not any ordinary person’s profound veins, but rather profound veins that came from a True God!!

As for a True God's profound veins, how could a mere Heaven's Might Soul Suppressing Formation from the mortal world possibly suppress it?!

"AHHHH!!!"

Following the rays of flashing red light from the Evil God's Profound Veins, that feeling of suppression immediately dissipated without a trace. After releasing an explosive roar, his entire body surged with a blood-red radiance. It was also at this time, that his eyes had instantly changed into a scarlet color.

"Purgatory!!"

In this moment between life and death, Yun Che had no reservations whatsoever to forcefully open the third gate. Under the explosive surge in profound strength, he concentrated all his strength on his right arm and suddenly flung Xia Yuanba backwards...

In this split second, he forcibly broke out from the demon's irresistible gravitational force, and flung Xia Yuanba far behind him. Then, he shouted once more as he turned around in midair and used all his strength to continuously push at Xia Yuanba...

"Yuanba... leave!!"

Whoosh!!

Following Yun Che's loud roar, all of his strength transformed into a surging storm, struck at Xia Yuanba, and rapidly sent him flying far away, outside the barrier... As for he, himself, under the rebound and the demon's magnetic force, he flew towards the demon at an even faster pace.

"Br... other-in-law!!"

Xia Yuanba's flying body flew further and further away... Until he finally arrived at the edge of the barrier... At the instant in which his body separated itself from the barrier, he saw Yun Che flash a faint smile that brimmed with satisfaction before he closed his eyes...

Bang!!

After Xia Yuanba fell out of the barrier, he heavily smashed onto the ground. He, who was bound for certain death had actually been miraculously thrown outside the barrier. His head was spinning in circles and his body ached all over with extreme pain. Before he even had time to breathe, he got up and threw himself at Yun Che while releasing a heart breaking, lung rendering wild cry: "Brother-in-law... Brother-in-law!!"

It was also at this time that Yun Che's back landed onto the demon's palm. With a loud sound, his back was immediately burst open. His flesh was broken into pieces as his bones scattered everywhere. A bloody arrow around six meters in length spurted forth from his mouth. Subsequently, as if a broken puppet, his entire being was tossed aside into the distance and no longer moved. A large pool of blood rapidly spread from underneath his body... the final thing he heard with his last bit of consciousness, was the demon's wild laughter, which contained an incomparable elation.

Boom!!

The Heaven's Punishment Sword suddenly dropped down at an extremely fast rate. Then, in the midst of a loud sound, it completely fell down, sealing the demon, as well as the already deceased Yun Che, into an unimaginable depth under the Sword Management Terrace.

"Junior Brother Yun!!" Cang Yue released a desperate blood-curling scream. Then, both her eyes turned over as she fainted.

Chapter 279 - The Fallen Genius

"Brother-in-law... Brother-in-law... Brother-in-law!!"

Xia Yuanba rushed forward as if he was insane, and threw himself under the Heaven's Punishment Sword. Both of his hands smashed the platform under the Heaven's Punishment Sword with *bang* sounds, until the skin between his thumb and index finger bursted open with blood. But the suppression of the Heaven's Punishment Sword couldn't be shaken in the slightest even if all the power of the whole Heavenly Sword Villa were combined together. Let alone one Xia Yuanba, even ten million Xia Yuanbas would not be able to cause the slightest bit of damage.

Everyone's faces were filled with shock. They never would have thought that Yun Che, who defeated the core disciples of several major sects at the age of seventeen, who took first place in the ranking tournament, whose name that shook the continent, would so quickly perish in this kind of unexpected manner in front of them right after he had obtained such a extremely dazzling aura.

And the reason why he perished, was not due to an accident from the hands of the demon, but was due to trying to save a person who was not even worthy of being called "trash" in their eyes. As they sighed, they didn't know whether to commend him for his loyalty, or to lament at his foolish behavior.

"How did it end up like this...." Qin Wushang was shocked silly. Standing there for a long time and not knowing what to do, his eyes enlarged the longer he looked on. Glory and pride were brought to Blue Wind Imperial City, but a nightmare happened so suddenly, just like that. He raised his head, and heavily gasped for air. He felt so depressed, as if his chest was about to explode. Claspng on a trace of hope, he took incomparably heavy strides towards Ling Kun, stood in front of him, and lifelessly asked: "Elder Ling, is it possible to lift the Heaven's Punishment Sword?... Maybe Yun Che... Maybe he..."

Halfway through his sentence, Qin Wushang could no longer continue speaking due to grief. So what if they lifted the Heaven's Punishment Sword? In that one strike from the demon, everyone could clearly see the horrible sight of Yun Che. That kind of heavy wound, let alone a person in the early levels of the Spirit Profound Realm, even a strong profound practitioner at the Sky Profound Realm would undoubtedly be dead... with no possible sliver of hope that they could be alive.

Qin Wushang's words startled the Xia Yuanba, who was sobbing in desperation. He abruptly threw himself at Ling Kun. With a loud plop, Yuanba knelt firmly in front of Ling Kun, and grabbed his legs with his freshly bloodied hands. "Elder Ling... Elder Ling I beg you... I beg you to please be merciful and lift the Heaven's Punishment Sword... Brother-in-law... he wouldn't die so easily... please... please... I beg you to save Brother-in-law!!"

Xia Yuanba's voice was hoarse and filled with desperation, letting those who heard him tremble in their hearts. Ling Kun's face was quite unsightly, as he was ultimately the main cause of this incident. If it wasn't because he suddenly had an idea before the ranking tournament to let the top ten sects to

observe the Demon Sealing Ritual, this would not have happened. If it was Xia Yuanba who died, this incident would have been a small matter that would have been forgotten really quickly.... That's right! No one would remember weaklings, not to mention a dead weakling. This was the true reality of the situation.

But Yun Che; he was the champion of the ranking tournament! More importantly, he was sectless, did not belong to any faction, and fought with the identity as the sole disciple that represented the Profound Palace's Imperial Family. This achievement of his stimulated and excited countless sectless youths who dreamt of becoming a strong person. The uproar he incited by winning the tournament this time exceeded every ranking tournament. Those in Heavenly Sword Villa had no idea, but within the borders of the Blue Wind Empire, Yun Che had already caused a huge storm. Especially in the Blue Wind Imperial City; the whole city was already in a celebrative atmosphere, and were preparing to welcome Yun Che's return. Even Blue Wind Emperor, Cang Wanhe, was glowing pink with happiness while awaiting their triumphant return every day.

Yun Che's perfect control of the heavy sword, had even made Ling Kun feel like bringing him to Heavenly Mighty Sword Region.

But such a person, had perished just like that.

If this incident were to be leaked, the wave of terrible public opinion that it would bring along, would be no different than an enormous wave that could lift the entire Blue Wind Empire into the sky.

Ling Kun took a deep breath, and spoke with a heavy voice: "Preposterous! The suppression of the Heaven's Punishment Sword can't be released on a mere whim. The profound formation that I just activated required the cooperation of more than a dozen Heavenly Mighty Sword Region's elders and it also took a long time to finish.... Sigh! Even if it was possible to release it, so what? The wound he received just now... he has to be dead. He caused it himself... you all should... just give up."

Every word that Ling Kun said was the truth and everyone agreed. Even within the Heaven's Might Soul Suppressing Formation, this demon was still able to release a profound strength at the level of the Emperor Profound Realm. That one attack was not something that Yun Che could possibly withstand. When they saw the injury Yun Che received under that one palm had caused their entire body to shudder all over. That type of injury, if it were inflicted on any other person, even if they had mountains of spiritual pellets and miracle herbs, it would still be impossible for them to survive that..

Even in an optimistic scenario, even if he didn't die and had one breath of air left, he was still in the directly provoked and crazed demon's grasp. How could he possibly still live!

Even in the most optimistic scenario possible, even if the demon decided to not kill him, and he miraculously lives... Heaven's Punishment Sword's suppression could only be released once every twenty years. Because of the demon's great strength, even without eating and drinking for a hundred years, he wouldn't die. But at Yun Che's level, one to two months was the absolute maximum. After that, he would die to hunger and thirst.

No matter what, Yun Che was bound for certain death.

"Sigh!" Qin Wushang sighed, shut his eyes, as his heart filled with grief.

Xia Yuanba stopped moving. He knelt there, frozen still, as if he suddenly died.

“Yuanba, stand up, you have to properly live on. Only with that, would you be worthy of this life that Yun Che sacrificed his to save.” Qin Wushang said dejectedly. After he finished speaking, there was no response at all from Xia Yuanba. He lowered his head, and wanted to pull Yuanba back up, but he suddenly saw two very distinct long streaks of blood on Xia Yuanba’s face.

Tears of blood!! Only when a person was in extreme grief, extreme pain, and when their spirit was on the verge of collapse, with their soul in endless lamentation, would they bleed out tears of blood!!

Qin Wushang’s heart was violently shocked. In this moment, he could understand that he had continuously underrated Yun Che and Xia Yuanba’s bond and feelings. He would not have known that when Yun Che’s profound veins were crippled, Yun Che had suffered under the extreme coldness and ridicule from others. Apart from his Grandfather and Little Aunt, only Xia Yuanba had constantly stood beside him, encouraging and comforting him, time and time again fought until bloodied against the people who mocked him. When Yun Che was young, Xia Yuanba was half of Yun Che’s mental support, and was this lifetime’s one and only true brother who he had engraved deep into his heart. As Yun Che became more powerful and brilliant, there would always be different kinds of “friends” around him. But the relationships with those kinds of friends would never ever be able to compare to the time when he was at his lowest, when everyone looked at him with contempt, when he was seen to have no future. Would never be able to compare with Xia Yuanba’s pure and authentic feelings.

That was why when Yun Che became strong, he could not stand a single instance where Xia Yuanba had been bullied. Whoever hurt Xia Yuanba, he would make the other party pay the greatest of prices. When he saw Xia Yuanba encounter a crisis, he would have no hesitation trading his own life for his... because Xia Yuanba was completely worth it for him to do so.

Qin Wushang hurriedly crouched in front of Xia Yuanba, and consolingly said: “Yuanba, are... are you okay? Sigh... if you want to cry, then loudly cry it all out. After crying, you must live well, live to prepare Yun Che’s funeral, and even more so, live to help Yun Che finish the things he had not finished...”

Qin Wushang’s comforting words had no effect on Xia Yuanba at all. He knelt there, unmoving, with a face so pale there was no shred of color. His eyes were empty without a trace of life, and the two streams bloody tears on his pale face made it incomparably chilling...

“Yuanba!” Qin Wushang loudly shouted.

This loud shout startled Xia Yuanba, as if shocking him awake from a nightmare. He suddenly screamed “ah”, stood up, and charged towards the north in a crazed manner. That lung piercing and heartbreaking scream resolutely piercing into everyone’s heart like countless needles filled with endless grief and sadness. No one stopped him. Their eyes filled with complex expressions as they watched him run out of their line of sight.

“Yuanba!!” Qin Wushang shouted. He wanted to chase, but he could not leave the unconscious Cang Yue. He sighed deeply, and his heaviness in his heart could even crush a mountain

“Villa Master Ling, please find someone to look after my disciple Yuanba.” Qin Wushang said helplessly, not willing to speak with any other person. He picked up Cang Yue, and flew towards their courtyard with a back that looked extremely lonely and desolate.

“How could this happen... How could this happen...” Ling Jie sat down on his butt, and blankly looked at the enormous Heaven’s Punishment Sword as his heart instantly chaotically tangled like hemp rope.

“The heavens are truly jealous of such outstanding talent.” Ling Yun shut his eyes, and said sympathetically.

“Elder Wugou, send someone to closely follow the one called... Xia Yuanba, don’t let him get into any accidents. Furthermore, let Grandmother Jiumu go to Princess Cang Yue to check up on her. Don’t let her body and spirit get hurt. Sigh.” Ling Yuefeng finished his instructions and sighed deeply. The achievement of becoming the champion of the ranking tournament with profound strength at the True Profound Realm was unprecedented, but just like this, a peerless genius seen once in a thousand years, had fallen. There was no way that anyone would not feel regret.

“Yes.” Ling Wugou’s said in a dignified tone as he left.

“We should leave too.” Chu Yueli eyes fluctuated with a complicated expression as she took Shui Wushuang and Wu Xuexin, and silently left. She felt a bit a regret at Yun Che’s death, and a bit of pity. At the same time, she also felt a hint of rejoice that she should not have... because since this had happened, Xia Qingyue would be completely free of worldly bindings, and could focus on meditation in Frozen Cloud Asgard, until the day she takes over as the Asgard Mistress, and lead Frozen Cloud Asgard to stand at the very peak of Blue Wind Empire. The gargantuan favor that Frozen Cloud Asgard owed to Yun Che, had also disappeared into thin air.

Most of the people were in lamentation, but there were also some people who rejoiced in other people’s misfortune. For Fen Juecheng, this result was simply a gift sent from the heavens. He laughed coldly to himself and thought: “Idiot! He gave up his life to save a piece of trash... A complete idiot! But you should still be considered lucky to have you died so cleanly. If it was up to me, don’t even think about dying so easily!”

The crowd gradually began to disperse. They could imagine the huge storm that would be stirred due to Yun Che’s sudden death within the Blue Wind Empire.

Ling Kun stood at his original spot and looked at the Heaven’s Punishment Sword. He tightly knitted his brows as he pondered: Odd! After Yun Che entered the Heaven’s Might Soul Suppressing Formation, the power he released clearly did not weaken compared to what he had before he entered... Why was he not affected by the Heaven’s Might Soul Suppressing Formation? Is it because of some special circumstance, or maybe it’s because the Heaven’s Might Soul Suppressing Formation has a loophole?

But the guy was already dead. There was no point if he continued to think about these things. With a flick of his sleeve, he became a stream of light and disappeared from the Sword Management Terrace.

.....

“Wh... at? What did you say... What did you say!?”

When Chu Yueli told the complete incident of Yun Che’s fall to Xia Qingyue, without even hearing Xia Qingyue’s response, she had instead first heard Chu Yuechan’s trembling voice that was similar to a lotus leaf in a fierce wind.

Chu Yuechan stood up, and ice spirits around her entire body became hysterical. Chu Yueli looked at her with a confused expression. Not understanding, she asked: "Elder sister, what's wrong? You....."

"You said, he died... He... died...?"

In this moment, Chu Yuechan's voice was as weak as if it had floated from the clouds. Her eyelashes, gaze, ice spirits, and entire body... shivered and trembled... Chu Yueli was shocked. She understood her sister better than anyone in this world. There was practically nothing in this world that could shake her heart. But now, her feelings were obviously out of control... and they were completely out of control! Out of all her memories, this was through and through, the first time ever. She took a few steps forward, stood in front of Chu Yuechan, and anxiously asked: "Elder sister, what happened? You... You wouldn't have heard something wrong right? I said the person who died was Yun Che. He tried to save Xia Yuanba who came with him, and died at the hands of the demon. His corpse is also with the demon, suppressed beneath the Sword Management Terrace..."

Chu Yueli hadn't finished speaking, but Chu Yuechan had already flew out, leaving behind an unequaled desolate freezing gust of wind.

"Elder sister!" Chu Yueli exclaimed, and hurriedly chased after her.

Shui Wushuang and Wu Xuexin looked at each other, not knowing what to do.

As for Xia Qingyue... She sat there unmoving. Her gaze was even more thoroughly stationary, without a single tint of color and focus as she looked forward. Even her breathing and heartbeat had completely stopped. In an instant, her entire person had become a lifelessly beautiful, ice statue...

Chapter 280 - The Siblings Part Ways

Chu Yuechan took to the skies and flew swiftly with a pair of beautiful eyes that were misty yet expressionless. As if she had lost her soul, she didn't respond in the slightest to the urgent shouts from Chu Yueli.

In the end, she landed on the Sword Management Terrace, and stood in front of that huge Heaven's Punishment Sword. She looked at that tall and erect sword shape, and the aura that was as boundless as the sea. Her usually ice-cold eyes, cheeks, and cherry blossom lips began to tremble: "Dead...dead... you're actually dead...dead..."

"Elder sister!" Chu Yueli finally caught up. Chu Yuechan's never before seen strange behavior sent her heart into a state of turmoil. She held onto Chu Yuechan's arm and panicky said: "Elder sister, what's wrong? What exactly is going on here? Tell me quickly..."

Chu Yuechan didn't have the slightest reaction to her arrival and voice. She foolishly looked at that Heaven's Punishment Sword and muttered in a daze: "Why are you dead... Why... Why!!"

Bang!!

A frantic icy cold power dispersed from Chu Yuechan's body and shocked Chu Yueli far away. She charged toward the Heaven's Punishment Sword and countless ice lotuses crazily exploded on the Heaven's Punishment Sword as she produced waves of shattering grief. Every single one of her attacks contained her utmost possible strength. The power that a frantic Throne released contained an

incredibly frightening might. Cold air roiled around the entire Sword Management Terrace as ice crystals filled the sky...

“Why... Why are you dead...”

“I don’t believe it... Come out for me... Come out!!”

“Why are you dead... Why... Did you forget what you said... You clearly told me that you were a true man... How can you die... Come out... Come out!!”

“Weren’t you going to conquer me... Didn’t you want to go to Frozen Cloud Asgard to find me... Then why did you die... Come out...”

“...Please come out... As long as you come out... I’ll do... whatever you say... Come out... come out...”

Like a furry of rain, countless ice crystals crazily struck the Heaven’s Punishment Sword; however, let alone shaking it, not even a single scratch remained on the Heaven’s Punishment Sword. The sound of every collision was deafening, but the cold roiling winds contained an incomparable grief. Chu Yuechan’s voice went from desperation and heartbreaking to resentment and anger... Until finally, it became the most mournful cries and pleading...

At this moment, she wasn’t the Fairy of Frozen Beauty that the men of the world could only dream of admiring, but didn’t dare to look at. She was now an emotionless and soulless ordinary woman...

“Elder... sister...” Looking at Chu Yuechan’s actions, she felt her grieving emotions. When she heard her voice, Chu Yueli became completely dumbfounded. No matter how unbelievable it was, she had no choice but to imagine an absurd possibility... When this possibility appeared in her brain, she almost had a nervous breakdown.

The huge trembles on the Sword Management Terrace quickly drew in people from the Heavenly Sword Villa. Ling Yuefeng and several elders who weren’t that far away rapidly rushed over. They simultaneously stared at the situation before their eyes.

When the others arrived, Chu Yueli’s heart tightened. She rapidly advanced, and tenaciously embraced Chu Yuechan while: “Elder sister, stop hitting. That’s the Heaven’s Punishment Sword, it’s impossible to move... Yun Che is already dead... already dead!!”

Chu Yuechan’s body stiffened and suddenly halted all her movements... Chu Yueli’s words were like the final straw that turned her last hopes into completely despair.

“Plop...”

Streaks of bloody arrows spouted out from Chu Yuechan’s mouth onto the Heaven’s Punishment Sword. Her eyes shut, and all of her consciousness changed into a blank despair as her entire body slowly fell backwards.

“Elder sister!!”

Chu Yueli cried out in alarm. After a brief period of dazzlement, she quickly held the unconscious Chu Yuechan and flew towards the direction of the courtyards.

“Fairy of Frozen Glass, what’s going on?” Ling Yuefeng quickly asked.

Chu Yueli seemed to not hear him. She flew away with Chu Yuechan without talking to anyone, and quickly disappeared from their sights.

Seeing the scarlet pool of bloodstains on the Heaven’s Punishment Sword, Ling Yuefeng’s heart suddenly lurched and he urgently said: “Quickly! As soon as Grandmother Jiumu heals Princess Cang Yue, tell her to leave for the courtyard where the Fairy of Frozen Beauty is staying!!”

Yun Che’s death made a majority of people feel regret, but that was only regret. However, his death stirring up a series of chain reactions was something they never could have thought of.

Chu Yuechan overestimated herself. She originally thought that Yun Che’s wrongful binding made her restricted and helpless. She believed with her temperament, she could completely sever all emotions regarding Yun Che. She believed that her original reason for coming to the Heavenly Sword Villa was to see Yun Che one last time, settle all of her gratitude and resentments, and then be rid of any earthly thoughts.

But she truly didn’t understand herself, and truly didn’t understand her womanly feelings.

In the realm of the Dragon God Trial, those five months of close embrace, five months of being taken care of, those five months of him always being in front of her and defeating all that posed risks to her body, five months of rather being bruised and scarred than her receiving the slightest bruise... All those, were enough to melt any woman’s stone heart.

Let alone, Chu Yuechan, who never had a heart of stone. In this world, apart from the dead and the undead, there could never be anyone who was completely emotionless. She just happened to live within the icy cold Frozen Cloud Asgard, and had her emotions frozen by the environment and her sect’s profound arts. However, when these frozen emotions were released after melting, the blazing passion that came forth would far surpass any ordinary person, and far surpass her own imagination...

The moment she heard news of Yun Che’s death, she finally realized this fact, after feeling her soul suddenly get strangled by the attacks of pain and despair. However, it was already too late...

“Junior Sister Xia, are you alright? Are... you alright?”

Shui Wushuang and Wu Xuexin accompanied Xia Qingyue at her side and asked with concern. Because after hearing news of Yun Che’s death, Xia Qingyue had practically lost her soul, and just stared in front of her without moving for a long time. They originally thought the reason why she married Yun Che was to repay a debt of gratitude and fulfil her father’s wishes. They didn’t think she would have any feelings for him, and thought that even if she heard the news of his death, she would feel a bit regretful. However, Xia Qingyue’s reaction right now, completely went beyond their expectations.

Under their unceasing shouts, Xia Qingyue’s beautiful eyes finally focused somewhat. Her towering chest began to violently move up and down for a long time, until she gently shook her head: “I... I’m fine.”

She slowly stood up. Her movements were stiff, as if she was a marionette. The moment she stood up, her foot staggered and she almost toppled to the ground. Shui Wushuang and Wu Xuexin promptly supported her with eyes full of concern and complexity.

“What Master said... are they all true?” Xia Qingyue opened her mouth and asked with a voice as light as smoke.

The two nodded simultaneously and Shui Wushuang said: “For the sake of rescuing your little brother... he pushed your brother back and personally landed into the hands of the demon. With a single palm from the demon... his body was practically penetrated and he died right away. Even his corpse, is with the demon....”

“Don’t say anymore.” The last color of rosiness Xia Qingyue’s face ultimately faded completely and went so pale that it was as if she had fallen seriously ill. She held the corners of her dress with both her hands and each her delicate jadelike fingers were deathly pale. A feeling of desperation and powerlessness filled her entire body, and her heart felt like it had been pierced by an uncountable number of needles more painful than death.

How could it be like this...

Is it because I’m truly unqualified to be a wife...

Why didn’t I choose to go to the Sword Management Terrace together...

She muttered within her heart and gently shrugged off the two people’s hands who were supporting her. With light steps, she slowly advanced. With an expressionless gaze, she said: “I want to go by myself... to the Sword Management Terrace.”

Shui Wushuang and Wu Xuexin looked at each other and saw the peculiar expression in each other’s faces. They didn’t stop her and didn’t go with her either. They stayed far behind Xia Qingyue. Wu Xuexin lightly sighed: “Looks like, the elders aren’t wrong about this. The emotions between men and women, we really can’t touch any of it... it’s too harmful. This could possibly become the inner devil within Junior Sister Xia’s heart.”

Shui Wushuang said: “I never thought that Junior Sister Xia would truly develop feelings for that Yun Che. Sigh, but this is good as well. Once Yun Che dies, the emotional roots she shouldn’t have, should completely be severed...”

After leaving the courtyard, Xia Qingyue staggeringly walked a while. She suddenly saw the figure of Xia Yuanba in front of her eyes. He lowered his head and mechanically walked forward like a zombie. On his face, hung two streaks of undried bloody traces. When Xia Qingyue saw him, he saw Xia Qingyue as well. Every time he had seen her in the past, he would run to her with a face full of joy and shout “big sister”; however this time, his face only displayed terror, as he panickedly retreated. He roared in a low voice, and then turned around to run.

“Yuanba!”

Xia Qingyue’s gaze trembled, and then she flew after him. She landed in front of Xia Yuanba, and Xia Yuanba stopped his footsteps. Both his hands blocked his front, and shouted with his coarse voice: “Don’t... don’t come over here... don’t come near me!!”

“Yuanba, what happened to you?” Xia Yuanba’s current appearance made Xia Qingyue’s heart even more painful. She knew that because of Yun Che’s death, the most heartbroken one would inevitably be

Xia Yuanba. Not only did he have to bear the pain within his heart, he also had a guilt and remorse which were countless times more painful.

“Don’t come near me!” Xia Yuanba fell back as his tears gushed out: “I already killed Brother-in-law, I don’t want to kill big sister too. I beg you, don’t come, don’t come near me!”

“Yuanba, don’t be like this. It’s not your fault...”

“No! It is my fault! It is my fault!” Xia Yuanba knelt on the ground and painfully wept: “It was me, the trash, that killed Brother-in-law... it’s all me... it’s all me... Why wasn’t the one who died me... Why couldn’t I have died earlier! AHHH!!”

He cried painfully and raised his fist to viciously pound at his own head. Every strike was incredibly heavy. Xia Qingyue took a step forward: “Yuanba, don’t...”

“Don’t come over here!!” Xia Yuanba frantically tried to escape backwards with both hands blocking in front of him. Tears fiercely rushed down his face, his voice was coarse and filled with sorrow: “You’re my older sister, my close relative. Brother-in-law is my brother and also my close relative... Brother-in-law became increasingly stronger and turned into someone that I admire. He brought me, this trash, to the Blue Wind Profound Palace that I yearned for day and night and brought to to the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament that I didn’t even dare dream of being at... When I was bullied, no matter how powerful the opponent was, he would viciously beat the opponent and made them not dare to bully me again...”

“I fearlessly enjoyed everything that brother-in-law brought. His glory is also my glory because he is my most intimate Brother-in-law... But... but what did I do for brother-in-law... what did I do... I killed Brother-in-law... I killed brother-in-law... AHHHH... I’m trash... trash that’s lower than a dog... A trash who killed Brother-in-law... trash!!!”

“Yuanba...” Xia Qingyue bit her lips and didn’t know how to comfort Xia Yuanba, whose spirit was so extremely shattered right now.

Xia Yuanba’s pain continued for a very long time as he cried like a child in despair. His unceasing tears quickly drenched a large portion of the ground. Xia Qingyue didn’t say much anymore, and quietly watched him cry... Crying in pain is fine, at least he could expel some of the pain and sorrow within his heart...

The sound of wind whistled through the air. After some time had passed, Xia Yuanba finally stopped his painful crying, and gradually, his sobs had begun to disappear as well. He knelt on the ground with his hair hanging down. After being calm for a long time, he slowly stood up from the ground and all of a sudden, said gently: “Elder sister, I’m leaving.”

“Leave? Where are you going? Returning home?”

“No, I’m not returning home. I don’t have the face to return home...” Xia Yuanba bitterly smiled: “Even if a trash like me does return home, I would have to live under Father’s protection. Perhaps there will be a day, where I’ll cause even father to die as well... I don’t want to be trash anymore. I don’t want to kill the intimate people beside me anymore...”

“I need to leave... I need to search for a power that won’t make me trash anymore... I need to become stronger... I don’t want to be trash anymore...”

Xia Yuanba raised his hand and wiped the tears off his face. Then, he determinedly exposed a smile: "Elder sister, don't worry about me. I promise you that I won't die... because the life that I have now is a life that Brother-in-law traded for with his own. No matter what, I won't allow myself to die... I only ask for Elder sister to not stop me and not look for me either... I will return one day... Wait for the day I return, when I'll use my own power to protect Elder sister, protect Father... protect everyone that I want to protect..."

Xia Qingyue: "..."

Xia Yuanba left with his back facing Xia Qingyue. His pace was unusually slow, but they were incredibly firm and unwavering. He didn't bring anything; he didn't even bring a single yellow profound coin. No one knew where he was going, perhaps he, himself, did not know either. Even less people knew and understood the sadness, pain, blame, and remorse that filled this sixteen year old youth's heart... as well as his thirst for power...

Xia Qingyue didn't chase after him, and only dazedly stared at Xia Yuanba's parting figure. Through her hazy gaze, she saw the usually cheerful, carefree, little brother who was always full of passion, unyieldingly grow up.

"Yuanba, take care of yourself. I'll wait for you to return." Xia Qingyue lightly whispered. She pressed her hand to her chest and closed her eyes: "Yuanba... thank you for teaching me how to be strong..."