

## The Gods 521

### Chapter 521 - Patriarch's Crest

Yun Qinghong's angry rebuke carried an incomparably shocking aura. Every word that came from his mouth was accompanied by an ostensible pressure which took the air out of the entire building. Every single person present could feel the weight of this oppressive aura and all the Yun Family members present, from the elders to the young disciples, every single one of them had been stunned into silence. Even Yun Xiao's mouth was gaping open, and he looked at Yun Qinghong with a gaze which scarcely could contain his disbelief... The father he was familiar with was a courtly and peaceable man, and on most days he did not speak much, nor was he willing to interact with other people, to the point where he rarely even left his own courtyard. He had seemed to have reached a state where he was detached from all worldly affairs.

He could scarcely believe that his own father, facing the respected Duke Hui Ye, would utter such strong, unyielding words. And these words even carried such a tyrannical power.

Duke Hui Ye would never even dream that Yun Qinghong would deliver such a furious denunciation. Yun Qinghong was clearly a cripple, but facing his current gaze, even he as duke, felt his heart skip a beat. And he, as an esteemed duke, when had ever been lectured so harshly in the public eye? He pointed a finger at Yun Qinghong and in a voice which faintly trembled, "Yun Qinghong, you..."

"How impudent!" Yun Qinghong's voice sank an octave further as he directly cut off Duke Hui Ye's words, "The three words 'Yun Qinghong', are they for you to say?! I, Yun Qinghong, made a name for myself in the Demon Imperial City at the age of fourteen. At that time, your royal father was not even born yet! And even the Little Demon Emperor would address me as brother. Who do you think you are, to dare to address this Patriarch's name so casually?! To have no regard for one's seniors, to show such lack of courtesy, to be so utterly lacking in breeding and to be filled with such foolish conceit. To top it all off, you have such an exaggerated opinion of yourself that even when you have thrown your royal father's face all over the ground, you do not even know it! The entire Illusory Demon Royal Family has truly been shamed to the ground because of you! Such an inferior child, even this patriarch can hardly even be bothered to correct you. Hmph."

"You..." Duke Hui Ye entire body trembled. His eyes grew dark, and he almost spat out a mouthful of blood. He, Duke Hui Ye, after arriving at the Yun Family holdings, had been welcomed with respect by the Great Elder himself, and the gazes directed towards him were filled with reverence. When he spoke, everyone echoed his words and not one had dared to put a foot wrong. What an impressive spectacle that had been. As for this patriarch, Yun Qinghong... a cripple, he had not even deigned to give him a single glance; he was currently being scolded miserably by this cripple for the entire world to see. And every single rebuke was impossible for him to refute.

The present scene had become blanketed in dead silence and everyone's ears were still buzzing with the sound of Yun Qinghong berating Duke Hui Ye. His words had caused a some of the seniors to recall the memories they had of Yun Qinghong... He was the son of the Demon King, and his innate talent had been even higher than the Demon King at the same age. Amongst all those of his generation, including the Illusory Demon Royal Family, none were his equal. At the age of fourteen, he had caused shockwaves throughout the entire Demon Imperial City and all the seniors knew this fact intimately. And

the fact that he and the Little Demon Emperor called each other brother was also an unimpeachable fact. At that time, no one would doubt that Yun Qinghong would succeed Yun Canghai as the second Demon King.

After a silence which lasted more than twenty years, people had nearly forgotten just what kind of figure Yun Qinghong used to be. But his sudden crippling could not wipe away his past glories. And his title as the youngest ever Monarch in the history of the Illusory Demon Realm was something that no one could take away. His splendor was so dazzling that it practically burned the eyes and up till this day, no one had surpassed it.

When Yun Qinghong was at the same age as Duke Hui Ye, his accomplishments were something that Duke Hui Ye did not even have the right to discuss.

Once these memories were jolted back to life, these seniors immediately felt that the wanton rudeness that Duke Hui Ye showed Yun Qinghong was just too ridiculous.

“Patriarch... This is truly our Patriarch!” An elder stood up excitedly, “Is the Patriarch... is he coming back?”

His excitement was not allowed to continue as the one who sat beside him restrained him and dragged him back into his seat. The other person, who bore a solemn expression, gave his head a heavy shake... The excited elder’s expression suddenly tightened and he swiftly curbed his exuberance as he settled down.

Among the core elders and normal elders, a large majority of them displayed looks of astonished joy and emotion on their faces, but they swiftly smothered their expressions. And amidst the raucous and rowdy environment, no one had noticed this particular point. But Yun Che just happened to be facing the direction where the elders were seated and he took note of the temporary change in expression amongst those seated there. His gaze grew concentrated and a deep astonishment emerged in the depths of his eyes.

Could it be...

After Yun Qinghong had finished his stern rebuke, he gave a cold snort, and no longer paid any attention to Duke Hui Ye. With sunken brows, he looked towards Yun Xinyue, who had an overcast and uncertain expression on his face. He said, “Yun Xinyue, what are you still standing there for? Come forward immediately and prepare yourself to receive the Profound Handle Soul Search.”

Yun Qinghong’s sudden explosion completely caught Yun Waitian by surprise. Once he heard Yun Qinghong’s words, his eyes narrowed and he swiftly said, “Yun Qinghong, you... do not go overboard!”

“Overboard? How am I going overboard?” Yun Qinghong replied in a sedate voice.

Yun Waitian in a tone that was unyielding and stubborn, “We already clarified before that Xinyue will definitely not be allowed to submit himself to the Profound Handle Soul Search, or else our Yun Family will become the laughingstock of the entire Illusory Demon Realm! Are you, for the sake of protecting your godson, willing to even disregard the sanctity of our Clan’s honor?”

Yun Qinghong's gaze was calm and tranquil. Being held directly under that gaze, Yun Waitian suddenly felt like it was difficult to breathe... He faintly began to feel that the previous Yun Qinghong, the previous Yun Family Patriarch, after a long hibernation of twenty-two years, was finally back.

"If we go solely by the words of an outsider, there is indeed no real reason for us to subject Xinyue to a Profound Handle Soul Search." Yun Qinghong's voice suddenly grew more serious as he continued, "But now, it is this patriarch's command! Has it come to this? That I, as the head of this clan, cannot even order a junior in the family to do such a simple thing?"

"Urgh..." Yun Waitian's throat violently contracted as he was left speechless.

"Yun Xinyue, come on stage to receive the Profound Handle Soul Search right now... This is an order!" Yun Qinghong commanded.

Yun Xinyue's hands started to shake; his forehead was covered with a sheen of cold sweat. He threw a pleading gaze towards Duke Hui Ye, but he discovered instead that Duke Hui Ye's expression was also extremely ugly. Even though he saw Xinyue's silent cry for help, he could not force any words out of his mouth... Yun Qinghong's fierce and cruel criticism had choked him up to the point where he felt like he was going to explode.

"Hahahaha! This is pathetic, it is simply too pathetic! Yun Qinghong, do you really still think that you are the Yun Qinghong of old? Right now, all that you truly are is a mere cripple!" Helian Peng once again let out his shrill, mocking laugh.

"Even if I am a cripple, I am still the Yun Family Patriarch!"

"Yun Family Patriarch? Hehe..." Helian Peng's mocking laugh arose once again, "What evidence can you bring out to prove that you are the Yun Family Patriarch? What right do you have to call yourself the Yun Family Patriarch? Even an outsider like myself knows that the one symbol which proves the status of a Yun Family Patriarch is the Patriarch's Crest that has been handed down since the time of your ancestor. Only if you have the Patriarch's Crest, can you be the Yun Family Patriarch! It is just like how, within the Illusory Demon Royal Family, only the one who holds the Demon Emperor's Seal is the true Demon Emperor! Yun Qinghong, since you call yourself a patriarch, then you must have the Patriarch's Crest."

"All those years ago, because he did not have the Demon Emperor's Seal, the Little Demon Emperor did not dare to assume the title of Demon Emperor and the Little Demon Empress could only be called that very title. Even the Little Demon Emperor and Empress did it in such a way. So Yun Qinghong, if you do not have the Patriarch's Crest, what right do you have to call yourself the Yun Family Patriarch? And what right do you have to order your clansmen around?!"

One hundred years ago, as the Demon King Yun Canghai left and never came back, the Yun Family's Patriarch's Crest disappeared along with him. And it was only after these events that Yun Qinghong succeeded him as Patriarch. The Yun Family's 'Patriarch's Crest' had been lost for one hundred years; this was something every single person in the Demon Imperial City knew. Because this Patriarch's Crest could be said to be the most important artifact to the Yun Family, and within it contained the most original form of the Purple Cloud Art; it even held the power imprint and soul imprint of every single person who had ever held the title of Patriarch. Once it was lost, it was impossible to duplicate or replace it.

After Yun Qinghong had finally emerged from his silence of twenty-two years to once more forcefully proclaim his status as Patriarch, Helian Peng had deliberately chosen to mention the Patriarch's Crest that had been lost for one hundred years. It was truly an insidious assault against Yun Qinghong's weak point. But Yun Qinghong was not the least bit flustered, the corners of eyes slanted and he coldly laughed, "Helian Peng, you are rather attentive to the affairs of the Yun Family today, especially our Yun Family's Yun Xinyue. You have been quite protective over him... Ah, but since you want to see my Yun Family's Patriarch's Crest, let me fulfill your desire."

As Yun Qinghong's voice fell, the arm that had always been pressed down on the armrest of wheelchair steadily rose up and within his palm, a purple jade tablet, that fit nicely into the hollow of his palm, released a clear purple radiance.

Once this purple-colored jade tablet had made an appearance, every single Yun Family disciple present clearly felt the Purple Cloud Art within their bodies start to throb involuntarily. Even the blood within their bodies began stirring restlessly. All the present Yun Family members who were older than one hundred years of age began to stand up one after the other. Even the three grand elders Yun Jiang, Yun He and Yun Xi stood up as one, their faces displaying an expression that was deeply moved and astonished at the same time.

"It... It is the Patriarch's Crest! It is our Yun Family's Patriarch's Crest!" Grand Elder Yun Xi directly blurted these words out. A stately grand elder had actually lost control of his emotions, so one could imagine just how agitated he was.

"The Patriarch's Crest... It is not possible! Wasn't the Patriarch's Crest lost those hundred years ago?! But, this aura..."

"We can't be mistaken! This is without a doubt the Patriarch's Crest! It is definitely not possible for another one to exist in this world!"

"The Heavens have had mercy on us, our Yun Family's Patriarch's Crest..... has finally returned to us!"

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The young generation did not truly understand the significance of the concept behind the 'Patriarch's Crest'. But for all of the seniors who were older than one hundred years of age, it was the one thing in the Yun Family that nothing could be compared to; a sacred artifact which was valued above all. And for the Patriarch's Crest to see the light of day once more, and in Yun Qinghong's hand no less, these Yun Family seniors were moved to the point where they were besides themselves as tears began to flow from some of their eyes.

The most shocked of all was undoubtedly the person beside Yun Qinghong, Mu Yurou. But even though she extremely anxious to know the answer, she did not inquire. Because now was not the time for questions.

"Qinghong, just where did the Patriarch's Crest pop out from? Or could it be that... In these hundred years that have gone by, the Patriarch's Crest was actually never missing all along?" Yun Jiang asked as he stood up, his white beard shaking with every word he said.

Yun Qinghong calmly replied, "The Patriarch's Crest is our Yun Family's sacred artifact, I would definitely not dare to conceal or bluff regarding the matter of whether it had been lost or not. It has indeed been lost one hundred years ago, but due a trick of fate, it has been found once more. And as for how it came back, this is an internal matter for our Yun Family alone. Because there are so many outsiders present today, it is better if we postpone this discussion to a later date."

The three grand elders nodded their heads in unison and did not pursue the matter any further. The return of the Patriarch's Crest; this was the most blessed thing to ever happen to the Yun Family in these hundred years. Compared to that, the matter of how it was recovered was truly secondary.

"Helian Peng." Yun Qinghong deliberately flashed the Patriarch's Crest in Helian Peng's direction, "Am I now allowed to call myself the Yun Family Patriarch?"

Helian Peng ground his teeth and his face had turned even greener. He had never ever thought that the Patriarch's Crest, which had clearly been lost those hundred years ago, would once again see the light of day, and in the hands of Yun Qinghong no less! And even if he was not a member of the Yun Family, he could tell that it was the genuine article in a single glance, with absolutely no chicanery involved... this was simply much too strange of an occurrence!

The events which had happened today, the first half of the festivities all went according to expectations, but after that... the situation had morphed into something completely different from what had been arranged!

"Yun Xinyue, enter the Sacred Cloud Arena immediately and prepare yourself to receive the Profound Handle Soul Search! This is an order! If you are truly as innocent as you claim to be, then why should you be afraid of the Profound Handle Soul Search? If you continue to show signs of hesitance, then that can only be the product of your guilty mind!" Yun Qinghong harshly declared.

## **Chapter 522 - Profound Handle Soul Search**

Yun Xinyue clenched both his fists tighter and tighter, to the point where it seemed like he was going to fracture the bones in his hands, and the sweat on his forehead began to stream down his face in little rivulets. He raised his head and said in a voice filled with willpower, "Patriarch... It is not that I do not dare, it is that I cannot accept this! I, Yun Xinyue, have always been devoted and sincere, on what basis do I have to submit to the Profound Handle Soul Search in public just because an outsider launched a baseless accusation against me?! Is it because... he is the Patriarch's godson? If the Profound Handle Soul Search proves my innocence, will this matter be swept under the rug after that, and this foster son of yours, will he just be let off with a slap on the wrist...? Is that the way things are going to be? I cannot accept this... Patriarch, if you behave in this manner, you will only discourage our entire clan... I truly cannot accept it."

"You cannot accept it?" Yun Qinghong gave a humorless laugh, "Since this is the case, this Patriarch will make it so that you can accept it... Che'er!"

"Godfather." Yun Che responded.

Yun Qinghong declared solemnly, "The matter of Yun Xinyue having to undergo the Profound Handle Soul Search is entirely due to you. After the Profound Handle Soul Search has been done, if he is truly involved in the assassination attempt on Xiao'er and Number Seven Under Heaven, then you have

indeed helped our Yun Family deal with a phantom menace, and it will truly be a great merit that you have earned. And at that time the Elder Council will naturally reward you greatly, and you would have earned the approval of the entire Yun Family. However, if Yun Xinyue is truly innocent... Then you will have maliciously accused one of our Yun Family disciples. Even if you are my godson, I won't let you off lightly! At that time, you must break all the meridians in your body in penance before all who are present here... Do you dare to give me that promise? If you do not dare, then this Profound Handle Soul Search also does not need to happen!"

To break all of his meridians... This extremely cruel conclusion caused all those who were present to feel a chill radiate throughout their entire body. Originally, many of the Yun Family members felt that Yun Qinghong's sudden explosion was to protect Yun Che, but once he spoke those words, not even a single one still harbored that notion in their minds; they even felt that Yun Qinghong was being unusually cruel with his godson.

Even though Yun Qinghong nearly had one hundred percent confidence in Yun Che, he still left a way out for Yun Che... To break all of one's meridians, in the eyes of any profound practitioner, even if it was a Monarch, it would still be an extremely terrifying thing. But, he and Mu Yurou had their meridians crippled for over twenty years and Yun Che could restore them to full health in the matter of two months. Even if he did end up having to break all of his meridians later, it should not take a great deal of effort for him to make a full recovery.

"Yes!" Yun Che nodded his head with no hesitation at all and he declared in a loud voice, "If Yun Xinyue is proven to be innocent under the examination of the Profound Handle Soul Search, I will, before all those who are present, break all the meridians in my body... If I show any signs of renegeing, any person who is present can take action against me, and I will not resist!"

Yun Qinghong slowly nodded his head, "Yun Xinyue, now do you still have anything else to say?"

Now that the situation had progressed to such a stage, and Yun Qinghong had spoken at length, if Yun Xinyue continued to resist, then it would truly seem abnormal. Yun Xinyue's chest fiercely convulsed and both of his legs started to tremble slightly. He ground his teeth as he took one step towards the arena, but he could not take the second step... because out of all those who were present, he was the most clear on what the result of the Profound Soul Search would be.

"Hmph!" Yun Qinghong expression morphed into one of fury and he said in a deep voice, "Enforcement Elder, in the situation where there no detrimental action is to be taken against the Yun Family, how should someone, who is determined to go against the order of the Patriarch, be dealt with?"

The Enforcement Elder was taken by surprise, but he hurriedly replied, "Reporting to Patriarch, if one is to defy the orders given by the Patriarch... A light punishment would be forced confinement, and a heavy punishment... A heavy punishment would be to purge that person's body of his profound art and expel him from the family."

"Yun Xinyue, do you want to become a cripple and then be expelled from the Family? Or do you want to enter the Sacred Cloud Arena and prove your innocence? If you can show hesitation even when being asked to make such a simple decision, it simply proves that everything Yun Che had said were not lies after all!"

Yun Xinyue still did not move. At this time, his entire spirit was on the verge of collapse, and amidst the chaos and fright which dominated his mind, he could scarcely hear what Yun Qinghong was saying.

“Since you still refuse to enter the Sacred Cloud Arena, then I can only get someone to help you up on stage.” Yun Qinghong faced the three grand elders and he said with a respectful look, “Our three Grand Elders, I regret that this current matter will require your assistance. Because it is only if the three Grand Elders took action personally, will everyone present will be satisfied.”

Yun Jiang, Yun Xi and Yun He were all people who had already experienced everything under the sun. So Yun Xinyue’s present condition had already clearly clued them in on what was happening. Once Yun Qinghong had finished speaking, Grand Elder Yun Xi took to the air and he instantly appeared in the space above Yun Xinyue. Before Yun Xinyue could even respond, a profound energy that was as boundless as the sea had enveloped his entire body. He was not even able to make the least bit of resistance before everything grew dark before his eyes, as his consciousness was completely buried.

Even his body appeared within the Sacred Cloud Arena in a kneeling position.

The grand elder’s profound energy was so thick and robust that before anyone could see what was happening, Yun Xinyue already appeared in the middle of the Sacred Cloud Arena. His whole body was frozen still and eyes were opened wide, but his gaze was completely unfocused; it was as if his soul had left his body.

With a flash, grand elder Yun Xi had reappeared in his seat. He dryly said, “His consciousness has already been subjected to the Profound Handle Soul Search, this will persist for the next fifteen minutes. Whatever the Patriarch wishes to inquire, go ahead and ask him.”

As he was forced to bear testament to how his son, the apple of his eye, was forced to kneel down like a criminal for all to see, and as he saw how the actions and words of the grand elders clearly showed that they were on the side of Yun Qinghong, Yun Waitian’s entire body trembled and he roared in fury, “Good... Good... Go ahead and ask, go ahead and ask!! My son’s innocence does not fear any false accusation! Yun Qinghong, remember your previous words! If my son is innocent, then this Yun Che... must break all of the meridians in his body!! And today’s insult... I will definitely not forget it!”

“Please keep calm Great Elder. Presently, are we not going to prove the innocence of your son? You should be even more at ease instead.” Yun Qinghong nodded his head towards Yun Che, “Che’er, push me up, I want to clearly hear every word that he is about to say.”

“Yes.” Yun Che replied, then jumped off the stage. After that, he carried Yun Qinghong’s wheelchair and returned to the Sacred Cloud Arena, landing right in front of Yun Xinyue.

“Your Highness, what should we do?” Behind Duke Hui Ye, the Venerable Stone Dragon whispered to him in the softest of voices.

Duke Hui Ye’s face was as inscrutable as still water, his fingers spread out like a fan and his index finger made a slight hook as it performed an obscure gesture.

“Great Elder, Yubai, please withdraw. And the various elders, will you please keep an eye on the Great Elder? Do not allow him to personally enter the Sacred Cloud Arena. As for Duke Hui Ye, please do whatever pleases you.” Yun Qinghong said in a steady voice as he looked at Yun Xinyue.

“Hmph.” Duke Hui Ye snorted lightly, but he did not leave the Sacred Cloud Arena. Instead, he fixed both his eyes on Yun Qinghong’s back as if he could pierce through it with his gaze.

Both Mu Yubai and Yun Waitian complied with those words and left the Sacred Cloud Arena. But Yun Waitian said in a furious voice, “I do not need anyone to look out for me! My son is definitely innocent! Yun Qinghong, I’ll make sure you regret this!”

“Heh heh.” Yun Qinghong laughed dryly, “Yun Waitian, do not ever think that just because you are his father, you understand everything about him. But I am more than willing to believe that whatever things that he has done, you have remained ignorant of it. Che’er, the one who accused Yun Xinyue of being involved in the assassination attempt of Xiao’er and Number Seven Under Heaven was you, so why don’t you personally lead the interrogation. Especially since you are the person who uncovered the clues in the first place, you would know best on what questions should be asked.”

“Understood.” Yun Che nodded his head and his gaze crossed with Yun Qinghong’s; both of them laughed involuntarily as they met each other’s gazes.

During today’s grand meeting, Yun Qinghong had initially maintained his silence and he was silent to the point that it was easy to forget that he was even present. But from the moment he had opened his mouth, the entire situation had fallen into the palm of his hand. He destroyed the grandeur of Duke Hui Ye and he rendered Helian Peng utterly speechless; he made every single person from the Yun Family hang on his every word and action; he made Yun Xinyue’s resentful cries for justice vanish completely; and just a few words from him caused the grand elders to personally take action to restrict Yun Xinyue...

Yun Che rarely admired anyone. He originally thought that he would be the star of the this Yun Family Great Assembly, but beyond all expectations, the true role of the protagonist was easily taken away by Yun Qinghong. He let out a silent sigh in his heart... No wonder I am so excellent, it’s because I actually have such a formidable father!

Oh, what he must’ve been like in his prime!

While the Yun Family members present were being led by the nose by the practically flawless scenario which unfolded before their eyes, Yun Qinghong had silently seen through it all. When all who were present began to question and ridicule Yun Che, he chose to believe instead... It had nothing to do with his trust in Yun Che, it had everything to do with Yun Qinghong being sufficiently wise and farsighted.

Yun Che strode forward, and once he was alongside Yun Qinghong. He wanted to remind Yun Qinghong to be careful of someone making a move to silence Yun Xinyue, but before the words came out of his mouth, he swallowed them instead. He believed that with Yun Qinghong’s wisdom and foresight, he basically did not need to remind him of this.

“What is your name?” Yun Che stood before Yun Xinyue and seemed to begin the interrogation in earnest.

“Yun Xinyue...” Yun Xinyue’s spoke in a manner which was slow and lifeless, but it was sufficiently clear for all to hear.

“How old are you this year?”



“Twenty seven years old...” As Yun Xinyue spoke, a trail of saliva spilled from the corner of his mouth, then dangled to the floor.

“What type of girls do you like the most?”

“Ones with... big... butts...”

“Oh! I really couldn’t tell that the both of us actually would have something in common.” Yun Che opened his eyes wide, “So who was the girl that you slept with most recently?”

“Drunken River House’s Lady Chrysanthemum...”

Pfft... The audience immediately spat their drinks at that answer.

“You bastard!!” Yun Waitian’s was practically standing straight on end and he pointed at Yun Che while he scolded vociferously, “What kind of rubbish questions are you asking? You... You... You are clearly afraid of being found false, and you are deliberately putting things off!”

Yun Che swiftly made a pacifying gesture, “Great Elder Yun, please do not be angry. This is the first time I have ever seen the legendary Profound Handle Soul Search being performed, so I just really wanted to test whether the legends were really true and that any question I asked would be answered... Yes, I think I’m about done with testing it out. This Profound Handle Soul Search is truly mystical, but it is time for us to truly start the interrogation. But, tsk tsk... to think that the respected son of a Yun Family great elder would actually visit a brothel when he wants the companionship of a woman... Oh! But at least he would rather visit a brothel, unlike the disciples of some other grand families who would go around raping and dominating innocent women; ah truly his actions fill me with admiration for him. It is just that this Lady Chrysanthemum... When I hear this name, I can’t help but think that the tastes of the Great Young Master Yun just seem to be a tad bit on the heavy side...”

“You!!” Yun Waitian’s entire body shook uncontrollably and his gaze filled with violence; he looked as if he hated that he could not rush up on stage and have it out with Yun Che there and then.

“Oh! Right away, right away!” Yun Che coughed heavily as he casually shot a glance at the expression of the silent Duke Hui Ye. After which, he proceeded to ask in a serious tone, “Yun Xinyue, let me ask you. Two months ago, how did you know that Yun Xiao and Number Seven Under Heaven would be meeting outside the city?”

Yun Che did not ask ‘whether you knew’, instead he asked ‘how did you know’. Yun Waitian gave a cold smirk and he said with utter contempt, “Under the effects of the Profound Handle Soul Search, all the words uttered come straight from the depths of the soul, so there can be no deception! Did you think that if you used this sort of guiding question, he would obediently spin a tale for you to hear?”

But as Yun Xinyue opened his mouth, Yun Waitian’s expression instantly froze in place.

“That day... I was strolling past Yun Xiao’s courtyard... And I just happened to hear the sound transmission that Yun Xiao had sent to Number Seven Under Heaven... To arrange to meet the next morning at ten in the morning... at the Rain Cloud Pavilion, which was thirty five kilometers away from the city...” Yun Xinyue replied in a slow but clear voice.

“Oh!” Yun Che nodded his head, “Indeed it was as I expected, you did eavesdrop on Yun Xiao’s sound transmission.”

“This... This... Ah...” Yun Xiao’s tongue seemed to have tied itself into a knot. He remembered that on the first day he met Yun Che, Yun Che asked him whether he had used sound transmission every time he asked Number Seven Under Heaven on a date, and he also asked if anyone had overheard that particular sound transmission...

The sound of tightly-packed whispers began to circulate among the crowd. Yun Che’s first legitimate question and Yun Xinyue’s subsequent reply had caused the people who had already begun forming suspicions about Yun Xinyue to immediately smell something funny.

Yun Waitian’s expression had become ugly in a flash, but he swiftly yelled out, “So what if that is true?! Xinyue merely overheard those words by accident... Does it mean that because he unwittingly heard that sound transmission, he is the scoundrel who arranged for their assassination?!!”

Translator’s Note: Lady Chrysanthemum is Chinese wordplay on the word anus, because 菊花 which means Chrysanthemum is also slang for the word anus. If you wanna know why, google Chrysanthemum and draw your own conclusions, I shan’t be charged with corrupting young minds XD! Dnton out! o7

### **Chapter 523 - Silencing**

“Great Elder Yun, don’t be impatient, I am merely asking my first real question. If he’s innocent, you’ll hear it for yourself soon enough.” Yun Che patiently said.

“Yun Xinyue, let me ask you, did you tell this matter to someone else and plot to assassinate Yun Xiao and Number Seven Under Heaven when they were together?” Yun Che asked in a stern manner.

Yun Che’s question was straight to the point. Yun Xinyue only had to give a very simple answer... “Yes” or “No”.

“Yes...” Yun Xinyue answered lifelessly.

WHOAAA——

Once the word “Yes” came out, the entire Yun Family was in an uproar and everyone was stunned. No matter what, they did not dare believe what they had heard with their ears.

That was a Profound Handle Soul Search... and it was a Profound Handle Soul Search personally administered by a Grand Elder. Under the effects of the Profound Handle Soul Search, anything they say would definitely be the truth. The Yun Family who possessed the Profound Handle all completely believed this.

The hope of the entire Clan, the strongest, most respected, the humble and kind Yun Xinyue of the younger generation... He was actually involved in the attempted assassination of Yun Xiao and Number Seven Under Heaven! The shock his reply caused for the Yun Family was earth shattering. If it were not because he said it personally under the effect of Profound Handle Soul Search, they would rather believe that ghosts existed in this world than this fact.

“How can this... How can this be...” Yun Xiao’s mouth was agape in shock and his eyes lost focus; he was unable to recompose himself for a long while. Yun Family’s most elite member of the same generation,

his most respected person was actually just as Yun Che said, the person who tried to harm him and Number Seven Under Heaven two months ago. Furthermore, when Yun Che was picking on Yun Xinyue on stage before, he had even stepped out to defend him shouting that it was “impossible”...

“Bas... tard!” Number One Under Heaven shouted as he jumped up, his eyes were downcast as he cracked his knuckles. After investigating hard for two months, he couldn’t find any clues, which caused the anger and hate that had built up to be much more intense. Now that the actual culprit had appeared, he could no longer control it, as it was about to explode... understandable since his investigation had yielded no results. Because he never expected that the culprit behind the incident was from the Yun Family!

“Compose yourself.” Unparalleled Under Heaven patted his shoulder, looked at Yun Xinyue, and calmly said: “If it were Yun Xinyue alone, there is no reason for him to harm Number Seven, and even more so Yun Xiao. This incident isn’t so simple... Let’s continue watching!”

Number One Under Heaven gritted his teeth, as he controlled himself.

The moment Yun Xinyue said “Yes”, Yun Waitian’s entire body trembled, nearly collapsing to the ground, but he immediately shouted with a trembling voice: “Im... Impossible! There must be some reason behind this... It’s impossible that my son would do this without a reason... There must be a proper reason!”

All these years, Yun Waitian has always treated Yun Xinyue as his pride, and until now, he still would not believe that Yun Xinyue was someone that would harbor malicious intent. He was his birth father... clearly the person who understood him the most in this world!

“I believe that everyone present here would like to know the reason behind this.” Yun Che said as he looked at Yun Xinyue. Before this, he thought that both Yun Waitian and Yun Xinyue were involved, but looking at Yun Waitian’s reactions, he started to believe that he actually did not know anything at all. He could now see how scheming, well-planned... and how of good an actor Yun Xinyue was!

“Then Great Elder Yun, you’d better open up your ears and listen to the reason behind this.” Yun Che continued before asking: “Yun Xinyue, answer in detail why you worked together with people outside the family to harm your fellow clansman Yun Xiao and the innocent Number Seven Under Heaven!”

Yun Xinyue opened his mouth and replied robotically: “Yun Family... and the Under Heaven Clan... are both loyal to the Little Demon Empress... Killing Number Seven Under Heaven... while letting Yun Xiao go... Under Heaven Family would be enraged with the Yun Family... if the two families clash... even if it isn’t mutual destruction... they would not be on the same side together...”

Yun Family Plaza was dead silent as everyone listened attentively, afraid they would miss out on a single word. When Yun Xinyue had finished speaking, everyone revealed faces of shock and fear. The three Grand Elders stood up in unison as expressions of deep shock appeared on their aged faces.

Yun Waitian trembled, before weakly crashing onto the ground. His eyes stare wide opened, yet his gaze lifeless as incoherent speech escaped from his mouth: “Impossible... This is impossible... Impossible... This cannot be...”

The truth behind what Yun Xinyue was simply too appalling, his motive... More accurately speaking, the motive of the people behind this, was to reduce the power of the faction supporting the Little Demon Empress! Little Demon Empress was the highest monarch of the Illusory Demon Realm. Such actions... were blatant attempts to revolt!

In the face of such a frightening answer, no one in the Yun Family dared to utter a word. Never had they ever thought that Yun Xinyue would be the actual culprit who harmed a fellow clansman... what was even more unimaginable was that it actually implicated such a groundbreaking huge matter.

If it were not for Yun Che lending a hand to Yun Xiao and Number Seven Under Heaven that day, their plans would have succeeded and Under Heaven Family would be enraged with the Yun Family, resulting in a huge conflict and would even cause them to not be able to bear with one another... After all, Number Seven Under Heaven was not any ordinary member of the Under Heaven Clan, she was actually Greatest Ambition Under Heaven's only daughter. Yun Xiao asking her out was also an indisputable fact.

Even more frightening was that today, they were all supporting Yun Xinyue to be the next head of the Yun Family, and he almost succeeded the position... Whilst thinking about that, the entire family broke out in cold sweat.

Yun Che sternly said, "Yun Xinyue, harming a fellow clansman and finding an opportunity to reduce the power of the faction supporting the Little Demon Empress! This is a heinous crime! You are the son of the Great Elder, your status is good and your talent isn't bad either. You are well praised and depended upon by the family who even pushed for you to be the next head of the family. Everything is yours for the taking! Why do you have to do this! Why exactly have you planned this... or were you forced by someone?"

As Yun Che finished speaking, everyone held their breath, especially all the Yun Family Elders, who stood up and stared at Yun Xinyue... An "accusation" that originally caused them to become enraged had suddenly turned into such a shocking truth.

Yun Xinyue's face contorted. Facing these questions from Yun Che, his mind suddenly experienced pain. His voice became hoarse, yet he still narrated without hiding anything: "... Six years ago... Master poisoned me... with the 'Heart Disabling Venom'... If I follow his instructions... After Master overthrows the Little Demon Empress... I, the new Patriarch, would be named with the title of a king... If I were to disobey... I would die without a burial... place..."

"Heart Disabling... Venom?!!"

Numerous shocked screams overlapped one another, and the lifeless Yun Waitian, upon hearing Yun Xinyue's answer, lifted his head agitatedly as his whole body trembled.

Yun Che had never heard of "Heart Disabling Venom" before, but, the same venom, in different places, would often have different names. Him not hearing of it before did not mean he did not know what venom it was. Just as he was about to use his profound energy on Yun Xinyue's body to investigate what venom it was, an icy cold killing intent came from his rear right side.

Although the killing intent was hidden, how could it escape Yun Che's sharp senses? He quickly gave up on investigating and walked forward to ask in a quick manner: "Tell me... Who are those that attempted to assassinate Yun Xiao and... who is the owner of yours!"

“The ones who attacked Yun Xiao and Number Seven Under Heaven is... from the Helian Family... Master... is Duke Huai Palace’s...”

Booom!!!

The stage below their feet was suddenly destroyed and an earth shard that was vibrating with a dirty yellow profound glow shot up from the ground. Yun Che’s first reaction was to instantly retreat. At the same time, he using his palm and pushed Yun Xinyue backwards a few steps... However, the energy within the earth shard was too overwhelming and because Yun Xinyue was not in control of his body whilst under the effects of Profound Handle Soul Search, he did not have any chance at avoiding the attack, and was completely pierced through by the shard. Because of that, he was then skewered in midair and large amounts of blood were sprayed around.

“Xinyue!!!”

“Yun Waitian screamed in horror, sprinting towards the Sacred Yun Stage like a madman. All the elders of the Yun Family were shocked as they ran towards the stage and the scene was instantly a mess.

“Duke Hui Ye... What is the meaning of this!!!” Yun Qinghong asked in anger. The one who mercilessly attacked Yun Xinyue was the Venerable Stone Dragon who stood behind Duke Hui Ye. Currently, the scales on his arms were still emitting a dull profound glow.

“This Yun Xinyue deserves death for maligning my royal father!” Duke Hui Ye laughed with a darkened face: “And Yun Che... the brat who spoiled my plans... must die as well! Kill him!”

BOOM!!!

The entire Sacred Cloud Arena exploded and dust filled the air. A thick dense yellow raiance shot straight towards Yun Che’s chest... There was only Yun Qinghong beside Yun Che, as the others were not on the stage yet, so they were unable to intervene at all.

Just as the yellow profound light was less than a meter away from Yun Che, Yun Qinghong, who was sitting on his wheelchair, stretched out his arm... The movement of his arm was very slow, so slow that even a person with no profound cultivation would be able to see the movement of his arm. And yet, with such a slow speed, it instantly appeared in front of Yun Che, blocking the attack.

Ripp!!

A huge lightning barrier appeared from Yun Qinghong’s palm, completely blocking the Venerable Stone Dragon’s attack. Afterwards, the figure of a person flashed, followed by an instant flash of lightning. Yun Qinghong appeared in front of the Venerable Stone Dragon and a right palm that was glowing purple struck violently against his chest, knocking the unprepared Venerable Stone Dragon far away.

“Wh... What!!!”

“Wh... at!!!”

“Ahhh... Ahhhhhhhhh!!”

The Yun Family’s grand elders, elders, disciples... Number One Under Heaven and Unparalleled Under Heaven... and Helian Peng, who was about to strike; all of them were stunned. They looked at Yun

Qinghong, who had suddenly attacked, with an expression of shock that almost became fear. That was due to the fluctuation caused by his majestic profound strength that was so strong that even the three Grand Elders were afraid.

Wh... what exactly was going on here?!

Yun Qinghong... wasn't he already crippled twenty-two years ago!

Boom! Boom! Boom...

Yun Qinghong and the Venerable Stone Dragon exchanged moves in midair, and every time their attacks met, a deafening noise was produced. Everyone below watched on in their shock and no one actually went to help out.

A fight at the level of Monarchs, even within Demon Imperial City, was something rarely seen. The extremely strong profound fluctuations caused the entire Yun Family to tremble intensely. In midair, the mighty Venerable Stone Dragon had been suppressed into defeat by Yun Qinghong's Purple Cloud Art, with barely any chances to retaliate. spurts of dark colored dragon blood was spilt continuously and it nearly became a rain of blood.

"Urghhhh... Graah!!"

In the air, a yellow light flashed, and suddenly, dark clouds surged as deafening noises surrounded the area. A three hundred meter long huge dragon covered in stone scales bellowed and rushed towards Yun Qinghong. In an instant, rocks appeared in midair, covering the whole sky.

"That's the true form of the Venerable Stone Dragon!!" One of the Yun Family Elders uttered in surprise.

"Hmph!"

Facing the huge dragon body of the Venerable Stone Dragon that caused others to be shocked, Yun Qinghong merely snorted slightly as his body flashed, and in the next instant, he was on the spinal part of the Venerable Stone Dragon's back, punching down at it... the fist easily split apart the dragon scales, directly smashing against his body.

The dragon body of Venerable Stone Dragon began to writhe about in pain. A ball of dense purple lightning started to spread from his back, and in a mere two seconds completely engulfed the entire dragon's body, turning the stone dragon into a purple colored "lightning dragon".

"Scram!"

Following Yun Qinghong's cold voice, countless rays of lightning on the Venerable Stone Dragon's body exploded...

Boom boom boom boom boom boom boom...

Countless lightning profound energy crazily exploded; so dense that it seemed as though it was the anger of the Lightning God. The skies above the Yun family household were dyed purple by the lightning profound energy, and every time it exploded, the deafening sounds seem to nearly tear through the skies. In the midst of the thousands profound lightning explosions, the Venerable Stone Dragon let out cries of immense pain as his dragon blood rained down like torrential rain...

Bang!!!

Following the disappearance of the last bit of lightning, the relieved Venerable Stone Dragon heavily crashed onto the ground. The moment he landed, his dragon body disappeared, and he returned to his human form. He panted as he shakily attempted to stand up, and just as he was about to stand up straight, he vomited out more than ten mouthfuls of blood before collapsing back onto the ground, unable to stand again.

Yun Qinghong slowly descended from the skies as he coldly looked at him: "Venerable Stone Dragon, all these years, I've respected you as a senior and have never disrespected you before, yet you dare to come to my Yun Family's grounds to act so wildly. I'm afraid you're not qualified enough to do so!"

### **Chapter 524 - Return of the Patriarch**

The Sovereign Profound Realm was the highest realm that could be reached in the Profound Sky Continent, and it was the same in the Illusory Demon Realm. In the Illusory Demon Realm, the strong who had reached Sovereign Profound Realm were mostly from Demon Imperial City. Outside of Demon Imperial City, it was hard to even have one in a few thousand years. And even in Demon Imperial City, very few reached Sovereign Profound Realm. The number of Monarchs was the most important factor in determining how strong a family was.

And, being at the top of the profound cultivating world, Monarchs were also divided into different levels... even though early stage and mid stage Monarchs were both in the Sovereign Profound Realm, their power levels were worlds apart.

In the reputed Demon Imperial City, the famous Venerable Stone Dragon was a level two Monarch... but twenty-five years ago, Yun Qinghong... was already a level five Monarch, a real mid stage monarch; how could the Venerable Stone Dragon compete with him?!

Watching the strong Venerable Stone Dragon being defeated so easily by Yun Qinghong until he couldn't even stand up like he was a dead dog, the Yun family's disciples were all shocked, as if they were in a dream, and the Yun Qinghong who was floating in the air right now, in their eyes, was just like a god coming down to the mortal world.

The Elders were all stunned. Those younger generations who called Yun Qinghong the "Useless Patriarch" to his back, never had respect, never even bowed when they saw him, who even treated him as a joke and the family's shame, lost their voices, as if something choked their throats, as they couldn't make a single sound. Compared to the power Yun Qinghong had released, they felt like they were minuscule, like dust in the ocean.

Number One Under Heaven and Unparalleled Under Heaven were both stunned as well. Looking at the divinely shining Yun Qinghong, they were so shocked that they forgot about all the fury and outrage they had earlier.

Mu Yurou didn't have to hide anymore either. She removed the Profound Sealing Buckle that was used to hide her profound energy aura, and a wave of invisible Sovereign Profound Realm profound energy was released. This made a few of the elders' mouths widen even more. Mu Yurou flew into the air, and landed next to Yun Che, and asked, "Che'er, are you alright?"

"I'm fine," Yun Che smiled and shook his head, while focusing on Duke Hui Ye the whole time.

Duke Hui Ye's face darkened so much that it looked as though he had just crawled out from under a pot. He looked extremely horrible. At the same time, he was just as shocked as everyone because of Yun Qinghong's sudden burst of mighty prowess... he kept thinking that everything that happened today, was a complete nightmare!

"Even though a Yun family disciple has made a huge mistake, how they will be punished will be decided by us, the Yun family. Others do not get a say in this!" Yun Qinghong lowered his eyebrows, looked down at the Venerable Stone Dragon from above, and said in a deep voice, "On behalf of you guarding the Little Demon Emperor for ten years, I will not kill you today! Take the master you serve now and get out of here before I change my mind!"

Duke Hui Ye had a noble position, and his background was extraordinary. But now knowing his plot and his conspiring against the Yun family, he didn't have to save any face for Duke Hui Ye... after all, these two facts were more than enough to become a nemesis against the Yun family, so there was no point for Yun Qinghong to worry about it any longer.

The might and pressure coming from Yun Qinghong made the Venerable Stone Dragon's heart have trouble even moving. He had no doubt that if he kept being presumptuous, even if he merely talked tough to keep up appearances, Yun Qinghong would actually kill him... as well as Duke Hui Ye. Duke Hui Ye didn't know what Yun Qinghong was like before he became crippled, but he knew very clearly. A hundred years ago, he was enraged by a duke who was committing serious crimes, and he killed him right on the street... and it was while he knew exactly who that duke was.

"Your Highness, let's... go..."

The Venerable Stone Dragon almost crawled under Duke Hui Ye's feet, used his eyes to warn him to leave immediately, and to not attempt to try to use his position as a duke to try to fight Yun Qinghong here. Duke Hui Ye gnashed his teeth, and roared deeply, "Yun Qinghong... wait until you regret this... let's go!"

"When you return, remember to tell your Father," Yun Qinghong faced Duke Hui Ye's back, and said softly, "For the sake of old times, I, Yun Qinghong, advise him to not throw away what he has today because of his greed and prejudice against women, and destroy himself! It's not too late to stop now, the Little Demon Empress is much more powerful than what you imagined. As long as the Yun family is alive, we will forever be loyal to the Demon Emperor's bloodline!"

Duke Hui Ye stopped his steps. His shoulders shook violently, as he turned around and said with a ferocious expression, "Yun Qinghong, this duke also has a word from my Father... It's not too late for the Yun family to surrender! Don't wait until... the family with ten thousand years of history is reduced to dust!"

Yun Qinghong crossed his arms in front of his chest, not mad at all, and instead smiled in contempt, "Are you done? Then get out of my sight."

"You..." A mouthful of blood surged up from Duke Hui Ye's chest, as he gnashed his teeth. His body trembled, and he flew away with haste.



At this moment, an angry voice yelled, "Helian Peng, where are you going! We haven't set our debts straight yet!"

Helian Peng's body stopped, turned around, and saw Unparalleled Under Heaven's darkened face. He laughed coldly and said, "Unparalleled Under Heaven, since you already know, then I might as well be straight with you. The one our Twelve Guardian Families have been loyal for generations to, is Lord Demon Emperor! The Little Demon Empress is merely a woman, what gives her the right to make us obey her! But now, the Little Demon Empress' rule is almost at its end, and I will tell you honestly. Within the Twelve Guardian Families, half of them are already leaning towards Duke Huai. I will give you a friendly word of advice..."

"Shut up!" Unparalleled Under Heaven said angrily, "You are hypocritical, deceitful, and two-faced, yet you still have the face to make such dignified remarks. Putting your disloyalty aside, your Helian Clan even tried to stab the daughter of our Patriarch in the back! You owe us an explanation for this!"

"Want an explanation?" Helian Peng laughed coldly, "At Demon Empress' Grand Ceremony a month later, I will take you on anytime!"

"Want to run? If I don't break your arm today, then I am not called Unparalleled Under Heaven!" Watching Helian Peng leave, Unparalleled Under Heaven roared angrily, and chased him like the wind. Number One Under Heaven looked toward Yun Che's direction, hesitated, then quickly followed.

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Once outside of Yun family's territory, Duke Hui Ye wasn't able to walk far before his body swayed, and he spat out a large mouthful of blood.

"Your Highness, are you alright?" The Venerable Stone Dragon asked hurriedly.

"Yun... Qing... hong!" Duke Hui Ye slowly wiped the corner of his mouth, his eyes filled with the expression of hatred. Even though Yun Qinghong didn't aim to hurt him, being pushed down by a mid stage Monarch, how could he endure that! Under Yun Qinghong's gaze and aura, his intestines were almost ripped to shreds.

"Originally... today was the day we elect Xinyue as the Patriarch of the Yun family, so we could control the Yun family, and then use the Yun family to control the Mu family. This would clear two obstacles for Father... but we didn't expect, didn't expect..." Duke Hui Ye held his hands in fists, and suddenly widened his eyes, "It's all that Yun Che's fault! Two months ago, he disturbed my affairs, and today, it was because of him again! All because of him, we not only did not contain the Yun family and the Under Heaven family. Instead, we raised their alertness and hatred against us! If they tell everything to the Little Demon Empress, the Little Demon Empress might have even more defense and action..."

"Everything is screwed... if Father knew... all fault would definitely fall on this duke! Bastard... everything about this, is all that Yun Che's fault!"

"When we return, investigate everything about that Yun Che... This duke wants his entire clan destroyed!"

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“Xinyue... Xinyue... Xinyue... ah! Why... why!!”

Yun Waitian held Yun Xinyue’s body in his arms and cried loudly. Under the Venerable Stone Dragon’s attack, Yun Xinyue’s body was pierced through directly, and on top of not having the protection of profound energy, he was as dead as he could be. Yun Waitian went through jubilation and sorrow in a single day. Originally, he was full of joy, preparing to see the son he was so proud get pushed for election by Duke Hui Ye, be approved by the Grand Elders with the whole clan’s support to become Patriarch, but he never thought that, not even an hour had passed, and they were separated by life and death.

Even if he made a horrible mistake, he was still his biological son.

Yun Qinghong floated down and stood beside Yun Waitian. Watching the Family’s Great Elder cry like a child, his mind flashed at the pain of losing a child for all these years. He made a long sigh, and said, “Great Elder, grieve. Even though Yun Xinyue was at fault, he was being forced by others, so it’s forgivable. I believe that the people of our clan would also forgive him. Three days later, we will bury him in Ancestor’s Ridge. I will give an order, and not let anyone speak a word of the fault he had in his life.”

Yun Waitian’s body shook slightly... a person who had committed a huge mistake had no right to enter Ancestor’s Ridge after death. Yun Xinyue conspired with others to betray his own clan, and almost put the whole Yun Family into a crisis that could not be averted. What he committed, was a fault that could be cursed and chastised for hundreds of generations. And Yun Qinghong gave him permission to enter Ancestor’s Ridge, and would conceal his guilt to the outsiders to protect his reputation. This could be seen as a merciful and magnanimous act.

“Thank you... Patriarch...” Yun Waitian lowered his head, and said with a choked throat. He thought about his ignorance and discourtesy against Yun Qinghong after his crippling, and felt ashamed.

“Even though Xinyue is gone, you still have your two sons, Xinwen and Xin’e, and they need your support. Even though Xinyue was at fault, it had nothing to do with you. After today, you are still the Yun Family’s Great Elder. If the Yun Family wants to rise, it must depend on you. So, for your family and for the entire Yun Family, you must not fall.”

Yun Waitian lifted his head, looked at Yun Qinghong with tears in his eyes, and couldn’t speak a word.

“Xiao’er, Che’er, let’s go.” Yun Qinghong turned around.

“Patriarch... Patriarch!” A lot of voices addressing him came from his back. Yun Qinghong paused his steps, lifted his hands and said, “Today’s Family Competition is canceled, tidy this place up first. I know you all have a lot of questions, but right now, there’s about to be a crisis in Demon Imperial City, and the Yun Family must be well-prepared. Tomorrow at ten in the morning, we will have the clan’s general assembly as usual. I will explain everything, and then discuss the family’s affairs... anyone above middle management cannot be absent.”

“Yes, Patriarch!”

The sound of their response was loud and clear, especially the word “Patriarch”; it made many of the elders’ eyes glisten with tears.

Yun Qinghong and his wife left. The whole Yun Family Plaza completely lost control, and couldn't calm down for a long time.

"Patriarch... has returned! Our Patriarch has really returned!"

"The rise of the Yun Family... there's hope!"

"I can't believe we were all rooting for Yun Xinyue to be the next Patriarch... our eyes really were blind. If it wasn't for Patriarch's wisdom, the consequences would be unimaginable!"

"Besides Patriarch, we need to thank the godson the Patriarch has taken in, Yun Che! What's ironic is that we were even mocking him before."

The Yun Family Elders gathered in a circle, all talking at once without considering their image. Their faces were all red from being so rowdy.

At this moment, Yun Waitian had already stopped crying. He held onto Yun Xinyue's body, and knelt there, staring blankly ahead. Second Elder Yun Duanshui walked over, after a moment of hesitation, he sighed and said, "Great Elder, did you think it was strange that when the Patriarch 'returned', there were so many people among us that were riled up like this?"

Yun Waitian's eyes moved a little.

Yun Duanshui said slowly, "After Yun Canghai, Yun Qinghong became the Patriarch of our Yun Family. Even though he was crippled, he is still the Patriarch. We would never let anyone question his position and his power as the Patriarch because of his crippled state. But because of the Patriarch being crippled, and him knowing Yun Xiao wasn't his biological son, he believed that he couldn't take on the responsibilities of being Patriarch. He wanted us to give him up and make you the center, and in the future, make you our Yun Family Patriarch."

Yun Waitian, "..."

"Patriarch said, even though you have ambitions, you also have absolute loyalty to the Yun Family, and want the clan to rise more than anyone else. His bloodline has ended, but handing the responsibility to the Great Elder's bloodline is what sets his mind at ease the most. He told us to coordinate and listen to your orders, and help you bring up your prestige in the Yun Family. As for the Patriarch himself, he strictly commanded us that we cannot even visit him. When the time is right, we would make you the Patriarch."

"Ah..." Yun Waitian opened his mouth, his whole body was trembling.

"To be honest, even after more than twenty years, as soon as the Patriarch gives his command, of us thirty-six main elders of the family, at least twenty people would stand by the Patriarch without any hesitation. Regarding the purpose of today's general assembly, the Patriarch already knew. Fourth Elder and I told the Patriarch together. The Patriarch's response was to let us elect you as the new Patriarch, and us agreeing later on for Yun Xinyue to be the new Patriarch was unexpected."

"The isolation that Patriarch received after he was crippled was not because we wanted to isolate him, it was him who wanted us to do so. His silence, was not because he was giving up on himself, but was to wear down his reputation to raise up yours. Because to Patriarch, the clan's future is far more important

than his reputation and honor... he was a great, wise Patriarch. Though he was crippled, we cannot help but still respect him.”

“But, the heavens finally favored us, the Yun Family. Our Patriarch has returned, and we resolved a family disaster.” Yun Duanshui looked at the stunned Yun Waitian, and said, “You knew exactly how you treated Patriarch all these years, how serious your son Yun Xinyue’s mistake was, but you saw how Patriarch treated you just now... what I’m saying is, I hope that in the future, Great Elder would not disappoint Patriarch and the Yun Family.”

After Yun Duanshui left, Yun Waitian stood there blankly for a long time, as though he was petrified. After an eighth of an hour, his body trembled, and he dropped on the ground, crying loudly...

### **Chapter 525 - Confession**

“Yurou, Brother-in-law, you’ve both recovered... truly, fully recovered?” He was the stately Mu Family’s future Patriarch, yet currently, he was excitedly dancing in joy like a child.

In regards to Mu Yubai’s temperament, Yun Che had roughly understood it today. He was someone who wore his emotions on his face, upright and outspoken, and was not one to suppress his feelings. At this moment, he was excited and pleasantly surprised, and this completely showed on his face.

“We’ve already fully recovered ten days ago. During those days, we’ve always worn the Profound Sealing Buckle to conceal our profound aura.” Mu Yurou said with a light laugh. Seeing the man who she had accompanied throughout her entire life stand up from the wheelchair to once more display the great might he possessed back then, after more than twenty years, she couldn’t help but want to cry tears of joy. No one else was more clear about these twenty-two years this prideful man spent whilst handicapped, and how much he suffered every day.

“Whether it is our body or profound strength, they have all fully recovered, and this is not something short-lived.” Yun Qinghong lifted his hand and said with a smile: “All this, is because of Che’er. He merely used not even two months of time. I, Yun Qinghong have seen and experienced quite a lot of things, but if this did not happen on my person, I still would never dare believe it. All of the genius doctors in the Illusory Demon Realm added up together could barely rival one finger on Che’er’s hand. I’m afraid that not even the Great Firmament Golden Deity of legends could even compare, hoho.”

This evaluation was no doubt the highest praise beyond limits, and this praise had even come from Yun Qinghong himself. However, Mu Yubai did not feel that it was exaggerated in the least. He was more clear than anyone else about how crippled Yun Qinghong and Mu Yurou were originally. Since twenty years ago, in the entire Illusory Demon Realm, not one person believed that they were able to recover... they weren’t even able to recover to an ordinary person’s state of health.

Now that this appeared before his eyes, it was no less than a miracle!

And, this merely took a short time of not even two months!

Mu Yubai grabbed Yun Che’s shoulders, widened his eyes, and said with great emotion: “Good kid... I, Mu Yubai has lived for more than one hundred eighty years, and the only person I have ever truly admired is my brother-in-law, Yun Qinghong. But now, I admire you ten times more than that! So much that I’d prostrate myself in admiration. You saving my brother-in-law means that you have saved the

entire Yun Family. You saving my little sister Yurou, also means that you are our Mu Family's benefactor. Mn..."

Mu Yubai's eyes suddenly lit up, as the hands he used to grab at Yun Che tightened a bit more... This was a Monarch's strength, and it immediately made Yun Che ache so hard that he gritted his teeth: "Boy... Oh, no, little brother Yun. How about we become sworn brothers? I'll be your big brother in the future, and you'll be my little brother. Your affairs would also become my affairs! If anyone dares to bully you, I'll smash their brains apart!"

If this situation of the Mu Family's Young Patriarch requesting to become sworn brothers were to spread out, the entire city would perhaps drop their jaws in shock. If this was in normal circumstances, Yun Che would definitely gladly agree... With such a great supporter, Yun Che could most probably walk sideways against the law if he wanted. But once Mu Yubai's words came out, it actually scared Yun Che to the point where his entire body broke out in cold sweat. He incessantly waved panickedly: "S-S-S-Senior Mu, this cannot be done. My humble self is merely a junior, how could I dare become sworn brothers with Senior Mu?"

The difference in seniority wasn't really much of a huge issue, the main point was that this Mu Yubai was his biological uncle! If he became sworn brothers just like that, once he revealed himself, Mu Yubai might even go look for a block of tofu to suicide himself into!

"Tch!" Mu Yubai swung an arm: "What junior, senior, that's all rubbish. Even though you are a bit young and your profound strength is a bit low, just with your medical skills and the courage you displayed today would even make me willingly call you big brother! Mn... If you don't want to be my little brother, then me calling you big brother in the future is fine too! That's no problem at all!"

These few words that Mu Yubai had said truly were not forced out at all. Yun Qinghong and Mu Yurou were crippled to such a state, yet they were able to fully recover in two months. In Mu Yubai's eyes, Yun Che could even be called god! If he could make this person into one of his own, no matter how great of a price he had to pay, it would still not be a loss. As a profound practitioner, there was no one who did not fall ill, encounter calamity, never get injured, and never be in danger. With Yun Che by his side, that would simply be countless numbers of lives under his belt. Even if one were to want to die, it would be hard. Even if one were to be crippled into a dog, they would still fully recover... If Mu Yubai had to pick between ten Monarchs and one Yun Che, Mu Yubai would definitely pick Yun Che without the slightest hesitation.

Yun Che grimaced: "Senior Mu, this junior is just.... just..."

Mu Yubai's face immediately fell, as he said unhappily: "What? Am I, Mu Yubai, beneath your notice? Do you think that I am not worthy enough to become your sworn brother?"

"Of course not." Yun Che waved: "This junior is naturally beside himself with delight knowing that Mu Yubai wants to become sworn brothers with this junior. But the problem is that this junior has already become sworn brothers with Yun Xiao. Your sister and brother-in-law are also junior's godfather and godmother. If this junior becomes sworn brothers with you, then the seniority here would be completely messed up. This is not fair to junior, nor is it fair to my godparents."

“So what? This and that are all not important. It’s not as though I don’t know you have become sworn brothers with that kiddo Yun Xiao.” Mu Yubai blurted without care as he waved his hand. His heart was just this wide.

“Alright, Big Brother, don’t make things difficult for Che’er anymore.” Mu Yurou said in amusement: “Even if you don’t care about seniority matters and want to become sworn brothers with Che’er no matter what, you’ll have to at least show your sincerity. Who would be as aggressive as you? It’ll be a wonder if you didn’t scare Che’er.”

Mu Yubai widened his eyes, then slapped his head, and said in annoyance: “You’re right! Look at this brain of mine, randomly telling someone to become my sworn brother. I didn’t mean for it to come out that way either... hey! Yun Che boyo... oh, no, little brother Yun, I was rude earlier. Come to my Mu Family for a visit someday. I’ll definitely let you see my sincerity. I, Mu Yubai, promise you that I am absolutely worthy of becoming your sworn brother!”

“Alright, alright, let’s talk about this when that time comes. Big Brother, go back home and tell Father about what happened today, let him prepare for it as well. Something huge is bound to happen during the Demon Empress’ Grand Ceremony. After two days, I’ll go back with Qinghong for a visit too.” Mu Yurou stated.

“Mn, if the old man knew that you and brother-in-law have recovered completely, I’d reckon he’ll be so happy that he wouldn’t be able to sleep for three days... Oh! When you come back with brother-in-law, make sure to bring this kid!” Mu Yubai said with great emphasis.

“Xiao’er, go send your uncle off with your mother,” said Yun Qinghong.

“Ah? Yes, Father.” Yun Xiao was still a bit stunned, it was evident that he had not completely taken in and digested everything that had happened today.

Mu Yubai glanced at Yun Qinghong. He knew why Yun Qinghong was letting Mu Yurou and Yun Xiao send him off; he probably had things he wanted to say to Yun Che alone, so he didn’t decline. With a wave of his hand, he left taking large strides.

“Father, do you have something you want to tell me?” Once they left, only Yun Qinghong and Yun Che remained within the courtyard.

“Mn.” Yun Qinghong nodded, then smiled and said: “Che’er, this is all thanks to you. If not for you, Yun Family’s ten thousand years of loyalty would be destroyed in one day. Even so much that we would be beyond redemption.”

Yun Che grinned: “Heh heh, Father’s too polite. I’m still considered to be half a member of the Yun Family. Besides, the one who suppressed everyone is you, Father. And with Father’s wisdom and foresight, even if I wasn’t here, you should’ve seen through everything a long time ago, right?”

Yun Qinghong shook his head, and said: “In these past years, due to my crippling, I knew that I did not have the power to support the Yun Family, so I had always closed my eyes and ears. Even though I was aware of Duke Huai’s disloyalty a long time ago and guessed that he might perhaps already be stretching out his hands into the Yun Family, I didn’t know where he had stretched in from. Furthermore, if not for

the fact that you helped recover our health and profound strength for us, even if I knew everything, I wouldn't have the power to turn it around."

Yun Che thought for a while, then said: "Father, I have a speculation... I believe that among the elders of your generation, some have not left because of your crippling. All these years that you have been alone, that was something you did deliberately, right?"

Yun Qinghong laughed, and looked at him with praising eyes: "Yes, you're right. Even though I really don't want the Patriarch position of our Patriarchal line given to others, at that time, I was completely crippled, and Xiao'er was not my biological child. I'd rather given the head position to Yun Waitian than be a burden on the Yun Family. After all, even though the honor of our Patriarch bloodline is important, how could it possibly compare with our Yun Clan's future. Che'er, if not for you helping me recover, I originally would've already prepared myself to watch Yun Waitian succeed my position as Patriarch. But now that I have recovered, and have enough strength to bear the heavy responsibility of the clan, this position of Patriarch absolutely cannot be given to others. Che'er, you have truly altered the fate of our entire Yun Family. This kind of great favor is enough to let our Yun Family remember it for over thousands of generations."

"The reason why I wanted to be alone with you is to confess something to you." Yun Qinghong sucked in a slight breath of air, and said somewhat sadly: "I deliberately allowed the Venerable Stone Dragon to kill Yun Xingyue."

"I know." Against Yun Qinghong's expectations, Yun Che actually gave a direct reply which held no hesitation. He continued: "With Father's strength, as well as the close distance back then, protecting Yun Xingyue against the Venerable Stone Dragon's attack could be said to be as easy as turning one's hand over."

"...Then, do you think that I am too ruthless?"

"No!" Yun Che shook his head: "The complete opposite. I fully approve of Father's decision. Since Yun Xinyue has already said 'Helian' and 'Duke Huai', there is no need to continue asking any further. Even though he had been poisoned and was forced, he still went as far as secretly backstabbing a fellow clansman for the promise of the Patriarch position and the title of a king. What's even more despicable is the fact that he didn't hesitate to harm the entire clan! Dying ten thousand times for such a serious crime would not be excessive at all! And if he were to be executed by the clan, even though Yun Waitian won't say anything, he would still bear resentment over this. Him being "timely silenced" by Duke Hui Ye actually couldn't be even better. On one hand, he would feel hatred toward Duke Huai's clan for killing his son, on the other, he would be moved to tears by Father's comfort and forgiveness. Furthermore, the guilt he'll feel then would thereby make him unwaveringly loyal to Father and the Yun Family. After all, Yun Waitian is Yun Family's Great Elder; excluding Father, he is one of the major pillars of Yun Family that must not be lost. This outcome is the most perfect one."

Yun Qinghong looked deeply at Yun Che, then laughed heartily: "Hahahaha... Che'er, I am still underestimating you. It is hard for me to believe that you are only twenty-two this year. With your talent and temperament, I would not doubt it even if you say that you have a thousand years of experience."

Yun Che also laughed along, and lightly sighed in his heart... What I have encountered, the life and death situations, as well as the dangers I've experienced, even if someone else were to pile up their thousand years of life experiences, they probably still can't match mine...

## **Chapter 526 - Reunion**

During the conversation between Yun Che and Yun Qinghong, two silhouettes flashed past before descending. It was then followed by mild laughter: "Hoho, Yun Qinghong, it's been a long time."

That person was Unparalleled Under Heaven and soon, Number One Under Heaven descended as well. The phrase "it's been a long time" by Unparalleled Under Heaven contained various meanings... being in the same city, yet it had been "a long time since they last met".

"Brother Under Heaven, it has indeed been a long time." Yun Qinghong nodded, his expression revealed deep lament: "Where's Helian Peng? Did you catch manage to catch up to him?"

"That bastard fled really quickly, but I still managed to give him a good kick on his ass, enough for him to feel pain from some days. That has at least quelled some of my anger. Hahahaha." Unparalleled Under Heaven laughed.

Number One Under Heaven stepped forward and paid respects as a junior: "Patriarch Yun returning to his former glory is a joyous event. With Patriarch Yun, Yun Family's return to prominence is just around the corner."

"I hope it is like what you have just said." Yun Qinghong nodded with a smile. Then, he became serious again, and said: "Duke Huai's ambition has already been exposed. The Little Demon Empress' Grand Ceremony would definitely not be peaceful. Please pass a message to Elder Brother Under Heaven, that within five days, I will personally be going over to visit and discuss some important matters."

"Patriarch Yun is definitely most welcomed to visit. However, I'm afraid that our Patriarch will not be able to wait five days, and come visit you instead after hearing that you have recovered." Unparalleled Under Heaven laughed. His words were not lies, since all those years back, the person Great Ambition Under Heaven would submit to the most was Yun Qinghong. After Yun Qinghong became crippled, even if he did not sigh a thousand times, there must have at least been eight hundred times.

"Patriarch Yun, since a major event just happened within your family, you must be busy. We only returned to bid our farewell so we shall not stay any longer. I will deliver Patriarch Yun's words in full. When you are free, do come to our Under Heaven Clan to visit." Unparalleled Under Heaven clasped his hands together. Although he was very curious, he did not presumptuously ask Yun Qinghong and his wife just how and when they recovered.

"Definitely!" Yun Qinghong similarly returned his gesture.

"Brother Yun, there are no words to thank you for your kindness." Number One Under Heaven nodded strongly towards Yun Che.

"Brother Under Heaven is too kind. We'll meet again in one month." Yun Che said with a smile: "Also, pardon me for saying this, but the Little Demon Empress' Grand Ceremony is near at hand. At that time, another storm would likely be swept up, therefore, I think that now is not the time to be distracted by



the grudge with the Helian Family. Priorities must be placed correctly and personal grudges should be put aside for now as revenge is best served cold.”

Yun Che’s words did not make them unhappy. Number One Under Heaven nodded slightly and Unparalleled Under Heaven even revealed signs of admiration, uttering: “Patriarch Yun, your godson is really extraordinary.”

“Farewell.”

Unparalleled Under Heaven and Number One Heaven left. It would not be possible to keep whatever happened in the Yun Family today a secret, and perhaps by evening, it would’ve already spread throughout the city like wildfire. The ambition that Duke Huai had all this time would be largely made public. During this period, Demon Imperial City would certainly be tense and the Twelve Guardian Families would enter a very nervous state.

The Little Demon Empress’ Grand Ceremony in one month’s time definitely would not be as simple as a celebration of the Demon Empress having reigned for a century, and would likely become a turning point for the future of the Illusory Demon Realm.

After the two left, Mu Yurou and Yun Xiao, who went to send Mu Yubai off, returned. Once Mu Yurou returned, she immediately sprinted beside Yun Qinghong, and asked nervously: “What happened with the Patriarch’s Crest? Where did you get it from?”

Yun Qinghong also would like to know where the Patriarch’s Crest came from. He looked towards Yun Che, and replied: “Che’er passed it to me.”

“Che’er?” Mu Yurou turned back in shock, revealing a face of disbelief.

“Che’er, isn’t it about time for you to tell us about this Patriarch’s Crest? This is your promise from earlier.” Yun Qinghong calmly spoke, but his gaze already revealed his anxiousness. Because when this Patriarch’s Crest was lost a hundred years ago, it was on his father, Yun Canghai... As Yun Family’s most important object, Yun Canghai would have never left it alone!

Yun Che’s lips moved for a little, as he calmed himself, and said: “Let’s go in... I will tell you everything you all want to know.”

“Good!” Yun Qinghong nodded. Looking at Yun Che’s expression, he knew that whatever he was going to say would definitely be overwhelming. He held Mu Yurou’s hand, and they walked towards their room.

Yun Xiao quickly walked beside Yun Che, asking with a face of shock: “Big Brother, that Patriarch’s Crest, did you really give it to Father?”

“Yup,” Yun Che nodded: “I will say in full how I obtained it. It is after all, a Yun Family object.”

As he finished, he looked at Yun Xiao, who looked a little out of sorts, and asked: “Yun Xiao, are you still thinking about what happened just now?”

Yun Xiao lowered his head, speaking half in regret and half self-deprecatingly: “Until now, I still could not accept that the Yun Xinyue, whom I respect the most, is actually... such a person... Just now, I still suspected Big Brother because of him. I’m really... too foolish!”

“All these years, I worked so hard in order to do something for Father and Mother, however, when the entire Yun Family was in a predicament, I was unable to do anything and foolishly supported a man who nearly caused the death of a fellow clansman... If it wasn't for Big Brother, who knows what would happen to the Yun Family from now onwards... Me and Big Brother are of a similar age, but... I'm too far behind Big Brother... I'm totally useless, who knows when I'll be able to be like Big Brother.”

Yun Che stopped walking, turned back, and patted Xiao Yun's shoulders as he said seriously: “Don't look down on yourself. You have worked hard in your cultivation for Father and Mother all these years, withstanding everything that came for them. Your filial piety is more important and precious than anything else. As for Yun Xinyue, weren't those elders who lived for hundred of years, and some even close to a thousand years, in the dark as well? There's really no need for you to diminish yourself. Oversensitive instincts, predictions, and insights are not something people your age will possess.”

“Uh, but Big Brother, you're obviously the same age as me...”

“I'm different.” Yun Che shook his head: “Yun Xiao, I would rather you keep your personality forever and be as 'useless' as you said, than to experience what I have experienced.”

Yun Xiao looked at him perplexedly, unable to comprehend what he just said.

Although they talked softly, it was unable to escape Yun Qinghong's ears. Hearing what Yun Che had said, he stopped for a moment as a complex expression appeared on his face... That's right, being just twenty-two and already possessing a maturity and insight that was unlike anyone of the same age; he couldn't comprehend just what had he been through.

“Yun Xiao, if you really want to mature more quickly, today will be an opportunity.” Yun Che suddenly said.

Yun Xiao was stunned: “Really? What opportunity? What opportunity!”

“Fate often plays all sorts of pranks on us; sometimes it is friendly, sometimes it is evil, and other times cruel, or even vicious. As a man, if you really want to be indomitable and independent, the first thing you must learn is to calmly face the changes that fate brings about! This requires one to be broad minded and have enough courage. If you are able to do this, then your life will improve and you will possess more strength for Father and Mother to rely on, more strength for Seventh Sister to rely on.”

“Calmly... face...” Yun Xiao was still a little shocked, and although he did not really understand the things Yun Che had said, he felt that it was very powerful!

“What's going to happen next, will be a test of sorts for you.” Yun Che said in a positive manner: “Let me see whether or not my good brother of a lifetime will be an indomitable man who is not easily defeated by the twist of fate!”

Even though he still did not completely know what Yun Che was saying, his words still raised Yun Xiao's morale as he strongly said: “I, Yun Xiao, do not have such a weak mind! Even if I cannot compare with Big Brother, I will not let Big Brother look down on me!”

“Alright, that's what you said... let's go in.”

After they entered the room, they closed the door. Yun Qinghong took out the Patriarch's Crest that was glowing purple and felt the unique aura on it. Suppressing his agitation, he anxiously asked: "Che'er, tell me, where did you get this?"

When the question was asked, Yun Qinghong, Mu Yurou, and Yun Xiao all looked straight at him, anxiously and nervously awaiting his reply. Under their gaze, Yun Che did not reply, but looked towards Yun Qinghong and Mu Yurou and gradually knelt down... Furthermore, he had knelt down on both his knees.

"Che'er, what are you doing... hurry and stand up." Mu Yurou panicked, and quickly went forward to try and help him up.

Yun Che did not rise, but raised his head and looked at them... his own birth parents. Slowly, he opened his palm...

"Father, Mother... Do you all still remember this thing?"

On Yun Che's palm, was an old looking copper colored pendant.

The second they saw the pendant, Yun Qinghong and Mu Yunrou seemed as though they were struck by lightning as their entire bodies trembled violently. Mu Yurou suddenly rushed forward like a madman and snatched the pendant in Yun Che's palm, raising it up to her eyes to look at it. Her hands continued to tremble madly: "Mirror of Samsara... it's the Mirror of Samsara... It really is the Mirror of Samsara!!!"

Mu Yurou, who usually spoke gently, like water, was currently speaking in a frightening, trembling, hoarse voice. Yun Xiao was shocked as he anxiously asked: "Mother, what's... what's wrong..."

He turned towards Yun Qinghong, only to realize that his entire face had already distorted.

"This Mirror of Samsara... You... Where did you get it from..." For the intelligent and proud Yun Qinghong, this short sentence was extremely hard to say. However, a sudden thought flashed past his mind, and his body trembled even more violently: "Could it be... you..."

Yun Che did not answer. He only raised up his left arm, and on his arm, the mark of the Profound Handle shone vividly.

"Ahhh! Profound... Profound Handle!!!" Yun Xiao screamed in surprise. Even though he did not have the Profound Handle, being in the Yun Family for twenty odd years, how could he not recognize it?

Holding the Mirror of Samsara in her hand and looking at the glowing mark of the Profound Handle, Mu Yurou was stunned. Her hands trembled and even her lips trembled intensely, yet she could not utter a single sound. In an instant, her eyes were flooded with tears and her mind spun, before she directly fell backwards.

"Mother!!!" Yun Xiao rushed forward to support her: "Mother! What... What's wrong? Don't scare me!"

Yun Qinghong's eyes were unfocused. His breathing completely stopped and he could no longer feel the existence of his body, which was burning hot. The instant the Profound Handle shone, blood rushed into his head, causing him to hallucinate. He nearly vomited blood and fainted...

Yun Che's eyes were misty as he softly said: "Before I was sixteen, my surname was not Yun but instead Xiao. At that time, I was called Xiao Che... I'm not from the Illusory Demon Realm. The place I grew up in was one of the seven nations of the Profound Sky Continent, called Blue Wind Nation. The city I lived in was Floating Cloud City. My adopted father was called Xiao Ying and my grandfather is Xiao Lie."

### **Chapter 527 - Family Reunion**

Each and every one of Yun Che's soft words reverberated in Yun Qinghong's ears like a thunderclap, his upper body violently swayed and the scene before him became blurry. His brain felt like it was going to explode from the violent rushes of blood assaulting his head.

"Child... You are my child... My child!!"

Mu Yurou let out a cry that betrayed her immense heartache as she shrugged off Yun Xiao's arm and threw herself violently onto Yun Che's body. She hugged him as if her life itself depended on it and started bawling like a child. The arms wrapped around him began to tighten, and if this embrace grew any tighter.... It would be as though she wanted to draw him into herself. And the mournful and heartbroken sound of her wails seemed to cause the whole world to turn a darker shade of grey.

Yun Qinghong stepped forward to extend his arm, but he stopped midway. And the words he wanted to say seemed to be lodged inside his throat, as though something was stuck there, and once he opened his mouth, the tears which he were trying so hard to restrain threatened to burst out....

The Mirror of Samsara was what they had hung around their son's neck when they were fleeing all those years ago. Because they prayed that this sacred artifact, which they had protected for generations on behalf of the Illusory Demon Royal Family and was coveted by the Profound Sky Continent, would show its divine might and protect their newborn son who had no choice but to become a fugitive because of them... And that profound imprint was even more iron-clad proof... and the words that he said... Profound Sky Continent, Blue Wind Nation, Floating Cloud City, and Xiao Ying were all names that they had repeated to themselves countless of times... And while he had mentioned these words to Yun Che when he told him of the origins of Yun Xiao, he had definitely never mentioned the name Xiao Lie...

Moreover, that appearance which closely matched his own when he was young, and that feeling of recognition despite having met for the first time... And that practically unreasonable and irresistible intimacy and trust that he felt towards him...

Ah, so it was because of this... because of this...

No wonder he wanted to come to the Yun Family... No wonder he spared no effort, even to the point of fainting due to exhaustion, to ensure that he healed their crippled bodies... No wonder he had treated him and Yurou so well... No wonder he did not hesitate to cross swords with such a strong enemy, just so the calamity awaiting the Yun Family could be averted... No wonder he wanted to become sworn brothers with Yun Xiao.... And finally, now that things have come full circle, he understood why Yun Che did not want to call them 'Godfather and Godmother' but 'Father and Mother' instead...

Because it turned out that he was their son... Their very own flesh and blood... The son that they had lost over twenty years ago... The heavens had sent him back to their side...

He should have realized this sooner... Because in this world, aside from one's own direct relatives, there was no reason to treat another with such care and concern, to the point where he would not spare anything to treat them well... But, even though his heart held countless suspicions towards this situation, how could he have dared to dream of such an impossibly perfect conclusion...

"My child... My child..." Mu Yurou's voice had become completely hoarse. She had wept to the point where her soul seemed to have left her body... and she was no simple woman; she was a strong Monarch who was looked up to by all; she was the wife of Yun Family Patriarch. Her talent was extraordinary, she was nobility, and she was possessed an iron will. In those years, she had ventured forth together with her husband to the Profound Sky Continent that caused everyone's expression to change when it was even mentioned! It was hard to find another person with this kind of courage and determination in the entire Illusory Demon Realm.

But today, her tears had formed an ocean. All these years, she was always being tortured by her own thoughts, to the point where she had wept an immeasurable amount of tears... And in this entire world, there was only person who could make this woman, who had dared to brave the Profound Sky Continent without fear, so weak. There was only one person who could cause her to shed so many tears... It was her newborn son, whom she thought was lost to her forever.

The front of Yun Che's shirt had quickly become drenched in tears, but this wetness was filled with a warmth that pierced him to the heart. It caused his heart to steadily tremble, as he slowly raised his hands, supporting her spasming shoulders. He gently said, "Father, Mother, this child is unfilial... Because for more than twenty years, I was unable to be by your side...."

"All is well now that you have returned... All is... well..."

After just saying these few words, Yun Qinghong already had to choke back his emotions, and he did not speak any further.

Yun Xiao just stood there in a daze and he was completely dumbstruck. In his mind, there was only once voice that kept circulating in his head... Big Brother is Father and Mother's son... their real flesh and blood son...

So... what about me... I guess... I really wasn't Father and Mother's... flesh and blood after all...

He had already known about this fact long ago and even the entire Demon Imperial City knew as well. Being unable to wield the power of a Profound Handle, that was an inescapable truth... but because Yun Qinghong and Mu Yurou had never admitted it before, this matter which everyone knew as fact, had, in his own heart, been covered with a hazy veil which he did not want to tear away...

But today, this final layer had been completely and utterly ripped away... His emotions were in complete chaos, he was at a loss of what to do, and he did not even know if he should still continue to stand in this place... And at this time, his mind suddenly recalled what Yun Che had just said to him...

"Ah, so this is the twist of fate... that Big Brother said that I was about to face." He softly murmured.

Yun Che's words had immediately provoked even louder weeping from Mu Yurou. All these years, what she endured was not only a sense of loss but also the torment of guilt. Because all those years ago, it was because of them that their son had to become a fugitive even though he was just born. Moreover, it

was because she had been stricken by the cold poison when she was pregnant that they had to destroy his profound veins and make him a cripple for life to expel that poison from his body. At that time, she was already filled with so much grief that she wished she was dead as her guilt threatened to engulf her. And the only thing on her mind was that if she could escape from this situation, she would do all she could to make it up to him and protect him. But when they finally returned to the Illusory Demon Realm, her son had been left in the Profound Sky Continent, a place which they could not return to, and that denied her even of the opportunity to nurture and accompany her child...

But now, her child had come back, and his return to her side seemed like a dazzling dream. He harbored no resentment towards them and did not even utter a single complaint. Instead he healed her body, gave her a rebirth of sorts and even helped the Yun Family avert a calamity... And in the end, he still knelt before them, saying that he was 'unfilial'...

Her own son had not only come back, but had become so excellent, and had also become so kindhearted...

In the past twenty-two years, she had lost count of how many times she had cursed the heavens, had lost count of all the times she had resented this cruel fate. But right now, she used all her heart and sincerity to piously thank the heavens...

Yun Che had thought that after he had given himself a two month cushion, he would be able to maintain his cool in this situation. But after he had been buried in his mother's embrace, heard his mother's heartfelt cries, and felt her hot tears which flooded over him, his eyes had completely moistened. She had engulfed him in an extremely tight yet oh-so-warm embrace. And amidst this warmth, the tears which had been dammed up at the corners of his eyes finally burst free; they trickled down his face, tracing little pathways, as a feeling of weakness slowly rose in his heart...

All these years, he had suffered too many hardships, had been through too many twist and turns, and even life and death situations. Thus, his will had long ago been hammered into something hard and unyielding. The amount of blood he had shed was a million times more than the tears he cried. He had single-handedly gone up against a huge clan and also an entire nation by himself. He had also gone up against an entire continent before... to the point where he was forced to skirt the border between life and death constantly, but he still held his head high with unyielding tenacity back then, and had worn a cold, blood-stained smile that expressed his defiance till the very end...

But at this moment, this feeling of weakness was so real and irresistible that it caused him to have the urge to just break down and cry...

He knew that this was because he was in his mother's arms.

It was only after two lives, till this very day, that he knew what a mother's embrace was like... He was finally not a parentless, rootless wanderer covered in sand and dried blood any longer...

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Time seemed to have slowed down. No one came to disturb their family reunion, and nothing else seemed to have taken place that day.

But in the end, Yun Qinghong was still Yun Qinghong. After some time, he had finally been able to take hold of his emotions as he mutely stared at the mother and son who were still caught in their embrace. Sometimes he laughed, while at other times, he closed his eyes. Finally, Mu Yurou's completely hoarse crying had stilled. He gave a small sigh of relief and said in the most relaxed tone he could muster, "Yurou, the heavens have given our son back to us and it is cause for great joy. But you see, your crying has frightened Che'er and Xiao'er silly."

Mu Yurou raised her head; her entire face was stained with tears. She lightly sobbed and held Yun Che's face in both her hands. Her motions were so gentle, it was thought she was holding a delicate treasure that would easily break. She peered at him through misty eyes and softly whispered, "Yes... This is my son... Che'er... my son..."

Her entire body gave a light quiver and she put her face on her son's face. And even though she tried her best to restrain her weeping, the tears in her eyes still rolled down her cheeks. She was unable to stop... The hands which held her son refused to let go, as if she was afraid that once she did let go, he would disappear from her world once more.

Her current disheveled state did not even remotely resemble her usual noble and elegant comportment.

Yun Qinghong took a step forward and his hand pressed down on Yun Che's shoulder. His face bore a faint smile, but when he opened his mouth, he seemed to choke on his words. It was only after a good period of time, with a smile that faintly trembled, he softly said, "Che'er, welcome home... We have already waited for you for a very long time in our dreams..."

Yun Che quietly wiped the corners of his eyes and raised his head, softly replying, "Father, Mother, I am sorry. This child has only come back now. And because of this, I have caused both Father and Mother so many years of pain."

"You are not late at all." Yun Qinghong laughed as he shook his head, "As long as you have come back to us, all is well."

The person before him who was so excellent that it caused him to exclaim in admiration, who had caused Mu Yubai to disregard his status and seniority in order to become sworn brothers with, was actually his own flesh and blood. The kind of pride, joy and contentment he felt... was intense beyond description. He even felt that even if he had to use his own death to trade for this moment of truth, he would go with a smile on his face.

"Yurou, our son has already come back and he is even this big. He won't run away again, so how long do you want to keep hugging him?" Yun Qinghong lovingly patted his wife's back, "Can it be that you want our son, on the day of his return, to kneel there the entire afternoon?"

Yun Qinghong's last words had an immediate effect. After she saw that Yun Che had knelt there motionlessly for nearly half a day, Mu Yurou instantly felt such self-reproach and regret that she almost cried once more. She hurriedly wiped her tears and extended her hand to lift Yun Che up, "Che'er, quickly get up, the floor is cold... Oh, this is all Mother's fault, I had even forgotten that you were kneeling on the ground."

Yun Che stood up as Mu Yurou lightly supported him. He shook his head and said, "This is nothing, Mother. I was unable to be by your side all these years, so the amount of kneeling I owe the both of you, even kneeling for three days and three nights wouldn't make up for it."

This kind of close intimacy was simply too precious and too warm. He was willing to present his best and most obedient side, in order to bring them comfort and joy. At their side, Yun Xiao hesitated for a good long while before coming forward in a rather timid manner, saying, "Father, Mother, Big Brother, Congra... Congratulations on finally being able to reunite as a family..."

"It is not 'a family', it is 'our family' reunion!" Yun Che pulled Yun Xiao close, "The words you just said sounded like you weren't part of the family at all."

"But, I... I..." Yun Xiao softly bit on his lips and looked at a complete loss. He faced Yun Qinghong and Mu Yurou, bowed his head, and said in a lifeless and dazed voice, "I... I... In the future, can I still... call the both of you... Father and Mother?"

His words caused Yun Qinghong and his wife to be slightly startled, but after that, they laughed at the same time. Mu Yurou said in a gentle tone, "You silly child, you have always been Father and Mother's Xiao'er. The son we watched grow up, whom we loved the most. So why would we not let you address us as Father and Mother?"

"Hey, Yun Xiao! What are you saying? We are sworn brothers, you know!" Yun Che patted him on the head, "When we said our vows to each other when we became sworn brother, we swore that we would be brothers for life, that your parents would be my parents and my parents would be your parents. It was only two months ago, but now you don't even recognize this big brother of yours anymore?"

"No, it's not... I..." Yun Xiao waved his hand, and his eyes became misty for a short while. At this moment he suddenly realized why Yun Che wanted to become sworn brothers with him... Because his parents were actually Yun Che's parents... This was a vow which they could not go back on, and the reason why Yun Che had waited two months before he had identified himself was because of him... Solely because of him...

A warm current which carried far too many emotions flooded over his entire body. Yun Xiao raised his head, his face revealing a dazzling smile, "Sorry, Father, Mother, Big Brother, I was just thinking too much. The parents who love me the most has found their other son. My most respected big brother has found his real parents. So the happiest person in the room should actually be me! Father, Mother, Big Brother... Congratulations on our family reunion!"

Yun Qinghong and Mu Yurou looked at each other and laughed. Yun Che let out a huge laugh himself. After the tears and the sadness had gone away, all that was left on their faces were warm smiles which emanated from within.

### **Chapter 528 - Yun Xiao, Xiao Yun**

"Che'er, quickly, take a seat..."

Mu Yurou gently pushed Yun Che into a wooden chair. Her pretty face looked as though a shower of rain had fallen upon it, and her hands still continued to gently tremble. She looked at her son, who was right in front of her, and her gaze clung to him; it did not waver for even a single moment.



In his hand, he held the Mirror of Samsara. On his arm, the imprint of the Profound Handle still faintly glimmered, and his face closely resembled the face of the young Yun Qinghong. All of this was accompanied by the throbbing of her blood vessels that was so clear that it almost had substance... This was her son... Her very own flesh and blood.

“Che’er... My child...” Mu Yurou softly murmured, and once again, she choked up while saying, “Am I really... not having a dream right now...”

They had already grown familiar with each other over the last two months, and Yun Che had normally addressed her as ‘Mother’. But right now, while facing Yun Che, her mental state and emotions had reached a completely different level. Yun Che opened his mouth and said softly, “Mother, I am sorry... When I had first seen the both of you, I already knew that you were my birth parents, but... I waited until this day to be reconciled with the both of you.”

Mu Yurou gently shook her head. All of these were not the least bit important to her. At this time and place, nothing else in the world truly mattered to her right now. And all the joy and happiness that she had felt in her life, even when added up together, could not compare to this moment. She softly replied, “Husband, look at this son of ours, he is so good-looking that he looks even better than you when you were young. I won’t even be able to count the number of girls who have already lost their hearts to him. And he is still so obedient, so sensible and so kindhearted... For over twenty years, not only have we not done anything for him as parents, we also caused him to suffer hardship and homelessness from the time he was born. But our son doesn’t even blame us at all... doesn’t blame us at all...”

“Moreover, his boldness and intelligence even exceeds my own when I was his age. His medical skills, are even unrivalled under heaven. He has only come back for two months, yet he helped us escape from this deep abyss, and even caused your big brother, who doesn’t admire anyone, to want to become sworn brothers with him. He caused Duke Huai’s deliberate and methodical plot to collapse in a single day and gave our Yun Family hope once again... This is our son.” Yun Qinghong said as he raised his head, his voice brimming with pride and excitement.

“Our son...” Mu Yurou caressed Yun Che’s face, while covering her lips in one hand. After she had finished crying, she wanted to toughen up, so as to not let her newly-returned son only see her tears, but every time she tried, she just couldn’t help herself. She said in a dream-like daze, “I had thought that in this entire life, I would never... never be able to see you again... The heavens have eyes...”

Yun Che stretched out his hand and gently wiped away the tears on his mother’s face, “Mother, do not cry, our family has finally come back together again. And the both of you have recovered all that you had lost, so all of those difficulties are now in the past.”

“Yes... Mother won’t cry... won’t cry... It is just that Mother is... far too happy...” Mu Yurou nodded her head. She diligently attempted to wipe away all the traces of her tears, but the amount of tears she had shed was simply too much, and even after attempting to wipe them away, her face was still wet with them.

“Che’er.” Yun Qinghong softly sighed, and said in a gentle voice, “All these years, how have you been? And how exactly did you come from the far-off Profound Sky Continent to make your way here?”

Yun Qinghong's questions severely plucked at Mu Yurou's heartstrings. She grabbed Yun Che's hand and asked in an anxious tone, "Yes... Che'er, have these years been treating you well? Did you suffer a lot?"

Mu Yurou's entire being was focused on her son right now, and she couldn't think of much else. But Yun Qinghong knew that because Yun Che's temperament completely did not fit his age, that what Yun Che had suffered, was not just simply 'great suffering'; it must have been a torment that normal people would not even be able to endure. Or else, how would he possess such an extraordinary temperament, boldness, insight and ability?

Yun Che faintly smiled and replied, "All the events that I have lived through, I will definitely tell them to Father and Mother in detail. But before that..." He extended a hand, grabbed Yun Xiao, and said, "Father, Mother, now is the time to tell your other son of his origins. Yun Xiao isn't a little kid anymore and he has long ago become a true man who is upright and filled with an indomitable spirit. He also has the right to know about the truth behind his birth."

Yun Xiao went into a short daze, but then his eyes cleared up. He resolutely nodded his head, "Father, Mother, please tell me about my origins. I also want to know where I am actually from and who my birth parents are. And please do not worry Father and Mother, even though I am not your real flesh and blood, all these years of nurturing and love that you have given to me were definitely not false. In the future, even if I recognize my ancestors and return home to find my birth parents, the two of you will always be father and mother to me. For life."

Before this, Yun Xiao still felt bewildered, hesitant and even slightly despondent. But now that he had said these words, He realized that all the apprehensiveness and bewilderment had melted away, and what replaced those feelings was calmness, relaxation and a happiness which came from the heart because his family had finally been reunited.

Even though he was not the flesh and blood of his parents, in all those years, they had regarded him as their own and had lavished him with care. Just this debt of love alone was already hard for him to repay in this life. His big brother had saved his life, had continually helped and instructed him time and time again. He was so conscientious of his feelings that he had delayed this family reunion by two whole months just for his sake...

So even though there was no blood relation, they had treated him with a goodness that was heartfelt, so why should he even feel a sense of loss or hopelessness? The parents he loved the most had finally found the son they had worried about for all these years, so he should naturally be happy for his parents. His most respected big brother was able to reunite with his parents, so naturally he should be happy for his big brother as well...

At this moment, he clearly felt that he had grown up quite a bit, and it felt like what Yun Che had described as.... An elevation of his spirit.

Yun Qinghong and Mu Yurou shared a look, and they laughed with joy and comfort. Yun Qinghong nodded his head, "Good! Good child! Xiao'er, your birth father and I were sworn brothers as well. Moreover, he is the only confidante I have ever had in my life. So the fathers of you and Che'er had always been closer than brothers, and our two families had long ago become as one."

“Ah...” Yun Xiao’s mouth gaped open, “Father and my birth father... had known each other from the start?”

“Yes.” Yun Qinghong nodded his head and he pulled Yun Xiao’s arm, “Xiao’er, sit down. Today, your mother and I will tell you everything regarding your origins.”

In a room which was not spacious, the four sat facing each other. And no matter whether it was Yun Qinghong, Mu Yurou or Yun Che, the feeling of family became even clearer than it had ever been before. Yun Qinghong told Yun Xiao in a sentimental and appreciative tone the story of the three years he and his wife had spent in the Profound Sky Continent. He especially recounted how he had met Xiao Ying, and how they had gotten to know each other, had hit off, and how they became sworn brothers.... Until the part where he had managed to save their lives by putting together an escape route for them, how he had even swapped his own son with theirs....

Yun Xiao just sat there and silently listened. Once Yun Qinghong had finished his tale, he sat there in a daze, but after that he said to himself in a lifeless voice, “Oh... So my homeland... really is the Profound Sky Continent...”

“The Profound Sky Continent is not as sinister as the Illusory Demon Realm has made it out to be. Only a portion of the people there are truly sinister and vicious. Comparatively, the biggest difference that the Illusory Demon World has with the Profound Sky continent is the composition of races. The Profound Sky Continent is a world where humans and beasts rule, there are very few demons there.” Yun Che said. In the Illusory Demon Realm, the Profound Sky Continent was a heavily-demonized place, and he did not wish for Yun Xiao to harbor such needless prejudice and internal conflict towards the Profound Sky Continent because of this.

“Right...” Yun Xiao gently nodded his head. His expression was still a bit dazed. He needed sufficient time to process and accept these things, “Xiao... So my surname was actually Xiao... No wonder... Father and Mother gave me the name Yun Xiao...”

“Hoho, because we had always thought of one day letting you go back to the Profound Sky Continent to recognize your ancestors.” Yun Qinghong told him while laughing.

“Big Brother, my birth parents... Are they still well now? And are they still living in that place called... called Floating Cloud City?” Yun Xiao asked with a hazy expression on his face.

Even though Yun Che had known that this question was unavoidable and made sufficient preparation for it, once Yun Xiao asked this question, his expression instantly froze, and he could not make a single sound for the longest of times.

Yun Che’s expression immediately caused Yun Qinghong’s expression to change as well. After he once again thought of all the tribulations that Yun Che must have suffered for all these years, his heart tightened even more. He grabbed Yun Che’s shoulder and looked at him directly while asking, “How is Xiao Ying right now? In Floating Cloud City, his Xiao Family was also amongst the elite, so he is definitely... living a carefree life now, right?”

Yun Che gave a heavy sigh. He did not answer Yun Qinghong’s question. Instead, he looked at Yun Xiao and declared in a solemn tone, “Yun Xiao, remember what I had said before. A true man must calmly face the trials of fate. And anything that has happened on this earth, whether they be happy or sad. But

once they have happened, you can only accept and confront them.... How you accept and confront your fate will be a test of your character.”

Yun Xiao looked at Yun Che and both his hands quietly tightened. After a while, his eyes grew determined and he said, “Big Brother, go ahead and say it... No matter what the conclusion, I will face it with calm acceptance.”

Yun Che nodded his head, closed his eyes, and said in a gentle voice, “Uncle Xiao, he... he already passed away twenty-two years ago.”

Yun Qinghong stood up in a hurry, his face had instantly turned as white as a sheet of paper. In this world, there were very few things that would be able to provoke such a strong reaction from him... But Xiao Ying was the only sworn brother he had in his life, the only true confidante he had ever had. Not only that, Xiao Ying was a man he owed his life to, and it was a debt of gratitude that was as heavy as a mountain. All those years ago, if not for him, he and his wife would not have been able to make it back to the Illusory Demon Realm alive.

But he had never once thought that he was actually already... dead... That he had actually died... twenty-two years ago...

And at that time... Could it be... Could it be...

“He... He... He, how did he die? How did he die?” Yun Qinghong said in a quavering voice.

Yun Che did not hesitate or try to conceal anything, he said straightforwardly, “Twenty-two years ago, after Father and Mother had escaped from Floating Cloud City, the scoundrels who were chasing after the both of you somehow found out about your interactions with Uncle Xiao. They found Uncle Xiao and they tried to force him to reveal your whereabouts, but Uncle Xiao would rather die than tell them anything, so... As a result...”

Yun Qinghong’s entire body shook violently.

“After Uncle Xiao died, his wife very quickly passed away due to grief and loss. And my grandmother drowned in such sadness that her melancholy quickly turned into malady. After she had given birth to little aunt, who was one year younger than me, she passed away as well. I do not even remember how they looked like in life... It was grandfather alone who raised my little aunt and I together...”

“...” Yun Qinghong’s mouth violently trembled and both his eyes protruded. His entire body suddenly gave a violent heave as a spray of fresh blood violently spurted from his mouth. His entire body collapsed heavily to the ground.

“Ah... Husband!”

“Father!!”

Mu Yurou and Yun Che cried out in unison. They hurriedly went to support Yun Qinghong’s body. The corner of Yun Qinghong’s mouth twitched and the scarlet red blood trail was startlingly eye-catching. His gaze lifelessly drifted to the sky and two fierce streams of tears poured from his eyes, “It was I... It was I who caused Brother Xiao to die... It was I who caused the death of his family... It was me... It was me... The one who harmed them was me...”

“The debt of gratitude I owe to Brother Xiao is as heavy as a mountain... But what I repaid him with... was only... death, and destruction...”

### **Chapter 529 - False Alarm**

Yun Qinghong’s reaction was even more intense than Yun Che had expected. For a person like Yun Qinghong, even if Mt. Tai fell in front of him, he would not flinch. However, the words “friendship” and “loyalty” were things that were more important to him than his life. How could he accept the fact that his best brother in this life, who had saved his family, died because of him. With even his own family having collapsed...

Mu Yurou went to hold Yun Qinghong. In this world, she was the person who understood him the most, and she clearly knew how big of an impact this would have dealt to him. She did not comfort him, and merely cried silently along with him.

Yun Che comforted: “Father, Uncle Xiao has already passed on for twenty-two years. He might have even reincarnated already and is leading a more perfect life than his previous one, so stop blaming yourself. You are the Patriarch of the Yun Family, the support of the whole clan, the father of me and Yun Xiao. In this world, there is nothing that can knock you down.”

“I’m alright... alright... alright... alright...”

Yun Qinghong uttered four “alrights” in a row. His eyes unfocused, his face was still pale white and he did not look one bit “alright”. Yun Xiao bit his lips, went forward and said loudly: “Father, don’t act like this. This isn’t your fault, furthermore... furthermore, you are good brothers with my birth father; even if he died while saving you, I’m sure he died without any hatred or unwillingness. I believe if the one escaping at that time was my birth father, even if you knew the consequences, you would still make the same choice... Therefore, Father, please don’t blame yourself anymore. This is the choice my birth father made. He won’t blame you, and neither would anyone else... Father, only if you live on properly and take care of yourself would you allow my birth father to rest in peace...”

Even though Xiao Ying was Yun Xiao’s birth father, he had never seen him before, nor had his name appeared in his memory before. It was only today that he had found out about his existence. Thus, other than the blood relations, he did not hold any feelings towards his birth father. Hearing that he was no longer in the living world, other than feeling an intense pain and emptiness deep within his veins, he did not feel too much sadness; or, at least, it was not as overwhelming as what Yun Qinghong felt... and towards Yun Qinghong, there was the gratitude of bringing him up for more than twenty years.

Yun Che did not expect that Yun Xiao would be so calm and actually console Yun Qinghong. For Yun Qinghong, Yun Xiao’s consoling would triumph over any words others said to him, because Yun Xiao was Xiao Ying’s descendant, and was of his bloodline. His gratitude and remorse towards Xiao Ying could be repaid and placed onto Yun Xiao, and from his consoling, what he received was the same as Xiao Family’s forgiveness...

Focus slowly returned to Yun Qinghong’s eyes. He looked straight at Yun Xiao, then, his arms suddenly reached out, strongly clasping Yun Xiao’s shoulders: “Xiao’er, you really... don’t blame me? I was the one who caused you to lose your birth parents...”

"I don't." Yun Xiao shook his head without hesitation: "Even though I did lose my parents, the heavens were kind to me and gave me two loving parents... Towards Father and Mother, I only have respect and gratitude, why would I blame you two... My birth parents in heaven would also not blame the two of you either. Instead, using one's own life to exchange for the life of a good brother could only bring about satisfaction and happiness. For instance... if one day, Big Brother encounters any danger and I am able to save him using my life, I would do so without hesitation..."

"Yun Xiao..." Yun Che mumbled.

"Good... Good child!" Yun Qinghong patted his shoulder heavily, raised his head, and suddenly laughed loudly: "Hahahaha... It's no wonder you're my son, no wonder you're Xiao Ying's son! Brother Xiao, if you can hear this from above, you must be laughing heartily as you look upon the son you had... Brother Xiao, your son is my son! Rest assured that as long as I, Yun Qinghong, still have one breath, I will not let anyone bully our son!"

"Xiao'er, thank you." Mu Yurou's gently said. She knew that if Yun Xiao had not said those words, Yun Qinghong, who viewed loyalty and friendship above his life, would not be able to accept it so quickly.

"Che'er, is the Grandfather Xiao who brought you up still fine?" Yun Qinghong asked.

"Grandfather is doing well, he's still very healthy." Sadness flashed past Yun Che's eyes: "It's just that he has been living bitterly all these years. The pain of losing his son, the sadness of losing his wife... He still needed to withstand all of this while bringing me and Little Aunt up. Furthermore, my profound veins were crippled since I was young. I was unable to cultivate the profound, and became the family, even the whole Floating Cloud City's laughingstock. This caused Grandfather to be ridiculed as well, causing his position within the Xiao Family to drop drastically... However, even though he was burdened with all of this, Grandfather had never shown any bit of hatred towards me, 'the culprit' behind all of these, and instead showed me the same amount of love and care he showed Little Aunt. He brought me up, shielded me from rain and storm, taught me life lessons, and continuously consoled me, who was constantly ridiculed and bullied... All this time, he searched for the culprit who harmed Uncle Xiao while also constantly looking for famous doctors who could mend my profound veins..."

To be able to bring up a child like Xiao Ying, Yun Qinghong did not even think for an instant that Xiao Lie was not a great father. He sighed in deep regret: "Che'er, we must always remember Xiao Family's kindness in our hearts and never forget it! The Grandfather Xiao who raised you... will forever be your grandfather! In the future, no matter how strong you become, how much achievements you obtain, you must never forget all of these!"

"Mn!" Yun Che nodded heavily. He turned towards Yun Xiao, and said: "Yun Xiao, even though your birth parents are no longer here with us, you still have Grandfather. He's a very benevolent and noble grandfather. A few years back, when I obtained some achievements, he was finally relieved, and started having thoughts of passing on. However, when I told him that you were most likely to still be alive, he finally found hope, and all his negative thoughts disappeared. If I am able to find a way to return to the Profound Sky Continent one day, I must bring you along to let Grandfather see you. He'll definitely be happy... You still have a little aunt who, even though is one year younger, is still your blood related aunt. She's mischievous and kind, and when you see her, you'll definitely be elated to have such a relative... Also, you still have a prenatal betrothal... Uh..."

“Prenatal betrothal?” Yun Xiao widened his eyes.

Yun Che was a little agitated, unconsciously blurting out the matter regarding Yun Xiao and Xiao Qingyue’s “child marriage”. Once he said it, he was perplexed, and upon seeing Yun Xiao’s innocent expression, he could only smile out of embarrassment, and said: “Erm, Father, Mother, I have something I forgot to tell you two. During my time in the Profound Sky Continent, I have already gotten married.”

Two times, in fact!

“Oh?” Yun Qinghong’s face revealed signs of a smile.

“Really?” Mu Yurou uttered in shock, her expression agitated yet at the same time nervous: “Does that mean I have a daughter-in-law already? Then... how old is she, who’s child is she? Is she pretty? How’s her temper, is she obedient? Is she nice to you?”

Mu Yurou’s string of questions caused Yun Che to scratch his head and reply with a little embarrassment: “When I was sixteen, I had already gotten married. Furthermore... actually... the person I married, her father and Uncle Xiao had decided on their marriage before she and Yun Xiao were even born, and in the end... she... married me.”

If it were not for what happened, the person who would have married Xia Qingyue should have been Yun Xiao. Even though Yun Che did not know of this back then, he still stole Yun Xiao fiancée. He asked, slightly perturbed: “Yun Xiao, you wouldn’t blame me for snatching your... er, child bride, right?”

Yun Xiao stared blankly for a while, before finally understanding what Yun Che said. He hurriedly waved it off, his face even revealing signs of panic: “No, no, no... I won’t, I won’t, I won’t! I definitely won’t! I already have Seventh Sister... It’s good that Big Brother married her, it’s good.”

Yun Xiao actually looked a bit relieved, and when he finished speaking, he even suppressed his voice to whisper to Yun Che: “Big Brother, the... the fact I actually had a fiancée, please don’t tell Seventh Sister about it. Otherwise... She might even get angry.”

“Ohh! Of course I won’t tell.” Yun Che hurriedly said... He was worried for nothing.

“Anyway... My child bride... Oh no, I meant sister-in-law, what’s her name? Is she pretty?” Yun Xiao asked carefully. Even though Yun Xiao was definitely not interested in any other woman, he was curious towards something like a “child bride”.

Yun Che rubbed his chin and replied: “She’s called Xia Qingyue. She’s the same age as us. She looks pretty but her personality is a bit cold. Her biggest desire is the pursuit of profound power and other than cultivating, she has no other interests. A few days after marrying me, she entered her sect, and after that, for the next few years, I did not see her much. She has most likely forgotten me by now.”

“Oh!” Yun Xiao nodded, his mind immediately conjuring up the image of a woman with lifeless eyes, a rigid face and a cold expression... As he thought about it, he secretly shrank away. His heart heaved a deep sigh of relief... Phew! Good thing Big Brother married her. If I really married such a woman, it would be so boring. Seventh Sister is still the best, with her cute voice, her cute eyes, her cute temper. She’s even cute when she’s angry...

Mn? Looks pretty? Even if she was, how could she compare in looks to my Seventh Sister... Yun Xiao resolutely thought.

“A person that was able to let Xiao Ying arrange a prenatal betrothal would definitely not be any bit lacking.” Tears welled in Mu Yurou’s eyes once more: “I never thought that my son has already made a family.”

Yun Che lips trembled, but he still did not say the fact that he already had two wives. Furthermore, he also did not talk about having a child with a woman who was not his wife, because saying those would be causing them to be even more concerned.

“Che’er, what happened to your profound veins? Who cured them for you?” Yun Qinghong asked the question that had been in his mind for a long time.

Yun Che replied: “I have two masters. One of them taught me medical arts. The other, helped me reconstruct my profound veins and trained me when I was sixteen.”

Yun Qinghong was deeply moved: “At the age of twenty-two, your medical skills already far exceed the best doctor in Illusory Demon Realm... And if you reconstructed your profound veins at the age of sixteen, then you have only cultivated for six years. You reached the Sky Profound Realm with six years of cultivation, yet can easily defeat an early stage Overlord. Your teachers must be extraordinary geniuses.”

His Medical Saint Master was indeed an extraordinary genius.

But as for Jasmine...

She was simply an incomprehensible monster!

### **Chapter 530 - The Terrifying Little Demon Empress**

“My two masters both changed my destiny. Without them, I might not even be alive now,” Yun Che sighed with emotion. After lamenting, he remembered the most important thing he should tell his parents, and he said promptly, “Father, Mother, didn’t you ask me where the Patriarch’s Crest came from... when I was in the Profound Sky Continent, I saw grandfather!”

Yun Che’s words gave Yun Qinghong a shock. He shuddered violently, and his voice cracked, “Grandfather? Which grandfather... which grandfather?!”

“My biological grandfather, your father, the Illusory Demon Realm’s Demon King... Yun Canghai!”

“Grandfather gave me the Patriarch’s Crest, and told me to bring it back to the Yun family one day.”

"Ah!" Mu Yurou gasped and covered her mouth with her hands.

Whoosh!!

The air in front of Yun Che shifted violently as Yun Qinghong rushed to him as though he had teleported. Yun Qinghong couldn’t take into consideration of his strength because of how on edge he was. He grabbed Yun Che’s arms so tightly that he almost snapped them, “You... you really saw your grandfather... where did you see him... where... where is he now... how is he doing...”



Xiao Ying's death made his mind chaotic, and now he suddenly heard news about his father. Yun Qinghong's soul had probably never had such extreme ups and downs in his life. A hundred years. For a hundred years, he had never seen his father again, he didn't even know if his father was dead or alive...

Yun Che knew that Yun Qinghong must have wanted to know of his father's whereabouts and well-being even in his dreams. When Yun Che thought about the sixteen months he spent under the Sword Management Terrace at Heavenly Sword Villa, he felt embittered in his heart, and he narrated slowly, "Not long after my profound veins were reborn and I started to cultivate profound energy, I joined Blue Wind Nation's Blue Wind Profound Palace, and represented the Blue Wind Imperial Family for the ranking tournament among the large forces in the nation, and this Blue Wind Ranking Tournament was precisely held in Heavenly Sword Villa."

"Heavenly Sword Villa", this was a place Yun Qinghong and Mu Yurou would never forget even if they die. Back then, they risked their lives, used the Profound Handle Soul Search on a person from Mighty Heavenly Sword Region, and found out that Yun Canghai was not dead, but was actually being imprisoned. The location of where he was being held, was in Blue Wind Nation... Heavenly Sword Villa!

Yun Che immediately retold the whole story: how he joined the ranking tournament, how after it ended he was brought to "see" the "demon" sealing ritual by Ling Kun who was from Mighty Heavenly Sword Region, how the "demon" went crazy because of Ling Kun's provocation, how Xia Yuanba was in danger, and how he was sealed under the Sword Management Terrace with the "demon" because he wanted to save Xia Yuanba.

"Back then, I never would have imagined that the 'demon' was actually my grandfather. Grandfather's body was bound by the Meteorite Chain, his profound strength was suppressed by the Heaven's Might Soul Suppressing Formation... under such harsh restrictions, he could only control his Profound Handle, and he was further sealed underground where there was no daylight at all by a sword called 'Heaven's Punishment'..."

"...I got beaten up by grandfather until I was half dead. After I healed, I kept training myself just so I could kill grandfather and get out of there... Until one day, grandfather recognized the Mirror of Samsara that I took out. Then, he forced out my Profound Handle, and we conducted the blood paternity test... that was when I knew he was my grandfather."

Yun Qinghong and Mu Yurou stared absentmindedly into space for a long time. More than twenty years ago, even though they found out where Yun Canghai was, they almost lost their lives without even being able to get close, let alone to see him. They could not imagine what Yun Che did to find him... and now, they heard the answer, the whole story. It was all so bizarre, so odd, that they couldn't believe it.

"Heaven's will, it must be heaven's will! The heaven's are not blind, they arranged the two of you to meet in a strange faraway realm!" Yun Qinghong was so excited that his eyes were full of tears. On one hand, there was the son who was drifting in the Profound Sky Continent, and on the other hand, there was the father who was imprisoned in the Profound Sky Continent. Neither of them knew about one another's existence, but it was so coincidental and bizarre that they found each other. Destiny... it really was destiny!

Yun Che continued speaking, "After I met my grandfather, he told me my biological parents' names and a lot of things about the Illusory Demon Realm. In the time that we spent together, he instructed me in

my cultivation, and used his Profound Handle to fight with me day and night. In the end, he even risked using all of his strength to awaken my Profound Handle, and gave me the thing that he was protecting with his life for a hundred years, to bring back to the Illusory Demon Realm...”

“What happened after that? If you escaped, did your grandfather escape with you? Where is he now?” Yun Qinghong asked impatiently.

Yun Che’s face grew dark. He looked down, and said softly, “The place where grandfather and I were held was suppressed by the Heaven’s Punishment Sword. We could not break out relying solely on my strength back then. The Meteorite Chain that was on grandfather, the Heaven’s Punishment Sword, and the Heaven’s Might Soul Suppressing Formation were all bound to grandfather. After grandfather gave me the thing he was protecting with his life, he... killed himself... to set me free...”

Yun Qinghong was so shocked, he fell back a couple of steps as if he was struck by lightning.

Mu Yurou closed her eyes and covered her mouth as tears silently trickled down her face.

“Just as well... just as well...” Yun Qinghong murmured soullessly, “He was imprisoned in a place without daylight for a hundred years... He had suffered too much... Just as well... Now, he doesn’t have to suffer anymore. He is free. He can rest in peace. Before his death, he was able to find a trustworthy person to pass on his mission, see his own grandson, and he save his grandson’s life with his own life... when my father passed away... he must have been smiling...”

“Yes,” Yun Che nodded his head: “Grandfather died while smiling.”

“Mn...” Yun Qinghong closed his eyes as tears rolled down across his cheeks, leaving a watery trail. Died while smiling... this was the only thing that could ease his sorrow.

“I brought back grandfather’s body.”

Yun Che backed away a little. Following the Sky Poison Pearl’s flicker of light, the Coffin of Eternity appeared before them. After acquiring the Coffin of Eternity, where Hong’er was asleep for however many years, he put Yun Canghai’s body in it. Because he was laying in the Coffin of Eternity, even if thousands and millions of years passed by, nothing would be damaged or changed. The second it closed up, it was as though the time inside was eternally frozen.

For a long while, Yun Qinghong lost his focus as he stood beside the Coffin of Eternity. He pressed his hand on the cold body, and fell down slowly, until he kneeled on the ground heavily.

In his memory, his father was a prestigious Demon King of the Illusory Demon Realm. He was a vigorous spirit that shined so brightly. There was never evidence of him growing old, and he always liked to keep himself at his youngest state. When they stood together as father and son, they looked just like brothers around the same age.

But, inside the Coffin of Eternity, laid an old man... an old man who looked like he had one foot in the grave...

Skinny as a bag of bones, face was dry and withered; his hair, beard, and eyebrows were all messy and white. He looked just like a ferocious devil. If it weren’t for the contour of his face, he could never

believe that this was his father... but what he couldn't imagine more was how much suffering he had gone through for him to become like this...

"Fa... ther..." Yun Qinghong's whole body was shivering as he said the word "father"; it was as painful as fresh blood. Yun Che looked up, and said quietly, "Bringing him back to his homeland must also be one of grandfather's wishes... but, please endure your son's stubbornness, and delay grandfather's burial. I can't let grandfather die for nothing... even more so, I can't let grandfather die with 'criminal accusations' still on his back!"

Yun Qinghong kept his head low, as his entire body trembled. He bit his teeth together so clearly and loudly, it was hard to listen to.

"Sigh..." Yun Che's chest felt heavy. "Father, if you want to cry, just cry. Only your family is here. You are my father, and Yun Xiao's father, but also... Grandfather's son..."

Yun Che's words collapsed the front line defense Yun Qinghong had been trying to hold up. The extremely sorrowful grieving cry that came from the Yun Patriarch resounded loudly... from birth to now, this was the first time he cried so carelessly.

Yun Che grabbed Yun Xiao and walked outside. From walking in to walking out, it felt like a complete different world.

"Are you unsettled?" Yun Che looked at him and asked.

Yun Xiao just shook his head and said, "I knew from the beginning that this day would come eventually. I always thought that when this day came, I wouldn't know what to do at all... but, now I feel like I'm even more safe and settled."

"Me too." Yun Che smiled and said, "The reason is simple. Even though we both used to have a home, our hearts do not belong there. But now, I feel like I found my home. And as for you, you found out about your background, and you didn't lose the parents who raised you for over twenty years. Of course you feel more safe and settled."

"The only thing that I didn't think of, is that things would get so complicated. It feels like I'm listening to a bizarre story." Yun Xiao sighed with emotion.

"Life, in many cases, is far more bizarre and remarkable than made up stories," Yun Che looked at him, and suddenly said, "Yun Xiao, since you found out about your background, you should change your name. How about... Xiao Yun!"

"Ah?" Yun Xiao paused for a second, and agreed right away, "Alright! From now on, my name is Xiao Yun! Even when I'm in public, I will call myself Xiao Yun! Or else, my parents who are looking at me from above the heavens would scold me for being unfilial."

"Hahaha!" Yun Che laughed loudly. After this entire day of fateful twists and mental breakdowns, he truly felt that Yun Xiao had matured a lot. Perhaps it was because after knowing where he came from, he released the stress, the worry, and the confusion that he always carried, and found a clear-cut life goal.

The two of them stood at the entrance of the backyard, just in case someone would get close and disturb Yun Qinghong. They stayed silent for a while. Suddenly, Yun Che asked, "Yun... um, Xiao Yun, have you ever seen the Little Demon Empress?"

"Yes, I have." Xiao Yun nodded, "Actually, all these years, the Little Demon Empress came and visited father a lot of times, and she came alone and quietly every time. No one else knows about this."

"It seems like the Little Demon Empress trusts and respects father greatly. And father also seems to be very loyal to the Little Demon Empress, or rather, the Demon Emperor Clan," Yun Che muttered. "What kind of person is the Little Demon Empress?"

"Um... how should I put this..." Xiao Yun thought seriously for a while, and said with hesitation, "Actually, I've only seen the Little Demon Empress for a few times, and I've never really looked at her directly, because everytime I face her, I feel... a bit scared."

"Scared?" Yun Che's eyebrow raised.

"The Little Demon Empress' aura is really scary," Yun Xiao described, "Even when I was far away from her, I felt like I couldn't breathe. Her eyes were even scarier. I never had the guts to look into her eyes directly. Even if she merely glanced at me, I would feel chills go through my entire body... her facial expression was also the same, no one seemed to have ever seen her smile. Her whole face was like... it was frozen."

"Oh... that horrifying?" Yun Che's eyes widened.

Xiao Yun tried very hard to think of more information about the Little Demon Empress and said, "The Little Demon Empress was always in gray clothing... not light gray, but the kind of gray that was very dark and dead. And... and... oh! When father and I talked about the Little Demon Empress, he mentioned that she was very cruel. Hundreds of years ago, when the Little Demon Empress got her position, a lot of people were against her because she was a female. Many of those people were killed, and a bunch of those people were killed by her. After that, everyone shivers when they see her, and no one dared to disobey her anymore."

"...That does sound cruel," Yun Che's eyes slightly widened, and his brain was painting the image as Xiao Yun described the Little Demon Empress: her stares were like a knives, her terrifying appearance... she might even be ugly, with no emotions on her face, her aura was so cold that it could pierce your bones, and she was in a dead gray robe... a middle-aged woman.

After he finished imagining, Yun Che couldn't help but shiver... because he thought about those reanimated ghouls of legends. They were so similar that they were almost ninety percent alike!