

The Gods 691

Chapter 691 - Meeting Zi Ji Once Again

The main branch of Divine Phoenix Sect was slightly west of the center of Divine Phoenix City, and the Black Moon Merchant Guild was at the very center.

The size of the Black Moon Merchant Guild was more than several dozen kilometers and could be comparable to a small town. Anyone would find it hard to believe that it was actually just a merchant guild's station if they didn't see it with their own eyes.

The Black Moon Merchant Guild had a total of eight floors. Although they were only eight floors, the height of each floor was incomparably shocking. Adding them together, the building actually shot through the blue skies. At the very top, a gigantic black-colored crescent moon exalted itself among the clouds. Seemingly, at any corner of this humongous Divine Phoenix City, it was clearly visible if one were to raise his head to take a look. The gigantic plaza at the front of the merchant guild was still filled with people like before, and every day, there would be countless profound practitioners trying to enter the place. However, not even one out of ten of them would turn out successful. And out of those who could enter, about eighty to ninety percent of them would only be able to enter the first two floors.

A youth in a long black robe with a solemn-looking and inconspicuous face, arrived at the center of the Black Moon Plaza where the seven-colored jade stage was. Raising his head, he looked at the large, cloud-piercing structure which was reflecting a pure jade luster. Although this was a merchant guild, every single one of its individual bricks and tiles was much extravagant than the ones used by the Blue Wind Imperial Family. Above the gigantic black moon at the top and under the shroud of extremely grand, imposing atmosphere, anyone who looked up towards it would seemingly have the impulse to worship it.

"Carrying a history even longer than Divine Phoenix Sect and possessing a tremendous to indiscernible background... Hopefully, it won't disappoint me." The youth softly muttered to himself, walking towards one of the profound arrays at the jade stage. As he approached it, a purple glow rose from his body, and then, under the attention of the incomparably surprised crowd around him, he immediately entered the profound array.

For the first six floors of the Black Moon Merchant Guild, whenever one wished to enter, he or she would have to always strike the jade stage once to obtain the qualifications to enter. However, the seventh floor was different from the first six. The moment one obtained the qualifications to enter it, the teleportation array would memorize the target's essence, and the person could then enter it directly in the future... unless the Black Moon Merchant Guild decided to erase the target's essence.

Because, compared to the first six floors, the seventh floor was a completely different world. To the Black Moon Merchant Guild, people who could enter the seventh floor and those who couldn't were people of two different worlds.

When the profound light dispersed, Yun Che opened his eyes. What was revealed in front of him was what seemed to be a boundless garden at first glance. Adorned within the lush jade greens were various gorgeous, exotic flowers and herbs. Every single large tree was tall and erect, and within every single vertical stream, the endless trickling of flowing water could be heard. Such a sight would cause people

to believe that they had suddenly walked into a divine realm instead of entering the interior of a merchant guild.

In front of him, three beautiful young girls wearing different dresses gracefully arrived and lightly bowed. "Welcome to Black Moon Merchant Guild Young Master Yun. Mister Zi is personally waiting for you, please follow this lowly one."

Yun Che was currently in a disguise, yet when he heard how these three young girls addressed him, Yun Che was not fazed in the slightest. After all, that teleportation array had clearly memorized the entrant's essence. Rubbing his face, he revealed his true look and smiled. "Then I will have to trouble you three little sisters."

The three young girls gracefully smiled as they brought Yun Che through the jade-green garden and even through a small hill. Arriving at the same extravagant courtyard as before, seated under the same long pavilion was a purple-colored elder wearing a warm smile.

"You're here." Zi Ji slowly rose. His clearwater eyes sized up the youth before him, and gently nodded. His face revealed a meaningful smile. "It's been three years since we last met, and your demeanor has surpassed your former by at least ten times... Haah, the younger generation will surpass the older as they say."

"Junior Yun Che greets Senior Zi. Senior, you give me too much praise." Yun Che took a step forward and bowed with cupped hands.

"Hoho, please sit." Zi Ji stretched his hand forward, and then, sat at the same time as Yun Che. "Qing Chen, boil a new pot of tea. It has to be 'Drunken Red Earth' that has been freshly picked out this morning."

"Yes." The young girl in an azure dress politely bowed and floated away. The other two young girls split to Yun Che's two sides beautifully and gracefully. Carrying light smiles on their lips and standing with respectful postures, they looked as though they could be freely dispatched by Yun Che.

"Senior Zi seems to have long predicted that this junior will come for a visit," Yun Che smiled. Before he came here, he was absolutely sure that the Black Moon Merchant Guild was already aware of the news of him returning alive... If they hadn't known, then he would have been disappointed.

"This old one has predicted that you would come, but I had never expected that it would be this soon," Zi Ji lightly smiled. Compared to three years ago, his gaze on Yun Che seemed to have largely changed. "With the information this old one obtained, you were in Floating Cloud City two hours ago. But now, you have actually appeared in front of this old one."

The information network belonging to the Black Moon Merchant Guild was impressive as expected. To actually have feelers stretching all the way to Floating Cloud City... Of course, the garrison set up by the Divine Phoenix Army over there might be related as well. The distance between Floating Cloud City and Divine Phoenix City was extremely far. Back then, when he set off from Blue Wind Imperial City which was much closer, even when he journeyed throughout day and night, it still took him several days. Yet now, with merely two hours, he had arrived at Divine Phoenix City from Floating Cloud City... This was indeed overly frightening. Even the strongest profound ark on Profound Sky Continent would definitely not be able to accomplish such a feat.

In regards to this point, Yun Che naturally couldn't possibly not know of it, but he never thought of giving an explanation. Just as he was about to make a pass with a smile, he heard Zi Ji speak, using an admiring tone, "If it was someone else, this old one would have already been shocked beyond belief and would suspect that the person before me was a ghost or god. But your respected master is, after all, Old Man Duotian, who had once shaken the world ten thousand years ago. Crossing through the Primordial Profound Ark's dimensional space was already a small feat for him, so with your respected master's godly powers, the distance of a hundreds of kilometers between this place and Floating Cloud City is merely a flick of a finger."

Old man... Duotian? Respected master?

The hell!?

A hint of astonishment flashed past the depths of Yun Che's eyes, and to this astonishment, in Zi Ji's eyes, was naturally misunderstood as something else. He chuckled, "There's no need to be surprised. It's not that my Black Moon Merchant Guild is powerful and large enough to know of your respected master's existence, rather, Sun Moon Divine Hall did not keep the matter of encountering your respected master in Snow Region of Extreme Ice a secret. Currently, Absolute Sword Monarchy, Supreme Ocean Palace, and Mighty Heavenly Sword Region already knows of this matter.

"Although the name of 'Old Man Duotian' has long disappeared for ten thousand years, the Four Great Sacred Grounds were all established ten thousand years ago. The memories of their ancestors are inherited through generations and are never lost. This is why there are still people who knows of the name of your respected master. But, never would one expect that the unbeatable supreme being of the profound realm ten thousand years ago did not actually shatter void-space and ascend to a higher realm as the rumors had stated, but instead had been staying on Profound Sky Continent the entire time, overlooking the vast number of lives. I heard from rumors that your respected master had formed his own world and extinguished a Monarch with a speck of fire. I'm afraid that us so-called experts of this realm are merely ants in your respected master's eyes."

Zi Ji's voice and expression did not carry any intentions to probe or falsehood. All they carried were deep respect, fear, and astonishment towards an expert. Yun Che listened with a calm expression, yet, his inner heart was completely stupefied...

What... is this situation?

Could it be... a person called "Duotian" really once existed? And he was even an ultimate boss-level figure in primordial times?

Seeing how Zi Ji looked... Not only did this unexpected "coincidence" not leave any flaws, it instead had cemented the existence of him having a "strong teacher" even further!?

"My mentor hadn't meddled in mortal matters for many years and has never been willing to be spoken of by others. I hope Senior Zi understands." Yun Che smiled very calmly, yet, in his heart, he was thinking: I have completely no idea of who this "Old Man Duotian" is. If we were to start conversing about him, I might accidentally reveal some flaws... It seems, there's a need to find a way to understand this "Old Man Duotian" person of ten thousand years ago.

“This old one only has respect for your respected master and most definitely has no intentions to probe,” Zi Ji sincerely said.

That azure-dressed young girl named “Qing Chen” gently walked over, and held in her hands was a new pot of boiled tea. Before she even approached, a heart-intoxicating fragrance had already suffused into the air. Yun Che could not help but make a light sniff and spoke, “Speaking of which, in the two times this junior has visited, both were times when Senior Zi was fortunately free. With Black Moon Merchant Guild’s grand name, Senior Zi must be especially busy on normal days.”

“Hohoho,” Zi Ji smiled as he shook his head. “That’s not case. This old one has been here for more than a hundred years, but there was never a time I have been busy. There are countless capable people on Profound Sky Continent, but people who have the qualifications to enter the seventh floor are hardly one in a million. To give an estimate, there will be a guest here once every month while I’m free for the rest of the time.”

“A month?” Yun Che revealed a look of surprise, and then, continued, “The depths of Senior Zi’s profound strength cannot be measured. I’m afraid even the broadness of knowledge you possess cannot be compared to anyone else’s. Even in the Four Great Sacred Grounds, you will definitely carry an extremely high position. If it’s really as Senior Zi says... then in regards to Senior Zi’s abilities, isn’t it an extremely huge waste? And this seventh floor is clearly empty lodgings. With its expansiveness and boundlessness, with looks similar to that of a divine realm, with merely its construction costs, it mostly likely far surpasses any imperial city from the six countries with a simple estimate. Yet, it’s only used to receive a guest once every month?”

“That’s not merely the case,” Zi Ji lightly smiled. He received the teapot from the azure-dressed young girl’s hands and personally filled the cup of tea in front of Yun Che. “For the Black Moon Merchant Guild to be able to exist for thousands of years and flourish without end, it naturally stems from a matured survival plan. The number of customers in this seventh floor cannot be compared to even one ten thousandth of the customers in the lower six floors, but the construction costs and yearly maintenance fees of this floor are more than a hundred times of the previous six floors added together. That is because... people who are able to enter the first six floors, are our Black Moon Merchant Guild’s distinguished guests, while people who have the qualifications to enter this place... are my Black Moon Merchant Guild’s lifeline!”

“I believe with your wits, you should definitely understand this old one’s words,” Zi Ji said with calm smile.

Yun Che lightly closed his eyes. After a short moment of silence, he opened them and gently nodded. “I see. This junior has always believed that this junior’s knowledge and experience are considerably broad. But during my two visits here, with such celestial scenery and to have a supreme figure such as Senior Zi personally receive me, even I feel a little flattered. In that case, with every subsequent visit, affection will build. And, to build such close relationships with seemingly all of the experts and formidable powers on Profound Sky Continent, I believe your Black Moon Merchant Guild is the only one.”

“Hoho. Here, drink some tea.” Zi Ji raised his hand with a smile. Raising his teacup, he took a light sip, enjoying the aftertaste.

Yun Che raised his own cup of tea, though he drank it all in an instant. Shaking his teacup, he said with a smile, "Senior Zi's tea sure is a worldly treasure. It's just that this junior has always been ignorant in the tastes of tea, so it seems this junior has wasted a heavenly gift."

"No matter how good tea is, as long as it goes into your hands, even if it's spilled by you, it would still be a fortunate matter. How can it possibly be called a waste of a heavenly gift?" Zi Ji said with a laugh.

"This junior isn't worthy of such praise from senior," Yun Che said with a faint smile. He had initially arrived at Divine Phoenix City with a baleful aura, but, after reaching this place, in less than ten minutes, his inner heart was already clear and serene. The man in front of him, Zi Ji, had a calm, quaint, and encompassing presence... as though he was clear water that went untouched for ten thousand years in an ancient well.

"If you aren't worthy, then I'm afraid there's no one in this Profound Sky Continent who is." Zi Ji's tone was still the same as before, yet, he suddenly made an abrupt change in subject, and asked, "With your arrival here, what are your plans for Divine Phoenix Sect?"

Yun Che's eyes narrowed, and a baleful aura instantly surged from his entire body. The killing intent gathered in his eyes was also revealed in front of Zi Ji without the slightest concealment. "Senior, what do you think this junior should do?"

The surrounding space instantly turned suffocating without any warning, causing the tender bodies of the three young girls at the sides to shudder at the same time. Zi Ji still carried the same calm and light smile; his expression did not have the slightest even in the face of Yun Che's aura. "This old one only sees the results."

"Then senior, what kind of results do you think it will be?"

Zi Ji gently shook his head. "Unpredictable. When this old one first met you three years ago, although I was shocked at your talent and the presence and shrewdness that surpasses your age, when you left, this old one had believed that if you were to head to Divine Phoenix Sect, there was more than a ninety-percent chance that you would have lost your life there, while the other ten percent was, even if you managed to keep your life intact, you wouldn't have been able to obtain what you wished for. That was because I understood Divine Phoenix Sect more than I understood you.

"Ever since this old one has settled down here, not a single person I have seen in these hundred years weren't outstanding individuals, and I had believed that my evaluation on people and various affairs would never go wrong. But, only when it comes to you, this old one had never guessed the ending in the slightest. A youth of not even twenty years old with profound strength at the Earth Profound Realm actually dealt a crushing blow to Divine Phoenix Sect, rendering them powerless on their own turf. In these years, you are the only one who has made me miscalculate completely.

"Divine Phoenix Sect had been established for five thousand years, and their roots are immensely deep. Even the Four Great Sacred Grounds find it hard to fathom their depths. Although your strength has greatly surpassed what it was three years ago, if you do not rely on the power of your respected master and head for a direct confrontation with only your own strength... If this was the first time we met, the only thing I can describe this situation as is 'an egg hitting a stone.' But now..." Zi Ji gently shook his head, as though he was deprecating himself. "I do not dare to jump to conclusions. Even though you're

only three feet away from me, it feels as though we're separated by ten thousand miles. Hoho. I can't see through you at all."

The tender mouths of the young girls who were standing at Yun Che's sides widened at the same time. They, who were exerting great effort to maintain their beautiful and tender smiles on their faces, were unable to conceal their deep surprise at all. They were extremely clear of the kind of position Mister Zi had. This was the first time they had heard such words... and it was even towards a person of such a young age.

"Hmph. The mere Divine Phoenix Sect still does not possess the qualifications to have my teacher make a move." The corner of Yun Che's brows rose, and a stern killing intent could be felt from his voice. "I won't do much to them either. I merely want them... to pay at least ten times the debt they owe!"

"Speaking of which..." Yun Che suddenly switched the subject of the conversation. "I heard from rumors that three years ago, after the disappearance of the Primordial Profound Ark, the Divine Phoenix of Divine Phoenix Sect made an appearance?"

The appearance of the Divine Phoenix three years ago appeared in the memories of Sun Moon Divine Hall's Ye Ziyi, and it similarly appeared in Feng Huwei's memories as well... and he had even personally saw it! Not only did the Divine Phoenix appear, its overbearing strength and pressure had even coldly silenced the people of the Four Great Sacred Grounds and had even mercilessly punished Ye Xinghan in front of everyone.

But... The Divine Phoenix had clearly already disappeared!

"That's right," Zi Ji lightly nodded. "Three years ago, there had long been rumors about the Divine Phoenix's depleted lifespan and its disappearance. We then found out, because of the Divine Phoenix's disappearance, it would cause Divine Phoenix Sect to lose their strongest backing, and the moment this was exposed, there was a possibility of facing the crisis of extinction. Because of this, the Great Elder of Divine Phoenix Sect, Feng Feiyan, secretly surrendered to Sun Moon Divine Hall, and had even informed them of the disappearance of the Divine Phoenix. But, the descent of the Divine Phoenix three years ago, was personally witnessed by everyone in Divine Phoenix City, which clearly proved that its 'disappearance' was merely a test. What it was testing, was naturally people like Feng Feiyan who carried ulterior motives."

"I see." Yun Che slightly frowned; his heart was still filled with doubts. The Divine Phoenix had already passed on, this was what Feng Xue'er personally told him. With Feng Xue'er's heart, she definitely couldn't have lied. And Feng Xue'er had even succeeded all of the Divine Phoenix's source of power, soul energy, and even memories... If that's the case, how could the Divine Phoenix possibly still be alive!?

"There's no need to doubt it, that Divine Phoenix spirit already died long ago," Jasmine suddenly said with a cold tone.

Yun Che was startled for a moment. "Then the one that appeared three years ago..."

"Hmph. It's merely a soul fragment which carried a little amount of power source," Jasmine blandly said. "To leave behind a soul fragment which contains a bit of power is something a mortal isn't capable of doing and isn't something one would think of. But, the Divine Phoenix spirit is a cloned entity of the

Phoenix's soul, it's an easy feat for it if it ever wants to do so! After it passed down all of its soul energy and origin power to Feng Xue'er, most likely, in order to guard against the appearance of people such as Feng Feiyan, it purposefully split a small part of itself and attached it within Feng Xue'er's body. But, this detached soul fragment wouldn't be able to exist for a long period of time, and by now, it should have completely dispersed. If it we are talking about it being alive... That's absolutely impossible!"

"... Is that so." Yun Che roughly got the gist of it.

"Mister Zi, in these three years, about Princess Snow of Divine Phoenix Sect... Do you have any news on her?" Yun Che asked.

Zi Ji deeply glanced at Yun Che; his eyes carried a certain profound meaning. A short while after, he lightly smiled and said, "Three years ago, after the departure of the Primordial Profound Ark and before the appearance of the Divine Phoenix, Princess Snow had fallen unconscious... Then after, she had been in deep slumber, and for three whole years, no matter what methods were used, she was unable to awaken."

"What?" Yun Che's expression greatly shook. "In deep slumber for three years? Three whole years?"

"That's right. If the information I received was not mistaken, it was only yesterday when Princess Snow finally woke up."

"..." For a moment, ripples surfaced in Yun Che's heart. In Feng Huwei's memories, he did not find any information regarding Feng Xue'er's situation these three years. In these two days, he had been pondering and suspecting that, with Feng Xue'er's heart and the pure feelings she had towards him, when the Divine Phoenix Empire invaded Blue Wind Empire, she should have definitely prevented it from happening! And Feng Hengkong had always extremely pampered her as well, complying with all her wishes... Blue Wind Empire shouldn't have fallen into such dire straits.

So... She had actually been in deep slumber, for a whole three years.

Yun Che took a light breath and asked "Then Mister Zi, do you know why Princess Snow fell into deep slumber for such a long period of time? It shouldn't be due to injuries, right?"

"In regards to this point, I only have conjectures as well." Zi Ji slowly said, "After Princess Snow fell into deep slumber, her entire body was enveloped in scarlet flames, burning endlessly. Within three feet, not a single person could approach her. And the place where she had slept for three years, was brought about by the Divine Phoenix which appeared three years ago. Thus, the Divine Phoenix should be refining her physique with phoenix flames, or bestowing her with even stronger phoenix flame abilities, aiding her in stepping into the Sovereign Realm from half-step from the Sovereign Profound... That's most likely the case. Currently, Princess Snow has already awoken. If you're concerned, you can try asking her about it directly. Hohoho."

Zi Ji smiled very meaningfully.

It's no wonder either. The reason why Yun Che would "lose his life" in the Primordial Profound Ark was known to seemingly everyone in the Profound Sky Continent, so how couldn't Zi Ji know of it... As the core figure in Black Moon Merchant Guild, he could only know much more than others.

Chapter 692 - Lost Control

Thinking about Feng Xue'er, Yun Che immediately became silent. It wasn't that she didn't stop them, but it was because she was in a coma and couldn't stop them... this relieved a certain part of his heart. But when facing the Divine Phoenix Sect, how should he face the Feng Xue'er who had just woken up?

Zi Ji also didn't speak. He smiled, looked at Yun Che, and the light in his eyes were so condensed and solid that it seemed to be piercing through Yun Che's heart and soul. At this moment, Yun Che lifted his head; the expression on his face and his eyes had calmed down. "Senior Zi, this junior is visiting your noble Merchant Guild once again because of several matters. Does Senior Zi still remember the 'Netherworld Udumbara Flower' that this junior asked you about three years ago?"

"Oh? You are still looking for that item?" Zi Ji shook his head slowly. "These years, this old man has occasionally investigated whether or not the Netherworld Udumbara Flower still exists in this world. But unfortunately, there are already very few who knew about this flower, not to mention those who have seen it. These years, followed with more and more humans in the Profound Sky Continent, the yang energy in the continent has surpassed the yin. The Netherworld Udumbara Flower is an extremely yin, demonic, and evil item. It should have gone completely extinct on Profound Sky Continent thousands of years ago. Furthermore, with time moving forward, unless a calamity that destroys the world appears out of nowhere, the yang energy in Profound Sky Continent will only become stronger and stronger. In other words, the already extinct Netherworld Udumbara Flower will never appear ever again.

"At least that is how it is in Profound Sky Continent."

Last time, Zi Ji's answer was that the Netherworld Udumbara Flower had gone extinct and that it shouldn't appear again. This time, the answer was the same... and he was even more sure of it. Yun Che showed disappointment on his face, but then asked immediately, "I remember that Senior Zi said last time that the last Netherworld Udumbara Flower sighting that was recorded in Profound Sky Continent was one thousand and three hundred years ago. Then... can Senior Zi tell me, where the last Netherworld Udumbara Flower was found back then?"

The reason that Yun Che asked this question was obviously because he wanted to go check out the place that the last recorded Netherworld Udumbara Flower was found. Since the Netherworld Udumbara Flower was able to grow there, that meant that the place must be extremely yin and evil. Even though more than a thousand of years have passed, there... was a possibility that the environment might not have changed too much.

Of course, the possibility of it was next to nothing. After all, with one thousand and three hundred years, this course of history was not a short one. Even the Blue Wind Imperial Family only had a thousand years of history. The reason he would ask was because he didn't want to give up on even the most remote hope. But, what surprised him was that after he finished this sentence, he clearly saw that Zi Ji's facial expression became stiff for a second, even the casual smile on his face disappeared.

"...I cannot tell you," Zi Ji shook his head slightly and said slowly.

Zi Ji's reaction caused Yun Che's eyebrows to twitch. He placed his hand onto the stone table and said, "Very well! Then I will buy this information from Senior Zi! Senior Zi only needs to tell me the name of that place and where it is located! Name any price... as long as I can afford it!"

“No!” Zi Ji still shook his head. “On this matter, I cannot tell you the answer, and I cannot sell it to you as information.”

“Why? Could that place... have some exceptional hidden secret?” Yun Che asked aggressively.

Zi Ji shut his eyes slightly and said, “Because that place, is a ‘secret ground.’ Since it’s a ‘secret ground,’ not mentioning entering, even the people who know about it, in this world, are as rare as phoenix feathers or qilin horns... At least in the Profound Sky Seven Nations, including the Divine Phoenix Sect, no one knows about it. Also, in that ‘secret ground’ now, there are no longer any Netherworld Udumbara Flowers.”

Even the Divine Phoenix Sect didn’t know about it the “secret ground” Zi Ji was referring to, so it was naturally an absolutely unusual existence. Yun Che didn’t think that the Netherworld Udumbara Flower that he asked about with tiny hope would have him come across an incredibly mysterious... and even somewhat strange “secret ground.”

Seeing Zi Ji’s attitude, Yun Che knew that no matter how he asked, he wouldn’t be able to find out the answer to it. He locked his eyebrows tight, stopped wasting his breath, and nodded in an especially calm manner. “I see... since it is such a ‘secret ground’, then this junior should not look into it.”

But he kept what Zi Ji said before in his mind.

“Then, three years ago, this junior asked for help to find Chu Yuechan... does Senior Zi have any information on that matter?”

Yun Che spoke in a very calm manner, but when he was speaking, his fingers clenched uncontrollably, which revealed that his mind was definitely not as calm as he looked on the surface. Three years of time, searching for Chu Yuechan, who has very distinguishable traits... He believed that with Black Moon Merchant Guild’s information network that shrouds the Profound Sky, no matter what, there should be some news. Even if it was just traces of it.

“Sigh...” But just as Yun Che finished speaking, he heard Zi Ji sigh softly, and his heart sank immediately.

“Three years ago, not long after you asked my Black Moon to search for Chu Yuechan, you died on the Primordial Profound Ark. At that time, everyone thought you had no chance of surviving, so Black Moon didn’t continue to look for Chu Yuechan. Half a year later, Spiritual Master Ancient Blue, from Absolute Monarch Sanctuary, suddenly came and asked me to look for Chu Yuechan... Searching for Chu Yuechan was secondary, but there was an extreme possibility that your descendant is by her side. The heart of his disciple, Xia Yuanba, was filled with anger and hatred because of your death, and it was long lasting. Cultivating under this mindset would cause him to easily have a fiendish rebound. After Ancient Blue understood everything about your past, he hoped that he could find your descendant to resolve the hatred in Xia Yuanba’s heart. Because of this, I personally used Black Moon’s information network to find out Chu Yuechan’s whereabouts, and the search directly covered Profound Sky Seven Nations.”

“And? Did you find her?!” Yun Che held his breath and asked.

Zi Ji gave him a deep look and said, “Spiritual Master Ancient Blue and I have been friends for a few hundred years, and I received his help multiple times. This was the first time he personally asked me for something, so of course I did everything I could. But, using all of Black Moon’s information gathering

power which covers the entire Profound Sky Seven Nations, including Divine Phoenix, for a whole ten months, we still didn't find anything. Therefore, the most likely possibility... is that she is already dead."

"What did you say?!!" Yun Che stood up suddenly, and following with a large exploding sound, a crack that was more than one foot long appeared on the stone table beneath his palm. His calm face turned ferocious, and his eyes were red like blood. "You're saying that she... is dead?!"

"I know better than you how strong the information gathering ability of the Black Moon Merchant Guild is. Chu Yuechan should be extremely easy to find, but no matter what we did, we couldn't find any trace of her... Sigh, this is indeed the worst, but also the most likely, or even the only possible conclusion," Zi Ji sighed and said.

"You're lying!!" Yun Che's pupils dilated, he reached out suddenly, grabbed harshly onto Zi Ji's collar and pulled him up from his stone chair, "You say she's dead?! What evidence do you have to say she's dead?! Do you know who Chu Yuechan is?! She is my, Yun Che's, woman, the leader of the Frozen Cloud's Seven Fairies, the most beautiful fairy in Blue Wind Nation! Anyone who sees her wouldn't be able to forget her for the rest of their lives! Even though she gave up her profound arts, her profound strength still exists. In Blue Wind Nation, there is no one who could kill her!! What do you mean that she's dead!"

"Sir... Sir Master Yun!" Yun Che's action surprised the three young girls in colorful clothes. Zi Ji's position was so high that even when Feng Hengkong saw him, he would bow to him immediately. For anyone to dare to grab his collar so rude and violently... and even on Black Moon Merchant Guild's territory.

Zi Ji had lived for close to a thousand years, but there weren't many people who would speak loudly to him, and no one has ever dared to treat him like this. However, his expression was still calm, and he did not express anger at all. On the contrary, after momentary of surprise, he felt impressed deep down... Once a profound practitioner had reached a high level, they would be arrogant and cold to emotions, especially towards women. Not mentioning Overlords and Monarchs who looked down to the world, even Thrones who dominate a territory would see them as toys that they can have as much as they want. Even if they especially valued a certain woman, they could not be compared to the cultivation of profound way.

But the young man in front of him who was hard to read and had deep eyes that even he couldn't see through up close lost control of his emotions like this because of the news of the woman's death.

"With Chu Yuechan's profound strength, it is indeed difficult for her to find an equal match in Blue Wind Nation. But, when Black Moon started searching for Chu Yuechan, Divine Phoenix's invasion on Blue Wind had already been in progress for a few months. Blue Wind Nation was already a mess with disasters everywhere, and there were countless deceased. Each Divine Phoenix Army had at least a high level Throne or even an Overlord, so Chu Yuechan would not be a match for them. If she ran into the Divine Phoenix Army, it would be difficult for her to even escape. The only possibility that the branch could think of when Black Moon has searched for this long but wasn't able to find anything was during those months..."

"Shut up!!"

BOOM!!

The stone table exploded, and Zi Ji was pushed back several steps. Yun Che held his fist tightly while his whole body was trembling; his eyes were red like a vicious, blood-thirsty wolf. He pointed at Zi Ji and roared, "What Black Moon Merchant Guild! The reason you couldn't find my little fairy is because of your own incapability. You made empty promises and even curse that she's already dead... I'll tell you, even if all of the people from Black Moon Merchant Guild are dead, she wouldn't even be missing a hair!!"

"Huu..." Yun Che breathed a heavy breath, and his voice suddenly lowered, "What kind of crappy Black Moon Merchant Guild is this, you're just a bunch of incapable people. You dare say you have a heritage that spans thousands of years, yet you can't even find a single person... this is absolutely a waste of my time and friendship!!"

Yun Che swung his hand while cursing and turned around to leave.

From when Black Moon Merchant Guild's name became well-known in Profound Sky until now, it had been thousands of years. In these thousands of years, no one had ever dared to behave rudely on the territory of the Black Moon Merchant Guild. No one had even dared to be disrespectful to the people of the Black Moon Merchant Guild. On the contrary, the higher the plane of the person, the more they respect and fear the Black Moon Merchant Guild.

For Yun Che to act like this at the Black Moon Merchant Guild... its headquarters at that... and on the seventh floor of its headquarters, he was definitely the first one in history to yell at Zi Ji like this.

Zi Ji's eyebrows moved, slightly tightened, and then relaxed. He was still not mad; on the contrary, he laughed bitterly and then said to the three young girls that were already frightened into not knowing what to do, "Sigh, go get him back."

The three young girls were stunned all at once, and then they flew out one after the other to Yun Che's side like three butterflies. One person blocked Yun Che's path, and the other two each grabbed onto Yun Che's arm. "Sir Yun, please calm down. Mister Zi was only reporting the result of the investigation, he definitely did not intend for it to be a curse... Maybe, it was indeed an oversight of the information network. We sisters apologize to Sir Yun for the Black Moon Merchant Guild, we only ask Sir Yun to calm your anger."

One more step and Yun Che would be able to collapse directly onto the chest of the young girl in green. He stopped, lifted his head, closed his eyes, and his chest rose and fell severely. It was then when he finally started to slowly calm down... He raged in this Black Moon Merchant Guild, and his words were filled with insults. If it was someone else, just by humiliating the Black Moon Merchant Guild, even if the person had ten lives, the person would die here. But he got such "special treatment," and he knew the main reason was his "mysterious master" who didn't actually exist.

He turned around, faced Zi Ji, and his expression was calm again. "Senior Zi, this junior was not able to control my emotions for a moment, please forgive my rude words and actions."

"You don't need to take it to heart." Zi Ji shook his head and smiled. He lifted his arm, and the shattered stone table that was broken by Yun Che in front of him disappeared and was replaced with an identical, complete stone table. "If you don't mind, drink some more with this old man."

Chapter 693 - The Culprit Who Was Discovered Too Late

Yun Che stopped talking and slowly walked back, returning to his seat in front of Zi Ji.

“The matter involving Chu Yuechan, this old man really feels that...”

“Let’s drop the matter.” Yun Che raised his hand to stop him. Although his face remained calm, his eyebrows were still tightly knit together. “Regarding my request for the Black Moon Merchant Guild to search for Chu Yuechan, just cancel it now! As for payment, there is no need for me to pay you. You also don’t have to tell me about the so-called ‘result’ that you’ve obtained!”

“As for the fact that I badmouthed your guild previously, I retract whatever I said... but there’s one thing that I must say again...” In a determined manner, Yun Che said, “The fact that your guild cannot find her can only mean that that is the limit of your guild’s ability! She isn’t dead... definitely not!!”

Little Fairy, you’re definitely okay. Our child... is already four now... You all must be living peacefully at a very secure and secretive location... If our child is a boy, he must have already started learning how to protect you... If our child is a girl, she is definitely as beautiful as you...

Before I find you... even if the Sky Emperor himself were to say that you all are no longer in the human world, I would not believe him either!

“Hoho, this old man can only wish that everything is as you hoped for.” Zi Ji laughed slightly, “For things to turn out this way, this old man is ashamed as well. In order to make up for it, let this old man offer you some free information that we obtained while searching for news of Chu Yuechan... and this matter concerns Chu Yuechan herself. I’m sure you’re interested.”

“Concerns her?” Expectedly, Yun Che immediately looked at him. “Senior Zi, please tell me.”

Zi Ji drank some tea and then replied softly, “Back then, after you had escaped from under Heavenly Sword Villa’s Sword Management Terrace and found out what happened to Chu Yuechan, did you ever wonder how matters spread to the entire world?”

Zi Ji’s words immediately caused Yun Che’s expression to change slightly as he replied in a deep voice, “Of course I wondered! With Senior Zi’s knowledge, you should know the prestige and respect Frozen Cloud Asgard commands within Blue Wind Empire. Females of Frozen Cloud Asgard are known to be eternally pure and untainted. As Chu Yuechan was the head of the Frozen Cloud Seven Fairies, news of her pregnancy spreading would definitely tarnish Frozen Cloud Asgard’s reputation to a great extent. Therefore, Frozen Cloud Asgard would definitely try to cover up the matter as much as possible and not allow it to spread. Heavenly Sword Villa’s Villa Master, Ling Yuefeng, used to love Chu Yuechan deeply... Even if he didn’t, he would definitely understand the underlying impact of this and would immediately cover up matters, preventing more people from finding out such a thing. However, when I had awoken, everyone had already learnt the truth regarding this.”

“Although I had always wondered about this back then, I did not go out of my way to look into this matter. Even if the news had been immediately covered up, there were no guarantees... Senior Zi, about what you want to tell me...” Yun Che’s face gradually darkened, “could it be that someone had spread the news deliberately?”

From how Yun Che had reacted when Zi Ji told him the news regarding “Chu Yuechan’s death,” he had already guessed the consequences of telling him this piece of information. Zi Ji nodded slightly, “That’s

right. This information being spread was not due to a lapse in the cover up. Instead, it had been spread deliberately... and the one who leaked it and fanned the flames was the wife of the Heavenly Sword Villa's Villa Master, Ling Yuefeng, that you just mentioned... Xuanyuan Yufeng."

Yun Che stood up vigorously, his narrowed eyes immediately emanated ice cold anger and killing intent.

Back then, it was basically due to the fact that everyone had heard the news of Chu Yuechan's pregnancy that Gong Yuxian was forced to kick Chu Yuechan out of Frozen Cloud Asgard to protect its reputation... she could even have been put to death. However, if the news had not been spread so widely, when Chu Yuechan had returned to Frozen Cloud Asgard, she would have been chided and punished, but at the very least, she would not have been chased out of Frozen Cloud Asgard... Furthermore, if Chu Yuechan had insisted, she would have been able to keep her child and would not have had to wander outside alone with a child in her womb... with no news of her even now...

It turns out that there was actually a culprit behind all of this!

After a while, Yun Che finally sat down, and a near pitch black haze shrouded his half opened eyes.

After his malicious aura had been gradually suppressed, Zi Ji calmly asked, "From the looks of it, you don't seem to be that surprised."

"...Ling Yuefeng loved Chu Yuechan deeply, and this lasted for ten entire years. In order to see her face, he had even abandoned his pride, although his wish did not come true." Yun Che seemed to have calmed down. "This was a fact that nearly everyone within the Blue Wind profound world knew. As his wife, there was no reason why Xuanyuan Yufeng wouldn't know of it. Women are jealous creatures. The more powerful a woman's strength and background was, the more accurate this statement would be. Towards Chu Yuechan, she held deep jealousy. It's also likely that, back then, when Chu Yuechan came to Heavenly Sword Villa because of the Blue Wind Ranking Tournament, Ling Yuefeng did things that he should not have done which alerted Xuanyuan Yufeng that his heart had not given up yet, resulting in hatred borne from this matter. Therefore, after she found out that Chu Yuechan was pregnant..." Yun Che's voice became filled with killing intent yet again, "she carried out such a backhanded move!"

"Hoho, the reason that I have discovered is no different from what you have guessed." Zi Ji laughed plainly as he continued, "Judging by your past experience, I can see that you're a man that repays kindness with kindness and seeks revenge for grievances. As for how you're going to handle this, it is not right for me to ask... However, do you understand anything about Xuanyuan Yufeng?"

Yun Che calmly replied, "I've heard that she was originally from Mighty Heavenly Sword Region... Especially from her surname! 'Xuanyuan' is a surname that only exists within Mighty Heavenly Sword Region."

"The surname 'Xuanyuan' indeed only currently exists within Mighty Heavenly Sword Region, but not everyone there has the surname 'Xuanyuan,'" Zi Ji calmly corrected. Yun Che already knew what Zi Ji had said was true as he knew that Ling Kun did not have the surname 'Xuanyuan.' "Instead, the surname 'Xuanyuan' is very rare within Mighty Heavenly Sword Region. Including Xuanyuan Yufeng, there are only thirty people that held this surname.

"And Mighty Heavenly Sword Region's Sword Master, Xuanyuan Wentian... as well as all the previous Sword Masters, all possess the surname of Xuanyuan!"

“The founding ancestor of Mighty Heavenly Sword Region... also had the surname Xuanyuan!”

“Do you mean that, those with the surname Xuanyuan... belong to the bloodline of the founding ancestor of Mighty Heavenly Sword Region?” Yun Che frowned as he asked.

“That’s right,” Zi Ji nodded, his expression becoming more serious as he warned Yun Che, “Xuanyuan Yufeng’s father is the ninth elder of Mighty Heavenly Sword Region—Xuanyuan Jue. Within Mighty Heavenly Sword Region, the sword reigns supreme. If one has enough attainments with the sword, he would gain the right to enter Mighty Heavenly Sword Region. However, if one’s descendants lacked affinity with the sword, he would be chased out... this was what happened to the founding ancestor of Mighty Heavenly Sword Region. However, the bloodline of ‘Xuanyuan’ is completely different. As the bloodline of the founding ancestor, they are held with the highest regard within Mighty Heavenly Sword Region and are the most supreme existence there. Even if one were born as a cripple, he would never be chased out of Mighty Heavenly Sword Region and would instead receive this best form of treatment and all its resources.”

Initially, when Yun Che had heard Qin Wushang mention that Xuanyuan Yufeng and the Sword Master of Mighty Heavenly Sword Region, Xuanyuan Wentian, possessed the same surname, he already knew that she was not so simple, but he never thought that her background would be that extraordinary. Zi Ji’s words were undoubtedly telling him that if he touched Xuanyuan Yufeng... he would be offending the most core bloodline of the founding ancestor within Mighty Heavenly Sword Region!

“Because the founding ancestor of Heavenly Sword Villa also came from Mighty Heavenly Sword Region, Heavenly Sword Villa has been trying to reestablish their relationship with Mighty Heavenly Sword Region for the past thousand years... No matter how small the connection may be, it would be like obtaining a huge backer. Although Heavenly Sword Villa is unrivalled within Blue Wind Nation, they were not even worth consideration for Mighty Heavenly Sword Region. However, in the end, in order to obtain a source of information about Blue Wind Nation, Mighty Heavenly Sword Region stopped rejecting the offerings that Heavenly Sword Villa had sent and even gave back occasionally. This naturally made Heavenly Sword Villa ecstatic, and from then onwards, they prepared gifts wholeheartedly each year without fail.

“Mighty Heavenly Sword Region’s actions initially were only so that they could make use of Heavenly Sword Villa as their ‘informant’ in Blue Wind Nation. However, no one could have imagined that... thirty years back, when Ling Tianni brought along Ling Yuefeng to hand the offerings over, Xuanyuan Jue’s sole daughter, Xuanyuan Yufeng, would fall in love with Ling Yuefeng at first sight.

“Although Xuanyuan Jue was already a thousand and seven hundred years old, his daughter was not even in her twenties yet. At an age where her love was blooming and given the fact that the young Ling Yuefeng was handsome, gentlemanly, and charismatic, it was no surprise that Xuanyuan Yufeng would fall in love with him. However, as she was someone from the bloodline of the founding ancestor of Mighty Heavenly Sword Region, she was of extremely high status, whereas Ling Yuefeng was the descendant of an expelled disciple. This meant that their status were far apart, and Xuanyuan Jue naturally would not agree to their relationship... However, Xuanyuan Yufeng’s personality was headstrong and steadfast. She first threatened him with her death and eventually crippled her profound arts and left Mighty Heavenly Sword Region forever.”

“Hah, she is indeed a passionate person.” Yun Che laughed coldly, “To catch the attention of a descendant of Mighty Heavenly Sword Region’s founding ancestor, Heavenly Sword Villa naturally would tightly grab onto this huge backing. Even if that Xuanyuan Yufeng were ugly like a sow, Ling Tianni and Ling Yuefeng would never reject it... But for Xuanyuan Yufeng to make such a headstrong decision, Ling Yufeng must have sweet-talked her to the moon and back!”

“Hohohoho,” Zi Ji laughed plainly, his expression obviously showed his agreement with what Yun Che said. “After that, Xuanyuan Jue announced that he would sever his father-daughter relationship with Xuanyuan Yuefeng out of rage and chased them out of Mighty Heavenly Sword Region, swearing to never meet them again.”

“Heh, even though he is called Xuanyuan Jue, he was not completely cruel to his daughter. Otherwise, he would have already killed Ling Yuefeng,” Yun Che continued laughing coldly.

“After all, Xuanyuan Yufeng was his only daughter.” Zi Ji continued, “After some time passed, his rage faded. Furthermore, Xuanyuan Yufeng and Ling Yuefeng had brought two grandsons to him. Xuanyuan Jue had no choice but to accept Ling Yuefeng as his son-in-law. A few years ago, Xuanyuan Yufeng brought her two sons and Ling Yuefeng back to Mighty Heavenly Sword Region to visit... I heard that Xuanyuan Jue was very fond of Xuanyuan Yuefeng’s two children, particularly her younger son, Ling Jie, and even offered to teach him personally. Heavenly Sword Villa naturally became more assured of its backing because of this.”

“If you’re unable to let go of matters and still want to punish Xuanyuan Yufeng... please think carefully before you act.” Zi Ji’s gaze was distant and deep, and he possessed an elder’s bearing. He was obviously trying to peacefully persuade Yun Che, who was exceptionally concerned with this matter.

“...Yun Che’s palm that was on the stone table retracted slightly. Compared to Xuanyuan Yufeng’s identity, he was more concerned with... the fact that she was Ling Jie’s birth mother!”

“Senior Zi, I already know most of what you wanted to let me know.” Yun Che said as he looked up at Zi Ji, so calm that he sounded indifferent, “Indeed, I’m a man who seeks revenge for grievances. This matter regarding Xuanyuan Yufeng, even though I only figured it out many years later, I definitely will not let it go so easily. The debts that need to be repaid must be repaid in full. As for the free information Senior Zi provided, I’m absolutely grateful. However, I would like to let Senior Zi know one thing...”

“As a person, the thing I hate the most is being plotted against and being used... No matter who it is by!”

Yun Che’s gaze concentrated as though it had become two sharp arrows, and this caused Zi Ji’s breathing to stop for an instant.

SummerRain: When Zi Ji says “even though he is called Xuanyuan Jue”, he is referring to the fact that Jue means cruel/heartless

Chapter 694 - We’re Gonna Be Rich

The sudden change in the tone caught Zi Ji off guard. Although he only looked like he was forty or fifty and there was not even a speck of white in his beard yet, his actual age had already surpassed the thousand mark. He possessed knowledge far beyond any normal human’s comprehension and had gone through a flow of time that a normal person would not be able to comprehend.

Hence, he was able to see through a person's inner thoughts clearly which meant that it had been a long time since he had experienced any unexpected feelings... However, when facing this twenty-two year old youth who was standing in front of him, a youth who was several times younger than him, the intense gaze of this youth seemed to pierce through the depths of his heart.

Facing Yun Che's gaze, he uttered with a bitter smile after a moment of short hesitation, "Such unbelievably astute observational skills... no, rather than calling it observational skills, it would be more fitting to call it... instincts?"

"I admit, there was some personal agenda behind me telling you the information we had about Xuanyuan Yufeng. However, in what I've just said, there were no lies nor was there any ill intent directed at you. I only wished to do you a favor while simultaneously gifting Mighty Heavenly Sword Region an 'unfathomable' enemy."

Yun Che laughed slightly, "I believe you. If I had really felt that you had ill intent, I wouldn't be sitting in front of you so casually right now."

Three years ago when he initially met Zi Ji, he only felt that his status was extraordinary, but now, the more he spoke with him, the more he felt that this person's strength and status was probably unfathomable. He decided not to beat around the bush anymore as he took out his Profound Currency Card that was shining with a violet glow and slapped it in front of Zi Ji. "I have bothered Senior Zi for long enough today, let's get to the main topic. I need forty five thousand kilograms of Purgatory Stone and a hundred fifty kilograms of Flaming Devil Vines that are at least ninety years old. If you do not have those that are ninety years or older, then those above sixty years will be fine as well, but I would require twice the amount. Also, I need six thousand Rakshasa Heart-destroying Fruits, twelve thousand Skull Seeds, six thousand blades of Soul Withering Grass..."

Without stopping, Yun Che eloquently listed forty-nine different types of ingredients. If there were only a few, Zi Ji would not have thought much about it; however, all forty-nine ingredients that Yun Che had mentioned were all violent and explosive! Each one of them possessed a great amount of concentrated energy which also meant that they were extremely dangerous objects... For example, the erosive power in a ten centimeter long Flaming Devil Vine was sufficient to completely destroy a Sky Profound practitioner in a matter of seconds.

The reason why Purple Veined Divine Crystals were so precious was because it not only possessed extremely concentrated energy, the energy was also very gentle; it could be easily controlled, guided, and changed into other forms to use for other purposes, and also because it could be absorbed directly. Although the things that Yun Che asked for possessed the same concentrated energy, they were on the other extreme as each one of them possessed different attributes and only had one common characteristic, which was that they were extremely violent and difficult to control.

However, due to the "violent" characteristics, several of the ingredients could occasionally be used to make pellets that were used to break through bottlenecks... However, the success rate was unbelievably low, and there were huge risks involved.

However, if it succeeded... a pellet that could break through bottlenecks would undoubtedly be a treasure that could be priced for an exorbitant amount!

Therefore, although the energy within these forty-nine ingredients was extremely concentrated, their demand was very low which meant that they naturally did not cost much... After all, among all the top pellet refining masters within the entire Profound Sky Continent, not one of them would dare to say that they were able to perfectly handle any one of the listed ingredients.

If it were controlling several of them at the same time... they probably wouldn't succeed a single time even if they had decades.

Not only had Yun Che requested forty-nine items that were already frighteningly explosive on their own, the quantity that he had requested was absolutely shocking.

The three young girls behind him were dumbfounded by what they had heard.

Zi Ji closed his eyes as a small profound formation appeared on his slightly raised right hand. After a short while, the profound formation disappeared and he opened his eyes. As he breathed out, he said, "Black Moon has all of these forty-nine ingredients. However, our storage is insufficient for your needs. To collect everything would require a little time."

"How long would it take?" Yun Che asked calmly. He knew full well that the quantity that he had requested for was massive and he would not be able to obtain the full quantity at any other shop. He knew that Black Moon Merchant Guild would not disappoint him... as long as he paid them a sufficient sum.

"Purgatory Stones need to be collected from the depths of lava. For forty-five thousand kilograms, it will take approximately fifteen days. As for the other ingredients, five days would be sufficient," Zi Ji replied.

"Good!" Yun Che nodded. "Then I'll come back and retrieve them in fifteen days. Senior Zi please name a price. In order to reassure you, I shall pay half the cost in advance."

Although he spoke with calmness, Yun Che was feeling restless within... thinking to himself, "I only have nine million purple profound coins, sufficient to buy a small city. These ingredients aren't that expensive but the quantity is a bit much... but, I should have enough right?"

If I really cannot afford... I could consider obtaining some money from the Divine Phoenix Sect.

When talking about money, Zi Ji was not verbose with Yun Che as he nodded and replied, "That would be the best. Although these aren't extremely precious goods, it still isn't cheap. I estimate it to be around eight million... purple profound coins! The deposit shall be as you said, half of the total."

Eight million purple profound coins was undoubtedly an astronomical amount. Even for the Black Moon Merchant Guild, it was a huge sum. However, Yun Che secretly heaved a sigh of relief as he cleanly handed Zi Ji his Profound Currency Card to pay the sum of four million.

After paying the deposit, the millions of purple profound coins that he had extorted from the Xiao Sect had almost been completely spent...

Yun Che cried in his heart... I originally thought that this huge sum could last me for several lifetimes, but I didn't expect... Sigh! Now I'm going to be broke again.

After paying the deposit, Zi Ji had a short and deep internal struggle with himself before he asked, "Yun Che, Black Moon Merchant Guild never asks their customers why they are purchasing goods, but I'm

truly curious. All forty-nine ingredients that you have requested for are extremely violent and explosive. The amount is massive as well. What are you using them for? Heheh, if it's possible, I hope you can kindly enlighten me on this mystery. However, if it isn't possible, you can just laugh it off. The old man won't pursue nor would he investigate in secret."

Yun Che laughed, flipping over his palm. He placed a dark red round pellet on the stone table. In an instant, the room was filled with a pungent medicinal smell that spread quickly, causing the face of the three girls to grimace.

"Can Senior Zi Ji please help junior inspect this? If this pellet were to be auctioned off by the Black Moon Merchant Guild, what kind of price can it command?"

"This is..." Zi Ji's gaze immediately concentrated on the pellet, and just based off the aura of the pellet, he could already conclude that this was no simple pellet. Using two fingers, he grabbed it off the table and placed it in front of his eyes. The pellet was clear and transparent. Looking through it, Zi Ji could see Yun Che's face clearly. What shocked Zi Ji the most, however, was the aura that the pellet emitted. After observing it for a short moment, Zi Ji started to gather his concentration and placed his profound energy into the pellet...

After just a very short moment, Zi Ji looked up strongly, uttering in a deeply surprised voice, "This is a pellet that allows one to break through high level bottlenecks!!

"And anyone below the Tyrant Profound Realm... could break through directly!

"Below the Tyrant Profound Realm, break through directly!" Zi Ji shouted these words out with immense shock. Not just normal profound practitioners, even the masters of the Four Great Sacred Grounds would be shocked to hear those words.

Because this meant that... with this pellet, there would not be anymore bottlenecks... below the Tyrant Profound Realm!

This pellet was the "Overlord Pellet" from Illusory Demon Realm that allowed a peak leveled Emperor Profound practitioner to break through the bottleneck and advance directly into the Tyrant Profound Realm. However, what was different was that the Overlord Pellet from Illusory Demon Realm used thirty six different types of ingredients to make, whereas the one Yun Che took out used forty nine different ingredients and looked completely perfect and flawless. In terms of medicinal properties, the one made by the Illusory Demon Royal Family could not even be compared to the one Yun Che had made.

"Senior Zi obviously has a keen eye." Yun Che sincerely said in admiration. Such a simple test and he was already able to determine the effects of the Overlord Pellet. This was not something a normal person could do. "Senior Zi please let me know how much this pellet can be sold for?"

Zi Ji's current attention was completely on the Overlord Pellet. The more in depth he examined using his profound energy, the more signs of shock appeared on his elderly and composed face. He remained silent for several breaths of time before putting the Overlord Pellet down. Then, he looked at Yun Che and shook his head. "This old man has handled numerous treasures and pellets over the years, and I can determine their authenticity and value immediately for most of them... However, for this pellet, its value is something this old man cannot truly gauge.

“Pellets that are used to break through bottlenecks need to have extremely violent medicinal properties. Therefore, not only is it difficult to produce, there are huge risks in consuming it too... The higher the level the breakthrough the pellet is used for, the harder it is to make and the more dangerous it is as well. A middle risk pellet that could aid one in breaking through to the Sky Profound Realm is already a priceless treasure even within the Four Great Sacred Grounds. They would only be used on the most core and youngest disciples. As for your pellet...”

As Zi Ji spoke, his agitated feelings could not be stopped. “The medicinal properties within the pellet is mysterious, complex, overbearing, and its aura contains several different types that combining them individually was already a tall order. What’s even more frightening is that when these overbearing medicinal properties are combined, its reactionary effect toward external forces is exceptionally gentle. It is exceptionally easy to handle, and it can be easily controlled using profound energy of the Tyrant Profound Realm. A profound practitioner in the peak of the Emperor Profound Realm who consumes this pellet would be able to break through to the Tyrant Profound Realm within a day or two. Unless there is interference from the outside, there is no chance of failure at all! Furthermore, there are no risks in the entire process, and there is no need to be afraid of any backlash.

“What’s even more surprising is that the medicinal energy is extremely pure and practically has no flaws. I tried several times previously to examine it, but I still could not find any contamination! A high grade pellet that is this pure is something that this old man has never seen before despite living for thousands of years.”

Zi Ji’s unrestrained praise and shock was nothing much to Yun Che. After all, he did produce this Overlord Pellet and was clearer than anyone about its medicinal strength and purity. However, he was shocked at how well versed Zi Ji was in pellets. Also, the three girls behind him stared widely with their mouths agape for a long time...

Because this was the first time they had heard such “exaggerated” praise coming out from Zi Ji’s mouth.

“Since this pellet received such praise from Senior Zi, if it were sold to the Four Great Sacred Grounds, could one pellet be exchanged for two hundred grams of Purple Veined Divine Crystals?” Yun Che asked seriously.

Within the entire Profound Sky Continent, only the Four Great Sacred Grounds with their thousands of years of accumulation could offer a large amount of a legendary item like the Purple Veined Divine Crystal. Most normal sects did not even know what Purple Veined Divine Crystals looked like.

“Hehe,” Zi Ji merely laughed and shook his head before slowly stretching out his hand and showing Yun Che one finger.

“Oh, only one hundred grams?” Yun Che slowly nodded. He was not completely disappointed. After all, Purple Veined Divine Crystals were too rare and precious. It was already exceptionally worth it if an Overlord Pellet that did not cost much to make could be traded for one hundred grams of Purple Veined Divine Crystals.

“No!” Zi Ji continued shaking his head, “It’s one kilogram!”

“Huh?” Yun Che was instantly stunned.

“You’re completely underestimating the value and how prized a pellet that could be used to break through bottlenecks is.” Zi Ji exclaimed, “Although Purple Veined Divine Crystals are exceptionally precious and can be used to massively increase a profound practitioner’s profound strength in a short amount of time, if that person was stuck at a bottleneck, any amount of Purple Veined Divine Crystals would be useless. At places like the Four Great Sacred Grounds, profound practitioners below the Emperor Profound Realm could rely on the strength of Monarchs to assist them in forcefully breaking through. However, if they were at the peak of the Emperor Profound Realm, on the brink to the Tyrant Profound Realm, even the assistance of a Monarch would not be able to help them break through the bottleneck. Within the past ten thousands of years, many disciples within the Four Great Sacred Grounds had frantically searched for pellets that could help them break through while they were training in order to not fall behind others. Pellets that could help break through the bottleneck of the Emperor Profound Realm were a rarity in the world, and even if one managed to get hold of it, the pellet was usually left for the most core disciple of the sect... Also, these pellets usually brought along uncontrollable risks. Who knows how many disciples of high status and talent had consumed such pellets and suffered backlashes like meridians being damaged, severe injuries, or even the complete loss of profound cultivation. Also, there are many who dared to not rely on such pellets to break through and as a result remained in the bottleneck of the Emperor Profound Realm for several years. After tens of years of being unable to break through... when they finally advanced to the Tyrant Profound Realm, they were so far behind others that they could only be considered as mediocre.

“Not only can this pellet in my hand allow one to break through the bottleneck of Emperor Profound Realm, there are no risks involved either... furthermore, it is exceptionally beneficial in aiding one in their attempt to break through the bottleneck of the Tyrant Profound Realm in the future.”

Despite all the praises he had already given it, Zi Ji eyes still glinted with curiosity. “If the Four Great Sacred Grounds were to find out about this pellet, it would undoubtedly cause a huge uproar and they would expend a large amount of resources to get this. One kilogram of Purple Veined Divine Crystal is my safest estimate... after all, when one obtains this pellet, he would enable someone of the young generation to break through to the Tyrant Profound Realm in a short amount of time, letting them obtain another pillar for their sect.”

“Ohh...” Yun Che’s expression seemed to be uplifted... Oh baby, we’re gonna be rich!

“Yun Che, would you mind telling me the name of this pellet? And which master produced it?” Zi Ji asked earnestly. He was familiar with all the high leveled pellet masters within Profound Sky Continent. However, among all of them, not one of them should be able to produce such a pellet... otherwise, he would definitely know about it.

“Oh, this pellet was casually produced and does not have a name yet,” Yun Che replied indifferently. After all, he could not mention the name “Overlord Pellet.” If Profound Sky Continent had records about the “Overlord Pellet” from Illusory Demon Realm, it would be troublesome. Furthermore, the medicinal properties of this pellet was far stronger than the Overlord Pellet. Therefore, it did not have to be called Overlord Pellet.

“Heheh,” Zi Ji shook his head and laughed, “This old one definitely does not believe that such a prized pellet that can shake the world can be causally produced. If it’s not convenient to let this old one know, then this old one shall not pursue it.”

Yun Che looked at him, grinned, and waved it off with his left hand...

“Clack clack clack.” There was an extended noise as Yun Che threw more than thirty Overlord Pellets onto the stone table. He threw it casually as though he were throwing sweets away.

Chapter 695 - Moon Slaughter Devil Nest?

Suddenly, an extremely rich medicinal fragrance diffused into the air. Although this was merely aura of a spiritual medicine, it was violent and tyrannical, as though it was profound energy being released by a profound expert in full force. Black Moon Merchant Guild’s immensely large seventh floor, seemed to be completely filled in an instant by this aura.

An aura like this, was sufficient to let Zi Ji know just what these medicine pellets were. However, after his long state of astonishment, he still picked up one of them disbelievingly, placed it on his palm, picked up another one, placed it in his palm once again, and then, the third, fourth...

A total of thirty-three dark red medicinal pellets... Every single one of them was exactly the same as the first one Yun Che revealed!

And the quality of all these medicinal pellets had all achieved the most extreme hundred percent condition!

Effectiveness of this degree, medicinal pellets of this level, and they were even of perfect quality! Earlier, when he was chuckling while saying the words: “a single one of this medicinal pellet is enough to shock the entire world”, was definitely not the least bit exaggerated.

Yet Yun Che, actually threw out thirty or so of them... And Yun Che’s unmindful actions and expression looked so casual, it was as though he was throwing out a bunch of sweets!

Zi Ji was completely stunned; shockingly large ocean waves were surging within his heart.

In regards to knowledge of medicinal pellets, and the authority to judge them, it could be said not a single person could compare to Zi Ji in the entire Profound Sky Continent. However, looking at the thirty-three dark red pellets placed in front of him, he actually felt as though he was suddenly thrown into a dream. After a long while, he suddenly thought of someone, and immediately exclaimed. “Could it be, that these treasured pellets are all refined by your respected master?”

Yun Che gave a sidelong glance, and nodded without a single hesitation. “Of course.”

“I... see...” Zi Ji was finally able to feel a little relieved, his face was filled with deep reverence and surprise. “This old one was completely shocked... No wonder, it was refined by your revered master. In this world, only your revered master, a mighty existence who had transcended the mortal realm, could possibly possess such world-shocking ability.”

Rumors were after all, just rumors. But after personally witnessing such feats, and making contact with more than thirty of these treasured pellets, in this manner, he had personally experienced the level of strength which Yun Che’s “teacher” possessed.

“Oh, right.” Yun Che casually said. “Earlier, those ingredients which I entrusted your Black Moon Merchant Guild to gather, will all be handed over to teacher to refine medicine. Mn, that’s right, it for

these types of pellets... I'm prepared to have teacher help me refine more than three thousand of them."

"Three... Three... Three thousand!?" This old man who had stayed bland and calm for several hundred years, actually fiercely bit his own tongue.

"Mn." Yun Che still nodded in a very calm manner, and leisurely said. "Currently, this junior is already the Asgard Master of Frozen Cloud Asgard, so naturally, I have to take responsibility of Frozen Cloud Asgard. Although not a single person in Blue Wind Nation dares to offend Frozen Cloud Asgard, in the range of the entire Profound Sky Continent, it is still too weak. Not only was it bullied all the way to its doorstep, Grand Asgard Mistress and the former Asgard Mistress both died under poisonous hands one after another. Hence, this junior has no choice but to use some extraordinary methods to raise the strength of all Frozen Cloud disciples, to prevent them from being bullied by despicable people."

"But, because their profound levels are too low, and are unable to withstand the medicinal powers that were of too high a level, my mentor said that for the time being, he could only refine these low-level medicinal pellets to help raise their strength, allowing me to similarly eat them whenever I want, and also use them to exchange for profound coins or purple crystals... Oh, I never expected that I can actually exchange one for at least a kilogram of Purple Veined Divine Crystal, heheh!"

"Three thousand" ... "Low-level medicine pellets" ... "Eat them whenever I want" ... The knowledge Zi Ji had adhered to for a thousand years was instantly shattered into smithereens, and every single of his nerves in his body was convulsing uncontrollably.

He had attentively inspected the medicinal power of the Overlord Pellet earlier. He was incomparably sure that, if it's three thousand of them... No, forget about having three thousand of them, even if three hundred of these pellets were to flow into the Four Great Sacred Grounds, during the next generation, there would be an immense transformation to the structure of the Four Great Sacred Grounds! And if only one of the Four Great Sacred Grounds were to obtain them, then, the balance within the Four Great Sacred Grounds would be completely destroyed. The Sacred Ground which possess these treasured pellets, would be able to completely suppress the other three Sacred Grounds, becoming a peak extraordinary existence of the time!

And three thousand pellets...

This extremely terrifying amount, brought about an incomparable impact on Zi Ji.

And, from Yun Che's description... As long as the ingredients were sufficient, that terrifying teacher of his was basically able to refine any number of them! And the treasured pellet which he claimed "one being sufficient to shock the entire world", was merely a "low-level pellet" in the hands of that teacher of his!

Yun Che had been observing Zi Ji, and he was incomparably satisfied with his reaction. With a smile, he said. "But, Senior Zi, please be at ease. Although to me, these pellets are as normal as they can be, I'm not that naive to not understand what these pellets mean to profound practitioners... especially to large and strong sects such as the Four Great Sacred Grounds. That's why, most of them will only be used for Frozen Cloud Asgard, while the rest will be used to exchange for Purple Veined Divine Crystals..."

Yun Che slowly raised out three fingers. "Only thirty of them! Not a single bit more! Because no matter how precious something is, if there's too many of them, then it's no fun."

Zi Ji silently looked at the three fingers Yun Che raised. After a long while, he then let out a faint sigh, and gently nodded his head. "About the rumors of your respected master, although it came from Sun Moon Divine Hall, this old man still had only believed seventy percent of it, while thirty percent of suspicion still existed... But now, not a single bit of that suspicion is left. The realm attained by your respected master, I'm afraid it's already the fortune from seizing the heavens and earth, and a profound mystery approaching the sun and moon. It's no longer something a mortal like me can possibly understand... Frozen Cloud Asgard of Blue Wind Nation was initially a very small sect comprised of women, but its luck is as high as the heavens. With the aid of your respected master, I'm afraid before long, it will soon become the fifth Sacred Ground."

"Senior Zi is taking this too seriously. My Frozen Cloud Asgard simply wishes for sufficient strength protect itself, and to not be bullied by others. We have never thought of becoming a Sacred Ground or whatever. And the two words 'Sacred Ground', heh..." Yun Che let out a mocking laugh. "They don't seem to be that sacred. They might even be extremely dirty and unclean. It's best that my Frozen Cloud Asgard stay forever untainted."

"Haah..." Zi Ji unknowingly let out a short sigh, before he calmly said. "This old one was simply worried that a large amount of these treasured pellets would flow into the Profound Sky Continent earlier, afraid that it would cause an earthshaking shock and change to the profound world. If there's only... thirty pellets, then that's fine as well."

An evident pause appeared in Zi Ji's words. Because a treasured pellet of this level was sufficient enough to shake the Sacred Grounds, and no matter one looked at it, the word "only" shouldn't be used to refer to thirty of such pellets.

"Alright." Yun Che immediately nodded, and then, with a wave of his hand, he had already returned all of the thirty-three Overlord Pellets on the table into the Sky Poison Pearl. "When the suitable time comes, I will naturally come again to discuss with Senior Zi about the matters of auctioning them. As for the pellets outside of the original thirty... I hope Senior Zi will keep them a secret."

"Hoho." Zi Ji smiled. "You're definitely not someone who speaks thoughtlessly, yet, you were actually completely frank in front of this old one... This old man has lived for more than a thousand years, naturally, I'm not someone who does not know what's good for me."

"Black Moon Merchant Guild has been established under the name of 'trust' for several thousand years, and Senior Zi is even the core pillar of Black Moon Merchant Guild, so this junior can be completely at ease when speaking 'thoughtlessly' in front of Senior Zi, and not be worried that this information would be leaked to others in the slightest. Oh right, I have yet to ask what's the auctioning fee for Black Moon Merchant Guild?"

Just as Zi Ji was about to speak, he suddenly paused for a moment. After pondering for a while, he lightly smiled, and said. "The auctioning fee for Black Moon Merchant Guild is much higher than any regular merchant guild. But, if you're willing to accept this old one's request, then the fee for auctioning thirty of these treasured pellets can be waived under this old one's authority."

“Oh? What ‘request’ could Senior Zi be referring to?”

“It’s simple.” A scorching fire could be faintly felt from within his calm gaze. “Sell ten of these treasured pellets to my Black Moon Merchant Guild. The price shall follow what this old one has determined before. Ten treasured pellets, and this old one will immediately give you ten kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystals!”

Purple Veined Divine Crystals... ten kilograms of them!!

This was definitely a heavenly number shocking enough that even a powerful profound practitioner could pass out from.

Even if it was the Four Great Sacred Grounds—Absolute Monarch Sanctuary, Supreme Ocean Palace, Sun Moon Divine Hall and Heavenly Mighty Sword Region, it would still take them at least one or two hundred, or even three hundred years, to accumulate ten kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystals.

A single Overlord Pellet could be exchanged for a kilogram of Purple Veined Divine Crystals... this was an estimate given by Zi Ji. However, during an actual auction, there might be a possibility that it would be lower than a kilogram, or even higher than a kilogram... And with the extent of how precious Purple Veined Divine Crystals were, at the very least, Yun Che felt that the possibility of it being worth lower than a kilogram was higher. Yet, if the Black Moon Merchant Guild were to immediately exchange ten kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystals for ten of these pellets, not only could his auctioning fee be waived, the price being suggested was definitely not a loss for him either... And in regards to Zi Ji’s words, he seemed to be giving him ten kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystals right on the spot.

Waves slightly surged in Yun Che’s heart, however, his expression was calm. He did not immediately give a reply. After pondering for a moment, he lightly nodded. “Fine. But, Senior Zi must accept one of this junior’s requests as well.”

“Oh?” Zi Ji looked at him with lifted eyebrows.

“It’s simple...” Yun Che used the same tone as Zi Ji earlier. “Tell this junior... the location which the Netherworld Udumbara Flower appeared in a thousand and three hundred years ago.”

“This...” Zi Ji was dumbfounded, shaking his head immediately after. “It’s not that this old one isn’t willing. That place is no trivial matter. I’m simply unable to tell you.”

“Oh, in that case, then this junior will naturally not make it difficult for Senior Zi either.” Yun Che did not reveal a disappointed look. “Then there’s no need for Senior Zi to bring up the matter of waiving the fee either. Even if esteemed merchant guild wishes for up to twenty percent of the auctioned price’s fees, this junior will still be afford it.”

“...” Zi Ji was speechless. He opened his mouth, seemingly wanting to persuade Yun Che, however, looking at his calm expression and eyes that were as deep as a black hole, he swallowed the words which he had quickly thought of to persuade him, and in the end, turned them into a long sigh. “The Netherworld Udumbara Flower was extremely dark, sinister and evil, recorded as the most terrifying flower in existence. Simply by approaching this flower, one’s body would be invaded by a dark aura, damaging one’s soul. At best, they would fall into a long lasting coma. At worst, however, they would turn into the living dead. If one’s profound strength is low, then a life would be immediately lost. Other

than this, from what this old one has seen and heard, I have never heard of any use of this flower. Why are you so persistent on searching for this flower?”

“This junior naturally has a use for it.” After a short pause, Yun Che added. “And it’s for an extremely important usage.. I must find a stalk of it at all costs! Even if I have to pay a huge price!”

“...” Zi Ji closed his eyes, and did not speak for a long while.

The seventh floor of Black Moon Merchant Guild momentarily turned silent.

“He’s sending profound energy sound transmissions.” Jasmine suddenly voiced out.

“Mn...” Yun Che lightly responded. “Could it be, he’s transmitting to that mysterious guild leader of Black Moon Merchant Guild...? Oh! He’s sending profound energy sound transmissions, instead of using sound transmission talismans. In that case, that Black Moon Merchant Guild leader... is close by?”

The silence continued for nearly a hundred breaths, and only then did Zi Ji slowly open his eyes. Yun Che did not speak up to break the silence, and instead, calmly looked at him just like that.

“That place is... much more terrifying that you can ever imagine.” Zi Ji slowly said. “It can only be entered once every five hundred years. And, even if it is a powerful Monarch, the amount of time one can stay there cannot surpass fifteen minutes, otherwise, that person will either die or become crippled!”

Zi Ji’s words, caused Yun Che to reveal a shocked expression. “Such a place still exists on Profound Sky Continent?”

“...To be precise, that place, is not located on Profound Sky Continent.” Zi Ji said.

“...?” Yun Che was even more confused.

“And, since you’re searching for the Netherworld Udumbara Flower with such vigor, you should know that it will only bloom once every twenty-four years, and it will then wither three days after. If you truly wish to enter that place, the time you can stay there, is incomparably short as well... A stalk of Netherworld Udumbara Flower truly exists in that place, and the possibility of it blooming at such a coincidental timing, is slim to the point of being close to none!”

“Then after, it can only be entered exactly after five hundred years.”

“Furthermore, an incomparably frightening existence lies in that place... With your current strength, if you were to enter that place, it’s completely no different from courting death.”

Zi Ji’s words, sounded more terrifying with every subsequent sentence, but Yun Che could discern that, there wasn’t a single bit of falsehood and exaggeration in his words. Zi Ji looked at Yun Che, revealing a persuasive gaze. “Even if that’s the case, will you still insist on finding out the location of that place?”

Yun Che, however, unhesitantly said. “Senior Zi, please tell me.”

Although he had guessed of this outcome, Zi Ji still let out a helpless, bitter laugh. He slightly raised his head, and with a fleeting tone, said. “That place, is named ‘Moon Slaughter Devil Nest’.”

“Moon... Slaughter... Devil... Nest...” Yun Che softly muttered... He flipped through his memories, and even Ye Ziyi, Feng Huwei’s memories, yet, he had never heard of this from anywhere, nor had he seen such a name.

Chapter 696 - Ocean Palace’s Secret

Zi Ji looked at Yun Che’s reaction and slowly continued, “It is completely normal that you have not heard of this name. Even if it is the other three Sacred Grounds aside from Supreme Ocean Palace, there are very few people who know about it.”

“Then where is it? Senior Zi mentioned just now that it is not located in Profound Sky Continent, what does that mean?” Yun Che tightened his eyebrows and asked.

Zi Ji extended his finger and pointed directly to the south, “It is located to the south of Profound Sky Continent, above the endless Southern Ocean.”

“Southern Ocean?” Yun Che looked surprised.

“Have you ever been to Supreme Ocean Palace?” asked Zi Ji.

“No,” Yun Che said. ““But I know that Supreme Ocean Palace is located one thousand five hundred kilometers south of the southern edge of Profound Sky Continent, above the Southern Ocean”. That was where the name ‘Ocean Palace’ came from. Could the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest that Senior Zi said be related to Supreme Ocean Palace?”

“That’s right,” Zi Ji nodded his head slightly. “Everyone spread the news and all knew that the Four Great Sacred Grounds each have their guardian responsibility. They guarded the safety of the Profound Sky Continent for tens of thousands of years, thus being bestowed with the divine name of ‘Sacred Grounds.’ However, out of the Four Great Sacred Grounds, only Supreme Ocean Palace have been upholding their guardian mission.”

“That place called ‘Moon Slaughter Devil Nest’ is the place that Supreme Ocean Palace has been guarding for generations?” Yun Che asked.

Zi Ji nodded his head once again. “Supreme Ocean Palace is one thousand five hundred kilometers away from the edge of the continent. Not only do they need to be prepared for oceanic disasters all the time, there are also a lot of inconveniences everyday. But Supreme Ocean Palace has existed for tens of thousands of years and have never moved onto land. The only reason behind that is the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest.”

“What kind of existence is the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest exactly? Why would Supreme Ocean Palace do whatever it takes to stay at Southern Ocean and guard it? And this name...” As he listened to Zi Ji’s description, more and more questions piled up in Yun Che’s mind.

Zi Ji closed his eyes slightly, organized his thoughts, and continued to say, “I can only give you the simplest description about Moon Slaughter Devil Nest. About more than ten thousand years ago, when seven ancestors of Supreme Ocean Palace were touring Southern Ocean, they suddenly found a large area of ocean water that was dyed black. The pitch-black ocean region was very wide, and there were countless corpses of oceanic beasts of the same color. After that, they found the center of this pitch-black ocean region... which was an island that was completely dyed black.

“That island released an extremely thick yin energy, and it was the reason that a large ocean region such as that became a dead region. After that, the ancestors of Ocean Palace came to the pitch-black island and found a large cave on the island. That terrifying yin energy came from within that dark cave. When they entered the cave, the deeper they went, the heavier the yin energy became, causing even their profound strength to be greatly suppressed. In the deepest recesses of this cave, they encountered an incomparably terrifying dark profound beast.”

“Dark profound beast?” Yun Che felt more bizarre the more he heard about it.

“That dark profound beast called itself the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign. It hates light and is especially afraid of the moonlight. Aside from that, nothing is known about it. The strength and aura of that dark profound beast isn’t very strong; it should be around the early stage Tyrant Profound Realm. The profound strength of all seven of Supreme Ocean Palace’s ancestors had reached great heights. Each of them were in the late stage Sovereign Profound Realm and stood at the summit. However, within that cavern’s depths, their profound strength had been suppressed down to the Emperor Profound Realm. In front of the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign, they could not retaliate at all. Out of the seven ancestors, only one escaped. The other six ancestors had all lost their lives in the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest.

“After the sole survivor escaped out of the cave, the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign didn’t give chase. It was afraid of the daylight’s radiance and the night’s moonlight. The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign would perhaps never leave its nest. However, the dark yin energy the nest released was endless, and when that Ocean Palace ancestor finally managed to get out, he personally heard the roars of the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign. It said, ‘The time the entire world is submerged in darkness is the day when it would come out.’”

“Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign... such a monster actually exists?” Yun Che grew more and more frightened. If it wasn’t Zi Ji telling him this personally, he would’ve just treated it as some story a random person fabricated. “After that, did the Ocean Palace ancestor use some kind of method to seal that nest to keep the dark yin energy from leaking?”

“Hehe, that is correct.” Zi Ji looked at Yun Che with admiration. “We don’t know whether that dark yin energy originated from the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign or a terrifying unknown source that exists deep within the nest. However, if it continually spread without anything keeping it in check, there would be a day when it would reach the Profound Sky Continent, and the consequences would be unthinkable. The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign’s roar also never allowed that Ocean Palace ancestor to be at ease. Thus, he combined the power of all the experts of the Ocean Palace and unhesitantly sacrificed more than a dozen of Ocean Palace’s strongest profound artifacts and a large amount of Purple Veined Divine Crystals to construct an enormous isolated barrier to seal the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, completely isolating the never ending leakage of dark yin energy.

“Because the barrier consumes a lot of energy, every three years they need at least a dozen Monarchs to input profound energy to maintain it. Because of this, the ancestors of the Ocean Palace moved their whole sect above the Southern Ocean and changed their name to the ‘Supreme Ocean Palace.’”

“...I see.”

Because of his hostility towards Mighty Heavenly Sword Region and how much he despised Sun Moon Divine Hall, Yun Che already didn't have any good feelings towards the Four Great Sacred Grounds and even thought of them as the tainted grounds. But hearing Zi Ji's description of Supreme Ocean Palace made him feel a decent amount of respect for them.

Compared to Mighty Heavenly Sword Region and Sun Moon Divine Hall, a

Supreme Ocean Palace like this really didn't tarnish the reputation of the "Sacred Grounds"

Thinking back to that Ji Qianrou from Supreme Ocean Palace, even though he was enchantingly demonic, his conduct was overall upright. In the Seven Nation Ranking Tournament, he was the first person who had spoken up for him, a person he had never spoke to before. He ruthlessly mocked the Divine Phoenix Crown Prince, Feng Ximing, and because of a small favor, acted against Ye Xinghan in the Primordial Profound Ark. It could've even been said that he had saved his and Feng Xue'er's lives.

"Senior Zi mentioned just now that that place can only be entered once every five hundred years. It was discovered one thousand three hundred years ago and could still be found there... Could it be that the barrier was deliberately left behind in a place where one could enter?" Yun Che asked.

"This was what I was about to say next," Zi Ji smiled faintly. Since everything had been revealed, he didn't really have any worries left. "The Ocean Palace ancestor guessed that the dark yin energy came from the very body of the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign, and no matter how powerful a profound beast, it would still one day reach the end of its lifespan. In that case, upon the death of the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign, the dark yin energy in the sealed Moon Slaughter Devil Nest would naturally disperse. The guardian mission would then thereby be accomplished, and Supreme Ocean Palace could break away from the Southern Ocean from then on.

"In order to easily confirm whether the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign was dead or alive, the Ocean Palace ancestor left a gap on the barrier, but set it so that it would open once every five hundred years. Moreover, in order to prevent the leakage of the massive yin energy, he also restricted the time it could be opened: only a hundred breaths! Since then, every five hundred years, Supreme Ocean Palace would dispatch disciples of the worst aptitude to enter and confirm the life or death of the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign. Since the start of six thousand and five hundred years ago, the disciples that entered had all came out alive. In other words, the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign is already dead now."

"Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign is already dead, yet Supreme Ocean Palace is still standing guard... This means that although the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign has died, the dark yin energy is still spreading... The dark yin energy isn't actually from the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign?" Yun Che said with sunken brows.

"Correct," Zi Ji heavily nodded. "If the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign leaves the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, that is merely a Tyrant Profound beast. It's not that frightening. The true terror is the endless yin energy which is coming from an unknown source. Supreme Ocean Palace has no choice but to continue guarding that area and maintain that barrier once every three years. And to this day, it has already been a full ten thousand years.

"In the several thousand years after confirming that the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign was already dead, Supreme Ocean Palace still makes disciples of the lowest aptitude enter once every five hundred

years, so as to avoid an accident from happening. In the end, all of those disciples came out alive, thereby completely asserting the death of the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign. After that, the number of people entering had decreased, and no longer was it only disciples of the lowest aptitude entering. A few elders, and even the Sovereign of the Seas, would join and go exploring. However, the yin energy within was just too heavy. Even though they were exceptionally strong practitioners, they would at most stay for tens of breaths before immediately coming out and sealing the barrier.

“As for the Netherworld Udumbara Flower that you are interested in... it was one thousand three hundred years ago, when the barrier had reached a full five hundred years and could open, that a few newly promoted curious elders who had never entered went in. After they quickly arrived at the end, they suddenly heard the eerie sound of a ghost wailing.”

“Ghost wailing... right!” Yun Che’s mind shook. Even though he had never seen the Netherworld Udumbara Flower, his master had once mentioned the Netherworld Udumbara Flower to him and said that it would let out the sound of an evil spirit’s crying and laughter.

“Hehe, following the sounds of the ghost wailing, they saw a three meter tall demonic flower. Its stems and leaves were purple black but its blossomed flower was an alluring bright purple. Above its petals, a faintly purple mist that seemed as though it was from the Netherworld surrounded the flower. The mist danced around the flower even though there was no wind as it made the frightening noise that sounded like a devil’s cries and laughter.

“From what all the Ocean Palace elders described, when they saw the purple demonic flower, they felt as though their souls were instantly sucked away from their bodies... In their shock, they immediately retreated from that area and resealed the barrier. However, after that, all of them who were Monarchs became severely sick and only recovered after several months. They then investigated and found that was the legendary evil demonic flower... the Netherworld Udumbara Flower.

“Since then, it has already been a thousand and three hundred years since someone entered the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest.”

Yun Che’s expression became slightly agitated as Zi Ji’s description of the Netherworld Udumbara Flower was completely the same as what his master described to him back then in Azure Cloud Continent!

“Yes, that must be the Netherworld Udumbara Flower for sure!” Yun Che nodded, “The Netherworld Udumbara Flower grows in places of extremely harsh yin energy, and the yin energy there is harsh to the extreme. Therefore, it is the most suitable place for the Netherworld Udumbara Flower to grow. Furthermore, because the area is isolated by a barrier, not only does the yin energy not disperse, it only becomes even stronger. That means that the Netherworld Udumbara Flower from a thousand and three hundred years ago should still exist, and furthermore, the possibility of there being more flowers exists.”

Zi Ji shook his head and laughed bitterly, “Although what you said is true, this old one has already told you that the Netherworld Udumbara Flower only blossoms once every twenty four years and it will wither within three days. The Moon Slaughter Devil Nest only opens once every five hundred years, and the longest you can stay in it is a hundred breaths. The probability that you encounter a blossomed flower within these hundred breaths... is like searching for a needle in the ocean.”

“However, I will still have to give it a try. After all, this is the only news regarding the Netherworld Udumbara Flower I’ve received so far.” Yun Che replied without hesitation, “Also... my luck has always been pretty good! What if the flower just so happens to be blossoming at that time!”

Zi Ji shook his head once again. “The elders of Supreme Ocean Palace who were in the Sovereign Profound Realm had merely caught sight of the Netherworld Udumbara Flower and their souls were nearly stolen away. The consequences of approaching and touching it is unthinkable. Even if the flower blossomed when you entered, how are you going to pick it?”

“As for that... this junior has his own ideas,” Yun Che replied calmly and confidently. The reason for his confidence was naturally due to the Sky Poison Pearl.

Yun Che removed ten Overlord Pellets from the Sky Poison Pearl, placed them in front of Zi Ji and said sincerely, “I thank Senior Zi Ji for the detailed sharing. This matter is of utmost importance to this junior. According to the agreement, these ten pellets will be sold to your respected merchant guild at the price of ten kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystals. At the same time, the amount of pellets I put up for auctioning will be reduced to twenty, not one pellet more.”

Zi Ji put away the ten Overlord pellets and looked thoughtfully at Yun Che. He knew that this youth was smart and shrewd and must have figured out something from their conversation just now. He did not talk about it and merely flipped his palm. A profound formation appeared and a deep purple spatial ring was pushed towards Yun Che. “Inside this is ten kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystals.”

Yun Che picked up the ring containing the purple crystals and scanned it quickly before depositing it into the Sky Poison Pearl. Then, he smiled at Zi Ji.

Ten kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystals... Divine Crystal, you know! Obtaining it just like that... was just too easy!!

“Yun Che, after settling the matter with the Divine Phoenix Sect, are you going to pay a visit to Supreme Ocean Palace?” Zi Ji asked with thoughtful looking eyes.

“Indeed I am.” Yun Che nodded, “This junior also roughly knows where the general location of Supreme Ocean Palace is.”

“Actually, you don’t have to be hasty.” Zi Ji smiled slightly, “In five months time, Supreme Ocean Palace will be hosting a ‘Devil Sword Conference’ and you are among those being invited. The invitation regarding this will be handed over to you in two months time.”

“Oh? Devil Sword Conference? What’s that?” Yun Che asked in shock. “And why invite me?”

“Hoho, about this matter, without permission, it is inconvenient for this old man to reveal. But when the time comes, you can ask the person who delivers the invitation, maybe he will resolve your confusion.”

“Oh...” Yun Che nodded his head slightly. His heart was filled with confusion, but he didn’t continue to ask. “If so, then it would be inconvenient for Junior to continue this visit. I will wait for news from Supreme Ocean Palace quietly.”

Until now, even though he still had not found out any news regarding Chu Yuechan, all his other objectives had already been fulfilled. He had even surprisingly gained extra information regarding the

“Netherworld Udumbara Flower” as well as confusing news with regards to the “Devil Sword Conference.” Yun Che stood up and cupped his fists together towards Zi Ji. “This junior has already troubled Senior Zi for long enough, it’s time for me to leave... Is my father-in-law Xia Hongyi... currently within the merchant guild?”

“Hoho...” Zi Ji seemed to have already known that he would ask about Xia Hongyi. He smiled lightly, flicked his fingers, and about six meters behind him, a yellow profound formation silently appeared there. “He’s at the first level of the Merchant Guild and has already been waiting for you for quite some time. You’ll be able to see him once you enter.”

“Thank you Senior Zi,” Yun Che nodded his head with some gratitude, gave the three young girls on the side a smile, and then turned around and walked into the profound formation.

A yellow light flashed, and Yun Che disappeared into the profound formation.

Zi Ji was slightly stunned for a good while before slowly sitting down. His face revealed a deeply complicated expression. After a while, he reached out his arm and carefully picked up an Overlord Pellet. His eyes expressed deep astonishment, and after he carefully examined it, he mumbled to himself in a low voice, “Such an overwhelming treasure of a pellet and yet it can be obtained so easily. This is indeed something earth-shattering... Furthermore, it has not even been named yet.

“This pellet emits six different type of auras, and each aura is different, varying in strength. The pellet helps one to become an Overlord, aids in the road to become a Monarch, and there are no underlying risks. It can be called the Emperor Pellet of this generation, so let’s call it...

“The Six Flavor Emperor Pellet.”

Chapter 697 - At the Gates of Phoenix City

With a flash of profound light, Yun Che was teleported to the first level of the Black Moon Merchant Guild.

As the lowest level within the Black Moon Merchant Guild, the aura of this place was naturally not as thick or pervasive as it was on the seventh level. Yun Che took in his surroundings; this was a simple yet elegant single-room apartment, and it likely served as an ordinary guestroom. But he did not manage to get a good look at the room because his gaze was fixed to a certain spot.

A middle-aged man with a refined appearance slowly stood up from a dark-red wooden study and smiled at him gently, “Che’er, you’ve come.”

Yun Che’s mouth opened as he felt his nose crinkle up. He quickly strode forward before falling heavily on his knees, “Uncle Xia...” He immediately paused before changing his mode of address, “Father-in-law, I have finally been able to be reunited with you once more.”

“Haha, stand up please.” Xia Hongyi extended a hand and hoisted Yun Che up as he measured him with a warm gaze before cheerfully acknowledging him, “In a mere blink of an eye, more than six years have passed, and you have grown up as well. Even though your appearance remains unchanged, when you married Qingyue, you were only up to my forehead, but now you are already half a head taller than me.”

Indeed, since the day he had been kicked out of the Xiao Clan, he had not seen Xia Hongyi. Furthermore, when he had returned to Floating Cloud City and wanted to pay a visit to Xia Hongyi, he discovered that he had long ago left home and that his current whereabouts were unknown. Not only that, but when Yun Che had arrived at Phoenix City three years ago, he found out by chance that Xia Hongyi was actually residing with the Black Moon Merchant Guild, but at that time, he could not bring himself to face Xia Hongyi, so he did not meet him... and now, six years had passed since this meeting.

Yun Che did not detect any negative feelings such as gloominess or solitude from Xia Hongyi; instead, he seemed to be possessed of a certain simple and elegant calm. This cheered Yun Che up greatly, and he let out a laugh as he said, "If we are speaking of growing up, Yuanba is the one who has truly 'grown up.' If Father-in-law saw Yuanba right now, you might not be able to recognize him."

"Oh? So that is to say that you've seen Yuanba recently?" Xia Hongyi asked as his smile became even warmer and his eyes shone with deep concern.

"Yes," Yun Che nodded his head heavily. The Black Moon Merchant Guild had the most comprehensive information network in the Profound Sky Continent, so he was confident that Xia Hongyi had been kept abreast of the current state of affairs. "Yuanba has truly become a magnificent man. Right now he is keeping watch over our Blue Wind Nation's final line of defence, and on his shoulders rests the heaviest and noblest burden of our Blue Wind Nation... As long as he is around, even if the Divine Phoenix Empire throws entire armies at him, they won't even be able to take half a step into our Imperial City!"

"Good... that is truly good." Xia Hongyi lightly nodded his head, and a deep sense of pride and contentment shone through his calm smile.

"Once our Blue Wind Nation has escaped this calamity and recovered its glory, the two of you can reunite once more... That day definitely isn't far away."

"Yuanba..." Xia Hongyi murmured softly and let out a hushed sigh that carried far too many complex emotions within. No one would have thought that... including Xia Hongyi, his very own father, that the Xia Yuanba whose gifts could only be called ordinary in Floating Cloud City and who had been the laughingstock of the Blue Wind Profound Palace had, within the span of a few short years, risen up like a phoenix, now stood at the very peak of the Profound Sky Continent, and had even caused the Four Sacred Grounds to go pale in shock and amazement.

Whereas others were shocked and left in disbelief at Xia Yuanba's transformation, Xia Hongyi's emotions seemed far more complex than that.

Both of them sat facing each other, and the two men were in high spirits; Yun Che had always held Xia Hongyi with the highest regard because, in the years he had lived in Floating Cloud City, he had only ever held two people of the older generation in regard... the first was his grandfather, Xiao Lie, and the other was Xia Hongyi. The main reason was, besides his closest relatives, Xia Hongyi was the only person that showed 'genuine care and concern' to this 'cripple,' and this perpetually gentle person had never, ever said a single word to oppose the marriage between his genius daughter and this 'cripple.' In fact, he had arranged the majority of the wedding by himself.

And having been through two lives worth of grievances, Yun Che was clearer than anyone on just how precious this kind of genuine warmth was in the face of universal ridicule and contempt.

When Xia Qingyue had entered Frozen Cloud Asgard and Xia Yuanba had gone missing... the blow dealt to Xia Hongyi at that time had been far too heavy. In order to track down Xia Yuanba, he had abandoned his family business, left Floating Cloud City, and had used the opportunity left behind by his ancestor to join the Black Moon Merchant Guild. Later, he had even seized a chance to enter the headquarters of the Black Moon Merchant Guild itself.

During the past few years in the Black Moon Merchant Guild, he would repeat the same routine every day. He would meet different people, and every other day he would try to find some news regarding his children and Yun Che, and this caused his heart to become more and more at peace.

“Father-in-law, I have a question that I am trying to find the answer to. But as a junior, I am really not sure if I should be asking this in the first place....” Facing Xia Hongyi, Yun Che really wanted to voice out the doubt that had been plaguing his heart for the longest time, but even though he had already decided that he was going to do it, he still hesitated when it came to actually asking the question... because, after all, it was extremely likely that it was the thing that Xia Hongyi was most sensitive about.

“You want to ask about... Yuanba and Qingyue’s mother, correct?” Xia Hongyi said gently as he looked at Yun Che

“...” A shocked expression appeared on Yun Che’s face.

“Haha, no matter who it is, they would definitely find it strange.” Xia Hongyi said as he gave a polite laugh, but after that, disappointment and frustration surfaced on his face as he continued, “Yuanba and Qingyue had clearly been born into a merchant family, and my Xia Family had been merchants for generations. My forefathers, my own departed father, and even myself, we had only dabbled in the profound way and held no interest towards it. However, Qingyue had possessed an extremely high aptitude towards the profound way from young, and Yuanba... in the past few years has displayed a talent that far outstrips that of mere mortals.”

Yun Che lapsed into a short silence before giving a light nod of his head. “Because I knew a bit more about the personal affairs of your family, I have always had more questions than other people.

“I already know that Yuanba possesses a special power that is known as the ‘Tyrannical Emperor’s Divine Veins.’ I am not sure what meaning the ‘Tyrannical Emperor’s Divine Veins’ hold, but what I do know is that the number one profound practitioner within the Profound Sky Continent—Absolute Monarch Sanctuary’s Saint Emperor thinks extremely highly of Yuanba. And three years ago, when his existence was finally exposed, it caused shockwaves that swept through the other three Sacred Grounds. During these three years, many people have tried to either openly or discreetly dig up my background as well, investigating my history and my level of profound strength. But all of them returned empty-handed, haha....”

Xia Hongyi gave a faint shake of his head, and as he let out a dry chuckle, the expression on his face was not one of helplessness; it was instead a self-deprecatory expression that others would not understand.

Xia Hongyi’s various responses clearly showed that he was not shocked nor was he unable to accept the heaven-defying aptitude that had been shown by both his son Xia Yuanba and his daughter Xia Qingyue. Instead, the general feeling Yun Che got from him was that of a deep-seated melancholy. He finally

opened his mouth and replied, "I actually only have a passing curiosity in regards to these things, so if Father-in-law does not want to talk about it, it's really fine..."

"It happened during a cold winter twenty five years ago." Before Yun Che's voice could completely fall, Xia Hongyi's rose up immediately. He raised his head to look at the green ceiling of the room, and his eyes swiftly grew hazy. "I had just secured a big deal outside the city, and it was already growing dark by the time I set off on my journey home. But it was then that I suddenly found myself in the middle of a blizzard. The bitter cold was hard to endure, and in order to make it back to Floating Cloud City before it got dark, I chose to take a shortcut and cut across some hills which were known to be inhabited by dangerous profound beasts. But we suddenly stopped in the middle of the journey, and my family servants reported to me that... they had discovered someone who had fainted in the snow in front of us.

"It was a young girl who looked to be about the same age as me. She was dressed all in white, but half of it had been stained red with blood. At that time, I was only just over twenty years of age, but being born into a merchant family, the principle that a merchant should never involve himself in the affairs of a profound practitioner had been deeply instilled into me since my childhood. Saving someone who was clearly being pursued by her enemies and whose background was completely unknown was an extremely big taboo for a merchant. But not only was that girl extremely beautiful, she also possessed a unique disposition that was impossible to describe. As she lay unconscious amidst the snow, her breathing was as light as gossamer and she looked so frail that it gave me an uncontrollable urge to protect her. In the end, I decided to rescue her and bring her back with me to Floating Cloud City... even though at that time I was already very clear that my actions were very likely to cause great tragedy to fall upon me."

"..." Yun Che listened silently, and he knew then that the girl that Xia Hongyi had rescued was actually Xia Yuanba and Xia Qingyue's mother.

To think that they had met in such dramatic fashion.

But just who was she and what status did she have?

"After I had brought her home, she did not awaken for a very long time and her lifeforce continued to weaken. So I searched all over for famous doctors, and I even made many trips to New Moon City to find doctors. But every single doctor that came said that 'her lifeforce had been completely exhausted and they were unable to turn the desperate situation around.' And after a whole seven days, when even I had begun to lose all hope, she suddenly managed to wake up... and after she had regained consciousness, not only was she extremely weak, but she had also lost all her memories."

"Lost all her memories?" Yun Che said as his brows knit together fiercely.

"That is right, she did not know why she was wounded nor did she know where she was from or even her own identity. It could be because she had suffered a memory loss induced by a head wound. But after that, she remained with the Xia Family, and because her physical condition was extremely weak, she rarely left the house at all. It was I who personally took care of her, and in order to nurse her back to health, I spared no expense in getting my hands on any valuable medicine that I could find... but what was odd was that no matter what tonic she took, in the end, she was still extremely weak. Even a light walk would leave her completely breathless. But what was fortunate was that she did not exhibit signs of any other illness."

Various tonics... and even major tonics, but she still remained weak? And at the same time, she did not show any signs of other illness?

The space between Yun Che's brows tightened, and a puzzled grimace flashed across his face.

"And because I had met her amidst the snow of a cold winter night, I gave her the name Dongyue. It was just nice that the summer of my family name (Xia) corresponded with the winter in hers (Dong). I was with her all through the day, and we became the light of each other's lives. Even though I never found out who she really was or where she really came from, I could not control my own feelings, and two years later, she and I became husband and wife. In addition, not long after that, she became pregnant, and because her body was too weak, those doctors advised her to abandon the child and that if she did not do so, the childbirth would be extremely dangerous. I also gave her the same advice, but she insisted on giving birth to the child... and in only seven months time, she suddenly went into early labor and gave birth to Qingyue.

"Perhaps it was because it was a premature birth and her mother's weak constitution, but when Qingyue was born, she neither moved nor cried, and her entire body was icy and cold. But just as the midwives and the doctors were about to declare her stillborn, we were extremely fortunate that your father, Xiao Ying, had rushed down and discovered that Qingyue still clung on to a thread of life, so he poured all of his profound energy into Qingyue's body, protecting her heart and her last chance at life. It was because Xiao Ying poured all his effort into saving her that Qingyue made a miraculous recovery two hours later and began to let out a wail..."

"..." Yun Che's heart was deeply stirred; this story was very well-known amongst the residents of Floating Cloud City, and he had already heard of it from Xiao Lie when he was young. It was precisely because Xiao Ying saved Xia Qingyue's life when she was young that Xia Hongyi, in the midst of boundless gratitude, had suggested that Xia Qingyue be married to Xiao Ying's son in order to repay the debt of gratitude they owed to him.

Xia Hongyi briefly closed his eyes before continuing, "At first, we thought that Qingyue, who had been struck by calamity just as she was born, was going to be a very sickly child. But what was amazing was that Qingyue was healthy and hale ever since and she grew up without trouble. Moreover, she was incomparably intelligent, and she possessed a wisdom that far exceeded her peers in terms of maturity. Her mother also made a swift recovery after giving birth to her, and within a month's time, she was as healthy as any other person, and she no longer suffered from a weak constitution. One year after that, she gave birth to Yuanba as well..."

When he had reached this point, Xia Hongyi suddenly came to an abrupt halt. His gaze was still fixed on the ceiling, and his eyes had completely misted over; his hands had begun to steadily shake as well. Being able to walk hand in hand with the one he loved, having a son and a daughter, seeing his wife completely recover from her previous ailment, and seeing their children grow up safe and sound while residing in relative luxury... in anyone's eyes, especially Xia Hongyi's own, he already had the most perfect life a man could ever ask for.

Xia Hongyi lapsed into silence for a long while, as if he had completely lost himself in the happiness and contentment that had filled that period of bliss in his life. It was only after a long time that Yun Che

finally broke the silence by saying, "And... what happened after that? Grandfather had told me that Yuanba and Qingyue's mother had passed away due to illness... was that true?"

Before, he had never had any suspicions regarding the matter, because he had no reason to be suspicious.

But now that he had come to this conclusion, he no longer had any reason to not be suspicious anymore.

"When Qingyue was four years old and Yuanba was three, she... left," Xia Hongyi said in a dazed voice.

"She... left?" Those two words contained many meanings.

"She flew away... she flew away like a celestial maiden."

Yun Che, "?!"

"On the day that she left, she suddenly regained the memories that had been sleeping within her for many years, and at the same time, she recovered the powers that lay dormant within her as well.... She did not stay for a day, in fact, she did not even stay for an hour... she left just like that... and even though she was weeping, she was also determined and resolute... she said that the moment she regained her powers, her aura had already been discovered... and if she did not leave, she would bring a huge catastrophe down on me and our children as well... and before she left, she told me that... we would never ever see each other again in this lifetime... and she told me to never go looking for her as well... and to treat her as if she had already...."

Xia Hongyi's voice was laced with immeasurable pain, and even though nearly twenty years had passed since then, his reaction proved that he had never been able to forget or find release from this agony. He had his enormous family holdings, and he was the head merchant of Floating Cloud City, but he had never married again nor did he take a concubine. So it could be imagined just how irreplaceable and important the girl that he had named "Dongxue" was to him and the special place that she had in his heart.

"Then, did she... mention ... even briefly or fuzzily... the place that she was leaving to?" Yun Che asked in a small voice as he pondered deeply on how he would be able to console the present Xia Hongyi.

Xia Hongyi did not shake his head. He only let out a small sigh, and in a voice that was as fleeting as summer mist, he replied with five words that he had etched deeply into his heart. Five words that had not amounted to any new information or lead to anything else....

"The Realm of the Gods."

"!!" When he heard those words, Yun Che received a huge shock and did not recover for a long period of time.

When Yun Che finally strode out of the Black Moon Merchant Guild, it had already begun to approach midday.

He looked at the bright, dazzling sky and gave a heavy sigh that was filled with emotion. "Who would have thought that the situation with Qingyue and Yuanba's mother... was actually so complicated and bizarre. No wonder they had such frightening innate gifts. One possessed the Tyrannical Emperor's

Divine Veins while the other had the Heart of Snow Glazed Glass and the Nine Profound Exquisite Body.... To think that their mother hailed from such a place.

"The first time I heard the name 'Realm of the Gods' was from the Dragon God. And this time, I actually heard it from Uncle Xia's own mouth," Yun Che said as he let out a long sigh, his heart troubled by aftershock of the revelation.

"To be able to give birth to children who possess the Tyrannical Emperor's Divine Veins and the Heart of Snow Glazed Glass, even if that woman is from the Realm of the Gods, she definitely has a very high status there," Jasmine said blandly.

"There is no woman who would truly be willing to be part with her husband and her children forever... she definitely had her own difficulties that were hard to bring up." Yun Che muttered to himself, "If there is a day that I am able to go to that place that is known as the 'Realm of the Gods,' then perhaps I can try to locate her whereabouts... even if it is just for Yuanba and Qingyue's sake."

Having felt Yun Che's spirit ripple when he was muttering to himself, Jasmine, who was inside the Sky Poison Pearl, raised a delicate eyebrow before suddenly asking, "Do you really have plans to travel to the Realm of the Gods?"

"Of course." Yun Che nodded his head forthrightly. "After all, I personally made a promise to the Dragon God all those years ago that I would do my best to find and reach the place known as the Realm of the Gods. The only reason why I can possess such a strong body bloodline, and soul is because he destroyed himself in order to bestow his blessings upon me. So I will definitely give my all in trying to accomplish what I promised him. However, if I use all my power... but I am unable to reach that level, then I will naturally be helpless to do anything."

"I suggest that you rid yourself of such foolish notions right away," Jasmine said in an icy and cold tone.

"Eh? Why is that so? Do you not want me to go there?" Yun Che asked in a rather stunned voice.

"Hmph, now is not the time for you to think of such things." Jasmine forcefully changed the subject, "What you should be puzzling out is just what kind of relationship this Black Moon Merchant Guild has with Supreme Ocean Palace."

"Ah, there is no real need to think about this." Yun Che replied as he turned around and eyed the pitch-black crescent moon which soared into the clouds, "The power that is standing behind the Black Moon Merchant Guild is Supreme Ocean Palace... or perhaps you could say that the Black Moon Merchant Guild was originally the other half of Supreme Ocean Palace.

"The other three Sacred Grounds have their own enormous supply chains and their own resource domains while Supreme Ocean Palace is located in an ocean domain that is surrounded by water. Yet their position amongst the Four Sacred Grounds has never waned, and they have even surpassed Sun Moon Divine Hall and Mighty Heavenly Sword Region and are only second to Absolute Monarch Sanctuary in terms of power. If they did not have a huge resource pool located on the main continent, how would they have been able to reach such a position. This enormous supply chain is naturally the Black Moon Merchant Guild.

“Zi Ji should have been able to guess that I would be able to deduce the relationship between the Black Moon Merchant Guild and Supreme Ocean Palace from his words. However, I do not think this is a secret when it comes to the Sacred Grounds. And in the end, Zi Ji forcefully bought ten Overlord Pellets from me and viciously scammed the other three Sacred Grounds.” Yun Che stroked his chin and continued, “At present, his Supreme Ocean Palace are the sole possessors of ten Overlord Pellets while the other three Sacred Grounds will have to vie for the remaining twenty pellets.... No! Supreme Ocean Palace will definitely come in for the twenty pellets that still remain, or else, it will arouse the suspicions of the other three Sacred Grounds. In this situation, every Sacred Ground should be able to secure five pellets, leaving Supreme Ocean Palace with fifteen of them....”

“Yes, and then my Frozen Cloud Asgard will have three thousand pellets!”

“And so, the Sacred Grounds only amount to this in the end, hahahaha!” As Yun Che continued his ruminations, his spirits rose immediately and he began to swagger towards the west... in the direction of the Divine Phoenix Sect.

“Hmph, you used a Heavenly Profound Treasure, the Sky Poison Pearl, to refine such things, yet you use it to look down on a bunch of inferior powers. You are practically profaning a sacred object! How dare you still be so conceited because of that!” Jasmine gave cold snort of extreme contempt.

“Now, just how should I go about settling my debt....” Yun Che looked in the direction of the Divine Phoenix Sect and his voice suddenly grew sinister.

Phoenix City was located at the north-western part of Divine Phoenix City, and it belonged to Divine Phoenix City and stood alone at the same time; it was a unique city within a city. Phoenix City was the same as the Divine Phoenix Imperial Palace, they were both core pillars of the Divine Phoenix Sect. The difference was that one represented the seat of their power while the other represented the seat of their authority. It could be said that both places had incomparable prestige and military power within the Divine Phoenix Empire, and even if one included the rest of the Profound Sky Seven Nations, these two places would still have no equal.

As Yun Che approached Phoenix City, a pressure which caused one’s heart to race and scorching air welcomed him.

This would be the second time Yun Che visited this place. But compared to three years ago, both his mission and his mood was drastically different this time around. As he looked at the phoenix sculpture which raised its head and spread its wings as it radiated a scorching hot brilliance, he no longer experienced the respect and awe that he had three years ago. Instead, what flashed in his mind was the desolated lands of Blue Wind Nation, the cities which had been reduced to rubble, the citizens of his nation who had lost everything, and the battlefield filled with blood and littered with bones... Cang Wanhe’s memorial tablet... Cang Yue’s tears... the cheers of the Blue Wind soldiers... Sikong Du’s wail of fury and despair....”

The fires of rage and hatred were lit in his chest, and they fiercely welled up... he could not forget the reason he had come to this place and the mission he had to accomplish, and he could definitely not forget the fifty million blood-drenched people... and the hatred of a nation that had nearly been consigned to the oblivion of history.

“Who is it?! This is Phoenix City, not a place that commoners like you should approach, hurry up and leave!”

In front of the gates of Phoenix City, a Divine Phoenix disciple who was guarding the gate strode forth as he yelled at Yun Che with an arrogant tone.

“Eh? Why does this person seem kind of familiar?” Another disciple who was on the right of the first disciple said as his mouth slanted.

Yun Che faintly narrowed his eyes faintly, and he gently said in the most even tone, “Go and report to your Sect Master, Feng Hengkong, that Yun Che has arrived to pay him a visit.”

Even though his tone was gentle and slow, every single word spoken contained a killing intent that was beginning to froth over.

Chapter 698 - Destroying the Phoenix God Sculpture

“Yun... Yun Che!?”

Even if it was the name of someone who had fallen three years ago, in the ears of the Divine Phoenix disciples, it resounded like a thunderclap. The disciple to the right instantly realized why the face in front of him seemed so familiar... Three years ago, during the Seven Nations Ranking Tournament, he was one of the guards as well. In fact, he was on one side of the main gates during that event!

Even after the two disciples had gotten over their shock, the arrogance on their face did not decrease in the slightest... because this place was Divine Phoenix City, and they were Divine Phoenix disciples who possessed the bloodline of the Phoenix, the most noble existence within the Seven Nations. Not to mention one Yun Che, even if the emperors of the other six countries came, they might still not treat them with respect.

“Didn’t Yun Che die three years ago? Could this be an imposter?”

“Who cares if he’s an imposter, to think that he would have the audacity to request a meeting with our revered Sect Master the moment he arrived? Haha, how do you have the face to do such a thing?”

“Could it be that you have come to plead on behalf of the tiny Blue Wind Nation that is about to be extinguished? Hehe...” The two disciples who were guarding the gate looked at each other and simultaneously let out a huge roar of laughter together.

“Hehe.” Yun Che joined in as well before continuing, “Forget it, I don’t need you to convey my message anymore, This has truly been a waste of my time. I’ll call him out myself.”

While he was coldly laughing, Yun Che strode a step forward as his entire body burned with a crimson red flame that was tinged with dull gold. The wild laughter of the two disciples died the moment the Golden Crow Flames were ignited. Their phoenix robe began to suddenly smoulder as flames quickly spread to their entire body, causing them to frantically retreat while letting out wails of pain.

Boom!!

The Golden Crow Flames rushed forward and exploded with a loud bang as a pillar of fire shot hundreds of meters into the air; the sound reverberating throughout the entire Phoenix City was loud enough to

shock the heavens. The emblem of the Divine Phoenix Sect's might and prestige, the grand gate and the Phoenix God Sculpture, which had been standing for all five thousand years of Divine Phoenix City's existence, came crashing to the ground as they shattered into little pieces...

Gathered within the Phoenix Main Hall were all the core members of the current generation of the Divine Phoenix Sect. Among the fifty-six elders of the Divine Phoenix Sect, besides the deceased original great elder, Feng Feiyan; the deceased Nineteenth elder, Feng Feiheng; the deceased Forty-Third elder, Feng Feiyang; the deceased Fifty-Second elder, Feng Hengjiang; and the two other elders who were still supervising the invasion of Blue Wind Nation, the rest of the elders had taken their seats and not a single elder of them was missing.

Given the absolute power the Divine Phoenix Sect possessed over the rest of the seven nations, for the past few millennia, all their elders had died from old age rather than falling in a battle against others. Feng Feiyan richly deserved the miserable death he earned for himself, and it brooked no discussion. But today, within the span of a single day, the soul crystals of three elders had shattered; they had all fallen in Blue Wind Nation. In the history of the Divine Phoenix Empire, this kind of thing had never happened before, and no one would have ever thought that the elders of the Divine Phoenix Sect, all of whom were at least mid stage Overlords and were invincible existences to the other six nations, would end up falling in Blue Wind Nation when they had just gone there as supervisors.

The atmosphere of this grand meeting of the elders was oppressive right from the get go. But the surprising thing was that the main topic of discussion was not the death of three elders, but instead the return of one person from the dead...

Yun Che!!

The discussion ranged from the dramatic increase in Yun Che's profound strength that allowed him to kill Feng Huwei, the words that he had conveyed using Feng Huwei's death imprint the day before... and the suspicion that he was the main culprit behind the disappearance of that Divine Phoenix Army that was several hundred thousand strong.

The name of Yun Che was naturally known to all the gathered elders of the Divine Phoenix Sect. The fact that he came back alive from the Primordial Profound Ark, which had suddenly disappeared, was enough to stun them all. However, as they gradually realized that the main agenda for the elder meeting that Feng Hengkong had convened was to discuss how to deal with Yun Che, even suggested that they should invite one of the grand elders out of seclusion in order to personally make the journey towards Blue Wind Nation to kill Yun Che, the expressions of all the elders turned into ones of bewilderment and astonishment... Yun Che's return from the dead was indeed bizarre, and the fact that his profound strength had advanced to such a degree, wherein he was able to kill Feng Huwei, was indeed alarming. Given the fact that he was the Prince Consort of Blue Wind Nation, his intention to avenge his country against the Divine Phoenix Empire was completely understandable... However, he was only a mere Yun Che; even if his present strength was ten times stronger than what was previously estimated, what threat did he possess to merit such a large-scale mobilization of the Divine Phoenix Empire... and what qualifications did he possess for them to consider requesting one of their grand elders to come out of seclusion to personally deal with him?

It was only when Feng Hengkong brought up the matter with Feng Xue'er... that they all suddenly came to a realization.

As Feng Xue'er was the future Phoenix God of the Divine Phoenix Sect, no matter how small the matter was, anything related to her would be a huge issue that the Divine Phoenix Sect could definitely not ignore! If she truly held Yun Che in such high regard... then given the fact that the die had already been cast in regards to the current situation between the Divine Phoenix Empire and Blue Wind Nation, in addition to the attitude Yun Che had displayed since his return, Yun Che had to be eliminated in the shortest amount of time possible at all costs!!

Since this was the case, in order to ensure that there would be no accidents, even if mobilizing a grand elder was akin to using a cleaver to kill a chicken, as long as the matter concerned Princess Snow, then it was something that had to be done.

At this time, a huge explosion rang out from outside, and it was as if a thunderbolt had descended from the heavens to strike the grand hall, causing the entire hall to tremble violently.

"What's going on?!" Feng Hengkong and the gathered elders immediately shot to their feet. The light of fire shone on their faces as the Crown Prince of the Divine Phoenix Empire, Feng Ximing, rushed into the hall with blazing speed as he urgently yelled, "Father Emperor, we are under attack! The gate of Phoenix City and the Phoenix God Sculpture... have been destroyed by someone!!"

"What?!" Feng Hengkong's complexion abruptly changed, and all the elders had also turned pale from shock. Even though the recent explosion had shaken the heavens, they still maintained their composure. Despite being caught off-guard, no one had panicked. They were the Divine Phoenix Sect, and no one would dare to act rashly against them when they were in the territory of the Divine Phoenix Sect. As such, it was most likely an accident, but even if someone was trying to pick a fight with them, that person would only be courting death... however, the city gate and the Phoenix God Sculpture, which represented the might of the Divine Phoenix had been destroyed... so this was no longer just simply a rash act of violence against them; this was an action that had completely stepped beyond the bottom line of what the Divine Phoenix Sect could endure!

Feng Hengkong took the lead as he immediately rushed out of the Phoenix Main Hall; all the elders followed closely behind him. As they looked in the direction of the city gate, their faces immediately turned dark and grim...

The Divine Phoenix City gate had stood for an entire five thousand years, and the Phoenix God Sculpture above it was the symbol of their Divine Phoenix Sect. It was customary for an elder of the sect to personally come and imbue the sculpture with Phoenix fire once every seven days, so every corner of Divine Phoenix City would be able to bask in the eternal glory and firelight of the Phoenix flames exuded by the Phoenix God Sculpture. It was not only a simple Phoenix God Sculpture; rather, it was a representation of the Divine Phoenix Sect's five thousand years of pride and glory.

When normal people gazed at the Phoenix God Sculpture from afar, they would be overwhelmed by a sense of irresistible intimidation, and even their manner of walking would become more withdrawn and cautious. Even if members of the Four Sacred Grounds arrived, they would not dare to display a disrespectful attitude in front of the Phoenix God Sculpture...

But at this moment, all they saw was that the Phoenix God Sculpture, which had stood hundreds of meters tall, had been toppled from the sky... it fragmented into many pieces before falling to the ground with a loud boom. Then, it was burned into a crimson red pile of slag along with the city gate.

The collapse of the Phoenix God Sculpture could clearly be seen even from the outskirts of Divine Phoenix City, and it undoubtedly caused a great commotion throughout the entire city as nearly everyone either stood rooted in place or rushed out of the buildings as they all stared dazedly in the direction of Divine Phoenix City.

“Who... who was the person who did this!?” Feng Hengkong’s hair exploded outwards as every strand of his hair stood on end. Molten rage poured out from his body in a manner that was akin to a volcanic eruption. To think that the Phoenix God Sculpture would be destroyed during his reign... this was an intolerable insult! No matter who the culprit was, just based on this action alone, that person and everything related to that person would become the mortal enemies of the Divine Phoenix Sect... and as long as neither of them died, there would be no end to matters!

“To think that someone would dare to profane our sect’s Divine Spirit... and touch our sect’s reverse scale(refer to note at the end)! Unforgivable!” Feng Feiran, the Second Elder of the Divine Phoenix, said in a voice which trembled with anger.

“I will personally rip him to shreds!”

Boom!!

Feng Hengkong morphed into a beam of fire as he rushed towards the city gate. He had actually left a sonic boom in his wake as he shot out into the air; anyone could tell just how volatile the fury in his heart was.

All of the Divine Phoenix Sect elders followed suit. Fifty Divine Phoenix Sect elders mobilizing along with their Sect Master was something that had rarely ever been seen in the history of the Divine Phoenix Sect. Moreover, the destruction of the city gate and the Phoenix God Sculpture was akin to a thunderclap exploding within the Divine Phoenix Sect, and all of the princes, hall masters, palace masters, attendants, high-ranked disciples, and low-ranked disciples were all stunned into insensibility. No matter how important the affairs they were attending to at the moment, without caring for any possible repercussions, they immediately ceased work as all of them rushed towards the city gate as well.

In one brief moment, the entire Phoenix City had been thrown into disarray as it was enveloped in an aura which was both scorching and furious. People began to congregate in the air like a swarm of locusts.

Divine Phoenix City gate... oh, now, the gate did not exist anymore, and the only thing left was a tower of rubble. The Phoenix Flames within the Phoenix God Sculpture had also completely dissipated following the destruction of the sculpture. Although it had blazed out at first as a large conflagration of crimson red flames, it still quickly died out as well.

In front of the rubble lay the two lucky Divine Phoenix disciples who were responsible for guarding the gate. With their pupils dilated, they lay there paralyzed, their legs fiercely trembling and their faces completely white with shock. The stark terror on their faces made it seem like they had just woken up

from a nightmare, and they had even completely forgotten the pain inflicted upon them by the Golden Crow Flames.

Fire and sand quickly fell to the earth, revealing a figure that was standing atop the rubble. Feng Hengkong left a windstorm in his wake as he cleaved through the air. Once he had taken a look at the person who was on top of the rubble, his eyes immediately widened as crackling flames washed over his entire body. "Yun Che... it's... you!!!"

Even though Feng Hengkong was extremely furious, he did not lose his composure. In fact, during the time he had spent flying here, he had already made several guesses... but the only potential culprits he could think of were the Four Sacred Grounds! At the same time, he realized that there was a possibility that the death of the Phoenix God had already been completely exposed!

Because only the Four Sacred Grounds, under the condition that they had confirmed the death of the Phoenix God, would dare to attack the Divine Phoenix Sect in such a blatant manner!

However, he had not even given any thought that it would be Yun Che. He had one reason which was sufficient to rule him out completely... and that was the fact that when Yun Che had used Feng Huwei's death soul imprint to communicate with him yesterday, he was still in Blue Wind Nation. Moreover, Floating Cloud City was fifty thousand kilometers away from Divine Phoenix City, and without the high grade Profound Ark that only the Sacred Grounds possessed, it would be impossible for him to reach this place within a day.

Yet the person who was standing atop the heap was indeed Yun Che.

And while Feng Hengkong was still shocked and furious, he also let out a huge sigh of relief at the same time. Unless it was the Four Sacred Grounds, the Divine Phoenix Sect would not feel the least bit intimidated. Furthermore, it was also clear that the death of the Phoenix God had not been exposed to the world, so the danger that had flashed through his mind did not materialize in reality.

In addition, the best part of it all was that, while they were busy discussing the matter of eliminating Yun Che, he had actually delivered himself to their doorstep... and he had done so when all the elders were gathered! He had even given them an extremely good reason to kill him... a reason so good that there would be no better reason in existence! Originally, due to the fact that he had rescued Princess Snow three years ago, if they had killed Yun Che and news of it got out, they would undoubtedly face a lot of criticism. But today, he had personally destroyed the Phoenix God Sculpture, so even killing him ten thousand times would not be unreasonable!

So, no matter what, Yun Che should not think... that he would be leaving this place alive today! With that, Feng Hengkong could settle a matter that had been gnawing at his heart.

"Humph, you sure picked a great time to come, all of the people behind Feng Hengkong are in the mid to late stages of the Tyrant Profound Realm, so they should all be elders of the Divine Phoenix Sect. To think that they would all be gathered together in one place, they must have been in the middle of a grand meeting," Jasmine said as she gloated at Yun Che's misfortune.

Yun Che crossed both of his arms over his chest as his mouth slanted and crooked into a brash and sinister cold smile. He was facing Feng Hengkong and all the gathered elders and disciples of the Divine Phoenix Sect, but his face was devoid of any fear. Instead, he faced them with that cold smile as he said,

“Divine Phoenix Sect Master, we have not met in the past three years, so I hope that you are still in good health. Che, to think that all those years ago, Divine Phoenix Sect Master was fixated on getting rid of me, to the extent that you did not forget to arrange for someone to assassinate me when we were on the Primordial Profound Ark. Ah, but to think that in just the short span of three years you have become so courteous. I have just arrived, but not only did Divine Phoenix Sect Master come to personally greet me, you even brought all the elders and disciples in the sect to welcome me as well... Ah, this truly makes this humble one feel rather embarrassed.”

Chapter 699 - Rebuking Divine Phoenix

Even though Feng Hengkong inwardly sighed in relief while facing Yun Che’s mocking taunts, he still couldn’t suppress the fury that was welling up in his heart, causing his killing intent to multiply. He didn’t have the ability to change the fact that the Phoenix God Sculpture had been reduced to rubble, and this insult had already been thrown at his face. As the current Divine Phoenix Emperor, his humiliation would be recorded in the records of the Divine Phoenix Nation, and he would never be able to wipe it away.

“Yun Che... Good... you’re very good indeed!” Feng Hengkong could no longer be bothered with what method Yun Che used to travel from Floating Cloud City to Divine Phoenix City within the span of a day. Instead, he rasped out these words in a low voice, “Three years ago, you somehow managed to survive by the skin of your teeth... but I would have never expected that you will be so eager to throw your life away!!”

The elders and princes of the Divine Phoenix Sect had all assembled, and the addition of all the other Phoenix disciples who were also rushing towards their location at the fastest speed possible formed a giant crowd of enemies that firmly surrounded Yun Che.

This was the first time in the history of the Divine Phoenix Sect that the entire sect had been put on full alert. It was also the first time they had assembled in such an enormous battle formation.

“It’s actually you!” The Divine Phoenix Empire’s Crown Prince, Feng Ximing, stared at Yun Che in disbelief as his eyes glowed with an intense hatred that practically exploded outwards. He was one of the first people to find out that Yun Che was still alive. Because of what had happened with Feng Xue’er, his hatred for Yun Che even surpassed that of Feng Hengkong... however, the majority of this hatred had nothing to do with the Divine Phoenix Sect. Instead, it was born of an insane jealousy which had given birth to this boundless killing intent!

“You presumptuous and insolent cur! Three years ago, our sect let bygones be bygones and showed you mercy, but to think that you would actually dare to... actually dare to destroy our sect’s great gate and our Phoenix God Sculpture!” The new great elder, Feng Feilie, pointed a finger at Yun Che as his whole body trembled in anger, “Even if you were to die tens of thousands of times, you would never be able to redeem yourself of this sin!!”

“Hahahaha!” Yun Che tilted his head back as he roared in laughter, but subsequently, both his expression and his voice abruptly turned dark and cold, “You bunch of mangy old dogs from the Divine Phoenix Sect, do you still have any face to criticize me!? My Blue Wind Nation never had any quarrel with your Divine Phoenix Nation, and for a thousand years, we had also paid a tribute to your Divine Phoenix Nation. We had never failed to do this even once, so what crime did we commit against you!?”

Yet in the last three years, without cause or reason, you have trampled over my Blue Wind Nation, destroying its cities, killing its people, and causing mountains of bodies and rivers of blood to appear in my nation. Countless of innocent people died in your hands, and even more of them were rendered homeless and destitute! Even the old, the women and the children were not spared. In three short years, you have turned a peaceful and harmonious nation into a hell that is filled with terror!

“Your actions are simply the ones which have infuriated both the gods and men, and your crimes are too innumerable to count!

“I have merely destroyed your decrepit old gate and your worn-down statue, yet even dying tens of thousands of times would not be enough to redeem myself? If that is so, then in order to make up for the crimes committed by you people which have infuriated both the gods and men, shouldn’t your entire clan, down to its very roots, have its bones scattered to the winds hundreds of thousands of times?”

“How dare you!” Feng Feiran roared in anger, “This basic law of survival in this world has always been the survival of the fittest! It is only just and proper for our Divine Phoenix Empire to swallow the weak and expand its territory! For five thousand years, our Divine Phoenix Empire has been under the protection of the Phoenix God. Since the time of our ancestor, our nation has been blessed by a divine spirit! It is not something your tiny and pitiful Blue Wind Nation can compare to! This Phoenix God Sculpture represented the prestige and the divine might of our ultimate ancestor, yet you dared to destroy it, profaning and trampling on the dignity of the divine spirit. Even if all the people in your tiny Blue Wind Nation died as compensation for this heinous crime, it would still not be enough!”

“Divine spirit? Hah!” Yun Che gave a low and cold chuckle, “To think that you would still have the face to mention the Phoenix Divine Spirit? History has indeed been established by the law of the survival of the fittest, but the wars of humanity have always been governed by one basic principle: innocents should never be harmed!. Yet you have burned Blue Wind Nation to cinders and wantonly slaughtered its innocent people. To top it all off, you even used the Phoenix flames bestowed upon you by the very same Phoenix Divine Spirit that you keep on talking about!

“The Phoenix is a sacred beast from the Primordial Era, and the Phoenix flames are a kind of profound fire that has been deemed ‘sacred flames’! Yet all of you, the inheritors of the Phoenix’s bloodline and power, have used the Phoenix flames to commit vicious acts of evil which even an animal would not stoop to! All of you have stained the originally pure and sacred flames of the divine spirit with the blood of countless innocents and your dirty deeds... So who exactly has profaned and trampled on the dignity of the divine spirit!?”

Feng Feilie roared, “You!”

“The Phoenix bloodline within my body came from the other Phoenix Divine Spirit!!” Yun Che’s cold gaze landed upon every single face he saw with a mixture of hate, fury and contempt, “And it had also existed for at least as long as your ancestor’s Phoenix God! But do you know why no other Phoenix Sect emerged as well? That is because... many years ago, when someone who had inherited the flames was fighting with his enemies, he let his Phoenix flames go out of control, burning down an entire city, and causing the deaths of many innocent people. In its fury, the other Phoenix Divine Spirit inflicted the other clan who had inherited the Phoenix bloodline with a terrible curse; a curse that restricted their

profound strength to the Elementary Profound Realm forever! Furthermore, this curse was inherited from one generation to the next, never dying out!”

Yun Che’s words caused a huge change in the expressions of the disciples of the Divine Phoenix Sect who were present; some of them even displayed shock and fear on their faces.

“It was only that one incident in which the out of control Phoenix Flames burned down a city by mistake, yet that entire clan had to suffer a curse that lasted for a thousand years. That clan could only cower in a desolate corner of the land to repent for their sins for generations, without daring to show their faces again! And what about the lot of you!? The sins you have committed are ten thousand times worse than theirs! Yet you still have the nerve to talk about how you are protected by the Phoenix Divine Spirit! Pah!

“I destroyed this Phoenix God Sculpture, but the lot of you have already lost the right to be called a Phoenix clan! Allowing the sacred sculpture of the Phoenix to reside in your sin-stained and dirty lands will only tarnish the prestige and holiness of the Phoenix!”

Yun Che extended a finger and pointed at the sect master of the Divine Phoenix Sect, “Feng Hengkong! If the Phoenix Divine Spirit is truly still in this world and witnessed the vicious, evil and extremely dirty deeds that you have committed, it would personally exterminate your entire clan... if not, it is unworthy to be called a spirit of the Phoenix!”

“Silence!” Feng Hengkong roared furiously as blood rushed to his head. Three years prior, he had already experienced the might of Yun Che’s tongue, and today, nearly the entire Divine Phoenix Sect had mobilized and surrounded Yun Che, yet they were all still furiously rebuked by him; at this moment, they were losing the upper hand! Furthermore, Yun Che’s voice was as loud as thunder, and he could be clearly heard throughout the entire Divine Phoenix City; every word he spoke had viciously besmirched the prestige and glory of the Divine Phoenix Sect. Feng Hengkong continued to roar in fury, “Yun Che, you have destroyed our Divine Phoenix Sculpture without any justifiable reason and offended our ancestor and the Phoenix God, yet you still dare to label us as unrighteous?! Every action taken by my Divine Phoenix Sect has been done with the approval of our ancestor’s Phoenix God! Do not even try to slander our good name and demonize us in public...”

“Hahahahaha!” Before Feng Hengkong could finish speaking, he was immediately cut off by the wild laughter that spilled out of Yun Che’s mouth. At the same time, the look in Yun Che’s eyes grew even more contemptuous and disdainful, “Feng Hengkong, even though I have nothing but loathing for you, I had always thought that the reason you were able to become the Divine Phoenix Sect’s Sect Master was because you were solemn and upright. I thought you are at least someone who would not besmirch the reputation of the Phoenix. But I would have never thought that you, the one who represents the bloodline, power, status and five thousand years of glory bestowed by the Phoenix Divine Spirit, would not only be unrepentant for your crimes which soar to the heavens, you would even throw this dirty water that is stained with the blood of countless innocents onto the head of the Phoenix Divine Spirit as well!!”

“You...” Feng Hengkong said as his body violently trembled.

“How can you face the bloodline that burns within your body!? How can you face the Phoenix Divine Spirit?! Is there even a shred of humanity or conscience left within your soul?! And after you have passed on... where will you find the nerve to face your ancestors?!”

“Xue’er’s heart is as pure as driven snow, and she has the soul of an angel! Yet she has you, a vicious, evil and ungrateful person as a father, someone who is even lower than the lowest of animals! Not only are you unworthy to possess the bloodline of the Phoenix, you are not even worthy to be the Divine Phoenix Emperor, and you are even less worthy to be Xue’er’s father!!”

Yun Che’s every word caused Feng Hengkong to go completely berserk with anger, leaving his heart completely devoid of any feelings of mercy. Every single one of Yun Che’s words were needle-sharp and laced with venom as they directly struck at Feng Hengkong’s vulnerable spots. Every muscle in Feng Hengkong’s face twitched with fury, and due to his extreme rage, the profound energy in his body produced a backlash against him, causing blood to spurt out of his mouth.

“Even though your death is at hand, you still dare to slander us and speak so impudently!” At Feng Hengkong’s side, Feng Ximing furiously yelled in response, “Royal father, this little animal has destroyed our Divine Phoenix Sculpture, and afterwards, he has even slandered our Divine Phoenix Sect. Even if he had saved Xue’er’s life before, there is still no reason for us to forgive him! Let us just proceed to capture and execute him right here and now!!”

“That is right! Royal father and the gathered elders do not need to waste their time talking to him! Just kill him... and rip his body to shreds!!”

The one who spoke was the Fourteenth Prince, Feng Xiluo! The moment he had seen Yun Che, both his eyes widened, his teeth ground together, and his gaze became filled with hatred! Three years ago, he had fought a duel with Yun Che during the Seven Nations Ranking Tournament, and because he could not accept the humiliation of defeat, he burned his own blood essence in an effort to beat Yun Che. But not only was he still miserably defeated, the loss of blood essence caused his profound strength to plummet from the eighth stage of the Emperor Profound Realm to the seventh stage of the Emperor Profound Realm. And what made it even worse was that his innate talent had been irreparably damaged due to his actions.

Despite three years having gone by with him using countless amounts of spirit medicine and purple crystals, he had only managed to barely force his way back into the initial stages of the eighth stage of the Emperor Profound Realm. Even then, he had not regained the strength that he had three years prior. Furthermore, his talent was no longer ranked as the best amongst the young generation, and he no longer had the exalted status that he had once held amongst the princes; his fall had been dramatic and sudden.

Throughout the entire process, not once had Feng Xiluo blamed his own impulsive stupidity, instead his mind had conspired to shift all of the blame to Yun Che, causing him to hate Yun Che to the very bone. Now that he saw that Yun Che was in the pink of health, he was filled with so much anger and hatred that he had nearly shattered a tooth in rage. If not for the fact that he knew that he was definitely no match for the current Yun Che, he would have rushed towards him like a rabid dog in a bid to rip him to pieces.

Feng Hengkong's breath had grown hot as his chest rose and fell urgently and dramatically; anyone could well imagine the damage Yun Che's scolding had inflicted on him. He extended a hand and said in a quavering voice, "Kill him at once!"

"Directly smash him to death... do not leave his corpse intact!!"

This was a direct order to kill personally given by Feng Hengkong in front the gates of Phoenix City! The words 'do not leave his corpse intact' evidently displayed the extreme wrath and murderous intent that swelled in his heart.

After the elimination order had been given, Yun Che's front, back and sides were completely blocked off. One person shot out from each direction to confront Yun Che, and each and every single one of them was an elder of the Divine Phoenix Sect! In the great assembly that had just been held, Feng Hengkong stated that Feng Huwei had died in Yun Che's hands, so it clearly indicated that his power had already reached that of a mid stage Overlord... or perhaps even a late stage Overlord! As such, the four elders that confronted Yun Che did not let their guards down; they took action together in order to destroy Yun Che in an instant!

Behind them, there were still many elders and disciples of the Divine Phoenix Sect waiting in the wings.... No matter what happened today, even if Yun Che had ten thousand lives, he could forget about leaving this place alive today.

Chapter 700 - What Now?

Four Divine Phoenix Elders attacked at the same time. Due to the surging Phoenix flames, the air was instantly dyed scarlet and rumbled as though lava had just been spewed out from the depths of an erupting volcano.

A sneer still remained on Yun Che's face and when the four Phoenix Elders charged over, he also mobilized, releasing a similar scarlet fire type profound aura as he charged at the Phoenix Elders, not just targeting one of them, but instead all of them!

The four Phoenix Elders all saw the figure of Yun Che approaching them with a violent and terrifying aura!

Upon witnessing this scene, nearly all the surrounding members of the Divine Phoenix Sect who were watching let out a small cry. As for the Phoenix Elders, they all had a calm expression, and some of them even snorted in disdain, "Hmph, playing with afterimages..."

During an intense and close battle, afterimages could cause an opponent to lose his concentration for an instant; as a result, the opponent would be forced to be passive, eventually losing the battle. However, as one's profound realm increased and their experience became increasingly vast, one would have the capability to differentiate the location of the actual body by spiritual perception. Therefore, at a high level such as the Tyrant Profound Realm, unless one used a special profound afterimage technique or specialized in using afterimages, it would likely serve no help to the user... and it might even cause him harm.

But in the next moment, they simultaneously had a drastic change of facial expression...

Because when they used their spiritual perception, the aura emitted by the four Yun Ches... were exactly the same! And they were all extremely strong...

All of them seemed to be his real bodies!!

BOOM!!

The sounds of four Phoenix Flames explosions merged together, and the blinding light from the flames that surged into the air dyed the sky scarlet for a short moment. Some of the Divine Phoenix Sect disciples, who were relatively weaker in profound cultivation, hastily retreated. In the midst of the strong Phoenix flames, all four Yun Ches faded away... The four "Yun Ches" they had attacked were actually just afterimages!

At the same time the four Phoenix Elders attacked, another blinding light shot out from a peculiar blind spot, and the speed of which was as fast as stars shooting across the sky. When Feng Hengkong and the other Phoenix Elders had realized the existence of the fifth 'afterimage', it was already above their heads... It was so fast that they could not even react in time.

A miserable cry was followed by the eruption of Phoenix flames. Yun Che's right hand was now tightly holding onto a person's throat; as Yun Che raised his arm, that person was lifted off the ground.

"Fo... Fourteenth Prince!"

The person being choked by Yun Che... was the Fourteenth Prince of the Divine Phoenix Sect, Feng Xiluo!

From the moment the four Divine Phoenix Elders attacked, to the moment Feng Xiluo fell into Yun Che's hands, there was only enough time for lightning to flash. When Yun Che had lifted Feng Xiluo off the ground, not even a tenth of a breath had passed since the four elders attacked with their Phoenix flames.

Feng Hengkong and the Phoenix Elders swiftly turned around and witnessed the sight of Yun Che clutching onto the throat of the Fourteenth Prince, Feng Xiluo, and lifting him off the ground. They were all stunned as their expressions turned extremely ugly. The pupils of the four elders who had just "exterminated" Yun Che dilated as they could not believe their own eyes.

This was the territory of Divine Phoenix Sect, and the Sect Master, Feng Hengkong, had even personally come. There were also fifty Phoenix Elders present in addition to countless Divine Phoenix Sect disciples of different levels. On the other side, there was only a twenty odd years old youth who was not even hurt when the four elders had attacked him at the same time; on the contrary, he had even gained a hostage.

And the person he held hostage was a prince of the Divine Phoenix Sect!

Furthermore, this Fourteenth Prince was hiding behind all the elders, and it could be said that he was hiding at the safest place within the entire Divine Phoenix Sect... or perhaps even within the entire Sky Profound Seven Nations!!

More than a slap on the face, this humiliation suffered by all the members of the Divine Phoenix Sect present was like being smacked in the face with feces.

This humiliation was at least a thousand worse than the one they suffered when Yun Che single-handedly defeated the geniuses of their younger generation three years back. If this news spread, the Divine Phoenix Sect would be the laughingstock for generations.

“Royal father... Save... me... Ugh...”

Feng Xiluo uttered with a hoarse voice filled with pain. However, Yun Che immediately tightened his grip, disabling Feng Xiluo from utter another word as his originally handsome looking face was now ashen and contorting in pain.

Three years back, he could still force Yun Che into a tough battle, but now, although he was still higher in terms of profound strength, in terms of actual battle capabilities, Feng Xiluo could not even be considered worthy to face him. While he was in Yun Che’s grasp, it was not that he did not want to struggle, but Yun Che’s strength was just too much for him to put up a struggle. He could not use one bit of his profound energy, and he could not even move his pinky one bit.

“Fourteenth Prince!!!”

“Release the Fourteenth Prince at once!!!”

“If you dare to hurt the Fourteenth Prince one bit... our Divine Phoenix Sect would ensure you that you won’t have a proper resting place when you die!!!” Crown Prince Feng Ximing roared in anger.

“Let go of him!” Feng Hengkong rushed to the front but dared not move another step. His expression was downcast while his heart was still shocked at the speed Yun Che had displayed just now. “Yun Che, you should know his identity! If you dare to harm him, not only will we not leave you with an intact corpse... we will also exterminate your entire bloodline!!”

“Oh? Is that so?” Yun Che smiled coldly. Not only had he not loosened his grip on Feng Xiluo, he had even tightened it.

Cr-ack! The sounds of bone being shattered rang clearly in the air.

“Fourteenth Prince!”

“Stop!”

“You!” Feng Hengkong was instantly enraged as he ferociously stepped forward; he was no longer able to maintain the composure he initially had. It was widely known within the Divine Phoenix Empire that among his fourteen sons, Feng Xiluo was the one Feng Hengkong doted on the most. However, he was now being strangled like a dead dog in front of him.

As the emperor of the Divine Phoenix Empire, this was definitely something that had never occurred to him, even in his dreams.

“Hahaha...” Facing Feng Hengkong, whose expression turned ten times more ferocious than before, Yun Che didn’t show the slightest hint of fear as he looked at him straight into the eye; only a cold mocking smile appeared on his face as he said, “Feng Hengkong, your son is in my hands. As long as I will it, I can instantly extinguish his life... yet you still have the guts to threaten me. Should I praise you for your foolishness or should I pity this so-called prince whom in your eyes, is only an unimportant and worthless trash?”

Feng Hengkong's chest rose with intensity; it looked like it could explode at any moment. He said with a sinister voice, "Yun Che! If you dare..."

CRRAACK!!

The sounds of bone shattering was once again emitted from the throat of the Fourteenth Prince, causing Feng Hengkong to fall into silence. Due to his extreme rage, Feng Hengkong's bones also let out cracking sounds. All the other elders, princes as well as disciples were also shocked and angry.

"So what would happen if I dared?" Yun Che spoke as he narrowed his eyes into slits. Feng Xiluo, who was in his hands, was similar to a ghoul as his ashen face contorted under his fear and pain.

At this time, Great Elder Feng Feilie immediately sent a sound transmission to Feng Hengkong, "Sect Master, for Yun Che to come alone, he obviously does not plan to go back alive. A madman who has no regards for his life is capable of doing anything... Fourteenth Prince is currently in his hands, so we must not anger him! He's only holding the Fourteenth Prince hostage and hasn't committed a killing blow yet. It's obvious that he has some motive... You need to pacify him and save the Fourteenth Prince before doing anything."

Feng Hengkong took a deep breath as he tried his best to calm himself down, "Alright! Let him go, this emperor promises to let you go and no one is allowed to stop you."

"Oh?" Yun Che smiled cheekily, "Divine Phoenix Sect Master could cause my Blue Wind Empire to turn into a river of blood at one command, and yet you're suddenly acting so magnanimous now? You're even going to pardon me of the 'heinous crime' of destroying your Phoenix God Sculpture?"

"Hmph!" Feng Hengkong snorted, "Our son's life is much more valuable than yours! Before this emperor changes his mind, you'd better let him go and scam from here!"

Yun Che still had a sneer on his face; it was evident that he did not have any intention of letting Feng Xiluo go. In a leisurely manner, Yun Che said, "Feng Hengkong, it seems like not only is your personality far more disgusting than I have imagined, you seem to be an idiot as well. Just how did a person like you become the Sect Master of the Divine Phoenix Sect... it seems like everyone in this world has overestimated the might of the Divine Phoenix Sect. Use your pig brain and think it through. For me to come all the way here, do you think that I would leave empty-handed?!"

Yun Che's words had undoubtedly caused all of the Phoenix disciples to nearly explode in rage; their sharp and vicious gaze could almost tear Yun Che into the smallest shreds. With each and every insult Yun Che threw at Feng Hengkong, the principles and values of the latter as a ruler seemed to shatter into pieces in front of all the Phoenix disciples. Feng Feilie frantically rushed forward and gave the enraged Feng Hengkong, who looked like he was going to explode at any moment, a look, before directly asking Yun Che, "Alright... Yun Che, since you're holding our Fourteenth Prince hostage, our Divine Phoenix Sect will accede to your demands! Just list down whatever conditions you have!"

"Very good." Yun Che nodded in satisfaction as he leisurely continued, "Based on the heinous crimes that your Divine Phoenix Sect has committed, I had originally wanted to exterminate all of you, only leaving Xue'er behind. However, it's a pity that I'm still a consort of the Blue Wind Imperial Family, and there are some matters that I have to consider for the sake of my empress. Also, because Xue'er had saved my life before, I shall not kill anyone and give your Divine Phoenix Sect a chance."

A single person, standing in the territory of the Divine Phoenix Sect, saying that he wanted to exterminate the entire sect... was now giving them "a chance." The entire Divine Phoenix Sect did not know whether to laugh or to cry. However, their Fourteenth Prince's life was still in Yun Che's hands. Hence, they did not dare to make any noise...

In this world, was there anything that would be more indignant than this?

In the next moment, they were going to find out... that there actually was!!

"If you want me to let your Divine Phoenix Sect off, you just have to agree to three conditions." Yun Che, who was surrounded by the Divine Phoenix Sect, had imbued his voice with profound energy and spoke in a voice that every corner of Divine Phoenix City could hear, "Firstly, within thirty days, the entire Divine Phoenix Army must get out of my Blue Wind Nation's territory. Not one person or a strand of hair can be left behind!! Furthermore, you are not allowed to step foot into my Blue Wind Nation for the next hundred years!

"Secondly," without waiting for the Divine Phoenix Sect's reply, Yun Che had already continued, "You, Feng Hengkong, must personally pen a letter of apology towards my Blue Wind Nation! This must be announced to the world!!

"Thirdly, you must compensate my Blue Wind Nation ten billion purple profound coins!!"

Calling back the Divine Phoenix Sect troops was not a surprising condition. They had all guessed that this was probably the reason why Yun Che had come. However, they did not expect that this was only the first of his conditions. When Yun Che had finished saying his second condition, all the Phoenix Elders nearly exploded with rage... For them to apologize to the lowly Blue Wind Nation? This was undoubtedly an absolute joke.

When Yun Che had finished saying his third condition, even all of the disciples present nearly passed out in rage.

Compensation... Ten billion purple profound coins.

Exchanging it to yellow profound coins... that was a hundred trillion!

The first condition was to protect Blue Wind Nation, the second condition was to make the Divine Phoenix Nation lose all their face, and the third condition was to cause the Divine Phoenix Nation to suffer a huge loss... From Divine Phoenix Sect's perspective, this was the biggest joke in the world! Though Feng Xiluo was indeed a Divine Phoenix Prince, even if Yun Che was holding Crown Prince Feng Ximing hostage, the Divine Phoenix Sect would never apologize to the lowly Blue Wind Nation, let alone talk about the third condition.

Did Yun Che think that he was holding the Divine Phoenix Sect's Phoenix God hostage?!

Feng Hengkong's rage turned into laughter, "Yun Che, did you think that just by holding our son hostage that we would not dare to do anything to you! This emperor has already given you a chance to live, but you are stubbornly seeking death..."

"No, no, no!" Yun Che interrupted while laughing coldly, "I am the one giving you all a chance! In my entire life, I have never offered such a magnanimous chance, yet you seem to be unwilling to accept it.

Tch... On behalf of Xue'er, let me remind you one last time that you should take hold of this chance. If you still fail to appreciate my kindness and choose to remain stubborn, I will not offer such 'discounted' terms anymore."

When Yun Che said his last sentence, his face was as vicious as a cobra, and his laugh was as sinister as the devil's.

"HAHAHAHA!" Feng Hengkong laughed loudly. However, the laughter was sinister and filled with anger. He swung his arms, stared at Yun Che like an eagle, and walked towards Yun Che step by step, "My Divine Phoenix Sect has reigned on top of Profound Sky for five thousand years, and we have never feared anyone, nor has anyone ever threatened us before! Those that dare to offend my Divine Phoenix, whether it be a person, clan, or nation can all be eliminated at the lift of my finger! This emperor really wants to see whether or not you have the guts to kill my son!"

BOOM!

The moment Feng Hengkong's sonorous voice stopped, a ball of fire also erupted from Yun Che's body.

Feng Hengkong stood rooted on the ground as his pupils contracted. His body first became stiff, then it trembled vigorously... several terrible shrieks that could nearly pierce the heavens rang beside his ears.

Within the flames, Feng Xiluo's body turned into millions of pieces and dispersed. Before he died, he didn't even have the chance to make a sound; even the pieces of his corpse were quickly burnt into ashes by the flame. Yun Che pulled his arm back and swung his right hand strongly in front of his body. With a cold smile and a sinister expression, he calmly asked, "What now?"