The Gods 771

Chapter 771 - Mighty Heavenly Sword Master

"Even though using these divine crystals violates our ancestor's prohibition, a transaction like this with such tremendous earnings yet is so low-risk, I can't find any reason to refuse. This could be said to be the most profitable transaction I've done in my entire life. If I miss out, I wouldn't deserve to call myself a merchant."

As his voice fell, a spatial ring that flashed with purple light appeared in Zi Ji's hand. He put the purple crystal spatial ring before Yun Che's eyes. "In here, are precisely twenty kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystals. If you want to back out, there's still time to do so right now."

Yun Che didn't answer. With a push of his hand, twenty Overlord Pellets flew over to Zi Ji. Simultaneously the purple crystal spatial ring in Zi Ji's hand was drawn over into his hands. He used his conscious to look inside and found twenty kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystals stored inside with not a gram more or less.

"Making a transaction with Senior Zi is sure delightful." Yun Che withdrew the purple crystal spatial ring. "I hope Senior Zi will not forget that these twenty precious pellets can only be used for auction and not pocketed privately."

With these twenty kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystal now in hand added to the twenty five kilograms inside the Sky Poison Pearl... Jasmine's required thirty five kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystals had thus been met!

He had two profound cores already in hand and they were Sovereign Profound Cores, far above Jasmine's needed Emperor Profound Cores.

The only thing missing was now only the Netherworld Udumbara Flower!

"Hoho, that is a matter of course." Zi Ji's profound energy also swept across every Overlord Pellet, then carefully withdrew them with a face full of smiles... This was indeed the most profitable transaction he had made in his entire life. Not only was it easy, Yun Che had obtained more than ten kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystals and the entire process only took a short, few days.

The "sum" of the exchange between the two was enormous, yet was easily completed in but a few words and left both sides extremely satisfied.

He was in possession of forty five kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystals, an amount that was astronomical whether it was in the Illusory Demon Realm or the Profound Sky Continent and definitely surpassed any Sacred Ground's reserves! Yun Che knew that him being able to obtain this many Purple Veined Divine Crystals definitely was not based on his own strength, but rather the Sky Poison Pearl's unrivaled heaven defying power.

But that was merely in terms of reserves. The current Yun Che wasn't actually in possession of the highest number within the Profound Sky Continent... the ones with the most Purple Veined Divine Crystals were actually the Divine Phoenix Sect!

The death of the Phoenix God and having fifty kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystal were two secrets the Divine Phoenix Sect had to protect with their lives! Either being leaked out could attract a huge catastrophe. In order to cover up those secrets the Divine Phoenix Sect spared no effort in pursuing their cruel war with the Blue Wind Nation.

"Well done!" The Sovereign of the Seas was also evidently pleased about this transaction. Her face that was always stiff had even smoothed somewhat. "Asgard Master Yun, you are indeed an extraordinary person of talent. Since this transaction is complete, Zi Ji, you can now take Yun Che to Moon Slaughter Devil Nest."

"However, Asgard Master Yun, this sovereign must still remind you again that Moon Slaughter Devil Nest's seal will only be open for one hundred breaths! After a hundred breaths of time, the seal will automatically close and definitely can't be forced open again. Thus, after entering Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, you must leave within a hundred breaths regardless of the outcome or else you will die inside, eternally trapped! Furthermore, the yin energy in the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest is extremely strong. Not only will it substantially suppress profound energy, it will also decrease one's life essence. Forget about you at your current strength, even this sovereign would not last a day before dying as a cripple if trapped inside. Being able to stay in there for a five hundred years before leaving at its next opening is complete nonsense."

"Don't worry, when we get there, I will go inside the devil nest along with him. No need to wait for a hundred breaths, once fifty breaths have passed, I will forcibly bring him out." Zi Ji said as he chuckled.

"That's for the best, you may go!"

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Together, Yun Che and Zi Ji left Ocean Imperial Palace. Feng Xue'er, who was waiting outside quickly walked to Yun Che's side. "Big Brother Yun, are you alright?"

"Of course I'm alright." Yun Che smiled as he held Feng Xue'er's hand then extended the other one, gesturing toward Zi Ji, "This is Supreme Ocean Palace's Senior Zi Ji."

"Divine Phoenix Sect's Feng Xue'er greets Senior Zi."

Zi Ji smiled as he nodded with a peculiar expression in his eyes. "Princess Snow's name has long passed through my ears. To have met you in person is a great fortune."

"Xue'er, I'm going to enter the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest with Senior Zi. Go accompany your royal father first, I will be back before you know it." Yun Che said to Feng Xue'er.

"You're going in now?" Feng Xue'er knew that the main objective for Yun Che's visit to Supreme Ocean Palace was to enter the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, she just did not expect it to happen so quickly. She automatically replied, "Then I am definitely going to be accompanying Big Brother Yun as well. After all, I already promised all the Junior and Senior Masters that I would definitely be keeping watch over you at all times."

"Alright then." Yun Che had expected such a reply so he did not try to talk her out of it. He gripped Feng Xue'er's tiny hand even tighter than before and said sincerely, "It is very likely that there will be

unforeseen dangers that lurk in that place, so you must definitely listen to my every word while we are inside. You must definitely not endanger your own life trying to protect me."

"I know! I've always been really obedient to Big Brother Yun you know." Feng Xue'er said with a sweet smile.

The intimacy shared between the two of them caused Zi Ji's mood to immediately grow complex. He raised his hand and spoke, "The Moon Slaughter Devil Nest is extremely close to our Ocean Palace. If you travel seventy-five kilometers south in a straight line, you will reach your destination. So Yun Che, unless you have any other things to settle, let us make haste."

"Alright! I'll have to trouble Senior Zi to lead the way then!"

Just as the three people took to the sky, they saw a faraway figure rushing towards them at an extremely fast speed, as if that person was really eager to catch up to them. Yun Che halted in mid-air before letting out a low yell, "Yuanba! What are you doing here?"

Whoosh!

A rush of wild wind blew in Xia Yuanba's wake as he rushed over. He bent over to catch his breath as he gasped for air. He said, "My teacher has already settled in, so since I have nothing better to do, I went to look for Brother-in-law. Ah? Mister Zi? You... are going somewhere?"

During the last Seven Nation Ranking Tournament, Ancient Blue had brought Xia Yuanba to the Divine Phoenix City, and the first place they had paid a visit to was the Black Moon Merchant Guild. The purpose of that visit was to see Zi Ji. So even though Xia Yuanba had never been to Supreme Ocean Palace before, he still recognized Zi Ji.

"We are going to the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest. Yuanba, do you want to come with us?" Yun Che knew that the reason Xia Yuanba had rushed over in such a hurry was because he was worried for Yun Che's safety. Now that they were going to enter the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, Xia Yuanba would definitely want to come along, and they could forget about chasing him away.

"Ah? We're going now? Of course, I'm coming along! I'm actually also very curious to see what that place is like." Xia Yuanba said with much excitement.

"Sigh." Zi Ji laughed as he shook his head as he simply let out a sigh, "Let's be off then. Once we reach that place, remember to always be on your guard."

Standing guard over the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest was the reason behind the existence of Supreme Ocean Palace in the first place, so it was natural that they would not be located too far apart. And to the four of them, seventy-five kilometers could be said to be a short stroll in the park.

Before long, they had reached the southern border of Supreme Ocean Palace.

A human figure appeared in their path.

Even though they were still several kilometers away from that person, Yun Che, Feng Xue'er, Xia Yuanba and Zi Ji all began to slow down simultaneously as the look in their eyes subtly changed.

"That person... has an incredible aura! Despite the fact that he is still so far away, I'm actually finding it hard to breathe." Xia Yuanba exclaimed as he sucked in some air. He continued in a low voice, "It seems like he is even stronger than my master!"

As they drew closer to that person, his figure grew clearer in their vision. The man was wearing simple green robes, his body was lithe and limber, his long black hair bound into a simple ponytail which reached his waist. He was floating more than thirty meters above the surface of the ocean and despite the howling of the seabreeze around him, neither his clothes nor his hair moved a centimeter. Even the surface of the ocean beneath his feet was completely calm and still, not a single ripple that could be seen.

It seemed as if the space that existed around him had been completely frozen and sealed.

The man did not move a muscle and his body did not release any profound energy. As Yun Che's party approached him, a soundless pressure descended upon them and it felt as if a metal plate that was growing thicker and thicker was being pressed against their chests.

"Senior Zi, who is that person?" Yun Che asked in a soft voice. The soundless might and pressure that this man was exuding definitely exceeded the might and pressure that Duke Ming had displayed at the Golden Crow Lightning Flame Valley!

Zi Ji did not reply, striding forward to address the man that stood in front of them, "Sword Master Xuanyuan, what brings you here? To think that we would find you surveying this part of the ocean by yourself. Could it be that you have attained some form of enlightenment in recent days?"

Sword Master Xuanyuan!

These four words caused the hearts of Yun Che and his two companions to tremble.

"So he is the Sword Master of Mighty Heavenly Sword Region... Xuanyuan Wentian!?" Xia Yuanba said in a low whisper.

"..." Yun Che's hand curled inwards as it began to tighten into a fist. It was only after a good amount of time had passed that it finally relaxed a little.

Mighty Heavenly Sword Region... the ones who had caused the crippling of his parents and the death of his grandfather! It was also Mighty Heavenly Sword Region who killed Xiao Yun's birth father, causing his birth mother to die of sorrow, and thus plunging Xiao Lie into despair and agony for more than twenty years....

The tragedies that stuck both his and Xiao Yun's families all those years ago could be said to have been orchestrated by Duke Ming, but if Duke Ming had schemed up the whole thing, then Mighty Heavenly Sword Region had been the ones who had wielded the executioner's blade!!

The green-robed man slowly turned around. His face was thin and sunken, his features were completely ordinary. His gaze raked across all four of them before he gave a weak smile and spoke, "Ah, so it was Mister Zi."

After he had muttered those words, his gaze directly fell on Yun Che.

"If my guess isn't wrong, the person to the right of Mister Zi should be the Yun Che who has sent shockwaves through the Profound Sky Continent in recent months."

Yun Che, "..."

"Hoho, it is so. But who would have thought a supreme existence like Sword Master Xuanyuan would take such great notice of a junior." Zi Ji replied in an even tone.

"That is only natural." A bland smile that was filled with deep meaning spread across Xuanyuan Wentian's placid face, but his eyes remained fixed on Yun Che, "As the most outstanding youngster of his generation, I would hope that you, Asgard Master Yun, will make it a point to come for the Devil Sword Conference that is being held in three days. The Devil Sword Conference would lose much of its luster if you choose not to grace us with your presence."

Yun Che, " ... ?"

"It looks like Mister Zi and Asgard Master Yun still have some important things to attend to, so I won't inconvenience you any further. Please."

A mysterious smile was draped across Xuanyuan Wentian's face as he slowly ascended into the sky. After that, his body blurred as he flew towards Supreme Ocean Palace. He had not asked them where they were heading to... as if that held no interest whatsoever.

"That was the Sword Master of Mighty Heavenly Sword Region—Xuanyuan Wentian. I never thought we would meet him in such a place."

Zi Ji said this rather casually, but once he had finished speaking, he took to the air once more as he continued to travel south.

Yun Che's brows sank and his spirit suddenly felt a lot heavier. After a period of silence, he spoke out in the recesses of his mind, "Jasmine, during the period that we are staying in Supreme Ocean Palace, it is highly likely that I will have need of your strength... because I can't shake the feeling that something just isn't right."

"Hmph!" Jasmine gave a bland and cold snort, "If I do not want you to die, ten thousand Xuanyuan Wentians would not be enough to kill you. But I am rather curious about one thing, why did you make such a bad bargain with Supreme Ocean Palace?"

"Because I have been having this inexplicable feeling of uneasiness ever since I arrived at Supreme Ocean Palace." Yun Che said as his voice grew solemn, "I am afraid that some variables will appear during the Devil Sword Conference, so it would be best if I settled all my business first. Moreover, the gaze of that Xuanyuan Wentian... makes me feel as if I am completely naked before him."

"I just hope that it's just my overactive imagination	but no matter v	what, I definitely	need to proceed
with extreme caution now."			

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[&]quot;Father, the Toxin Immortal has arrived."

The one who spoke was blue-robed young man with a thin and sunken face. His features and his figure resembled Xuanyuan Wentian very much.

The man who stood in front of him was the Xuanyuan Wentian who had just returned to Supreme Ocean Palace.

"Very good." Xuanyuan Wentian said with a curt nod of his head, "I hope that his venomous insect poison works just like it does in the legends. If all he has is an empty reputation and he is of no use to us whatsoever, then there is no need for him to remain on this earth."

"Is Father going to see him now?" The young man asked.

Xuanyuan Wentian did not give the go-ahead. Instead he spoke in a slow and deliberate tone, "That Yun Che didn't disappoint me after all. He is already within Supreme Ocean Palace. I actually just met him."

The young man threw his head back in delight as a dangerous smile played across his face, "That's just wonderful news."

"During the past hundred years, I have been obsessed with my preparations regarding the Devil Sword. I had originally planned to pay a visit to the Illusory Demon Realm again after I unsealed the Devil Sword so I could seize the Mirror of Samsara. But who would have thought that it would actually deliver itself up to me just as the Devil Sword is about to be unsealed. Truly even the heavens are on my side!" Xuanyuan Wentian said as he soundlessly laughed, his face raised to the heavens.

"Does that Mirror of Samsara really hide the 'secrets of the Divine Profound'?" The young man asked.

"The secrets of the Divine Profound?" Xuanyuan Wentian said as his eyes faintly narrowed, "That was only a lie that the Illusory Demon Realm's Duke Ming invented so he could make use of us. Hoho, that Duke Ming probably still naively believes that his intelligence and cunning was truly so peerless and unmatched that he managed to use the invented secret of the Mirror of Samsara to manipulate us into helping him achieve his ambition. Little does he knew that without my intervention and exhortation all those years ago, the other three Sacred Grounds would not have so easily bent to his will and commenced the invasion of the Illusory Demon Realm."

"Since the so-called secrets of the Divine Profound are fake, then why does Father still have such a strong desire for the Mirror of Samsara? The young man asked very sincerely.

"I asked the Devil Sword about the Mirror of Samsara at that time, and it told me that the Mirror of Samsara was one of the 'Heavenly Profound Treasures', an item that even the gods of the Primordial Era desired to obtain. So even though I do not know exactly what it can do, something that even the gods themselves desired definitely is a hundred thousand times more valuable than those so-called 'secrets of the Divine Profound'!"

"It was something that I definitely had to obtain once I unsealed the Devil Sword. And now that it has delivered itself to my doorstep, then how could I miss this opportunity to gladly receive it!!"

"Wendao, this matter is a secret that is to be kept solely between us, father and son." Xuanyuan Wentian said as he cast a sidelong glance at his own son, "Furthermore, this is Supreme Ocean Palace, not the Sword Region, so do not mention even a single word of this again."

"This son understands!"

Chapter 772 - Moon Slaughter Devil Nest

"What caused me the most concern was that Xuanyuan Wentian did not ask me where we were going just now. He also did not ask him anything regarding the 'master' that I had invented, yet he still gave me a very weird look." Yun Che said to Jasmine in a low voice, "Moreover, when I visited Heavenly Sword Villa, that Xuanyuan Jiuding also gave me a very strange look as well."

The strongest attributes Yun Che possessed were his powers of perception, insight and an intuition that was so strong that it bordered on terrifying.

"I'm just thinking that it's extremely possible that Mighty Heavenly Sword Region may have uncovered some information. For example, for some reason, they already know that the 'Old Man Duotian' I invented is fake." Yun Che said as his brows sank.

"Hmph, with me around, are you still actually afraid that you'll die?" Jasmine scoffed. In the eyes of the profound practitioners of the Profound Sky Continent, Xuanyuan Wentian was someone that was akin to a god, a peerless individual. But in her eyes, he was just an ant that was slightly bigger than the rest.

"...So that is to say that for the duration that we are staying in Supreme Ocean Palace, I will need to rely on your power." Yun Che said helplessly and reluctantly. He was not a person who was used to relying on others because he was extremely clear that relying on this sort of thing would for a major impediment to his growth—Jasmine knew this too, so for the past few years, she had kept up the pretense that she had sealed her own powers away.

This time, in order to grasp the slim chance that he might be able to obtain the Netherworld Udumbara Flower, he had no choice but to face the exceedingly powerful Four Sacred Grounds in advance. Therefore, he had no choice but to rely on Jasmine's power... Otherwise, if Jasmine was still the state where "her power was sealed," he would definitely not choose come to Supreme Ocean Palace at this point of time.

"Yun Che, you need to be exceedingly cautious about Xuanyuan Wentian." Zi Ji suddenly said when he saw Yun Che's solemn expression, "Xuanyuan Wentian is someone who is truly a sword maniac, and he has an insatiable desire for strength. Even though Mighty Heavenly Sword Region is the weakest of all the Four Sacred Grounds when it comes to aggregate power, Xuanyuan Wentian himself is slightly stronger than the Sovereign of the Seas, Qu Fengyi, and the Heavenly Monarch, Ye Meixie. Even when you compare him with the Saint Emperor, Huangji Wuyu, there is scarcely any difference in their power."

"But if he was just a simple sword maniac, then that would be fine. Even though he seems like a refined, courteous gentleman and a respectable elder, the truth of the matter is that he is an extremely prejudiced and shrewd person, someone who is willing to do anything for the sake of attaining power. One thousand years ago, the Eternal Night Royal Family were destroyed for the sake of his insane ambition and even the rest of us became his accomplices during that sordid affair. In the end, we had no choice but to commit one wrong after another in order to protect the reputation of the Sacred Grounds."

"Furthermore, your innate talent is extremely unusual and there are far too many unexplainable mysteries about you. If not for that inscrutably powerful teacher of yours, he might have already made his move against you... Just now he behaved in a rather odd manner, so it is something that you best pay attention to."

Zi Ji's voice was soft, but the warning in his eyes was clear for all to see. Yun Che and Xuanyuan Wentian had just met for this first time today, and someone who was at Zi Ji's level would definitely know far more about Xuanyuan Wentian than Yun Che himself.

Yun Che nodded his head, "I understand. Thank you for your warning, Senior Zi... Senior Zi, this junior is also curious about one thing, but I'm not sure if it is a question that I should ask."

Qu Fengyi... That was the name identified by Senior Zi as belonging to the Sovereign of the Seas. As one of the four Holy Masters of the Profound Sky Continent, her name was not domineering, but neither was it feminine or soft. Instead, it was a name that seemed to have weathered many storms.

The Saint Emperor, the ruler of the Absolute Monarch Sanctuary, the head of the four Holy Masters, and the person who reigned supreme in the Profound Sky Continent. His name was Huangji Wuyu...

Wuyu? (No desires?)

It was said that the Saint Emperor was unable to produce a heir, and he only had a few foster children. Could it be anything to do with the words "no desire"?

...If a man had no desires, then how was he different from a salted fish?!

"Ah, do you want to ask what kind of relationship I have with the Sovereign of the Seas?" Zi Hi asked with a faint smile.

Yun Che replied with a laugh, "Senior Zi's perceptiveness is indeed illuminating. When we were at the Black Moon Merchant Guild and Senior Zi was able to move a whole ten kilograms of Purple Veined Divine Crystal in one transaction, this junior was very sure that Senior Zi definitely had an exalted position within Supreme Ocean Palace. And just now, when we were in the Ocean Imperial Palace, the Purple Veined Divine Crystals that had been held in reserve were also on Senior Zi's person. Furthermore, the Sovereign of the Seas is an extremely imposing person, but when she treated Senior Zi entirely differently from how she treated her own great elder. So this junior cannot help but be extremely curious in regards to Senior Zi's identity."

Zi Ji have a faint smile as he said, "Then why don't you try guessing it."

Yun Che had already made a rather enlightened guess in his heart so he replied in a very frank manner, "This junior has heard Yuanba mention that there are seven existences that are above the great elder within Supreme Ocean Palace, these seven people are extremely powerful profound practitioners known as the Seven Venerable Ones, and they have the colors red, orange, yellow, green, cyan, blue and purple in their names. The weakest of the seven is Venerable Red and the strongest is Venerable Purple, whose power is inferior to only the Sovereign of the Seas herself. Furthermore, Senior Zi just happens to have the color purple as a surname. So Senior Zi being the number two person within Supreme Ocean Palace may just pass muster as an explanation."

"It is just that even though Senior Zi's profound strength is extremely high, the pressure it gives this junior is less than that of Great Elder Mo Chenfeng. So it is definitely impossible for Senior Zi to be one of the Seven Venerable Ones... and because of this, the only answer that this junior can think of is that the both of you are..."

"Husband and wife!"

"..." Zi Ji gave a startled jolt before throwing his head back and laughing loudly.

"You are far worthier of the words 'perceptiveness is illuminating'." Zi Ji said with a great laugh, but his words did not confirm Yun Che's guess, "If you are talking about status alone, I am indeed the husband of the Sovereign of the Seas. But the relationship of husband and wife that I have with her is utterly alien to your concept of what a husband and wife are."

"...What does Senior Zi mean?"

"I have been married to her for a very, very long time. It was according to the wishes of our parents and the sect. However, when I married her, I had never dreamed that she would become the next Sovereign of the Seas. Her entire heart and soul was consumed by the profound way. This coupled with her extremely high innate talent paved the path for her to become the number one person in Supreme Ocean Palace. However, I have always been fascinated with commerce and I spent most of my time either at the Black Moon Merchant Guild headquarters or visiting the branches scattered around the Profound Sky Continent. I rarely ever return to Supreme Ocean Palace. I will normally only see the Sovereign of the Seas once every ten years on average and even though we are husband and wife, we don't have many feelings for each other. Our union was ultimately meant to signify that the Black Moon Merchant Guild and Supreme Ocean Palace were one entity and not two powers that stood independent of one another."

When he was relating his tale, Zi Ji's tone was even and it was not melancholic in the least.

"Ah, so that's how it is." Yun Che nodded his head slowly, "This junior does not dare speculate on whether the husband and wife relationship Senior Zi and the Sovereign of the Seas shares is shallow or not, but there is one thing this junior is very convinced of. The Sovereign of the Seas places a lot of trust in Senior Zi. And it may just be that Senior Zi is the one person in this entire world that the Sovereign of the Seas truly trusts."

"Hoho." Zi Ji gave a brief laugh before pointing ahead, "We are here. This is where the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest is located."

There was a gloomy blue light that was intermittently flickering about five kilometers ahead of them. There was a small island that was nearly perfectly round and on top of the island lay a dome-shaped barrier which fully engulfed it. The gloomy blue radiance was coming from the barrier that engulfed the small island.

The ocean surrounding the small island had sunk so low that it formed a trench around it. It was almost as if the seawater was being pushed away by some unimaginable power.

"This is the barrier that is used to seal the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest." Zi Ji said as he slowed down, "The Moon Slaughter Devil Nest is inside this barrier."

"This place is located in the ocean and it is more than one thousand five hundred kilometers away from the mainland. Normally, no one will approach this place because there are always disciples of Supreme Ocean Palace keeping watch. Even if someone manages to enter by accident, the Sovereign of the Seas will be alerted immediately once that person comes into contact with the barrier."

The four of them descended towards the island. Immediately, an incredibly strong repulsive force struck them. The strength of all four people was at the very peak of the Profound Sky Continent, but they immediately found it hard to breathe as an oppressive force constricted their chests.

"What a powerful barrier!" Xia Yuanba exclaimed in a low voice, "We are so far away and yet the repulsive force that struck us was strong... Master said that this barrier has persisted for more than ten thousand years, and that it could even be called the strongest barrier that exists within the Profound Sky Continent. It looks like the reputation it has for being indestructible is richly deserved."

"Just based on its isolating ability alone, this barrier is indeed unparalleled." Zi Ji said as he nodded his head, his expression filled with admiration and reverence, "The founders of Supreme Ocean Palace used more than half of the Tyrant Profound artifacts that exist in the Profound Sky Continent and used up an incredible amount of profound crystals in order to set up this barrier all those years ago. If not for this isolating barrier, that dreadful yin energy would have run rampant for the past ten thousand years and the consequences would have been unimaginable."

"My Ocean Palace has flourished for ten thousand years and even though we have made our shares of mistakes through the years, we have also maintained this barrier for ten thousand years as well. So my Ocean Palace has always been able to search its own soul without being found wanting, truly living up to the name 'Sacred Ground'!" Zi Ji's calm voice was laced with pride. He strode forward slowly and the Ocean Emperor Seal, which was flickering with blue light, was already in his hand.

Yun Che took a quick breath before walking up to Zi Ji's side. It had already been an entire seven years since Jasmine had first mentioned that she needed to find a Netherworld Udumbara Flower. In these seven years, the only place where it was possible to even find a Netherworld Udumbara Flower was the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest that laid enclosed in a barrier before him.

And now, Jasmine had already been cleansed of the devilish poison and all the materials that were needed to reconstitute her body had been gathered, save for that very Netherworld Udumbara Flower... Even though there was a very slim chance that they would be able to find one, here he was. He could only hope that he was able to find the miracle flower in full bloom during the short hundred breaths that he could stay in the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest.

The closer they drew to the barrier, the more they understood just how strong this barrier was. Yun Che was completely convinced that even if he had ten times the amount of strength, he would not even be able to make a dent in this barrier.

When Zi Ji stood right in front of the barrier, he raised the Ocean Emperor Seal and hesitated for a moment before turning around to address Yun Che, "Yun Che, even though we are already here, and I know that I shouldn't say anything to dampen your hopes... but you should be very clear that the chance of finding a Netherworld Udumbara Flower in full bloom is extremely slim. Moreover, even if you do miraculously find one, how will you obtain it?"

"Those Supreme Ocean Elders who had seen the Netherworld Udumbara Flower all those years ago were all peerless powerhouses who were at the Sovereign Profound Realm. Even though they only looked at it from a distance for a few moments before swiftly departing, all of them suffered through a terrible illness after that. So it is hard to imagine the consequences of even coming close to that flower, much less picking it. And from my own knowledge, there has never once been a recorded instance where the Netherworld Udumbara Flower was successfully harvested in the history of Profound Sky Continent. The only records we have of this flower are the countless deaths that occurred because of it and its reputation as the 'evilest of flowers'."

"I have my own methods." Yun Che said confidently.

The moment he had spoken those words, Jasmine's voice also rang out in his mind, "If there is really a Netherworld Udumbara Flower, you must definitely not approach it. Even though you have the Dragon God Soul, if you come within thirty meters of it, you will definitely be wracked by extreme pain. And if you come within fifteen meters of it, you are simply begging for death! Leave the harvesting of the Netherworld Udumbara Flower to me, I will bring it into the Sky Poison Pearl fully intact."

"I know." Yun Che replied. When he was living in the Azure Cloud Continent, his master had taught him about the Netherworld Udumbara Flower as well and the words that he had emphasized the most when he had taught Yun Che about this flower was that "you must never ever come close to one."

Zi Ji slowly nodded his head. He did not attempt to speak any further. Instead, he slapped the Ocean Emperor Seal heavily against the surface of the barrier in front of him.

Immediately, they could see the barrier ripple where it came into contact with the Ocean Emperor Seal. Zi Ji's brows sank and he said in a solemn tone, "The moment the seal on the barrier is released, there will be a large amount of yin energy expelled. This yin energy is extremely domineering and if normal people and weak profound practitioners come into contact with it, their lives will be put in danger. The yin energy within the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest is even more dreadful, and even if it is us, the moment we enter this place, our profound strength will be suppressed by two entire realms. At the same time, our vitality will also be drained away swiftly. Right now, you need to use all your strength to protect yourselves! You definitely must not underestimate the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest!"

Chapter 773 - Half-bloomed Udumbara (1)

Yun Che turned around and spoke to his two companions, "Yuanba, Xue'er, this place is extremely dangerous. I think it's best that neither of you accompany me in and wait outside. And no matter whether this place has the thing that I am looking for or not, I will also leave as soon as possible."

"That's enough, Brother-in-Law." Xia Yuanba shook his head as all of his muscles bulged fiercely and his body was surrounded by a peerless and domineering profound energy aura, "Since we have already come here, how can I not go in and have a look?"

"Big Brother Yun, if I am not by your side to protect you, all the Junior and Senior Masters will definitely blame me." Feng Xue'er said in a soft voice, her expression completely devoid of fear.

"Alright." Yun Che said as he grabbed Feng Xue'er's tiny hand, "Xue'er, you mustn't let go of my hand. Yuanba, you must be careful as well! If anything happens, remember that the first thing you should do is to run away!"

Sssss!!

A sound like thunder ripped through the air, as both the barrier and the Ocean Emperor Seal simultaneously emitted a glaring blue light. In the next instant, Zi Ji retreated swiftly as he gripped the Ocean Emperor Seal tightly while the a square-shaped hole that was two meters wide and long appeared in the barrier.

Tendrils of ebon darkness crazily gushed out from inside the barrier.

This was...

"We only have a hundred breaths, hurry up and go in!" Zi Ji shouted as he swiftly put away the Ocean Emperor Seal and rushed through the gap in the barrier.

"Be extremely cautious!" Yun Che did not have the leisure to think anymore, he pulled Feng Xue'er along as he rushed inside as well, with Xia Yuanba hot on his heels.

When they entered the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, it felt as if they had stepped into a desolate, icy abyss. A chill washed through them, body and soul. All of the hairs on their bodies instantly stood on end. Yun Che felt Feng Xue'er's hands tightly grip onto him as she pressed herself against him.

The sun was shining really brightly over the South Ocean, and a hole that was two meters in length and width was big enough for the daylight to shine through and illuminate a large portion of the abyss. But, after they had taken three steps forward, they were thrust into the inky darkness once more; they could scarcely see even a glimmer of light.

When they turned around, all they could see of the entrance was a hazy white outline.

"The daylight is unable to penetrate this darkness!?" Xia Yuanba exclaimed in shock.

"This is darkness energy." Yun Che said as his brows knit together. When he had fought Fen Juechen, he had used profound energy of this exact element, "This darkness energy will swallow all light while restricting your spirit perception at the same time... it may even affect your five senses!"

"That's right!" Zi Ji's voice rang out in the darkness, "This is only the entrance of the Devil Nest, the further you venture inside, the thicker the aura of darkness will be. Your spirit perception will be suppressed to barely a tenth of its normal strength! And your five senses will be similarly restricted! When you have reached the deepest parts of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, even your profound strength will be suppressed to the Emperor Profound Realm."

"I am already beginning to feel... my profound strength being restricted." Xia Yuanba said through gritted teeth as he raised an arm, "It feels as if my profound veins are being constricted by something, and I find it far harder to circulate my profound energy than normal."

"...Senior Zi, we only have the space of a hundred breaths, so we need you to immediately bring us to the location where the Netherworld Udumbara Flower was last seen." Yun Che said calmly.

"Yes!" Zi Ji replied.

Within the darkness, Feng Xue'er raised her arm and a scarlet cluster of Phoenix flames began to burn on top of her tender and white palm. The Phoenix flames that she had conjured were far purer than Yun

Che's Phoenix flames, so the light that these flames released would shine brightly over large distances. But within this Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, they could only illuminate the space that was within ten steps of them.

Furthermore, they were still only at the entrance.

Under the light of the Phoenix flames, Yun Che could see the floor that was still pitch-black despite being illuminated by the Phoenix flames. But he could not see the walls or the ceiling of the Devil Nest. It was clear to him now that this nest was far more spacious than he had expected it to be.

"Don't worry, the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest only has one passageway, the path doesn't fork or branch. As long as you follow the path, you will reach the end of the nest. Furthermore, this nest isn't very deep. Given your current speed, you should be approaching the end of the nest in around thirty breaths." Zi Ji was in front of them and he was moving at a respectable speed. Even though it was the first time he had entered the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, he had heard and read the records that the Supreme Ocean Palace had kept of this place so many times that he had practically committed it all to memory

"So that is to say that the Netherworld Udumbara Flower that was discovered one thousand three hundred years ago was located at the very end of the Devil Nest?"

"That is right." Zi Ji replied as he nodded his head, "Ten thousand years ago, the seven Ocean Palace Ancestors who discovered the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest also plumbed its deepest reaches. The weakest among them was at the eighth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm, but once they had reached the deepest part of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, all of their profound strengths had dropped to the middle of the Emperor Profound Realm and their vitality was being drained away swiftly as well. Afterwards, they ran into the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign who was only at the initial stage of the Tyrant Profound Realm and they were massacred. Only one of the ancestors managed to escape with his life... After that, this ancestor established a law for us. The law was that we were forbidden from entering the deepest parts of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest unless we could confirm that Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign was already dead."

Zi Ji was steadily increasing his speed, but the profound energy aura he was releasing was growing weaker and weaker.

The radius of the light given off by the Phoenix flames were swiftly shrinking as well.

"So has the death of the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign been confirmed?" Yun Che asked gravely.

"It's only a Tyrant Profound beast after all.. Even the most powerful Sovereign Profound beasts only have a lifespan of a few thousands years. So no matter how strong a Tyrant Profound beast is, it will definitely not have a lifespan that extends past ten thousand years. Even though we have yet to discover its corpse... it should have long ago turned into dust within the darkness." Zi Ji replied.

"Are there any clues as to where this yin energy is originating from?" Yun Che asked, his brows furrowing together as he looked ahead. At the same time, he checked his own profound veins.

The profound energy auras of Zi Ji, who was in front of him, Feng Xue'er, who was beside him, and Xia Yuanba, who was behind him, were all steadily growing weaker with each passing second. Zi Ji's profound energy aura was weakening at the fastest rate, Xue'er's aura weakened the second-fastest,

while Xia Yuanba's aura weakened at the slowest pace. Now that they had reached the middle of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, Zi Ji's profound energy aura had already dropped to roughly the eighth level of the Tyrant Profound Realm.

Feng Xue'er and Xia Yuanba had both dropped to around the third level of the Sovereign Profound Realm.

And the reason why he could so clearly feel the change in their profound strength was because...

His profound veins had not been affected in the slightest!

He did not even find it hard to circulate his profound energy either.

Jasmine had indeed been right. The Evil God's profound veins could not be restricted by ordinary means. The Heaven's Might Soul Suppressing Formation would not be able to restrict them, and neither could the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest!

The suppressive power Feng Xue'er was facing was weaker than Zi Ji, and it was clear that it was because of her Phoenix bloodline!

As for Xia Yuanba, he was the person who possessed the Tyrannical Emperor's Divine Veins!

"This is the greatest unsolved mystery of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest." Zi Ji said as he exhaled, his breathing becoming slightly uneven, "The origin of this dreadful yin energy is something that my Ocean Palace wants to find out more than anyone else. But for the past ten thousand years, we have yet to find the answer to that question. Perhaps the origin of this yin energy is located in the deepest part of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest. It is just that the yin energy in the deepest part of the nest is far too terrifying. It will cause a person's profound strength to drop drastically and muddle their five senses. Perhaps even if the Sovereign of the Seas herself came into contact with it, she would unable to remain for longer than twenty breaths. So attempting to conduct a thorough search is a task that is as hard as soaring to the heavens."

As their profound strength grew weaker, the scope of the spirit perception would grow smaller as well. It got harder and harder for them to breathe and their five senses kept growing weaker as well, to the point where they could not even hear the sounds of their own footsteps."

"To think that such a place existed in this world. Sss..." Xia Yuanba said through gritted teeth. The feeling of having his profound strength and spirit perception suppressed was unbearable. It felt as though he had sunk into a deep marsh, and he found it difficult to even move his feet.

"Jasmine, have you figured out where this yin energy may have come from?" Yun Che asked in his heart. There was one thing that had caused him great concern... and that was the fact that Jasmine had kept silent ever since they had entered the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, and she had not said a single word since then.

"The yin energy in this place..." Jasmine's voice grew extremely heavy, and Yun Che could hear traces of disbelief in that voice as well, "What exactly is going on here!?"

Yun Che ground to halt as he quickly asked, "Could it be that there is something irregular about this place?"

"This is something that is far beyond the word irregular!" Jasmine's voice was frightfully low and heavy, "Based on strength alone, the aura of darkness in this place isn't too intense, and one might say that it is actually rather weak. But... but if we are talking about the level of this darkness, it is so high that it is frightening."

The words "so high that it was frightening" caused Yun Che's heart to lurch in his chest. Because these words had been uttered by Jasmine herself.

"And as for the principles of darkness contained in this place, they are so profound that even I cannot understand them!"

Within the Sky Poison Pearl, Jasmine had a serious expression on her face, an expression that she had never adopted before. Her eyes which flashed with red light contained a fierce disbelief, "This level of darkness energy, I have not even seen it on the plane that I was born in, much less this plane! Just what sort of thing could release such an aura of darkness!!"

"..." Those few words of Jasmine had shocked Yun Che a million times more compared to when Zi Ji was telling him about the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest.

"Yun Che! Leave this place immediately!" Jasmine suddenly yelled in a shrill voice, "The situation here is completely out of my expectation! There must be some incomparably terrifying object hidden inside this place! That's the only explanation for this yin energy! Leave immediately and do not bother with the Netherworld Udumbara Flower right now! Because even if you..."

"Heeheeheehee... Kekekehahahaha... Huhuhuhu... Wahahahaha..."

At this time, an incomparably sinister laugh rang out from the darkness ahead of them. Ever since they had entered the depths of this place, their five senses were being heavily suppressed. Yet all of them could clearly hear this dreadful sound that sounded like the cackling of demons. It sounded like weeping and laughter all at the same time, and it seeped into their very souls.

"Ah!!" All four people came to an abrupt halt. Feng Xue'er had let out a cry of alarm as she dove into Yun Che's chest, "Wha... what was that sound... it's so scary!"

"The... there's someone inside!?" Xia Yuanba said as he leaped forward to shield Yun Che and Feng Xue'er, as all the profound energy in his body surged crazily... However, even though he was Xia Yuanba, at this time, he was unable to combat the feeling of fear that coursed through his body.

Zi Ji was greatly shocked by the profound energy that Xia Yuanba had released with all of his strength. At this point, his profound strength had already been suppressed to the latter stages of the Emperor Profound Realm, but the enormous might and pressure that was being released by Xia Yuanba was shockingly belonged to the latter stages of Tyrant Profound Realm!

Zi Ji's heart was completely flustered... The place where they were at was exceedingly close to the deepest part of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest and his own profound strength had already been suppressed by two entire realms, but Xia Yuanba's strength had only been suppressed by one realm!

Even though it was only a difference of one realm, it was undoubtedly the difference between the heavens and the earth! Under normal circumstances, Xia Yuanba's profound strength was weaker than Zi Ji's, but right now, Xia Yuanba could kill him with a flick of his fingers.

Could this also be another advantage provided by the Tyrannical Emperor's Divine Veins?

"Wait! This sound..." Yun Che said as he got over his momentary fright. After he had taken the necessary precautions, his face suddenly relaxed as his eyes became filled with a triumphant light. He let go of Feng Xue'er and shot forward as he rounded a stone wall.

Immediately, the world before him was no longer pitch-black, instead he could see a bright, pulsing, purple light.

Within this dreadful darkness, Feng Xue'er's Phoenix flames had only been able to light up an area that was roughly three meters wide. But the purple light that filled his vision radiated a full hundred meters outwards and it was indelibly burned into Yun Che's eyes. It seemed as if even the deepest darkness in this world would be unable to devour this purple light.

The purple light gently flickered. However that bone-chilling and terrifying devilish laughter had also come from that purple light.

Yun Che's heart began to pound in his chest like a hammer and his eyes widened into saucers as he stuttered, "That is... that is..."

"The Netherworld Udumbara Flower!!" Zi Ji's voice rang out from behind Yun Che.

"Ah? That is... the thing that Big Brother Yun wants to find!?" Feng Xue'er cried in a voice filled with joy and amazement.

"That's right! This is the Netherworld Udumbara Flower... The strange bright purple light, the ghostly wail that it emits every time it sways. This is exactly as my teacher described it!!" Yun Che said excitedly as both his hands curled into fists.

For an entire seven years, he had not been able to find a single trace of the Netherworld Udumbara Flower. Yet today, he had entered the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest knowing that it would be a futile attempt, akin to trying to find a needle in a haystack... but who would have thought that he would have such a miraculous encounter!!

"Jasmine, we found it... we found it!!" Intense surprise and excitement had taken over Yun Che for a period of time. But at this moment, he noticed that something was wrong. Because he suddenly did not hear anything behind him, even the sound of breathing had completely disappeared.

Chapter 774 - Half-bloomed Udumbara (2)

Yun Che turned around in a flash. To his surprise, he found that Zi Ji, Xia Yuanba and Feng Xue'er all stood there with slack expressions on their face. Their eyes were completely blank and their pupils dilated and contracted intermittently. It was as if their souls had left their bodies.

Yun Che's heart was filled with alarm as he rushed over and swiftly grabbed Feng Xue'er with his right hand, hugging her close. At the same time, his left hand shot out, releasing an energy wave that shoved Xia Yuanba and Zi Ji far away. He roared loudly and frantically, "Retreat! Don't look at the purple light!!"

The three of them shuddered simultaneously, as if they were waking up from a dream. Feng Xue'er immediately hugged Yun Che tightly as she curled into his chest, not daring to raise her head again. Yun

Che could clearly feel that her heart was racing. Zi Ji and Xia Yuanba practically fell over themselves as they scrambled backwards, and their expressions were ones of stark terror.

"This Netherworld Udumbara Flower indeed lives up to its reputation... No! It is far more terrifying than the legends describe it!" Zi Ji said as his heart hammered in his chest. His face was green and he was unable to compose himself at the moment. That purple light radiated at least one hundred meters outwards and despite that distance, it had so easily drawn him into this nightmare.

"To think that such a terrifying thing... actually exists in this world!" Xia Yuanba said in a rather traumatized voice, "Is it truly just a flower?"

"What did all of you experience just now? What exactly happened?" Yun Che asked as his brows furrowed. When Yun Che had stared at the purple light, he had only felt dazzled for a moment. He had not experienced any abnormality.

"Let's not talk about these things right now!" Zi Ji said somberly. He leaned on a wall, not daring to look at the Netherworld Udumbara Flower again. Even then, he still had a vague feeling that a pair of demonic eyes were staring at him from some place and his heart was beating so fast that it felt like it would explode at any moment, "Yun Che! We only have a short hundred breaths! Right now, more than half of that time has passed! Your luck is extremely good. To think that you were actually able to find this dreadful Netherworld Udumbara Flower. Moreover, it is in half-bloom as well... Quickly seize this opportunity and retrieve it with the fastest possible speed! If we are not able to leave within the designated time limit, we will all be trapped here and die! There will be no chance of survival!"

"I understand!" Yun Che nodded his head, and once he had deposited Feng Xue'er beside the wall, he yelled out a warning, "Xue'er, Yuanba, lean against the wall! You definitely mustn't turn back. I will harvest the Netherworld Udumbara Flower shortly!"

"Big Brother Yun... you must definitely be careful!" Feng Xue'er said in an extremely worried voice. Yun Che had told her about many of the legends associated with the Netherworld Udumbara Flower. But in that brief, horrible instant, she now knew that the dreadfulness of the Netherworld Udumbara Flower had far exceeded her wildest imagination.

"Don't worry! Since I dared to come here, I definitely have a foolproof plan as well!"

Yun Che said this as he rounded the corner, taking more than ten steps towards the Netherworld Udumbara Flower. After that, he stopped and just as he was about to call Jasmine to go harvest the Netherworld Udumbara Flower, he heard Jasmine yell sternly, "Were you not listening to what I just said? Immediately leave this place! Don't bother with the Netherworld Udumbara Flower anymore!"

Yun Che was taken aback, "But..."

"No buts from you!" Jasmine said in an extremely somber tone, "Haven't you noticed that even though this Netherworld Udumbara Flower has already started to bloom, it is only in half-bloom!"

Yun Che was stunned by those words and he raised his head to stare that at that gently swaying purple light.

Within the deep darkness, the Netherworld Udumbara Flower's appearance was still clear for all to see, as if it was right in front of Yun Che. It was slightly taller than three meters in height, its stem and leaves

were greenish-black in color. In the middle of that fantastical bright, purple light, a bewitching flower could be seen. Every petal seemed to be made of radiant purple jade, but the flower bud was still faintly curled up and the petals had not fully unfurled. Even though it had an extremely bewitching and enchanting appearance, it had not fully bloomed yet.

The Moon Slaughter Devil Nest was a desolate place, and the air was stale and stagnant. Yet the half-bloomed Netherworld Udumbara Flower gently swayed as it released a light purple mist that seemed to come from the underworld itself. And from time to time, it emitted that nightmarish sound that seemed to be a mix of both wailing and laughter. It was so sinister that it caused the souls of those who heard it to tremble.

And just as Jasmine had said, it had not fully bloomed yet!

Given Yun Che's knowledge regarding plants and herbs, even though this Netherworld Udumbara Flower had not fully bloomed, it looked like it would not be long before it reached full bloom. Perhaps it would take a few more days, or even a few more hours, for it to bloom!

At this moment, the purple light suddenly flashed, and the scene in front of Yun Che blurred before becoming awash in a sea of purple.

A boundless purple world. It was as if he had stepped into some fantastical wonderland, and it caused his heart to become intoxicated and bewildered. All of the nervousness, apprehension and caution in his heart... seemed to melt away completely along with the rest of the emotions in his heart. He became completely relaxed and he felt as if his body had become as light as a feather. He could not help but desire to float up in the air so that he could fly even deeper into this purple-colored world, to the point where he could become one with this fantastical world...

After being lost in delirium for that brief instant, Yun Che jerked back to wakefulness. The purple-colored world instantly shattered before his eyes as it morphed into a pitch-black world which flickered with a bewitching purple light.

What a terrifying ability to invade the soul... Yun Che thought as his forehead was matted in cold sweat and his heart thumped wildly in his chest. A Netherworld Udumbara Flower that had not fully bloomed and was nearly one hundred meters distant from him had actually been able to hypnotize him, someone who possessed the Dragon God Soul, for a brief period of time!

If he had drawn close to it, the consequences would have been unimaginable!

Jasmine had told him that if he was within thirty meters of the flower, he would be wracked by indescribable pain and if he was within fifteen meters of the flower, he was practically committing suicide... Right now, Yun Che was completely convinced that these were not words that were just meant to frighten him.

"Even though it hasn't fully bloomed, it is about seventy to eighty percent done! Will the difference be that drastic if you used this instead of a fully bloomed one?" Yun Che asked in a low voice as he looked to the side.

"It is the difference between the earth and the sky!" Jasmine said sternly, "Only a Netherworld Udumbara Flower in full bloom can perfectly merge my soul with my reconstituted body. The level of

power of a Netherworld Udumbara Flower that has not fully bloomed is far from enough and even if you plucked ten thousand of them, they would not be able to perfectly merge my body and my soul. If we attempt to force a merger, I will end up becoming like the current Fen Juechen. My body will be wracked with intense pain due to the rejection of my soul and within a few short years, my physical body will die once more and my soul will be destroyed."

Yun Che, "..."

"No..." Yun Che clenched both his fists tightly as he spoke through gritted teeth, his expression colored with discontent, "It was so hard for us to even find a clue regarding the Netherworld Udumbara Flower... and now it is right in front of us. It is so close to being in full bloom as well..."

"If we miss this chance, the next time it will bloom will be an entire twenty-four years later...

Furthermore, we will only be able to enter this Moon Slaughter Devil Nest five hundred years later..."

How could he let go of this Netherworld Udumbara Flower that they had spent seven whole years to find!

"Yun Che, you better listen up and listen good!" Jasmine said gravely, "I desire to obtain a fully bloomed Netherworld Udumbara Flower more than anyone else! But right now, even if there was a fully bloomed Netherworld Udumbara Flower before our eyes, much less this half-bloomed one, we would still not be able to obtain it! Right now, what you need to do is to leave this place quickly!"

"...Why?" Yun Che did not understand and he made no move to retreat as well... he could hear the discontent in Jasmine's voice and he was just as discontented as well!

"This place is terrifying beyond the boundaries of what you can imagine!" Even though the intensity of the darkness energy in this place is extremely weak, but the level of this darkness energy is so high that even I have never seen it before. If my body and soul were whole, the darkness energy in this place would not be able to affect me in the least, but right now, I only have a spirit body. I don't have a physical body to anchor me so I have no way of keeping darkness energy of this level from eating away at my existence! If I were to materialize my spirit body in this place, I would suffer very serious injuries in a matter of minutes and even my soul origin would receive extreme damage!"

Yun Che, "..."

"My spirit body was being eroded by that devilish poison for many years and it's only now that I have completely escaped from its clutches. But I am still many times weaker than I would be in my complete state! I will only slowly regain my true strength after my body has been reconstituted. But if my current spirit body is eroded by darkness energy again... the consequence is that I will not be able to ever fully recover! And my spirit may even end up dissipating forever!!"

Every single word that came from Jasmine's mouth was extremely heavy and they rooted Yun Che in place.

"So even if that was a Netherworld Udumbara Flower in full bloom, I would also not be able to materialize and harvest it. It is even more impossible for you to do it." Jasmine's tone grew more serious by the second, "I am not exaggerating anything in the least! For darkness energy of this level to be continuously released for the past ten thousand years, there must be something that is far more

terrifying than anything that you could think of that is hiding in this Moon Slaughter Devil Nest! Even though I am in the Sky Poison Pearl right now, I can still feel my spine tingle in a way that it never has before. Even my spirit perception has been suppressed to a certain..."

Jasmine suddenly stopped talking, causing Yun Che's heart to skip a beat. Then she started shouting sternly, "Hurry up and leave!! There is a living creature hiding somewhere above the Netherworld Udumbara Flower... and it is looking at you right now! Flee immediately!"

"What?" A jolt of shock raced through Yun Che's heart and he unwittingly raised his head to look at the ceiling above the Netherworld Udumbara Flower but all he could see was inky darkness.

At this moment, Zi Ji howled at him from behind, "Yun Che! What are you doing!? You only have thirty breaths left, if you don't hurry up, you won't be able to make it!"

Yun Che did not have time to hesitate any further, he quickly turned around and yelled, "We're getting out of here!"

"But that Netherworld Udumbara Flower..." Xia Yuanba said as he hesitated for a moment. Because the purple light was still shining and that meant that Yun Che had not been able to successfully obtain the flower.

"Don't worry about it, let's hurry up and leave!!" Yun Che shoved Yuanba a long way towards the exit with his palm. He grabbed Feng Xue'er's hand tightly and he used the light of the Phoenix flames to guide him as he rushed towards the exit at the fastest speed possible.

"Is that 'monster' following us?" Yun Che asked anxiously. Because they had just travelled down to his path to reach the deepest part of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, they were familiar with it, so they fled at a much greater speed than when they had arrived.

"No, it isn't". Jasmine replied.

"..." Yun Che let out a small sigh of relief as a thought flashed through his mind: A living creature that is hiding within the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest. Could this be the legendary Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign?

The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign should have died more than six thousand years ago. It was not possible for a Tyrant Profound beast to survive for ten thousand years!

Furthermore, the urgency in Jasmine's voice told him that the monster hidden in the darkness was a creature that was too strong for him to fight... So it would definitely not be the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign which was only at the Tyrant Profound Realm.

Just what was it!?

"What kind of monster is it? Do you have any insight as to what it's power level is?" Yun Che asked.

"It is far bigger than a normal human. And as for its strength... it should roughly be at the sixth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm! The caveat being that my suppressed spirit perception might not have captured its power level correctly!" Jasmine said in a doubtful voice.

The sixth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm... Yun Che increased his speed yet again as a complicated light flashed in his eyes.

"We still have ten breaths worth of time left. Don't worry, we'll make it." Zi Ji said as his voice grew more relieved but his heart was still shaking with adrenaline and fear... When he had spoken to the Sovereign of the Seas, he had told her that he would yank Yun Che out of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest once fifty breaths had passed. He never would have thought that they would be in this desperate situation. If they were not able to leave this place within one hundred breaths, the four of them would all die in this place.

"It's just that Brother-in-law was not able to obtain the Netherworld Udumbara Flower." Xia Yuanba said in a somewhat disconsolate voice.

"That was to be expected. Given how terrifying the Netherworld Udumbara Flower is, even if the Four Sacred Masters were to join hands to obtain one, they would definitely not be able to survive the attempt." Zi Ji said as he sighed. Even though Yun Che's objective had not been fulfilled, Supreme Ocean Palace had lived up to its end of the bargain.

Just a few breaths before the opening in the barrier closed, the four companions finally saw a hazy glimmer of light appear in front of them.

"We're at the exit, let's hurry up and get out of here!" Zi Ji, who was the furthest ahead, yelled as his figure blurred and he dashed towards the exit.

"Brother-in-law, hurry!" Xia Yuanba yelled, he was hot on Zi Ji's heels and the moment he exited the barrier, he turned around, fearing that Yun Che was lagging behind.

The exit was right in front of them and once they left, Yun Che would only be able to enter this place again five hundred years from now at the minimum.

Even if he managed to enter five hundred years later, there were no guarantees that they would be able to find a Netherworld Udumbara Flower like they had today.

Yun Che began to slow down. He used both hands to give a mighty shove to Feng Xue'er's shoulder, flinging her far out of the opening of the barrier. Then, he stopped right at the opening itself.

"Yun Che! What are you doing... hurry up and get out!" Jasmine had guessed his intentions in a second and her small face immediately went pale.

"Brother-in-law!!"

"Big Brother Yun!!"

One breath later, Yun Che still had not emerged from the opening made in the barrier. Xia Yuanba and Feng Xue'er both realized that something was wrong at the same time. Xia Yuanba's expression changed dramatically while Feng Xue'er's pretty face lost all of its color as they both rushed towards the opening at the same time.

"Don't worry about me!" Yun Che roared as he pushed both his arms out at full strength towards the opening. He blew the nearby Xia Yuanba and Feng Xue'er, neither of whom could react fast enough to defend themselves, at least three hundred meters away.

"I am going to wait for the Netherworld Udumbara Flower to reach full bloom, so I'm going to have to stay here for a few days... Don't worry about me, don't forget that I have that 'profound ark'!"

"Big Brother Yun...NO!!!" Feng Xue'er's teary cry could be heard from outside the barrier.

"Hurry up and leave!!!" Jasmine yelled with such anxiety and fury that it caused Yun Che's heart and soul to quake, "The laws of space in this area have long ago been distorted by the darkness energy, even the Primordial Profound Ark..."

Ssssss!!!

With a sizzling pop that sounded like the discharge of lightning, the opening in the barrier that had lasted for one hundred breaths instantly snapped shut. The entire barrier glowed with a flowing blue light which blended with the barrier. Not even a small scratch could be seen on it presently, much less an opening, as it completely and perfectly separated what was inside the barrier from the outside world.

Chapter 775 - Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign (1)

Boom! Boom! Boom!!

Amidst ear-shattering explosions, continuously exploding Phoenix flames had dyed a large swathe of the sky and sea a startling crimson. As those frenzied flames fell from the sky, the small islets that came into contact with them immediately turned to magma.

The dreadful sounds and power being displayed had long ago alerted Supreme Ocean Palace but the Phoenix flames continued to wreak havoc with no signs of stopping and they kept growing hotter and wilder with each passing minute.

"Princess Snow, please stop! This barrier can't be forcibly blasted open! Even if the Four Sacred Masters were to join hands, they would also not be able to do so!!"

Zi Ji was also at the eighth stage of the Sovereign Profound Realm. But when he faced these terrifyingly powerful divine flames, he also had no choice but to keep his distance, he even had to keep retreating.

"Big Brother Yun... BIG BROTHER YUN!!!" In front of the barrier sealing the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, Feng Xue'er screamed as she crazily hurled phoenix fire. But no matter how the Phoenix flames assaulted the barrier, not a single scratch was formed on it. It did not even quiver in the slightest and it would only give out threads of rippling light every now and then.

"Little Sister Xue'er, you need to stop at once!!"

Xia Yuanba had also been forced to keep his distance. He had wanted to approach Xue'er many times but her Phoenix flames were simply too dreadful. In the blink of an eye, he had already been blown half a kilometer away by those Phoenix flames. He could only howl helplessly and anxiously but no matter how he and Zi Ji tried to counsel Feng Xue'er, they simply could not get through to her.

At this moment, the Phoenix flames suddenly stopped and the firelight that had shrouded the entire island began to wane. Xia Yuanba thought that Feng Xue'er had started to come to her senses but just as he was about to advance... An enormous and extremely glaring fire lotus gorgeously bloomed around Feng Xue'er.

Boom!!!!

An all-encompassing wave of heat assaulted Zi Ji and Xia Yuanba. They both felt a pressure on their chests, as if they had been smashed by a giant hammer that had come from the depths of a fiery purgatory. They fiercely shot backwards and their clothes and hair started to burn.

This was a Star Scorching Demon Lotus performed with all of Feng Xue'er's might and it was also the strongest attack that the Phoenix flames could display on this world! It was more than ten times stronger than the strongest Phoenix flames that Yun Che could produce.

"Little Sister Xue'er... hurry up... and stop!!"

Xia Yuanba's cries were now tinged with pain. He retreated at full speed. His body felt like it was being wrapped in purgatorial flames as every inch of skin was being burned to the point where the pain was unbearable. It was a long time before the burning sensation finally subsided to a level he could endure. He anxiously extinguished the flames burning on his body as he began to noisily gasp for air. Every single breath that he expelled from his chest was boiling hot.

The Phoenix flames that had been raging for a long time finally began to die down as their light swiftly receded. Xia Yuanba took ragged gasps as he desperately sought to regain his composure. It was only then that he discovered that he had been blasted five kilometers away from the island that the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest was located in.

Even though he had seen Yun Che use his Phoenix flames before, he had never once seen Feng Xue'er in action. It was only now that he came to the startling realization that this girl, who was as beautiful as fairy and who would tenderly and gently call him "Bulky Big Brother" was actually extremely terrifying!

On the other side, even though Zi Ji had not been pushed as far as Xia Yuanba, the trembling of his pupils were no less intense than Xia Yuanba's... His profound strength was the same as Feng Xue'er's, both of them were at the eighth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm. And when it came down to it, he was still slightly stronger than her. But right now, he was utterly convinced that if he were to face Feng Xue'er in battle, he would definitely eat a loss!

The eighth stage of the Sovereign Profound Realm coupled with the purest Phoenix bloodline and Phoenix flames; it was a power that was definitely able to match the profound practitioners of the Four Great Sacred Grounds who were at the ninth stage of the Sovereign Profound Realm!

The light of the flames had completely dissipated but the sea breeze was still boiling hot. It was just that the original island had completely disappeared and the only thing that was left was an enormous ocean-blue barrier shimmering on top of the sea as it sealed off the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest from the rest of the world. The island that had existed outside the barrier had been completely obliterated by Feng Xue'er's Star Scorching Demon Lotus.

"Why did it turn out like this... Big Brother Yun... Big Brother Yun..."

Feng Xue'er floated above the barrier all alone, her shoulders faintly shaking. She stared at unharmed blue barrier dumbly, her eyes filled with misery and heartbreaking words spilling from her lips.

"Little Sister Xue'er, don't be too worried." Xia Yuanba said as he quickly flew to her side. His appearance was quite pathetic, his face and his entire body had been burnt black, his clothes were

dotted with innumerable holes due to the flames, and even half of his eyebrows had been singed off. However he bore no resentment towards Feng Xue'er. Instead he now liked her even more... Because she had fallen apart on behalf of Yun Che.

"Brother-in-law is a very clever person... Since he chose to remain inside that place, he definitely has an objective he needs to fulfill and also a method of escape." Xia Yuanba said as he tried to comfort Feng Xue'er. But his own palms were soaked in cold sweat and he was so anxious that he felt like his heart was about to burn to cinders.

"But... that place is so dangerous. Senior Zi also said that if someone were to be trapped inside there, that person would..." Feng Xue'er sobbed, her voice quivering with barely restrained weeping.

"Don't worry, it will be alright." Xia Yuanba did his best to remain calm and comfort Xue'er, "Brother-in-law was the one who made the decision to remain in that place, he wasn't forcibly imprisoned within. So he definitely must be confident that he can get out. Between Brother-in-law and Zi Ji, the one you should trust is definitely Brother-in-law! Just now Brother-in-law himself said that he would be out in a few days. Moreover..."

Xia Yuanba quietly ascertained where Zi Ji was standing before concentrating his profound energy and sending a sound transmission to Xue'er, "Don't forget, Brother-in-law still has the Primordial Profound Ark and he can teleport tens of thousands of kilometers in the blink of an eye. So it should be a simple matter... for him to escape from that place."

The three words "Primordial Profound Ark" caused Feng Xue'er's teary eyes to immediately sparkle prettily. Xia Yuanba's words was not an empty consolation and it helped her confused and frightened heart regain a semblance of calm.

"I also think that there is no need to worry too much." Zi Ji flew over from afar. Even though his body was scorched all over, his calm and tranquil attitude remained, "Even though I am convinced that absolutely nobody on this earth can break this barrier, do not forget that Yun Che's master is an expert who has transcended this world. He was able to bring Yun Che back from the Primordial Profound Ark all those years ago, so breaking out of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest should be as easy as waving his hand."

"Yes, yes, that is definitely the case." Xia Yuanba quickly went along with Zi Ji as he nodded his head vigorously. But his anxiety was not eased in the least... because he was extremely clear that Yun Che's so-called "master" was fake.

"What just happened!?"

A stern voice echoed from the distant north and at the same time, they could feel a energy wave pressing in from afar. Both the tone and the actions of the approaching person were fraught with anxiety.

Xia Yuanba turned around and saw a blue-robed man flying over at an astonishing speed. Behind him, thirty meter high waves were roaring in his wake as the sea had been agitated by the profound energy he was releasing. And far behind that blue-robed man trailed four people who were all clothed in red.

"Supreme Ocean Palace's great elder Mo Chenfeng!" Xia Yuanba blurted out in surprise.

The four red-clothed people trailing behind him rooted Feng Xue'er in place for a while. But after that she excitedly took flight as she went to meet them, "Royal father, Grandfather, Crown Prince, and... Great Grandfather!?"

As they saw Xue'er come to welcome them, the four red-clothed men also slowed to a halt, their faces showing their great excitement at seeing her again. Feng Hengkong cried out emotionally, "It's Xue'er... It's really Xue'er!"

Feng Xue'er had just used the full power of her Phoenix flames to assault the barrier and in doing so, she had radiated an overly strong Phoenix aura that spread out over fifty kilometers. This had startled the members of the Divine Phoenix Sect who were currently staying in Supreme Ocean Palace. The only person in this world who was able to release such a refined and pure Phoenix aura was Feng Xue'er!

At that point, all four of them dropped everything else and flew towards the south at full speed. Now they had once again been reunited with the Feng Xue'er, who had left the Divine Phoenix Sect for several months already.

"Great Grandfather?" After hearing Feng Xue'er's cry of surprise, Xia Yuanba's gaze immediately fell on the red-clothed man who stood on the extreme right. He had a head full of white hair and his face was as ruddy as scarlet flames. But his eyes seemed to be two burning flames and just meeting them caused Xia Yuanba's eyes to feel a burning sensation.

Little Sister Xue'er's great grandfather... Oh that was right! It was the man whom master called the number one person in the entire Divine Phoenix Sect... Feng Zukui!!

Xia Yuanba had heard Spiritual Master Ancient Blue personally mention this person before. He had said that Feng Zukui's profound strength was already at the ninth stage of the Sovereign Profound Realm one hundred years ago and because of his intimacy with the Phoenix flame, his overall strength was even higher than Spiritual Master Ancient Blue!

Outside of the Four Great Sacred Grounds, he was also the undisputed number one person in the Profound Sky Continent!

Feng Zukui very rarely appeared anymore and even among the Divine Phoenix disciples, very few of them had personally seen him before. But it was not surprising to see him attending this Devil Sword Conference.

"Mister Zi, what happened here?"

There was only that blue barrier below which was still shining on the surface of the sea, all the other islets and the island itself had disappeared without a trace. Mo Chenfeng's brows twitched violently as his face was colored with shock.

Zi Ji made a small gesture before saying, "We didn't meet any great enemy. It is only that Yun Che is still stuck inside the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest."

"What!?" Mo Chenfeng gasped in astonishment.

"However, it wasn't because he couldn't make out it in time. Rather, he chose to remain inside. Zi Ji said, "And after hearing what he said, it seemed like he was unable to harvest the Netherworld Udumbara Flower because it had not reached full bloom yet. He decided to remain inside so that he could wait for it to fully bloom."

"This..." Mo Chenfeng's face twitched before he said in a deep voice, "This is the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest we are talking about. If one is sealed inside, the only thing awaiting that person is death! The Sovereign of the Seas has personally said that even she would not be able to last in that place for more than six hours! For him to decide to remain inside there... it's no different from digging his own grave!!"

Zi Ji shook his head in disagreement, "If it was any other person, that would most certainly be the case. But Yun Che was able to return alive from the Primordial Profound Ark. Furthermore, even though he is a haughty man, he is not so arrogant as to gamble his own life by underestimating the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest."

He turned around and faced the barrier surrounding the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest before calmly continuing, "Right now, I am actually very curious to see whether he will really be able to survive for long within the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest. And whether he will be able to escape this isolation barrier... Also whether he will be able to successfully obtain the Netherworld Udumbara Flower that nobody has ever approached and lived!"

Mo Chenfeng fell silent.

"However, my anticipation will only continue until this time tomorrow." Zi Ji said, "Yun Che's 'master' may have the ability to transcend the heavens but Yun Che's strength falls slightly short of the mid stages of the Sovereign Profound Realm and his vitality is far below even that. In a place where even the Sovereign of the Seas is not able to survive for six hours... If he is not brought out by his 'master' within a day, then it is impossible that he will still be alive. At which time, that 'master' of his either does not know of his predicament or simply doesn't exist in the first place."

"Mister Zi has indeed reminded me of something. The laws of space within the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest are very different from the laws of space here. Among these differences is the fact that all Sound Transmission Jade and spatial profound artifacts will be rendered useless in there. If Yun Che's trump card is to use a sound transmission to get his 'master' to save him or to use a spatial profound artifact to escape this place, then he has truly dug his own grave this time." Mo Chenfeng said in a relaxed voice.

"..." Zi Ji's brows sank by several degrees and his originally calm face was now creased by uncertainty and pity, "In short, we should return to the Ocean Palace first so we can make our report to the Sovereign of the Seas. We need to devote all our efforts to getting ready for the Devil Sword Conference. We can't afford to be distracted by anything else."

"Yes." Mo Chenfeng said as he nodded his head as he turned around to leave. It was not important that the island that the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest was located on was destroyed. Because the barrier sealing the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest was absolutely impregnable and indestructible.

"Xue'er, why are you here?" Feng Hengkong asked in both concern and agitation. The three people that had come with him were Feng Ximing, Feng Tianwei, and last but not least... Feng Zukui!

"Xue'er, you... have you been well? During the past few months you spent in the Blue Wind Nation, has anyone... especially that bastard Yun Che, bullied you!?" Feng Ximing asked anxiously. As he said this, both of his hands were trembling, his face had gone completely red and his eyes were tightly locked onto Xue'er. He was so agitated that he looked like he was going to lose control of himself.

"I came together with Big Brother Yun. I did not inform Royal Father because I was not sure if Big Brother Yun would bring me along. Great Grandfather, you actually came as well, Xuer'er has already... not seen you for the longest time now." Feng Xue'er bowed gently towards Feng Zukui.

"On the other hand, during the three years that Xue'er was unconscious, I went to see Xue'er many times." Upon seeing Feng Xue'er, Feng Zukui's mood had become extremely good. A weak and shallow smile suddenly appeared on his calm and imposing face. After he gave Feng Xue'er a few deep and measured looks, the red light in his eyes immediately gleamed even brighter and the smile on his face grew deeper as well. He nodded his head heavily as he sighed, "Xue'er, you are truly the precious gem of our entire clan. In just a few short years, your Phoenix profound strength has actually exceeded your own father and grandfather. Perhaps by this time next year, even this old fogey will be left in your dust! Hahahahahaha!"

Feng Zukui threw his head back in laughter and everyone could hear the immense elation and joy contained in that great laugh. From the moment Feng Hengkong could walk and talk, he had only seen Feng Zukui laugh four times and every single time he had laughed, it was because of Feng Xue'er. This time, his laughter was far more joyous and jubilant than it had been on any of the previous occasions. He took a step forward and bowed as he said, "Grandfather, it has to be said that Xue'er's transformation is truly thanks to that Yun Che. Three years ago, Yun Che had imparted the fifth and sixth stages of the 'World Ode of the Phoenix' to Xue'er on the Primordial Profound Ark. This event allowed Xue'er to attain a true mastery of her Phoenix flames and also caused her strength to soar."

"Even though Yun Che brought a great calamity down on our heads a few months ago, he has always been sincere towards Xue'er. And Xue'er even owes him her current powers and her very life..." Feng Hengkong shut his eyes before saying, "Therefore, during these few months, the burning desire to avenge my sons... is something that I am more than willing to forego. I have no desire to pursue vengeance on behalf of the other two grand elders either."

Feng Tianwei's gaze swept across the surrounding area and he said with furrowed brows, "Xue'er, you said that you came here with Yun Che. Why are you here by yourself right now?"

These words caused Xue'er's delicate body to faintly tremble as two tears instantly fell from her beautiful eyes. Even though Yun Che was the person that she trusted the most in this world, and even though she knew about the existence of the Primordial Profound Ark... she could not quell the intense fear and worry that gnawed at her soul.

Feng Hengkong and the two other elders were immediately struck dumb. Feng Ximing, on the other hand, practically jumped up in anger, the hair on his head standing on end and his features warping as a bestial snarl tore from his throat, "Did... did he bully you! Did he... he... where the hell is he right now!? Bastard! Beast! I will kill him... I will rip him to shreds!!"

Feng Hengkong glared at Feng Ximing fiercely before he asked Xue'er in a low voice, "Xue'er, what exactly happened here?"

Xue'er bit her trembling lips and it was only after a long while that she could finally speak in a grief-stricken voice, "Big Brother Yun, he... he is trapped inside the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest."

"What!?" Feng Tianwei's and Feng Hengkong's faces immediately lost all color. Feng Ximing was taken aback as well but his face immediately twisted into an expression of undisguisable jubilation.

The existence of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest was known to only one other sect besides the Four Great Sacred Grounds... and that sect was the Divine Phoenix Sect.

"There is no need to be so worried." Feng Zukui's expression remained calm as he spoke, "I just heard the discussion between Supreme Ocean Palace's Mister Zi and great elder Chen Mo Feng. Yun Che seems to have chosen to stay behind, so he definitely has confidence that he can escape. Furthermore his master is the legendary 'Old Man Duotian' who has the ability to transcend the heavens. So being sealed within the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest may not end in his death."

"Yes, yes, yes!" Feng Xue'er's tears stabbed into Feng Hengkong's heart like needles, so he hurriedly nodded his head in agreement as he said, "Your great grandfather is completely right! If anyone else was trapped in the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, it would indeed spell their doom! But Yun Che is different! Even the Primordial Profound Ark couldn't contain him all those years back. You should follow your royal father back to the Ocean Palace first and maybe by the time you wake up tomorrow, he will already be out of this place."

Feng Xue'er raised a jade hand as she wiped away the tears from her snowy face. She softly said, "I know... I believe more than anyone else that Big Brother Yun will definitely... definitely come out of there in one piece. So, I will wait here for Big Brother Yun. Great Grandfather, Grandfather, Royal Father, Crown Prince Brother, Xue'er is alright. All of you should return to the Ocean Palace first. Xue'er will immediately come and see you all once Big Brother Yun returns."

"Ssss..." Feng Xue'er's words and the resolute expression on his face caused Feng Ximing's smooth face to once again warp in anger as he clenched both his fist tightly and viciously murmured under his breath: Yun Cheeeee! Go down to the eighteen layers of hell within the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest! Die! Die! DIEEEEEEE!!!!

"Xue'er..."

"You don't need to advise her any further." Xia Yuanba walked over as he said with a serious expression on his face, "No matter what you say, she will definitely not leave this place right now. Return to the Ocean Palace first, I will wait here with her. And once she has regained some of her composure, I will advise her to return as well."

"This man is Xia Yuanba, Absolute Monarch Sanctuary's disciple who possesses the legendary Tyrannical Emperor's Divine Veins! He is Yun Che's brother-in-law." Feng Hengkong sent a sound transmission to both Feng Tianwei and Feng Zukui.

The look in both Feng Tianwei's and Feng Zukui's eyes changed drastically once they heard those words.

Feng Hengkong knitted his brows before he let out a soft sigh, "Since that is the case... Xue'er, we will be waiting at the Flame Heart Palace that is located in the northwest part of the Ocean Palace. If anything happens, you must definitely send a sound transmission to inform us... No matter how anxious and

worried you are, your royal father will be even more worried and anxious than you. No matter what, don't be too headstrong and put too many burdens on yourself."

Feng Xue'er's eyes grew misty as she said, "Royal Father..."

"Royal Father, this place is still Supreme Ocean Palace, so how can we leave Xue'er here all by herself? I request that Royal Father allow this son to stay behind to accompany..."

"Shut your mouth!"

Before Feng Ximing could even finish what he was saying, he was sternly cut off by Feng Hengkong. He did not spare Feng Ximing another glance as he turned towards Feng Tianwei and Feng Zukui, "Royal Father, Grandfather, let us leave this place for now. If we remain, it will be harder for Xue'er to calm down.

The four people of the Divine Phoenix Sect departed and Zi Ji left along with them. Only Xia Yuanba and Feng Xue'er were left in the now quiet ocean region. They mutely stared at the blue-colored barrier, neither of them speaking a single sword for a long time.

"Brother-in-law, you will definitely be alright!" Xia Yuanba tightly clenched a fist as he murmured these words over and over again in his head.

"Big Brother Yun, Xue'er will wait here for your safe return." Feng Xue'er placed both hands on her chest and she closed her beautiful eyes, her snowy lips softly whispering, "If Big Brother Yun does not return in a day, then Xue'er will wait a day. If you don't return in a year, then Xue'er will wait a year... If... if Big Brother Yun never returns, then Xue'er will remain in this place forever... so that I can accompany Big Brother Yun here forever..."

Chapter 776 - Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign (2)

The sealed Moon Slaughter Devil Nest was blanketed in inky darkness.

For the first time in his life, Yun Che experienced what true darkness was. The world he was trapped in seemed like a bottomless abyss; there was not a single trace of light or life. In this world of absolute darkness, he could not see anything else, he did not even know where he was and what direction he was facing. His mind was under a lot of pressure and he started to feel a little dizzy.

"Yun Che... Do you know what you've just done!" Jasmine yelled through gritted teeth as her voice echoed in Yun Che's mind.

"Of course I know." Yun Che replied as he took a deep breath, trying his best to compose himself. Within the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, even drawing breath was several times more difficult than it was normally.

"I had already told you very clearly, there isn't any way that I can materialize to go harvest the Netherworld Udumbara Flower in this place. And I was even more clear about the fact that there was no way that you could do it with your current ability. You won't even be able to go anywhere near it, you..."

"I know." Yun Che said with a somber expression on his face, "I will definitely not question what you have told me. But we have already looked for the Netherworld Udumbara Flower for a whole seven years! And during these seven years, whether it was in the Profound Sky Continent or the Illusory

Demon Realm, we have not been able to find even a clue regarding it. Now there is one that is growing in the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest and it is extremely likely that it is the only Netherworld Udumbara Flower in this world! Furthermore, it is right on the brink of fully blooming... so how can you expect me to just give up on it like that!"

"When I saw this Netherworld Udumbara Flower, I had an powerful feeling that if we left like this, we might never see a second Netherworld Udumbara Flower in our lives ever again. Which also means that you will never be able to obtain a new body." Yun Che said solemnly, "Furthermore... furthermore, truth be told, I'm not too afraid of that Netherworld Udumbara Flower. Just now, even though it was able to enthrall me briefly once I entered within a hundred meters of it, the moment I concentrated I was able to break out of its spell. My condition was far less serious than Xue'er and the others. This should be related to the fact that I possess the Dragon God Soul... and if my Dragon God Soul is fully unleashed, it should be very possible for me to resist its ability to steal one's soul. At the very least, let me try it out."

"Foolishness!" Jasmine said sharply, "Do you know how big a difference there is between a Netherworld Udumbara Flower that has fully bloomed and one that has not? Once a Netherworld Udumbara Flower reaches full bloom, its ability to steal your soul will grow at least ten times stronger!

"..." Yun Che stammered out in a stunned voice, "Te... ten times!?"

"For the past seven years, since I mentioned the Netherworld Udumbara Flower until now, I have always asked you to locate one but I have never ever once asked you to actually go obtain one. It is not something that a person from this plane, such as you, can even come into contact with!" Jasmine's voice was filled with fury and Yun Che could well imagine that she was so shocked, upset and frustrated that she could barely contain the desire to smack him so hard that he flew tens of kilometers.

"Are you thinking that if you aren't able to succeed, you will be able to escape using the Primordial Profound Ark? If you are, then you are truly naive! Having to endure more than ten thousand years of darkness energy which is of such a high quality slowly eating away at it, the laws of space in this place have long since been distorted! You will barely even be able to use the Primordial Profound Ark to move around in this Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, much less use it to leave this place!"

Yun Che, "..."

"Also, I clearly just warned you that there was a living creature hiding in this place! It's strength is at least at the sixth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm! Furthermore, to be able to survive in such a dark environment, it is very likely going to be an extremely evil creature! Perhaps you will die under the claws of this foul beast before you can even approach the Netherworld Udumbara Flower! And even if you wanted to flee at that moment, you wouldn't be able to!"

"You've basically made your own grave! And this is a grave that even I can't dig you out of!" Jasmine yelled in fury.

"Heh heh." At this moment, Yun Che suddenly let out a small laugh.

"...To think that you are actually able to laugh right now." Jasmine said in an exasperated voice.

Yun Che faintly smiled as he said, "I just suddenly thought of the many times you've scolded me because I always risked my life for women. Every single time, I gave you the same reply. If it was for you, I would

also be willing to throw my life away. But you've never once believed me. However, now that we've reached this point, are you starting to believe those words?"

"You..." Jasmine's voice ground to a halt immediately.

"Jasmine, you've given far too much already. On the other hand, I have never really been able to do anything for you. Even cleansing that devilish poison from your body was only possible due to the existence of the Sky Poison Pearl. I have never ever needed to give up anything or pay any price. Right now, this Netherworld Udumbara Flower may be the only hope of you getting a new body. So even if the risk was ten times greater and the chance of success was ten times lower, I would still choose to stay behind."

Jasmine, "..."

"Moreover, I was not being completely reckless when I chose to stay behind. I had already carefully weighed the pros and cons in my mind. Our situation is far less dire than you made it out to be. Even though the Dragon God Soul in my body has already become a part of my own soul, because my spirit power is too weak, even I am not able to tell just how strong it actually is. Therefore, it is impossible for you to know either, Jasmine. If my will is resolute enough and I am able to draw out even more of the Dragon God Soul's soul power, approaching the Netherworld Udumbara Flower is not an impossibility!"

"And even if that living creature that is hidden in the darkness is an evil beast, if it is at the sixth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm, it isn't impossible for me to beat it either. Two months ago, Fen Juechen had around the same level of strength. In the end, not only did I manage to beat him, it was a complete victory!" Yun Che said in a voice that was brimming with confidence as his eyes widened in the darkness.

"..." Jasmine remained silent for a while before viciously spitting out a response, "IDIOT! The reason why you were able to beat Fen Juechen was entirely because of Hong'er! You really thought that the present you could be a sixth stage Monarch!?"

"Because of... Hong'er?" Yun Che asked in a stunned voice.

"Forget it." Jasmine said as she gave a faint sigh, "Now that things have reached this point, it would be useless even if I scolded you another ten thousand times. If that foul beast can survive in such an environment, then it means that it must be a creature of the darkness element, so it should also be vulnerable to Hong'er just like Fen Juechen was. If that is the case, then you might have the ability to face it in open combat... but it isn't a sure thing! Right now, the first thing you need to do is to get accustomed to this environment so you can remain in your peak state indefinitely!"

Jasmine's tone remained stern but she had subconsciously softened it already. Though she still felt that Yun Che choosing to remain in the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest to wait for the Netherworld Udumbara Flower to bloom fully was the stupidest and most reckless thing he could do, that it was akin to digging his own grave, it had all been because of her this time around... completely because of her.

Moreover, this was a man that she had spent the most time with in her life, the man whom she understood the most. From start to finish, he had always been this kind of person...

"When you're in this place, do you feel a weight on your chest, do you start feeling dizzy and does it get harder for you to breathe?" Jasmine asked with surety in her voice.

Yun Che nodded his head, "Yes. Furthermore, these sensations are far more intense now than when I had first entered this place. Darkness energy is able to devour one's life force and soul, so the sensations that I am feeling right now should be considered quite normal."

"Hmph! The only reason why you are able to maintain your present state is because your life force far exceeds that of a normal person. If it was a normal Emperor Profound Realm practitioner, he would have lost all the strength in his body and he would be teetering on the state of unconsciousness after one hundred breaths. But even with your life force, you still won't be able to hold out in this place for too long. In two hours, you will..." Jasmine's voice suddenly stopped and when she spoke again, her voice had become neutral and emotionless, "It looks like I don't need to remind you about this after all. If you dared to stay behind, then you've definitely thought of this as well."

"That's only natural." Yun Che said as he stuck out his chest, "The origin of energy in this world is the energy of heaven and earth and darkness energy is naturally also no exception. The Great Way of the Buddha could even absorb and transform the energy from the spatial storm within the Primordial Profound Ark into vitality for my body, much less the fire element found in the Sea of Death. So it stands to reason that the darkness energy in this place can be absorbed as well! The richer and denser an element is in one place, the stronger the ability of the Great Way of the Buddha to absorb and transform said element into vitality for my body. So it can definitely cancel out or maybe even exceed the rate at which my life force is being eroded by the darkness energy in this place."

Yun Che's brows twitched as he suddenly asked a question, "The level of the darkness energy in this place truly surpasses your level as well? You said that you would not be able to stop it from devouring your spirit body but why do I not find it quite so terrible? In fact, I think that it is far weaker than the spatial storm I had to face in the Primordial Profound Ark! When I had to endure the spatial storms within the Primordial Profound Ark, if I just relaxed for a few breaths, I would be deader than dead. But in this place, even if I do not activate the Great Way of the Buddha, I can still hold out for a long period of time."

"Hmph, didn't I say this just now. The level of the darkness energy is extremely high but its intensity is extremely weak. The darkness energy here is akin to the profound energy being released by a Sovereign whose profound strength is exhausted, whose life has withered away and who is on the brink of death. So even though the profound energy being released is still at the level of the Sovereign Profound Realm, it is so weak that it would not even be able to kill a True Profound Realm practitioner." Jasmine said as her voice grew serious once more, "But what worries me the most is that this darkness energy is still clearly in an active state, it has not lain dormant."

"...What is that supposed to mean?" Yun Che asked.

"It means that this darkness energy is clearly being constantly released from some place. Furthermore, despite the fact that it has been unable to spread due to being completely sealed in this place, it still remains so thin even after ten thousand years have passed... It is highly likely that some dreadful thing that is hidden in this place has been releasing this high level of darkness energy while some other thing has been steadily absorbing this darkness energy! If not, why would the darkness energy in this place still be so thin despite this place being sealed away for ten thousand years and why is the darkness energy still in an active state!?"

"Otherwise, given the level of the darkness energy here, if it were to get dense enough, it is not something that Supreme Ocean Palace's barrier could seal away!"

Jasmine's words sent a fierce jolt through Yun Che's body. After that, he asked in a low voice, "Could it be... that it is the darkness-element Profound beast that has been hiding in here along?"

"Compared to a mere Monarch level darkness profound beast, I am much more curious about what exactly could be releasing this level of darkness energy!" Jasmine said in a somber tone, "Since we are already sealed in this place, we might as well find out what kind of mysteries are hiding in this place!"

"Just based on this bizarrely high level of darkness energy, the thing that is hidden in this place is far more dreadful and complex than what Supreme Ocean Palace thinks it is!"

Jasmine's words caused the whole atmosphere of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest to abruptly change for Yun Che.

Something whose level surpasses Jasmine and something that Jasmine called "dreadful"... just what could it be!?

But all of these things were secondary to him right now. What he needed to do first was to get accustomed to this environment. After that... he would use all of his strength to obtain that Netherworld Udumbara Flower that was almost within reach, no matter what the cost.

Within the darkness, Yun Che sat down, calmed his mind and focused his heart. The Great Way of the Buddha circulated slowly at first, but after that, it began to circulate faster. All fifty four of his profound entrances began to gradually open up along with the pores on his body. A thread of extremely refined and pure energy of heaven and earth began to flow into his body like a cool stream, becoming part of his strength and his life force.

A faint gold pagoda hazily appeared over Yun Che's head as it began to slowly revolve in place.

In this world that was filled with darkness energy, his life force and profound energy was being swiftly chipped away and even his soul was under assault. At the same time, the Great Way of the Buddha drew out the energy of heaven and earth that was far purer than normal from this darkness energy and it swiftly recovered both his vitality and his profound energy... Gradually, as the golden colored pagoda soundlessly spun, the rate of erosion and recovery easily balanced each other out.

Yun Che opened his eyes... All of this was proceeding far more smoothly than he had expected.

As such, he could now survive in the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, a place that would cause all who knew of it to blanche just at the sound of its name, for a sufficiently long period of time.

After Yun Che stood up, he raised an arm. With an explosive pop, violent Golden Crow flames sprang to life on his palm. The Golden Crow flames fought desperately to pierce the incomparably dense darkness and they managed to illuminate an area that was roughly ten paces around Yun Che.

Yun Che began to move slowly towards the deepest parts of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest once more. Given what Jasmine had just said, if the darkness energy in this place was not being absorbed by something and was allowed to build up over time, then it could completely... and easily destroy the

sealing barrier that Supreme Ocean Palace boasted was the strongest in the entire continent. But the barrier had lasted for a whole ten millennia, and nothing out of the ordinary had ever happened either...

Could it be because the thing that was hiding in this place... was deliberately maintaining its sealed state!?

As that thought flashed through his mind, Yun Che immediately trembled in fear.

Within the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, even Jasmine's spirit perception was greatly restricted, much less Yun Che's own spirit perception. As he walked towards the deepest parts of the nest, he could not sense anything else besides the boundless darkness. If not for Jasmine's warning, he would not even have known about that "living creature" that was hiding within the darkness.

The entrance of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest was rather narrow and cramped but the further one went in, the more spacious it got. In the middle segment, the path had already broadened out to an unknown height and width. As Yun Che neared the deepest part of the devil nest, the area the Golden Crow flames could illuminate shrank drastically. And at this time, an extremely bewitching purple light once more appeared before Yun Che's eyes.

It was the otherworldly purple light of the Netherworld Udumbara Flower!

Chapter 777 - Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign (3)

Yun Che raised the Golden Crow flames a little higher as he averted his gaze from where the Netherworld Udumbara Flower laid. He spoke in a low voice, "Jasmine, where is that monster currently located?"

It was a while before Jasmine finally responded, "It is still right above the Netherworld Udumbara Flower, roughly one hundred meters above it. It hasn't moved from its previous spot. If my spirit perception isn't wrong, its gaze is currently locked right onto you!"

"What about its profound strength? Can you confirm that it's at the sixth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm?" Yun Che asked again.

"...I don't dare to use too much soul power right now, and my spirit perception is heavily restricted in this place, so I am unable to confirm anything. But at this distance, even if there is a difference between its real and currently measured strength, it shouldn't be too big of a difference."

"Good..." Yun Che murmured quietly before sucking in a quick breath. His face grew cold as he raised his head and looked at the spot that was roughly one hundred meters above the Netherworld Udumbara Flower. After that, he spoke in an immeasurably calm voice, "I apologize for disturbing your peace and quiet, Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign!"

"Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign?" Jasmine said in a voice filled with suspicion, "Are you trying to test it?"

"Not completely." Yun Che replied seriously, "I just have this feeling that it... should be the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign that Zi Ji was talking about! Zi Ji said that it had died more than six thousand years ago. For the last six thousand odd years, the disciples of Supreme Ocean Palace who entered the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest have not found any traces of the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign. However,

when the four of us first entered this place, it was clearly alive but it did not make a move from beginning to end... So it is extremely likely that its death was always an facade!

"Because it did not need die in the first place! As long as it remained hidden here, even if the Four Sacred Masters themselves entered this place, they would still not be able to detect its existence!"

Two pinpricks of deep gray light suddenly sprang to life in the boundless darkness that was hanging over Yun Che's head.

Those were a pair of immeasurably dreadful eyes! Yun Che felt his body and soul fiercely tremble the instant those eyes opened.

"Foolish human! Was the reason you disregarded your own life to remain in this place to beg this king to personally send you on your way!?"

It was not the least bit bewildered that Yun Che had discovered its existence and its hoarse and raspy voice was filled with a violence and arrogance that caused one's heart to palpitate.

"...So that is to say that you are indeed the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign that lived here ten thousand years ago?" Yun Che asked as his heart leaped in his chest.

Even though Jasmine had already told him that there was a dreadful monster hiding in this place, upon seeing it himself, his heart was seized by shock and horror. Because its existence was something that even Supreme Ocean Palace, who had been guarding the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, was not aware of!

"Hahahaha!" That dreadful voice erupted in laughter, "This king has only stated his name once to you humans but who would have thought that you would still remember this king's name after ten thousand years have passed. Even though this king has not seen the light of day for ten thousand years, making a single appearance was enough to plunge you pitiful creatures into an eternal abyss of terror, hahahahaha..."

The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's voice was extremely unpleasant and Yun Che could barely make out what it was saying. Furthermore, every single word that was uttered from its mouth caused his body to cramp up and its laugh was extremely hard to bear. But the words it uttered had completely admitted to the fact that... it was truly the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign that Supreme Ocean Palace thought was long dead!

That also meant that... it had survived for the past ten thousand years till now!

The strongest Monarchs would have died several times over in the space of ten thousand years, yet it still remained despite a whole ten thousand years having passed!

This lifespan was completely inconsistent with logic and common sense!

And it was far stronger than the Tyrant Profound beast that it was rumored to be!

"To think that it really was this guy!" Yun Che said to Jasmine in a low voice, "It has not passed away despite ten thousand years having gone by, it is definitely some kind of abnormal monster!"

Jasmine, "..."

Yun Che sucked in a quick breath as he regained his composure. He raised his head once more and spoke in a calm voice, "Even though you have never shown yourself in the Profound Sky Continent, the name of the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign has never once been forgotten. As for me, I am merely what you termed a pitiful human being. I have no grudge or vendetta against you, so I definitely do not want to become your enemy. I am here only for the sake of one thing, once I obtain it, I will leave this place immediately. I will definitely not speak a single word regarding your presence... I just spoke out because I wanted to apologize for disturbing your peace and quiet."

It was very clear that Yun Che had no desire to enter into a deadly struggle with a horrifying creature that could survive in this environment of darkness for at least the past ten thousand years. If it did not obstruct his attempt to obtain the Netherworld Udumbara Flower and they both remained amicable to each other... That would naturally be the best result that could be reached.

However, Yun Che's hopes were dashed just as those words left his mouth.

"You foolish, pathetic and insignificant lower lifeform!!" The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign thundered, that ear-piercing and soul-scalding voice filled with fury, contempt and disdain. That pair of eyes which seemed like two dark grey abysses suddenly dropped down from the air, "Not only do you have designs on this king's Netherworld Udumbara Flower, you're actually still dreaming that this king will let you live!"

Bang!!

With a huge explosion, an enormous gray figure landed heavily in front of Yun Che.

A baleful aura that seemed to come from hell itself assaulted Yun Che, forcing him to stumble back five steps as he reflexively clenched his fists. From its voice, Yun Che could tell that it was no more than thirty meters away from him but the only thing he could see in the darkness were those grayish-white eyes. Other than that, he was not even able to make out a hazy silhouette.

It knew that Yun Che wanted the Netherworld Udumbara Flower... Oh yeah! It had already heard the conversation that he had with Zi Ji earlier!!

Even though the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign was close by, he still could not see it. However, Yun Che did feel a dreadful pressure envelop him as it sought to crush both his body and soul. This pressure was entirely different from any other kind of pressure that Yun Che had endured in his life. Icy, violent rancor, arrogance and unreal bloodlust... Yun Che felt a thick wave of negative emotions envelop every corner of this dark world. All of a sudden, he was struck by the dreadful feeling that he was sealed in some kind of hellish volcano and that he was about to face the cruelest punishments imaginable.

"The root of this king's very life and soul had been left in tatters so I had no choice but to seal myself in this place, not daring to see the light of day for ten thousand years! The darkness energy in this place has helped this king slowly recover my vitality and strength and this Netherworld Udumbara Flower will be able to restore this king's soul origin! This is something the heavens have blessed this king with. It is the most precious thing to this king in my life! In this disgraceful place, the day on which this flower blooms every twenty four years is the day this king looks forward to the most! To think that a foolish and insignificant inferior lifeform such as yourself would dare to have designs on the object that this king treasures the most!"

When an immeasurably strong existence faced a "pitiful creature," it normally would not even be moved to anything resembling anger. But it was very clear that Yun Che had touched this creature's reverse scale, something that he definitely should not have done!

The baleful aura which it had suddenly released caused Yun Che's heart to race but after that, he quickly regained his composure. His eyes turned exceptionally cold as he said, "It looks like... there isn't much room for discussion after all."

Not only was he unable to attain his desired outcome but the situation had deteriorated in the worst possible manner... To think that this Netherworld Udumbara Flower was actually the "reverse scale" of the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign!

This also meant that if he wanted to obtain the Netherworld Udumbara Flower, he would have to kill the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign first!

He had to kill a monster that had lived for more than ten thousand years! A monster that was surrounded by boundless mysteries!

"It was rumored that your strength was around the initial stages of the Tyrant Profound Realm ten thousand years ago. Now a whole ten thousand years have passed, yet you are only at the middle stages of the Sovereign Profound Realm..." Since it had devolved into a life-or-death struggle between them, Yun Che naturally dispensed with all formalities and courtesies. Instead he gave it a cold smile as he continued, "Even the most ordinary human being could outstrip this pitiful rate of growth! It looks the monster who keeps calling us inferior lifeforms... is nothing much after all!"

"Hahahahaha!" The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign was not provoked by Yun Che's words. Instead, a wild laugh erupted from his throat, "Foolish and pathetic creature, how could you even deign to understand the true might of this king! This king's current isolation is only because the very roots of my life and soul have been wounded! As long as this Netherworld Udumbara Flower is not destroyed, this king's vitality and his soul origin will have completely recovered after three thousand more years! When that time comes, this king's body and soul will swiftly recover and this king's strength will grow by leaps and bounds! And at that time, everything in this world will have to bow at this king's feet!"

Jasmine, "..."

"Tch." Yun Che snorted disdainfully, his expression filled with contempt, "I have met quite a few strong people in my life and there's a whole bunch of people who are stronger than you. But when it comes to being boastful and arrogant, I don't think I've met a single person who has beaten you yet. Oh... could it be that you've been crazy from the start? That sounds about right, in this environment of absolute darkness, it wouldn't be surprising for someone to be driven to suicide within a month or two, much less lose their minds. Speaking of that, I have to say that I am suddenly filled with admiration for you. Not only did you not commit suicide despite being holed up in this place for ten thousand years, you're actually doing just fine."

"Heh..." A dangerous chuckle coldly rang out in the darkness as the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign snickered, "This king has been able to endure for the past one million years, so what is a mere ten thousand years to me!"

Yun Che's brows fiercely jumped...

One million years!?

"How ridiculous! To think that this king would deign to waste his breath on a foolish and pathetic lower life form such as yourself!"

Boom!!

An icy-cold energy wave exploded outwards as the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's eyes turned from grayish-white to jet black. Around its body, dense black-colored mist gathered. In an instant, all of the darkness energy within the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest began to stir violently as an evil wind that seemed to come from hell itself mercilessly swept through and began to erode every part of the place.

Yun Che felt a pressure on his chest but after that he leaped backwards with all his strength, instantly retreating three hundred meters away. The darkness energy that the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign had explosively released made him feel as if he had instantly dropped into the pits of hell.

Wooosh!!

Yun Che's left hand blazed with Phoenix flames while his right hand was engulfed by the Golden Crow flames. His entire body was being baptized by fire and his brows were fiercely knitted together. While he had been alarmed and shocked by the darkness energy radiating from the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign, for some odd reason, he could not help but feel a familiarity from it that should not have existed...

Familiarity?

"Ignorant lower life form, given your pitiful strength, approaching the Netherworld Udumbara Flower would only end in your death. This king does not even need to personally execute you. But at the same time, it would also stain this king's Netherworld Udumbara Flower with the dirty and inferior soul lower given off by you humans! So this king has no choice but to personally consign you to the dust within this darkness!"

The boundless darkness had completely camouflaged the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign. Yun Che could not see where it was and could only rely on his restricted spirit perception to sense it. So in this current situation, Yun Che had already been forced to assume an absolute defensive posture before they had even come to blows.

At this moment, an extremely low voice icily rang out:

"Illusory Devil Tome of Eternal Night!!"

This voice had not come from Yun Che... instead it was Jasmine who had said those words!

These six words caused Yun Che to be rooted in place while also causing the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign to abruptly to freeze in place just as he was about to make an attack.

"Who is it!?" The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign roared as its pupils suddenly radiated a hellish, ebon light. This hellish light fell onto Yun Che's body as it roared once more, "Oh, so that's how it is! Your body houses another soul... and this soul is actually able to recognize this king's devil art!"

"Jasmine, what is going on?" Yun Che asked apprehensively. He finally knew where that odd sense of familiarity originated from... The darkness energy that was radiating from this Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign was astonishingly similar to the energy aura that Fen Juechen had released the other day. It was only that the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's aura was many times denser and purer than Fen Juechen's aura had been.

"This monster is neither a beast nor a man!" Jasmine's voice was frighteningly low, because the shock and terror in her heart was many times that of Yun Che's own, "It is extremely likely that this monster is... from one million years ago... during the Primordial Era... it is from the Eternal Night Devil Clan..."

"A devil!!"

The appearance of the "Illusory Devil Tome of Eternal Night" in the Profound Sky Continent had caused Jasmine to sense that something was amiss. The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign standing in front of them was extremely likely to be the dreadful truth behind... the "Illusory Devil Tome of Eternal Night"!

Chapter 778 - Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign (4)

"...!!" Even though he had similar suspicions, hearing Jasmine utter the word "devil" in an immeasurably somber tone caused Yun Che's heart and soul to fiercely quiver.

Devils! They lived during the Primordial Era and had dominated the Primal Chaos Realm together with the ancient gods. Their strength, vitality and spirit... were at a level that was far above humanity... and they were an existence that was greater than all other living creatures as well!

But the gods and devils had clearly gone extinct a million years ago!

The dead gods had at the very least left behind their scattered legacies but according to what Jasmine had told him, the devils had long ago faded away completely, not leaving a single thing behind.

"Jasmine... are you sure?" Yun Che asked as his heart remained stuck in his throat. If what Jasmine had said was correct, then the monster standing in front of him was a terrifying creature of ancient legend that should have been wiped out one million years ago!!

"It is extremely likely... The Illusory Devil Tome of Eternal Night that he had displayed may not have been too powerful, but it was incredibly pure! There is an entire world of difference between the Illusory Devil Tome of Eternal Night it just displayed and the one that Fen Juechen used! If one's devil body and devil soul was not pure enough, it was impossible to use such a pure devil art... Furthermore the Illusory Devil Tome of Eternal Night was a devil art that was supposed to have died out along with the ancient devil clan!"

Every single word that Jasmine said weighed down on Yun Che like an enormous and heavy boulder, "The Illusory Devil Tome of Eternal Night that was used by Fen Juechen and the Eternal Night Royal Family had very likely come from it!"

Yun Che, "..."

"Who are you! How could you recognise this king's devil art!?" Jasmine's words had not only stunned Yun Che, they had also stunned the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign, causing the darkness energy that was swirling around it to sink slightly. But the black light that was shining in its eyes grew even brighter.

"Hmph, what a joke." Jasmine said icily, "Do you think the Illusory Devil Tome of Eternal Night is very rare? Within the Profound Sky Continent, there are tens of thousands of people who can use the Illusory Devil Tome of Eternal Night!"

Jasmine's words were clearly meant to sound things out.

"What a load of bullshit!" The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign roared as fury filled his voice, "The Illusory Devil Tome of Eternal Night is the devil art unique to my Eternal Night Devil Clan, and it is also the only devil art that still exists in this world! Under this sky, other than this king himself, it will definitely not be used by another!"

"Oh really? Since this devil art should solely belong to you, then can you explain how this princess could recognize it at first glance and how I was even able to correctly identify its name!?" Jasmine replied icily.

The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign was dumbstruck for a short while. But after that, the dark mist around its body began to swirl violently as it become a violent tsunami of darkness, pushing Yun Che backwards by tens of steps once more. At the same time, Yun Che could clearly tell that the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's fury was not directed at him.

"Oh so that is how it is... That's how it is!" The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign roared in fury, "It was that unfilial son of mine... that unfilial wretch!! Not only did he betray this king, he even handed down our clan's supreme and unsurpassed devil art to humans... AHHHHHHHHHHH!!! This king... should have torn you to shred all those years ago... TORN YOU TO SHREDS!!!"

Boom! Boom! Boom!!

The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign had completely lost control of its emotions and its power had gone berserk as well. The darkness profound energy spread all over the place as it lashed out crazily at its surroundings and deafening explosions blanketed the area.

"What did he say? His son?" Yun Che asked with bleak eyes as he remained on his guard. But he was completely unable to understand what the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign was roaring.

Jasmine explained in a slow but low voice, "We definitely need to think of a way to get it to divulge all of its secrets! To think that there was actually another devil hiding in this world! This definitely can't just be categorized as simply an odd occurrence! This is a huge matter that is big enough to shock the entire Primal Chaos Realm!"

"If he is really a devil from the ancient devil race and he is really able to recover his strength one day, then... he will bring about a horrifying calamity to the entire Primal Chaos Realm!"

Yun Che's mind whirled before he shouted out in a stern voice, "Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign! I can tell you one thing, the 'Illusory Devil Tome of Eternal Night' that we know of comes from a sword that is known as the 'Heavenly Sin Divine Sword'! Does that Heavenly Sin Divine Sword have any relation to you whatsoever?"

"Heavenly Sin Divine Sword?" The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign said as he gave a furious laugh, "That is this king's Eternal Night Devil Sword!!"

Eternal Night... Devil Sword?

The Heavenly Sin Divine Sword was the name given to the sword by the Eternal Night Royal Family, and it was a warning to its descendants that whoever used this sword was committing a crime against heaven! The Eternal Night Devil Sword... so that was its true name!?

"Why is it in the Profound Sky Continent? Did you leave it behind on purpose?" Yun Che asked as his brows knit together. As he was speaking, he also began to quietly withdraw all of his concentrated profound energy. Yun Che did this because he knew that if he made himself seem weak enough, weak to the point where it looked like he did not have the strength to resist and was a dead man walking, it would be much easier to get the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign to divulge all of his secrets.

The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's rage had still not dissipated and it seemed like the "unfilial son" he had mentioned was the greatest regret of his life. He roared in nearly uncontrollable rage, "Ten thousand years ago, this king had finally managed to escape the seal, and even though I did not die, the roots of my life and soul were completely destroyed. Anytime my body came into contact with the light of the sun and the moon, I was wracked with unbearable agony. Furthermore, it was highly likely that I would die in that condition so I had no choice but to cower in this dark abyss! In order for this king to find out what was going on in the outside world, I threw the Eternal Night Devil Sword into the outside world! And sealed inside the Eternal Night Devil Sword was this king's unfilial wretch of a son!"

"This king had thought that he would do this king's bidding and be this king's eyes and ears in the world. But this unfilial wretch actually cut off the soul link that he had with this king! He actually betrayed this king! And he even passed down the Illusory Devil Tome of Eternal Night to you lowly human beings... AHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!"

"To think that this king actually personally destroyed his devil body all those years ago in order to seal his devil soul into the Eternal Night Devil Sword, all so he could escape death together with this king! But in the end, he wound up betraying this king... That unfilial wretch! THAT UNFILIAL WRETCHED SON!!!"

The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's emotions were going berserk, and his deafening roars of fury threatened to rupture Yun Che's eardrums.

"...Jasmine, do you understand what he is saying?" Yun Che whispered as he leaned against one of the walls towards the back.

"The Heavenly Sin Divine Sword is the Eternal Night Devil Sword that he is talking about, and there is the soul of another devil hiding in that sword!" Jasmine said in a somber voice, "However that sword is no cause for concern because if even the Eternal Night Royal Family could easily seal it away, it means that its strength is already too weak to even be worth mentioning. Right now, even if the devil soul in that sword hasn't been completely extinguished, it is already teetering on the verge of oblivion. But this Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign... why is he still alive!? And he was even able to survive to this very day!"

"This planet was created by the Evil God! Since he said that he was sealed away for one million years, it is extremely likely that the Evil God was the one who sealed him away! Since the Evil God had the power to seal him away for so long, then why didn't he just kill this Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign in the first place? He also just talked about how he sealed the devil soul of his own son into his sword, so that his son could escape death together with him... What exactly is going on here!?"

A living devil, this matter was far more terrifying and serious than a normal person could imagine.

Jasmine's voice once again rang out within the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, "Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign! You keep claiming that you are from the Eternal Night Devil Clan and you also keep saying that you've been sealed for a million years. Are you actually trying to tell us that you're a devil god from the Ancient Era? Hah, how ridiculous! The god race and devil race died out one million years ago, this is a fact that any three year old child within the Primal Chaos Dimension can tell you. So every single word that you've uttered is foolish beyond belief!"

"This king's devil body is not something you lowly humans have the right to call into question!" The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign furiously roared back at her, "Yes, the gods fell and the devils died. Half of my Eternal Night Devil Clan died at the hands of the god race, the other half were destroyed by the Evil Infant's Wheel of Myriad Tribulations! Only this king survived! That damned Evil God, he was clearly struck by the Evil Infant's Wheel of Myriad Tribulations' 'Myriad Tribulations', yet he was still able to survive for so long after that. He was even able to use the remainder of his strength to seal this king into this lowly place!!"

"... It was just as you had guessed! He was sealed by the Evil God!" Yun Che whispered to Jasmine.

Jasmine, "..."

"This king was sealed away for one million years... A whole million years!" The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign continued to howl in fury, as if he was giving vent to the berserk rage that was caused by his "unfilial son", "That damnable seal is eating away at this king's devil body and devil soul every second! This king originally believed that he would die due to the Evil God's seal but who would have thought that the seal's power would suddenly run out ten thousand years ago. That not only left this king with a sliver of my life origin and soul origin, it also gave me back my freedom!"

"..." The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's words caused a flash of doubt to cross Yun Che's mind...

Normally speaking, after being released from a seal, a person would say that "I had regained my freedom, but was left with a sliver of my life origin and soul origin after that", but what the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign said was, "This not only left this king with a sliver of my life origin and soul origin, it also gave me back my freedom."

So his words seemed to express that he did not have any freedom before he was sealed by the Evil God.

However, this doubt did not linger in his mind, because he knew that it was very likely only a difference in the way the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign expressed himself.

"That Evil God would never believe that the seal that he exhausted all his strength to set was not able to kill this king... What's more, he himself lies dead one million years in the past, hahahahaha!!" The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's rage turned into wild laughter, "It is truly heaven itself which has protected this king. Heaven itself which has protected my Eternal Night Devil Clan!"

"The Evil God sealed this king in this incomparably inferior world for one reason. It must have been to ensure that if the day came where this king managed to escape his seal, I would be unable to regenerate my broken devil body and devil soul and the only thing I would be able to do was wait for death to claim me! He definitely would never have dreamed that a group of foolish, lowly humans would actually create a perfect barrier for this king. Not only did it completely obstruct the light of the sun and the

moon, it also prevented this precious devil energy from dissipating, leaving it completely for this king's use! And what was even more marvelous was that a Netherworld Udumbara Flower was actually birthed in this place... So I could absorb this devil energy to recover my life force and I could consume this Netherworld Udumbara Flower to recover my soul origin. All of these things fell into place perfectly. It is clear that the heavens themselves are helping my Eternal Night Devil Clan to once again establish the reign of the devils!"

"!!!!" At this point, Yun Che fully understood what the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign was saying.

The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign... A devil that the Evil God had used the last bit of his strength to seal away before he himself had fallen! The seal lost its power ten thousand years ago, allowing the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign to regain his freedom. But at the same time, the seal had been eating away at him constantly for one million years. So even if he managed to escape the seal, it was just a matter of time before he met his own end.

But as it happened, he was discovered by the founders of Supreme Ocean Palace not long after he had escaped his seal and so a barrier was erected around him... which simultaneously created the most optimal place for him to recover!

Furthermore, due to the accumulation of darkness energy, a Netherworld Udumbara Flower had been birthed in this place!

The Supreme Ocean Palace had wanted to seal away this dreadful devil energy and the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign along with it... But it had unwittingly saved him!

On the other hand, if not for this barrier, that terrifying devil energy that seemed to come out of nowhere would spread towards the Profound Sky Continent and the consequences of that were unthinkable.

Just as Jasmine had said, compared to the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign, the object that continuously released this devil energy was far more terrifying!

Jasmine replied in a cold voice, "All those years ago, even the Evil God died due to the Evil Infant's Wheel of Myriad Tribulations, why is it that you were the sole survivor!? Moreover, sealing you for a million years would be far more difficult than killing you. So why did the Evil God choose to exhaust all his remaining strength to seal you away rather than simply killing you?"

"Heh." The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign gave a sinister chuckle and at this moment, his fury had begun to abate as well, "Because the Evil Infant's Wheel of Myriad Tribulations is not able to kill this king! And the Evil God is even less capable of killing this king!!"

"Why couldn't they kill you!?" Jasmine pressed on, "The Eternal Night Devil Clan was not the most powerful clan amongst the ancient devil race! Even if you are the king of the Eternal Night Devil Clan, you are still definitely not counted amongst the strongest devils either! Even the devil god of the highest order, the Creation God known as the Heaven Smiting Devil Emperor had fallen... so why are you the only one that is still alive!?"

Boom!

The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign did not reply. As he regained his composure and his rage died down, the darkness energy around his body flared to life once more as a bone-cutting, icy aura heavily locked onto Yun Che. As he advanced, the entire Moon Slaughter Devil Nest began to fiercely tremble, "Since you are so eager to know the truth, then you can ask that damnable Evil God after I've sent you to hell! Lowly and pathetic humans, if you had been trapped in here by accident, this king wouldn't even bother lifting a finger. Instead, I would let the devil energy in this place consume you. But you dared to lust after this king's Netherworld Udumbara Flower... So prepare yourselves, as this king will grant you the cruelest of deaths!!"

Chapter 779 - Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign (5)

"Be forever consigned to dust in the darkness!!"

The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign took a step forward. Immediately, the entire Moon Slaughter Devil Nest began to quake. The dark mist around his body billowed crazily as it transformed into a giant wave of darkness energy and surged toward him.

Absolute darkness and extreme cold engulfed Yun Che like a boundless, inescapable, abyss. In front of this wave of darkness energy, Yun Che felt his body becoming rigid and he felt like dust in front of a tidal wave that reached the heavens. He was not able to attack with the Golden Crow flames he had gathered up as every cell in his body screamed for him to "escape"! If he dared to face it head on, it would only end in his complete and total destruction.

This was the first time that an attack caused his very soul to tremble in fear before it even neared his body.

Yun Che abruptly bit the tip of his tongue as he activated both Star God's Broken Shadow and Extreme Mirage Lightning at the same time as he darted backwards, quick as lightning. As he was making his swift escape, he felt his back smash heavily against a wall that he had no way of seeing.

Boom!!

The Moon Slaughter Devil Nest shook again as the wave of darkness exploded at the place where Yun Che had been stonewalled. The exploding darkness energy seemed to spread out like a horde of evil spirits.

The interior of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest had been saturated by darkness energy of an extremely high level for an entire ten thousand years. Every inch of its walls and every grain of sand within had become incomparably durable and it also had an immeasurably strong resistance against darkness energy itself. Even though it was being impacted by this peerlessly terrifying darkness, no dust flew in the wake of the attack and the wall itself merely shook but did not collapse.

Even though Yun Che had not been caught by the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's exploding darkness profound energy, the icy cold aftershocks caused his whole body to be wracked by unbearable pain. His brows knitted together tightly as he took big gasps of breath. After facing the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's first attack, his heart instantly sank to the bottom of his stomach... Both individuals were at the sixth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm and both of them also wielded the Illusory Devil Tome of Eternal Night but just based on the darkness profound energy that the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign had used in his attack, he was at least several times stronger than Fen Juechen!

Furthermore the icy cold might and pressure that were emanating from his body were at least one hundred times more stronger than Fen Juechen's!!

Even when he faced the Sovereign of the Seas, Qu Fengyi, the might and pressure that he had felt was vastly inferior to the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's.

Because, it... was a devil from ancient times after all!!

"Yun Che, you better listen up and listen good!" Jasmine yelled in an extremely serious tone, "This Moon Devil Sovereign! No matter what tactics or trump cards you have to use, you must use all your strength to kill him, even if you have to put your life on the line! Only your strength is not restricted by the dark devil energy in this place! So you are the only person who can kill him on this Blue Pole Star! Otherwise, the day he fully revives is the day the entire Profound Sky Continent and all the living creatures on this world experience a catastrophe beyond imagination!"

"Heh, right now, I have no time to care about a catastrophe." Yun Che's hands tightened into fists as he barked out a miserable laugh filled with self-mockery, "If I'm unable to kill him, then I'm dead meat. So I have no choice but to put everything on the line anyways... It's only that this time, there really isn't any chance of victory."

Because the monster he was facing was a devil from ancient times!

In the million years since the fall of the gods and devils, Yun Che was astonishingly the very first person who had crossed arms with a devil in the entire Primal Chaos Realm!

"If it was just you alone, then you'd indeed be as good as dead, as you wouldn't have a snowball's chance in hell of beating him." Jasmine said in a deep voice, "But if we add in Hong'er... then we might just have a chance!"

"Hmph, what a pitiful struggle!" The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign stretched out a pitch-black arm as a cluster of dark mist coalesced in front of him. After that, it started to pulsate like an enormous living organ. After the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign stretched out his finger, the dark mist fiercely tore itself apart as it shot out a thousand bolts of black lightning that stormed in Yun Che's location. Every single bolt of dark lightning was as slender as a needle but the might contained within each bolt of lightning caused all the hairs on Yun Che's body to stand on end as he instantly went pale.

"Don't even think of trying to break that attack, dodge all of them! If you are hit by any one of them, the darkness energy contained within will directly harm your soul!" Jasmine yelled out an urgent warning.

Yun Che did not even stop to think about it. He clung to the side of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest's walls as he once again activated Star God's Broken Shadow and Extreme Mirage Lightning to escape from this attack at the fastest speed possible.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang...

The dark lightning tore a thousand holes in the air before it collided against the stone wall with an ear-splitting wail. At the same time, vicious currents of dark energy spilled from the dark lightning uncontrollably. Many stone walls were scattered within the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, so as Yun Che fled backwards with all his might, all of the dark lightning was soaked up by the stone walls... Despite the dreadful power that was contained by each bolt of dark lightning, power sufficient to easily pierce

through Heavenly Firm Jade, none of these lightning bolts were able to penetrate a single stone wall in this place.

These stone walls that had been saturated by darkness energy for ten thousand years had clearly become a protective umbrella for Yun Che as he fled pathetically.

"Hah... hah..." Yun Che gasped violently as he leaned heavily against a stone wall, his forehead covered in cold sweat. Once he had managed to compose himself, he realized that the two attacks made by the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign had pushed him from the depths of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest to its middle.

If this continued, he would simply flee until he was rendered unable to flee.

"This can't continue..." Yun Che mumbled through gritted teeth as he stared in the direction of the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign, "Merely escaping is completely meaningless in this place... I'll just have to put it all on the line, no matter what!"

"Ah, this has truly shocked this king! To think that a pathetically weak and inferior lifeform such as yourself could escape this king's punishment twice in a row. But it is such a pity, because you are not qualified to become a plaything for this king. So this time, even if you have ten more lives, even if you are ten times faster, you will disappear forever! Not even a single bone will be left behind!"

The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's voice seemed near and far as it rang out from within the boundless darkness, making it hard for Yun Che to get a lock on his position. He gritted his teeth hard as he suppressed the terror that was welling up in his heart...

"Purgatory!!"

With a low roar, all of the profound energy in Yun Che's body explosively swelled up as the pupils of his eyes and the surrounding profound energy instantly turned a dull red.

"Burning Sun Rupture!!"

Yun Che darted out from behind the stone wall as blazing Golden Crow flames frantically ignited and exploded with full force towards the onrushing Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign.

Boom!!

When the onrushing Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign was still sixty meters away, the Golden Crow flames abruptly ruptured, but these rupturing flames of destruction did not release the power of the Golden Crow flames which would reduce everything to nothingness. Instead the flames were quickly extinguished within the darkness as they faded away. Within the short span of a single breath, everything was plunged into pitch-black stillness once again.

"Wh...at!" Yun Che said as he gritted his teeth fiercely.

"This is truly a meaningless struggle." The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign said with icy contempt and mockery, "If it was the flames of the Vermillion Bird, this king may feel the slightest hints of trepidation. But these lowly Golden Crow flames are merely a pitiful joke!"

"..." The fact that the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign was an ancient devil was confirmed yet again! Not only had he identified the flames as Golden Crow flames with a single glance but he also did not show the slightest bit of amazement at seeing them.

At this moment, the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's aura abruptly grew thick and heavy as the expression in his eyes fiercely changed as well... because he had felt the change in Yun Che's profound energy and he had also noticed the strange profound light which glowed around him.

"Evil God... Arts!!" The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign said in a voice that trembled suddenly. But after that, it morphed into a roar of pure fury and rage, "You actually inherited the powers of the Evil God... AHHH!!!! THEN YOU DESERVE TO DIE EVEN MORE!! EVEN MORE!!"

"This king has sworn countless of times that the first thing I had to do when I saw the light of day again was to destroy every single trace of the Evil God left in this universe!!"

"So you, the human who who has inherited the power of the Evil God! This king will consign both your body and soul to oblivion forever!!"

The seal had lasted for one million years and what was accumulated had been one million years of resentment and rage against the Evil God!

The moment he had felt the Evil God's power on Yun Che's body, all the resentment that festered within the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign erupted like a raging volcano. In a single instant, his fury caused the entire Moon Slaughter Devil Nest to shake and it was a million times more intense than the fury he had previously directed towards his "unfilial son".

The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign roared once again as he suddenly took to the air. He shot a claw out towards Yun Che and a thick and dense darkness that seemed to come from a devil god that dwelt in the depths of a deep abyss shot out from his body to engulf Yun Che.

He wanted to use that darkness energy to imprison Yun Che before using his bare hands to personally tear Yun Che into bits and pieces. All so that he could give vent to the million years of anger and resentment he held against the Evil God.

Yun Che steeled himself as he tried to push aside his fear and desire to flee but the dread that welled up in his soul and his body's instinctual desire to cower in fear was incomparably intense. The pressure from this devil simply wasn't something a mortal's body could bear. Yun Che being able to endure up to this point was already difficult beyond belief.

"I have to put it all in the line... The only choice I have is to put it all on the line! If not, the only thing that awaits me is a meaningless death!"

His body was still being wracked by uncontrollable trembling and he gritted his teeth so hard that he had nearly broken a few of them. However, the dread in his heart instantly turned into a violent rage...

"Hong'er!!"

A vermillion light shone as the Heaven Smiting Sword appeared. Yun Che's body shot into the air at the same time as he braced to meet the darkness energy that he could not possibly resist. While he gave

vent to his emotions with a great roar, he poured all of his energy into the Heaven Smiting Sword without reservation as he smashed it towards the boundless darkness before him.

It was also at this exact moment that Yun Che suddenly saw the absolute darkness clearing before his very eyes.

The body of the Heaven Smiting Sword released a vermillion light that Yun Che was quite familiar with. In this world of darkness, that the Golden Crow flames could barely illuminate, the vermillion light that emanated from the Heaven Smiting Sword was actually able to pierce through the darkness around Yun Che... it revealed the approaching whirlpool of darkness... and even managed to light up every corner of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest!!

It even clearly revealed the full appearance of the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign to Yun Che as well!

At the same time, he felt the all-encompassing, unconquerable fear that he held towards the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign, which had captivated his heart, suddenly disappear. It had disappeared completely, he even felt that the vortex of darkness which sped to engulf him had become far less dreadful. Even the dark might, which radiated from the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign, had become less heavy.

What's... this?

All of these changes had occurred the moment Yun Che had put his life on the line and rushed forth with the Heaven Smiting Sword. It was just that Yun Che did not have the time to be amazed by these changes or even think about them. Because in the very next instant, the Heaven Smiting Sword had heavily collided with the vortex of dark energy that had been conjured by the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign.

The instant the sword blade approached the vortex of darkness, Yun Che clearly saw the originally raging and surging vortex of dark energy become sluggish... or perhaps it would be better to say that it had curled up in fear!

Rippppp!!

The dreadful vortex of dark energy was sliced cleanly in two by the Heaven Smiting Sword, as if it was simply a pitch-black curtain. The dark devil energy that rushed out did not attempt to rush up and devour Yun Che. Instead, it curled back as if in fear before twisting backwards as it fled desperately... as if it had come face to face with the one thing in the world that it feared the most.

The incomparably dreadful vortex of darkness had been dispersed with a single blow. Yun Che stared at the now empty space in front of him with with blank eyes as he could barely believe what he had just witnessed. The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign was equally stunned. He stopped in place as both of his eyes fell heavily on the sword in Yun Che's hand. The gray light in his pupils grew incredibly frenzied as he gasped, "That... that is..."

At this time, Yun Che finally came back to his senses. His heart no longer felt any fear or pressure as he used Star God's Broken Shadow to appear in front of the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign, smashing the Heaven Smiting Devil Slayer Sword down fiercely on the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's chest.

The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign was in shock as he was struck by Yun Che's attack.

"ARGGHHHHHHH!!"

A hoarse and shrill cry blanketed the entire Moon Slaughter Devil Nest. Even though Yun Che's blow had been hastily struck, it still carried the force of a tremendous amount of weight and sent the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign flying.

Yun Che did not give chase. He only stood there, rooted in place... All he heard was the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's shrill and miserable wails, which did not die out until a long time later.

An ancient devil who could endure a seal that lasted a million years, who had a mighty devil body had actually let out such a shrill and miserable wail after being struck by Yun Che's sword... It was as if he had suffered the cruelest punishment in this world.

The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's pitch-black body heavily smashed against a stone wall that was three hundred meters away before it flopped to the ground. But he did not stand up. Instead, he began to roll on the ground as he let out cries that spoke of incomparable agony... As for the place where the Heaven Smiting Sword had struck his chest, it was astonishingly marked with a vermillion red wound. The vermillion light radiating from the wound was exceptionally glaring and it did not fade for a long time after, as streams of pitch-black blood poured out from within.

"Devil... devil slayer... sword!!"

The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's voice had been warped by pain but the three words "devil slayer sword" had clearly been uttered with deep dread.

Yun Che stared blankly at the scene in front of him. The Moon Slaughter Devil Nest was no longer a world of absolute darkness. It had now become completely stained in vermillion light. And the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign who was incomparably terrifying was now mewling in pain as he laid curled out up on the ground... Yun Che bent his head to look at the vermillion greatsword which was all too familiar to him with a dazed expression on his face. Yet at this moment, it almost seemed to be a stranger.

"Hahahahaha, that was the case after all!" Jasmine crowed triumphantly, "The moment an ancient devil is wounded by a devil slayer sword, the pain it endures is a thousand times greater and the time the wound takes to recover is also ten times slower than usual! So devils who are more pure than others will fear the devil slayer sword even more!"

"So now, you should know why I said that as long as you have Hong'er around, there is still a chance that you can beat this Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign!"

Chapter 780 - Xiao Yun's Disappearance

"So you're saying that the reason why I was able to defeat Fen Juechen so easily was also due to Hong'er?" Yun Che asked in astonishment.

"Hmph, what do you think?"

"..." Yun Che immediately grew depressed. Since he had beaten Fen Juechen, he had always thought that his strength had reached the stage where he could go toe to toe with a practitioner of the sixth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm. But to think that it was actually because of Hong'er!

It was no wonder why the darkness profound energy that Fen Juechen had used during their duel was far weaker than the exceedingly terrifying aura that had radiated from his body... At that time, he had already found it exceedingly strange but he had not thought of Hong'er at all. Instead, he guessed that it was because Feng Juechen was unable to obtain complete mastery over the darkness profound energy which had come from an external source.

Under the vermillion light emanating from the Heaven Smiting Devil Slayer Sword, the originally inky dark interior of the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest became incredibly clear and Yun Che could even see the small pebbles at the corners of the nest. He naturally could also see the full appearance of the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign... He was nearly five meters tall, black light radiating from his body. The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's skin was a deep gray color while his hair was bone-white, trailing all the way to his feet.

At first glance, besides the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's enormous build and the dusky hue of his skin, his appearance was basically no different from a human's. Having been tortured by a seal for a million years and having to hide from the light of day for another ten thousand years, Yun Che had thought that the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign would be exceedingly ugly and look as old as a ghost. To his surprise, the Moon Devil Sovereign's features, while warped in pain, were exceptionally handsome, from a human's perspective. Furthermore, he did not look much older than a thirty year old man.

"It... it can't be... it can't be a devil slayer sword!"

The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign finally stood up, but he remained in a hunched posture and the gray hand that he held to the wound on his chest continued to tremble. Yun Che could still see that vermillion light leaking out from between the gaps of his fingers and it did not seem to be weakening in the slightest.

"The Sword Spirit God Clan... were the first clan of gods to be wiped out... So it isn't possible that a devil slayer sword still exists in this world!" The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign exclaimed in a voice that was still filled with pain. Besides a devil slayer sword, nothing else in this world could inflict a wound that would torment a true devil body for such a long period of time, despite only being only half a foot long.

"The sword light..." The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's eyes widened as he let out a sudden howl, "Devil slayer swords emit a white-colored sword light... That isn't a devil slayer sword!! Just what sword are you holding in your hands!? Where exactly did you get such a sword!?"

Jasmine, "..."

"Hmph, you don't need to concern yourself with where my sword came from. The only thing you need to know is that you will die at the hands of this sword... and that is enough!" Yun Che hefted the Heaven Smiting Sword, his expression no longer containing the slightest bit of fear or desire to flee. Instead, he looked supremely confident at the moment and his lips curled into a cold smile that spoke of his impending victory.

Jasmine could naturally feel the change in Yun Che's attitude and she spoke out abruptly, "Aren't you getting a bit too overconfident right now? The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign only used half his power at most when he launched that attack at you. Furthermore, the only reason you were able to wound

him at all was because you caught him off guard. Even though Hong'er's power is able to heavily restrict his own power, it definitely doesn't mean that your victory is assured! His powers are far more robust and stronger than your own! And it is absolutely sufficient to overcome the disadvantage that Hong'er has put him at."

"I know." Yun Che said as he gripped the Heaven Smiting Sword tightly but his voice still contained more than a hint of excitement, "I can roughly gauge his strength right now. The first thing I felt when I faced him was an overwhelming dread that I wasn't able to overcome at all. But after I summoned out Hong'er, for some inexplicable reason, that feeling completely disappeared. And right now, I don't feel the slightest bit of fear. Rather... I feel even more relaxed and excited than when I faced off against Fen Juechen."

Jasmine, "...?"

This was indeed strange. It was true that holy power and devil power mutually repulsed and restricted each other but Yun Che did not have a holy body and he did not possess any holy powers either. Furthermore, it was Hong'er's presence alone that was restricting the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's devil body and devil powers.

But that was only his devil body and devil powers! It would not affect his soul!

No matter whether it was strength, spirit or species, the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign was far above Yun Che. So without even discussing the Yun Che who was currently far inferior to the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign, even if both of them were equal in terms of power, Yun Che would definitely still be suppressed, especially when it came to the suppression of his soul... The overwhelming terror that Yun Che could not shake was the most ordinary and expected outcome.

So why had Yun Che's fear completely disappeared and why was he able to radiate such a fierce and aggressive aura? On the other hand, it was the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign who... If it was a god who was on the same level as him holding a devil slayer sword, then perhaps he might feel fear. But right now he was facing a Yun Che whose power was far inferior to his, so why was he feeling such an intense dread?

From all the records of the devil slayer swords and from all his memories of them, it had never once been mentioned that they could also suppress a devil's soul.

Oh right, Hong'er was not simply a normal devil slayer sword! The light she radiated when she transformed into sword was completely different from the light that the fabled devil slayer swords emitted...

But being able to create such a huge suppressive effect on a devil's soul that practically transcended levels... Such an item should not even exist in this world! Whether it was the records of the Primordial Era or any inheritance of memories, there was no mention of such an item... given the level that the gods and devils existed on, it was not possible for such a thing to exist.

Unless... it was a higher order devil or god who was facing a lower level devil or god... But that was purely a suppression based on the order of things!

"..." The abnormally fierce and exuberant expression displayed on Yun Che's face caused Jasmine to go into deep thought.

"Very good!" The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's face was warped by fury. He slowly straightened up and began striding towards Yun Che, "It is indeed not important for this king to concern myself with that sword! Because the conclusion will be the same regardless! To think that a lowly and inferior creature such as yourself could actually inflict such pain on this king... Unforgivable!!"

"This king will grind all your bones into dust!!"

As his voice fell, all of the dark energy surrounding the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign began to surge and roil. He was only about one hundred steps away from Yun Che as well. He had originally believed that every step he took towards Yun Che would be like the footfalls of death itself as it pressed on in this lowly human, causing his entire body to tremble with fear, his courage to completely melt away and ultimately ending with Yun Che turning tail to flee... But right now, the only thing he saw was the cold smile that played across Yun Che's face and even as he pressed in, no fear appeared on Yun Che's face. Instead his gaze grew more fevered and excited and even his profound energy aura grew incredibly frenzied.

On the contrary, it was the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign who felt like his heart was being weighed down by one crushing boulder after another with every step he took. Furthermore, the light radiating from Yun Che's sword was especially unbearable, it caused him immense discomfort and he did not even dare to look at it directly. This natural repulsion he felt towards the light that he recognized as a great threat to his own life and soul origin continued until he suddenly focused his gaze on the sword. At the same time, the full appearance of that vermillion greatsword and the light that it emitted was completely absorbed into his mind...

At that instant, his feet completely froze and his pupils widened so much that it seemed like they would rupture.

"Heaven... Heaven Smiting Devil God Sword!!"

Jasmine, "...!!!?"

Thump...

The moment the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign started to shiver in fear, it seemed as if all of his strength had slipped away as he sank to his knees, his body trembling violently like a sieve. It was as if he had witnessed the most terrifying and unbelievable scene in this world!

This bizarre behavior and reaction was one hundred times more intense than when he had shouted out the three words "devil slayer sword"!

"What's going on now?" Yun Che had already been prepared to launch an all-out assault. But he had never expected the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign to suddenly become scared witless. His brows twitched as he stared at the dazed Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign... Could it be that this fellow's wits had been completely scrambled because he had been alone for too long?

"He just yelled out a name... Heaven Smiting Devil God Sword? Yes?" Yun Che suddenly exclaimed, "Oh right! Besides the two words 'devil slayer' that is inscribed on the sword that Hong'er transforms into,

there are also two other words, 'heaven smiting.' At first, he called it a 'devil slayer sword,' then he called it the 'Heaven Smiting Devil God Sword.' When you put those two names together, it really fits the sword that Hong'er transforms into. Could it be that he knows about Hong'er's origins? After all, like Hong'er, he also hails from the Primordial Era!

"...Now is not the time to worry about these things!" Jasmine shouted in a rather strange voice but she did not address Yun Che's doubts, "Remember what I said just now, do not hold anything back, use all your trump cards and pay whatever price you have to because you definitely need to kill this Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign!" Right now, his devil body and powers are being restricted by Hong'er. Furthermore, he threw his own weapon into the Profound Sky Continent, so when it comes to weaponry, you have the absolute advantage... Put everything you have on the line! It is definitely possible for you to kill him!"

"Alright!" Yun Che swiftly cast all other thoughts aside as his killing intent surged and flames ignited all over his body.

"Im... Impossible! Impossible!!" The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign howled hysterically but it was almost as if he was talking to himself at the same time, "Appearance... exactly the same... and this devilish might... No! It isn't possible... it definitely isn't possible! The color isn't the same... and even if it is... then how come it is also able to exude the aura of a devil slayer sword..."

At this moment, the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's head suddenly jerked up as he roared at Yun Che, "That sword... just what kind of sword is it, where did it come from!!?"

He had just yelled that the origins and history of that sword was not important... But at this moment, he repeated the words that he had shouted at Yun Che initially and this time, his voice was even more frenzied.

"You talk way too much!" Yun Che replied coldly. After that, his body blurred as he rushed towards the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign, "Why don't you just ask King Yama when you see him in hell!?"

Yun Che's words caused the devilish light in the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's eyes to burn brightly. To think that he showed such a pathetic and cowardly face to a human being, just thinking about it caused his temper to boil over. "This king will cripple you first, then search your soul!!"

He had changed his mind and decided not to kill Yun Che... It was clear that he simply had to figure out what was going on with the vermillion greatsword that Yun Che held in his hands!

All of the devil energy in his body swelled up as deep gray devilish markings lit up on his back. In an instant, the roiling dark devil energy formed into a enormous black shadow behind him. This black shadow was tens of meters tall and it had nine sinuous heads which twisted about, as if it was the legendary monster, the Nine-headed Hydra!

A brutal and frenzied aura which promised pain leaked out from that shadow, causing all of the energy in the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest to grow frenzied as well. After that, the black shadow dissolved into nine beams of dark energy which sizzled towards Yun Che.

"That is the Illusory Devil Tome of Eternal Night's Nine Deaths of Eternal Night! It carries nine different kinds of extremely negative concepts and it will destroy your mind before even hurting your body!"

Yun Che remained fearless and resolute, a corner of his mouth hooked into a cold smile. All the joints of his body creaked as he swung the Heaven Smiting Sword which weighed nearly five hundred thousand kilograms. Golden Crow flames ran along the body of the heavy sword as it instantly generated a rampaging, all-consuming firestorm which smashed heavily against the nine beams of dark devil energy.

The beams of dark devil energy were completely swallowed by the onrushing firestorm and in that instant, the space in that area completely shattered. The color of the wind changed as deafening energy explosions and the extremely terrible shrill sound of something being devoured rang in the air for a long time.

For the levels of power being shown by Yun Che and the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign, the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, while being immensely sturdy, was far too small a battlefield to contain their fight. Both of their powers clashed fiercely and it seemed like the entire earth was shaking. The clothes on Yun Che's body had been ripped to shreds but the pupils of his eyes released a deep red light. He lashed out with the Heaven Smiting Sword again and again and each slash was accompanied by an earth-shattering boom.

Boom! Booom...

Yun Che had made more than ten continuous slashes, forcing those nine beams of devil energy more than thirty meters into the distance, not allowing a single one to approach his body. The attack which had used about seventy percent of the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's power had been completely blown away. After that, the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's body shot out like a rocket and two black hands which seemed to emerge from the deepest abyss, streaming with the extremely dense dark devil energy, tore at Yun Che's throat.

Boom!!

Sword and claw met as the scarlet red flames surged against pitch-black devil energy. Yun Che's body shook and his upper body bent, causing a faint shock to shoot through his heart... This Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign had actually used a hand that had been wrapped in darkness energy to clash directly with his Heaven Smiting Sword!

Just based on this point alone, Yun Che was absolutely convinced that if not for the Heaven Smiting Sword in his hand, he would definitely not be the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign's opponent.

But the alarm and astonishment that shot through the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign was one hundred times more intense! He was shocked that the power of a noble and superior devil such as himself had been blocked by this inferior human being!

What alarmed him even more was that... the moment his power came into contact with that vermillion greatsword, it suddenly weakened drastically! It was as if something had mysteriously siphoned that power away!

Pop! Pop! Pop...

All the bones in Yun Che's body made small popping sounds and his originally dull red eyes became filled with frenzy and killing intent. Before the aftershock of the previous attack had completely dispersed, he

suddenly somersaulted through the air as he smashed his sword toward the Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign.

"Pathetic human being... if it's just you alone, you can stop dreaming of matching blows with this king!!"

The Moon Slaughter Devil Sovereign gave a roar of extreme fury as both his claws shot out. At the same time, the pitch-black devilish light suddenly expanded and swelled by tens of meters. The darkness energy swept forward, intending to smash the Heaven Smiting Sword into pieces, reducing it to nothingness.

Boom! Boom! Booom...

Flames exploded violently and darkness energy wreaked havoc all over the place. Within the space of a few breaths, the flames and the devilish light had clashed against each other one hundred times as the small battlefield seemed to be engulfed in an apocalyptic calamity... If this was not the Moon Slaughter Devil Nest, then even if it was an island that was five hundred kilometers wide, it would have been completely obliterated by now.

Blue Wind Nation. Blue Wind Imperial City. The main hall of the Imperial Palace.

Cang Yue lounged on a phoenix chair, a faint smile played across her fair face. Her heart was calm and peaceful as she casually perused a jade scroll.

At this moment, she felt a faint ripple of profound energy course through her Sound Transmission Jade.

Cang Yue put down her jade scroll and grasped the Sound Transmission Jade in her hand. The voice that came from the it was Xiao Lingxi's voice... and Cang Yue could hear the anxiousness in her voice as well as faint traces of weeping.

"...What!" After she had finished listening to the Xiao Lingxi's sound transmission, she shot to her feet, her crescent brows knitted together fiercely.

After she pondered the matter briefly, she grasped the Sound Transmission Jade once more as she sent a sound transmission back to Xiao Lingxi, "Lingxi, don't be anxious. You need to devote all your energy into ensuring that Seventh Sister's emotions remain stable, we definitely mustn't allow anything to happen to the baby! I will immediately think of a way to transmit a message to my husband."

Even after she put down the Sound Transmission Jade, Cang Yue's phoenix brows remained furrowed for a long time. She whispered to herself, "Husband is currently at Supreme Ocean Palace, which is one hundred and fifty thousand kilometers distant. The highest grade Sound Transmission Talisman can only send a message over a distance of fifty thousand kilometers..."

"Only Frozen Cloud Asgard is left! Perhaps they will have a way to send a sound transmission to my husband!"

"Men! Summon Palace Chief Dongfang and Palace Chief Qin!" Cang Yue shouted in an anxious voice.

The highest grade Sound Transmission Talisman was only able to transmit over a distance of fifty thousand kilometers. Furthermore, it was also exceedingly expensive. Even so, it would still not be able to reach Supreme Ocean Palace, which laid one hundred and fifty thousand kilometers away. Frozen Cloud Asgard was their only remaining hope... but it just so happened that the only sound transmission

imprints she had belonging to Frozen Cloud Asgard was those of Yun Che, Feng Xue'er and Xia Qingyue. But right now, none of them were not in the Frozen Cloud Asgard.

After a very short period of time, Dongfang Xiu and Qin Wushang had finally hurried over.

"Palace Chief Qin!" Cang Yue yelled, dispensing with all formalities as she rushed over to speak to them, "You need to immediately send a sound transmission to all the Profound Palaces within the Blue Wind Nation and order them to cease all other activities within the next three days as I want them to devote all their efforts into searching for traces of Xiao Yun!"

"Xiao Yun?" Qin Wushang and Dongfang Xie were both taken aback, "What has happened!?"

"Xiao Yun disappeared four hours ago." Cang Yue said solemnly, "If someone else had disappeared for four hours, it wouldn't be anything strange. But Xiao Yun normally doesn't even stray half a step away from his wife. So for him to suddenly up and vanish is a very strange thing indeed! Palace Chief Qin, time is of the essence and we don't have any of it left to explain things or second guess ourselves! You already know Xiao Yun's age and appearance and before he disappeared, he was wearing plain white clothes and he had a white cloth wrapped around his waist... So go and inform all the Profound Palaces! But remember this, all the Profound Palaces must conduct their investigations covertly! We definitely must not disclose anything to the public! The moment anyone discovers a trace of Xiao Yun, he must make a report back with the fastest speed possible!"

"Understood!" Qin Wushang yelled. He knew that this matter was deadly serious and he did not speak any further. Instead, he turned around to carry out his orders.

"Do we need to dispatch anybody to Floating Cloud City?" Dongfang Xiu asked.

Cang Yue gently shook her head, "The profound strength of Xiao Yun and his wife are unrivaled in Blue Wind Nation. Even if you put them in the Heavenly Sword Villa, the other party was able to kidnap Xiao Yun without raising a single alarm. So if they wanted to take action against the others, no matter how many people we send, it won't be of any use."

"Palace Chief Dongfang, my hus... Yun Che is currently staying at Supreme Ocean Palace and only the disciples of Frozen Cloud Asgard will be able to contact him! I want you to depart for Frozen Cloud Asgard right away! Even if you have to travel day and night, you have to reach Frozen Cloud Asgard within the next twenty four hours, no matter what! Inform them of what has transpired! They will naturally know what to do after that."

Dongfang Xiu gave a brief nod before he took the air and disappeared from the great hall as he rushed towards the north.