

The Gods 981

Chapter 981 - Flawless Feixue

On the day that Heavenly Netherfrost Lake was being opened, the entire Divine Ice Phoenix Sect seemed to have frozen. The atmosphere was unprecedentedly somber and serious.

It was because today was the day when the Great Realm King would select her direct disciple. Once one became the Realm King's direct disciple, not only would their position rise sharply, their cultivation would also soar. Moreover, they would even receive a drop of pure Ice Phoenix origin blood. It was the greatest honor within the Snow Song Realm.

In the high skies of the Ice Phoenix Realm's northernmost area, an ice boat pierced through the cold wind and traveled at an extremely fast speed. Yun Che and Mu Xiaolan stood upright at the two sides of the boat while Mu Bingyun, whose clothes fluttered in the wind, stood in front. This place was already not too far from the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake.

"I really didn't think that even I would get to enter the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake. These few days felt like a dream to me, I was scared that I'd suddenly wake up from it when I was in the cultivation room."

Even though many days had passed, Mu Xiaolan was still drowned within intense excitement and emotions... The other Ice Phoenix disciples probably felt the same. After all, the ones who were able to enter the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake had all been divine hall disciples, moreover, the most excellent ones amongst them.

"Also, not only can we meet the senior brothers and sisters as well as the various palace masters and elders, also.. Also..." Mu Xiaolan faintly gulped with thirty percent expectation and seventy percent nervousness, "I'll be able to see the Great Realm King again, ouu! I'm so nervous."

"What's there to be nervous of, it's not like she'll choose you as her direct disciple... Ah, she probably wouldn't even spare you a glance." Yun Che mercilessly struck her down with his mouth.

"Hmph!" My Xiaolan spoke angrily, "I haven't sorted it out with you for lying to me before, yet you actually still dare make fun of me."

"How did I lie to you?" Yun Che rolled his eyes.

"You're still not admitting it." Mu Xiaolan looked at him with disdain. "Master, he actually lied to me the other day, saying that it was Senior Sister Feixue who came to deliver the Amorous Grass Dew for us. Hmph, you don't even know how to lie properly. Every year only new disciples of the divine hall ever deliver the Amorous Frost Dew. How could such an amazing person like Senior Sister Feixue, taking account of her personality, do such a thing? All you know is to make trouble and trick me every day."

"It's up to you if you want to believe it or not." Yun Che put his hand behind the back of his head, disinclined to refute.

"Feixue?" Mu Bingyun looked to the side. "Yun Che, you shouldn't have met Feixue before, how did you know it's her?"

“She told me herself.” Facing Mu Bingyun, Yun Che’s expression was sincere. “I was also very surprised that the rumored greatest disciple of the entire sect would personally come to deliver the Amorous Frost Dew.”

“She... told you that she’s Mu Feixue with her own words?” Mu Bingyun’s eyes were like a serene cloud, a hint of bafflement coming through the depth of her gaze.

“Well, that’s not it either. She might have been trying to tease me at first and told me another name. However, she actually knew of the matter of me and Mu Yizhou. And because of... cough, some other reasons, I was able to guess that it was very likely that she is the Mu Feixue that Mu Hanyi adores. When I spoke it out, she also admitted it,” the honest Yun Che narrated in detail.

Mu Bingyun, “...”

“Senior Sister Feixue... Teasing you?” Mu Xiaolan let out a “pffb” sound of laughter, then her expression became angry again. “It’s fine if you lie to me but you even dare deceive Master. That’s too much!!”

Yun Che shrugged, not inclined to bother with her as he continued, “Oh right, Palace Master. The reason why she came to deliver the Amorous Grass Dew was probably out of convenience, as her main goal was to meet you. After I told her that you weren’t in the palace for those few days, I wonder if she ever found you later.”

“Meet me?” Mu Bingyun once again looked over at him. “She also said that herself?”

Yun Che pondered, “She said she was also coming to see someone as she was delivering the Amorous Grass Dew. It can’t be Senior Sister Xiaolan, let alone me. So it could only be Palace Master...”

Seeing the rather strange expression on Mu Bingyun, he hesitated a little, as he spoke meekly, “It can’t be that... she was really there to see Senior Sister Xiaolan, was she? But I remembered that Senior Sister Xiaolan isn’t well acquainted with her?”

“...” Mu Bingyun turned her gaze back, as some irregular fluctuations emerged from her eyes. She then spoke softly, “In a hundred breaths, we’ll arrive at the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake. Take care to channel profound energy to defend against the cold.”

Just as Mu Bingyun’s voice subsided, the temperature of the already chilly world suddenly dropped sharply. The further they forged ahead, the more bone-chillingly cold it became. The entire world also became even more still and silent, as though even sound was frozen.

The area where Heavenly Netherfrost Lake was located was the coldest place in the entire Snow Song Realm.

“It is the first time ever in the history of the Snow Song Realm that the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake has been publicly opened to such a degree.

“Not only will the Great Realm King come personally, so will the seventy-two divine hall elders, thirty-six palace masters, the Freezing Snow Main Hall Master as well as the chief deacon. All of the higher ups in the Divine Ice Phoenix Sect will come.”

“Of the young generation, there are at most two thousand divine hall disciples. The one hundred outstanding disciples chosen by each Ice Phoenix Palace total three thousand five hundred disciples.

This is five thousand five hundred disciples added up altogether. Such an amount is unprecedented and these five thousand five hundred disciples that are entering the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake will dictate our Snow Song Realm's future."

Mu Bingyun's words were not exaggerated at all. This was because Divine Ice Phoenix Sect was the ruler of the Snow Song Realm and Divine Ice Phoenix Sect's most outstanding members of young generation would undoubtedly become rulers of the future Snow Song Realm.

If it weren't for the fact that the Thirty-sixth Ice Phoenix Palace only had an awkward two disciples, the amount would've reached five thousand six hundred.

In other words, Yun Che, who had just come to the Snow Song Realm was now about to see the highest echelons of Divine Ice Phoenix Sect, as well as all the highest level disciples!

Just based on this, Yun Che could be said to have no predecessor.

"Today's event is no small matter. The severity of its significance is incalculable. Thus, once you enter the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake, you must not step out of line."

Mu Bingyun's words were evidently said to Yun Che. She had never reproached him for his previous repeated troubles but there could not be any errors within the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake gathering. She had to give Yun Che a serious warning.

"Xiaolan, Yun Che, when you enter the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake, you two must follow me closely. You must agree to everything I say and may not say anything or do anything different. You must comply with every one of my orders."

Mu Bingyun rarely revealed an extremely solemn expression. As though she still wasn't assured due to Yun Che's trouble making abilities, she turned to Yun Che and repeatedly warned again, "Yun Che, your temperament is much too casual. Even though this isn't necessarily a bad thing, today is far from ordinary and you must not overstep any bounds. Especially... because the sect master's temperament is extreme. For such a grand occasion, if you anger her, the consequences would be unthinkable. Forget about me, even if all seventy two divine hall elders and thirty six palace masters gathered all their power, they would not be able to stop her. You must be careful."

"Yes, I will firmly follow behind Palace Master. I will do anything Palace Master tells me to and not do whatever Palace Master doesn't want me to do," Yun Che obediently promised. At the same time, he said inwardly: How could I possibly stir up any trouble this time? Everyone who is able to enter the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake today is a big boss. Out of everyone here, my strength is number two from the bottom. Aside from one person, I simply can't afford to offend anyone else. Relying on you being beside me in private to call out Mu Yizhou is one thing but there are all sorts of big bosses within the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake. Even the Great Realm King herself has personally come... It's not like I'm tired of living or anything.

The number one from the bottom was Mu Xiaolan.

This meant that the sister relationship between the Great Realm King and Mu Bingyun was deep. In reality, the Thirty-sixth Ice Phoenix Palace was long gone and only existed in name. However, during these thousand years, not only had the thirty-sixth palace continued all this while, it had never been

treated differently by the other Ice Phoenix Palaces. This had astonishingly even allowed Yun Che and Mu Xiaolan to enter the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake.

The atmosphere became more and more cold. Mu Xiaolan had already begun spreading her profound energy to protect herself. Her body had also somewhat shrunk a bit. The first time she heard Mu Bingyun say such serious words to Yun Che finally caused her to feel that it was a bit more balanced. When she peeked at Yun Che, she discovered that his face was as normal as ever beneath the frigid wind and he totally had not released profound energy to protect himself. She blurted out, "Hey! Little Junior Brother, are you not cold?"

"Cold?" Yun Che looked at Mu Xiaolan and then immediately nodded straightly. "It is a bit cold."

"Hmph, you sure enjoy acting tough. Let's see how long you can last." Mu Xiaolan grumbled as she added another layer of profound energy on her body. "When you see the Great Realm King later, it's best if you keep your head low. You cannot stare randomly. The Great Realm King enjoys being alone. Aside from Master, she would never be willing to see anyone, even if it is an elder or palace master unless it is an especially important matter. Otherwise, it's normal to never see her more than once every hundred years. You being able to follow Master means that you seriously got some good luck. You mustn't... achool!"

Due to the sudden arrival of a cold wind, Mu Xiaolan was caught by surprise by the cold and sneezed. She instantly flushed red all the way to her neck and turned her face around, no longer willing to look at Yun Che.

"Oh! Even an Ice Phoenix Palace disciple would sneeze," Yun Che said insensibly, coupled with a surprised enough expression.

"W-who said that we can't sneeze!" Mu Xiaolan resentfully retorted as her face became even redder.

Mu Xiaolan was born in an ice world and had cultivated ice profound arts since birth. Adding her high innate talent into the mix obviously meant that she was not affected by any ordinary coldness... but the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake region was just too cold.

It was not limited to the Snow Song Realm. Saying that it was the coldest place in the entire God Realm was hardly going overboard.

"We're here." The speed of the ice boat now slowed but the severity of the cold air had already reached an extremely cruel degree. For profound practitioners below the divine way, even if it was a Monarch, it would feel like they had fallen into hell. Even if they did their best, they wouldn't be able to move a single step.

Although Mu Bingyun did not glance back, she still sensed that Yun Che's aura was as steady as usual, with not the slightest bit of profound energy on his body. Deep astonishment flashed past her eyes but she did not say a single word as she controlled the ice boat so that it could descend.

Yun Che's gaze was firmly fixed to his front. There was surprisingly a humongous azure barrier up ahead. Ice beams circulated atop the barrier like countless numbers of flickering stars.

"The Heavenly Netherfrost Lake is just within that barrier," Mu Bingyun said softly. "It seems that we have come a bit early."

The ice boat sped up again. What was originally an azure barrier that was in the distance suddenly appeared close at hand in a few breaths. There was a field of emptiness before the barrier. Whether it was members of the divine hall or ice phoenix palace, neither had arrived yet.

“Oh! We’re actually the first to arrive!” Yun Che hollered. It was no wonder either. Their thirty-sixth palace only had him and Mu Xiaolan so they simply didn’t need to make any preparations.

“We can’t say that we’re the first,” Mu Bingyun suddenly said.

At the same time Mu Bingyun said that, Yun Che had already shockingly seen a lone snow white figure standing amidst the world of ice and snow before the barrier. It was the silhouette of a woman. She wore clothes that were a pure white and was utterly silent. Whether it was her aura or figure, both had completely blended in with the world of ice and snow. Yun Che was dazzled the instant he saw her. It was as though he was looking at a proud, lone and pure ice lotus that within a world of ice and snow.

This person... such a pure icy snow aura! She’s human? Or was she an ice fairy birthed within this place of extreme cold!?

As Yun Che exclaimed inwardly, the ice boat soundlessly landed. It was also at this time that the woman quietly standing within the snow turned around... She had a beautiful complexion that was as pure and lustrous as icy snow. Beautiful enough to make one hold their breath and cold enough to make one’s soul shiver. In fact, her eyes were extremely clear, yet resembled a bone piercingly cold pond. Just being looked upon by them was enough to make one’s soul freeze.

“Disciple Mu Feixue greets Palace Master Bingyun.”

She executed a full salute. It was just that there was no emotion whatsoever on her flawless face that had not a single speck of dust. Her voice was as icy as a cold lake. Each and every one of her words were cold and detached, without the slightest bit of warmth or feeling.

Atop her left shoulder was a beautiful twinkling blue light from an Ice Phoenix Engraved Jade, proof of her exalted divine hall disciple status.

“Ah... Se... Senior Sister Feixue,” Mu Xiaolan quietly uttered in alarm as she stood in place. She was so nervous she didn’t even dare to say anything else. She didn’t expect that the first person they would see after arriving would actually be Mu Feixue, the disciple with the highest innate talent within the sect, the one with the most respected status, whose accomplishments were extremely likely to be on par with her Master.

Yun Che however, was instantly stunned.

Mu Feixue...

Mu Feixue?

She’s Mu Feixue!?!?

W-w-waaaait!!

If she’s Mu Feixue... t-t-the one who came to deliver the Amorous Frost Dew four days ago, the Big Breast... ah no! Who was the senior sister that was as alluring as a demoness!?

Chapter 982 - Great Occasion

As Yun Che was still stunned, a frosty wind brushed past and yet another silhouette fell from the sky. This one was male and had the noble engraved jade emblem that marked his status of a divine hall disciple on his shoulder. His white clothes fluttered about in the wind, making him look especially handsome and elegant as he exuded a transcendent noble and graceful aura.

“It’s Senior Brother Hanyi!” Mu Xiaolan involuntarily cried out.

The divine hall’s... Ah, no. It was only the two most outstanding disciples within the entire sect and even the entire Snow Song Realm, that were able to become the Realm King’s direct inheriting disciple, who had coincidentally arrived the earliest. Being able to encounter both individuals when they had even yet to enter the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake was incredibly lucky.

Mu Hanyi floated down and then respectfully bowed toward Mu Bingyun. “Disciple Mu Hanyi gives his regards to Palace Master Bingyun. I’ve heard that Palace Master Bingyun’s celestial body is getting better with each passing day. Hanyi is overjoyed.”

Mu Bingyun slightly nodded. “Today’s results will determine the road you walk for the rest of your life. Do not get careless.”

“Yes,” Mu Hanyi seriously replied. Then, he straightened up and turned to Mu Feixue, who was still as still as water. Joy was within his warm smile as he said, “Junior Sister Feixue, you’ve arrived so early. Did you not come with Great Elder and the others?”

“Didn’t Senior Brother Hanyi come really early too?” Mu Feixue’s voice was as cold as ice. Even though she was answering Mu Hanyi, her gaze didn’t falter at all when faced with his approach.

“My heart was restless the entire night when I thought about today so I came this early hoping that the cold wind here would help me calm down a bit. It seems like my cultivation still isn’t enough. If I am fortunate enough to be able to become the sect master’s direct disciple, then I will have had my life’s wish granted. If I am defeated by Junior Sister Feixue however, I also will not feel the slightest bit unwilling or regretful. I might even be really happy instead.” Mu Hanyi sighed lightly, his words calm and sincere as he looked at Mu Feixue the entire time, his eyes not shifting away at all.

Even though it was cold enough to penetrate the heart, what released this cold intent was actually the excessively beautiful landscape. If he was able to obtain even the slightest smile from her, he would probably be delighted to freeze here for all eternity.

What answered him was actually Mu Feixue’s silence. Her icy eyes were gently closed as she returned to her previous silence, no longer paying him any heed. It was as though she didn’t hear what he had just said earlier... in fact, it didn’t seem like she had even looked at him even once since the beginning.

Mu Hanyi’s smile persisted on his face but an additional melancholy surfaced between his brows... even though he had long since become used to being treated like this by Mu Feixue.

In Divine Ice Phoenix Sect, there were countless girls who adored him. As long as he was interested, they would even be willing to become his concubines or maid servants. However, the only person his heart pined for treated him like nothing.

She treated everyone like that. She was a girl born with the Ice Phoenix bloodline. It was as though her heart and soul had been sealed by the Ice Phoenix power since birth and would never thaw. On the other hand, a man would never become like that. This was perhaps related to the differences in the yin and yangs of both sexes.

At the side, Yun Che was the same as Mu Hanyi. His gaze had been firmly fixed on Mu Feixue. As he looked, he gradually became thoroughly stupefied.

Even though Mu Feixue was extremely beautiful and was not inferior to Mu Bingyun, she still wasn't as fantastically beautiful as the one who called herself "Mu Xuanyin." Nor was she so devilishly charming that she would make him lose control of himself. He was unable to move his gaze away to the point where he became stupefied because she resembled someone.

Different from Mu Bingyun's "quiet" and "mild", Mu Feixue was extremely "icy" and "cold"... like the first time he had met Chu Yuechan when she repelled others smiles away just with her aura alone. She had the same soul freezing gaze and the same otherworldly celestial beauty which seemed to have come from the Heavenly Palace's cold moon...

Noticing that he was staring at Mu Feixue with a stupid look, Mu Xiaolan quickly reached out and waved her hand before him. "Hey! Hey! Hurry up and recover your senses! You looking at her like that is too impolite!"

"Hahaha." Mu Hanyi walked over with a chuckle. "Junior Sister Feixue is like a humanized goddess. As long as it's the first time they've seen Junior Sister Feixue, all men would have their hearts taken away. Losing their souls is just too common."

"Senior Brother Hanyi." Mu Xiaolan quickly saluted nervously. Then she secretly jabbed at Yun Che's waist several times with her fingers. Even though Mu Hanyi said that, everyone in the sect knew that he liked Mu Feixue and Yun Che had actually stared like that in front of him. That was just... too embarrassing, ahhh!

"..." Yun Che's expression gradually regained its focus. As he lowered his gaze, he muttered absentmindedly, "It's not as if she's Little Fairy."

"Ah? What did you say? Little Fairy? What Little Fairy?" Mu Xiaolan subconsciously asked.

"Little Fairy is Little Fairy, the only Little Fairy in the world, you understand now?" Yun Che said grudgingly.

Mu Xiaolan looked at the suddenly crazy Yun Che with a slightly blank look... It'd be way weirder if she actually had understood that.

"Senior Brother Hanyi," Yun Che actively spoke to Mu Hanyi. "I was influenced by my mood a few days ago and even left rather quickly, never getting to properly thank you. Today, I'd like to officially thank Senior Brother Hanyi for your assistance that day."

Mu Hanyi lightly waved hand. "We're all in the same sect and it didn't take much effort. You don't need to be this polite."

“Hehe, speaking of which, we’re able to meet once again in merely seven days within such a huge sect like ours. It seems like we really have some fate with each other.” Mu Hanyi smiled and then lightly patted Yun Che’s shoulder. “Junior Brother Yun Che, even though you are from the lower realms and your profound strength is low, you’re bound to be extraordinary and shine within the sect if you put in some effort with your unusual innate talent. I believe my eyes. Those words I said last time will still be effective whether or not I become the sect master’s direct disciple today. If you have any difficulties that are hard to solve in the future, I will be sure to assist you to the best of my abilities. You must do your best to work hard and not waste your highly unusual innate talent.”

“I will remember Senior Brother Hanyi’s advice.” Yun Che nodded.

“Mn.” Mu Hanyi nodded and then instructed, “To you, being able to enter the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake is a rare opportunity. You must properly grasp onto it.”

Since they were extremely close to the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake, this area was frighteningly cold. Mu Xiaolan had nearly circulated more than half her profound strength to defend against it. Not long after, a cold wind came from the south as a group of people on an ice boat came over.

“Hahahaha!”

A burst of extremely candid laughter came from the skies above, greatly dispersing the strong coldness in this area. Amidst the great laughter, a bulky man fell from the sky.

The man looked to be already past his prime. His beard was going gray yet the hair on his head was still pitch-black. His face was filled with wrinkles and his eyes were as bright as a fierce tiger’s. His bold laughter and forceful aura seemed to somewhat go against the ice profound art Divine Ice Phoenix Sect cultivated.

When he landed, the other thirty people who accompanied him also landed behind him at the same time and the engraved jade which signified that they were divine hall disciples were shockingly on their shoulders!

“Great Elder.” This time, it was Mu Bingyun who executed a salute.

“Great... Elder!” Mu Xiaolan also hurriedly dragged Yun Che forward as Mu Hanyi also deeply bowed... Only Mu Feixue was still as silent as snow and did not glance anywhere.

Great Elder? Yun Che’s gaze quickly sized up this unusually imposing man... He was Divine Ice Phoenix Sect’s head elder and it was actually a man!

In Divine Ice Phoenix Sect, the divine hall’s seventy two elders had the same status as the ice palace’s thirty six palace masters. But in terms of strength, the elders somewhat surpassed the palace masters. However, this difference in strength wasn’t because of innate talent but age. This was because only those above ten thousand years of age could be considered an elder and the average age of the palace masters only numbered in the few thousands.

The main duty of the divine hall’s seventy two elders was to train the divine hall’s two thousand disciples. Each Ice Phoenix Palace Master had three thousand disciples below them but in the divine hall, each elder had no more than thirty disciples. Divine Ice Phoenix Sect’s treatment toward its top disciples could be clearly seen by this fact... and this could be said for any other sect.

After all, the present age was shaped by power and that was hard to change. It had always been the young generation that decided a sect's future. If the young generation was no good, the sect could only decline.

Great Elder Mu Huanzhi took large steps forward and said with a booming voice, "Bingyun, you've come pretty early, huh."

"We've just arrived not too long ago," Mu Bingyun replied.

"Oh?" Mu Huanzhi's gaze then landed on Yun Che. "This junior should be that person you brought over from the lower realms. I remember his name was Yun Che. Hahahaha, I've heard that this kid was able to beat a Freezing Snow Hall disciple with profound strength at the Sovereign Profound Realm. Quite impressive."

Even though Ice Phoenix Palace didn't have that many disciples, each palace still had three thousand. Being able to remember a name wasn't easy... It was just that aside from Mu Xiaolan, the Thirty-sixth Ice Phoenix Palace only had Yun Che.

Yun Che quickly replied, "I am humbled that the Great Elder actually knows this disciple's name."

Mu Huanzhi waved a big hand. "Child, your reputation exceeds you of late. After all, Bingyun has only brought you back, after all these years. Being able to defeat one at the Divine Origin Realm at the Sovereign Profound Realm is also truly impressive. You are worth training and Bingyun's eyes, well, how could they be bad?"

When he said the name "Yun Che" the divine hall disciples behind him also shifted their gazes toward him... It could be clearly seen that he had become rather famous during this period of time.

"...I thank Great Elder for the praise." Since members of Divine Phoenix Sect cultivate ice profound arts, the majority of them were quiet and cold. This Mu Huanzhi however, was a rare oddity.

"But Bingyun, even though the aptitudes of these two children aren't bad, their cultivation is a bit low. I'm afraid they won't be able to endure the heavenly lake's water." Mu Huanzhi's brows furrowed.

"I agree." Mu Bingyun lightly nodded. "But I don't plan on letting them soak in the heavenly lake's water. Not only is that not beneficial for them, it will be extremely easy for them to receive injuries. Just the icy cold aura is beneficial enough for them."

"Hahahaha," Mu Huanzhi suddenly laughed loudly. "Just look at my brain. I've gone so old I can't even think properly. With you here, aren't I just worrying foolishly?"

"Hanyi, today could be said to be an extremely important day for you." Mu Huanzhi then turned to Mu Hanyi, his face becoming a bit more solemn. "Even though Feixue is my granddaughter, if it's you... I am able to recognize you without feeling bad. In short, try your best. Our sect's future will most likely be shouldered by the two of you."

Mu Hanyi deeply bowed, "This disciple will do his best."

"Cough cough, Feixue. Grandfather obviously wants you to become the sect master's direct disciple more, so you have to... ah, ah, Feixue..."

Mu Feixue continued to walk in the snow, giving Mu Huanzhi a back figure that was becoming more distant.

Mu Huanzhi withdrew his half extended hand and embarrassedly rubbed his nose. He said depressingly, "That child's temperament really is becoming more and more severe. If she really becomes like that girl Bingyun who never marries her entire life... sigh, that seriously makes me worry."

Mu Bingyun, "..."

Mu Huanzhi was older than Mu Bingyun by six thousand years. Back then, he was also half her master so he was qualified to call her "girl".

The time of the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake's opening was getting close. Various divine hall elders, disciples and various Ice Phoenix Palaces had all started arriving in succession.

Two thousand divine hall disciples were lead by seventy two elders. Behind them were the thirty six palaces lead by each of their palace masters. Even though they had meditated in advance for seven days, all of the various Ice Phoenix Palace disciples were still unable to contain the excitement on their faces. Today's occasion caused all of the elders, palace masters and divine hall disciples to be present. Even the most experienced disciple there had never seen such a spectacle.

This included the various divine hall disciples as well.

Although they were similarly disciples and there was only one rank of difference between the Divine Hall and Ice Phoenix Palace, it was a difference between the clouds and mud. Of the Ice Phoenix Palace disciples behind the divine hall disciples, none were not nervous to the point where they didn't dare breathe forcefully. They lined up in thirty five neat groups and each step was like a nail being hammered to the floor. They didn't even dare to move.

At a certain corner, there were only two people in the thirty sixth "group", making it appear especially conspicuous. Yun Che's eyes shone as he took in his surroundings and felt the auras that were as boundless as a dream, sighing and exclaiming every other second. Mu Xiaolan however, was especially uncomfortable, her small hand firmly clutching at Yun Che's sleeve all this while.

All thirty six Ice Phoenix Palaces had arrived and Freezing Snow Hall's Mu Fengshu and Mu Sushan had also arrived together.

The last divine hall elder came through the skies fifteen minutes before the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake opened and landed before the various disciples... or to be more precise, landed right in front of Mu Hanyi.

This was a rather tall woman with a face that had seen many changes in life and possessed some majesty. Her chilling eyes exuded an imposing air without any change in expression. Her arrival caused the surrounding aura to congeal in one spot.

The divine hall's thirty ninth elder—Mu Yunzhi

Aside from being the thirty ninth elder, she had a status that the entire sect was aware of.

Mu Hanyi's direct Master!

Chapter 983 - Snow Song Realm King

Being able to enter Ice Phoenix Divine Hall was the ultimate pursuit of the Snow Song Realm's profound practitioners. In the vast Snow Song Realm, divine hall disciples numbered a mere two thousand, so it was obvious what kind of honor it was to be able to enter Ice Phoenix Divine Hall.

But if one's disciple was especially excellent, then the master would also gain fame as well.

This was what happened to Mu Yunzhi.

As a divine hall elder, her status in the Snow Song Realm was only below that of the Realm King and above all other beings. The incredibly astonishing innate talent her disciple Mu Hanyi exhibited was one of the highest among all disciples. This made her extremely proud of that fact and this had thus changed her position within the divine hall elders. If Mu Hanyi was able to become the sect master's direct disciple however, then as Mu Hanyi's direct Master, her position within Divine Ice Phoenix Sect would obviously not be the same as it was in the past.

The sect master's successor was always one who was the direct disciple of the sect master. If Mu Hanyi were to one day inherit the position and become the new Snow Song Realm King, that was no small matter.

As such, today was not only a day that concerned Mu Hanyi's fate but hers as well. If the results were different, then the circumstances would also be like the difference between heaven and earth."

"Master." Mu Hanyi took a step forward and respectfully saluted.

Mu Yunzhi lightly nodded, then looked deeply at Mu Hanyi for a while, the meaning in her gaze self-evident. But aside from that, she didn't look at any other disciples, nor did she say anything to Mu Hanyi. She then turned around and joined the lineup of elders. When she looked at the barrier up front, she said quietly, "It should be about time."

It was right around this time that the azure barrier covering the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake flashed. It was as though blue starlight was being pulled by an invisible force and was being scattered to both sides.

"The sect master has arrived!"

The low shout heavily impacted the minds of everyone present. The faces of all the elders and palace masters instantly changed to become incomparably solemn, causing every excited divine hall and ice phoenix palace disciple to become intensely nervous. A white line slowly shone off the azure barrier and with the white line at the center, it slowly spread the barrier open.

As the place where the Snow Song Realm's cold vein existed, the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake was the Snow Song Realm's holy land. In all of the Snow Song Realm, the only person who was able to open the barrier which sealed the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake was the Snow Song Realm King. Aside from her, no one had the power or qualifications to do so.

Everyone present held their breaths and Mu Xiaolan's heart had almost stopped due to her nervousness. After the barrier was slowly opened, it was as though another world was awaiting them.

Great Elder Mu Huanzhi had on a grave expression. He took a deep breath and then said, "Let's go in, Sect Master is waiting for us inside. Remember, do not act against the rules and regulations!"

Mu Huanzhi's last words were quite unnecessary. They were about to meet the Snow Song Realm's supreme Realm King. Even though they were the top of the Snow Song Realm's young generation, they still wouldn't dare to be the least bit rash.

The barrier was completely opened and a streak of pale light was spread like a curtain up ahead. With the elders at the front, everyone slowly walked into the curtain of light. The footsteps of more than five thousand people were nevertheless neat and orderly, without any excess sound.

Yun Che and Xiaolan was at the very end. Once they entered the curtain of light, what appeared before them was astonishing a completely different world.

Outside was a brilliant white world where cold wind howled through the snow covered sky while the world before them was actually as quiet as still water.

The air in this place was extremely cold, yet it wasn't as white as the snow filled sky outside. It was instead a quiet, inconceivable emerald green. Myriad flowers blossomed, emerald grass swayed and jade trees stood tall. It was as though they had suddenly left the Snow Song Realm that had been covered by snow throughout the ages to another world which possessed all four seasons.

At the center of this world was a quiet little lake. The lake was fifteen kilometers wide and its boundaries could be seen with a single glance. The lakewater was tranquil with not a single ripple and yet it still sparkled and was unimaginably pure. Just looking at the lakewater made everyone distinctly feel as though their eyes and even thoughts were being gently washed, to become extremely clear.

Countless azure ice spirits fluttered agily atop the lake surface, completely different from the ice spirits Yun Che had ever seen before. These ice spirits were the size of a finger tip, yet they released an especially intense life and soul aura.

These ice spirits, born from the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake, definitely weren't bodies of power with inferior consciousness that everyone knew of... instead, they possessed complete souls!

"This is... the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake..." Similar to the other disciples who had never seen the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake before Mu Xiaolan stood in a daze, as though she had fallen into a dream world. Yun Che also fell into a daze. He never expected that the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake he imagined to be covered in profound ice... would actually be such a wondrous sight. After all, this was where the cold vein resided and was the coldest place within the Snow Song Realm.

"The Heavenly Netherfrost Lake's lakewater is borne from the cold vein. Each drop contains an extremely high level of frost power that will never solidify. All the flora here, from the trees to the flowers to perhaps each stalk of grass possesses an extremely high level of cold energy. Furthermore, the flora here will only grow in the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake and are all unique within the entire God Realm. A large majority of the top grade spiritual medicines within the sect come from the ice flowers and grasses here. The Amorous Frost Dew all of you received a few days ago came from the Amorous Grass and Amorous Flower here.

Mu Bingyun said to Yun Che and Mu Xiaolan through sound transmission.

“What pure cold energy... cold energy can actually become like this...” Mu Xiaolan commented absentmindedly.

“The cold energy within the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake’s water contains extremely high level ice laws. In the domain of water attribute laws, ice attribute laws are the most difficult laws to comprehend and they are at their peak within the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake.”

As he listened to Mu Bingyun’s narration, Yun Che suddenly felt a gloomy gaze cast upon him. He shifted his gaze lightning quick and a pair of baleful eyes.

First Ice Phoenix Palace’s Mu Yizhou!

As the head disciple of the first palace, he was obviously qualified to be here.

Mu Yizhou didn’t expect Yun Che’s gaze to suddenly shift over and was clearly stunned for a bit. Then, his face went cold. He fiercely glared at Yun Che before turning around, giving the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake that was up ahead his full attention.

All the disciples neatly stood in front of the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake with longing gazes, issuing the greatest exclamations of their lives. Even the most talented artists in the world wouldn’t be able to portray the marvel before them. Not only was the cold energy in this place inconceivably pure, it caused the ice profound energy in their profound veins to uncontrollably throb.

The skies immediately darkened as a worldshaking dragon cry seemed to have come from the highest heavens, resonating through the world. Beneath this dragon cry however, the surface of the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake was still a field of tranquility without the slightest ripple.

This dragon cry caused Mu Xiaolan to cry out in surprise. The bodies of all the disciples present intensely shook and even Yun Che’s ears started buzzing. What followed this world-shaking dragon cry was the descent of a pressure that covered the skies.

In the skies above, an enormous ice blue silhouette was rapidly approaching. It was astonishingly an enormous ice dragon. Its body was ten kilometers long and its tail was more than fifteen kilometers long. When it spread its icy wings, it nearly covered the entire horizon. Its entire body was covered in scales that resembled ice crystals and at the center of every scale was a piercingly cold icicle. The enormous dragon proudly lifted its head, radiating two gleams of aurora-like lights from its eyes.

It floated three kilometers above them, causing the large dragon shadow it cast to cover the entire Heavenly Netherfrost Lake.

"T-t-the Saint Dragon!!!" Mu Xiaolan yelled with a stammer. It wasn’t the first time she had seen a Sacred Dragon but she had only seen them from a distance of five hundred kilometers away. Never in her dreams would she dare think that she would be able to see one this close.

Dragons were the rulers of all beasts and a dragon’s pressure was enough to shake the heaven and earth. Even though everyone in the Snow Song Realm knew of its existence, being under the dragon might of an enormous frost dragon caused the faces of all disciples, whether they be from the divine hall or ice phoenix palace, to turn ashen.

Yun Che was the only one who didn't know of its existence. Mu Bingyun turned her gaze to him but the only thing she found there was shock. She then said to him via sound transmission, "This enormous dragon is the sect master's mount and it has already followed the sect master for ten thousand years. In the Snow Song Realm, it is called the 'Saint Dragon.'"

As the ruler of all beasts, even when they're on the same level, a True Dragon's body, power, and might surpassed all other living beings. It was extremely difficult to kill a dragon and taming a True Dragon was more than hundreds of thousands times harder. Beneath the pressure of this enormous Frost Dragon, even the gazes of the divine hall elders trembled as their auras went into slight turmoil. Its strength could very well be imagined, yet it had willingly served the Snow Song Realm King for an entire ten thousand years as a mount.

The strength of the Snow Song Realm King was simply unfathomable.

With the divine hall elders in the lead, everyone deeply saluted at this moment and it was even the deepest of salutes, a kneeling kowtow. While Yun Che was in his daze, an enormous power that came from Mu Bingyun enveloped his body, also making him salute.

"We welcome the sect master!!"

It was a mere five words yet it carried a devout reverence similar to when believers faced what they revered. Not a single trace of profound energy was in the voices of any of the entire sect's strongest elders, palace masters, or its top five thousand disciples because they were afraid it might slightly offend or be disrespectful.

The heads of everyone present were deeply lowered. Though they were Divine Ice Phoenix Sect's top disciples, not even half of the disciples within the divine hall had seen the sect master before. As for Ice Phoenix Palace, none had seen her before. Now that the sect master was close, not a single one dared to lift their head... Only Yun Che had raised his head and looked up with curiosity.

A misty white figure stood above the enormous Frost Dragon's head. Even though it was three kilometers away, this figure seemed to be covered in an odd, icy mist. He was unable to see her face and appearance; even her silhouette was extremely indistinct. He was only able to catch that she was a misty snow white.

She was the Divine Ice Phoenix Sect's sect master... Snow Song Realm's Realm King!?

Everyone around him, from the highest divine hall elders to the lowest ice phoenix disciples were all kneeling on the ground, their entire bodies motionless, as though they had been frozen in ice. Although Yun Che had only raised his head slightly, this minute action was especially conspicuous within the crowd of people.

Mu Bingyun was startled. An enormous frost power quickly came down, forcibly pressing Yun Che's down. Yun Che immediately became apprehensive. He suddenly became obedient and no longer dared to lift his head.

Even though Yun Che had heard about the Snow Song Realm King's absolute authority within the Snow Song Realm more than once, none of his past experiences were as astounding as the scene he saw

today. The elders and palace masters whose statuses were only second to the sect master actually acted like the lowliest of commoners seeing their monarch before the Snow Song Realm King.

Whether it be his own clan, sect, sacred ground or even the imperial court, Yun Che had never seen such an extreme degree of reverence in his two lifetimes of experience. It was practically unheard of.

In fact, in the past Snow Song Realm, even though the Snow Song Realm King was the highest level existence, the combined forces of all the elders had the right and power to interfere with the Realm King's decisions.

However, this generation's Snow Song Realm King was just too excessively strong. Four stages of tribulation lightning and having reached the realm of Divine Master, this was unprecedented in the history of the Snow Song Realm! No one could go against her and no one was able to. This then gradually caused everyone to not dare go against her... because those who dared to do so had all died.

After all, this was a world where power was king.

The former Snow Song Realm Kings weren't able to cover the Snow Song Realm with a single hand but the current Snow Song Realm King was truly able to do that with just one finger!

"You may rise."

Three words came down from above like a heavenly edict. It was also now that the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake, which remained still when the enormous Frost Dragon roared, began to continuously ripple outward.

This was the voice that came from the Snow Song Realm King, the currently Ice Phoenix Sect Master. The sound of this voice somewhat resembled Mu Bingyun's. When it fell in the ears, it sounded normal and indifferent, but it was as though the depths of everyone's souls had been struck by a firmament-sized hammer, causing them to incessantly shiver.

Chapter 984 - Battle of Ice Spirits

The Snow Song Realm King atop the enormous Frost Dragon had no aura and no pressure whatsoever but Yun Che clearly felt that his soul had been firmly pressed down by an extremely heavy mountain. Even his willpower and beliefs were trembling lowly.

Yun Che had never felt this way before.

This was the highest realm within the divine way—this was the might of the Divine Master Realm! When she reached such a realm, she no longer needed to deliberately release her aura. Her mere existence alone was able to make others submit to her amidst their terror and reverence.

Yun Che got up along with everyone else, his heart pounding incessantly... It was the first time he had clearly felt his own smallness. The Snow Song Realm King above him was situated at the peak of the divine way while he was someone who had yet to step into its doorsteps. Although they were both humans, the difference between them was just too large. The total difference between millions of clouds to mud wasn't enough to describe this disparity. If he had stayed in the Profound Sky Continent and the Illusory Demon Realm his entire life, then he would only have lived a life from the bottom of a well.

It was just that... him not being able to see what she looked like was a bit regretful.

Great Elder Mu Huanzhi took a step forward. With a raised head, he said solemnly, "Reporting to Sect Master, seventy two divine hall elders, thirty six Ice Phoenix Palace Masters, Freezing Snow Hall's Main Hall Master and Chief Deacon, the divine hall's two thousand disciples and Ice Phoenix Palace's three thousand five hundred... and two disciples have all arrived. We all await Sect Master's orders!"

"Very good."

The oracle-like voice carried a supreme heavenly might as it traveled down. "Our Snow Song Realm's divine vein is in our Heavenly Netherfrost Lake. It is our holy land in which only one person is allowed to enter once every three years and this number has never been exceeded. Three months ago, the Voice of Eternal Heaven clearly told all the realms that something huge is about to occur and it is extremely possible for it to be close at hand."

The words of the Snow Song Realm King were heavy and oppressive to the extreme. Each word ruthlessly nailed itself into the depths of everyone's soul. This voice, that was oppressive to the point where it could make the world tremble, caused Yun Che's mind to form the image of the face of an extremely ice-cold, heartless woman who possessed a gaze frightening enough to split one's galls.

"Because of this, the Eternal Heaven Realm did not hesitate share the power of the Eternal Heaven Pearl to profound practitioners of other realms. The Eternal Heaven Realm has never done this before in its entire history. Since that's the case, then our Snow Song Realm also should not be stingy about the divine power of the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake.

"The amount of benefits you will receive from being able to enter the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake today will be up to your own good luck! Huanzhi, arrange it so they can enter the lake."

"Yes!" Mu Huanzhi replied deeply as his entire body shook once his name was called. He then turned around and said gravely, "Everyone here is a cornerstone of our Divine Ice Phoenix Sect's future. The sect master has bestowed a huge favor upon us, allowing you all to enter the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake. This is unprecedented good luck! The divine power of the heavenly lake will let you all be born anew and will be extremely beneficial toward your cultivation of the ice profound arts in the future."

"The Profound God Convention's preliminary selections, that will happen inside the Eternal Heaven Pearl, are in two years. Once you enter, anyone is able to benefit from its exclusive laws of power and today's heavenly lake gathering will allow even more of you to qualify to enter the Eternal Heaven Pearl. Everyone's constitution, innate talent, and comprehension is different. How much you all can gain from today's event will depend on yourselves. Just remember that this kind of opportunity will not happen again in the future!"

When he finished his serious warning, Mu Huanzhi waved his hand.

With the divine hall at the front and the ice phoenix palaces behind them, they were uniformly lead by their respective elders and palace masters as they flew above the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake.

The closer they got to the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake, the more pure and dense the frost aura became. Mu Xiaolan's cultivation was only at the middle stage of the Divine Origin Realm. Aside from Yun Che, her profound strength was the weakest amongst the bunch, so her resistance against cold energy was

naturally also the worst. At this point, she had no choice but to circulate all of her profound energy in order to withstand the cold. However, at the same time, she was also incomparably excited to feel that her circulation of ice profound energy and the speed at which it recovered was several times greater than it was normally.

Mu Bingyun brought Yun Che and Mu Xiaolan to the very end of the procession but she did not fly the two over the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake. She had instead stopped at the lake's edge.

"Xiaolan, Yun Che," Mu Bingyun turned around and looked at Mu Xiaolan and Yun Che. Of the two, one was using all the profound energy in her body yet she still shivered from the cold. The other however, looked calm, as though nothing had happened to him. "Your cultivation levels are too low so forcibly entering the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake would do more harm than good. You two should stay here. The cold energy here is also borne from the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake. Immersing yourself in it and tempering your body with the cold energy is enough to greatly improve your control of ice profound arts. This will bring great benefits to your cultivation later on."

"Yes, Master."

Mu Xiaolan said without any objections. She was well aware of her own abilities and knew she wasn't strong enough to soak in the heavenly lake's water. Being able to soak in the cold energy here which contained extremely high ice laws was already good luck she wouldn't even dare dream about.

She quietly sat down. After quickly breathing in lightly, she closed her eyes, not daring to waste any second she spent here.

With the heavenly lake's water so close before his eyes, after a bout of hesitation, Yun Che still voiced out in the end, "Palace Master, I want to try..."

"Remember what you promised me earlier." Mu Bingyun seemed to already know what he was about to say and directly interrupted him with a solemn face, "You will do whatever I tell you to do and are not allowed to do anything I don't want you to do."

Yun Che opened his mouth but could only nod in submission, "Yes."

Right when he went to sit beside Mu Xiaolan, Mu Bingyun's sound transmission suddenly sounded beside his ear.

"You have a strange constitution. You are able to forcibly cultivate the Ice Phoenix God Investiture Canon without needing the Ice Phoenix bloodline. The cold energy here also will not affect you at all so even though your profound strength is weak, the heavenly lake's water should not be able to harm you. However, your reputation has already preceded you. If it is heard that your body at the Sovereign Profound Realm is able to successfully soak in the heavenly lake's water, it will surely cause great waves once more. This will certainly bring you no benefits."

"The sect master and I owe you so she might pick a day when she will allow you to come alone."

"..." Yun Che lifted his head and looked at Mu Bingyun's back figure, which had not turned around the entire time. His heart warmed and then he quickly calmed down and closed his eyes. He no longer cared about his surroundings as he began to focus his senses on feeling the pure, cold energy in this area and comprehending the ice laws within.

This was the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake. With Mu Bingyun at his side, Yun Che did not need to set up any defenses whatsoever. Soon enough, his consciousness had unwittingly submerged itself and he had even isolated all external sounds.

Mu Bingyun did not enter the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake and instead stood guard in front of the duo. At this time, Mu Sushan came over from behind them. His gaze shifted to Yun Che and amidst his shock, his footsteps halted before he exclaimed, "In a short three months, he has already reached the peak of the Sovereign Profound Realm. Moreover, his profound energy is this stable... Palace Master Bingyun, I seriously don't know how exactly you've taught him to produce such results."

Mu Bingyun shook her head, "That has nothing to do with me."

"Haha, then this could only mean that this kid is a freak that goes against common sense," Mu Sushan stated.

Mu Bingyun gave an incredibly indifferent smile but did not comment.

The other thirty five Ice Phoenix Palaces had already arrived above the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake. At the location of the first palace, Mu Yizhou glanced at Yun Che, who was sitting at the edge of the lake. After a disdainful mocking smile flashed on his face, he no longer bothered to look at him a second time. Following his palace master's guidance, he then slowly descended, slowly lowering his body down to the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake.

The instant the tip of his foot touched the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake, a current of cold energy instantly burst forth, immediately spreading through every corner of his body. It was as though he had instantly been sealed into the ice hell of legends. The profound energy in his entire body seemed to suddenly boil like fire as it began to quickly circulate.

Ripples continuously came from the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake and the dancing ice spirits were scattered into the distance from their shock. Aside from the thirty sixth palace, all the divine hall and ice phoenix palace disciples were now submerged into the lake. Terrifying cold energy caused them to instantly drop into an ice prison the instant they entered. The pain was intolerable but their hearts were excited to the point that they were close to bursting. Each and every one of them immediately mobilized their thoughts and profound energy, trying to contain and guide the cold energy within them.

Even though they had just entered, they were able to sense the extremely distinct changes occurring to their bodies and profound veins brought about by the extremely pure cold energy from the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake.

Although they had long heard about the miraculous Heavenly Netherfrost Lake, they were still happy beyond their dreams after experiencing firsthand. In their joy, they gladly endured the pain brought about by the extreme cold.

Compared to the Ice Phoenix Palace disciples, the expressions of the divine hall disciples were relatively ordinary. There were no changes on the faces and expressions of Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue, who were the center of attention, when they submerged themselves into the lakewater.

Aside from Mu Bingyun, Yun Che, and Mu Xiaolan, everyone else had already entered the heavenly lake. However, the various elders and palace masters did not immediately enter the lake to temper their bodies. After waiting a long while, their gazes all turned to Great Elder Mu Huanzhi.

The breathing of Thirty-ninth Elder Mu Yunzhi was somewhat in disarray.

Great Elder Mu Huanzhi himself was also burning with anxiety. Then, he finally steeled his heart, lifted his head, and said, "Sect Master, about the direct disciple..."

Once these words came out, a majority of the divine hall disciples instantly opened their eyes and looked toward Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue.

"This king obviously has not forgotten."

The Snow Song Realm King's voice came from atop the enormous Frost Dragon, "Since we have already arrived at the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake, then the matter of this king's direct disciple selection does not need that many trials!"

A streak of blue light suddenly shone from up above and then formed into an oddly shaped profound formation. After that, a huge wave suddenly rose, landing onto the profound formation in the sky.

The enclosed lakewater slowly began to drip from the end of the profound formation, producing a crisp clinking sound that totally did not resemble the sound of dripping water. It was clear, like the collision of ice crystals.

"Sect Master, what is the meaning of this?" Mu Huanzhi was at a complete loss.

Mu Hanyi lifted his head as his usually limpid eyes released an intense fervor.

"The lake water in the formation will be depleted after six hours. Once it has all fallen, whoever attracts the most heavenly lake ice spirits will become this king's next direct disciple!!"

After a brief period of being stunned, everyone immediately reacted. Mu Huanzhi cheerfully accepted it with a "Sect Master is wise" and then turned around lightning quick. He hollered with a thunderous voice, "Feixue!"

To the side, Mu Yunzhi also charged to Mu Hanyi from overhead. With a wave of her hand, she completely pushed aside all disciples that were within three hundred meters of Mu Hanyi. "Hanyi, begin now!"

Ice spirits of the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake were by no means ordinary ice spirits. Each and every one of them were formed by the heavenly lake's cold energy and possessed high level consciousness and close to complete souls. Even if it was a profound practitioner that only cultivated ice profound arts, not being rejected by these kinds of ice spirits was already extremely hard, let alone communicating with them.

As a result, even though this "trial" that came from the Snow Song Realm King herself seemed to be extremely simple, it was an overall test of one's constitution, innate talent, comprehension of laws, and control.

The more one's body had an affinity with ice type powers, the more thorough one was in comprehending ice type laws, the greater control one had over ice type power, naturally meant that it

was much more likely for them to not be rejected by the heavenly lake's ice spirits. After that, they could then try to communicate with them and slowly attract them over... if one's control of ice type powers was great enough, then they could even master these ice spirits and use them as their own.

In comparison, one's cultivation in the profound way wasn't really important in this trial.

Every time the Realm King selected a direct disciple, she had never placed any importance in their cultivation level at that time. This was because cultivation level at a certain time was just cultivation level at a certain time. Comprehension of laws and mastery of control was what decided cultivation speed and the limits one was capable of reaching in the future!

This was why Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue were publicly acknowledged as the most qualified two people to become the Realm King's direct disciple despite only ranking in the middle in terms of strength.

That being said, those with high innate talent would never be low in cultivation compared to peers of the same age. It was also Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue who were unmatched in terms of cultivation when compared to peers of the same age in the entire Snow Song Realm. After all, innate talent and strength usually went hand in hand anyways.

Mu Hanyi didn't need Mu Yunzhi's reminder as his body was already drifting with blue light. After several breaths, he had already channeled his frost powers to their limits. The rich, pure cold energy carried his soul energy, spreading it toward his surroundings.

At the other side, Mu Feixue's eyes were closed, her quiet expression possessing the purity of a snow lotus. Just a kilometer ahead of her, an ice spirit that was originally about to fly away suddenly slowed down. Then, it gradually stopped and after a long period of silence, it slowly flew toward Mu Feixue with some hesitation.

It was obviously not just Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue who were attracting ice spirits. Almost all of the divine hall disciples were doing their best to release both their profound energy and soul energy... Even though they knew their chances were uncertain, if they were able to become the sect master's direct disciple, that was undoubtedly the same as reaching heaven in one step. Even if their chances were slim, they still wanted to do their best.

The lakewater in the profound formation continuously dripped, bringing on the passing of time. Above the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake, the fierce battle over the heavenly lake's ice spirits began its first act. It was incomparably silent and incomparably intense.

At the edge of the heavenly lake, Yun Che's consciousness had completely submerged inward. He was completely unaware of anything that was happening in the outside world, completely unaware of the fierce battle in the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake and was totally unaware of what the Snow Song Realm King had said previously.

Beneath his emptied out five senses, the rate in which the heavenly lake's cold energy surged into his body was several tens of times faster than Mu Xiaolan beside him. Under the extremely pure and clean cold energy that contained extremely high level laws of power, the profound energy in Yun Che's body quickly circulated the cold energy again and again, bringing about a quiet change every time.

Chapter 985 - The Brink of the Divine Way

Ding... Ding... Ding...

The drops of water falling from the heavenly lake made the passing of time seem more fathomable. On the surface of the calm lake, the ice spirits that had been scared away originally were gradually calming down. Then, one by one, under the waves of calm energy that was generated with hard work, they were gradually approaching the different divine hall disciples in confusion and curiosity.

Attracting and controlling low level ice spirits were overly simple tasks to the divine hall disciples but due to the ice spirits within heavenly lake being too pure and their senses being too sharp, simply not being ostracized by them was already extremely difficult. Making contact and attracting them to one's side, even if it were merely one ice spirit, were tasks far more difficult beyond their imagination.

Fifteen minutes passed... An hour passed... A divine hall disciple in the middle stage of the Divine Tribulation Realm finally managed to attract one ice spirit to his side. At this point, there were two ice spirits dancing around him. However their dancing was slow and the path of movement was constantly changing, as though they might leave at any time.

He let out a long sigh of relief as his concentration began to relax slightly. When he opened his eyes, he saw that the divine hall disciple closest to him only had one ice spirit dancing around. The person next to him had two ice spirits just like him. As his eyes swept around, he saw that there were people who already had three ice spirits.

His heart suddenly skipped a beat as his eyes saw Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue in the distance...

Beside the two of them, there were five ice spirits dancing around each of them. The ice spirits around them were much more lively and he could inadvertently feel the joy of these ice spirits.

The gap was too big... Not only were Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue the two best disciples of Ice Phoenix Divine Hall, they were far better than the rest. When talking about Ice Phoenix Divine Hall, anyone within the sect would only instantly think of Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue and not some other third person.

In this battle for the spot of direct disciple, everyone similarly only thought of Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue. The disciple ranked third in terms of talent... never even entered the picture.

He let out a deep sigh in his heart as he finally gave up. The two ice spirits that he had attracted with difficulty were being dispersed by him and he no longer cared about the ice spirits. Instead, he gathered his energy around his heart and began to use the cold energy of the lake's water to refine his body and profound veins.

Nearly half of the divine hall disciples had completely given up at the hour mark. To chase after a glimpse of unlikely hope and wasting an hour of their time within the heavenly lake had already made them extremely regretful.

Two hours had passed and eighty percent of the divine hall disciples had already completely given up. However, there were still several hundred disciples who were still trying fervently.

All the elders and palace masters were also quietly absorbing the heavenly lake's cold energy. However, they were not like the various disciples who completely concentrated but instead left half of their consciousness outside, observing the actions of the various disciples at all times. It was especially so for

the ice phoenix palace masters since the disciples of Ice Phoenix Palace were relatively weaker. As time passed by, they would not be able to withstand remaining within the heavenly lake.

At the same time, they were all observing the unprecedented battle of ice spirits. The main points of focus were undoubtedly Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue.

The results were also not surprising. The two of them had attracted the most ice spirits. After two hours had passed, they each had ten ice spirits around them and were evenly matched. Although the other disciples had done all that they could, the next best only had seven ice spirits around them. Below that, those who had five ice spirits were also few and far between and the gap between them could be easily seen.

Amongst the seventy-two elders, there were two people who were not within the heavenly lake but instead were high up in the air—Mu Huanzhi and Mu Yunzhi. Mu Feixue and Mu Hanyi; one of them was the granddaughter while the other was the disciple. They were definitely exceptionally concerned and did not even have the heart to enjoy the lake's cold energy. Mu Huanzhi was still relatively calm while Mu Yunzhi's eyes constantly shone and her aura did not calm down even for a second. Her hands were clenched tightly together, only occasionally relaxing. Only her mouth remained constantly shut as she didn't dare to let out any noise that might disturb Mu Hanyi.

“Judging from the situation now, ignoring the Ice Phoenix's bloodline, Hanyi's innate talent is not below Feixue's. Attaining such results with a male body is undoubtedly a thousand year rare find,” Mu Huanzhi muttered to himself with deep lament. From the situation at present, the two were evenly matched. However, he was very clear that after six hours, if the two were still evenly matched, it would undoubtedly be Mu Hanyi who would win... The first reason was due to the fact that he was male. The second reason was due to the high praise that everyone sang for him and the respect that he had earned.

A cry of pain suddenly rang from below. At the edge on the heavenly lake, the body of an Ice Phoenix Palace disciple was twitching vigorously. His face was completely devoid of blood and he was starting to lose control of the cold energy that was entering his body and it was on the brink of going berserk.

The palace master of the Ice Phoenix Palace he resided immediately opened her eyes and flew from the heavenly lake, grabbing him and throwing him to the bank of the heavenly lake. Color instantly returned to the Ice Phoenix disciple's face and he got up in shame before silently sitting down at side of the lake.

Each person's profound strength, talent, physique, and ability to withstand the cold energy was different. Once a person's limit was exceeded, they would have no choice but to leave. If one forcefully tried to re-enter the heavenly lake, they would injure himself instead. However, the cold energy at the side of the lake which was much “gentler” was still exceptionally valuable and no time should be wasted.

As time passed, more and more disciples were starting to be unable to bear the heavenly lake's cold energy. They could only leave the heavenly lake and come to the bank to calmly refine and maintain the benefits that they had reaped today.

Furthermore, even the Ice Phoenix Palace disciple who stayed in the heavenly lake for the shortest amount of time, a mere two hours, could clearly feel as though he had been reborn.

Refining the pure cold energy from the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake was far superior to even consuming thousands of elixirs.

Gradually, four hours had passed. All three thousand five hundred disciples from Ice Phoenix Palace had been forced out of the heavenly lake and remained at the bank of the lake. Within the heavenly lake, only the various disciples from the divine hall still remained.

Due to the tremendous lead that Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue had, there were fewer and fewer disciples trying their best to attract ice spirits. From a few hundred to several dozen to the final few... When the final divine hall disciple opened his eyes, he saw that around both Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue had twenty ice spirits dancing around them. When he looked up and only saw fourteen ice spirits surrounding him, he became disheartened and sighed lightly. Accepting his fate, he waved his hand, instantly dispersing all the ice spirits around him.

There were no lack of geniuses in the world. However, there was an insufficient number of unparalleled geniuses. In front of these unparalleled geniuses, the other geniuses could only become the supporting cast.

Two-thirds of the way into this battle of ice spirits, it had already completely turned into a battle between Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue... This result however, was completely unsurprising.

Yun Che did not know any of this. At this time, he was already in an extremely unique... or perhaps strange, world.

The channeling of the Great Way of the Buddha caused the cold energy within the heavenly lake to enter Yun Che's body through the pores of his body at a rate beyond human comprehension. The other disciples had used their profound energy to lead the cold energy to enter their bodies to refine their bodies and profound veins but Yun Che was directly guiding the energy into his profound veins. As more and more cold energy entered his body, the flow of profound energy within his body and profound veins became even faster. Yun Che's consciousness completely sank as he focused on guiding the external cold energy to fuse with his own profound energy.

Under such conditions, as his consciousness sank more and more, he could no longer feel the flow of time. Just like this, after an unknown amount of time had passed and the profound energy circulated up to a thousand cycles, it suddenly stopped. All the profound energy completely stopped moving and it was so calm that it seemed as though time itself had suddenly stopped.

Yun Che's consciousness was suddenly stunned. Then, the profound energy surrounding him suddenly surged, like a raging stream that was returning ferociously into his profound veins. His consciousness also entered his profound veins but even before he could see if there were any anomalies, a loud noise echoed throughout every corner of his consciousness.

At the core of his profound veins, it seemed as though something had exploded and the inner world of his profound veins became chaotic. Pale white mist filled it entirely and this mist moved about crazily, continuously dispersing and gathering. Occasionally, it flashed with a blue glow. Occasionally it surged with flames. Occasionally it flashed with purple lightning. Occasionally it was completely black.

Just like a small world that had suddenly fallen apart due to a calamity...

In the end, it completely fell apart and all the origin profound energy in his profound veins dispersed, rushing away...

This shock was not trivial either. The dispersion of the origin profound energy... this meant that one's cultivation thus far had gone down the drain. To any profound practitioner, this was undoubtedly a nightmarish scene. Despite his shock, Yun Che suddenly realized that speaks of strange starlight shone at the center of his profound veins that was swiftly becoming empty.

It was like a nebula in the dark sky that was shining weakly, yet the speaks were exceptionally mysterious.

An unusually mysterious feeling suddenly spread from within his body and consciousness. This feeling was peculiar and indescribable. It was a feeling as though... everything was being upgraded, like one's entire body and soul were now in a world completely unlike before. As if they were enjoying the aura and hearing the voices of another world...

Within his profound veins, the four colors, blue, red, purple and black lit up once again. The strange nebula at the center was also spinning slowly. With each round, it would grow larger and the glow of the stars would also become brighter. At the same time, the strange feeling within his body became even more intense. His veins, skeleton, blood, hair, and even every single cell throbbed with intensity... Even his consciousness was constantly capturing different images.

These images began from when he was sixteen. They began from the day his profound veins were restructured, replaying every step he treated on the profound way...

All the training, every breakthrough, every unusual encounter, every danger, every peril, every life and death situation...

Within these images, it was as though he had walked through his entire life once again. Eight years... from the perspective of the profound way, eight years was but a very very short amount of time. However, all the life and death encounters he had experienced would probably exceed what others would experience within a thousand lives...

At the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake, up in the sky above the enormous Frost Dragon, a strong gaze suddenly shot downwards from behind the mist and landed on Yun Che.

At this time, Mu Bingyun also turned and looked at Yun Che in a flash... On him, countless profound streaks of profound energy were being released but did not disperse. Instead they turned into a ring shape and spun rapidly around him, causing the surrounding air to also turn chaotic.

At the same time, his body began to tremble violently and ripples that seemed like water ripples appeared on his body.

Yun Che and Mu Xiaolan were extremely close to one another and the intense change in aura caused Mu Xiaolan to jolt back to consciousness. She saw Yun Che's condition and was about to say something when Mu Bingyun's voice rang in the depths of her soul, "Don't say anything... he's about to break through!"

Mu Xiaolan reached up with her hand and pressed strongly on her lips before retreating carefully. Her pupils expanded as she stared wide-eyed at Yun Che.

Yun Che's transformation instantly attracted the attention of all the Ice Phoenix Palace disciples on the side of the lake.

This was no ordinary breakthrough.

It was a profound practitioner's advancement from the mortal realm into the divine realm!

It was a true advancement and rebirth!

Finally, for the first time, Yun Che who had arrived in the Snow Song Realm three months ago, under circumstances that he completely did not expect, was taking his first actual step into the divine way.

Chapter 986 - Finally Entering the Divine Way

Why did it just have to be now...

Mu Bingyun's brows creased. If it were to be said that a small realm's breakthrough was a quantitative change in profound strength and a great realm's breakthrough was a qualitative change, then ascending to the divine realms from the mortal realms was a complete and thorough transformation that was entirely different from any other previous breakthrough. This process was also extremely long and difficult and usually took several days to finish. Even if one's innate talent was extremely high, having it go smoothly would still require several hours.

Furthermore, it would also be accompanied by considerably high risk. During the process, one must not be disturbed in anyway or else it would be easy to receive irreversible damage to one's profound veins.

As a result, when profound practitioners at the peak of the mortal way sensed that they were on the verge of breaking through, they would immediately choose to go into seclusion.

Yet Yun Che's breakthrough into the divine way came so suddenly.

Upon stepping into the divine way, all profound energy in the entire body would go through a complete transformation. During this process, one's profound energy would break from their control and they wouldn't be able to channel or release it, which also meant that he was simply unable to handle the heavenly lake's cold energy. The heavenly lake's cold energy here had undoubtedly become his largest obstacle in his breakthrough now and it was most likely that it would heavily damage his body and profound veins in a short amount of time. This was why Yun Che suddenly breaking through here was extremely dangerous.

Mu Bingyun no longer hesitated as she quickly took action, intending to release her cold energy to erect a barrier that sealed his surroundings. At the same time, her mind was quickly churning up ways of how to get him out of the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake without disturbing him.

However, before her cold energy had yet to be released, she suddenly stopped... because the speed in which the profound energy that circled around him was reaching an incomprehensible level.

Since it was a "transformation", it naturally ought to be slow and difficult but the speed at which the profound energy around Yun Che's body circulated was actually as fast as a tornado. Without the protection of profound energy, once the cold energy entered the body, one would shiver from the cold and be in intolerable pain. However, Yun Che's complexion was actually as normal as ever with not a single twitch that indicated he was affected by the cold energy at all.

Even though the circulation of profound energy was extremely fast, it was not disorderly at all.

Mu Bingyun's hand paused in place and didn't move for a long while, amazement that didn't scatter for a long period of time within her gaze. Behind her, Mu Xiaolan was filled with nervousness, not daring to utter a single sound or take too deep of a breath.

Only Mu Bingyun, who was the closest to him, sensed Yun Che's unusual condition. As for the others, whether it be the elders, palace masters or disciples, they quickly moved their gaze away from him after their initial shock. To Yun Che, this was a rebirth that would allow him to enter a whole new realm. But... to everyone else present, who had long been in the divine way, it wasn't even strange at all... and some had even snorted disdainfully in secret.

This was because to them, it was only a starting point they had long since passed through.

The reason why Yun Che had attracted their gazes earlier was only because the timing of his breakthrough was a bit of a killjoy. On the other side was the intense battle that decided who was going to be the Realm King's direct disciple, so who would bother to pay attention to a breakthrough into the starting point of the divine way?

From Mu Bingyun's appearance, she was obviously protecting him as well. With her personally protecting him, there shouldn't be any problems even if he was breaking through here.

In the world of Yun Che's profound veins, the nebula slowly grew amidst its quick rotation and the twinkling stars within it also gradually became more concentrated. The four colored radiances brilliantly shone at the same frequency as the inner world within his profound veins underwent a world turning change. The senses within every corner of his body also changed as his perception of the world also distinctively changed.

His consciousness continuously played the scenes in his head over and over again, as though it was bidding farewell to his past... declaring that he was now about to step into a whole new world in which he would possess a whole new life and power.

The only thing that didn't change was the devil origin orb in his profound veins... it was still dull gray and deathly silent.

The Heavenly Netherfrost Lake was completely silent, with the only sound there being the dripping lakewater that pounded at one's soul. Everyone's attention concentrated on Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue and as time elapsed, the contest between them was at an even greater stalemate. They attracted the same number of ice spirits and there was no disparity between them since the very beginning.

Four hours had passed and both of them had attracted twenty four ice spirits... Thirty minutes later, at the same exact time, it had become twenty six... and then twenty seven again fifteen minutes later.

It was as though time had slowed down. Whether it was the Ice Phoenix Palace disciples at the edge of the lake or the divine hall disciples inside the lake, they all stared attentively with wide eyes and halted breaths, waiting to see the final result.

If there was a slight gap between them, it would not make the atmosphere this stifling. However, not only was their ice spirit count identical since the start, their differences were next to nothing.

"I never expected that these two would actually be this evenly matched in terms of ice laws. Six hours are about to pass and we still cannot tell for sure which is the stronger," a divine hall elder lamented.

"It is simply a great honor for two such outstanding disciples to appear at the same time within this generation," stated another divine hall elder.

And it was right at this moment that everyone's gazes and expressions abruptly changed.

This was because in the last fifteen minutes, both Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue's power and mind concentrated on the exact same ice spirit.

The two also discovered this at the same time but neither shifted their attention... because this was the closest ice spirit. The fact that both of them were currently in a deadlock with barely any disparity meant it was almost certain they would lose if they chose another target at this critical juncture which would decide their fate.

This situation made the previously incredibly tense atmosphere suddenly grow cold. This time, even the various elders and palace masters were holding their breaths.

The time limit had now reached the last fifteen minutes of its deadline. Fifteen minutes was only enough for them to attract one ice spirit... which meant that since both of them had chosen this particular ice spirit, it would directly decide today's outcome.

This ice spirit's consciousness was stirred by the two frost auras that attracted and beckoned it. After a short period of hesitation, it then flew toward the two people. The speed in which it flew was distinctly faster than the rate at which the other ice spirits flew. It was just that its trajectory wasn't exactly a straight line as it drifted unstably, going left and right from time to time.

Finally, it stopped... right between Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue. Then, it stayed in that spot for a long while... obviously at a loss about who to pick.

Ding... Ding... Ding...

The lakewater in the profound formation lessened as the sound of the end of this showdown was almost within reach. Everyone's gaze firmly focused on the ice spirit between the two people. As though it had been fixed in place, despite the fact that the timer had reached its final countdown, it still wouldn't move.

"Go over to Hanyi!" Mu Yunzhi's breathing also stopped with the halting of the ice spirit. Even though she had a high cultivation level, her face had gone red from holding her breath. The blue veins on her tightly fisted hands seemed to be on the verge of splitting apart.

"Good luck, Feixue." Mu Huanzhi's forehead had long been matted in sweat. Even though he wasn't as serious about the outcome as Mu Yunzhi, since he was able to calmly accept it if Mu Hanyi won, now that it had reached the last fifteen minutes of such an intense battle, he couldn't help but tense up.

Although Mu Feixue was naturally indifferent and rarely spoke, which Ice Phoenix disciple didn't dream about being the Great Realm King's direct disciple!

Ding... Ding... Ding...

The heavenly lake's water still dropped methodically and the remaining lakewater inside the profound formation was finally down to the last one hundred drops.

Ninety drops...

Eighty drops...

Seventy drops...

.....

Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue's eyes were firmly closed since the beginning yet icy mist rose from their bodies as they unreservedly released their lifetime's insights about the ice laws... Before today, both originally possessed near identical, absolute confidence in themselves but they didn't expect that their opponent was far more powerful than their expectations.

Even though the two were publicly recognized to be at the top of this generation's Ice Phoenix disciples, they normally reserved their power... until today, when they didn't hold anything back.

Fifty drops...

Forty drops...

Thirty drops...

Each drop of water heavily pounded at the heartstrings of everyone person yet the ice spirit that would decide the ultimate outcome still stubbornly stayed motionless in place.

In the entire Heavenly Netherfrost Lake, the only person whose heartstrings weren't stretched taut was...

Obviously Yun Che, who was inside his own world.

It was also at this time that his breakthrough came to a perfect end after a short two hours.

The profound energy around Yun Che's body had already stopped rotating and soundlessly returned into his body. The world within his profound veins had completely changed from its formerly dense misty state and was now like a boundless starry sky. The specks of stars twinkling within it contained a mysterious and strong aura.

Aura of the divine way... aura of the first level of the Divine Origin Realm!!

The Divine Origin Realm was a mortal's first step into the divine way. It was the step in which one's vital energy becomes divine, causing the profound practitioner's body to exceed human limits and also substantially strengthen. One's lifespan would also increase greatly as well.

This kind of change was an extremely distinct transformation on other profound practitioners' bodies but on Yun Che, it didn't seem to change that intensely. This was because Yun Che had already passed the category of mortals.

To others, this was a transformation but to him, it was just another increase in strength.

What excited Yun Che however, was his explosive increase in profound strength!

His perception of profound energy had completely changed. Previously, even when he was exchanging blows with a profound practitioner in the divine way, he couldn't sense it that clearly. However, what he felt from his body right now was like another domain of power! Even though it was just one breakthrough, from the tenth level of the Sovereign Profound Realm to the first level of the Divine Origin Realm, he felt that his strength had not just doubled but might even have increased more than tenfold!!

Beneath the amplification of the Evil God's power, he himself was unable to estimate how powerful of a strength he could release!

This kind of unprecedented advancement in power caused Yun Che's heart to surge for a long period of time. His confidence and arrogance had also consequently increased as well, so much that he felt as though he was already powerful to the point of omnipotence. While immersed in his joy, he forgot where he was currently located as he gave a delighted roar. Both his arms spread open wide as he recklessly released his profound energy that had stepped into the divine way. At the same time, his consciousness immediately awakened...

Twenty five drops...

Twenty drops...

Fifteen drops...

The lakewater was gradually approaching its final drops and at this time, the ice spirit which had been still for a long time now bounced within everyone's gaze. It finally began to move. It shifted a bit after its hesitation... and it astonishingly shifted toward Mu Hanyi. Then, as though it made its final decision, it started flying toward Mu Hanyi.

Ten drops...

"Hanyi won!!" The final outcome had clearly emerged within these last fifteen minutes. Everything was finally settled after the ice spirit's selection.

"Hahahahaha!" Mu Yunzhi completely relaxed. Even though she had several thousand years of cultivation under her belt, she was unable to suppress the mad joy she felt as she laughed heartily.

"Sigh," Mu Huanzhi made a long sigh. It was intense to such a degree but the final outcome simply did not have anything to do with one's strength but moreso one's resonance with the ice spirits. But a loss was still a loss.

Even though Mu Hanyi's eyes were still shut, a smile had already appeared at the corner of his lips and his body was also visibly shaking with excitement.

And it was at this time that a profound energy which had just entered the divine way was untimely released from the edge of the lake, alongside an even more uncourteous excited roar.

The instant the roar sounded, the ice spirit flying toward Mu Hanyi suddenly stopped. Then, it released a never before heard, clear ethereal cry as its flight speed suddenly accelerated, faster than any other ice spirit had moved...

However, the path in which it flew changed; it no longer flew toward Mu Hanyi. Instead, it suddenly flew toward the distant lakeside... it flew toward Yun Che!!

Before the crowd had yet to realize what had happened, the tranquil Heavenly Netherfrost Lake suddenly rippled in in all directions. The ice spirits in the distance that were frolicking around all released an extremely beautiful and melodious spirit sound. Then, they all began to fly about and chased after that last ice spirit, the speed in which they flew making them look like snow white shooting stars...

It was also at this instant that the ice spirits which danced around Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue, the ice spirits they used an entire six hours and all their power to attract, left them without the slightest of hesitation. They too joined the other ice spirits and flew directly at Yun Che.

They were extremely fast and all of them flew to Yun Che's side. The ice spirits that flew toward the divine hall disciples were all careful and hesitant in their slowness. However, they all danced around Yun Che with incomparable excitement, their voices in high spirits. They all tried to outdo one another as they neared him, as though there was some kind of fatal attractive force on his body.

In a few breaths of time, all three thousand ice spirits in the Heavenly Nether Forest Lake had all gathered around Yun Che and not a single one wasn't there!

Ding!

The last drop of lakewater within the profound formation had fallen and Yun Che also opened his eyes at this time. He was then instantly stunned, shocked to see the ice spirits around him flying with excitement... and stunned frozen faces all around him.

Chapter 987 - Questioning

Of the four great creation gods within the primordial god race, Mo E's creation god power was power, Xi Ke was order, Li Suo was life and the Evil God's were the elements! The absolute power of the elements!

Ancient gods like the Vermillion Bird, Phoenix and the Golden Crow were called the Three Supreme Fire Attribute Beasts while the Azure Dragon, Ice Phoenix and the Ice Qilin were called the Three Supreme Water Attribute Beasts. However, purely in regards to the elemental laws, these six great beasts fell far short of the Evil God.

The Phoenix wouldn't fear phoenix flames but it could still be harmed by the flames of the Golden Crow and Vermillion Bird. The Azure Dragon could control the world's water but it was impossible for it to not fear the ice from the Ice Phoenix and Ice Qilin. As for Yun Che, even though his power was far beneath them, he did not fear fire or water in any shape or form; this included lightning as well.

If he was able to find the wind and earth attribute Evil God Seeds in the future, he would not need to fear the power of the wind or earth either.

This was also why, even though Yun Che's Great Way of the Buddha advanced so slowly and his Star God's Broken Shadow only reached the fifth stage, he found no barriers when successfully comprehending high level profound arts of the divine way like the World Ode of the Phoenix, Golden Crow Burning World and Ice Phoenix God Investiture Canon, in a short period of time.

The Evil God's power over the elements was high and it could possibly even have transcended one's recognition of the law's boundaries. It wasn't restricted by the laws at all, reaching a "heaven defying" realm which even gods found to be incomprehensible and unfathomable.

But even if that was the case, Yun Che wanting to release frost aura to attract a few ice spirits was comparatively easy. However, attracting all these ice spirits over with just profound energy was simply impossible. Though his elemental power was as high in terms of the laws, his profound cultivation level was just too low.

However, this opportunity just happened to come coincidentally. Yun Che had just completed his breakthrough from the mortal way, into the divine way. What he released was his primal, newly transformed, purest burst of profound energy. This burst was extremely pure and clean and it was also the profound energy which came from the Evil God's power. To these pure ice spirits, it was like they had scented the smell of the first primordial source of cold energy. This caused them to reflexively flock over.

This kind of situation would never have happened, even if he wanted it to, if Yun Che had his previous profound strength. But it just had to be at this time...

Yun Che was completely unaware of all this. He had only released his profound energy in his excitement to get a feel for his reborn power. He didn't even know what was happening in the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake.

When he opened his eyes, he felt that the serious atmosphere around him didn't feel quite right. Everyone's gaze was actually concentrated on him and dancing ice spirits circled around him like stars revolving around the moon, which made him, who was obviously the weakest in this place, directly become this world's focal point.

"T-t-this..."

No traces of the usual solemnity and dignity remained with the various elders and hall masters. Their expressions twisted like they had seen ghosts in broad daylight.

Even if they put together everyone's age and experience together, they still would not understand the scene before them.

Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue also got up from the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake. They stared blankly at the three thousand ice spirits circling around Yun Che and couldn't recover their senses for a long time.

"What happened?" Yun Che stood up and then turned to ask Mu Bingyun.

If he was suddenly being stared so closely by the old monsters of Divine Ice Phoenix Sect before this, he would've been extremely nervous. However, he was still in high spirits after having entered the divine way so even though he was surprised, he didn't feel panicked at all.

Mu Bingyun was evidently also in a stunned state while the Mu Xiaolan behind her, had gone completely stupid. Her mouth gaped so wide that her own fist might have been able to fit in it. Mu Bingyun let out a sigh and said with considerable calm, "The sect master set a time limit of six hours. In six hours, the person who is able to attract the most ice spirits will become her direct disciple and you..."

Something else had also shocked her... Yun Che had actually used only two hours to completely break through to the divine way! That was such a short period of time and it was even in the extremely dangerous Heavenly Netherfrost Lake. She had never heard of such a thing like that happening before.

But the others didn't have a mind to pay attention to that. The result that was about to be announced... Or rather, the result of the showdown that was already revealed, had actually undergone such a heaven shaking change within the last several breaths of time. This completely stupefied all the elders, palace masters and disciples present.

The lips of Mu Huanzhi, who was already prepared to make the announcement, flapped several times before he finally spoke, "W-what's this? What exactly happened on this child's body?"

A single phrase flashed in everyone's mind... who the hell knows what happened!? In merely ten breaths of time, all of the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake's ice spirits had been attracted. Such a feat was impossible for the various elders and palace masters, let alone divine hall disciples.

Yet such a thing had happened right before their eyes... on the body of a new disciple who had just stepped into the divine way, who possessed a cultivation level so low they wouldn't even spare a second glance at.

It was impossible for them to believe that Yun Che had relied on his own frost aura to attract these ice spirits. This was because even the sect master was unable to do this with her might. Furthermore, the profound energy Yun Che had so suddenly released earlier was only the profound energy released from his initial state; it wasn't even ice profound energy.

The Snow Song Realm King atop the airborne enormous Frost Dragon had been silent since the very beginning... even she was unable to comprehend what had happened on Yun Che's body.

Among everyone present, the ones whose hearts were undulating the most were unquestionably Mu Hanyi and Mu Yunzhi. When Mu Yunzhi had seen Mu Hanyi's clear victory, she was filled with boundless joy. But now, such a thing had happened, her face suddenly went dark after her initial shock. Then, she recovered to her normal state as she said in a loud voice, "Great Elder, it's time to announce the results. My disciple Hanyi came out victorious and everyone has seen it with their eyes."

"But, this..."

"What but?" Mu Yunzhi glanced at Yun Che. "Did you all not see that this kid just happened to complete his breakthrough a moment ago? He entered the divine way, so what he had released earlier was naturally the newborn profound energy of the first stage of the divine way. These ice spirits naturally would prefer things that are the most primal and pure. This was why they would all gather around him. That's not strange at all! It's fortunate that he has not ruined our great event since the final results had already come out.

Mu Yunzhi's words stunned everyone present. It was only after a long period of time that many of them began to nod, "So that's how it is, no wonder..."

The extremely pure burst of initial profound energy he had released after he had broken through truly was the reason why the ice spirits had been attracted to Yun Che but this was definitely not able to

happen with anyone else's initial cold energy... Or perhaps it should be said that aside from Yun Che, no one else was able to do it to such a degree.

However, what had happened to Yun Che was something they were simply unable to comprehend. As a result, this argument from Mu Yunzhi that only seemed a bit forced, caused everyone, the elders and palace masters included, who were completely shocked and dazed to grab at this justification that seemed to be able to explain what had happened. They nodded their heads one after another in approval... because aside from this, they weren't able to think of any other reasons.

It was just impossible for Yun Che to rely on his own cold energy to summon the ice spirits!

"That does seem quite reasonable." Mu Huanzhi also slowly nodded. Once one was unable to think of any other possibilities, any possibility, no matter how forced it was, would seem many times more reasonable. After all, the first burst of primal profound energy after entering the divine way being the purest was true, so it might be true that it was an aura that the ice spirits loved the most...

Yun Che was the first person in all of history to have entered the divine way in the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake. There was no precedent before him... after all, those below the divine way weren't permitted to enter the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake.

"It shouldn't be that simple," Mu Sushan muttered. But he then shook his head after saying that. "But this really is the only explanation."

After finding something that was able to explain what had happened, everyone's shock was naturally being dispelled. In the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake, a smile surfaced on Mu Hanyi's face once more. He shifted his gaze to the side to look toward Mu Feixue but she was still as quiet as before. Like ice that would never thaw, she was silent without a single ripple.

Following the disappearance of Yun Che's profound energy, the ice spirits that were flying around him also began to quickly scatter. At this point, he was also made aware of everything that had happened within the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake from Mu Bingyun's sound transmission. His heart fiercely shook as the depths of his eyes flashed with an odd light... that was also especially intense.

"Cough," Mu Huanzhi turned around. He glanced at Mu Feixue and after sighing inwardly, he announced, "Sect Master's time limit of six hours has already passed. Even though a small incident happened at the end, that last ice spirit was indeed attracted by Hanyi and everyone here has seen it with their own eyes. As such, the final victor of this contest for the sect master's direct disciple is—Mu Hanyi!"

When Mu Huanzhi's voice fell, many disciples of the divine hall and ice phoenix palace all let out thunderous shouts. These excited shouts also showed how high of a prestige Mu Hanyi had within these disciples.

"Hahahaha," Mu Yunzhi laughed heartily as her facial features blossomed. She held out a hand toward the distant Mu Hanyi and said, "Hanyi, well done. You sure did not disappoint me. I am proud of you. Come up and pay respects to the sect master once more. Once the discipleship rites complete, you will be the sect master's direct disciple!"

"I heard that Hanyi's royal father's thousand year birthday is coming up in not even a month. This must be the best present he'll receive," another divine hall elder commented with a smile.

"More than the best present, I'm afraid that this birthday celebration will be unlike any other," said the first palace's palace master.

Mu Yunzhi was not the only one who was unable to contain her joy if Mu Hanyi became the Realm King's direct disciple. It was a popular opinion within the entire sect.

"Yes!" Mu Hanyi replied. Then, he flew up, his white clothes fluttering and landed beside Mu Yunzhi with not a single drop of the heavenly lake's water on him.

It was at this moment that an extremely ill-timed voice heavily came over. Within the atmosphere that had become enthusiastic, it was especially cold and piercing to the ears.

Everyone's gaze immediately turned and the atmosphere also congealed.

Mu Bingyun moved, wanting to say something but then didn't.

She didn't stop Yun Che at all when he walked out, "This disciple has a few questions that he wishes to ask Great Elder for guidance on."

As an Ice Phoenix disciple, forcing himself into the conversation in front of all the various elders was already offensive to the extreme. Mu Yunzhi was originally overjoyed but once Yun Che's words came piercing over, he had completely spoiled the moment for her, causing her to become enraged. That added to the unpleasant fact that he had nearly ruined everything just a moment ago made her immediately voice out her fury, "What are you? Since when did you get to talk? Scram!"

Mu Bingyun's gaze shifted and fixed on Mu Yunzhi. She then said in an incomparably flat voice, "He is my palace's disciple."

Being stared at by Mu Bingyun actually caused Mu Yunzhi's pupils to suddenly contract. Even her imposingness had lessened by several degrees.

Mu Sushan advanced, chuckling, "A disciple asking for guidance is quite common. Yun Che, what do you need Great Elder's guidance on?"

"You may continue," Mu Huanzhi nodded slightly. When he saw Mu Bingyun stare at Mu Yunzhi, he clearly... very clearly saw that Mu Bingyun was very protective of her new disciple.

"The first question this disciple seeks guidance on is," Yun Che's face didn't change as he spoke in a tone that was neither servile nor overbearing, "In order to select her direct disciple, the sect master decided it to be a battle of ice spirits. In six hours, whoever had the most ice spirits would be the winner. That being the case, the sect master didn't restrict the participants to only be divine hall disciples, right? She didn't say that ice phoenix palace disciples didn't qualify, right?"

"This... the sect master did not set those restrictions." Mu Huanzhi shook his head.

"The second question," Yun Che then continued, "Before this disciple attracted all the ice spirits over, had the last drop of lakewater that the sect master arranged fallen?"

Mu Huanzhi's expression changed as he finally became aware of what Yun Che wanted to "ask for guidance" on. Everyone present also was now aware of this fact as well. Mu Yunzhi's face also sank as she sneered, "Kid, what are you trying to say? Don't tell me that you want..."

"Yes! I do want to ask!" Yun Che suddenly raised his voice. "When the six hour time limit the sect master had placed came, this disciple had three thousand ice spirits beside him and Mu Hanyi had not a single one. Anyone ought to have seen that as long as they weren't blind! But the result you all announced was Mu Hanyi being the victor... This disciple wishes to ask, how does that make sense!?"

Chapter 988 - Refusal!

Although they had already guessed what Yun Che was probably going to say, when he actually said it, all the elders and palace masters were still stunned. Instead, it was the Divine Hall and Ice Phoenix Palace disciples that displayed all sort of emotions. Some sneered and laughed coldly while others showed excited expressions as though they were watching some show.

Even more people had the expressions like they were looking at a fool.

Only after Yun Che suddenly broke through and attracted all the ice spirits over had the final drop of lakewater fallen within the profound formation. This was indeed something that everyone had personally witnessed. When the finally drop of lakewater fell from the, there were three thousand ice spirits around Yun Che and none around Mu Hanyi.

However, nobody would accept this result because no one could link "Yun Che" and "direct disciple" together. Before this, even Yun Che himself would not have either.

This result was a pure, unexpected and outrageous accident!

In anyone's eyes, it was also a pure accident!

Although Yun Che had a small reputation by defeating someone in the Divine Origin Realm while being in the Sovereign Profound Realm and also due to the fact that he was personally brought along by Mu Bingyun, in front of Mu Hanyi. who was blessed by the heavens, Yun Che was worse than the mud underneath a rainbow. He had also only broken through to the Divine Origin Realm today. Other than the protection of Mu Bingyun and Mu Xiaolan and his own excitement, the process of his breakthrough was completely ignored by the others.

One was from the lower realms that had only been in the Snow Song Realm for three months and only finally stepped into the divine way today. The other was a member of the Snow Song Royal Family who possessed esteemed status, talent that only appeared once every thousand years, and was even in the middle stage of the Divine Tribulation Realm before the age of thirty. He had even given it his all without restraint today, causing all the elders and palace masters to be greatly shocked once again.

Therefore, when Yun Che suddenly lured away all the ice spirits, though it was a great shock to everyone and though in terms of results, he had completely defeated Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue, everyone's first and only reaction was only the word "accident". No matter who it was, they were unable to shift the words "direct disciple" from Mu Hanyi onto Yun Che.

First stage of the Divine Origin Realm. Simply based on profound strength, he belonged to the very bottom of Freezing Snow Hall... with regards to the term "direct disciple", it was a concept that was worlds apart from him.

However, they did not expect for Yun Che to actually have the guts and thick skin to bring it up... he even had an attitude of confrontation. Seeing Yun Che's confrontational attitude, their first reaction was shock and then they felt that it was... rather funny, and even a little embarrassing.

Of course, the one who found it the funniest was definitely Mu Yunzhi.

"Hahahaha," Mu Yunzhi roared with laughter before continuing with a face of mocking, "In that case, we should announce that you have won and let you become the sect master's direct disciple?"

"Shouldn't that be the case?" Yun Che rebutted.

With regards to becoming the direct disciple of the sect master, Yun Che had never thought about it before and always thought that it had nothing to do with him no matter what. However, now that the opportunity had so unknowingly presented itself to him and after hearing Mu Bingyun's sound transmission, his heart started to pump vigorously.

What he desired the most was profound strength! It was only twenty seven months away from the Profound God Convention now; two years and a little bit more of time! Although under his recklessness, he cultivated by self-mutilation and obtained frightening results, to reach the Divine Tribulation Realm before the Profound God Convention was still an unattainable dream.

However, if he could become the sect master's direct disciple...

He would be able to receive personal guidance of the Ice Phoenix Sect Master! He would be able to obtain the Ice Phoenix divine blood and cultivate the highest form of profound arts within the Snow Song Realm... Most importantly, he would be able to enjoy the best form of resources within the Snow Song Realm and also attain convenience that far exceeded what he had now!

In that case, there might be the possibility that he would actually breakthrough to the Divine Tribulation Realm that he had been dreaming of!

Therefore, when the opportunity "to become the direct disciple" suddenly presented itself, it was like light that suddenly shone in complete darkness. It immediately turned into the strongest and deepest desire in Yun Che's heart.

"Heh, such a ridiculous joke." Mu Yunzhi only felt that the current Yun Che was extremely absurd, "Mu Hanyi is the most outstanding disciple in the current generation of our divine sect. Today, he has also proven that he has the ability to become the sect master's direct disciple. As for you, what are y..."

Even before she finished speaking, she suddenly felt Mu Bingyun's gaze and immediately stopped and changed what she was going to say, "Hmph, which part of you is even able to compare to Hanyi? For you to attract so many ice spirits, it was but an accident caused by your breakthrough. You yourself are fully aware of whether or not you had attracted them with your strength! You actually dare to jump out, are you not afraid of losing face for you and your master?"

Mu Yunzhi's words caused all the disciples present to laugh in secret while majority of the elders and palace masters also shook their heads with laughter. Mu Huanzhi frowned and did not speak. However, Mu Sushan suddenly spoke, "Although that is the case, based on the results, Yun Che did indeed win. Since that is the case, we do indeed owe Yun Che an explanation."

Expectedly, Mu Sushan's words caused Mu Yunzhi to instantly become enraged, "Explanation? What explanation? Let me repeat, for him to attract those ice spirits, it was only because it coincided with his breakthrough! Not blaming him more for nearly disrupting the results is already being kind to him. What kind of explanation do we still owe him? You can't possibly still adhere by the so-called results and allow him to overtake Hanyi and become the direct disciple?"

"Wouldn't that be the shame of our entire sect!"

Hearing Mu Yunzhi's words and thinking about Yun Che's birth and profound strength, everyone had the same sentiments... If Yun Che were to really become the sect master's direct disciple, it would undoubtedly become the biggest joke in the entire history of the Snow Song Realm.

Of course, such matters would definitely not occur. Yun Che's current "struggle" was already a joke.

"There's no need to argue anymore." Great Elder, Mu Huanzhi seemed to have made his decision. "The rules were personally set by the sect master and the person we're choosing is the sect master's direct disciple. As such, it is obviously up to the sect master to personally decide how to settle this matter.

Mu Yunzhi immediately reacted. She hastily bowed down and respectfully said, "Yunzhi was too agitated previously and spoke too much. All such matters follow Sect Master's decision."

She was very certain... For Sect Master to give up on Mu Hanyi and get a ridiculous person like Yun Che as her direct disciple? She would never believe it even if she was beaten to death.

"Huanzhi," The Snow Song Realm King who overlooked the heavenly lake finally spoke. As her voice rang, the entire heavenly lake fell silent, "Regarding how to settle this, you must have a plan, just say it."

The Snow Song Realm King's gaze seemed as though it could look through a person's heart and soul. This was something Mu Huanzhi had already gotten used to as he quickly paid his respects and said, "Yes, Sect Master."

"Even though an accident had occurred, Sushan isn't wrong. Based on the results, it's indeed Yun Che who won and it is also logical for him to demand an explanation. However, what Yunzhi said isn't wrong either. When Sect Master used the ice spirits to decide who the direct disciple was, it was so that the test would test their talent, constitution, and control over the laws of ice. However, when Yun Che attracted the ice spirits over, it was completely unrelated to all of these and it was probably indeed due to his coincidental breakthrough.

"Therefore, Huanzhi has a humble opinion." Mu Huanzhi looked up slightly, "and that is for Hanyi and Yun Che to have another match."

"..." Everyone instantly looked at each other.

"What kind of additional match?" the Snow Song Realm King asked.

Mu Huanzhi replied sternly, "Although this will be an additional test, it concerns Sect Master's direct disciple. Naturally, it would have to be a test that covers talent, constitution, and laws of ice. Most disciples have already spent a great amount of time in the heavenly lake so the additional test should not take up too much time. Therefore, Huanzhi suggest for Hanyi and Yun Che to dive into the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake and the winner will be decided based on the depths of their dive!"

Once Mu Huanzhi's suggestion was heard, everyone's eyes lit up. The deeper within the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake one went, the stronger the cold energy. Furthermore, the extent of increase of cold energy was exceptionally overbearing. Even for a divine hall disciple, their limit was around six hundred to seven hundred feet. Furthermore, they didn't dare to stay even a bit longer in such depths for fear of eternally perishing within the Heavenly Lake.

In the entire history of the Snow Song Realm, the person who dove the deepest was the current Snow Song Realm King. It was said that she had once reached a depth of Twenty thousand feet before... The severity of the cold energy there was something unimaginable even to the God Realm powerhouses. Perhaps, even the rumored Netherworld Frost Hell was merely comparable. However, that still wasn't the bottom of the lake!

Regarding how deep the heavenly lake was and what hid at the bottom of the lake, in the nine hundred thousand year history of the Snow Song Realm, no one had figured it out yet.

To dive deeper, one's profound strength was one aspect but one's body's compatibility with cold energy and the ability to control the natural laws of ice was equally important. With such a method of additional testing, the result would be determined swiftly.

Everyone could see that this test was only because they were helpless against Yun Che's objection... because based on the result, it was a completely logical objection. This concerned the laws of ice. How could Yun Che be able to compare with Mu Hanyi? Regarding this additional test, even if they used their toes to think, they knew that Mu Hanyi would definitely be victorious.

As for Yun Che, entering... or even touching the heavenly lake's water was enough to choke him. After all, for the past six hours, he had been staying at the bank of the lake not daring to enter it.

After all... they could not let Yun Che be the sect master's direct disciple no matter what!

"Great Elder's suggestion is excellent!" Mu Yunzhi hastily added before nodding strongly, "Not only is this additional test fair, it also gives Yun Che a sufficient explanation. If he's able to defeat my disciple in the aspect of the laws, heh, then I naturally would not have anything to say."

"Sect Master, what do you think of Huanzhi's suggestion?" Mu Huanzhi carefully asked.

"Very good." Behind the mist, the Snow Song Realm King nodded slightly and replied concisely, "Let's do that."

Upon obtaining the sect master's approval, Mu Huanzhi heaved a hidden sigh of relief before turning to Mu Hanyi. "Hanyi, you had already used up your strength to attract the ice spirits for six hours. You must be tired, do you need some rest first?"

Even a fool could hear that Mu Huanzhi's words were purely "customary". Mu Huanzhi bowed and replied, "I thank Great Elder for the concern, this disciple is in great condition now. Everything will follow the arrangement of Sect Master and Great Elder... however, I have some objections."

"Oh?" Mu Huanzhi's face revealed a slight smile, "What objection?"

Mu Hanyu replied, "Although one's constitution and the comprehension of the laws are important when diving into the heavenly lake's water, profound strength is equally important. However, Sect Master choosing a direct disciple does not emphasize on profound cultivation but more on one's constitution and comprehension of the laws. In terms of profound strength alone, this disciple is far superior to Junior Yun Che. Therefore, this competition is unfair to Junior Yun Che."

Mu Huanzhi was not surprised and smiled, "Then, how should it be done for it to be fair?"

"This disciple has a bold suggestion. Junior Yun Che only has to achieve twenty percent of what this disciple achieves to be victorious. This disciple would also lose without complaints or arguments if that was the case."

Mu Hanyu's words were extremely sincere and calm.

"Hahahaha," Mu Huanzhi laughed loudly, "It could not be better that you said these words."

All the various elders and palaces masters nodded strongly, revealing expressions of praise. All the surrounding disciples also looked at Mu Hanyu with gazes of respect and admiration. Mu Yunzhi also laughed, "Such magnanimity, you're indeed my, Mu Yunzhi's, excellent disciple! Alright, then let's follow Hanyu's idea. Yun Che, did you hear? You only have to achieve twenty percent of what my disciple Hanyu attains in order to gain victory. Furthermore, this was personally suggested by Hanyu. Do you still have anything to say?"

Regardless whether it was twenty percent, ten percent, or five percent, Mu Yunzhi would not feel worried. Instead, she was slightly worried for Yun Che. With his cultivation level, what if he didn't even dare enter... That would be too boring. He should at least struggle a little so it's a bit more fun.

Mu Bingyun did not speak but continued staring at Yun Che.

"Since that's the case... Yun Che, what else do you have to say? If there's nothing else, we can begin," Mu Hanzhi said laughingly.

Yun Che's feet had yet to move and his expression was as still as before. He stared at Mu Huanzhi and coldly uttered out two words, "I. REFUSE!"

He was obviously first in Freezing Snow Hall's exam but he was forced to prove himself.

Today's result had been his complete victory over Mu Hanyu... but he still had to be tested again!

Based on what!?

Based on what did he have to repeatedly encounter such extreme bias and unfair treatment in the Snow Song Realm!?

Chapter 989 - Huge Disaster

“Oh?” Mu Huanzhi’s brows shifted upon hearing Yun Che’s icy refusal but he didn’t reveal the slightest bit of shock because he had long anticipated his reaction. “Why? Mu Hanyi has already given you eighty percent. Could it be that you don’t think it’s enough?”

“It has nothing to do with that,” Yun Che said with sunken brows. “I want to ask why, during the battle of ice spirits, when there was barely any disparity between Mu Hanyi and Mu Feixue, when the final outcome depended more on luck, why did none of you propose an additional test? When my ice spirit count completely surpassed Mu Hanyi, all of you forcibly declared Mu Hanyi to be the victor and now, you all have yet again proposed an additional test... on what basis!?”

“This...” Mu Huanzhi was speechless for a period of time after being interrogated.

Many different kinds of gazes concentrated on Yun Che’s body. Most of them were ones of mockery... and pity.

“Hehehe, I just knew that he doesn’t dare to do it,” an Ice Phoenix Palace disciple laughed lowly.

“Do you even have to ask? He doesn’t even dare to go into the heavenly lake earlier and you think he deserves to compare to Senior Brother Hanyi? He obviously won’t agree to it and will just firmly latch on the previous result... Sigh, he just entered the divine way and actually dreams of being the sect master’s direct disciple like a toad wishing to eat swan meat. Too laughable.”

“Can’t do anything about it. After all, being able to become the sect master’s direct disciple is too great of an enticement. Anyone else would’ve refused it too if they were in his place.”

Many disciples sneered and even Mu Hanyi shook his head and sighed inwardly.

“Give me eighty percent? Hah, what great courage, what a huge face!” Yun Che completely disregarded the surrounding voices as he released the bellyful of barely suppressed rage he was previously holding back. “So it can be fair to me? But this additional test is already unfair to me. This so-called fairness in giving me eighty percent... is simply a joke! Why should I accept it!?”

“You all keep saying that it has to be fair and impartial, repeatedly saying that it’s the sect’s great matter, yet forcibly ignore the fact that I had already won against Mu Hanyi in the battle of ice spirits and you want an additional test. Is this Divine Ice Phoenix Sect’s so-called fairness!?”

Yun Che was clearly bellowing the last bit of his sentence... it was even aimed at all the elders and palace masters. The faces of all the various elders and palace masters changed at the same time. Mu Bingyun also revealed shock as she hurriedly said, “Yun Che, stop!”

“Insolence!!”

The sound of anger instantly silenced the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake. It was as though all the ice spirits on the surface of the lake were frozen as they all stopped in place. This one word caused the secretly sneering disciples to pale in fright. The elders and palace masters who were about to speak out hung their heads lightning quick and were quiet out of fear.

It was because this angry rebuke had shockingly come from the Snow Song Realm King.

“Yun Che, this king has already consented to the additional test so how can you refuse it?! You are only a little disciple. Not only are you disobeying orders, you even have the audacity to say delirious ravings that disgrace the sect! Who gave you such guts!?”

The temperature rapidly plummeted and the still atmosphere became bone-piercingly cold. Since long ago, there has been a saying within Snow Song Realm—the Realm King’s fury leaves none alive.

The Snow Song Realm King was rarely angry but every time she got angry, the consequences were extremely terrifying—terrifying to the point where no one would dare think back to what had happened. Even those that had long resided in the upper echelons of the Ice Phoenix Realm seldomly saw the Snow Song Realm King get angry, perhaps a few times in several thousand years.

But today, because of a small Ice Phoenix Palace disciple who was even from the lower realms she had actually... gotten angry!

Their hearts were all caught in their throats as all the hairs on their bodies stood on end... They were somewhat angry because of Yun Che’s wild proclamations but now, they only had sympathy for him within their terror.

Doomed, this kid is already doomed... just please do not harm the fish in the lake.

The angry rebuke that came from the Snow Song Realm King made Yun Che felt like he had been smashed in the head by a heavy mountain as all the bones in his body were on the brink of collapse. However, he forcibly lifted his head and slowly said in a determined voice, “You are the Snow Song Realm King, so you must do as you say! If I win, then I win... on what basis do I need to take this additional test!?”

“...” Everyone present became dumbstruck.

In front of the already angered Snow Song Realm King, he had actually answered back... he had actually answered back!

He was definitely doomed this time, completely doomed for sure.

Mu Bingyun’s icy face had completely lost all color. She hurriedly came to Yun Che’s side and said, “Sect Master, Yun Che’s personality is just like that. He definitely doesn’t mean to offend you, I beg Sect Master...”

“Personality?” The Snow Song Realm King’s voice carried an extremely disdainful sneer. “An ignorant junior who has just entered the divine way, someone who is as weak as an ant, actually dares to act up against me and actually dares to argue with me!? Bingyu, the one person you have ever brought back from the lower realms is actually an audaciously reckless fool!”

“You want this king to do as she says? Hmph, with what ability? This king can say that she’ll protect your family before slaughtering them in the next breath but what can you possibly do to me? In my eyes, you are not even comparable to a little ant. Not to mention killing you, if this king wishes to destroy the planet you came from, it would only take a mere thought. Instead of treasuring your chance here, you actually dare act up in front of me. This kind of fool becoming an Ice Phoenix Palace disciple has already sullied the Thirty-sixth Ice Phoenix Palace yet he actually dares fantasize about becoming this king’s disciple!

“Bang!”

Mu Bingyun heavily knelt on one knee and pleaded, “Sect Master, Yun Che was brought here by me from the lower realms. He has a naturally unyielding temperament and I never thought it was a bad thing so I have never restricted him much. Everything is because I was incapable of disciplining him. I ask that Sect Master punish me instead and lighten his punishment... at the very least, leave him alive.”

When Yun Che had “caused trouble” all the previous times, Mu Bingyun truly had never obstructed him. Instead, she had always been secretly protecting him because she somewhat admired Yun Che’s temperament. However, before they had entered the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake, she had already severely warned Yun Che that he mustn’t go against the rules... She never expected that Yun Che would still cause trouble and even a huge disaster as well.

He had actually angered the Realm King!

Yun Che had just arrived in the Snow Song Realm so he didn’t understand the concept of angering the Realm King... and he had even talked back after she had gotten angry!

As though many bucketfuls of cold water poured all over him, Yun Che’s body went ice cold, all the way to his soul. All the pride, arrogance, unyieldingness and grievances completely dissipated... what replaced it was only a sudden, ice-cold awakening as well as genuine terror.

The scene of when he had made Jasmine his master back then flashed in his mind. At that time, he was conceited and prideful, determined not to kneel, yet was then stepped on the head by Jasmine, thus completing the discipleship rites. That time’s taunting words also distinctly rang in his ear:

“Did you think that you have great integrity, that you are extraordinary? Without strength, you don’t even have the ability to refuse to kowtow to me. What right do you have to act haughty in front of me? Without strength, your pride and dignity are nothing but a joke in front of the strong!”

Yun Che sucked in a deep breath. When it entered his chest, the cold passed through his entire body... On the Blue Pole Star, he stood at its summit so he was able to do as he pleased. He was able to do anything without limits and was able to act according to his temperament without restraint—because he had absolute strength.

But here, before the Snow Song Realm King who was strong enough to rule this world, what was he?

Forget about a firmament-like existence like the Snow Song Realm King, even if it were these elders, palace masters or the disciples here, how many of them truly respected him?

Why would they disregard his ice spirit count and declare Mu Hanyi the victor? Because he was weak! Because in the eyes of everyone here, he wasn’t even worthy of being compared to Mu Hanyi.

Why did they want an additional test? Because he was too weak, because nobody believe that he deserved to become the sect master’s direct disciple! If he had sufficiently high strength, how could he possibly have to take a so-called additional test?

In their eyes, the unyieldingness, arrogance and dignity he thought he had really was just a joke to them. His resistance, even if it was completely logical, only attracted their mockery and disdain instead of their approval.

Where in the world was he qualified to argue with the Realm King with confidence... The only consequence would just be him courting death. In the end, he had even burdened Mu Bingyun, making her plead for mercy while kneeling for his sake.

The Snow Song Realm King saying that he was an extreme fool... was right...

“Yun Che, quick... quick, admit your mistake and beg for forgiveness... quick...” Mu Xiaolan had long been frightened pale. Before the Snow Song Realm King’s anger, she still loyally roused a never before seen courage in order to send Yun Che a sound transmission.

The reactions of the surrounding crowd also made Yun Che aware of how huge of a disaster he had caused this time. Even though he had saved Mu Bingyun... what kind of an existence was the Snow Song Realm King? If she wanted to kill him, even if she killed him ten thousand times over, it wouldn’t take any effort.

I can’t die... I haven’t even seen Jasmine, so how can I possibly die here?

With a bang, Yun Che also heavily knelt beside Mu Bingyun. He lowered his head deeply, “This disciple has made a presumption remark. I ask Sect Master to forgive me.”

A disciple kneeling to the Great Realm King ought to be a matter of course but no one knew that aside from his parents, Jasmine was the only person Yun Che had ever kneeled to in his entire life.

The silence in the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake was frightening, not even the sound of breathing or anyone’s heart pulsing could be heard. The crowd all contained one thought: Forgive my ass! If you’re able to keep your corpse intact after angering the sect master, I’ll take on your surname!

“You ought to have died ten thousand times over but since Bingyun is this king’s young sister, on behalf of her seeking forgiveness for you, this king will grant you a chance to live.” Each of the Snow Song Realm King’s words held heavenly might, “In the match between you and Mu Hanyi, if you win, not only will I spare your life, I will also let everything be bygones and accept you as my direct disciple!”

“But if you lose... you will no longer exist in the Snow Song Realm!”

The Snow Song Realm King’s first few words shocked the crowd but then the following words made them all understand that... as expected, it was impossible for the sect master to forgive anyone who had angered her. Everyone in the entire sect knew that she was extremely protective of Mu Bingyun but this so-called chance to live was only her showing consideration for her feelings. In the end, she still wanted Yun Che to die.

After all, how could Yun Che possibly beat Mu Hanyi?

All of the various elders and palace masters secretly relaxed as they all lifted their heads to wipe away the cold sweat on their foreheads... Even though Yun Che was bound for certain death, it had at least not implicated them along with him. Beneath the sect master’s anger, this was already extraordinary luck.

Mu Bingyun quickly said, “Sect Master, this...”

“Say no more!” The Snow Song Realm King’s stern voice interrupted Mu Bingyun. “Yun Che, this is the only chance you have to live. You can accept this or this king can also annihilate you right now!”

Having learned from experience, Yun Che said without hesitation, "Yes, I will obey the sect master's orders."

"Hmph, Huanzhi, go arrange their match," commanded the Snow Song Realm King.

"Yes, Sect Master." Mu Huanzhi's voice was even more cautious than it was before. He carefully straightened his back and raised a hand, not daring to make any delays. "Hanyi, Yun Che, follow me to the heavenly lake."

Chapter 990 - Heavenly Lake Goddess (1)

Mu Huanzhi brought Yun Che and Mu Hanyi above the center of the heavenly lake. He reached out a hand to press on their foreheads. When he released his hand, an ice blue colored crystal was in each of his palms.

Soul crystals that had merged with Yun Che and Mu Hanyi's soul strength!

Mu Huanzhi turned around and waved his hands. An enormous blue light screen spread before them and the two soul crystals also simultaneously embedded themselves on the light screen on opposing sides.

"These are your soul crystals that have linked with your souls. The state of your soul and how deep you have submerged within will all be displayed on this profound formation."

Mu Huanzhi moved back. "Which one of you will go first?"

This was a great sectoral matter that decided the sect master's direct disciple. Aside from those three, all others stayed by the lakeside. Not a single person approached above the heavenly lake to watch.

This was because to them, this wasn't even a competition; it was simply Mu Hanyi's solo performance. They didn't even need to see or think about what the outcome would be. The only thing they somewhat paid attention to was whether Mu Hanyi, who was about to soon become the sect master's direct disciple, was able to display an even more shocking performance.

Mu Hanyi modestly stated, "Junior Brother Yun Che, you go first."

Yun Che declined without the slightest bit of hesitation, "Since I only need to reach twenty percent of Senior Brother Hanyi's score, I need to use Senior Brother Hanyi as reference. In that case, Senior Brother Hanyi ought to go first."

"Hanyi, you go first," said Mu Huanzhi. In everyone's eyes, Yun Che obviously didn't dare... and it was impossible for him to dare do that.

"Yes."

Mu Hanyi respectfully followed the order. He took a step forward and slowly breathed in for a long period of time. While doing that, he closed his eyes and a thin layer of blue light shimmered around his body, quickly becoming thicker.

The Heavenly Netherfrost Lake was still terrifyingly quiet. Everyone's gaze concentrated on Mu Hanyi's body and occasionally shifted toward Yun Che with pity in their eyes.

The blue light on Mu Hanyi's body had become extremely dense, taking on the shape of a beautiful ring of light. It was at this time that he suddenly opened his eyes as it quickly dropped down, directly into the heavenly lake.

On the light screen, Mu Hanyi's soul crystal sparkled, giving off a rapidly increasing specks of light...

Ten feet...

Thirty feet...

Fifty feet...

One hundred feet!

He was fast, as though he was going through normal water. In the blink of an eye, he was already one hundred feet deep.

"F-fast!"

Even though they were sure that Mu Hanyi's performance would be astounding, the disciples who had personally experienced the heavenly lake's water still widened their eyes in shock.

One hundred feet of coldness actually didn't affect him at all!

One hundred fifty feet...

Two hundred feet...

Three hundred feet...

All of the disciples were dumbstruck. When he had reached three hundred feet, Mu Hanyi's speed had finally slowed but it was only somewhat slow, which still made it astonishing.

Mu Huanzhi continuously nodded as he looked at the light screen. Even though Mu Hanyi had defeated his own granddaughter, Mu Huanzhi still couldn't help but praise him inwardly.

Yun Che gently closed his eyes, not having taken a single glance at the light screen since the very start. He was expressionless and it was not known what he was thinking about.

On the lakeside, Mu Bingyun also closed her eyes. Her profound energy carried her soul voice and traveled toward the distant skies above.

"Elder Sister, you couldn't possibly have gotten angry because of this. What exactly happened? Do you really intend to kill Yun Che?"

Mu Bingyun was the only person in the world who understood her the most.

"Hmph! He saved your life so I obviously won't kill him. But I really did get angry."

A heavy, thunder-like voice replied back in Mu Bingyun's head. This voice caused Mu Bingyun to relax somewhat but she became even more puzzled afterwards. "Then what exactly made you angry?"

"This kid is full of flaws. He revealed the Star God's Broken Shadow and then revealed the Evil God's inheritance. If it wasn't me but someone else who discovered all of this, he would've already died a

myriad number of times. Even the planet on which he had been born would've drowned in great misfortune, yet he himself is totally oblivious of this fact. He even showed conceit and arrogance before someone he couldn't afford to offend at all. This excessive insolence is simply just too stupid. Did he really think that he was still in the lower realms!? How could I not get angry?"

Mu Bingyun's face changed abruptly as she suddenly raised her head. "Evil God's... inheritance? Elder Sister, what do you mean?"

The Evil God... a supreme god during the primordial times of the Era of Gods who possessed the highest, creation god tier divine power. One of the four strongest peerless gods. His inheritance...

Mu Bingyun suddenly thought of something at this time and her icy blue eyes instantly contracted. "Could it be..."

"There's no need to ask anymore, just continue watching and see for yourself." The anger in the heavy voice still had yet to dissipate. "Hmph, it's his good luck that he encountered me. He wouldn't know how he died otherwise. This can be considered... his first lesson!"

The waves in Mu Bingyun's heart billowed and she found it hard to calm down. The Evil God's inheritance... in the God Realm, there had never been an inheritance at the creation god level. As for the records pertaining to the Evil God, it mentioned that he used to be called the "God of the Elements".

As for the recent rumors concerning the "Evil God", eight years ago... Star God Realm's Heavenly Slaughter Star God seemed to have obtained some kind of Evil God power...

Star God's Broken Shadow... Heavenly Slaughter Star God... Evil God's power... Yun Che... Blue Pole Star... Absolute God Slaying Poison... Sky Poison Pearl... eight years... an odd innate talent... forcibly learning the Ice Phoenix God Investiture Canon without the Ice Phoenix bloodline... possessing both the divine power of ice and fire...

Was actually...

No wonder... No wonder...

"Does this mean that you really are... going to accept him as a disciple? You should know that he won't stay in the Snow Song Realm for long."

"..." Mu Bingyun did not receive a reply after her question.

The profound light cast by the light screen was still increasing rapidly, bringing about startled shouts as it did.

Five hundred feet...

Six hundred feet...

Seven hundred feet...

Eight hundred feet!!

Once the projection reached eight hundred feet, the cries by the lakeside immediately exploded. The disciples who were originally sitting down all stood up, staring at the light screen with stupefied expressions.

Eight hundred feet. This kind of distance could be instantly covered by profound practitioners in the divine way. However, this kind of depth for the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake... was in fact an extremely terrifying number!

Even though those at the scene were Divine Ice Phoenix Sect's top disciples, it was not exaggerated to say that around half of them would die with no chance of a struggle if they were to touch cold energy of that depth.

Yet Mu Hanyi still continued downward without any indication that he was going to stop.

Eight hundred twenty feet...

Eight hundred fifty feet...

Eight hundred eighty feet...

Nine hundred feet!!

The shouting had disappeared as all the disciples held their breaths while staring wide-eyed. Even the various elders and palace masters revealed deep shock on their faces. Only Mu Yunzhi was smiling... because she knew that this still wasn't Mu Hanyi's limit.

At this point, Mu Hanyi's speed became even slower but he still continued downward.

Nine hundred twenty feet...

Nine hundred forty feet...

Nine hundred fifty feet...

With each passing foot, his speed would decrease but he never truly stopped. All eyes were firmly fixed on the light screen... they were witnessing history in the making from a disciple! Every instant after nine hundred feet was history in the making!

Nine hundred seventy feet...

Nine hundred eighty feet...

Nine hundred ninety feet!!

The rate at which Mu Hanyi descended was now extremely slow. Every inch he took seemed as though he was crossing through an insurmountable chasm. The crowd's heartbeats also slowed along with him. They all stared with wide eyes, fearing that they would miss even a single moment.

One thousand feet!!

The shock this time was intense, as though a heavy hammer smashed the souls of everyone present. Even Mu Huanzhi, who was the closest to the light screen stared for a long while.

Mu Hanyi had finally reached his limits a thousand feet below the water. He only stayed at a thousand feet for half a breath before he began to struggle upward. It was just that his ascension speed was extremely slow. On the light screen, the light that Mu Hanyi's soul crystal released also began to become disorderly.

"Quick, go save Hanyi!" Mu Yunzhi shouted with urgency.

Mu Huanzhi didn't need her reminder as he had already moved lightning quick. A boundless profound energy directly pierced through a thousand feet of lakewater and enveloped Mu Hanyi's body before quickly bringing him up.

Once the lake's surface broke open, Mu Hanyi's figure was flung into the distance, landing beside the lake. His face was pale white, his aura was weak and his entire body violently trembled but he still struggled to get up and salute Mu Huanzhi. "Disciple... thanks Great Elder for saving his life..."

Mu Huanzhi immediately came over and pressed her hand on his back, helping him disperse the cold energy.

"Hahahaha," Mu Huanzhi gave a hearty laugh. "As expected of the most outstanding disciple of this generation... one of them, I mean. You actually reached one thousand feet. If I think back to our generation, there was not a single person below the age of sixty, among those who were fortunate enough to enter the heavenly lake, that were able to reach a thousand feet. This is absolutely joyous!"

"Senior Brother Hanyi, congratulations."

"Hanyi becoming the direct disciple can't be even more suitable."

Mu Hanyi's desperately doing his best was obviously so he could display himself in front of the Realm King. And he had actually done it spectacularly. His innate talent was high, his constitution was great and his attainment in the laws of ice was profound. He had deeply astounded everyone present.

Many elders looked at Mu Huanzhi with envious gazes.

"Hanyi, don't become distracted, use your all to disperse the cold energy first. After a while, you'll have to pay respects to the sect master again and you mustn't be the least bit uncourteous." Mu Yunzhi didn't hesitate to mobilize all the profound energy in her body to allow Mu Hanyi to recover sufficiently in a short period of time.

"Yes, Master." Mu Hanyi also closed his eyes, suppressing the extreme excitement he had in his heart. He began to do his utmost to expel the cold and was already thinking about what he should say when he was going to pay his respects to the sect master a while later.

Everyone's attention concentrated upon the body of the glowing Mu Hanyi. It was as though Yun Che, who was still standing at the lake's center had been forgotten.

"Yun Che, it's your turn," Mu Huanzhi said. This instantly reminded everyone that there was another person in this "match".

"Mu Hanyi went down a total of a thousand feet. You only need to reach twenty percent of his depth, so two hundred feet will suffice."

When Mu Huanzhi finished saying this, the lakeside immediately became a field of snickers. Two hundred feet? What a joke, reaching seven feet was probably his limit!

This was because Yun Che was only a bit more than seven feet.

Anyone was able to imagine the only thing that would happen once he entered the Heavenly Netherfrost Lake, which was the profound energy in his entire body immediately freezing and then him not being able to move anymore.

Yun Che took a step forward. Without saying a single word or channeling profound energy, he dropped into the heavenly lake just like that.

From this, everyone saw that he clearly given up because no matter how much he struggled, it would've been useless. At the same time he fell, Mu Huanzhi also reached out a hand, prepared to save him after he had been frozen by the lake water... After all, he had angered the sect master. Even if he was doomed to die, his death ought to be decided by the sect master herself.

However, once he reached out a hand, his face had stiffened at the same time.

Yun Che, who had falling into the heavenly lake did not immediately freeze as he had anticipated. Instead, when he went down, though the speed in which he descended fell short of Mu Hanyi's, it couldn't be considered slow.