

Pursuit of the Truth #Chapter 232 — He Saw It... - Read Pursuit of the Truth Chapter 232 — He Saw It...

Chapter 232: He Saw It...

Hu Zi crouched by the side, watching Su Ming asking questions and Zi Che answering them, and he had a dazed expression on his face. When he saw Zi Che's change between how he had acted previously to how he acted now, he could not help but think of his previous actions.

'Youngest junior brother sure has a good trick up his sleeve. I'll definitely have to learn to do this.'

Hu Zi ran through Su Ming's every single word and action in his head and once he believed that he had learned it, a prideful smile appeared on his face.

"Heaven Gate? Great Frozen Plains? That's utter nonsense. Youngest junior brother, if you don't like Si Ma Xin, then I'll teach him a lesson for you. If we can't win against him, then we can just run and go back to the ninth summit to look for second senior brother."

Once he heard Hu Zi's words, warmth blossomed in Su Ming's heart.

"By the way, youngest junior brother, why did you come to me? If you didn't come for me, then I'll go out for a while. I haven't been out of the mountain for days. I'm worried that the people outside will miss their Grandpa Hu."

Hu Zi picked up his wine gourd and swung it a little. There was not much wine left in it.

"About that, third senior brother, you're familiar with Freezing Sky Clan. I'd like to go to the school's Artifact Storage Hall and bring out some of the papers second senior brother spoke about for me to use on a regular basis when I practice clearing my mind.

"But before I go, I'd like to borrow Master's Clan Master's plate," Su Ming said, smiling

"Clan Master's plate? You don't need to go and get it from Master, I have several of them with me here."

As Hu Zi spoke, he ruffled through the things in his cave abode before bringing out a purple ice shaped in the form of a plate.

"Here, that's the one. Master has a lot of these. When I went there last time, I brought a few back. I'll give you one, take it and scare away other people when you feel like it."

Hu Zi threw the plate in his hand to Su Ming while speaking.

Su Ming was stunned. When he caught it, he immediately felt a freezing chill travel into his body and circulate around him once. By the looks of it, it was crafted with fine detail and did not seem fake.

However, he was not the only one stunned. Zi Che was also stunned. He sucked in a sharp breath, because he recognized what that plate was, and Hu Zi's words threw him into a state of disbelief.

'The ninth summit... So this is the ninth summit...?'

Zi Che's heart trembled.

"Let's go. I'm familiar with the Artifact Storage Hall. I taught a lot of the people there a lesson before."

Hu Zi patted his chest and was about to take Su Ming and leave, but once he took a few steps forward, he turned around and walked towards Zi Che to glare at him.

"Hey, jerk, your Grandpa Hu is about to leave. You're the 'living thing' second senior brother gave us. Remember to follow behind us. Second senior brother might have sealed your power, but he said that you have to protect my youngest junior brother when he goes out, so you have to do it. Don't lie to me anymore, or else I'll teach you a lesson in my dreams!"

Zi Che felt incredibly aggrieved and quickly said, "But... my power has been sealed, I can't fly on my own..."

"Shut up. Your Grandpa Hu will bring you out and throw you off in midair. If you don't know how to fly, then you'll fall to your death. Don't blame me for not saving you then."

As Hu Zi spoke, he lifted Zi Che and grinned at Su Ming before he bent his body down and went out of the cave abode before him.

Su Ming followed behind. When he looked at the plant covered Zi Che being lifted with an expression filled with anger and indignation, he smiled and followed after.

The three of them turned into long arcs and charged out of the ninth summit towards the center of the nine summits, located far in the distance underneath Heaven Gate. There were many buildings there and it looked so grand that it exuded a vast and mighty air.

The buildings seemed like they were cut from jades and gave off a magnificent aura. There were numerous people walking in and out of the buildings, and it gave the place a lively air.

Hu Zi, who was leading the way in midair, let his right hand go loose the moment he flew out of the ninth summit's area. He tossed Zi Che off and let out a huge shout, "Hey, I'm letting you fall now!"

Zi Che's face paled as he plummeted downwards, but once he fell about 1,000 feet, surprised delight suddenly appeared on his face. His plummeting body came to an abrupt halt and he flew up into the air.

Yet very soon, the joy on his face turned into anguish, because he realized he could only be in area not too far away from Su Ming and Hu Zi, or else his power would be sealed up once again.

He did not even need to try it. He already knew that if he attacked Su Ming and Hu Zi, then his temporarily released power would immediately be sealed once again.

"Hmph, how dare you pretend before your Grandpa Hu? Isn't it out now? What are you looking at? Hurry up and follow us."

With a single glare from Hu Zi, Zi Che fell silent and sighed, falling behind Su Ming.

As Su Ming watched Hu Zi's actions and his words, his smile grew wider.

"Youngest junior brother, that is the eighth summit. The eighth summit is very interesting. There're quite a lot of them staying there, and they're usually very cautious. It's as if they're hiding something.

"But I'm me, I'm the most intelligent Grandpa Hu on the ninth summit. There's no secret in the world that can be kept hidden from my eyes. I even know the things second senior brother does.

"I can pass through the enchanted maze in the eighth summit even if I close my eyes. I saw a lot of interesting things. In the past, I saw a disciple nephew who is actually a girl disguising herself as a boy! I even saw her taking off her clothes..."

As Hu Zi spoke, his eyes started beaming with joy.

"That's the seventh summit. All the disciples there are weak. The enchanted maze may be weak, but the people there are far too careful, which is a pity. I was almost caught a few times in the past... There were even a few times where I was captured, but I was fast enough to escape, still, it's a pity... second senior brother refused to help and simply stood by the side as I got hit..."

"This is the second summit. It's also where Zi Che is staying. Hmph, they can't keep their secrets away from Grandpa Hu's eyes either. In the past, I..."

Su Ming did not think much about Hu Zi's boasts. While he simply started to think that they sounded a bit odd the more he heard about it, Zi Che was laughing bitterly by the side.

There was one particular rumor among those in the second summit that the disciples who ventured out at night would feel as if someone was watching them. They only learned much later that it was Hu Zi who was doing it.

This person would always appear in the summits whenever he was free and hide in secluded spots, all the while snickering as he watched other disciples. Almost everyone knew about it in Freezing Sky Clan.

The three of them flew through the air and after around the time it takes for an incense stick to burn, as Hu Zi kept on talking about his achievements in Freezing Sky Clan and all the secrets he learned through peeking at people, the three of them arrived at the center of the nine summits, which was also located under Heaven Gate.

Hu Zi took the lead and charged towards one of the many buildings on the ground with a huge leap. He flew down quickly, and there were quite a number of Freezing Sky Clan disciples venturing in and out of the buildings who would accidentally get in his way. Once they saw Hu Zi though, they would quickly move out of the way with odd expressions on their faces, as if they did not want to provoke this unreasonable person and end up having him sneak into their summit and peek on them.

It was especially so for the female disciples. Once they saw Hu Zi, they would grit their teeth. Some of them even looked as if they were about to fly towards Hu Zi, but when they saw Zi Che following behind him, they would move back hesitantly.

Zi Che's fame in Freezing Sky Clan was great due to him placing ninth in the Great Frozen Plains.

When he saw what was happening, Zi Che suddenly understood why Hu Zi insisted on bringing him here. Su Ming also understood, and laughed wryly as he cast a glance at Hu Zi, who was flying with a swagger and an incredibly smug expression.

"Hm, what are you Berserker Children looking at?!"

"If you continue watching, I'll sneak into your rooms tonight and watch you as much as I like!"

"Hey, disciple nephew! How dare you not come and greet your Grandpa Hu when you clearly saw me?! Can't you see that even Zi Che is flying behind me?!"

Hu Zi continued shouting on the way, and his words made Zi Che's expression darken continuously, while Su Ming did not know whether he should laugh or cry in this situation.

When he saw that Hu Zi was about to act even more outrageously even though he had been flying around the buildings in the center of the nine summits under Heaven Gate with a smug look, Zi Che, who had been following behind Su Ming, found himself to be unable to bear with the pressure any longer and whispered to Su Ming.

"Um... Su... Uncle master Su, uncle master Hu has gone past the Artifact Storage Hall eight times..."

As he spoke, he pointed towards a hall not too far into the distance.

Su Ming let out a fake cough. Once he cast a glance at the Artifact Storage Hall, he looked towards Hu Zi, who was shouting at some of Freezing Sky Clan's disciples before him, then he smiled wryly and said, "Third senior brother, how about we go to the Artifact Storage Hall first? If you still want to walk around, then I'll ask Zi Che to accompany you later. I... I still have to go back and train in the mountain."

The moment Hu Zi heard it, while there was a look on his face that said he had not fully enjoyed himself, he still turned around with a stern look.

"Youngest junior brother, who said that I like loitering around? Bringing my youngest junior brother to the Artifact Storage Hall is the most important thing to me. I just couldn't find the place. Let me see... Hmm? The Artifact Storage Hall is over there!"

Hu Zi pointed towards the Artifact Storage Hall not too far away with a look of surprised delight.

Hu Zi had arrived at the door to the Artifact Storage Hall while he spoke. However, the door to the hall was closed. Su Ming remembered seeing the people inside immediately closing the door when they saw Hu Zi passing by.

"Open up! Your Grandpa Hu is here! I'm not here to hit someone today! If you don't open the door right now, I'm going to get angry!"

Hu Zi went up to the door and lifted his foot to kick it.

Very soon, the door flew open, revealing a man with a handsome face, but with a sullen expression. He was frowning, but there was a clearly resigned expression on his face. The man stood behind the door and looked at Hu Zi, then opened his mouth, as if he wanted to say something.

"Hmm? You're here today? So that's why the door was closed. Youngest junior brother, she's the person I said was actually a woman disguising herself as a man. I saw..."

The man's expression instantly turned incredibly dark, and veins even started popping on his face.

Su Ming quickly went up front to pull Hu Zi back, who was still shouting out in surprised delight, and smiled towards the man apologetically.

"Disciple nephew, about that..."

Su Ming had yet to finish speaking when a focused look appeared on his face. He heard the sounds of an uproar nearby. Even the man standing before him lifted his head and looked towards the air behind Su Ming with a fanatical and respectful look.

"The Seven Colored Light! Eldest senior brother Si Ma has returned!"

"There's no way we can be mistaken. That's eldest senior brother Si Ma's Seven Colored Mountain. Look, isn't that eldest senior brother Si Ma sitting on the mountain?! Hmm? There's a girl sitting beside him. That girl... seems rather familiar."

"It's really big brother Si Ma!"

Uproars broke out everywhere around him. From the corner of his eye, Su Ming saw a seven colored light piercing through the sky, traveling towards where they were. He slowly turned around and looked up.

Chapter 233: What is... Your Name...?

The entire sky was covered by a piercing seven colored light. The seven colors were like a rainbow, but the light was not as gentle as that of a rainbow. It spread all over the place instead, and every part of the world as far as Su Ming could see was filled with those colors.

The seemingly blinding seven colored light fell on all the summits and blended with the sky scattering on the ground. It filled everyone's vision with those colors.

There was an indescribably domineering air to the light, causing all the disciples from the other eight summits besides the ninth summit on the Great Frozen Plains to lift their heads and look towards the center of the seven colored light.

Uproars broke out all over the place, because this seven colored light could only come from one person in Freezing Sky Clan!

In Freezing Sky Clan, only one person could make himself known in such a manner!

That was the prodigy of Freezing Sky Clan, the one that was known to have the highest possibility of becoming the fourth God of Berserkers - Si Ma Xin!

"It's senior brother Si Ma, he's back!"

"I heard that senior brother Si Ma has been away for many years. When he left, his power had already reached the peak of the Awakening Realm. Now that he is back, could it be that he's now in the Bone Sacrifice Realm?"

"When senior brother Si Ma left the school, he said he won't return unless he reached the Bone Sacrifice Realm!"

The uproars shook the world. The appearance of the seven colored light shocked all of the disciples of the eight summits on the Great Frozen Plains. Some of those who were close to Si Ma Xin even turned into long arcs and flew out from their summits.

In the blink of an eye, numerous people flew into the sky and floated in midair to watch from the distance.

The crowd beside Su Ming who were gathered in the center of the nine summits underneath Heaven Gate and were walking in and out of the buildings just now also flew up into the air with fanatical and respectful looks on their faces. When they looked at the sky, they wrapped their fists in their palms and bowed towards the person in the light.

Even the man who Hu Zi said was really a woman disguising herself as a man also walked out briskly to bow towards the sky.

"Welcome back, eldest senior brother Si Ma!"

These words were repeated by the numerous people on the ground, and seemed to have fused together to become one voice that shook the world.

Su Ming stood there and felt his eyes hurting slightly due to the seven colored light that seemed to want to pierce through him. He watched the people welcoming Si Ma Xin back respectfully while he, Hu Zi, and Zi Che, who was standing by his side, all seemed to have been forgotten by the world. In their eyes, the only thing they could see at that moment was the seven colored light.

Su Ming was not unfamiliar with this feeling. This sight reminded him of that time when he arrived on the field before Wind Stream Mountain when he was still in Dark Mountain. At that time, he also stood in a corner and was a nobody as he looked at the prodigies walking forth and being the center of everyone's attention.

Yet Su Ming was no longer how he used to be. In the past, he had to force himself to remain calm, but now, he did not need to do it on purpose. He could just stand there and remain calm.

His eyes were calm, his expression was calm, his body was calm, and his heart, too, was calm.

He looked at the source of the seven colored light located far away in the sky. Over there was a mountain floating in midair, a Seven Colored Mountain!

There was a man standing there with his face purposefully muddled. The color of the man's clothes could not be seen clearly through the seven colored light. Su Ming could only see his hair floating in the air and a girl standing by his side. However, that girl's face could not be seen clearly.

As the Seven Colored Mountain got closer, more shouts echoed on the ground. The sounds of worship sounded like waves rising and falling in Su Ming's ears. He looked at the people from all the summits floating in the sky and saw that they were all currently wrapping their fists in their palms to bow towards the approaching Seven Colored Mountain.

"Thank you for your warm welcome. I've prepared some gifts for all of you. Once I return to my mountain, I'll ask my good friends from each of the other summits to take them and distribute to all of you."

Si Ma Xin's gentle voice echoed in the air and there was a kind smile on his face as he wrapped his fist in his palm to return the greeting to the crowd.

There was a relaxed look on his face and a certain charm that could not be described around him, causing the others to feel as if spring wind was blowing against their bodies. They would naturally feel a sort of friendliness towards him.

"How fake. Grandpa Hu met this Si Ma Xin a few times in the past. His smiles are too fake. Second senior brother's smiles are much more soothing than his. Master wanted to take him in as his disciple in the past... thank goodness he didn't take him in the end."

Hu Zi stood beside Su Ming and picked his nose as he spoke in a condescending manner.

Zi Che was silent, but when he looked towards the Seven Colored Mountain in the distance, his eyes were dark.

He now resented Si Ma Xin. If he had not asked him to go to the ninth summit to cause trouble for Su Ming, he would not be in this sorry state now.

Su Ming was silent. He was still looking at the gradually approaching Seven Colored Mountain in the sky. Soon, he saw Si Ma Xin's face clearly. Si Ma Xin, who was dressed in white, had an incredibly handsome face and looked very gentle and elegant, as if there was not a hint of anger within him. His brows were sharp and his eyes sparkled. The smile on his face simply did not disappear.

A temperament that was clearly different from others was natural to Si Ma Xin, and once it blended together with his extraordinary looks, it turned into an indescribable charm.

This was not the first time Su Ming crossed paths with Si Ma Xin, yet strictly speaking, this was the first time he truly saw him. This was different from when Si Ma Xin had borrowed Fang Mu's body to attack him when he was in Han Mountain City.

Su Ming looked at Si Ma Xin. He watched his graceful demeanor and his gentle smile, but still remained calm and did not speak.

Hu Zi's disdain, Su Ming's calmness, and Zi Che's sullenness were completely different from the respectful expressions on the other Freezing Sky Clan disciples around them. Because of their different expressions and because they stood together, when other people swept their gazes over the crowd, they would not be able to help themselves but pay some attention towards them.

Si Ma Xin might also have noticed Su Ming, but he remained smiling and did not reveal any sort of changes in expression.

"Let's go, third senior brother. Once we get the papers, let's go back to the mountain," Su Ming said calmly.

The enmity between him and Si Ma Xin could be described as something simple, but could also be described as something complex. Nonetheless, there was only one conclusion to it, they had reached a point where their enmity could not be solved.

Unless he returned Han Mountain Bell respectfully, ignored his promise with Han Cang Zi, and asked for Si Ma Xin's forgiveness for what happened to Fang Mu, there was simply no other way to resolve this.

However, Su Ming simply could not do these things.

After his words, Su Ming was just about to turn around and walk into the Artifact Storage Hall to get his papers when the Seven Colored Mountain closed in. As the seven colored light gradually dissipated, Su Ming not only saw Si Ma Xin's face clearly out of the corner of his eye, but he also saw an excited petite face smiling beautifully behind him.

It was a beautiful girl. She wore a purple robe and seemed quite young. Her skin was like jade and her eyes like the moon. She stood behind Si Ma Xin with an obedient demeanor, yet the liveliness in her eyes would make others feel shocked by her charm while also sensing the wild beauty within her once they saw her.

That sort of beauty came naturally and was not formed as time passed by, neither was it an act. It was due to the environment she grew up in, her personality, and other factors that formed this rarely seen wild beauty within her.

Her sparkling eyes, curving brows, the arc of her lips that could captivate others with a smile were the true epitome of a beautiful smile. Although she might still be young and was yet to fully mature, this girl still made Su Ming shudder when he caught sight of her from the corner of his eye as he was just about to turn around.

At that instant, he felt as if hundreds upon thousands of thunders rumbled in his mind and exploded simultaneously, causing his body to tremble and shudder. His breathing also quickened in a manner that had never been seen on him, as if his breathing could no longer keep up with the rumbles in his heart, neither could it keep up with how hard his heart pounded.

The world had come to a standstill at that moment before Su Ming's eyes. The wind did not move, the clouds remained still, all the uproars he heard instantly disappeared. In that moment, in the world he saw, the people disappeared, the nine summits too disappeared.

The seven colors in the sky had completely disappeared in his eyes. There was no longer any Seven Colored Mountain, neither was Si Ma Xin there any longer.

In his sight and the world he saw, there was only one thing, and there could only be one thing - the person dressed in purple. The person with the wild and untamed smile. The person whose eyes sparkled and seemed to contain endless vigor within them.

That...

... girl filled with wild and untamed beauty...

The calmness in Su Ming's eyes shattered.

The calmness on his face crumbled.

The calmness in his body was replaced by shivers.

The calmness in his heart was gone...

At that moment, he forgot that he was standing in Freezing Sky Clan, forgot everything that he'd seen.

It was the girl standing behind Si Ma Xin that made him forget everything. At that moment, his mind was blank. He had no thoughts, his mind did not process anything. The only thing in his head was a mourning song filled with sadness that played in his heart without a sound. That mourning song was accompanied by a scene that made his heart clench in pain.

White snow floated down in that image in his head. In the snow, a boy and a girl held hands and walked through the storm. Snow fell on their hair, as if they had walked together until their hair had turned white with age.

"Su Ming, that's a promise..."

"I'll definitely come!"

Everything that had happened in that scene made Su Ming tremble. He stared at the girl who was gradually approaching them in the sky and looked at everything before him.

"Bai Ling...? How... How could this be?!" he mumbled.

There was disbelief in his eyes. At that moment, a strong urge suddenly erupted within him.

He did not want to suppress that urge, neither would he suppress it, because he could not suppress it!

Even if that urge would make his training to clear his mind come to a standstill, he just didn't want to suppress it...

He lifted his right foot slowly in that instant and at the very moment his foot landed on the air, he rose and started walking towards the Seven Colored Mountain.

Su Ming's actions temporarily stunned Hu Zi. Yet even though he was surprised, he still immediately followed behind him.

Zi Che hesitated for a moment before he too followed after.

As the seven colored light grew dimmer in the sky, Su Ming stood before the floating Seven Colored Mountain. He blocked the mountain from moving forward!

That sight immediately caught the attention of all those present. They all turned their gazes towards the place, and in an instant, a few thousand pairs of eyes were gathered on Su Ming, who was to them, an unfamiliar face.

"What's... your name...?"

Su Ming did not see the Seven Colored Mountain, did not see Si Ma Xin, did not see anyone else. He could only see the girl, or more accurately speaking, the person standing in the snow in Dark Mountain.

Chapter 234: Not Bai Ling!

Si Ma Xin's return attracted a lot of people's attention. Among them were two people who Su Ming did not notice. One of them was the fourth summit's Han Fei Zi.

She was wearing a white robe and stood on the mountain with a demeanor as cold as ice. Her expression was calm when she looked at the Seven Colored Mountain in the sky, though no one knew what she was thinking about.

Yet the occasional frosty glint in her eyes showed that she harbored a certain degree of animosity towards Si Ma Xin. That animosity was perhaps different from Han Cang Zi's. It was a scrutinizing look towards a rival.

The other person whom Su Ming did not take note of was the third summit's Han Cang Zi.

She stood on the third summit with the beautiful, oval shaped faced woman by her side.

They saw Si Ma Xin, heard the people's cheers, and saw the light from the Seven Colored Mountain falling on their bodies.

The moment she saw Si Ma Xin returning, Han Cang Zi's face turned pale. The woman beside her frowned and let out a cold harrumph before she took a few steps towards Han Cang Zi.

"He's not even placed first in the ranking board for the Great Frozen Plains yet. He's only second place, and he's already showing off so much!"

Han Cang Zi was silent. She lowered her head and did not say a word.

"Hmph, the rumor about him being the one person who is most likely to become the fourth God of Berserkers is simply the doings of the school. The school created his image and his chances. To many disciples, that Si Ma Xin has already been turned into a God of Berserker along with our eldest senior sister Tian Lan Meng and senior brother Chen Qing.

"The three people known as the three great prodigies of Freezing Sky Clan, hmm...? Let's see, who would be the first of the three who can enter Heaven Gate. Still, while Si Ma Xin's potential is pretty good, some of the things he does seriously disgust me. Even if eldest senior sister Tian Lan Meng and Chen Qing return to the sect, they wouldn't cause such a stir.

"Besides the school creating that image of his that makes the others so crazy about him, isn't it also because he keeps using all those tricks? He keeps using a large amount of things to attract other people to follow him and from there, he makes acquaintances with them."

The woman beside Han Cang Zi spoke with a cold smile on her face, then cast Han Cang Zi a look. There was pity on her face.

"Why do you always look this way whenever you see him? Why are you afraid of him? He simply planted the Berserker Seed of Love within you, that's all. If you're scared of him and keep hoping that someone will help you, then even if someone actually manages to free you, you'll be controlled by someone else in the end.

"Are women any less than men? Look at eldest senior sister Tian Lan Meng. She's our best example. Even when that Si Ma Xin sees our eldest senior sister, would he dare harm her?"

There was an aloof pride on her oval shaped face.

"When we were coming back, I saw the portion of the Sky Mist Barrier where uncle master Bai was guarding."

Han Cang Zi bit her lip and slowly lifted her head, and resolution appeared on her face.

"Uncle master Bai? You mean the person who was also rumored to have had the hopes of the entire school placed on him in the past? The person who also practiced the Creation Arts of the God of Berserkers, but eventually ended up practically estranged from the school simply because he did not follow the will of the school to practice the God of Berserkers Transformation but instead inherited his Master's right to become the Divine General of the Bone Sacrifice Realm? That uncle master Bai?"

Han Cang Zi nodded.

Once the oval shaped faced woman heard it, she sighed softly.

"Divine Generals are all revered people, and it's something a lot of people dream of attaining. Even in the school, the desire to become Divine General is second only to becoming the God of Berserkers, but... once you become a Divine General, it's practically impossible to become the God of Berserkers. They can only become the subordinates for the future God of Berserkers..."

"There aren't many Divine Generals within the school. Most of them have already been sent out to gain experience in killing so that they could be a force for the future God of Berserkers.

"I heard that the person you like is also a Divine General?" she asked suddenly.

A red blush immediately appeared on Han Cang Zi's face, as if she forgot the stress brought by Si Ma Xin at that moment and was embarrassed like a little girl. Just as she was about to speak, her senior sister's expression suddenly changed.

"That person you like... what... is he doing?"

Han Cang Zi was stunned. Instantly, she turned her head back to look, and her expression changed.

The entire area was filled with silence at that moment. Including Han Cang Zi, all the people's gazes were focused on the person walking slowly towards the Seven Colored Mountain in the sky.

At that moment, even Han Fei Zi's cold and aloof face changed. There was confusion as she looked at Su Ming.

Hu Zi was also stunned. He rubbed his eyes and looked at Su Ming, who was walking from his side with a dumb expression towards the Seven Colored Mountain. Hu Zi did not hesitate, and with a single move, he charged towards Su Ming.

He would not bother thinking about Si Ma or whoever else, nor would he be bothered by the crowd's gazes. The only thing in his mind was that he was the one who brought his youngest junior brother here. He could not let anything happen to him.

Zi Che felt his heart lurch and his mouth go dry. He never expected Su Ming to walk out just like this and face Si Ma Xin!

"What's... your name...?"

Su Ming's body floated in midair. As he stood before the approaching Seven Colored Mountain, he could only see the girl filled with untamed beauty.

His voice echoed in the air gently, and as it fell into the people's ears, all those who heard immediately had odd expressions on their faces.

"Who is he?"

"That person is unfamiliar, but the ninth summit's Sun Da Hu is beside him. If Sun Da Hu is with him, and especially since he blocked senior brother Si Ma's path, then he must definitely be an unreasonable person as well."

"I heard that the ninth summit has received a new disciple. Could it be him? But all the people on the ninth summit are strange people. His actions and words at least follow the traits that belong to those in the ninth summit."

"Interesting. This person must be attracted to junior sister Bai's face, and blinded by his infatuation, he forgot his status and asked for her name."

"He's biting off more than he can chew. How could he be so rude to junior sister Bai? Hmph!"

Low mocking and disdainful voices gradually appeared as the people looked on with odd expressions on their faces. To them, Su Ming was simply a person who was too confident in himself. Being rude to a beautiful woman right in front of senior brother Si Ma was exactly what an unreasonable person would do.

Han Cang Zi was stunned. Her gaze immediately shifted from Su Ming to the girl behind Si Ma Xin, and gradually, a conflicted look appeared in her eyes.

‘He once said that he broke a promise...’

Han Cang Zi sighed softly. The woman beside her was frowning, and there was a displeased look in her eyes as she looked at Su Ming.

At the same time, Han Fei Zi also cast a profound look towards the girl behind Si Ma Xin on the fourth summit, and she sank into deep thought.

Su Ming slowly came to a halt 30 feet away from the Seven Colored Mountain. Si Ma Xin looked down on Su Ming, who was blocking his path, from his position on the mountain.

In truth, when he was coming forth from the distance, he had already seen Su Ming, but he did not dare act rashly because Zi Che was by Su Ming’s side. Judging by his looks, it seemed that he was a little sullen and resigned.

Yet he did not expect that while he was ignoring the man, Su Ming would come to block his path over here. It would have been fine if he was merely blocking his path, but Su Ming was not even looking at him, but at the girl behind him.

This sort of disregard, coupled with the grudges that couldn’t be solved between them, made Si Ma Xin’s eyes turn dark and chilly.

"Junior brother, you seem rather unfamiliar. Why are you blocking my path?"

Si Ma Xin smiled faintly and the cold look in his eyes disappeared. His voice was calm, as if he was not angry with Su Ming’s actions and he had a big heart.

Su Ming did not speak. Up till this point, he still had not even looked at Si Ma Xin. He simply kept his gaze fixed on the girl filled with wild beauty.

The girl blushed under Su Ming’s stare, but she was frowning and there was displeasure in her eyes. She cast a glance at Su Ming, then at Si Ma Xin, who was standing before her, and did not speak.

The person before him was less than 30 feet away from him, but the person in Su Ming’s heart was so far away it was as if there was the distance of heaven and earth between them.

At that moment, Su Ming smiled.

That smile was very faint, and there was a sadness to it.

"If we continue walking in the snow, will we walk until our hair turns white...?"

Those words echoed in his head and eventually turned into a sigh.

Su Ming knew. The girl before him was not Bai Ling.

This had nothing to do with the Berserker Seed of Love. The girl's eyes were the same as Bai Ling's. In physical terms, they looked so similar that there were practically no differences between them, but since their souls were different, then they were completely different people.

Their aura was also different. Aura was something Su Ming could sense ever since he started practicing Aura Refinement and started observing people's aura around him once he activated the Branding Art in his mind.

This person... was not her... She may have the same face, but... she was not Bai Ling!

Su Ming closed his eyes. He did not ask her again, because he had already obtained his answer. That urge within gradually died down. When he opened his eyes once again, they had already returned to a calm state.

No longer looking at the girl, Su Ming turned around and started walking away to leave.

He heard the mockery and disdain in the low voices around him and felt the ridiculing gazes on his person, but these did not bother him.

Yet while he may not care about it, it did not mean that Hu Zi did not mind it. Hu Zi narrowed his eyes and cast an angry glare around the place from beside Su Ming, even growling with a hostile look on his face.

"What are you looking at? What, do you dare say all this right in front of Si Ma Xin's face? Laugh! You jerks, I'm telling you to laugh! Just you wait, I'll sneak into your places tonight and let you know my might."

Hu Zi was about to continue speaking, but his words were cut off bluntly by Si Ma Xin.

Si Ma Xin smiled as if he was pleased with what the girl behind him did and cast a look at Su Ming, saying slowly, "Junior brother, are you going to leave just like that? Take care of your senior brothers first, or else I'll teach you what respect is in place of your Master."

Su Ming paused in his footsteps and turned around, then looked at Si Ma Xin for the first time in midair.

When their gazes met, they seemed to have viciously clashed with each other.

"I am not your junior brother, disciple nephew Si Ma, I am your uncle master."

Chapter 235: The First Battle in Freezing Sky!

Su Ming's voice was calm when he spoke languidly, looking at Si Ma Xin. There was no pride in his voice, neither did he have the condescending manner Si Ma Xin adopted while he stood on the Seven Colored Mountain, but the meaning behind his words was a form of condescension under the rules of Freezing Sky Clan itself!

"I am your uncle master."

This sentence instantly made the people around him fall silent. There may be anger on their faces, but they did not dare refute his words. They could only accept the high status of the ninth summit with resignation.

A piercing, chilling light instantly appeared in Si Ma Xin's eyes. As he looked at Su Ming, his lips gradually curled up in a cold smile.

Hu Zi immediately brightened up and placed his hands on his hips as he lifted his head and shouted proudly towards Si Ma Xin, "Oh, that's right. Hey, jerk. Your Grandpa Hu is your uncle master. Come here, Si Ma Xin, greet your uncle master."

Si Ma Xin simply ignored Hu Zi's existence. At that moment, only Su Ming existed in his eyes. With such close proximity and with the slight connection he had with Han Mountain Bell in the past, he could tell with certainty that Han Mountain Bell was within Su Ming.

"Uncle master, eh? Then allow me to consult you and see whether you have the right to be my uncle master."

As Si Ma Xin spoke, he took a step forward with his right foot and lifted his finger to point at the sky.

"Freeze!"

With his voice, a large amount of green, freezing air suddenly manifested on the originally cold sky. That freezing air seemed to have a physical form, and the air would freeze as it passed by it. Rumbling sounds echoed in the air.

An illusionary hand formed from the green mist appeared in the freezing air and manifested abruptly in the sky. That hand gave off a freezing presence and gathered together out of nowhere before it charged towards Su Ming to catch him.

"The Creation Art! As expected of senior brother Si Ma, he's indeed the person who will become the God of Berserkers! His first move itself is the Creation Art!"

"No ordinary person could cast the Creation Art so easily, even if it was just the One Creation Art."

"Besides Leader Liu on the ninth summit, the other people there are all trash. I heard that their eldest senior brother isolates himself all the time, the second is always planting flowers like a weak woman, the third is an unreasonable fellow, and that newest addition to the ninth summit just had the galls to block senior brother Si Ma's path!"

The green hand charged towards Su Ming, and a glint appeared in Su Ming's eyes. Yet at that moment, anger appeared on Hu Zi's face and he let out a low growl.

"Youngest junior brother, move back. Jerk, how dare you attack my youngest junior brother in my face!"

Hu Zi lifted his head and sat down in midair. He lifted his right hand swiftly and overlapped his index and middle fingers together. As he lifted his hand, he drew an arc in the sky.

A mighty presence erupted forth from Hu Zi's body. The strength of that presence seemed to have caused the weather and earth to change, causing the incoming green hand to falter for a moment in midair.

"Entering... Dream..."

Hu Zi's expression was stern. At that moment, not a hint of recklessness could be seen on his face. His act of drawing an arc with his two fingers seemed to have contained some mysterious form of Creation, and when Si Ma Xin saw this, his expression turned grave.

The people around him also became nervous. As they looked at Hu Zi, expressions of surprise appeared on their faces, as if during that instant, the Sun Da Hu before them became completely different from the person in their memories.

Right at the instant the green hand froze in midair for a moment, Hu Zi's right index finger touched the center of his brows. His eyes immediately fell shut and he started snoring.

Nothing changed, except for the appearance of Hu Zi's snores in the air, and since he was in deep sleep, he could not continue floating in the air and fell from the sky...

All the people who saw this were stunned and burst out laughing a moment later.

Even Si Ma Xin started chuckling after the stun wore off. Yet a chilling glint appeared in his eyes and he pointed towards the falling Hu Zi with his right hand. Immediately, the freezing green hand charged towards Hu Zi, whistling through the air, a clear sign that while Si Ma Xin had laughed at Hu Zi's actions, he was also displeased, and for that, he wanted to hurt him.

Su Ming was silent. He did not laugh. It was clear that Hu Zi chose to act that way just now because he already considered Su Ming as his youngest junior brother under the same Master, and as his senior brother, it was his duty to protect him.

Hu Zi's power may not be great, but it was precisely because of this that his actions reflected what he thought even more prominently when he stood before Su Ming. That alone was enough.

Right at the moment Hu Zi started plummeting downwards, Su Ming turned into a long arc and charged towards him, catching his body in midair and landing on the ground.

But the green hand was still chasing after them. Su Ming did not bother with that hand. Right at the moment he landed on the ground, Zi Che flew up and charged towards the hand.

He had to act, or else he had no idea what sort of horrible fate would befall him when he went back to the ninth summit. Besides, he was also angry towards Si Ma Xin.

Rumbling sounds echoed above Su Ming, but he did not lift his head up to look. Once he landed on the ground, he gently placed the snoring and drooling Hu Zi on the ground.

He looked at Hu Zi's face. That silly look on his face made Su Ming smile.

Amidst the rumbling sounds in the air was Si Ma Xin's downcast voice.

"Zi Che, what's the meaning of this?!"

"Si Ma Xin, there's no use talking. If you attack Su Ming, then I have to act against you!"

Zi Che's appearance made all the people watching immediately burst out in to an uproar again.

"That's senior brother Zi Che, ranked ninth on the Great Frozen Plains ranking board! Isn't he good friends with senior brother Si Ma?!"

"Why is he suddenly helping an outsider?!"

"I saw him with the people from the ninth summit just now..."

The oval shaped faced woman beside Han Cang Zi let out a cold harrumph as the discussions raged around her, but it was clear that she had let out a sigh of relief when she saw Zi Che just now.

Si Ma Xin stared at Zi Che. As they gazes met in midair, his eyes gradually turned cold.

At that moment, as Su Ming looked at Hu Zi snoring as he slept on the ground, he slowly lifted his head and looked at Si Ma Xin standing beside the Seven Colored Mountain in the sky.

"Zi Che, stand back. Take care of my third senior brother," Su Ming said unhurriedly, then lifted his right foot to take a step into the sky. The moment his foot landed, his body left the ground and he stood in midair.

Zi Che hesitated for a moment before he wrapped his fist in his palm to salute Su Ming, then returned to Hu Zi's side.

"My power is not as great as yours, and I didn't want to fight you..." Su Ming said calmly, looking at Si Ma Xin. "You have your own thing to do, as do I... but you shouldn't have tried to hurt my third senior brother once he lost all power to fight back!"

Su Ming's voice still remained calm.

"He is my third senior brother... If you want to fight, then... I will fight!"

At that moment, a chilling glint appeared within the calmness in Su Ming's eyes.

At that very moment, an incredibly powerful killing intent surged out from Su Ming's body. That murderous intent came from his right eye, from the Picture of the Blood Moon and Dark Mountain!

The instant Su Ming declared his intention to fight, his entire demeanor changed. While he may still look calm, there was a pressure coming from within that calmness that made people feel as if it was pressing heavily on their bodies from above.

He lifted his right foot and took his first step towards Si Ma Xin. At the moment it landed, a clear Mountain Mark appeared on Su Ming's face.

It was the Mark of the mountain with five summits - Dark Mountain!

When that Mark appeared, an illusion immediately formed in the sky above Si Ma Xin. In the blink of an eye, the gigantic Dark Mountain that was exactly like the Dark Mountain Mark on Su Ming's face appeared in the sky!

The moment it appeared, an incredibly powerful pressure spread out and caused the people who were watching on the sides to withdraw with changed expressions.

Si Ma Xin gave a cold sneer and lifted his right hand and clenched his fist around empty air. The moment he did so, a large amount of cold air gathered together underneath Dark Mountain and turned into a gigantic ice fist that charged towards it.

Rumbling sounds reverberated through the air and the ice fist crashed into Dark Mountain, triggering a vicious wave of force that turned into a large wave of ripples that spread through the air.

Once that punch was thrown, an ice layer instantly appeared on the spot where the ice fist touched the five peaked Dark Mountain formed from Su Ming's Mountain Mark amidst the rumbling sounds. The ice layer spread out rapidly, and in the blink of an eye, ice covered the entire mountain, turning it into a five peaked ice mountain.

The ice mountain floated in the sky. It was originally just an illusion, but at that moment, due to the ice fist created by Si Ma Xin's Creation Art, the mountain was caught between a state of having physical form and being an illusion.

"A simple trick. You are... as weak as you were when I met you in Han Mountain! I don't even need to use the power of my Berserker Mark, neither do I need to use my Origin Vessel, the Seven Colored Mountain!" Si Ma Xin said languidly.

There was no disdain in his voice. He was merely speaking in a tone that suggested he was looking down on Su Ming because they were not of the same level and he was more powerful.

As he spoke, Si Ma Xin placed his hands behind his back and looked at Su Ming coldly.

"I'll give you a chance to attack. If you disappoint me, then I'll make you despair! Bring out Han Mountain Bell. Let me see how powerful it is in your hands," Si Ma Xin said coldly.

Su Ming did not speak. He had firsthand experience of Si Ma Xin's arrogance, and this was not the first time he heard such words from his mouth.

His expression turned even more aloof in his silence. Underneath his robes was the other part of the Berserker Mark Si Ma Xin could not see, and it was now manifesting on his body. As it did so, Su Ming lifted his right hand and waved it in the sky.

A large area underneath the frozen Dark Mountain started distorting. The distortions spread out, and in an instant, an illusionary Dark Mountain Tribe appeared in the world.

The plants, the trees, the houses, all of these things were shown in such fine detail that they looked real. They covered the entire sky, and those who saw it felt as if their entire beings were about to be sucked into the tribe.

A grave expression appeared on Si Ma Xin's face.

"This is your complete Berserker Mark?!"

A depressing feeling that pressed heavily on the hearts of all those looking surrounded the entire area when Dark Mountain Tribe appeared...

The manifestation of this Berserker Mark made Si Ma Xin feel a force pressing heavily against him. This was the most complex Berserker Mark he had ever seen in his life. There was even a vague and indistinct grief coming from within the illusionary tribe formed from the Berserker Mark that affected his heart.

'What is with this Berserker Mark?! Why are there emotions in there?'

Si Ma Xin's expression changed drastically.

Chapter 236: Battle of Berserker Marks!

Si Ma Xin was shaken. Su Ming's Berserker Mark gave off a huge, threatening presence. This threat far surpassed how he felt when he first saw Su Ming in Han Mountain.

However, it was merely a threatening feeling. Besides the grave expression on Si Ma Xin's face, a pattern was appearing faintly on his skin. That pattern looked like a flower, and it was blooming in a manner that outshone all other flowers!

Yet if anyone took a closer look, then they would clearly see that the blooming flower was actually an ice flower! There was a faint layer of frost around it, causing Si Ma Xin's face to look as if he was covered in a layer of frost.

"You're one of the few people who can force me to use my Berserker Mark. Today, I'll let you see the power of my Berserker Mark!" Si Ma Xin slowly said, and as his voice fell into the people's ears, the words turned into a layer of frost that covered their bodies.

The moment he finished speaking, ice and snow gathered around Si Ma Xin and turned into a gigantic ice flower. The sunlight reflecting off the ice flower shone with a seven colored light, causing Si Ma Xin to be surrounded by it, and it crashed into the Dark Mountain Tribe that was formed from Su Ming's Berserker Mark.

There were no banging sounds, only mere rumbles. When Si Ma Xin's Berserker Mark appeared, its presence also manifested along with it. Soon, under the rumbling sounds, the illusionary Dark Mountain Tribe Su Ming had created in the sky was instantly covered in a layer of frost, just like how Dark Mountain was previously. In the blink of an eye, all the houses, plants, and trees in Dark Mountain Tribe turned into ice sculptures.

"Even if you activated your entire Berserker Mark, you... are still too weak!"

As Si Ma Xin spoke, the gigantic ice flower behind him gradually rose into the air, glowing with the seven colored light. The gigantic flower was the center of the seven colored light, as if it wanted to fight for the glory of the position of being the only source of light in the sky with the sun. It charged towards Su Ming.

The petals opened up like a big mouth, as if they wanted to swallow up Su Ming whole!

The entire process of the fight between Su Ming and Si Ma Xin may have seemed to have happened slowly, but in truth, all these happened in a few short moments. The two of them may be hundreds of feet apart, but this sort of battle between Berserker Marks was incredibly dangerous. If one party was slightly weaker, that person would instantly be gravely injured.

This sort of battle between Berserker Marks was an Origin mystical ability that only the Berserkers of the Berserker Tribe could cast after they reached the Awakening Realm.

Su Ming's expression did not change even the slightest even though the ice flower formed from Si Ma Xin's Berserker Mark was quickly charging towards him. He stood in his spot calmly, and he looked not towards Si Ma Xin, but towards the frozen Dark Mountain and his equally frozen tribe.

"My Berserker Mark... is not yet complete..." he said unhurriedly.

This was the first time he spoke ever since he started battling Si Ma Xin. As he spoke, a shocking wave of murderous intent erupted forth from his body. In an instant, his right eye was stained with a bloody shade of red.

That bloody red look was clearly the blood moon!

At the same time, the illusionary Dark Mountain and tribe in the sky welcomed a new addition - a blood moon. There was an enchanting air to the blood moon. The moment it appeared, the sad presence that shrouded Dark Mountain and Dark Mountain Tribe changed abruptly.

There was no longer any grief coming from within, but a shocking amount of killing intent. It fell upon the entire layer of ice on Dark Mountain and colored the place a bloody shade of red. The ice on the houses in the tribe was also illuminated by a bloody red glow.

It was as if the entire world had just been dyed in a blood-red color!

The Picture of the Blood Moon and Dark Mountain!

Booming sounds spread in all directions like thunder. The ice layer on Dark Mountain completely shattered and exploded into pieces with a bang. The ice on the houses in the tribe also cracked and turned into ice shards that tumbled backwards.

Even the gigantic ice flower charging towards Su Ming turned into a blood-red flower under the illumination of the blood moon. Before it even got close to Su Ming, it was torn to pieces and exploded.

"This... is my complete Berserker Mark!"

Su Ming took a step forward and lifted his right hand, then slammed it downward before him!

The moment he did so, Dark Mountain rumbled and charged towards Si Ma Xin. Whispering could also be heard coming from the houses in the tribe, causing Si Ma Xin's expression to change. He instantly retreated.

Yet before he could move too far back, he found himself unable to leave the area of the blood-red light.

The entire Picture of the Blood Moon and Dark Mountain seemed to have come to life and turned into a gigantic Sealing Rune. Si Ma Xin was within the Rune, and he... could not seem to escape.

Not only did the expression on his face drastically change to shock, his pupils also shrank. Su Ming's Berserker Mark had once again surpassed his expectations. This was completely different from the Su Ming in his memories!

He suddenly understood why Zi Che would fail. He could sense that at this moment, Su Ming had the power to fight against those in the later stage of the Awakening Realm with just his Berserker Mark alone.

'He still has that Origin Lightning of his... He also has Han Mountain Bell and that sharp sword...'

As Si Ma Xin retreated, he bit his tongue and coughed out a mouthful of blood. That blood immediately turned into blood mist before him.

"Your Berserker Mark may be complicated, but my Berserker Mark isn't easy either!"

As Si Ma Xin spoke, the blood mist before him immediately charged towards him and stained his face, then with a bizarre speed, seeped into his skin.

It was quickly followed by Si Ma Xin lifting his head to growl at the sky. The Berserker Mark of the Ice Flower appeared once again on his face and body. However, this time, there was not just one ice flower, but two, three, four... until eight flowers appeared on his body!

The eight ice flowers covered his entire body. However, the sizes of these eight flowers were clearly slightly smaller than of the first. Yet when the eight ice flowers appeared, it made Si Ma Xin's retreating body instantly stop.

He no longer retreated but lifted his arms and swung them sideward.

With that one swing, the eight ice flowers formed and spun around him to turn into an ice typhoon.

"Freezing Sky Berserker Art, Ten Creations!" Si Ma Xin stated in a low, booming voice and clapped his hands together to point in Su Ming's direction. The ice typhoon around him instantly grew bigger, as if it wanted to tear the world apart, and crashed into the illusionary world that was the manifestation of Su Ming's Berserker Mark.

Rumbling sounds echoed in the air. The ice typhoon became smaller, but similarly, the Dark Mountain Tribe formed from Su Ming's Berserker Mark scattered away like dust in the typhoon, like a picture that was ripped to shreds.

When Dark Mountain Tribe completely disappeared, Dark Mountain too trembled and shattered. Only the blood moon remained and crashed into the now greatly shrunken ice typhoon for the last time.

The greatly reduced ice typhoon turned into eight ice flowers once again and charged towards the blood moon while connected to each other. Under the blood-red light and the rumbling sounds, the first ice flower exploded, the second ice flower shattered, the third ice flower crumbled, and the fourth ice flower disintegrated, but the fifth ice flower broke through and crashed into the blood moon.

The blood moon trembled and started showing signs of not being able to remain stable amidst the thunderous rumbles. At the same time, the sixth ice flower came forth and crashed into the blood moon.

Soon, the seventh and eighth ice flowers crashed into the blood moon. A loud boom shook the skies, and when the blood moon broke down, the ice flowers disappeared.

"What a strong Berserker Mark!"

Si Ma Xin found himself unable to say that Su Ming was too weak anymore. At that moment, he was breathing rapidly. His Berserker Mark was already complete, but it only managed to reach a tie with Su Ming's Berserker Mark.

'This must be the limit for his Berserker Mark. This sort of Berserker Mark will not change anymore!'

Killing intent appeared in Si Ma Xin's eyes. In truth, he had harbored killing intent towards Su Ming since a long time ago but had always kept it hidden. After all, he was in Freezing Sky Clan. Yet when he witnessed the might of his Berserker Mark, he could no longer hide his killing intent.

In the instant their Berserker Marks disappeared from the clash, Si Ma Xin made a sudden move. He turned into a long arc and charged towards Su Ming.

He wanted to kill Su Ming!

Yet at the moment he charged forward, Su Ming also took a step forward. He did not retreat, but used a similarly shocking speed to rush at Si Ma Xin.

The two of them were not far from each other in the first place, hence with that rapid speed, in an instant, they closed in on each other.

Once they were close, a large amount of electrical arcs immediately began swimming through Su Ming's entire body. As he swung his fist forward, an innumerable amount of lightning gathered together and charged towards Si Ma Xin with a thunderous rumble.

Si Ma Xin also lifted his right hand and as he clenched it into a fist, seven colored light appeared in his hand. Lightning and light clashed with each other, and as rumbling sounds spread out, the two of them let out muffled groans and tumbled backwards.

Si Ma Xin moved 30 feet backwards, and Su Ming moved 50 feet back. At the moment the both of them came to a stop, they rushed towards each other once again.

This time, Si Ma Xin tapped at a few spots on his body with both hands and seven colored light immediately started shining on his body. There was a layer of ice

underneath that seven colored light which turned into ice armor on his body. This was the Seven Colored Ice Armor Si Ma Xin had created himself!

Similarly, black fog surrounded Su Ming's body. As a Divine General of Awakening, he also had his own armor. The black fog turned into armor, and at the instant it appeared, the stunned crowd that had been watching all around them immediately let out loud cries of surprise.

"A Divine General of Awakening!"

"He's a Divine General of Awakening?!"

"No wonder he could fight against senior brother Si Ma. He's a Divine General of Awakening, he has extraordinary power, and the complexity of his Berserker Mark is simply outrageous and unheard of!"

The uproars had been stifled due to the intense battle between Berserker Marks just now, but erupted forth now with such force that it filled the air with buzzing sounds in an instant.

In truth, Su Ming's identity as a Divine General was hidden from the crowd largely due to the fourth summit. For some unknown reason, the left preceptor in the fourth summit had locked down all information regarding Su Ming. The other people in Freezing Sky Clan only knew that there was a new disciple in the ninth summit. As for his status, level of cultivation, and all the other things—it all remained fuzzy.

As for Chen Yu Bing and Xu Ru Yue, once the two of them returned to Freezing Sky Clan, they were placed under a gag order and were told not to talk about Su Ming.

"Is... he the one who made big brother Si Ma angry...?"

The girl's who was on the Seven Colored Mountain gaze was fixed on Si Ma Xin, who remained mighty and powerful in her heart, all this while. As for Su Ming, her first impression towards him was bad, and since he was Si Ma Xin's enemy at the moment, she recalled the things that had happened when she was playing chess with Si Ma Xin, and her gaze towards Su Ming turned even more hostile.

Chapter 237: Similar!

Su Ming and Si Ma Xin stood in the sky. One of them was surrounded by black fog, which turned into a black fogged armor that gave off a ghastly feeling, while the other

was surrounded by seven colored light, and his ice armor seemed to be filled with light that pierced the eyes, making it hard for others to look at him directly.

Two completely different presences, two completely different sets of armor, two... completely different people!

"You... are not in the Bone Sacrifice Realm!" Su Ming said languidly, and as he spoke, he charged forward.

Si Ma Xin's face was sullen. With a cold harrumph, he moved forward. The two of them crashed into each other once again in midair. Rumbling sounds reverberated in the air, and the fierce battle made all those watching around the area stop breathing.

The longer Si Ma Xin battled, the more shocked he felt. He could not imagine just how Su Ming had become so strong in such a short amount of time. This was no longer the person he could defeat by just attacking with a move through manifesting his soul on a Berserker Seed.

With such a speed in his growth, Su Ming had the right to make Si Ma Xin pay attention to him!

'This person is growing too quickly, I can't let him stay alive...'

Si Ma Xin took a few steps back and grabbed the air with his right hand. Immediately, an ice spear appeared in his hand, and he threw it towards Su Ming.

At the same time, Si Ma Xin swung his left arm forward, and a round bottle appeared. With a snap of his fingers, howling sounds came from within the bottle. A white wolf charged out and started growing as it was exposed to the wind. In an instant, it grew up to be a few dozen feet tall. Its fur was white as snow, and with its fangs bared, it growled at Su Ming.

That growl turned into a force that turned Su Ming's mind blank once it hit his body, as if he was shaken. Yet it only lasted for an instant before the power of Aura Refinement started circulating within him on its own and his mind immediately cleared up.

He woke up too quickly, and it made Si Ma Xin frown. He fought against Su Ming with the long spear in hand, and at the same time, the ice wolf pounced on him.

"He Feng!"

Su Ming took a few steps back and black fog immediately rushed out from his chest. That fog turned into He Feng, who had an agonized look on his face, but he did not dare choose not to fight. When he appeared, he charged towards the soul of the ice wolf. The both of them were spiritual entities, and though their battle may have been without sound, it was still incredibly vicious.

At that moment, the mark of the sword at the center of Su Ming's brows flashed briefly, and the small virescent sword charged out with a whistle and spun around Su Ming's body. It moved with his will and crashed into Si Ma Xin's long spear with a loud bang.

Su Ming's fight against Si Ma Xin did not just attract the attention of the people around the area, it even attracted the attention of some of the powerful Berserkers in the nine summits of the Great Frozen Plains. Some of those in the older generation even looked over.

Su Ming's second senior brother was crouching down on the ninth summit tending to his plants. Occasionally, he would lift up his head towards the direction where the rumbling sounds came from and shake his head.

"Just how many times does this make since third failed entering his dream.? Ah... the moment he gets agitated, he immediately wants to enter his dreams to fight against others. This... is not good."

Tian Xie Zi sat at the top of the mountain with a pleased smile on his face as he looked at the place where the rumbling sounds were coming from.

"Not bad, not bad at all. Teach him a good lesson."

There were other people gathered on the other mountains. As they looked at the battle, a rare sight in the Great Frozen Plains of Freezing Sky Clan, the left preceptor in the fourth summit, the old man who liked wearing red robes, stood at the top of the mountain with a solemn expression on his face.

'The Virescent Light Sword... That's Han Kong's treasure... Why is it in his hands?!'

He was frowning, but once he cast a glance towards the ninth summit, he shook his head and decided not to bother himself with what he deemed was a trivial matter.

Besides him, the other people of the older generation also appeared on the other summits and sized up the battle from their respective spots.

At that moment, on the mountainside of the seventh summit was a woman dressed in red. She was sitting on a big stone. Her black hair fell on her shoulders, and when they were occasionally lifted by the wind, her snow white skin would be revealed underneath.

She had a gentle look on her face as she watched the people battling against each other. Most of the time, her gaze was focused on Su Ming.

"A Divine General of Awakening, and with such a Berserker Mark too... What is his name?"

There were a few girls standing behind the woman. One of them quickly answered her, "Eldest senior sister, his name is Su Ming. He's a disciple on the ninth summit."

At the moment, the battle which had caught the crowd's attention had yet to reach its most intense moment. The small virescent sword shone and crashed into the incoming long spear. Before the rumbling sounds even disappeared, the second clashing sound had already spread in all directions.

More lightning arcs swam through Su Ming's body and turned into numerous lightning sparks that charged towards Si Ma Xin. Thunder rumbled in the sky, and by the looks of it, lightning was about to fall.

However, Si Ma Xin was the prodigy of Freezing Sky Clan. Su Ming might have seen through the fact that he had yet to reach the Bone Sacrifice Realm, but the mystical abilities and enchanted Vessels he had were practically endless.

The white wolf and the ice spear he had in his hand were definitely not any ordinary items. At the same time the snow surrounding him fought against Su Ming's lightning, the virescent sword and ice spear, He Feng and the white wolf too fought against each other. While the battle might not have reached its most intense state, it had already reached an intensity that was not too far away.

This was a battle that could not be settled in a short period of time. While Su Ming was currently also in the Awakening Realm, compared to Si Ma Xin, his level of cultivation was still a little lower.

Yet he was a Berserker who Awakened with 999 blood veins and also understood the Clearing Mind Art. With his mystical abilities and Origin Vessel, he could fight against all those who were under the Bone Sacrifice Realm.

As the small virescent sword and ice spear clashed against each other, as did Su Ming's lightning and Si Ma Xin's ice, and they once again let out a rumbling sound, Su Ming took a few abrupt steps backwards with a calm expression. As he moved back, he swiped his right hand before his chest. When he lifted it, a spherical medicinal pill immediately appeared in his hand.

There was a snow flower in the medicinal pill as if it was sealed up within. There was an enchanting feeling to it. It let out a freezing chill, and dim light also spread out from the pill.

It was Su Ming's Spirit Plunder.

He only used this pill once after he created it, and it was when he was curing Fang Mu. In truth, this was the first time he brought this thing out during battle. The moment Spirit Plunder was taken out, it started spinning in the air. When Su Ming pointed towards Si Ma Xin, that pill instantly turned into a long arc that charged towards him.

At the moment Su Ming brought out Spirit Plunder, Si Ma Xin's expression turned even more serious. He stared at the medicinal pill in his hands and took a few steps back as surprise appeared in his eyes.

At the same time, he opened his mouth wide open and spat out. As he did so, a small black insect flew out of his mouth. The insect was built in the shape of a small rod about the length of a finger's segment. If it was not twisting about in the air, it would be difficult for anyone to tell that it was actually an insect.

When the insect flew out, it spread out its wings, and four pairs of thin wings could be seen on its rod shaped body. There was green light shining on its head, making it look slightly terrifying.

The moment the insect appeared, a malicious presence immediately erupted from its body, along with a buzzing sound that pierced the minds of all those who heard it.

The insect turned into a ray of green light, but it did not charge towards the incoming Spirit Plunder. It went past the pill and charged towards Su Ming instead.

That insect could be said to be the most precious item Si Ma Xin had besides the Seven Colored Mountain. He had only just obtained that insect and had only recently formed a small mental connection with it.

He had tested this insect many times before, and Si Ma Xin had never seen anything that this insect could not pierce through. He had tried using this insect on many objects before, and all of them had ended up the same way!

If it was not because Su Ming had the Divine General's armor and it would be difficult for any sort of mystical ability to cause harm to him, Si Ma Xin would not have wanted to use this insect. At this moment, not only did he not want to face the strange object that had clearly sealed the Berserker Seed he had planted in Fang Mu charging towards him, he also wanted to kill Su Ming, or at the very least cause such grievous injuries to him that his power would fall.

By doing so, once Si Ma Xin successfully cleared Freezing Sky Cave and entered Heaven Gate, no matter how quickly Su Ming improved, he would be of no threat to him.

As Spirit Plunder and the small rod insect passed by each other and Spirit Plunder closed in on him, Si Ma Xin bit his tongue, coughed out blood, took a step forward, and turned into a blood figure. He fused together with his blood and seemed to have turned into an illusionary layer of mist instead of having physical form. It spread outwards, looking as if it could dodge Spirit Plunder's might.

Yet the moment he was about to dodge, Spirit Plunder came to an abrupt halt and stopped in midair. An incredibly powerful absorption force that shocked Si Ma Xin

exploded forth from it. That absorption force caught all the blood mist around the area, and the blood mist started showing clear signs of being sucked in.

The mist struggled incessantly, and Si Ma Xin's face was revealed within. There was a hint of shock on his face, but once he gritted his teeth, he immediately split the illusionary blood mist into two separate parts. One of them was taken into Spirit Plunder, and the other rolled backwards quickly before it reverted back into Si Ma Xin once it was far away from the pill. His face was pale as he sucked in a sharp breath.

"What's with that thing?!"

Su Ming was also shocked, because even though he was retreating quickly with a dazzling speed, he still could not shake off the insect charging towards him.

That insect closed in on him in an instant and clashed with the small virescent sword. It knocked the sword away and closed in on Su Ming once again. The insect had even ignored the lightning arcs swimming in the air. Even though lightning covered its entire body, it did not slow down. With a bang, it pierced through Su Ming's Divine General armor!

It was about to pierce Su Ming's body, but at that moment, a loud bell chimed out from within Su Ming's body. In the face of danger, Han Mountain Bell materialized between Divine General armor and Su Ming's body, and it was the Bell that finally managed to stop the insect's attack.

As the bell chimes reverberated in the air, blood flowed out of Su Ming's mouth and he staggered a few hundred feet back.

"What's with this insect?!"

Su Ming lifted his head swiftly. His question was shouted out almost at the same time as when Si Ma Xin shouted his.

At that moment, a strange feeling formed in Su Ming's heart. That inconceivable feeling also formed in Si Ma Xin.

"They're... so similar..." someone from the crowd murmured...

Chapter 238: Copy

They were two completely different people with two completely different names and two completely different lives.

They were like two parallel lines that would never touch each other. Even if they were going in the same direction, they would never touch each other. This was Su Ming and Si Ma Xin before this battle in Freezing Sky Clan.

Even when they started exchanging blows, the odd similarities that the people watching found were yet to come into existence, but as they continued attacking each other, everyone noticed, and it could even be said that the two of them were the last ones who noticed it.

As the onlookers watched the battle continue, the feeling that these two were similar became stronger.

One of them was lightning, the other ice. They may look different, but one of them had lightning swimming through his entire body while the other was surrounded by ice. Perhaps this was not enough to call them similar, but soon, when the small virescent sword and ice spear clashed with each other, the black Divine General armor and sparkling ice armor appeared, the feeling that they were alike started blossoming within their hearts.

The moment Si Ma Xin brought out the round bottle and released the wolf, which was a rare Vessel Spirit that was definitely not something a normal person would be able to get, and He Feng flew out of Su Ming's body, that feeling that they were similar reached an incredibly high level in an instant.

The similarities reached an even higher level when Su Ming brought out Spirit Plunder and Si Ma Xin released the strange rod shaped insect from his mouth and when the both of them had the same expression and reaction as they faced these two completely different enchanted Vessels. At that moment, it was as if all their similarities had fused together and erupted forth with a force that made even outsiders notice that these two people were... very similar!

Bell chimes reverberated in the air, and at that moment, the black rod shaped insect that was only about the size of a finger's segment tumbled backward. However, its speed as it flew back had clearly been reduced. It even started swaying in the air, as if the crash had caused a backlash that it could only marginally withstand because it had been traveling too fast previously and because the echoes from Han Mountain Bell were too powerful.

Su Ming watched the rod shaped insect tumble back and recover in the span of a few breaths. The sight made his expression change. He suppressed all his other emotions, because he knew Han Mountain Bell's might well. That crash just now and subsequent rebound were difficult even for him to withstand. Yet that strange insect was already showing signs of recovery after such a short period of time.

A glint appeared in Su Ming's eyes. He knew that he could not let that insect recover, or else that thing alone would affect him greatly. At the same moment the insect retreated, Su Ming lifted his right hand pointed towards it. He also took a huge step forward.

The moment his foot landed, his body instantly appeared above the retreating insect, and soon, Han Mountain Bell appeared in his hands like a small bell, then like a huge shade that covered the small insect.

In the distance, Si Ma Xin was forced to split up and discard part of the blood figure formed from his blood under the might of Spirit Plunder. His face was pale. While he did not cough out blood like Su Ming, he was also clearly weakened. When he saw Su Ming's actions, Si Ma Xin's eyes immediately became clouded with anger.

He charged forth with a low growl and grabbed the air with his right hand. Immediately, the floating Seven Colored Mountain in the distance erupted with a piercing seven colored light. The girl standing on the Seven Colored Mountain let out a cry of surprise and quickly flew back. There was a floating ribbon under her feet which supported her.

Right then, in his battle against Su Ming, Si Ma Xin finally used his most powerful enchanted treasure - the Seven Colored Mountain!

"Su Ming, how dare you touch my snake?!"

Si Ma Xin's face was vicious. As he grabbed the air with his right hand, the red light from the light of the Seven Colored Mountain shone with an intensity that was far brighter than all the other colors. It was as if it was asked to come forth from the seven lights. As the light shone, the Seven Colored Mountain looked as if it only possessed that one color.

"God of Berserkers Transformation, Seven Colors Refinement, Scarlet Style!"

Veins popped out on Si Ma Xin's face, and his body was dyed in a scarlet shade. His right hand curled up and turned into a five fingered claw. The scarlet shade on his hand was incredibly alluring, and he swiped his clawed hand towards the floating Seven Colored Mountain that was currently shining with a red light.

The moment he swiped his hand across, the red light from the Seven Colored Mountain immediately started flickering as if the fog on it was boiling. As it flickered, the mountain let out a buzzing sound. The red light looked as if it was absorbed into Si Ma Xin's right hand and a large amount of it was gathered there before turning into a scarlet long sword.

That sword was seven feet long and looked as if it was dyed with blood. There was even a harrowing sadness coming from it that stunned people. When Si Ma Xin held the sword in his hands, he swung it down in Su Ming's direction!

That slash immediately made the world dark. An oppressive feeling spread out so suddenly that the crowd watching immediately felt as if they were suffocating. It was as if that sword stroke had sucked in all the air from the world.

A sadness that could affect all those around it spread out in all directions as the sword slashed downward.

"The place where I was born still did things according to the laws of the universe..."

A voice filled with grief spilled out of Si Ma Xin's mouth as he swung the sword down. His expression seemed to have fused together with the sword, and with that one sentence, he executed one sword stroke!

The moment that sword stroke fell, Han Cang Zi's face turned pale on the third summit. The oval shaped faced woman beside her also sucked in a deep breath.

"He casted the God of Berserkers Transformation!!"

When the red robed left preceptor saw this on the fourth summit, he narrowed his eyes.

"Looks like he has understood the first style of the God of Berserkers Transformation."

All those who understood the meaning of the sword stroke turned their attention towards the attack from their respective summits. On the ninth summit, a gourd had appeared in Tian Xie Zi's hands some time ago. He placed it by his mouth and drank from it before he shook his head and disdain appeared in his eyes.

"God of Berserkers Transformation... It's not worthy of the word 'Transformation'! One day, I'll let the people know just what is the true God of Berserkers Transformation! But Si Ma Xin's method of casting this mystical ability has some form of transformation that originated from him..."

Tian Xie Zi did not seem to be paying attention to the question of how Su Ming was going to deal with that shocking sword slash. He was drinking wine instead and was uttering words that no one else could hear besides himself.

It was as if he had the confidence that Su Ming could deal with that sword strike!

Similarly, Su Ming's second senior brother, who was still planting flowers on the snow covered ground with his back bent on the ninth summit, lifted his head to look into the distance when his right hand, which was holding several flowers, faltered.

He trained his eyes on the distance as he mumbled under his breath, "Youngest junior brother, this is a rare chance... God of Berserkers Transformation... This is the strongest skill in Freezing Sky Clan! When people draw, they first learn by copying others, only then will they be able to create their own drawings."

Su Ming and Si Ma Xin's battle had attracted even more attention from the people gathered under Heaven Gate and in the center of nine summits of the Great Frozen Plains. When Si Ma Xin casted the God of Berserkers Transformation and brought out the red light from the Seven Colored Mountain before turning it into a long sword that seemed to be dyed with blood and swung it down, the presence that exploded from that sword strike caused the battle to instantly reach its most intense moment.

The red light from the sword brought forth a strange sound as it sliced through the air. It sounded as if there were numerous people mourning and crying, and when the sounds gathered together into one, it turned into the sound of the scarlet sword slicing through the air.

A hint of seriousness appeared on Su Ming's calm face. He had already known a long time ago of Si Ma Xin's strength. Although he was no longer the same as he was before, there was still some difference in power between him and Si Ma Xin.

Just this sword strike from alone was already enough to make Su Ming feel that he could not fend against it. Si Ma Xin's murmurs echoed in his ears. Those words had fused into the sword, and it seemed to be filled with a power that could change the world, a change that far surpassed Su Ming's ability to possibly comprehend it.

It was this change that seemed to be able to turn something decadent into something great that caused this simple sword slash to turn into a power that Su Ming could not resist. The sword itself was also a treasure manifested from Si Ma Xin's Seven Colored Mountain, which meant that it contained an incredible power. With the might of the mystical ability, God of Berserkers Transformation, the might contained within the sword stroke was enough to kill all Berserkers under the Bone Sacrifice Realm, Su Ming analyzed.

Even the powerful Berserkers in the Bone Sacrifice Realm would find it hard to resist this sword slash. However, Su Ming had yet to arrive at the Bone Sacrifice Realm. He could assume it as such and could not be certain of it.

The moment the sword fell towards him, a glint appeared in Su Ming's eyes. He knew that Han Mountain Bell was the only thing that could perhaps fight against this sword, but if he used Han Mountain Bell to fend against the attack, then he would not be able to subjugate the rod shaped insect that was about to recover.

If he let the rod shaped insect recover its speed and clear its mind, then Su Ming would be forced into a complete defensive position in this battle. Yet if he did not give up on the rod shaped insect and took Si Ma Xin's sword slash...

Su Ming's pupils shrank and he sighed. He was just about to give up on the bizarre rod shaped insect when the light in his eyes flickered.

He saw the speed of the sword slashing down from the sky start slowing down in a peculiar manner. This decrease in speed came very suddenly, and even more strange was that the sword's sudden slowness seemed to have gone unnoticed by others. When Su Ming instinctively looked towards his surroundings, he noticed that everything in the world around him had also slowed down.

It was as if a wave of power had come to the place without a sound, and in that instant, controlled the flow of time in the place.

"This is what I created. Once your powers of Creation have reached a certain level, this sort of change will happen depending on what you've been Creating... it's somewhat similar to Space Void, but it's also different. To others, it may look like it only lasted for an instant, but in your current state, it will seem very slow.

"You have ample time to remember this one sword slash and understand the changes within this attack... Find it, then block the boy Si Ma's attack fairly and squarely."

There was a strange look on Su Ming's face as he looked at the people around him, whose actions had been slowed down by several fold. He turned his gaze towards the scarlet sword shining with a red light which was also falling down slowly.

He did not know how Tian Xie Zi had managed to do it, but he would need an incredible amount of courage to do so under the scrutiny of so many people in Freezing Sky Clan.

The warmth in Su Ming's heart grew due to his Master's kindness, and his feelings of belonging to the ninth summit increased.

However, he knew that this was not the time for him to feel moved. As he watched the scarlet sword fall slowly from the sky, his eyes gradually became empty and blank... He lifted his right hand, and with his index finger as the brush, he started drawing out the trajectory of the sword.

Chapter 239: First Appearance of Picture Creation

He drew one stroke after another. Each time Su Ming lifted his right hand and drew with his index finger, the space before him would disappear slowly layer by layer like he was tearing off layers of membranes.

He did not know how much time had passed by, but Su Ming's actions in copying the sword stroke were gradually slowing down.

Time continued passing by as he continued drawing. Su Ming did not know how many strokes he had drawn and just how many times he had copied the trajectory of the sword.

He might not know the specifics, but he knew that each time he drew, while each stroke seemed the same, but in truth, they were all different. If he drew it 1,000 times, then those 1,000 strokes were different from each other. If he drew them 10,000 times, then those 10,000 strokes would be different from each other!

Yet he still had not found the grief that spread out when Si Ma Xin swung the sword, it was as if he could not fuse that emotion with his stroke.

It only made Su Ming want to draw the principles contained within the sword stroke even more, hence he paid even more attention to the various changes in that sword slash. Yet there seemed to be no rules hidden within it, making it difficult for him to completely understand it, which would allow him to draw the sword slash with his right index finger.

He knew that it was difficult to completely understand the power behind the sword slash. That was why he did not think about trying to understand it in one go. Instead, each time he copied the sword slash, he would find something different within the attack and copy it to his new drawing.

Gradually, as time passed by, with each time Su Ming's right hand fell down, he came to slowly sense the presence of the invisible and innumerable membranes that were disappearing before him layer by layer as the scarlet sword fell.

As the membranes disappeared, Su Ming's body also came closer to the incoming scarlet sword.

Su Ming remained calm, but his empty eyes made him seem as if he had lost his soul. Perhaps more accurately speaking, it was as if his soul had gone to his right index finger. With each stroke, his soul would seep into the world to feel the strange changes contained within the sword as it fell down in the gigantic world.

Those strokes made him seem like he was drawing out the lines for a picture. The invisible membranes continued disappearing as Su Ming moved forward slowly. Every single time he took a step, he would draw many lines in the air, causing more membranes to disappear.

Yet he knew clearly that with his current abilities, he could only copy out the form of the sword slash, but not its soul. Even if he used his own soul to draw it, he could not feel its sadness, that was why his strokes had no life.

"Sadness..." Su Ming mumbled.

As his right hand drew time and again before him, he found his sadness and the sadness within Dark Mountain. Yet, there was something missing from that sadness, causing it to be unable to fuse with the stroke.

‘It’s lacking an aged feeling...’

When Su Ming came to the side of the falling scarlet sword and observed the sword in close proximity with just a few feet between them, he suddenly jolted and a hint of understanding appeared within him.

‘Among the people I met, there’s only one person who has this old and aged feeling...’

Su Ming lowered his head and his right eye was gradually stained in red until it eventually turned into the blood moon of Dark Mountain.

"Wherefore doth thou cry, o blue sky...?" he mumbled and closed his eyes.

He lifted his right index finger instinctively and drew once again. This time, he drew a diagonal stroke. If that stroke was drawn on paper, perhaps it would only form a horizontal line. However, this simple line would make people feel that it contained the power to change the world once they saw it.

But he was drawing on air. The final invisible membrane between Su Ming and the scarlet sword tore apart with a ripping sound that no ear could hear when Su Ming drew that line.

The instant it disappeared, Su Ming lifted his right hand once again and drew a stroke in the direction of the scarlet sword, in the air where all the invisible membranes between them no longer existed.

That stroke was also a horizontal line, yet while that horizontal line seemed like it was only one simple stroke, it was in truth the culmination of all the thousands upon thousands of strokes taken when Su Ming copied the trajectory of the sword.

At the instant that stroke was completed, the numerous horizontal lines he drew previously appeared by his side. No one could see the strokes that seemed like mere scribbles, only Su Ming could because he was the one who’d drawn them.

At that moment, these innumerable horizontal lines gathered before Su Ming and fell on his final stroke as if they were overlapping each other. These thousands upon thousands of strokes fell on top each other and eventually turned into the most powerful horizontal line Su Ming could draw after copying the trajectory of the sword in the air.

The moment this stroke was finished, rumbling sounds seemed to echo in the world, and the world before him shattered like a mirror. Once a layer of something seemed to

have been swept away from the world, uproars reverberated through the air and a shrill whistling sound descended from the sky.

The world had returned to normal. Time seemed to have stopped a moment before Su Ming tried to understand that sword slash, and when the world returned to normal, he found himself returning to that instant.

It was as if everything that had happened was just an illusion.

A dazed look appeared on Su Ming's face. His right hand was lifted and remained in the same position of when he'd drawn his final stroke in the strange world.

The shrill whistling sound before him was from Si Ma Xin's scarlet sword. That sword was now tumbling backwards, and with a boom, it could no longer maintain its sword form. It turned into a large amount of red light and returned to the Seven Colored Mountain behind Si Ma Xin, who was looking at him with an aghast look in his eyes and an expression full of disbelief.

Si Ma Xin's breathing quickened. All the people who were watching looked towards Su Ming, and their gazes were filled with shock along with horror.

Just now, they saw the scarlet sword slicing down towards Su Ming. Su Ming originally did not react to it, but when the sword was less than 100 feet away from him, he suddenly lifted his head, and with his right hand, he waved at the incoming scarlet sword gently.

Yet that wave made the space between him and the scarlet sword twist. Before any of them saw it clearly, rumbling sounds echoed in the air, and the scarlet sword let out a shrill whistling sound before it tumbled backwards because it could not fight against that wave, and eventually could not even maintain its sword form!

To top it off, that was the God of Berserkers Transformation Si Ma Xin had casted!

After a short moment of silence, uproars rose in the air like a constant buzzing. There was surprise and bewilderment as the people looked at Su Ming, as if they had just renewed their understanding of this unfamiliar face before them.

Si Ma Xin breathed rapidly. He might not have been injured, but during that instant when Su Ming waved his hand lightly and made his scarlet sword tumble backwards before shattering, he was stunned.

He understood the might of his God of Berserkers Transformation Art, and it was precisely because of this understanding that his heart pounded and raced against his chest while he looked at Su Ming with a face filled with disbelief.

‘Impossible! He’s not in the Bone Sacrifice Realm, how could he so easily dispel that one style I mastered...? And... And the method he used to counter it just now...’

Si Ma Xin could not believe what he saw just now, and the movements Su Ming made when he waved away the sword were also incredibly familiar to him.

During that instant, there was a subtle hint of grief that made him feel shaken.

A brilliant glint appeared in the eyes of the red robed left preceptor standing on the fourth summit. With a grave expression on his face, he took a step forward and took a careful look at Su Ming, who was standing in the battlefield in the distance.

"Creation..." the left preceptor mumbled and kept his gaze fixed on Su Ming for a long time.

Some of the older generation who rarely left their mountains on the Great Frozen Plains of Freezing Sky Clan turned their attention towards Su Ming. His final wave during the battle just now was enough to make them feel shaken.

The long haired woman sitting on the platform on the eighth summit lifted her right hand and tucked her hair behind her ear. When she lowered her hand, she drew a line before her gently. The arc she drew bore some similarities to the horizontal line Su Ming had drawn.

The similarity was not in the appearance of the lines, but the essence within those strokes. In fact, when she drew her arc, the air before her also twisted, as if she had just imitated Su Ming’s actions with ease. However, the sorrow and aged feeling was missing from her stroke.

‘What an interesting stroke... A disciple of the ninth summit, hmm...?’

The woman smiled faintly.

The dazed look on Su Ming’s face disappeared and the calm look returned. However, his heart remained in a state of shock. Yet when his mind cleared, a sharp pain spread through his entire body, causing him to turn pale and he coughed out blood before staggering a few steps back.

This pain did not come from a specific spot within him, but from his entire body. Every single inch of his flesh and bone, even his veins and organs were crying out in pain.

This pain came too suddenly, as if Su Ming had performed an action that far surpassed what his body could endure just now, and it had caused his body and his organs to show signs of weakening.

When Su Ming retreated, Han Mountain Bell had already captured the rod insect. Once it held the creature within it, Han Mountain Bell shrank and returned to the size of a small bell before it flew back to Su Ming and landed in his hand.

Buzzing sounds appeared from within the Bell, causing it to tremble in Su Ming's hand, as if the captured rod insect was struggling furiously inside.

After all, Su Ming was still not in total control over Han Mountain Bell. He might have been able to take it away, but in terms of using its power, as of now he could only use the bell's tolls and turn them into a sound wave and also use the Bell to seal things just like before.

Not too far away, when Si Ma Xin saw Su Ming coughing up blood, his expression relaxed slightly and was no longer as shocked as it was before. If Su Ming could really dispel his first Style in the God of Berserkers Transformation without suffering any form of injury, then Si Ma Xin would immediately turn away and return to the first summit to isolate himself and avoid Su Ming.

Yet when he saw Su Ming coughing up blood, Si Ma Xin's confidence returned.

He stared at Su Ming and took a deep breath. A serious expression of an intensity never seen before appeared on his face. He lifted his right hand slowly and pushed his palm up towards the sky.

"If you can fight against my final attack, then from now onwards, whenever I see you, I will immediately kneel down towards you!" Si Ma Xin said resolutely and made a slight hooking motion in the air with his fingers.

In the span of that breath, from the various tribes on the Land of South Morning, all the Berserker Seeds Si Ma Xin had planted in the people just like he'd done to Fang Mu shuddered violently and fell unconscious in different locations.

"Great Art of Heartless Berserker Seed!"

Si Ma Xin's hair floated without wind and a dim light appeared in his eyes. He spread his arms outward, causing him to look extraordinarily enchanting in midair!

Chapter 240: My Name is Bai Su

The moment Si Ma Xin spoke the words, the crowd quickly retreated once again and an even wider space was cleared for the battle.

All their gazes were no longer trained on Si Ma Xin, but on Su Ming, and their looks were all conflicted.

Su Ming rarely spoke, and it seemed to them that he was a quiet man. Yet Su Ming and Si Ma Xin's battle had made the other Freezing Sky Clan disciples from the other eight summits to remember him. Their previous disdainful comments were already gone like the wind.

Su Ming had used his actions to crush all their disdain and contempt, and all these emotions had melted into the hearts of all those who'd spoken those words.

To them, Su Ming was now an existence that could be said to be equal to Si Ma Xin. He might be slightly weaker than he was, but if he could fight against Si Ma Xin to this point and force him to use the Great Art of Heartless Berserker Seed, then it could only mean that he was an extraordinary person.

From this day onwards, Su Ming's name would sweep through the land like a typhoon, and there will be a lot of people who would remember everything that had happened.

Perhaps in the future, there will be one more person who will be known as the prodigy of Freezing Sky Clan. However, this person belonged to the ninth summit! Moreover, he was not their senior brother or junior brother. He was... their uncle master.

The fourth in seniority from the ninth summit - uncle master Su.

However, when Han Cang Zi heard Si Ma Xin's words from where she stood on the third summit, her expression instantly changed. She had a vague feeling that something was off with Si Ma Xin's words. It was as if there was something within them that made her skin crawl and her heart clench in terror.

It was as if the attack was not as simple as it seemed, but there was a danger within that could not be pinpointed!

"No... There's something wrong with this..." Han Cang Zi mumbled.

With a frown on her face, she started mulling over his words.

At the same time, Han Fei Zi was also watching from the fourth summit. However, she was different from Han Cang Zi. She did not think about what Si Ma Xin said, but was watching Su Ming. There was shock on her face.

Su Ming's strength had once again exceeded Han Fei Zi's expectations. This change made her feel that if Su Ming continued growing stronger, then the distance between them would increase.

The red robed left preceptor had a displeased look in his eyes as he stood on the fourth summit. The others might not understand the meaning behind Si Ma Xin's words, but he did.

"Preposterous!"

The old man let out a cold harrumph and swept his eyes towards the quiet ninth summit before he fell silent.

The long haired woman sitting on the big stone platform on the seventh summit was also frowning. When she looked at Si Ma Xin standing in the distance, there was disgust in her eyes.

"I read some ancient scrolls before, and one of them recorded the words left from one of the other worlds. What did it say now...?"

The woman spoke softly, and the women standing behind her immediately stood to attention. Some of them even looked excited and eager. Being able to receive pointers from their eldest senior sister was something fortunate to them.

"If you stay on your Dao¹ but have no method of solving a particular problem now, that method will eventually come to you. If you have the skills and power, but have strayed from your Dao, then you cannot use your skills, and your power will forever stay stagnant! I don't understand the 'Dao' meant by those in the other worlds, but now..."

The woman gaze went from Su Ming to Si Ma Xin, a contemplative look on her face.

Tian Xie Zi continued drinking from his gourd at the top of the ninth summit. It was as if he did not hear what had happened outside.

Su Ming's second senior brother who was still crouching down tending to his flowers at the mountainside frowned and put aside the flowers in his hands before standing up and casting his gaze into the distance.

Si Ma Xin's words were still echoing in the air above the buildings located at the center of the nine summits and under Heaven Gate. All of his mystical abilities were built with the Great Art of Heartless Berserker Seed as its basis. Even the God of Berserkers Transformation would show different changes according to the different Art practised. With Si Ma Xin, the Art was based on his Great Art of Heartless Berserker Seed.

This Art was created by the second God of Berserkers and contained immeasurable power. Legends said that the second God of Berserkers used this Art to enslave those from the other worlds, this way obtaining the right to become the God of Berserkers. He might not have reached the height of power of the first God of Berserkers, but he was still powerful enough to make clouds tumble with just a shout.

Si Ma Xin used a lot of time and effort in practicing this Art. Just the act of searching for Berserker Seeds alone had used up a lot of time and energy on his side. Unless he absolutely had to, he did not want to activate this ability to fight against his enemies.

Because once he used this ability, all the Berserker Children that had been planted with the Berserker Seed would fall into a certain state, just like Fang Mu had previously done, and die.

This was something Si Ma Xin found hard to accept. It would make all the progress he had with the Great Art of Heartless Berserker Seed come to a halt, and he would have to find enough Berserker Children before he could begin practicing the Art again.

Yet now, Si Ma Xin casted this Art against Su Ming without much hesitation. This was not a moment of recklessness, but a choice after a long period of careful thought!

He would rather sacrifice all his Berserker Children to obtain a new one... This new Berserker Son... was Su Ming!

Su Ming's growth speed, his frightening potential, and his action in dispelling his God of Berserkers Transformation not only made Si Ma Xin shocked and aghast, it also sprouted a sinister thought in his heart.

The idea was to plant a Berserker Seed in Su Ming's body and turn him into his Berserker Seed!

'If I can turn him into my Berserker Seed, then with his growth speed and his potential, it'll be worth it for me to sacrifice all my other Berserker Children!

'After all, while good Berserker Children are difficult to find, people like Su Ming are even rarer. Now that I've found one, I won't be satisfied with letting him go!'

A light flickered in Si Ma Xin's eyes, and when he looked towards Su Ming, there was a strange look hidden deep within his eyes.

When he declared that if Su Ming could receive his subsequent and final attack, then he would bow down towards him in the future, those words were actually something out of character for him.

If there was no underlying meaning behind his words, he would not do something so stupid. That sentence was the same as forcing himself into a corner. He had to win, or else the consequences would be unbearable for him.

In truth, the words he said were a suggestion required for the Art and for him to plant the Berserker Seed. It could even be said to be a hook.

He would bury the words in Su Ming's heart and make it a hook. The more Su Ming placed his attention on it, the more weight those words would carry. Then with those words as a hook, he could form a strange connection with Su Ming. While that connection may not have physical form and would be something imaginary, this sort of hook was the connecting line that was particularly important in practicing the Great Art of Heartless Berserker Seed.

By using the outcome of the battle as a hook, burying the words in Su Ming's heart, then gathering them into a Seed within him as a premise, then if Si Ma Xin won this battle, the Seed would slowly grow into a real Berserker Seed in its unique way within Su Ming.

Even if he lost, then when he saw Su Ming and had to kneel down before him, the surges of emotion Su Ming would feel no matter how small they may be when he saw this action would nourish the Berserker Seed and allow it to grow.

This was the mysterious and domineering quality of the Great Art of Heartless Berserker Seed, the Art that few people had understood over the countless years that had passed. As long as the targets had a slight opening in their minds, then this Art could rip apart that opening and enter. The casters would not take their targets' spirits, but could use them and their power for themselves.

This mystical ability was simply too tyrannical. If the caster did not completely understand the Art, then the rate of success would be low. Unless they could use their power to suppress their target's and forcefully plant the Seed within them, then they would need luck.

If Si Ma Xin won, then he would have complete ownership over this powerful Berserker Son. If he lost, he could still slowly make Su Ming turn into his Berserker Son. To Si Ma Xin, the only thing he would lose was a bit of his reputation. This was something he could bear.

Right now, he was floating in midair. As he spread out his arms, the presence coming from within him increased at a shocking speed. It even gave others the feeling that he had reached the Bone Sacrifice Realm.

Su Ming frowned. He had already heard Si Ma Xin's words. There was something he couldn't describe within them. It was as if the words had crawled into his heart and were echoing endlessly within him.

At that moment, an anxious voice suddenly traveled out from the third summit.

"Su Ming, don't fight him! He wants to plant..."

That voice belonged to Han Cang Zi, yet she could only speak further. With a cold harrumph from Si Ma Xin, her words were immediately cut off.

Nonetheless, even though she did not manage to finish speaking, this battle was bound to not be able to continue, because right after Si Ma Xin let out that sound, the left preceptor's dark and sullen voice traveled out from the fourth summit and reverberated through Freezing Sky Clan.

"The school forbids in-fighting! Do you two not know the rules?!"

That voice was not loud, but there was an intimidating power to it. When it fell into everyone's ears, each word was like a roar of thunder that grew increasingly louder by the word until it eventually turned into countless echoes that sounded as if there were tens of thousands of people growling at the same time. It shook the world and caused the weather to change, the clouds to tumble back, and even the ice on the ground to shudder.

Si Ma Xin trembled. He felt as if there was thunder roaring right beside his ears. The presence rising within him was cut off, and he staggered three steps back and blood flowed down the corner of his lips.

Su Ming was the same. His ears rang, and his face instantly grew pale. He staggered five steps back, and as blood flowed from his mouth, a light bell toll came from Han Mountain Bell hiding within his body.

"Si Ma Xin, Su Ming is your senior. He has full right to block your Seven Colored Mountain. You are the one at fault! You are punished to three months of isolation and you are not allowed to leave the first summit during that time. Now go!"

Si Ma Xin's expression changed and he eventually lowered his head to bow towards the fourth summit. Then with a dark look on his face, he put away the Seven Colored Mountain and looked at the girl who was still watching and gave her a nod before he flew back towards the first summit.

"As for the rest of you, leave!"

The left preceptor's voice rang loud and the people gathered instantly bowed towards the fourth summit respectfully before they turned to Su Ming. Some of them even wrapped their fists in their palms and saluted him with smiles on their faces before they quickly left, allowing some semblance of normalcy to return to the place.

As for the girl who looked exactly like Bai Ling but was not Bai Ling, she hesitated for a moment before looking at Su Ming. There was still hostility in her eyes, but this was the first time she spoke to Su Ming.

"You asked for my name previously. This isn't some secret to begin with, you'll know eventually, since you're a disciple in Freezing Sky Clan. My name is Bai Su. I hope that you can return to big brother Si Ma what belongs to him. Taking what belongs to others will only make others despise you!"

Chapter 241: Chen Xiang

Su Ming was about to turn around and walk towards Hu Zi when he paused for a moment, but it was just for a moment. He did not even turn his head back before coming down to the ground towards the snoring Hu Zi.

When Bai Su saw Su Ming turn a deaf ear towards her, she frowned and came to despise him. She turned around and went in the direction Si Ma Xin had left. Her movements were elegant, and when she turned around and left, her body moved in the wind in a manner overflowing with wild beauty.

Even now, Su Ming did not turn his head back to look at Bai Su. This girl was no different from anyone else to him. The only thing special about her was her face that was incredibly similar to Bai Ling's, which caused the wave of emotions in him previously.

Yet now, that wave had returned to stillness.

There was still some uncertainty in his heart, but it was not about Bai Su—it was the attitude of the fourth summit's left preceptor. The words he uttered just now clearly held the implications of him somewhat siding with Su Ming.

'I'm not close with the left preceptor, so why did he do that...?'

Su Ming's eyes sparkled and his Master, Tian Xie Zi, appeared in his mind.

Hu Zi was still snoring on the ground and there was quite a large amount of drool that had flowed out of his mouth. There was even a silly grin on his face, as if he was having the time of his life in his dream. Zi Che stood by his side respectfully, and once Su Ming got closer, he immediately wrapped his fist in his palm and bowed to him.

"Greetings, uncle master Su."

His respect did not seem faked but came from within his heart. Once he saw Su Ming's battle against Si Ma Xin, he felt fortunate that he had run into Su Ming's second senior when he went to try and attack him.

Zi Che had no confidence that he could win against Su Ming at all if he had fought against him and come face to face with all the mystical abilities he just saw.

'He could actually force Si Ma Xin to use the Great Art of Heartless Berserker Seed... This Su Ming will definitely be an extraordinary presence in Freezing Sky Clan in the future!'

Zi Che was certain of this. When he remembered the killing intent he felt on Su Ming's body and the calm tone he used when he was in Hu Zi's cave abode, that respect turned into reverence.

Su Ming nodded his head. The moment his feet touched the ground, He Feng charged back from the sky, looking rather roughed up. When Si Ma Xin left, the soul of the ice wolf also left with him. At that moment, as He Feng came back to Su Ming, his body was trembling slightly, but there was an even deeper reverence within his eyes compared to Zi Che's when he looked at Su Ming.

He could be said to have watched Su Ming arrive at this state since he was still weak. The person before him now was completely different from the Su Ming in the past. It was precisely because he had witnessed his growth that his respect towards Su Ming was much stronger and deeper compared to the others.

He knew that Su Ming was not a foolishly kind person. His actions could be vicious, and if anyone offended him, he would definitely take revenge.

"Master..." He Feng bowed deeply towards Su Ming with an ashamed look on his face. "Master, my power could not compare to the wolf spirit's, but don't worry, I'll definitely train hard and become your right hand in the future! I definitely won't let you down."

He Feng lifted his head and patted his chest as he made his promise.

"You should come back now."

Su Ming cast He Feng a look before lifting his right hand and clenching his fist towards the sky. Both Spirit Plunder and Han Mountain Bell charged back instantly and spun around Su Ming a few times before he put Spirit Plunder back into his storage bag while Han Mountain Bell fused into his body and disappeared from sight.

He Feng too quickly disappeared. Only when they were all gone did Su Ming turn around and look towards the goal of his trip this time - the Artifact Storage Hall behind him.

At that moment, standing outside the Artifact Storage Hall was the man whom Hu Zi called a woman disguising herself as a man by pointing and practically shouting at him. When she saw Su Ming looking over, there was a great difference in her expression compared to when she looked at him before Si Ma Xin's return.

Her expression before had been filled with disgust and resignation, and if she could, she would have avoided them like the plague. Since she disliked Hu Zi, all those who came with him were also hated.

Yet now, there was respect on her face. When Su Ming's gaze fell on her, she immediately took a few steps forward and bowed deeply towards him with her fist wrapped in her palm.

"I am Chen Xiang. Greetings, uncle master Su."

Chen Xiang was actually very beautiful and looked as pretty as a picture. However, under careful disguise, Chen Xiang's skin was rather dark, which made it seem like a pearl that had its shine hidden away, causing others to be unable to tell whether Chen Xiang was a man or a woman at first glance.

She was also wearing a loose robe that hid the lines of her body. If Hu Zi had not mentioned that this person was actually a woman pretending to be a man, Su Ming would not have been able to find any clues about it. Yet when his gaze fell upon this person, he gradually saw some hints.

However, he did not stare for a long time. He averted his gaze very soon.

"I'd like to enter the Artifact Storage Hall and choose some papers. I hope you'll allow me to do so."

Su Ming did not put on the airs of an uncle master as he spoke unhurriedly towards the other person.

Chen Xiang quickly nodded and took a few steps back to open the path with a respectful look.

"Uncle master Su, this way, please. I usually manage the Artifact Storage Hall. Please wait inside for a moment. I'll bring the papers you need now."

Under Chen Xiang's guidance, Su Ming walked into the Artifact Storage Hall. As for Zi Che, he remained outside taking care of the snoring Hu Zi. Without Su Ming's permission, he did not dare follow behind him.

Perhaps before Su Ming fought against Si Ma Xin, Zi Che would have still done so, but it would not have been a matter of whether he dared or dared not follow Su Ming. Yet now, when he witnessed the might of Su Ming's power, Zi Che had a sudden change of impression towards the ninth summit.

In his eyes, all the people in that summit were weird, but even if they were weird, everyone besides Hu Zi should be powerful Berserkers. That gentle man who loved flowers was so, Su Ming, whose killing intent was revealed just now, was also a

powerful Berserker. There was also their eldest senior fellow disciple, the person who was in constant isolation. By Zi Che's assumptions, this person should be an even more powerful existence!

'This is the true ninth summit. The other rumors are all fake... Only when you've entered the ninth summit will you be able to understand the terrors of the oddities staying there...'

Zi Che sucked in a deep breath. He had a feeling that perhaps entering the ninth summit this way might not actually be something bad for him. It might even be a sort of chance for him.

While he was immersed in his thoughts, Hu Zi's rhythmic snores fell into his ears. That sound might not seem loud in broad daylight, but in the quiet night, if anyone heard that sound in the forest, they would definitely think it was some big insect or a ferocious beast and their expressions would definitely change to that of fear.

Those snores were like roars that sounded like rumbles when it fell into a person's ears.

Zi Che turned his head around and cast Hu Zi a look, and curiosity gradually appeared in his eyes.

'This person is most likely not someone mediocre as well...'

He remembered how this man had grabbed his hands when he was in his cave abode and forced him into deep slumber. The things that had happened in his dreams made his face gradually turn pale.

'Entering Dreams... if he could bring any person into his dream anytime he wanted, then his power would be terrifying! They're monsters! All the people in the ninth summit are monsters!'

The more Zi Che thought about it, the more shocked he was, yet similarly, the more shocked he was, the more tempted he became!

Su Ming sat in one of the chairs in the Artifact Storage Hall. There was an oil lamp on the table by his side. It might still be bright outside, but the light from the fire still let out a light that spread to its surroundings.

The Artifact Storage Hall was not very big, but it was not small either. There were rows upon rows of shelves stocked with all sorts of things. Some of them looked slightly broken and worn down, while others still looked new.

He could see Chen Xiang's body occasionally flitting through the shelves. She was walking through them briskly and picking out different types of papers from the shelves. After a moment, she brought the papers before Su Ming and placed them respectfully

on the table, then took a few steps back and whispered with his head lowered, "Uncle master Su, the items in the Artifact Storage Hall are not complete. We only have these types of papers here. Please take a look to see which on you want, and I'll bring more of it for you.

"These papers are used by the disciples from the other summits for recording purposes. If you think it's not enough, we still have bamboo slips in store."

As Chen Xiang spoke, she started sizing up Su Ming from the corners of her eyes.

Su Ming nodded his head and looked at the papers on the table. Most of them were rough and dark brown in color. Some of them were even of a quality worse than beast skins.

When Chen Xiang saw a light crease appear between Su Ming's brows, she quickly said, "Um... uncle master Su, we only have these here. You could take a look around and see whether you can find anything to replace these papers."

Su Ming got up when he heard the words and walked towards the shelves. Before he walked too far away, he suddenly stopped and pointed towards an item at his side as he looked at Chen Xiang.

"How many of these do you have?"

Chen Xiang followed behind Su Ming and immediately turned towards where he was pointing. She saw a white wooden block about the length of an arm and the breadth of a palm on the shelf.

Its color was so white that it seemed spotlessly clean.

"This is Solid White Wood. This sort of wood doesn't exist around Freezing Sky Clan. It's rumored that it's only produced in a place hundreds of thousands of li to the east of Freezing Sky Clan. Since the color is nice, it's usually used to make chairs... I have some of this wood here."

While speaking, Chen Xiang quickly took a few steps forward and brought out several wooden blocks of the same type.

"Uncle master Su, these are the only ones we have."

"Thank you. That will be enough."

Su Ming smiled faintly and took the white pieces of wood. With a flick of his right wrist, these wooden blocks instantly disappeared and were put away into his storage bag.

"About the price for these wooden blocks..."

Su Ming looked at Chen Xiang and found himself not knowing what to say.

"Uncle master Su, you're being too distant. You just arrived in Freezing Sky Clan. These things aren't really expensive, so I can still make the decision on how to deal with them. You can just take them away."

Chen Xiang quickly waved the question away and smiled. In Su Ming's eyes, that smile now revealed hints that Chen Xiang was truly a woman pretending to be a man.

However, he believed that Hu Zi was not the first to see through this. Everyone had their own secrets and stories they did not want to tell others. There must be a reason as to why Chen Xiang always dressed up this way in Freezing Sky Clan.

"Thank you."

Su Ming did not reject the offer and nodded towards Chen Xiang.

"Oh, that's right. Uncle master Su, you must be thinking about making your own wooden slips from that Solid White Wood. If that's the case, you'll need some special string..."

As Chen Xiang spoke, she brought out a white reel of thread and gave it to Su Ming.

"When I was looking for the other Solid White Wood, I saw this. It has been lying around the hall for many years. I heard that it's the tendon from a ferocious beast and is very sturdy. It'll definitely be able to connect the wooden slips together."

Su Ming did not take it. Instead, he looked at Chen Xiang with the ghost of a smile on his lips. If this person had decided to give him the wooden blocks, he could still marginally think of it as Chen Xiang trying to express goodwill to him. Yet if she wanted to give him the beast's tendon, then this was definitely not something as simple as trying to get into his good graces. After all, Su Ming did not really fit into the description of an uncle master.

When Chen Xiang saw that expression on Su Ming's face, an awkward look appeared on her face. After a moment of hesitation, she gritted her teeth and bowed deeply towards Su Ming.

"Uncle master Su, please help me..."

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Chapter 242: Chen Xiang's Request...

Su Ming did not speak immediately but stood in the hall and stared at Chen Xiang. There was a sharp glint in his eyes, and when Chen Xiang saw that glint, she felt as if she had been seen through and her darkest secrets were revealed.

Chen Xiang shuddered and lowered her head because she did not dare look into his eyes. She took a few steps back once again.

"Speak. I'll consider it," Su Ming said calmly, his words unhurried.

"If... if you're willing to help me, uncle master Su, then it'll definitely work..."

Chen Xiang bit her bottom lip. Her current look made her unconsciously reveal more of her feminine characteristics.

"Uncle master Su, please help me... make uncle master Sun Da Hu stop sneaking outside my room at midnight... to peak... I really can't get used to it..." Chen Xiang whispered, finally managing to speak of her request in a more tactful manner. Once she finished speaking, she bent her body and bowed towards Su Ming.

"Uncle master Su, please help me..."

Su Ming's expression instantly turned strange. He had thought of a lot of possibilities, but he absolutely did not expect Chen Xiang to give him the wooden blocks and tendons for this.

From this alone, it could be seen just how much trauma Hu Zi had left in the hearts of the people.

When he recalled what had happened when Hu Zi brought him here from the ninth summit up to the point he fell asleep, Su Ming could not help but laugh wryly.

Su Ming hesitated for a moment before he spoke his thoughts, "I'll try my best to persuade him from it, but I can't promise you success."

He too would not like someone crouching around him at night watching his every move. When he remembered the strange smile on Hu Zi's face when he was peaking at his second senior brother, it was not difficult for Su Ming to think of that smile on Hu Zi's face while he was peaking at other people as well.

He cast a pitying glance at Chen Xiang. When she heard Su Ming's words, gratitude instantly appeared on her face. That gratitude was not a show but came from within the depths of her heart, which just went to show just how deeply affected she was by Hu Zi's harassment.

Removing uncle master Hu Zi, whose presence was really just like that of a nightmare at night to her, was the most important thing to Chen Xiang at the moment.

Amidst her gratitude and respect, Su Ming walked out of the Artifact Storage Hall. Chen Xiang followed behind him and gave a deep bow towards Su Ming. The eager look in her eyes made Su Ming instinctively look towards the snoring Hu Zi behind Zi Che, who were both located not too far away from him.

"I'll try my best."

Su Ming nodded at Chen Xiang and walked towards Hu Zi. Once he had him in his arms, he took a step into the air and turned into a long arc that charged back to the ninth summit.

Zi Che quickly followed behind him and looked at Su Ming's back before him. Resolution appeared in his eyes.

With Su Ming in front and Zi Che following behind him, the two of them soon arrived at the ninth summit from the buildings underneath Heaven Gate. On the way, Su Ming ran into some Freezing Sky Clan disciples. Once these people saw him, those who recognized him would immediately stop and wrap their fists in their palms to greet him. They only started moving again when Su Ming left.

The people who called him 'uncle master Su' were not many, but it was way different compared to how he had been treated previously.

If there were some who did not understand what was happening while they stood beside those who did, they would quickly ask in low whispers. Once they obtained the answer, disbelief would appear on their faces, and their gazes that followed Su Ming would become different.

After a moment, when the ninth summit appeared before Su Ming's eyes, he and Zi Che quickly arrived to Hu Zi's cave abode. Su Ming landed outside and brought Hu Zi inside before placing him down on the spot he usually slept.

As he looked at the loudly snoring Hu Zi, a smile appeared on Su Ming's face. He grabbed a wine gourd by the side and placed it where Hu Zi could reach it before turning around and leaving.

Zi Che was standing respectfully outside the cave. When he saw Su Ming coming out, he immediately lowered his head, looking as if he was waiting for his orders.

"I originally wanted to turn you into medicinal liquid."

Su Ming's gaze fell upon Zi Che.

Zi Che was silent. There was an awkward look on his face, and he kept silent with his head lowered.

"But if you can get me two people who are nearly dead, then I'll get rid of that thought," Su Ming stated calmly.

He had already made his decision. The most important thing for him to do while he was in Freezing Sky Clan's ninth summit was to train.

He must make himself stronger. Only by doing so could he win against Si Ma Xin in the short run, and in the long run, walk out of Sky Mist Barrier and out of the Land of South Morning.

All of these required him to be powerful!

The battle with Si Ma Xin may have made them seem as if they were equals, but Su Ming knew that he had lost during that battle. If his Master had not intervened and given him enough time to copy the power of the world contained within the sword stroke, he would have definitely lost when that sword struck down.

Even with Tian Xie Zi's help, Su Ming still felt a strong sense of danger looming over his head when Si Ma Xin casted the Great Art of Heartless Berserker Seed, and that danger was not something he could dissolve with his current power!

Even if he still had one treasure left, not having brought out the fire ice his eldest senior brother had given him, that thing was still considered an external object and did not come from within him.

All these made Su Ming clearly understand that his power was still very weak... In his current state, he would not even be able to leave Sky Mist Barrier, much less go back home. He would not even be able to have an easy time in Freezing Sky Clan.

These thoughts had been circulating in Su Ming's mind all the way back.

"Uncle master Su, it won't be difficult to obtain people who are nearly dead. I promise you, within three years, I'll definitely be able to obtain two living corpses with incredible power for you.

"The Shamans outside Sky Mist Barrier are the best choice," Zi Che quickly said with a respectful tone.

While Zi Che was speaking, Su Ming had already walked into the distance with his back towards him, as if he did not hear the other's voice. As he continued walking forward, it made Zi Che anxious and worried. When Su Ming was about to disappear from his sight, the man's slow voice reached his ears.

"I'm lacking a person guarding my cave abode at night. If you want to, then come with me."

Zi Che felt his spirits lift and immediately shouted loudly, "I want to!"

He was already moving when the words left his mouth and immediately followed behind Su Ming. They disappeared from Hu Zi's place.

Su Ming returned to his cave abode. The simple cave now looked different in his eyes. There was now a slight hint of warmth there, and even a feeling of home.

The platform outside the cave was covered with plants that could grow in ice and snow. However, there was a small spot on the platform that was left empty. That was the spot Su Ming had asked his second senior brother to leave empty for him to meditate.

The green grass swayed in the freezing wind, as if struggling to survive in this biting cold environment. There was a resilient life force within it, and when he looked at it, Su Ming had a vague feeling that he was looking at his second senior brother.

He suddenly understood why his second senior brother planted so many plants in most of the areas in the ninth summit. It was because he treated the mountain as his home, and his presence was just like the plants in the mountain. As long as there was a spot where his plants grew, that place would be labeled as his protected area.

Take for example this place. There were no plants here before he came here, but once Su Ming built his cave abode, his second senior brother dropped by with his plants and covered the place with them.

A silent heartwarming feeling seeped into Su Ming's heart as the plants and flowers swayed in the wind. He crouched down and looked at them with a smile on his face. This was a warmth he rarely felt after he arrived in the Land of South Morning.

The smile on his face was a reflection of the warmth he felt when he was in Dark Mountain. It had always been kept hidden in Su Ming's heart, but now, it appeared once again on his lips.

Zi Che stood not too far respectfully as he kept an eye on Su Ming. When he saw that smile on his face, he was baffled. It was as if the person before him was no longer the person he respected, the one who had enough power to fight against Si Ma Xin, and the uncle master Su who was filled with a murderous aura, but instead a young man who had just reached adulthood and was still a little wet behind the ears.

Yet that bafflement only lasted for an instant. When Su Ming stood up, that smile was gone, and the feeling Zi Che had which might have been just his misconception immediately vanished.

The young man who had just become an adult was gone. In his place was the usual uncle master Su who had a murderous aura beneath his calm demeanor.

"Without my orders, do not enter the cave abode. Stay outside and wait for my orders."

Su Ming's cold voice fell into Zi Che's ears as he walked towards his cave abode, which was still lacking a door.

"Aye!"

Zi Che immediately obeyed respectfully. He took a few steps back and retreated to a spot that had no wind before sitting down. A look of uncertainty and confusion appeared in his eyes for a moment before it was quickly replaced by resolution.

'Three years... Perhaps these three years won't be a disaster for me, but a form of serendipity... Let's hope that's the case...'

Zi Che closed his eyes and sank into a meditative state. Nonetheless, his mind remained alert of his surroundings. Just like a guard, he performed his duties.

Su Ming was also sitting inside his cave abode. The sky was gradually darkening outside. He slowly brought out the pieces of Solid White Wood he had obtained from the Artifact Storage Hall and placed them in front of himself before also bringing out the beast tendon.

The tendon had extremely great ductility. Even if he held only a small section of the tendon in his hand, he could still make it stretch out to incredible lengths.

The pieces of Solid White Wood were not cut in the same length and size. Some of them were longer while some shorter. Some of them were about three fingers tall, and some at only the height of two fingers. Su Ming stared at those wooden pieces, and after remaining silent for a moment, he quickly lifted both of his hands and grabbed a piece of wood. With a flick of his wrist, many wooden scraps flew into the air. After a moment, he placed the piece of wood down and picked up another one.

After a long while, once Su Ming had trimmed all of the wooden pieces, nine wooden pieces lay before him. All of these blocks were about the length of his arm, the breadth of five fingers, and the height of two fingers. They all looked the same and were all white. With just one glance, it was difficult to determine whether they were wood or white jade.

Once Su Ming placed the nine pieces of wood together, a big drawing board appeared before him. There may have been very fine cracks between the wooden pieces, but if he used force and pressed against them, he could cover them up.

Su Ming then brought out the beast tendon and green light shone at the center of his brows. The small sword flew towards the beast tendon and cut it up into several sections which he used to tie up the wooden pieces on his drawing board. Due to the ductility and flexibility of the tendon, the cracks on the drawing board disappeared, but if he used force to roll up this drawing board like he would do a piece of beast skin, then it would turn into a cylinder under that force.

Chapter 243: The Strange Rod Insect

Su Ming looked at the drawing board he had created, then lifted his right hand and gently stroked its surface. The drawing board was smooth, and he could not feel even a hint of roughness on it.

"You'll be helping me understand the laws of Creation in the world from now on..." Su Ming mumbled and slowly closed his eyes.

The world outside was already dark. As the chilling wind moaned in the air, it landed on the ninth summit and swept past the platform outside Su Ming's cave. Some of the wind even entered his cave and lifted his long hair.

Su Ming had his eyes closed. He was not trying to reach any sort of epiphany, neither was he immersing himself in his training. His mind was blank. However, a girl gradually appeared in his empty mind.

The girl had a beautiful laughter and her eyes twinkled, causing the others to be attracted by her charm when they saw her. As the girl's body gradually grew clearer, a wild beauty could be seen on her.

She was like a flower refusing to be restrained and obstinately growing in a forest while giving out a natural and incredibly attractive fragrance.

She was dressed in white robes, and she was looking at Su Ming with a smile.

"Bai Ling... Bai Su..." he mumbled. With his eyes closed, he lifted his right hand and started drawing on the recently formed white drawing board with his finger as his brush.

With each stroke, an illusionary line would appear on the drawing board. That illusionary line would seem formless to others and they would not be able to see it, as if there was no line to begin with. Since there was no brush and his fingers were only sweeping by the board, it seemed as if there were no signs left behind.

Yet because Su Ming was using his heart to draw, he could see exactly what he was drawing every time his finger passed by the board. Perhaps more accurately speaking, he was drawing out what he saw in his mind. He was drawing out a feeling, an aura, and it was something that the naked eye could not see.

Time passed by gradually. The whistling sounds from the chilling wind became stronger during the night, but the cave remained silent. The only sound inside was of Su Ming sweeping his finger repeatedly on the drawing board. However, that sound was too weak in the face of the wind and could not be heard.

A night passed by. When the sun peaked out from the horizon, Su Ming's right hand stopped moving on the drawing board and he opened his eyes.

He looked at the drawing board. To others, this drawing board would be no different from how it was before the previous night. It was still empty. Yet in Su Ming's eyes, there was a girl on the drawing board.

The girl was dressed in white and she had a beautiful smile on her face. She looked alive, but she had no eyes.

Su Ming remained silent for a moment before he lifted his right hand and drew a few strokes where the girl's eyes should be. Immediately, the girl on the drawing board had eyes. There was an attractive sparkle in those eyes, yet within that sparkle was disgust, causing her entire demeanor to change, making it seem as if she was questioning Su Ming.

"She... is Bai Su," Su Ming whispered to himself softly.

There was a serenity within his eyes that remained still and did not seem like it could be disturbed. He looked at the girl on the drawing board for a long time before he tapped the drawing board with his right hand.

The drawing board immediately started trembling, and a thin layer of wood powder broke off from the surface of the board and jumped up. It looked like a veil that was lifted up, and that veil was the white figure he had drawn on the board.

As the powder sprung up like a veil that was lifted, the cold wind from outside came into the cave and raised the powder. It blew past Su Ming's body and scattered away.

When the powder disappeared, the drawing board returned to a blank slate once again in Su Ming's eyes. There were no longer any hints of the girl.

It was just like Su Ming's heart. After a night of drawing with a calm mind, the slight shock brought by the similar face was gone like the wind. The shock would never be able to affect his heart.

It was bright outside by then. Sunlight shone into the cave through the entrance like it was trying to consume darkness. The light stopped three feet before Su Ming. He could see sunlight shining down and illuminating the outlines of the cave, making it seem like a ring in the area three feet away from him. Yet the spot where he sat was still in darkness.

In his silence, Su Ming placed the drawing board on the ground. A glint appeared in his eyes and he brought out Han Mountain Bell. Once the Bell appeared, banging sounds immediately came from within. It was clear that the rod like insect was still struggling inside and trying to break free.

Su Ming looked at the Bell and a chilling glare appeared in his eyes. When he fought against Si Ma Xin, besides understanding the power of the world from that one sword strike, he also obtained another thing - the insect within Han Mountain Bell.

To him, this creature looked like a strange type of insect, but Si Ma Xin had said that this was a snake. Su Ming did not have time to think about it at that time, but now that he was in a relaxed and calm state, he lifted his right hand and flicked the shrunken Han Mountain Bell before him.

The moment he flicked it, bell chimes echoed in the air, but these bell chimes did not spread out. They simply echoed within the bell and lasted for a long period of time. Faint, shrill shrieks could be heard from within the Bell, but as the bell continued ringing and shaking, the insect's struggles quickly grew weaker, though it still continued crashing against the Bell.

Su Ming waited for the time it takes to burn another incense stick. When the insect inside the Bell could no longer struggle and only let out incredibly weak and faint cries, Su Ming pointed at Han Mountain Bell with a finger. The Bell instantly started growing. Once it was about the size of ten feet, a glint appeared in Su Ming's eyes and he made a strange sign with his right hand, albeit with jerky movements.

This was one of the few methods to control the Bell which appeared in his head after he took the Bell as his own. Once he made that strange sign, Su Ming swiftly pushed his right hand forward.

Han Mountain Bell immediately jolted. Gradually, ripples appeared on its surface, and the Bell became transparent, allowing Su Ming to clearly see the small rod like insect sealed inside. Its body was bent like a drawn out bow, as if it could explode with a shocking force at any moment it wanted.

There were no signs of it being injured on its body. There was also a ghastly, chilling glint in its eyes, as if it was waiting for a chance.

It would have been fine if that was all, but Su Ming saw with his own eyes the insect letting out weak cries from its mouth even though it was full of vigor and just waiting for a chance to attack while looking forth with a fierce glare in its eyes.

'What a smart insect!'

Su Ming's eyes sparkled. The intelligence possessed by the strange insect made him sneer coldly. He immediately flicked the Bell a few times with his right hand, causing the rumbling sounds to reverberate inside the Bell, forming a large amount of sound waves to spread.

The insect's face immediately twisted, but it endured all the attacks. The rhythmic cries eventually turned silent. If someone used sounds to determine whether the insect was still alive or dead, then he or she would most probably think that the insect was almost a goner.

Yet Su Ming clearly saw that the insect was still bending its body in a stance, ready to attack at anytime, even though it was trembling lightly. The glare that showed its cruelty and bloodlust had not diminished one bit, but instead became even stronger in the midst of its pain.

This sight moved Su Ming.

"How in the world did Si Ma Xin make this creature submit to him?!" he mumbled. The ferociousness within the creature was a clear sign that it was a gargantuan task to try and subjugate it.

"I'd like to see just what are the limits of this insect!"

Su Ming's eyes turned cold. He lifted his right hand, but he did not flick the Bell this time. Instead, he slammed his palm against Han Mountain Bell.

The moment his palm struck, the rumbling sounds inside reached their maximum volume. The loud sounds may have sounded weak outside the Bell, but they were powerful and fierce inside, and those sounds turned into an insane force.

The insect immediately trembled viciously. Its bent body seemed to be unable to withstand the force and it gradually grew lax until it eventually completely unfurled, though it was still letting out shrill shrieks.

As it continued shrieking, cracks seemed to appear on its body, and a milky white liquid flowed out of its body like blood. Its expression immediately grew dejected and its wings too fell to its sides, but the vicious look in its eyes did not diminish even the slightest. The viciousness had grown even stronger until it even looked like madness.

The cruelty in its eyes became even stronger, and it looked like if it found a chance and escaped, it would rain down maddening vengeance on the person who made it suffer so much.

Su Ming's expression remained passive as he lifted his right hand and slammed it against Han Mountain Bell once again. The volume of the rumbling sounds inside increased to a new height. Under these bell tolls, the insect's wings were instantly torn apart and broke into two pieces. The insect trembled and looked as if it was about to break down. Lots of blood flowed out and the creature lay within the Bell like a lump of mud. It did not have a hint of strength left, as if its life was about to end.

Yet Su Ming did not see a hint of surrender in its eyes, neither did he see despair. He only saw that burning ferociousness that almost swore that as long as life had not ended, it would never fade away!

Su Ming lifted his right hand for the third time. He knew that if he struck the Bell this time, the insect would immediately die! After all, the insect excelled in speed and that piercing ability that shocked Su Ming, not in this type of endurance.

After remaining silent for a moment, Su Ming slowly lowered his right hand. He looked at the small insect in Han Mountain Bell. Not only did he see ferociousness and tenaciousness within the insect's eyes, but he also saw its loyalty towards its master, Si Ma Xin.

The reason why he could see the loyalty hidden underneath that cruelty in the insect's eyes was because Su Ming had once seen the same look in his fire ape's, Xiao Hong's, eyes.

'Xiao Hong...'

Su Ming could not help but remember the little monkey.

He closed his eyes and only opened them after a long while. Calmness returned once again to his eyes, and as he looked at Han Mountain Bell, he suddenly said something in the Bell's direction, "You're intelligent, so you must surely understand my words... Since you're so loyal to Si Ma Xin, why don't we conduct an experiment?"

"Let's see just how important you are to Si Ma Xin!"

When the insect heard Su Ming's words, it lifted its head in one swift motion, but it could not see Su Ming. It could only see the endless haziness that surrounded it.

"I'm curious what Si Ma Xin would do for you and what he would choose..." Su Ming stated in a dull tone. He lifted his right hand suddenly and tapped the center of his brows with a finger.

At the same time, a large amount of stone coins flew up on their own from Su Ming's storage bag and floated to midair. Once they surrounded Su Ming, the Branding Power erupted from within him!

Chapter 244: Using Love as the Seed!

The insect's unyielding spirit, cruelty, loyalty, and willingness to die made Su Ming understand that he could not turn that insect into his own pet unless he wasted a long amount of time, perhaps years or even longer. He would not be able to use Han Mountain Bell in that time, only keeping the creature trapped within it to break down its divine sense until he could eventually turn it into his own pet.

However, Su Ming did not have the time for this, neither could he waste so much effort for it.

Yet if he killed it just like that, Su Ming found it to be quite a waste. The insect's speed and piercing power left a deep impression on him. If he could make it his own, then without a doubt, it would become an incredibly powerful weapon in his hands.

Since he found it a waste and did not have time to slowly bring it to his side, there was only one last method for Su Ming to use. He would have to forcefully leave his Brand on its mind. He might end up destroying the insect's intelligence, but once it had his Brand, it could be used immediately.

Even if there was a possibility of the insect betraying him, it was still far better than killing it or not being able to use it.

However, Su Ming had only left a Brand on someone else's mind once, and that was on He Feng. Besides, He Feng was the one who had taught him how to use this Art. In theory, he could use the Brand on the insect.

Nonetheless, in truth, Su Ming did not have much confidence in this. However, he had been practicing this Branding Art for quite some time. From what he understood, if the other party did not resist, then it would be easy for him to leave the Brand, but if the other party started resisting, then the chances of failure would increase exponentially. If he wanted to search for the chances to increase his success whilst the other party was resisting, then he would have to find its weakness, just like how he would if he was fighting against it!

Once he found its weakness, then Su Ming could use his Branding Art and enter its mind as it was weakened and leave his Brand deep within it.

It would be easier to find this weakness if the other party was a human, but with this strange insect that was about the size a finger's segment, things would not be so easy.

Fortunately, Su Ming had noticed the insect's loyalty to Si Ma Xin. That was why he said what he said—he wanted to create a weakness in the insect.

Once this weakness appeared, then Su Ming would immediately break in with his divine sense. If he was successful, then he could turn the insect into his own. If he failed, then even if he would feel that it was a waste, he would not show mercy.

During the very instant Su Ming's divine sense spread out, he gathered it on Han Mountain Bell and entered it before turning into a typhoon within that descended upon the strange, weakened insect.

Once Su Ming completely surrounded it within his divine sense, he immediately sensed the insect's divine sense resisting and struggling viciously. That was a spirit that screamed that it would rather die than be controlled, and it turned into an impact that made Su Ming's divine sense falter for a moment.

A thought struck Su Ming's mind. As the insect struggled, he gained a new understanding of divine senses and this Art.

'By the looks of it, if my divine sense is strong enough, then I won't even need to find any weaknesses. I can just forcefully leave my Brand behind...'

Under his divine sense, a crack opened up quietly in Han Mountain Bell. The moment the crack appeared, a bit of the insect's presence instantly darted out through the crack.

'Si Ma Xin, I'm waiting for you to create this weakness for me...'

A glint appeared in Su Ming's eyes and he gathered his divine sense around the struggling insect.

At that moment, on the first summit of the Great Frozen Plains of Freezing Sky Clan was an incredibly extravagant cave abode that was located near the top of the mountain. From the outside, that cave abode looked like a towering hall, and Si Ma Xin was sitting cross-legged within with a sullen face as he meditated with his eyes closed.

He was forbidden to leave, and for the next few months, he could not escape the mountain. At that moment, he was remembering the battle with Su Ming in his head. That battle made him truly understand his opponent's power. To him, Su Ming was like a thorn stuck in his throat, and it was unbearable for him.

Ever since Si Ma Xin was born, everything had been easy for him. It had continued even after he entered Freezing Sky Clan. He was regarded highly by the older generation of the school and worshipped by those of the same generation. Besides, he

was good at forming good relationships with other people. It could be said that he had an innumerable amount of friends within Freezing Sky Clan.

Many of the girls and women among them had been planted with the Berserker Seed of Love. The older generation of the school knew about this, but did not stop him. Their actions relieved him. When he was out traveling to practice the Great Art of Heartless Berserker Seed, those who caught his eye would find it hard to escape from his grasp.

In truth, his next target was Bai Su. That girl had a huge background that many of the disciples did not know. They only knew that she was a common disciple in the seventh summit, but Si Ma Xin once accidentally learned that her father was one of the people in the seventh layer within the nine layers of Heaven Gate.

Si Ma Xin did not know the details. After all, Heaven Gate was also a sacred and mysterious place to him. That place was the true core and the gathering place of the most powerful forces within Freezing Sky Clan.

The disciples in Heaven Gate rarely came down and appeared before the disciples of the summits in the Great Frozen Plains. One of them was in the sky, and the other on earth. They lived separately as if they were in two completely different worlds.

Becoming a disciple of Heaven Gate was practically the dream of every single person staying in the summits of the Great Frozen Plains.

Yet only the Lords of the summits could enter Heaven Gate. If they were not these people, the disciples would need to go through Freezing Sky Cave and retrieve 1,000 Shaman heads before they could enter.

'I must enter Heaven Gate!'

Si Ma Xin clenched his fists. He did not harbor any sort of feelings for Bai Su, but as he got in touch with her, he found that Bai Su loved him.

Of course, this sort of love was fostered slowly using various methods while he was traveling outside. His goal was not to plant the Berserker Seed of Love within her. After all, Si Ma Xin was still wary of Bai Su's father in Heaven Gate.

Yet this did not prevent him from approaching her, even if he had no thought of planting the Berserker Seed of Love within her. He wanted to use her to help him obtain the right to enter Freezing Sky Cave. After all, Freezing Sky Cave could only be opened with 1,000 Shaman heads, and he was far from having enough heads.

After all, unless the Shamans invaded their land in a large force, he would need to venture out deep into the world outside Sky Mist Barrier to obtain 1,000 Shaman heads. This was a little difficult for him.

His plan was to enter Freezing Sky Cave first and increase his power in there. Once he was done, he would go out and retrieve the Shaman heads. He had more confidence with this plan.

This method, which was akin to cheating, was not allowed within Freezing Sky Clan. The others would not be able to understand why this was not allowed, but they could not do anything about it.

But Si Ma Xin did not want to go along with the rules. That was why he set his sights on Bai Su. As long as there was someone within Heaven Gate who opened Freezing Sky Cave for a disciple of the summits in the Great Frozen Plains, then he would be able to achieve his dreams.

Besides, he had the confidence of succeeding with his Great Art of Heartless Berserker Seed, even if it was at the cost of sacrificing all the people. Once he succeeded, then his power would increase exponentially. When that time came, he would not have to worry about not being able to find Berserker Children. It might require a lot of time, but he believed that it was worth it!

That was right until he met Su Ming! More accurately speaking, it was right until he fought against Su Ming. An avaricious thought appeared in his mind. He wanted to plant a Berserker Seed in Su Ming's body and turn him into his Berserker Son.

By doing so, his chances of success in clearing Freezing Sky Cave would not only increase by several fold, the power he would gain would also increase, and it would also be largely different from what he would gain with his previous plans.

There were a lot of benefits in this. There was even a high possibility that he would not need all of his Berserker Children to die. These benefits made Si Ma Xin's heart pound in excitement.

'Bai Su already promised me that she would speak to her father about this and that she would do everything that she can to make her father agree... She even told me that her father has never refused any of her requests before. This matter is practically in the bag, I just don't know how long it'll take... But now, I won't have to hurry either...

'Right now, the most important thing for me is to make Su Ming into my Berserker Son!'

Si Ma Xin closed his eyes and a myriad of thoughts swam through his head.

'It's a pity that I can't leave the mountain. Even when the time is up and I can move about freely, it'll be difficult for me to get in touch with Su Ming... Ha... If I knew this was the case, I should have given up on Han Mountain Bell and made friends with him, then planted the Berserker Seed within him!'

Si Ma Xin frowned with his eyes closed. As he was immersed in his thoughts, a thought suddenly struck his head.

'Bai Su!' Si Ma Xin opened his eyes and a sparkle appeared within them. 'When Su Ming saw Bai Su, there was clearly something different about him, and he didn't seem like he was faking it...'

A glint appeared within Si Ma Xin's eyes and his lips gradually curled up in a smile.

"Use love as a hook, turn it into the Berserker Seed, and when it blooms, the love felt will turn into nothingness. During that instant, the Seed will absorb all the life from that person! If I can create the method of using love to train the Heartless Art, then I can make changes to it. I'll use Bai Su as the hook and plant a Berserker Seed in Su Ming!" Si Ma Xin mumbled, and a heartless form of maliciousness was clear in his smile.

"Su Ming, once I've set my eyes on you, you... won't be able to run!"

A glint appeared in Si Ma Xin's eyes, yet at that moment, his expression suddenly changed and he lifted his head swiftly. He also rushed out of his cave abode and looked at the ninth summit, which was located far in the distance!

"My snake!"

Si Ma Xin's pupils shrank and his expression instantly grew dark.

He could sense his treasured snake's presence. Ever since Su Ming captured his snake, its presence had vanished. With its sudden appearance now, it jerked at the faint connection tying Si Ma Xin's heart with it.

In truth, he had only managed to make the snake acknowledge him as its master because he accidentally obtained a blood picture sometime ago. That picture had existed for a long time, and he only discovered the use of the picture after a long amount of time spent on researching through many ancient scrolls. Its use was to allow him to form a connection with certain strange creatures and control them by making them acknowledge him as their master.

That blood picture belonged to the Shamans living outside Sky Mist Barrier. However, the picture Si Ma Xin obtained was already torn, and he could not use it for stronger creatures. That was why when he met the snake and witnessed its might along with realizing that the snake was still a baby, he used the blood picture without any hesitation.

Right now, he could clearly feel the connection formed by the blood picture being attacked. Although there was little sign of it being whittled down, after a moment, when the snake's presence started fading away slowly, Si Ma Xin grew hesitant.

Chapter 245: He Does Not Want You, but I Do!

Si Ma Xin knew that the disappearance of the snake's presence was not due to it being subjugated by Su Ming. It got sealed within Han Mountain Bell, just like how it had been previously sealed. Yet even though he knew about it, he became hesitant, and soon, that hesitance turned into cold detachment.

'Planting the Berserker Seed is the most important thing at the moment!

'The snake is in Su Ming's hands now. I might not have had much contact with him, but I can tell that he's a decisive person. He won't drag things out and hesitate to take action. If he can't subjugate the snake, then he'll definitely think of ways to kill it!

'If that's the case, since you're going to die either way... you might as well help me before you die. At least your death will be worthwhile then.'

Si Ma Xin suppressed the pain of losing the snake and a determined look appeared in his eyes.

'It's a pity the snake still hasn't grown up... Forget it!'

Si Ma Xin lifted his right hand abruptly and slammed it against his chest.

The cloth covering his chest instantly turned into shreds and disappeared, revealing a round blood-red picture on his chest. That blood-red picture looked like the sun, but if anyone took a closer look, they would see that there was a faint shadow of the rod insect within.

'It's a pity about that snake, but there's only a thin Barren Thread within it, it won't be able to return to its roots and become a Barren. It's just a strange creature created by many Barren Threads from another Barren Treasure. This is just my guess, but perhaps the Barren Threads don't even exist.

'If I give up on this creature, the chances of me planting a Berserker Seed within Su Ming will be higher. This... is worth it!'

Si Ma Xin's eyes sparkled, and once his right hand patted his chest, he quickly trailed his finger in the outlines of the round blood-red picture.

As his finger trailed through the picture, cold air seeped out of his skin from the spots his finger passed by. Si Ma Xin's expression remained passive and detached. Soon,

once his finger reached the end and arrived at where he started, the blood red picture on his chest instantly started moving and eventually broke off from his skin.

That blood-red circle was like a layer of skin. As it was slowly falling off his chest, many sticky threads could be seen connecting Si Ma Xin's skin to the picture. The sticky threads looked so repulsive that people would hurl just by looking at them, but Si Ma Xin's expression still remained passive and did not change.

As the blood-red circle separated from his body, the threads were gradually cut off. When the circle eventually floated up before Si Ma Xin, all the threads had been cut off.

A strange light appeared within Si Ma Xin's eyes and he bit his tongue to cough out blood. It fell on the blood-red circle that looked like skin and was quickly absorbed into it.

'Before Bai Su does what I want her to do, I must first create an emptiness within Su Ming's heart. Only by doing so will she have a higher chance of success!

'That snake will become the emptiness in his heart that will form the connection between me and Su Ming!

'The more you want to control the snake, the stronger that connection will be! Once he tries to control the snake and it dies, then he'll sink in deeper. The more he feels disappointed and regretful, the higher my chances will be to plant the hook!'

Si Ma Xin's lips twisted into a dark smile and he lifted his right hand once again to tap the center of his brows.

"Great Art of Heartless Berserker Seed!"

There was an indescribably ghastly tone in his voice as his words left his lips. The skin-like red circle before him instantly started burning.

As it burned, the vague shadow of the rod insect in the red circle started trembling furiously and sounded as if it was letting out silent screams of pain.

At the same time, in Su Ming's cave abode located on the ninth summit, the dispirited rod insect's body suddenly twisted within Han Mountain Bell. The insect, which was lying at death's gate, let out shrill, pained cries. As it cried out, the cruelty and viciousness in its eyes wavered, and the loyalty hidden within the depths of that cruelty became a look of one who's lost.

White mist left the insect's body. There was no heat coming from that white mist, yet as it spread out, the rod insect's body started burning!

"So this is your Master...? Because he did not want you to be subjugated by me, he would rather kill you cruelly..."

Su Ming's voice echoed within Han Mountain Bell and seeped into the rod insect's soul.

That insect possessed a high amount of intelligence and could understand Su Ming's words. The cruel light in its eyes grew dim and the hidden loyalty also became tainted by a thick veil of bewilderment.

It was as if no matter how much intelligence it possessed, it just did not understand why its own Master would want it dead...

"He wants you dead because you were captured by me. I don't know how long you've been with Si Ma Xin, but this must be the first time you were captured by someone. Even if I release you and you're captured the second or the third time, and even if the person who captured you isn't me, there is only one ending for you!

"And here you are, so loyal to a Master like this. It's hilarious, but at the same time, I pity you!"

Every single one of Su Ming's words echoed within Han Mountain Bell like thunder and struck the rod insect's heart, making the cruelty in its eyes shatter completely, revealing the loyalty hidden underneath it. However, that loyalty was now tainted by bewilderment and also grief.

Su Ming was watching all of it with his expression of cool detachment. However, his heart was shaken. He did not think the insect's intelligence would be so high. By the looks of it, it could even be said that its intelligence did not lose to Xiao Hong.

However, since Xiao Hong was a fire ape, it was born with human-like intelligence. Yet the insect already possessed such a high amount of intelligence even though it was so tiny. It just went to show just how extraordinary this creature was.

Su Ming's eyes sparkled. When the rod insect was clearly feeling shaken as its body was being burnt and its life force was quickly diminishing, Su Ming suddenly asked in a low growl, "Your former Master wants to kill you. Are you still going to remain loyal to him?!"

His voice was like rumbling thunder. As it echoed in Han Mountain Bell, Su Ming's divine sense, which had surrounded the insect, immediately spotted a crack in the insect's mental defenses.

The moment the crack appeared, the stone coins gathered outside Su Ming's body all jolted simultaneously and shattered into dust. They scattered out, and a large amount of spiritual aura surged out from the shattered stones. It rushed into the opened path in Su

Ming's body like a wave and once they circulated through the path once, they gathered in his head, allowing him to muster up an even stronger divine sense.

When his divine sense rushed into Han Mountain Bell and fell upon the insect, it charged into the crack in its soul with a force strong enough to split apart bamboo and stormed straight into its soul.

The instant he entered the insect's soul, Su Ming's divine sense noticed a gigantic, floating red picture of a circle inside the insect's clouded mental world.

That thing was like human skin, or perhaps more accurately, it was human skin with the picture of a circle drawn on it.

At that moment, it was floating in midair, burning. Su Ming could see the shadow of the rod snake within the red circle. It trembled, but did not resist. It stayed inside instead and simply allowed the skin to burn and render it weaker.

In the span of a few breaths, most of the human skin turned into ashes and there was only a small segment left. By the looks of it, with just another few more breaths, it would completely disappear.

Once the human skin completely disappeared, the rod snake's shadow inside would also disappear, and the strange insect would die.

"Si Ma Xin, you truly are wicked..."

Su Ming might have predicted this, but when he saw it happening with his own eyes, he still found himself gaining new knowledge of Si Ma Xin's ruthlessness.

If he was Si Ma Xin and the rod insect was exchanged with Xiao Hong, he knew that he would not be able to do this.

Su Ming did not hesitate. He gathered up that powerful divine sense within the insect's soul and crashed it into the burning human skin. The moment it touched the human skin, Su Ming's heart suddenly trembled, and he felt that something was off.

At that moment, a dim light started blinking on his physical body's chest, which remained sitting in his cave abode. The source of the flickering dim light came from the mysterious black stone hanging on his neck.

As the light flickered, Su Ming's divine sense trembled within the insect's soul.

'Even if he has to kill his own pet, that Si Ma Xin is still plotting against me... Even though I don't know what he's planning, it's definitely nothing good.'

When Su Ming's divine sense faltered, another portion of the small segment left of the human skin burned away. By then, there was only a small part left.

The rod snake had become incredibly weak and looked like its soul was about to shatter and scatter at any moment. Yet it seemed like it had lost all will to fight. It simply lay within the skin and waited for its death.

There were only two paths lying before Su Ming right now. Either he would choose to save the rod insect and get caught in Si Ma Xin's trap, or he would give up on the insect.

He was plotting against Si Ma Xin, and Si Ma Xin was also plotting against him. The two of them did not know of the other person's goals and all the remaining moves they had. Yet they were using this rod insect as a medium and were fighting against each other in a form that was different from a true, physical brawl!

Su Ming only hesitated for a moment before he made his decision.

He did not bother about Si Ma Xin's unknown plot against him and covered what little remained of the human skin with his divine sense before breaking through the fire and into the shadow of the rod insect that seemed to have lost all will to fight and had given into despair.

"Even if Si Ma Xin wants to use your death and force me into a trap, this is my experiment. Even if you have to die, you cannot die in his hands!"

The moment Su Ming's divine sense rushed in, the rod insect shuddered.

"He doesn't want you, but I do!"

A mighty voice travelled out from within Su Ming's divine sense and rushed into the rod insect's soul. Its soul immediately started trembling, and the shadow in the human skin lifted its head. The dark light within its eyes seemed to have become different.

"He doesn't want you, but I do..."

That sentence echoed within the highly intelligent rod insect's soul and made that something within its eyes gradually replace the dull look.

With barely any form of resistance from the rod insect, Su Ming's divine sense left a deep Brand on its soul.

When he left the Brand on its soul, the human skin had already burned to ashes. Yet the very moment before it was completely burnt to ashes, the shadow within the skin vanished.

Right then, the human skin before the sitting Si Ma Xin on the first summit was also completely burnt to ashes. Yet his expression drastically changed and he stood up, as if he wanted to rush out of the first summit, but he stopped himself and clenched his fists. His expression turned incredibly dark, as if there was an anger within him strong enough to burn the heavens.

'How could it not be dead?!'

He suddenly understood Su Ming's plans. He wanted to use Si Ma Xin and subjugate the strange snake through him!

Chapter 246: Do You Understand?

Su Ming opened his eyes slowly on the ninth summit and fatigue could be seen in his eyes. The act of leaving a Brand in the insect's soul in itself was already tiring for his divine senses. Even with the help of the spiritual aura provided by the stone coins, due to that burning human skin blood picture of Si Ma Xin's, placing the Brand on the insect made Su Ming feel drained and tired.

Nonetheless, even though he was exhausted, there was still joy on his face. When he stretched out his right hand, there was a black little rod the size of a finger's segment lying on his palm silently.

If he took a closer look, he would find that it was the strange rod shaped insect snake hybrid.

The snake had its head lowered. If Su Ming did not look carefully, it would be difficult for him to see that the creature's eyes were also closed. There was an exhausted air coming from it that was similar to Su Ming's own exhaustion, and along with it was also a strong sense of feebleness.

It was clear that the things that had happened just now not only injured this highly intelligent snake physically, but mentally as well.

Yet Su Ming could clearly feel that the snake was different after it went through the process of changing owners. Its soul had just gone through a change, and there was an intense, malicious killing intent that Su Ming felt as if he could touch spreading out faintly from its body.

"When you wake up from your sleep... then I will have another trump card by my side!" Su Ming mumbled and stroked the rod insect with his left hand.

The insect did not move. The struggles and resistance it once showed could no longer be found.

After being silent for a moment, Su Ming placed the insect into Han Mountain Bell once again. He might still be sealing up the creature, but the meaning behind his action was different this time. Previously, he had sealed it up to capture it, now, he was protecting it.

He would use Han Mountain Bell's might to protect the incredibly weakened snake and allow it ample time to recover until the moment it fully awakened!

Once he put away Han Mountain Bell, Su Ming took a deep breath. The world outside was darkening once again. Before long, darkness would completely fall upon the land. Su Ming stood up and walked out of his cave abode.

The moment he got out, a cold blast of wind blew against his face and lifted his hair and clothes. It made Su Ming feel some of his fatigue leave his body. He breathed in the chilling air and a cold sensation spread into his body until it filled him from head to toe.

Yet this chill only affected his body. Su Ming's heart remained warm because he was standing on the ninth summit, his home.

When Zi Che saw Su Ming walking closer to where he sat not too far away, he immediately stood up and bowed respectfully towards him.

"Greetings, uncle master Su."

Su Ming did not speak. He looked at the world in the distance and at the dim light in the horizon that seemed like a bonfire that was about to be extinguished. He looked at the light as it was gradually swallowed up by the darkness, and he continued watching until the world turned completely dark.

There was not a hint of impatience on Zi Che's face. Instead, he simply stood by the side respectfully and waited for Su Ming's command. He had already thought things through thoroughly. In these three years, he would make a place for himself in the ninth summit, because he had already understood how the ninth summit worked!

Time trickled by, and after a long while of Su Ming staring at the darkness in the distance, his voice came forth slowly from within the darkness, "Who is Bai Su?"

Su Ming hadn't asked about Bai Su previously even though that question had been lingering in his heart. Yet now, when he was fighting against Si Ma Xin with the rod insect acting as the medium, he sensed Si Ma Xin's plans and a vague speculation formed in his mind.

Zi Che was silent for a moment before he spoke respectfully, "Uncle master Su, Bai Su is a disciple of Freezing Sky Clan's seventh summit. She rarely speaks and I don't know much about her. But from what I understand about Si Ma Xin, he wouldn't have gotten into contact with an ordinary disciple without reason. The girl only has mediocre potential. If Si Ma Xin got into contact with her, then there must be something unusual about her, perhaps it's her status,"

Su Ming thought for a few moments before he turned around and walked off the platform he was standing on. Zi Che quickly followed behind him, and the two of them walked through the ninth summit at midnight.

Besides the moaning sounds of the wind, there were no other sounds at this time. It was quiet all around them. Su Ming's footsteps were unhurried, but there seemed to be a rhythm every single time his foot landed. Zi Che followed behind him, and the more he looked, the more shocked he became.

'As I thought, all the people in the ninth summit are monsters. Su Ming's walk alone is strange. If I look at it for a long period of time, I'll start feeling as if my mind is being stepped on.'

Zi Che licked his lips and eagerness appeared in his eyes.

As the two of them continued walking, an attentive look suddenly appeared on Zi Che's face and he turned his head swiftly towards a dark place not too far in the distance. Just now, he seemed to have seen a person floating by in the corner of his eye.

"That's my second senior brother."

Before Zi Che could make any sort of warning, Su Ming's calm voice had already traveled into his ears.

Zi Che was stunned, but before he could wrap his mind around it, he immediately narrowed his eyes. He just saw a strange figure floating by from that dark spot not too far away.

That figure suddenly stopped. Whoever it was, he or she lowered their body and looked around before lowering their head and grabbing a few plants. Then that person floated to another spot.

That figure was like a ghost, and all those who saw it would feel primal fear blossoming in their hearts.

Zi Che watched the figure's actions. It silently floated around, making Zi Che's skin crawl. It was night at the moment, and it was quiet all around them. The sudden appearance of such a strange person, and especially after learning about his identity, made Zi Che feel shaken.

Zi Che took a deep breath. His gaze fell on Su Ming, who was still walking forward slowly, not turning his head around. Zi Che quickly caught up to him, and after a moment of hesitation, he asked in a whisper, "He... Er... What is second uncle master doing?"

"He's stealing his own plants," Su Ming stated calmly.

Very soon, he arrived at Hu Zi's cave abode. Su Ming had already promised Chen Xiang to help her persuade Hu Zi. Since he had received Chen Xiang's gifts, then there was no way he would forget about this task.

"Stealing his own plants..."

There was a strange look on Zi Che's face as he walked over to the cave, along with bafflement. The ninth summit was becoming even more difficult to figure out to him.

Su Ming did not hear his third senior brother's snores as he stood outside Hu Zi's cave. He went in and saw that the cave was empty. His third senior brother had gone somewhere.

Su Ming felt the beginnings of a headache blooming in his head. He could already imagine it. Whenever nighttime came and Hu Zi did not have anything else to do, he would definitely go out and 'explore' with that mysterious smile on his face.

Right now, he would have gone to some other summit and would be crouched in a corner with a grin as he peaked on other people.

Zi Che was standing behind Su Ming. When he saw that the cave abode was empty, he did not think too much into it, but when he saw Su Ming frown, a thought suddenly struck his head and he remembered the rumors regarding Hu Zi circulating within Freezing Sky Clan.

When he remembered these rumors, a shudder ran through Zi Che's body and his expression became weirder.

Su Ming walked out of the cave with a frown, then lifted his head to look at the night sky. After a moment of silence, he walked into the distance. He did not speak throughout the way, and Zi Che too remained silent behind him. The two of them walked silently for about the time it takes for an incense stick to burn before Su Ming suddenly stopped.

At the same time, a soft giggle that made Zi Che's hair stand on end came from a place not too far away.

That giggle was like the shrieks of nocturnal birds, and in the quiet midnight, that sound was incredibly distinct.

That bone-chilling giggle was followed by a voice that seemed to be moved by something.

"As expected, I'm just the smartest person around. Second senior brother, o second senior brother, I won't tell you just who's stealing your flowers. Ah... it's not a good thing being too smart. Look at me, I'm too smart, that's why I'm lonely... too lonely..."

Zi Che's mind was blank. Naturally, he had recognized the voice to be Hu Zi's, but he just could not tell how Hu Zi was smart...

In the midst of his confusion, Zi Che stole an instinctive look towards Su Ming.

Right before his eyes, he saw Su Ming's frown disappear, and he bent his tall and straight back, then with his back lowered, he moved softly forward.

Zi Che's mind was already in a mess. The Su Ming right before his eyes seemed to have changed from what he usually saw. That posture of his with his back bent made Zi Che gulp a few times, but he then imitated the actions and moved forward quietly with a crouched back.

Before long, a large stone appeared before them. Zi Che saw a man crouching behind the stone like a tiger with his head stretched out as he looked out from the edge of the stone.

Su Ming was already used to Hu Zi's actions. With his back arched, he approached the stone and crouched down beside Hu Zi. His senior brother turned around and cast a glance at Su Ming. He was just about to speak when he saw Su Ming lifting his right index finger and making a shushing sound with a bitter smile.

Hu Zi's eyes sparkled and an approving look appeared on his face before he whispered, "Not bad, youngest junior brother. Looks like you've adopted my good habit, and now I won't be lonely anymore. I'll take you around and let you see every corner of Freezing Sky Clan."

Zi Che was also crouching by the side. Curiosity was burning within him, and he could not help himself from lifting his head and looking out the edge of the stone. The moment he saw what was there, he blinked and found himself speechless.

There was a frozen river lying between the mountains behind the stone, and there was a sunken area in the middle of the ice. It was about 100 feet in breadth, and there was an ice block that was about a few dozen feet tall standing in it.

There was a dim light shining in the ice, and he could vaguely see a woman's figure on it. She seemed to be... bathing there.

As the woman bathed, she kept looking around her carefully.

Since only the woman's back was in sight, they could only see her long hair, not her face, and since the view was a little muddled, it would have been difficult for anyone to see her face anyway.

"What... What is this...?"

A baffled look appeared in Zi Che's eyes. He simply couldn't wrap his head around why this illusion would appear on the 100 feet tall ice.

He also instinctively looked around him and found the area to be in silence. It was clear that no one was around bathing.

"Heh heh, this is your Grandpa Hu's greatest invention. So what if the seventh summit has a tight defence? I don't even have to go there and I can still see what I want from here."

There was a proud look on Hu Zi's face, and he seemed delighted with himself.

Zi Che was stunned and the question slipped off his tongue before he even knew it.

"... Uncle master Hu, since you can see it here, then why don't you just go out and watch by the ice instead of crouching down here...?"

When Hu Zi heard his question, he immediately glared at him condescendingly.

"This is the only way you'll feel as if you're peeking, do you understand?!"

Zi Che laughed bitterly. For some reason, that woman's blurred out back was somewhat familiar, but he just could not place a finger on it. When he looked at it once again, the reflection of the woman on the ice turned around and the side view of her face, though still blurred out, was revealed.

The moment her face came into view, Zi Che's jaw fell slack and veins began popping on his face.

Chapter 247: Big Sister...

"Big sister..."

Veins popped out on Zi Che's face and he stood up swiftly. Then with one step, he instantly arrived beside the ice and threw a punch at it. A loud bang rang through the air, and the ice instantly shattered into pieces.

The shadow on the ice also disappeared as the ice shattered. Yet the moment it disappeared, the woman in it seemed to have noticed something and she turned her head as if she was looking at something.

Hu Zi was furious. He widened his eyes and glared at Zi Che, then rushed out like a tiger, roaring, "How dare you break the treasure your Grandpa Hu created after all the blood, sweat, and tears he poured out?! I'm going to teach you a lesson!"

Su Ming had a strange expression on his face. He respected Hu Zi's weird quirk. He was not entirely sure whether this was just his imagination, but when Zi Che broke the ice, he seemed to have heard two sighs traveling softly from around him.

"That's my sister! My sister!"

Zi Che was also furious and he shouted at Hu Zi, who was rushing towards him.

Hu Zi was originally livid, but when he heard Zi Che's words, he was momentarily stunned, then his anger faded away instantly. He also came to an abrupt halt even though he was charging forth at high speed previously. He scratched his head and an embarrassed look appeared on his face, but it quickly turned into nonchalance.

"Oh well, your Grandpa Hu has a big heart. So what if it's broken, I can just make another one."

Zi Che's breathing quickened and he glared at Hu Zi. More veins popped out on his face.

Hu Zi was feeling slightly guilty, which prompted him to quickly speak, "Ah... Alright, alright. I won't look at your sister anymore."

"Do you really mean it?!" Zi Che immediately asked.

"Of course, there're plenty of other people in Freezing Sky Clan. If I say I won't peek at her anymore, then I won't," Hu Zi hastily promised. "But don't tell your sister."

Zi Che's face was dark as he looked at Hu Zi's guilty expression, and he could not help but start laughing bitterly. However, cold sweat had already broken out on his body and he instinctively looked at Su Ming.

Su Ming had a strange look on his face. He did not bother about Zi Che and Hu Zi. Instead, once he got closer, he walked around the place as if he was looking for something.

His strange actions immediately attracted Hu Zi and Zi Che's attention. The two of them also started looking around the place.

An excited look appeared on Hu Zi's face and with light footsteps he quickly got closer to Su Ming, then whispered softly, "Youngest junior brother, what are you looking for?"

While asking, he started looking around the place.

Su Ming's footsteps faltered and his gaze fell on the frozen river before him. After a long while, he shook his head and looked at Hu Zi.

"Third senior brother, could you also... not look at Chen Xiang anymore?"

Once Hu Zi heard it, he immediately nodded, but soon, realization dawned on his face and he grinned mysteriously at Su Ming.

Su Ming was just about to speak when he saw that grin on Hu Zi's face.

"I know, I know... Hehe, youngest junior brother, you don't have to explain anything. There's nothing your third senior brother doesn't understand. Your third senior brother is the smartest person in the ninth summit."

Su Ming could only laugh bitterly. He knew that he could not explain himself out of this, and decided not to even try. Instead, he simply wrapped his fist in his palm and bowed towards Hu Zi.

"Why are you being so courteous? We're under the same Master! By the way, youngest junior brother, my Entering Dream was great, right? I chased Si Ma Xin away, didn't I? Heh heh, don't you worry, youngest junior brother. I haven't mastered Entering Dream yet. Once I master it, it'll be even more powerful."

As Hu Zi spoke, a proud look appeared on his face and he patted his chest.

He suddenly lifted his head and looked at the weather.

"Youngest junior brother, I won't be talking with you anymore. It's almost time now, so I have to hurry to the eighth summit. Do you want to come with me?"

Hu Zi looked towards Su Ming, and once he saw Su Ming shake his head, he flew up quickly and turned into a long arc that charged into the darkness in the distance. He soon disappeared, but no matter what, his departing figure still gave Su Ming the impression that he was running away.

When he saw Zi Che's controlled anger, he understood that his third senior brother was feeling embarrassed and guilty after being caught red-handed, which was why he chose to leave so hurriedly.

"Do not do this again. It doesn't matter whether he is right or wrong, if you do this again, remember that I still lack an ingredient to make my medicine."

Su Ming turned around and cast Zi Che a cold glance.

Zi Che trembled and felt a little upset, but when he saw the cold look in Su Ming's eyes, he lowered his head and obeyed.

"That ice was blurred out and you couldn't see anything. Besides, my senior brother has already said that he won't peek at your sister anymore, so let it be."

Su Ming walked away as he spoke.

Zi Che breathed out a sigh of relief. He was not an unreasonable person. Su Ming may have said those words, but he did not do anything to him due to his actions just now. He only gave him a warning to not do it again. This in itself was a form of respect towards Zi Che.

When Su Ming and Zi Che left, a person suddenly charged towards the place that was now filled with shattered ice. That person came to the place and looked at it carefully and sneakily before quickly crouching down and taking away all the ice shards.

With his back arched, the person quickly left the place. That tall and built figure was, of course, Hu Zi.

"I'm so unlucky. This is the first time I made this, and I was having fun watching, but who knew I'd meet up with her little brother? How could I forget about this...? Oh well, I'll just have to be more careful next time," Hu Zi mumbled and quickly left.

A short moment after Hu Zi left, the space above the frozen river where Su Ming was staring at previously suddenly distorted and a handsome man gradually walked out of the distortion.

There was also a hint of embarrassment on his face, but even so, he still looked as gentle as spring wind. This person was naturally Su Ming's second senior brother.

Once he appeared, he let out a few fake coughs.

"I was almost found out by youngest junior brother. It's all the third's fault. Why did he have to make something so nice.?" second senior brother mumbled under his breath and left the place hastily.

A moment after Su Ming's second senior brother left, distorted ripples appeared once again in the space in this area that was about a few hundred feet wide. An old man wearing a flowery robe walked out from within the distortion.

The old man walked out with one brisk step, then patted his robes in a relaxed manner before placing his hands behind his back and walking towards the top of the mountain calmly. While his expression might be passive, pride could be seen within his eyes.

"The third did a good job. He made something interesting... It's a pity it was broken... But with my third disciple's personality, he'll make another one in a few days, and it'll be even sturdier than the previous one so that no one can break it with just one punch.

"It's a pity... but the fourth has really sharp senses, he almost found out where the second was hiding... Heh heh, but they're still not good enough to find me," the old man mumbled under his breath as he walked away proudly. That old man... was Tian Xie Zi.

Tian Xie Zi, who was wearing a flowery long robe!

Time passed by gradually in this peace and quiet. Hu Zi continued creating things and peeking at other people and Su Ming's second senior brother continued planting flowers in the day and stealing them at night as well as occasionally running into Hu Zi looking at the ice he created. Of course, sometimes Tian Xie Zi would also appear during the night, dressed in a flowery robe.

Very soon, two months passed by.

During these two months, Su Ming and Si Ma Xin's battle had been spread throughout Freezing Sky Clan by those who had witnessed it that day. Gradually, almost all the disciples from the other eight summits knew that there was a person in the ninth summit that was strong enough to fight against Si Ma Xin.

They also learned that this person was a Divine General of Awakening.

His name quickly spread through Freezing Sky Clan, and slowly, due to his battle with Si Ma Xin, Su Ming's name appeared on Freezing Sky Clan's Great Frozen Plains' ranking boards.

He was ranked ninth on Great Frozen Plains' ranking boards, replacing Zi Che.

The reason why he was ranked ninth was because there was no outcome to Su Ming and Si Ma Xin's battle. The people might have some understanding towards Su Ming's power, but they did not know the details. When he fought against Si Ma Xin, they could also tell that Si Ma Xin was clearly stronger than Su Ming.

A lot of them felt that it was a pity that the two of them did not manage to execute their final attacks in the battle.

During these two months, besides Su Ming's name spreading through Freezing Sky Clan, the school was also preparing for something big hurriedly and in secret.

That event was the Sky Mist Shaman Hunt that only occurred once every decade. There was only less than ten months left until the start of the hunt. Sky Mist Shaman Hunt was a big event within Freezing Sky Clan that was already considered a common practice among the disciples.

The event occurred once every decade, and the disciples that took part in the event would differ in number from thousands to tens of thousands every single time. Similarly, Western Sea Clan, which belonged to the other big tribe in the Land of South Morning, Western Sea, would also send out disciples and fight against the Shamans in the battle that occurred once every decade.

At that time, once Sky Mist Shaman Hunt began, the disciples of the two clans would frighten off the Shamans in Sky Mist Barrier and also gather a set number of people to venture out of Sky Mist Barrier and invade certain territories of the Shaman Tribe.

Each Sky Mist Shaman Hunt would last for a year.

That year would be a bloody and gruelling test as well as an ordeal for most of those who joined the battle. During that year, the people would know whether these swords, which were the disciples, would break or shine with a brilliant glint.

However, big scale battles did not happen for all Sky Mist Shaman Hunts. Since a long time ago till now, there were only a dozen Shaman Hunts which were incredibly devastating. The rest were actually rather mild battles.

However, the battle this year would be significantly different from all the previous battles. The Sky Mist Shaman Hunt ten months later would be a giant battle that only happened once every century!

The Sky Mist Shaman Hunts that only occurred once every decade were small battles, yet after ten of such battles came the battle that would only occur once every century, and the scale of that battle would be much greater than of a regular Shaman Hunt.

This was a rule set by the two big tribes in the Land of South Morning a long time ago. The reason as to why the battles were held so regularly with a large scale battle occurring once every century was because they wanted to know at all times just how quickly the Shaman Tribes outside Sky Mist were increasing their power.

They wanted to know whether there were any shockingly powerful people there, wanted to know whether they had any new Spells, wanted to know whether there were any new Shamans over there. All this information was the main purpose for the battles that occurred once every decade.

There were plenty of disciples who had joined the Sky Mist Shaman Hunt multiple times within Freezing Sky Clan, but there were also those who had never joined the battle. However, most of the disciples were familiar with this event. During the ten months, those who wanted to enter the battle would isolate themselves to train and make preparations.

In the two months of peace and quiet in the ninth summit, there were also certain things that happened, and these things were not considered peaceful. Zi Che's older sister had come to the mountain multiple times with her anger directed straight at Hu Zi.

At that moment, Su Ming was sitting on the platform outside his cave abode, under the clear sky. As he sat there, his right hand was drawing on the drawing board placed before him.

His actions were very slow, but there was also a feeling of age gradually seeping out from his fingers and appearing on the drawing board as he drew each stroke.

He was copying Si Ma Xin's sword slash. During these two months, he had kept copying Si Ma Xin's sword slash so that he could find that feeling he had in the beginning.

Zi Che was by his side and totally absorbed in watching Su Ming's actions. It was as if he was trying to search for his own epiphany in those strokes.

Yet at that very moment!

"Sun Da Hu, get your *ss down here!"

A woman's chilling voice sliced through the air from beyond the ninth summit.

"You witch! Why are you just targeting me?! Your little brother also saw you at that time, even my youngest junior brother Su Ming saw you!" Hu Zi's voice traveled forth, muffled, and with a hitch that suggested he was almost in tears. He sounded really upset.

Zi Che instantly looked as if he was caught in an awkward situation, and Su Ming lifted his head with a bitter smile on his lips.

Chapter 248: I'll Draw for You

"Zi Che, you little rascal, it's a complete waste for me to have fought for you when you were bullied last time! If you're still a man, then get Sun Da Hu here now!"

The woman's voice as she hissed out through her teeth clenched quickly came from beyond the ninth summit.

Two long arcs whistled through the air in the sky. One of them wore a yellow robe and had an oval shaped face. Although her face was twisted in anger, it simply gave her a different vibe of beauty.

There was a woman behind her. That woman was also beautiful, but there was a look on her face that suggested she was holding back her words. There was also a strange look in her eyes. That woman was Han Cang Zi.

Zi Che scratched his head and quickly got up, but he had no idea what he should be saying in this situation, so he really was just standing there awkwardly.

"Sis..."

"Don't call me sis, I don't have a brother like you!"

The woman glared at Zi Che and her gaze fell upon Su Ming.

"Oh, if it isn't uncle master Su," the woman said with a chilling laugh.

Su Ming could feel the beginnings of a headache blooming. The woman's name was Zi Yan, and she was Zi Che's sister. During these two months, she had been coming here often to search for Hu Zi.

He managed to dodge her a few times, but once she found him, something happened between them, and after that, Hu Zi started hiding himself deep in the mountain. They only knew that he was in the mountain, but it was difficult for them to know where he was hiding.

Only when he was forced into a corner would he start shouting, but his words floated in the air, making it hard for anyone to determine the source of his voice.

There was even one time where Hu Zi thought it was unfair that the woman only came looking for him to teach him a lesson when everyone else had also seen her, that was why he shouted out those words. After a few times, the woman's attention slowly spread out.

Su Ming could only feel resigned, laugh bitterly, and get a headache out of this.

The woman's personality was also hard to grasp. Once she diverted her attention towards them, she made an absurd request of Su Ming, and if he did not fulfill her request, she would continue pestering him.

Fortunately, Su Ming was not the instigator of this. Once he avoided her a few times, Zi Yan once again focused her attention on searching for the instigator of this entire incident, Sun Da Hu.

"Um... disciple niece Zi Yan..."

Su Ming looked at the raging Zi Yan and also saw Han Cang Zi standing behind her. He blinked instinctively.

Han Cang Zi pretended not to see him and turned her head in another direction.

"What is it that you want of me, uncle master Su? Are you still not satisfied by what you saw?"

Zi Yan let out a cold harrumph and walked towards the ninth summit elegantly. She stood on the platform outside Su Ming's cave, and as wind blew past her, her black hair was lifted up, which also brought a nice fragrance that wafted into Su Ming's nose.

"Um... About the thing you asked, it's not as if I can't do it, but you see, since your uncle master Hu is the instigator, if he can fulfill your request, then I'll naturally do so as well."

It was not as if Su Ming was not good at talking, it was just that he chose to remain quiet when he came to the Land of South Morning.

Right now, he had already found the warmth that gave him the feeling of home on the ninth summit, and his manner of speaking when he was in Dark Mountain started returning a little.

"You..." Zi Yan glared at him. Just as she was about to speak, Han Cang Zi let out a faint cough beside her. Zi Yan cast a deep look at Su Ming before she snorted and said, "I'll put this aside first for my junior sister Fang. Just you wait until I find that Sun Da Hu!"

When she said it, Zi Yan leapt up and started moving around the ninth summit.

The ninth summit was a strange place. There were no Runes that protected the mountain. Anyone could enter as they pleased, but only if they were allowed to do so. If the people in the ninth summit did not permit their entry, those who entered would end up like Zi Che.

However, it could be said that everyone in the ninth summit had wronged Zi Yan. Tian Xie Zi was sly and had gone into isolation to train a long time ago. Since this thing had nothing to do with Su Ming's eldest senior brother, he also enjoyed his peace and quiet.

His second senior brother had been hanging around the place often during these two months and was busy with tending to his plants. Every single time he saw Zi Yan, he would give a smile as gentle as the spring wind before giving her a nod.

Once Zi Yan left to search for Sun Da Hu, who had gone into hiding in the ninth summit, Han Cang Zi descended from the sky and stood on the platform. Zi Che could tell that

these two knew each other since a long time ago, and coupled with the things that were now circulating in Freezing Sky Clan's Great Frozen Plains regarding Su Ming, they made Zi Che lower his head and take a few steps back and leave the place.

White clouds covered the blue sky. The wind brought about a chill as it blew past the two people. As the wind lifted some locks of their hair, it also gave a sense of beauty to the serenity in the place.

"You seem to be avoiding me," Su Ming said, looking at Fang Cang Lan with a smile.

"I'm not."

Fang Cang Lan did not look at Su Ming. Instead, she stood on the platform and looked at the blue sky in the distance.

"You've come to this place with your senior sister Zi Yan many times during these two months, but this is the first time you chose to stay alone."

In Su Ming's eyes, Fang Cang Lan was like a serene snow lotus in the wind.

"I came here before," Fang Cang Lan whispered.

"Thank you."

Su Ming sat down and his gaze fell upon the white clouds in the sky.

"What for?"

The motion when Fang Can Lan turned her head to the side was very beautiful. Sunlight shone on her, and he could see some of the fine hair framing her face.

"Thank you for worrying about me when Zi Che came here, and thank you for warning me when I was fighting against Si Ma Xin."

Su Ming picked up the drawing board next to him and tapped it with his right hand.

A faint banging sound echoed in the air, and a thin layer of powder fell away from the drawing board.

"I know that you should have guessed Si Ma Xin's goal, that's why I didn't come to warn you again."

Fang Can Lan smiled faintly. There was a hint of something Su Ming understood but was still a little uncertain about in her smile.

"A Berserker Son, hmm?"

A chilling glare appeared briefly in Su Ming's eyes. If he could still not figure out Si Ma Xin's goals, then he would not be the Su Ming who arrived alone in the Land of South Morning and made it to this point in life.

Fang Cang Lan hesitated for a moment before she said softly, "I don't know what else Si Ma Xin is planning to do, but from what I understand about him, once he makes up his mind about something, then he won't give up.

"You... have to be more careful."

Once she finished speaking, she lifted her right hand and smoothed down her hair, which had become messy due to the wind. She tucked some locks behind her ear and turned around to no longer look at Su Ming. It was just as Su Ming said, she was indeed avoiding him, because every single time she met his gaze, she would feel her heartbeat suddenly quicken.

"Don't move," Su Ming suddenly said.

Fang Cang Lan was stunned and looked at Su Ming curiously.

"Stay that way, let me draw your picture."

Su Ming picked up his drawing board and looked at Fang Cang Lan, then he drew a stroke on the drawing board with his right hand.

Red colored Fang Cang Lan's cheeks. She bit her bottom lip and looked at Su Ming as she maintained her posture of tucking her hair behind her ear. Her dress fluttered in the wind, and the blue sky and white clouds behind her acted as her background.

Not only did the wind make her dress flutter, it also made her hair float diagonally. It was a beautiful picture.

It was as if time slowed down all of a sudden. A woman's face gradually appeared on the drawing board under Su Ming's fingers.

Fang Cang Lan's fluttering heart slowly calmed down. She kept her gaze on Su Ming and what entered her vision first was the scar underneath his eye.

When she saw the scar, Fang Cang Lan's heart clenched in pain.

The two of them did not speak. In this peace, one of them drew, and the other watched.

Admiration appeared on Zi Che's face as he stood in the distance. He might not have heard what Su Ming and Fang Cang Lan said to each other, but when he saw Su Ming drawing Fang Cang Lan, his admiration towards Su Ming grew to an incredibly high point.

'As expected of uncle master Su, when he fought against Si Ma Xin, his killing intent was suffocating, and he had an intimidating presence... Now, he can draw so tenderly and make a woman so bashful... When will I ever be like that...?'

Zi Che sighed deeply. He shook his head and closed his eyes slightly as if he was thinking about something.

'He has just fought Si Ma two months ago, Now he sits drawing for a woman. If the day comes that I can do this...

'What should my next line be...?'

Zi Che frowned. During these two months, as he continued observing the odd eccentricities of the people in the ninth summit, he gained an epiphany and believed that perhaps these eccentricities were what made them so different from the others.

That was why he also tried looking for a weird quirk for himself, which led to something like this happening, where he would start making poetry when he was deeply moved...

While Zi Che was thinking about what his next line should be, while Su Ming was looking at Fang Cang Lan and drawing her, second senior brother, who had been tending to his flowers on the ninth summit, lifted his head and looked towards the direction of Su Ming's cave. His eyes also sparkled brilliantly.

"Youngest junior brother, thank you," second senior brother suddenly uttered these abstruse words before quickly standing up and letting out a few fake coughs. Then he disappeared without a trace.

On another spot on the ninth summit, Su Ming's second senior brother suddenly appeared. He first smoothed out his robes and took a few deep breaths before placing his hands behind his back and lifting his head to look at the sky.

Yet he soon moved his body to the side and let the sunlight fall on his face as he looked up

Soon, he frowned again and waved his left hand by his side. Immediately, a light breeze blew past him and made his robes and long hair flutter in the air. With the wind constantly around him, the second senior brother looked at the sky and remained still.

Before long, Zi Yan appeared on the stairs not too far into the distance. She had already gone to a few places, but she simply could not find Sun Da Hu. She might be furious, but she could not do anything to vent her anger.

As she continued walking forward, a gentle voice suddenly reached her ears.

"Miss Zi Yan."

Zi Yan's footsteps faltered. When she turned around, she saw Su Ming's second senior brother standing nearby. The very instant she saw him, shock appeared on her face.

She saw Su Ming's second senior brother's hair dancing in the wind.

She also saw his long robes fluttering in the wind...

She even saw him positioning the side of his face towards her and with his hands behind his back look at the white clouds in the sky. When sunlight fell on his face, it made him seem different from how he usually was.

Zi Che felt her skin crawl. She did not know what had happened to this person, so she quickly took a few steps back and spoke softly.

"Er... Greetings, second uncle master of the ninth summit..."

Chapter 249: Purple Robe?

"Miss Zi Yan, I'm not that much older than you are. Let's talk as equals. You may call me senior brother Hua."

Zi Hua was momentarily taken aback, but then opened her mouth as if to speak.

"Miss Zi Yan!" Su Ming's second senior brother's face grew more stern. "I said that I would bear the responsibility for his wrongs. How about this, I'll follow you to the seventh summit and punish myself to protect you for three years. I'll use these three years to compensate for Hu Zi's mistake."

Once the second senior brother finished speaking, he sighed. If Hu Zi was by his side and saw the gentleness on his face along with the persistence in his words, perhaps... just perhaps, he would be very touched?

"Senior brother Hua... There's... no need for that."

Zi Yan felt that she could not handle him and took a few steps back.

"Are three years not enough? Alright then, ten years. I'll punish myself to go to the seventh summit and protect you for ten years."

Second senior brother was just about to take a step forward, but after a short moment of hesitation, he did not move, because the sunlight in the spot one step away from where he was right then was not as bright as the spot where he stood right now.

"Ah... You really don't have to do that," Zi Yan said nervously. Su Ming's second senior brother's enthusiasm was beginning to scare her.

"Miss Zi Yan, in truth..." Second senior brother looked at Zi Yan and a grave expression appeared on his face. "In truth, I was also among the people who watched you. That's why, you must accept my apology."

When Zi Yan heard his words, she was stunned before a bitter smile appeared on her lips.

"Senior brother Hua, please don't joke around. I know that you weren't there. Ah... let's leave it as it is, I'll be leaving now."

While speaking, Zi Yan quickly moved back towards the stairs in an attempt to leave as quickly as possible.

This place was making her uncomfortable all over her body.

"Miss Zi Yan, I was really there!"

When he saw that Zi Yan was about to leave, second senior brother took a few steps forward quickly.

"Let's leave it at that. I'll be leaving now..."

Zi Yan did not even turn back and quickly ran down the mountain through the stairs feeling incredibly flustered. By the looks of it, if second senior brother chased after her, she would immediately jump into the air and fly away.

"No!" Second senior brother took a leap and instantly appeared before the fleeing Zi Yan. "Miss Zi Yan, you have a heart of gold, but I am a person who repents with my actions. If you will not accept my apology, then you can request three things from me. You can come to me at anytime and ask me to fulfill your requests," second senior brother stated sternly.

"Alright, alright, I'll remember it. Senior brother Hua, I'm leaving first. You don't have to send me off, in fact, please don't send me off..."

Zi Yan quickly nodded her head and flew up just as hastily. She avoided Su Ming's second senior brother and charged out into the distance. In the blink of an eye, she disappeared without a trace.

Just as Zi Yan was scared off by Su Ming's second senior brother's enthusiasm and fled quickly in a flustered state without even bothering about Han Cang Zi, Su Ming's right hand made the last stroke on his drawing board where he sat outside his cave abode.

When he finished drawing, Su Ming held out the drawing board to Han Cang Zi. A baffled look appeared momentarily on her face when she looked at it. After a long while, she placed the drawing board down, cast a glance at Su Ming, then spun around with a calm look on her face and turned into a long arc and left.

The drawing board was empty.

Those who could see it would certainly see it, but those who couldn't, no matter how they forced themselves to see it, they would still not be able to see anything.

Su Ming did not know whether Han Cang Zi saw the drawing. He looked at her leaving figure, then closed his eyes after a long while. When he opened them once again, they were as calm as water.

He picked up the drawing board silently and once again immersed himself in copying Si Ma Xin's sword slash. With every single copy, he would gain a slightly better understanding of it. These experiences gradually built up and slowly allowed him to sense the might of that one stroke he had made previously.

Three days later, Hu Zi came out of his hiding place silently. When he saw that Zi Yan seemed to no longer bother him, he became pleased with himself once again and spent his days in his cave abode drinking, and as he did so, he would also mumble under his breath and fiddle with some ice shards, grouping them together. He would even occasionally let out some weird giggles as he did so.

Second senior brother tended to his plants as he usually did, but he also gained a new hobby for himself. He would go to the spots where the sun was the brightest and position himself so that sunlight would fall on the side of his face. It was as if he was extremely fond of this particular action.

Their Master, Tian Xie Zi, also walked out when Zi Yan no longer appeared on the ninth summit. Every morning, the people in the ninth summit would hear long lasting howls from the top of the mountain.

Those roars were like thunder and rumbled in the air. Tian Xie Zi would always rise up to roar and fly in different directions to do something, though no one knew exactly what he wanted to do, and he would usually only return by noon.

As time passed by, Su Ming learned that this was his Master's hobby.

At the same time, as another month went by, Su Ming noticed that his Master, Tian Xie Zi, had another unique quirk!

He only learned about this quirk through his second senior brother's words and his own observations.

"Look, Master is wearing white again today. He should be flying north."

Second senior brother sat beside Su Ming on his platform outside his cave abode. At that moment, second senior brother had his head lifted towards the sky, looking at the top of mountain. He spoke as if he was deeply moved by his Master's actions.

A rumbling roar came from the top of the mountain, and Tian Xie Zi, who was dressed in white, flew towards the north.

"If Master is in a good mood in the morning, he'll do this. Youngest junior brother, you must get used to it."

"Master is wearing red today, he'll fly to the west."

Hu Zi was also sitting beside his second senior brother this time. There was a pot of wine in his hand. He mumbled under his breath, "Master is wearing black today, so he'll definitely fly to the south..." and did not even bother looking at the sky.

Then just as he said, Tian Xie Zi flew towards the south from the summit, dressed in black.

"Master is dressed in green today and is also wearing a green hat. Just you wait, his mood is bad today, so he'll fly east..." Second senior brother did not even bother lifting his head when he stated that softly, holding a green plant in his hands.

When Su Ming heard it as he was still drawing Si Ma Xin's sword slash, he instinctively lifted his head to look, and a stunned look appeared on his face.

Rumbling sounds came from the mountaintop, and then Tian Xie Zi appeared in the air dressed in green and a green hat, and... flew north.

This scene immediately made Hu Zi, who was drinking, stunned, and he quickly rubbed his eyes.

"That's not right, why did Master fly north?"

Second senior brother also lifted his head and his expression suddenly became grave.

"Something happened to Master!"

When Zi Che heard this and saw the changes in expressions of second and third senior brothers while meditating not too far away, having gained a deeper understanding of the weirdness in the ninth summit over the past few days, his heart immediately started racing against his chest. He had a feeling that he was about to discover some sort of secret.

At that moment, the green robed Tian Xie Zi suddenly faltered in the sky, in the act of flying towards the north. He stopped for a moment in midair as if he was mumbling something under his breath before he turned around and flew east...

Hu Zi rolled his eyes and lifted his wine pot to continue drinking with a look as if he was displeased with Tian Xie Zi's actions.

Su Ming frowned and cast a glance at his second senior brother. He saw a hint of seriousness that was rarely seen in his second senior brother's eyes.

"I remember that the last time Master made a mistake like this was fifteen years ago... Could it be... that his purple robed self is about to appear once again...?"

Second senior brother took a deep breath and looked at Su Ming and Hu Zi.

"Purple robe?" Su Ming also looked at his second senior brother.

Chapter 250: He Feng's Change

"Every single time Master appears before us in purple robes, there will be much bloodshed... That is something that is very difficult for me to forget..."

Second senior brother let out a long sigh before standing up and taking a light step forward. He let sunlight fall on the side of his face as he placed his hands behind his back and lifted his head to look at the sky with a nostalgic look on his face.

Hu Zi was looking at his second senior brother dumbly. He gulped and mumbled under his breath. He had no idea when this new weird quirk of liking to stand under the sun and facing others with the side of his face was acquired by second senior brother.

Zi Che became nervous as well, sitting not too far since he rarely saw his uncle master Hua make a face like this.

Su Ming cast a glance at his second senior brother and lowered his head to continue copying Si Ma Xin's sword slash on the drawing board before him.

"That memory is something that I will never forget. It was fifteen years ago, during a night where the moon did not shine and the winds were strong..."

Second senior brother lifted his head and a complicated look appeared on his face.

"At that time, eldest senior brother was still in isolation, training himself, and I was meditating in my cave abode when suddenly..."

Second senior brother's words faltered and he swept his gaze across Hu Zi and Zi Che before finally settling on Su Ming.

When he saw that Su Ming had also lifted his head, second senior brother's voice rang out in the air once again.

"Master was dressed in purple when he suddenly entered my cave abode... I will never forget the very first question Master asked me at that time.

"He asked me... whether I knew how to use Arts to fight... At that time, I answered yes, and in the end... Remember this, if either of you sees the purple robed Master in your cave abode and he asks you this question, remember to say that you don't!" T

Second senior brother cast a solemn glance at Su Ming and Hu Zi before he shook his head and walked into the distance. His footsteps were very strange, because even though he was walking away, he still managed to make sunlight fall on the side of his face.

Hu Zi blinked. He always thought that he was very intelligent, so when his second senior brother's words reached him, he was not convinced and thought that second senior brother was misleading them. If Master really wore purple robes and came to him, he would definitely not listen to his second senior brother and tell his Master that he knew.

"I'd like to see just what would happen if I said yes."

Hu Zi lifted his head as if pleased with himself and exchanged a few words with Su Ming before picking up his wine pot and leaving the place.

During the past few days, the three of them had regularly gathered together. One of them would drink and one would let sunlight shine on the side of his face as he planted more flowers on the already green covered ground.

As for the last one, he would be sitting by the side with his drawing board as he drew on it.

Su Ming had already lost count of how many strokes he had drawn. His drawing board may seem empty, but in truth, if anyone sensed it carefully, they could gradually tell that there was a suppressed presence within that was gradually growing stronger.

The day of Sky Mist Shaman Hunt was drawing closer. The disciples in Freezing Sky Clan started making detailed preparations during. There were also many private trades that occurred among them.

In fact, some of the disciples that had been away for many years returned, and their goal was to join the Sky Mist Shaman Hunt this time. Since this battle was a rather large scale battle that occurred only once a century, it was a very attractive thing to the disciples.

The Shamans were a mysterious group of people that were somewhat similar yet completely different to Berserkers. They lived in the area outside Sky Mist Barrier and prevented the Berserkers in the Land of South Morning from completely controlling the entire Land of South Morning. They also prevented countless people from leaving the place, forcing them to be unable to leave the Land of South Morning as well as meet other Berserkers in the other continents in this world, so keeping them from knowing whether they had any other comrades.

To the disciples of Freezing Sky Clan, the battle against the Shamans allowed them to see the Shamanic Spells that were obviously different from Berserker Arts. Perhaps they would even be able to obtain some form of serendipity. Besides, practically all the Beasts in the Shaman Tribe had a Beast Core within them, and this thing was a great tonic for Berserkers.

There was also another rule set by those guarding Sky Mist Barrier that a person would be rewarded based on the number of Shamans he or she killed. The more Shamans he or she killed, the greater the reward would be. Every single time Sky Mist Shaman Hunt was held, the two big tribes and schools, Freezing Sky and Western Sea, would bring out grand rewards for the disciples who killed their enemies.

The rewards offered for the battle this time would also top all the rewards of the past 100 years because the battle was a large scale battle that occurred only once every century.

The rewards were just one of the factors that attracted the people to join the battle. There were also people who joined for the fame that would come from this battle. In Sky Mist City was a gigantic rock. That rock stood tall and towered into the sky. All the people of South Morning who wanted to join the battle would leave a handprint on that rock right at the moment they arrived in Sky Mist City so that their presences would be left behind.

After that, a rather detailed ranking board that would rank all the people based on how many Shamans they killed would appear on that rock! Once Sky Mist Shaman Hunt ended, the ranks would spread through all the Berserker Tribes in the Land of South Morning so that all people would know of it!

During the hunt, the ranking board would be observed by all the powerful Berserkers who came to the place. Those who were ranked higher on the board would receive more attention, and those within the top 100 would temporarily be given the name Tian Lan¹.

If they could enter the top 10, then they would be given the title of Sky Mist Guard. If they entered the top three and maintained their position, then they would obtain the right for permanent residency in Sky Mist City. The person in the first place would obtain Sky Mist's sacred treasure. However, this treasure could only be given to the person in first place temporarily. Once he or she was no longer in the first place, then the treasure would automatically disappear and appear in the hands of the new person who obtained first place.

When the battle ended, the treasure would disappear and reappear in Sky Mist City to be worshipped once again.

Yet even so, there were plenty of rumors regarding Sky Mist's sacred treasure. One among the many rumors had been proven true. The sacred treasure, which was only given to those ranked first temporarily during the battles that occurred only once a century, would increase the power of the person who continuously held onto it incessantly for those two short years!

Prestige, fame, rewards, all these things made the people who wanted to join the Sky Mist Shaman Hunt this time arrive and start an incredibly intense preparation stage.

There were less than ten months before the battle began!

Among the nine summits on the Great Frozen Plains of Freezing Sky Clan, besides the ninth summit, all the other eight summits were preparing for the battle. Only the people in the ninth summit still maintained their peaceful lives as they went on understanding their very own Clearing Mind Art.

Su Ming's life was very peaceful, and he treasured his current lifestyle. Ever since he came to the Land of South Morning, it was rare that he could experience moments like these, especially the feeling he found here, where he now treated the mountain as his home. His senior brothers were kind to him, and he experienced the type of warmth that he would only find if he belonged to a place over here.

Su Ming might not have shown any desire to join Sky Mist Shaman Hunt, but he had already made his decision in his heart regarding the battle.

He wanted to go!

He wanted to join the fray. Only these sorts of battles would be able to make him improve quickly, because the only demand Su Ming had for himself was to increase his own power.

He had to make himself stronger!

'My power is still far from enough for me to leave the Land of South Morning and return to the Alliance of the Western Region...'

Su Ming's right hand slashed across the drawing board before him. He lifted his head and looked at the weather. The sky was already darkening, and even the few rays of evening sun that still remained somewhat visible in the distance had become much dimmer.

Su Ming stood up and walked towards his cave abode. Over the past few days, besides copying Si Ma Xin's sword slash, he had also been doing something else. That thing was one of the things he was preparing for the Sky Mist Shaman Hunt this time.

His cave abode had become much bigger than how it was a few months back. Three more ice rooms had been opened up, and howls that no one could hear except Su Ming since he had divine senses would travel forth from one of the larger ice rooms in his cave.

Su Ming walked up to the ice room with a passive expression, entering it.

Right as he did so, a gust of cold wind blew against his face, and a blurred figure of a person closed in on him in an instant. Yet the very moment he got closer to Su Ming, that figure let out a shrill cry, tumbling a few dozen feet backward. His face was revealed then.

It was an existence that had the wings of the Wings of the Moon while possessing the body of a person. His eyes were bloodshot with raging violence, and as he retreated, he kept his glare fixed on Su Ming.

His body was caught in-between being an illusion and having physical substance, though he looked as if he was about to fade away at any moment. His entire body was red, and the space around him distorted in a manner that caused him to look as if he was enveloped by invisible fire and that he was burning.

He was naked, and on his skin were scale like objects overlapping each other. His hands turned into claws as he howled at Su Ming.

"He Feng, you were the one who asked to fuse with the souls of the Wings of the Moon within me. The process is still ongoing, are you saying that you can't hold on anymore?!" Su Ming asked coldly.

His voice reverberated through the ice room and fell into the strange person's ears. His words made the person shudder and conflict appeared in his bloodshot, violent eyes.

That person... was actually He Feng!

After Su Ming fought against Si Ma Xin and cleared up his cave abode, He Feng told him after much careful thought that he wanted to fuse together with the souls of the creatures he did not know the names of residing in Su Ming's body.

He Feng was a cautious person. He did not want to become a Vessel Spirit, but if he did not want to become a Vessel Spirit, then he had to prove that he was not a burden. When he fought against Si Ma Xin's ice wolf spirit, he had struggled greatly, and that was why he made this decision, because his power was simply not enough.

Su Ming kept his silence about the matter for several days before he agreed to He Feng's request and opened up the ice room so that it could be the place for He Feng to fuse with the souls of the Wings of the Moon.

In the beginning, the fusion was successful, but gradually, something unforeseen happened. As He Feng continued fusing with the countless Wings of the Moon, he lost all form of reasoning, became the way he was now.

The moment the conflicted look appeared in He Feng's eyes, Su Ming took a step forward quickly and lifted his right hand, swiftly drawing a circle at the center of He Feng's brows with his right index finger.

Once the circle was formed, blood-red light shone from within it. The circle looked like the blood moon when it appeared on the center of He Feng's brows.

When the blood moon appeared, He Feng closed his eyes and slowly sat down cross-legged, regaining his calm.

Once every few days, Su Ming would use this method to suppress this change that appeared when He Feng fused with the Wings of the Moon. Only by continuing with this process right up till the end would He Feng become truly strong.

Su Ming expected this process to last for several more months, perhaps even longer.

He stared at He Feng for a long while before turning around and leaving the ice room. He sat down outside and closed his eyes with the drawing board in hand, once again immersing himself in copying the slash.

If there were no interruptions, then he would have perhaps continued copying the slash until he needed to visit He Feng again.

But when morning came, the ninth summit welcomed a guest. That person... came for Su Ming.

Tian Lan - Sky Mist's pinyin, it's like a new name given to a person. If you were to remember Fang Cang Lan, and how she's called Han Cang Zi? Han something Zi is a name given to the top students in Freezing Sky Clan, so you have Han Cang Zi. So Tian Lan something is the same. You have Tian Lan Meng, and I do believe that her name is one of these. "I take away your surname and your middle name and give you a titled name".

Chapter 251: Tian Lan Meng's Invitation

"I am Chen Chan Er, disciple of the seventh summit. I came on orders from my eldest senior sister to invite uncle master Su of the ninth summit to meet her," a melodious voice asked, traveling up the ninth summit on that morning.

That voice belonged to a girl in an emerald green robe. The girl looked to be either 17 or 18 years of age. She stood at the foot of the ninth summit with her back straight and a hint of curiosity on her face as she observed her surroundings, which happened to be a place that she had never been before.

It was a pity, however. Her lack of understanding towards the ninth summit guaranteed that once her voice traveled into the mountain, Hu Zi would continue drinking and snoring with a pleased smile on his face as he dreamed about something again.

Second senior brother would continue tending to his flowers as sunlight fell on his side profile.

Zi Che would continue sitting outside Su Ming's cave, grouping words together in his head and having the time of his life as he occasionally muttered the poems and songs he had created.

Eldest senior brother spoke even less and kept himself in isolation.

The way the ninth summit operated led to the girl receiving absolutely no answer even though her voice traveled through the mountain for quite some time.

Su Ming heard her, but did not bother with it. He did not know the eldest senior sister from the seventh summit and did not want to meet with people he did not know.

The girl waited for a little while longer before frowning and dashing up the mountain stairs. She might not have come to the ninth summit before, but it was still clear that before she came to the place, she had learned the location of Su Ming's cave from someone and was now walking up as if she was very familiar with the place. After a moment, she arrived outside Su Ming's cave on the quiet ninth summit, but her path was blocked by Zi Che.

Zi Che sat outside with a cold and aloof look as he stared at the girl.

"Uncle master refuses to see anyone. Please go back."

"So it is senior brother Zi Che. I am Chen Chan Er. You should know who eldest senior sister of the seventh summit is. I came on orders by my eldest senior sister to ask uncle master Su to see her. Please relay my message to him."

The girl's expression was passive as her clear and melodious voice echoed in the air. It was as if she did not care about Zi Che's power at all.

Zi Che frowned. Naturally, he knew about the eldest senior sister of the seventh summit, Tian Lan Meng. That woman was ranked first on the Great Frozen Plains ranking board. Just like Si Ma Xin, she was one of the people who were known to have the possibility of becoming the God of Berserkers.

He hesitated for a moment before he got up and walked into Su Ming's cave abode. After a short while, Zi Che came out and with a flat expression. He waved his hand dismissively and said, "He won't see her."

The girl frowned and cast a glance at Su Ming's cave, which was located not too far away from her, before she turned into a long arc and left.

After a moment, the long-haired woman sitting on the big rock that stood at the top of the seventh summit and had witnessed the fight between Su Ming and Si Ma Xin while also copying the power of that one stroke executed by Su Ming smiled faintly.

"He won't see me, hmm?"

"That's right. Eldest senior sister, that Su Ming is far too arrogant, he actually thinks he is our uncle master! I already said that I went there under your orders..."

The person who spoke was the girl who just came back, and her face was red with anger.

"It's fine. Take this with you and go there again."

The long-haired woman was breathtakingly beautiful. She pushed her black hair with her hand away and brought out a jade box, handing it to the girl.

The girl took the box, and while she was curious about what was hidden in there, she did not ask anything. She simply nodded and left.

After a moment, on the ninth summit, Zi Che stood inside Su Ming's cave and placed a jade box before him respectfully, then took a few steps back to wait for instructions.

Su Ming looked at the jade box quietly for a while before he opened it. The moment he did so, the entire cave abode lit up. Sitting inside the jade box was a golden stone coin!

The golden stone coin was diamond shaped and sparkled in a manner that gave a clouded, dreamlike feeling to others while also making people feel as if their souls were about to be sucked into the coin.

"A superior grade stone coin!"

Zi Che sucked in a sharp breath. The value of a golden stone coin, even if there was only one, was incredibly high. It was also extremely rare. One of these golden stone coins was enough to exchange for 100,000 normal stone coins.

However, this golden stone coin gave Su Ming a different feeling compared to Zi Che. There was a shocking amount of spiritual aura within it, and the density of it made Su Ming's divine senses feel as if they were being sucked in.

'She brought out a spirit stone of this quality just to see me...'

A glint appeared in Su Ming's eyes and he closed the lid on the box with his right hand before pushing it back to Zi Che.

"I won't see her."

Zi Che licked his lips, picked up the box, and exited the cave.

A long arc flew towards the risen platform on the seventh summit. Soon, Chen Chan Er's angry voice rang on the summit.

"Eldest senior sister, that Su Ming is just too arrogant. He still refuses to see. Just who does he think he is? You already asked him to come twice, and he's still ignoring you."

Once the girl returned the box back to the woman and stood fuming by her side, she glared in the direction of where the ninth summit was located in the distance.

"It's fine. Send this box over."

The long-haired woman smiled gently and brought out another box. It was as if she had long since expected this to happen and had prepared more than one box such as this.

Yet the girl did not seem to have noticed this in her anger. When she heard the woman's voice, she originally did not want to go, but in the end she still took the box obediently and flew away in a long arc.

'Su Ming, I'd like to see just how many things you'll make me bring out before you're willing to come.'

The long-haired woman smiled in an unaffected manner before she closed her eyes.

In the ninth summit, Zi Che's ragged breathing echoed within Su Ming's cave as he stared at the beast skins folded on top of each other in the box lying before Su Ming. There were four words on the skins, and they were... God of Berserkers Transformation!

'Only when the disciples are acknowledged by the school and have the possibility of becoming the God of Berserkers would they be given the mystical ability of God of Berserkers Transformation... Tian Lan Meng actually sent this thing here?'

Zi Che could manage to not pay too much attention towards the golden stone coin, but he could not afford to not care about these beast skins. His breathing became quicker. If he was Su Ming, then he would accept these things without hesitation.

'It's just meeting her...'

With much difficulty, Zi Che turned his gaze away from the beast skins and looked at Su Ming.

Su Ming's expression remained calm. He simply cast a glance at the beast skins within the box before he closed his eyes. When he reopened them after a moment, he closed the box once again and pushed it towards Zi Che.

"I won't see her!"

Zi Che was stunned. He opened his mouth as if he was about to say something, but when he saw Su Ming's expression, he quickly swallowed his words and picked up the box and walked out with begrudging reluctance, feeling that it was a great pity.

'She must be aiming for something big by showing off all these valuable treasures to me... I've never seen this woman before, so it's best that I don't take her things!'

The melodious voice rang once again not long after the previous time on the seventh summit. This time, that voice was clearly more high-pitched, and the anger in the voice also became more apparent.

"I'm not going anymore, eldest senior sister! I won't go! Just who does that Su Ming think he is?! He can't even win against Si Ma Xin, and he's acting so arrogantly! You invited him three times, and that alone is already enough for him to see that you're showing him enough respect, but he still refused!"

The long haired woman continued smiling. However, that smile not only did not contain any hint of coldness, it instead held a hint of profoundness within that the girl did not understand. It was as if she was not offended by Su Ming's actions but grew to admire him because of it.

"It seems like I've viewed him too superficially. Give him this thing."

The long-haired woman was silent for a moment before she grabbed at the air and another box appeared once again in her hands. This box was clearly different from the previous ones and was about seven feet long.

"If he still sends this back, then give him this wooden slip."

The woman passed the long box to the girl and then brought out a wooden slip about the size of two fingers from her bosom before placing it in the girl's hands.

"Alright, sister Chan Er, this is the last time. If he still returns them, then we'll forget about this," the long haired woman said gently.

There was a tone in her voice that made Chen Chan Er unable to refuse her request. She could only dip her head down and nod obediently.

"This is the last time?"

"Yes, it's the last time."

The long haired woman smiled, and it was a breathtaking smile. She patted the girl's hair.

Only then did Chen Chan Er turn into a long arc and go to the ninth summit.

Peace was bound to be robbed away from the ninth summit that day. Zi Che's breathing had become much more rapid in Su Ming's cave compared to the time he saw the beast skins that recorded the skill for the God of Berserkers Transformation.

"Freezing Sky Sword! The Freezing Sky Sword that will only be forged once every 500 years within Freezing Sky Clan! Only the disciples who have contributed to the school will be given this sword by Heaven Gate... Tian Lan Meng actually brought this out? This... This is..."

Zi Che was shaken when he saw what lay in the opened box before Su Ming. He simply could not fathom why the woman would do so.

Su Ming looked at the sword inside the box calmly. That sword was an ice sword and was completely transparent. It was letting off a chilling air that made his hair stand on end.

This was a great piece of treasure!

"There are only 14 Freezing Sky Swords given out inside Freezing Sky Clan. There is an Art embedded within each of these swords. Apparently, it'll also be much easier if you enter Freezing Sky Cave with them..."

A great look of longing appeared on Zi Che's face.

Su Ming was silent as he looked at the sword. Yet even though his eyes were trained on the sword, his heart was not on it. Instead, he was immersed in his own thoughts.

'First it's the golden stone coin, then it's the God of Berserkers Transformation, now it's this Freezing Sky Sword... The eldest senior sister of the seventh summit, Tian Lan Meng who is ranked first in the Great Frozen Plains ranking boards... just what are your goals?'

Su Ming frowned.

Zi Che hesitated for a moment before he spoke in a low voice to try and persuade Su Ming, "Uncle master, this sword... you should take this sword!"

"She's leading me into something..."

Su Ming lifted his head and gave Zi Che a look before he closed the lid on the box before him with his right hand and pushed it away once again.

"I won't see her!"

Zi Che felt his jaw fall slack and only let out a breath after a moment. He hesitated for a moment before sighing eventually and taking the box, then he left the cave with great reluctance.

Yet after a moment, he returned. This time, there was an odd expression on his face. When Su Ming looked over, he held out a wooden slip to him respectfully.

"They said that this is the last item they will offer," Zi Che whispered.

Su Ming took the wooden slip and cast a glance at it, and the very moment he did so, his expression changed. Even when he saw the golden stone coin, the God of Berserkers Transformation, and Freezing Sky Sword, such a drastic change of expression had never appeared.

Zi Che was momentarily stunned. He had stolen a glance at that wooden slip before and found that it was empty. There was absolutely nothing carved on it, so when he saw Su Ming's expression, he could not understand what caused him to have this reaction.

Su Ming stared at the wooden slip in his hands blankly and only closed his eyes after a long moment. When he opened his eyes once again, he stood up.

"Zi Che, I'm going to go out for a while. You don't have to follow me."