

## Three Realms 171

### Chapter 171: Results that Caused Dan Fei's Jaw to Drop in Shock

When Dan Fei saw this situation, her lips parted slightly as she smiled faintly, "Let the lordmaster judge whether an item is good or bad. Next."

Seeing Dan Fei gloss over the matter, Ye Dai couldn't say anything despite his dissatisfaction. He smiled faintly and retreated to his seat.

Internally, he was even more ticked off. Although sister Dan Fei looked to be impartial, she'd actually helped out Ye Rong twice already. This made Ye Dai feel as though countless little bugs were nibbling away at his heart.

"Can it be that in sister Dan Fei's eyes, a prince born of a commoner is more worthy of her protection than I, a first prince of pure and noble bloodline?"

Ye Dai did not believe that, and he would never admit it. "It must be that the brat Ye Rong is usually skilled at fawning over her and knows how to amuse her. In terms of great talent and bold vision, and how strong our foundation of family background is, sister Dan Fei surely holds me in higher regard. Surely, she helped Ye Rong find a way out because she pities the weak. But, from the honored tutor's perspective, how could he have the petty sympathy towards the weak? I, Ye Dai, am the most superior no matter what perspective I am viewed from!"

Ye Dai comforted himself within his heart and cheered himself on.

Since Dan Fei covered up this farce, it didn't affect the atmosphere of the rest of the segment. All the various sons and disciples of noble houses displayed their abilities to their utmost as they offered all sorts of nice items.

After not too long, all the gifts were placed on the main table.

Dan Fei walked to the front of the tutor, "Lordmaster, it's been a rather odd year. The followers of many houses have prepared many gifts as well. The total sum of these gifts is double than the number of gifts we received last year."

The old tutor had been watching with half lidded eyes, as if he was an old monk in meditation. He slowly opened his eyes only after he heard Dan Fei's words.

"Let's take a look." The old tutor spoke faintly.

These faintly spoken words seemed to have a particular magic to them as the hearts of many present trembled slightly.

Everyone knew that the old tutor would list the top three gifts after he took a look.

These three people would have the right to personally ask a question of the old tutor, and receive his guidance.

This wasn't a mere matter of face, but a real, tangible reward! In the entire Skylaurel Kingdom, the line of people who wished to personally request the lordmaster's guidance on some matter would stretch from the capital to the border if they all queued up.

However, the opportunities to do so were few and far in between.

These princes had always received the honored tutor's tutelage, but that was when they were all together. Everyone had learned the same things.

The honored tutor would not be biased as to favor anyone in particular

Receiving personal guidance was in itself a favor. Even the princes engaged in heavy competition for an honor like this.

For one, it was in order to leave a good impression in front of the honored tutor. And secondly, it was to prove to the king that one had received special treatment from the spirit king protector.

The old tutor circled the mound of presents on the table, walking slowly. He didn't have any particular expression, no matter what gift he was looking at. He was neither happy nor sad.

No one could tell from the old tutor's face whose present had garnered his fancy, and whose had earned his disdain.

However, Ye Dai was comparatively lighthearted. He was quite confident that although all the houses had offered many fine things this time, there were absolutely none that could be on par with his.

The Yellow Dragon Watching the Seas Painting was definitely worth much more than all of the others, whether in terms of value or quality.

That included even the Swordteeth Flying Fox cub from Ye Rong. That was just a pet after all, a toy.

His Yellow Dragon Watching the Seas Painting was an absolute treasure, a prized possession that would be useful to even spirit realm practitioners. Such items were ones that one could only hope to find by chance!

In all actuality, he'd hesitated quite a long time before offering this treasure. He'd truly made a deep investment with this. What he hoped to gain was undoubtedly the honored tutor's favor and recognition, and from that his endorsement of Ye Dai as the future Crown Prince and the heir to the kingdom.

Although he knew that erecting a ruler-in-training was primarily the business of the king and court officials, but Tutor Ye's opinion held unparalleled importance. If he didn't approve, then not even the king would dare make a careless decision.

In certain aspects, the power and influence Tutor Ye had within the Skylaurel Kingdom was even higher than the king!

The king could be changed.

But within the Skylaurel Kingdom, no one could replace Tutor Ye.

Dan Fei patiently followed beside the lordmaster, a faint smile on her face as she accompanied the old tutor in observing these gifts.

In reality, in Dan Fei's eyes, if she set aside her personal preferences, she too felt that the Yellow Dragon Watching the Seas Painting was the absolute best out of the bunch. The other gifts were completely unable to match it.

However, Dan Fei was also unable to fathom the old tutor's thoughts.

Just as Dan Fei was trying to guess at his thoughts, the old tutor suddenly sent her a message using his consciousness, "Little Dan, which of these gifts do you think is the best?"

Sending a mental message would bypass the concern that those below the main table could hear them.

Dan Fei was momentarily silent, but still spoke honestly, "In terms of quality, the Yellow Dragon Watching the Seas Painting should be the best."

"Mm. Little Dan, you aren't lying." The old tutor smiled faintly. "Except, I'm not selecting it as the best."

"Why is that?" Dan Fei gave a slight start. "If this item isn't the best, if you choose any of the others instead... won't the people think that this is unfair?"

"Not fair? If they didn't think I handle things impartially, they didn't need to come. This is all voluntary, and I've never commanded mandatory attendance from anyone." The old tutor's tone was indifference, but a feeling of aloofness suffused it.

In his position, he didn't care at all about the thoughts or feelings of others, or if it was said that he was favoring or oppressing someone.

If he felt it was good, then it was good. If he felt that it wasn't enough to be first, then it wasn't.

No explanations were necessary. Whether you understood or not wouldn't be enough to change the lordmaster's choice. You could cast your doubts on the lordmaster's decision, but you couldn't doubt his power and authority.

"Lordmaster, little Dan boldly asks, just why is that?" Dan Fei was still a bit curious.

"It's quite simple. This painting is a forgery." The old tutor smiled carelessly. "However, even if it was genuine, I still wouldn't select it as first."

"A forgery?" Dan Fei was startled. "The original is still not enough to be the best?"

"Yes, the reason is twofold. The first is that I was the one who created the original Yellow Dragon Watching the Seas Painting. However, it has been a very long time and no one knows of its origins anymore. To think that my junior would actually treat a forgery as a priceless treasure and gift it to me. Heh heh, Dan Fei, wouldn't you say that I've lived too long?"

"The lordmaster has had many happy returns, and no matter how long you live, it still wouldn't be too long. What is the second reason? Little Dan is quite curious!"

"As for the second reason? Isn't that even simpler? Naturally, there's something else that's drawn my attention. That item is truly first in class in my heart."

“Oh?” Dan Fei truly was startled. There was something even better? What was it? Dan Fei had been adopted by the old tutor since she was small and knew quite a thing or two about his tastes and preferences.

There was something that appealed to the old tutor even more than the Yellow Dragon Watching the Seas Painting, and she, Dan Fei, hadn't registered it at all?

“Little Dan, start writing down the placements. In third place, the Yellow Dragon Watching the Seas Painting forgery. Second place, the cub of the Swordteeth Flying Fox. First place, the best present is the Nine Magnificence Dew Wine!”

The old tutor's sleeves billowed as he picked up that unassuming wooden wine jug and held it in his hand as he murmured, “To think that I would have the fortune to see the Nine Magnificence Dew Wine again in the Skylareland Kingdom. How rare, how rare!”

It was obvious that in the old tutor's long life, he must have tasted the Nine Magnificence Dew Wine at some point. Although he wasn't as fervent as Shi Xiaoyao to the point of being unable to forget it, but as time passed, a good item left a deeper impression in his mind.

This wine had left an exceedingly deep imprint on the old tutor's heart. And this time, Jiang Chen's unprepossessing gift had unwittingly woken this deep impression in the lordmaster's memories and even made his eyes light up!

Dan Fei was thrown into disarray when she saw the lordmaster's gestures.

In that moment, she rather suspected that the lordmaster had made a mistake. But she immediately dispelled this laughable notion. The lordmaster had seen so much, how could he possibly get anything wrong?

Except, this wooden wine jug looked like the ugly duckling amidst a flock of swans as it sat within the piles of treasure. It looked cheap and shabby no matter how one looked at it.

To think that the lordmaster had selected this piece of stone out from a pile of jewels, and chosen it as the best. This scene was simply too dramatic.

Except, those beneath the stage were unable to see their motions. They had no idea what had transpired and were all waiting anxiously.

At this moment, Dan Fei walked out from behind the stage, and her pleasing voice resounded again. “Everyone, after the lordmaster's round of appraisal and selection, the three gifts that have won placements have been selected.”

When they heard that the three best gifts had been selected, the disciples beneath the stage quieted down from their hubbub.

All of them widened their eyes, full of hope, as they stared at Dan Fei. They hoped to read the message that they had been chosen from Dan Fei's eyes.

However, there wasn't the slightest hint of a special indication in Dan Fei's eyes. Her composed face gave nothing subjective away.

However, the more Dan Fei was like this, the more assured that Ye Dai felt. If Dan Fei felt that there was something surprising about the three rankings, then she would more or less have some particular sort of reaction, right?

She wasn't expressing anything. What did that mean? That meant that there was no suspense about what the honored tutor had selected. His Yellow Dragon Watching the Seas Painting was surely the best.

There was almost no doubt about it!

When his thoughts traveled to this point, Ye Dai's body drew itself up as he inched a bit closer to the stage, prepared to welcome the glorious moment where he took the top after stepping over everyone else.

His followers all had smiles playing about their lips as they had expressions of sharing the glory. Lu Wuji even shot provocative glances towards Jiang Chen.

It was an obvious demonstration of force at Jiang Chen.

But why would Jiang Chen pay any attention to Lu Wuji's juvenile moves? He did not care at all about who was the first and who was third.

He was different from these people, he didn't have the thoughts of purposefully currying favor with anyone. Whether the honored tutor admired or ignored him, Jiang Chen didn't care about any of this in the slightest.

Even if the honored tutor could blot out the sky with one hand in the Skylareland Kingdom, how did that matter? With the cream of the crop that Jiang Chen had seen in his past life, an old tutor like Ye Chonglou wouldn't even register on his radar.

To put it more candidly, if Jiang Chen were to select his followers the past life, the level in which Ye Chonglou was at likely wouldn't be sufficient.

Rather, it was Ye Rong who slightly inclined his body forward, showing his ambition to compete with the first prince.

Time seemed to freeze as everyone gazes focused on Dan Fei's sexy and moving red lips, as they awaited the announcement of the results.

Chapter 172: The Ranking that Caused Everyone's Mouth to be Agape with Shock

"In third place of this year's gift segment – the Yellow Dragon Watching the Seas Painting." All was calm before Dan Fei opened her mouth — everyone present was flabbergasted after she'd spoken.

The Yellow Dragon Watching the Seas Painting?

Everyone was stunned. The Yellow Dragon Watching the Seas Painting was third? Wasn't there something wrong here? Had Dan Fei gotten the order wrong?

Even first prince Ye Dai, for all his shrewdness and the effort he spent to display the gracious demeanor of someone who left matters of gain and loss up to fate, his face stiffened and lost all color when he heard these words.

“How is that possible?!” Lu Wuji couldn’t help but yelp. “The Yellow Dragon Watching the Seas Painting is only third? Sister Dan Fei, have you read out the placings in the wrong order?”

Lu Wuji thought the same as everyone else, that sister Dan Fei must surely have read the order out incorrectly. No matter how they looked at it, the Yellow Dragon Watching the Seas Painting easily surpassed all the other gifts.

It ranked only third? That meant there were two others in front of him!

Even Ye Dai’s first thought was that something was wrong with these results, not to mention Lu Wuji’s complete inability to accept them.

The others also wore a look of unimaginable queerness. Although they had continued to participate in the competition, but they had long since resigned themselves to fate. They felt that since the Yellow Dragon Watching the Seas Painting was surely first, they could only be able to vie for second and third.

Therefore, when they heard that the Yellow Dragon Watching the Seas Painting was third, these people were shocked but also delighted in the misfortunes of others. At the same time, some ambitious thoughts arose in their hearts.

“The Yellow Dragon Watching the Seas Painting is third? Doesn’t this mean I have a chance to fight for first? Perhaps the lordmaster hasn’t seen my gift before and particularly admired it?”

Many people had these notions in their minds.

“Sister Dan Fei, are you sure you aren’t mistaken? I can’t think it through. Everyone has seen these gifts, and what could better than the Yellow Dragon Watching the Seas Painting?” Ye Zheng also stepped out to protest against the injustice on Ye Dai’s behalf.

Dan Fei said faintly, “Ye Zheng, are you doubting the lordmaster’s eye?”

Ye Zheng suddenly felt flustered and hastily waved his hands, “I didn’t mean that at all. I was just wondering if you mixed up the order when you wrote down the rankings.”

Dan Fei flicked a glance at him, but her gaze was a bit remote.

This rather meaningful glance caused Ye Zheng to shrink into himself and shut his eyes quite appropriately.

Ye Dai’s mouth was full of bitterness. He saw all of sister Dan Fei’s reaction. This obviously wasn’t a mix up, but an indication that he really had ranked at number three.

And, by how sister Dan Fei was acting, it was apparent that she wasn’t even going to give him an explanation!

Ye Dai was dejected to the point of going crazy. He truly didn’t understand why this was happening!

Except, he also clearly understood that if he made a scene now, his image in Tutor Ye’s heart would likely take a huge hit.

He smiled wryly and retreated, bowing slightly, “Ye Dai thanks the honored tutor for his favor.”

Dan Fei nodded slightly and pitied him somewhat when she saw that he did not lose his composure. She wanted to explain as well, but how could she explain?

Tell him that this was a forgery? That would be an even greater blow than not explaining at all. A vaunted first prince gifting a forgery to the honored tutor, wouldn't that be a great humiliation?

Therefore, the best decision was to not explain.

From Dan Fei's eyes, Ye Dai seemed to see several hints that she couldn't bear the situation, and so he felt a bit better. It was a good thing that sister Dan Fei was still nostalgic and valued old relationships.

Dan Fei composed herself and her bell-like voice sounded again, "In second place, the Swordteeth Flying Fox cub."

Ye Rong was both startled and overjoyed when he heard this. He was happy that his ranking had been greater than first prince Ye Dai's.

He was startled in that, he wasn't first either?

But at this moment, it didn't matter whether he was first or not. In either case, he'd suppressed first prince Ye Dai and thus he'd succeeded this time.

As he recalled the humiliation he'd suffered from the first prince just now, Ye Rong felt a surge of anger. He smiled faintly and completely ignored Ye Dai's hostile gaze, bowing to Dan Fei. "Ye Rong feels deeply honored to receive the revered tutor's favor, and many thanks to sister Dan Fei."

Lu Wuji still didn't want to accept things. "The Swordteeth Flying Fox is but a toy. To think that its ranking is higher than the Yellow Dragon Watching the Seas Painting, what's with this ranking? Ai, I don't understand it."

Although he was murmuring under his breath, everyone present could hear him.

Dan Fei's gaze was cold as it shot towards Lu Wuji. "And what the heck are you? Who are you to question something that the lordmaster has decided? Get out if you speak another word!"

Dan Fei had followed Tutor Ye since she was young. Even though she held no power and influence in her hands, no one within the entire Skylaurel Kingdom would dare treat this woman lightly.

This was because they all knew that this woman represented Tutor Ye!

Lu Wuji was a premier noble in the Skylaurel Kingdom, but he had absolutely no qualification whatsoever to behave atrociously at this sort of occasion.

To take a step back, even first prince Ye Dai was vastly unqualified to do so!

"Wuji, do not act wildly." Although first prince Ye Dai rather admired Lu Wuji's daring and brash style, the necessary pleasantries still had to be observed at an occasion like this.

Lu Wuji backed down with some embarrassment and a darkened face.

He couldn't accept things at all, and felt that the first prince had been treated unfairly.

When Dan Fei was in a rage, she had her own allure, making the hearts of the young men present pound fiercely, as if a monkey was scratching at them.

“Alright. I now announce the gift that ranked first amongst this year’s gift segment — the Nine Magnificence Dew Wine.”

Dan Fei also knew that if she just said the Nine Magnificence Dew Wine, these people probably wouldn’t even know which one it was. So she picked up that unassuming wine jug and held it in her hand, shaking it slightly to indicate the winner.

Dan Fei also felt this scene was a bit comical. After all, when this wine jug had been offered, it had elicited a round of laughter at the scene and everyone had treated it as a colossal joke.

And now, the item that had been like the ugly duckling had turned into a most stunning swan with a shake of its body, and become the jewel on a crown!

When her thoughts traveled here, even Dan Fei couldn’t help but cast a look of interest behind Ye Rong.

She was quite curious too, just where had Ye Rong found such an odd young man? And how had this young man taken out something that caused even the usually calm honored tutor to be a bit moved?

The Nine Magnificence Dew Wine? Dan Fei had no recollection of the existence of such a wine in her memories. She also knew that the old tutor would sometimes partake in some wine when he was bored and had nothing else to do.

However, the old tutor had never mentioned the Nine Magnificence Dew Wine.

Even Dan Fei, someone who’d been mentally prepared, felt that this was a bit surprising. Then, it went without saying that the reactions of those beneath the stage were in even more of an uproar.

Ye Dai hadn’t even known who had offered the gift when he first heard the words Nine Magnificence Dew Wine. But who wouldn’t recognize the wine jug in Dan Fei’s hands?

The gift that had just been an embarrassment and source of much mockery was now ranked first?

Was this a dream?

Ye Dai almost suspected that something was wrong with his eyes. He blinked, took a closer look, and discovered that there really was nothing wrong with his eyes.

It was indeed the shabby wine jug that Jiang Chen had carelessly taken out and offered just now.

People might have made a mistake if it had been anything else. But this wine jug, with its ridiculous appearance and unique design, was absolutely one of a kind.

No one would be able to imitate it even if they wanted to.

Lu Wuji’s eyes were as wide as saucers at the moment. He had an expression of someone seeing a ghost. At this moment, he was the biggest disbeliever of all.

A shabby wine jug had won first place. If he hadn’t been hectored by Dan Fei earlier, he almost wanted to hop out to question this decision and rain down a torrent of abuse.

But, reason told him that if he stepped out now, Dan Fei wouldn't mind in the slightest if she threw him out. That would be the greatest loss of face.

Lu Wuji's face was beet red as it flamed. He'd completely lost face. He really wanted to find a hole to crawl into. When this jug had been offered earlier, he'd been the one who jeered the hardest, and mocked that the sender was an uncommon, unique fool.

The truth had proven that he was the fool instead.

Ye Dai was also quite infuriated. He had never thought that the winning gift would be the wine jug.

He had been shamelessly boastful just now in requesting Dan Fei to remove this jug of wine, in case it left a bad impression and adversely impacted everyone's mood.

This was practically the biggest joke. At this moment, he, Ye Dai, had thoroughly and utterly become a background, the background that proved to be the foil for this first place gift.

"Heh heh, big brother, to think that your eye for assessment would be wrong this time." The person speaking wasn't Ye Rong, but second prince Ye Qiao.

Ye Qiao was extremely hostile towards Ye Dai. When he wanted to offer his gift just now, he'd been rather embarrassed when the first prince had purposefully cut him off.

Now that he saw this opportunity, how could Ye Qiao let it go?

"Number four, I hadn't thought that your schemes would be hidden so deeply. The saying goes well and speaks straight to your second brother's heart. The outside is good jade, but the inside is rotten materials. Indeed, those that look nice and fancy aren't necessarily good. On the contrary, those that don't look like much may be the good items. I've learned much, truly learned much. I've really gained much knowledge this time. Number three, what would you say?"

Second prince Ye Qiao was undeniably a smooth talker. He'd embroiled his three main opponents with a small snippet of speech. He'd made a dig at the first prince and slapped his face, picking at Ye Dai's scabs. On the other hand, he'd purposefully complimented Ye Rong to enflame the first prince's hatred towards Ye Rong.

He'd also laughed at third prince Ye Zheng for good measure.

After all, when Jiang Chen had offered this jug of wine just now, third prince Ye Zheng was the one who's raised the greatest fuss, voicing idiotic words like how the jug insulting the eyes and ears of others.

And now, it'd become the honored tutor's hand-picked gift of first place. Wasn't this the greatest slap in the face for Ye Zheng?

Ye Zheng's face was full of dejection as he was speechless. He could only mutter, "And what are you so proud about? It's not a gift that you offered."

Ye Qiao laughed heartily, "Number three, everyone can admire a nice item together, why allocate responsibilities so clearly? You, ah, you, you're just so impulsive and unreasonably offended by the smallest things."

Fourth prince Ye Rong had finally recovered by now. To be honest, he'd been slightly disappointed when he learned that he was only in second place.

But when he heard that Jiang Chen was first, his entire being felt as though he was spontaneously flying into the sky. The great ascents and falls of his life had simply come too quickly.

He'd been the same as everyone else, and would've never thought that that uninteresting wine jug would become the gift that won first place.

His words in rebutting the first prince that the outside being good jade, but the inside being rotten materials had actually been to hint obliquely at the first prince himself, but who would've thought it would've turned out to be a prophecy that came true.

There truly was no way for the jug's exterior appearance to be uglier, but who would've thought that what was contained inside would be such precious nectar that the honored tutor would hail as first place?

Feeling the gazes from all sides center in on him, Ye Rong had the feeling of exaltation upon fulfillment. He'd been suppressed by the first prince for so many years but had finally seen the day in which he experienced the sweet thrill of being the main character.

Despite the fact that it'd been Jiang Chen who'd brought this emotion for him, Ye Rong did not mind in the slightest. This was because at the moment, Jiang Chen was keeping quite a low profile in standing behind him and had absolutely no intention of stealing his thunder.

In this moment, Ye Rong felt very gratified and proud of himself. To think that he would unwittingly receive such rich rewards after traveling such a distance to the Eastern Kingdom, going out of his way to enlist the services of a talented and learned man, and recruiting Jiang Chen!

#### Chapter 173: The Furor Brought by the Gift in First Place

Ye Rong didn't think that Jiang Chen would give them such a great surprise so carelessly.

He had invested a great deal in recruiting Jiang Chen, he'd even gifted Jiang Chen the four times refined spirit weapon, the Da Yu bow.

However, today, Jiang Chen had returned it all, with interest! The magnitude of this return was such that even five spirit weapons wouldn't measure up to it.

A spirit weapon was dead and it could be bought with money.

But the sense of pride, the feeling of exaltation upon fulfillment and the honor of receiving the honored tutor's favor was something that no amount of money could purchase.

Tian Shao and Lin Qianli also felt that this was quite incredulous.

Tian Shao was alright, he'd interacted with Jiang Chen before and more or less understood him. He knew that this fellow most likely had an impressive background, and that he often committed stunning acts.

It was the first time that Lin Qianli had come in contact with Jiang Chen though, and he'd been rather predisposed against Jiang Chen earlier. But now, Jiang Chen's careless action had astounded all those around him and he firmly suppressed them!

In the beginning, Jiang Chen said that the wine jug was an indication of the three's sentiments, Tian Shao didn't say anything, but Lin Qianli had quite felt embarrassed.

But now, with the turn of a head, the previous humiliation and mockery had turned into unsurpassed pride now and it became the gift in first place that thoroughly trounced everyone!

Even a person as coolly composed as Lin Qianli couldn't help but be more than a bit proud at the moment. He was a proud person, and he had always yearned to be accepted and esteemed by others.

Therefore, he was quite stubborn on the road of martial dao. He only looked to be top dog and have others look up to him.

And in this moment, he well and truly felt the feeling of having others hold him in awe.

Although this feeling wasn't something that he'd earned himself, he still felt rather damn good about it.

Even the most isolated person yearned to be accepted, respected, and valued deep in their hearts. Lin Qianli was no exception.

Tian Shao chuckled merrily, "Younger brother Jiang, I've unwittingly shared in your glory once again. I shan't fight against you for the chance to ask a question of the lordmaster later."

"Heh heh, since we're brothers, why divide things between me and you so clearly?"

Tian Shao hastened to shake his head and wave his hands, "Forget it, forget it. I'm a military person and I can only ask the lordmaster for his guidance in limited areas. You're young and accomplished, if you receive the lordmaster's guidance, your future will have boundless prospects."

Lin Qianli felt a bit awkward as he was quite conflicted. He knew Jiang Chen had previously said the three of them had prepared the gift together. But he would never be so thick skinned as to claim that he had a part in the glory.

To put it candidly, they were riding on Jiang Chen's coattails.

However, Lin Qianli was truly tempted. Although he didn't think that he would really have the chance to ask the lordmaster some questions, now that the chance was in front of him, he really did want to. He had been stuck at an impasse on his path of martial dao. He was just one step short, but he could never take the leap.

If he could take that step, he could break free from his cocoon and become a butterfly.

Therefore, he was rather hesitant and bit his lip lightly. The resolute pursuit of martial dao finally triumphed over his modesty as he stammered, "Jiang Chen, can I discuss something with you?"

"No problem," Jiang Chen waved his hand. "I don't have any questions to ask. You can have both chances if you'd like."

Jiang Chen truly didn't have much to ask. Jiang Chen had possessed more than enough theory in his past life. Although the lordmaster was the enduring monument of the Skylaurel Kingdom, it would still be a colossal joke for him to give pointers to Jiang Chen.

"What?" Lin Qianli suspected that he hadn't heard correctly.

"Younger brother Jiang, you..." Tian Shao was also flabbergasted.

Jiang Chen spread out his hands, "I said that we don't need to be so polite between brothers. How about this, for fairness' sake, each of you ask one question?"

According to the rules of the gifting segment, whoever won it would have two chances to ask a question. It would be just right if the two chances were distributed to Tian Shao and Lin Qianli.

"Younger brother Jiang Chen, do you really have nothing to ask? The lordmaster is the spirit king protector of the kingdom. His training is at the peak of the spirit realm. If you receive a few words of guidance..."

"That's alright, I have my own path." Jiang Chen said faintly.

Tian Shao wanted to carry on speaking, but Dan Fei said with a smile on stage, "Everyone, here comes the lordmaster. Please say a few words to everyone!"

Cheers rang out from beneath the stage as everyone started applauding.

First prince Ye Dai, battered out of his senses with dejection, controlled his emotions with effort and started applauding as well. Lu Wuji's gaze flitted around as he hated Jiang Chen even more.

He had once again been humiliated and slapped in the face by Jiang Chen. He'd been made a fool of, and even the first prince had been made a spectacle of.

Hatred!

"Jiang Chen, you like being in the limelight. You've thoroughly offended the first prince this time. Let's see who can protect you in this entire capital!" Lu Wuji's tone was filled with rage.

Old Tutor Ye hadn't been very interested before, but at this moment, there were some traces of a smile on his face.

"I stand here every year. My eyes may be closed, but my heart is open. I may not look beneath the stage, but I observe your every motion and gesture. There is controversy every time when the gift rankings are announced. I never explain anything. You can be full of doubt if you'd like, or be unhappy if you will. I don't care about any of that at all. Those who would come will still come next year, and those who shouldn't come, I wouldn't look forward to you coming either." The honored tutor's voice was resonant and it was carried far. A few traces of gravity had been added to his face that seemed not of this world, reminding everyone that this was an old man who could change the layout of things in the Skylaurel Kingdom.

"Today, I will make an exception. Why did I chose the Nine Magnificence Dew Wine as the best gift? Because I have lived for so many years, so many endless nights, and I have seen a countless number of fine items and forgotten even more of them. But what is truly good is something that one would be

unable to forget in their entire lives. These fine items are destined to take root in your mind and leave an imprint behind. This Nine Magnificence Dew Wine is one of the few good things that have left a brand on my heart.”

“Perhaps, I am unable to describe how precious it is from direct observation. I can only give an example. Not even the head of the Precious Tree Sect would necessarily be able to drink this wine if he wanted to.”

No description or propaganda was needed to describe how precious this wine was.

The most direct way of describing it was that if even the head of the Precious Tree Sect wanted to drink it, he may not be able to.

This was the explanation that cut straight to the point the most and it was the most effective!

The entire crowd was solemnly silent after these words were spoken. All of their emotions were surging bizarrely. What kind of identity and status did the honored tutor have? Would he lie? Would he craft these lies for this wine?

Absolutely not!

Therefore, this Nine Magnificence Dew Wine was truly this precious?

In the span of a moment, all the gazes on Ye Rong became a bit complicated. These people had all originally felt, more or less, that this wine jug was too... unique, and a thorough affront to the eyes.

In this moment, all these thoughts did a complete one eighty.

“Where did Prince Ye Rong find this young man? He carries such wine on him at all times? Did he carefully prepare this in advance to offer it to the honored tutor?”

“This Ye Rong isn’t someone simple alright. He set up a trap step by step, letting the first prince advance and then finally, carelessly offering that wine. This must have been something carefully designed beforehand. It looks like the first prince has fallen into Ye Rong’s trap.”

“To think that Prince Ye Rong was so shrewd! He purposefully found an unassuming wine jug and let everyone laugh at him, to allow the first prince to have his digs and mockery. He then made an ultimate comeback! This type of face slapping is truly brutal, and damned sweet. Look at the first prince, he’s lost a lot of face this time.”

“It looks like we can’t underestimate Prince Ye Rong in the future. I’d always thought that he was a meek, quiet sort. Who would’ve thought that such great ambitions would be hidden behind his low profile? A book can’t be judged by its cover alright.”

Poor Prince Ye Rong. An unexpected matter had helped him leave a fathomless impression in the eyes of others. Everyone thought that he had purposefully led the first prince on and used this method to slap the first prince’s face.

However, Ye Rong obviously didn’t care about this. The more everyone thought in this manner, the happier he was. The more that others kept a fearful and respectful attitude towards him, the higher his place as prince would be.

Although first prince Ye Dai's mouth was full of bitterness, he was also secretly cowed. He too felt that this had been a trap that Ye Rong had set up, and lured him into stepping into it step by step.

"Ye Rong that animal, to think that he harbored such ambitions. It looks like I can't sit idly by. I always thought that number two was the greatest thorn in my side, but now, it looks like I cannot afford to lower my guard against Ye Rong either." Once Ye Dai felt the pressure from Ye Rong, he would exert greater pressure over Ye Rong in the next stage of his plan.

The honored tutor had had the spontaneous interest to voice these words. As for whether or not the people beneath the stage understood him or not, he didn't pay that much heed to that.

Dan Fei smiled faintly, "The confusion should've been cleared up in everyone's hearts now, I think? The lordmaster has lived such a great span of life that he looks lightly on everything. I trust that there is no doubt about the items that can leave an impression in his heart. The Nine Magnificence Dew Wine well and truly deserves the title as first amongst all the gifts."

A palm that was so tender that it seemed to lack any bones waved lightly across her face, tucking a strand of hair that had drifted by the corner of her eye behind her ear. Dan Fei smiled, "Alright. Now, will the owners of the three gifts that received placements please step up and ask their questions. Second and third place both have one chance. The owner of the gift of first place has two chances."

"Ye Dai, you come first."

Ye Dai had readjusted his emotions with quite some effort at this point. Although he was quite dejected that he had received third place, he didn't dare display any displeasure.

He wore a very humble smile on his face, "Teacher, student Ye Dai has a question to ask you. With regards to the alliance of the sixteen kingdoms, is it better that the kingdoms are separate, or that they are one?"

Ye Dai's question was domineering and expansive, showing breadth of vision. It had to do with the great question of the separation and unification of the sixteen surrounding kingdoms.

He had obliquely learned that the honored tutor was a fervent warmonger when he was young. He'd always advocated the expansion of the Skylareland Kingdom, swallowing the smaller surrounding kingdoms, conquering the neighboring sixteen kingdoms, uniting the lands, and establishing a great dynasty.

Therefore, his question played up to the honored tutor's interests. He was purposefully currying favor with the honored tutor, trying to elicit the sympathetic reaction that the two were of the same kind.

The old tutor smiled faintly and looked meaningfully at Ye Dai. "The trend of the world is that those separate for long must unite, those united for long must separate. Separations and unifications follow the greater picture. When the timing is ripe, things will naturally come together. When the timing is not right, it's better to remain apart than together. I have considered this question as well for the first half of my life. As it stands now, not only is the impetus from greater momentum needed, the existence of a fierce and ambitious person is needed to decide whether remaining apart or together is the way forward. The two conditions must be present at the same time. Without both of them, all discussion of united the sixteen kingdoms is but empty talk."

## Chapter 174: The Honored Tutor's Difficult Problem and Promise

The old tutor's response actually wasn't what Ye Dai had hoped for. In fact, Ye Dai had really wanted the honored tutor to compliment him and say that he'd asked a wonderful question, and then compliment him on his scope of vision and desire to find high footing. Finally, he would also encourage Ye Dai to use this goal as motivation and strive to achieve it.

Unfortunately, these were all answers that Ye Dai craved, but the old tutor's actual response was vastly different.

However, Ye Dai didn't dare show the slightest bit of dissatisfaction so he put on a facade of being deep in thought. He mused for a bit before saying, "The teacher's words are full of determination aimed at a higher vantage point. Your student will need to advance to another level before being able to comprehend the teacher's perspective. It looks like your student will need to work harder at grasping the greater picture, and must at the same time desire to become a fierce and ambitious person, working towards the goal of uniting the sixteen kingdoms."

Although the honored tutor hadn't responded in the way he hoped, this didn't preclude Ye Dai from expressing his own opinions and views towards the honored tutor.

The lordmaster smiled faintly and didn't respond. He would only answer a question once and it was impossible for him to voice anything else.

Although Dan Fei maintained a natural smile on her face, she was shaking her head inwardly. Ye Dai fancied himself as a clever man.

How would a young man like Ye Dai be able to grasp the perspective from which the honored tutor viewed things?

Dan Fei could actually understand what the lordmaster meant with his words. He was saying that the momentum for a greater picture to unite the sixteen kingdoms had yet to form.

He was also hinting that Ye Dai was not the fierce and ambitious talent that was needed.

That last sentence in particular, in which all was empty talk if both of the requisite conditions weren't meant, was actually a blow to Ye Dai. It was an oblique indication he should stay grounded and humble, and refrain from reaching for what was beyond his grasp.

It was a pity that Ye Dai was completely immersed in his own thoughts and had not understood the connotations of the honored tutor's words.

What heights have you risen to now to speak of uniting the sixteen kingdoms? Your strength has yet to reach the required level but your ambitions are overweening. This would wreck the country and bring ruin to the people.

"In the end, Ye Dai still thinks of himself as a bit more clever than he actually is." Dan Fei sighed privately within her heart.

Her beautiful eyes changed direction and looked towards Ye Rong, "Ye Rong, you're in second place. What question do you have to ask the lordmaster?"

Ye Rong was all seriousness as he said gravely, "Teacher, my question happens to be almost the direct opposite of big brother's question in terms of line of thought. I've been considering, does a kingdom count as strong if its borders are endless, or if the country is prosperous and the people at peace? For a strong dynasty, even if it carves out new frontiers everyday, if the people are destitute and the soldiers on the front lines suffer high casualties, what is the meaning of exhausting the troops and engaging in war like this?"

Ye Dai's facial expression chilled with Ye Rong's question.

Ye Rong was obviously asking this question just for the sake of asking it. Ye Dai's question had to do with uniting the sixteen kingdoms, whereas Ye Rong asked what was the point in indulging in wars of aggression!

No matter how one looked at this question, it was at direct odds with the question that he, Ye Dai, had asked.

The honored tutor's expression was noncommittal as he wasn't angered by Ye Rong's contrary question. He thought briefly, then said, "Soldiers are men as well. If soldiers and generals have no motivation and goals when fighting on the front lines, they will be unhappy. Then, such wars are meaningless. Expanding borders is not necessarily an evil. On the other hand, holding the army in check is not necessarily a good thing. The difference between good and bad is determined by the intention of the war. If expanding borders can help more people live a better life, then this war is a good one. This old man's perspective is that the purpose in expanding borders lies not in having more territory, but in helping more people live a prosperous and peaceful life! If one in a superior position loses sight of this goal, then he will lose sight of the correct direction."

Ye Rong listened raptly, nodding slightly as he returned to his seat. He would need some time to absorb and digest these words.

"Alright, now, it's time for the owner of the first place gift to ask his questions. According to the rules, the owner can ask two questions."

Dan Fei cast her gaze onto Jiang Chen.

She was a smart woman and naturally knew that this Nine Magnificence Dew Wine was not something that the three had planned together.

It was one hundred percent something that this strange young fellow had cooked up.

Dan Fei was a woman who didn't easily find her curiosity piqued, but at this moment, she was quite curious about Jiang Chen.

She really wanted to know just what question would this young man ask of the lordmaster? Questions of martial dao? Or questions in other areas?

Feeling Dan Fei's eyes on him, Jiang Chen smiled faintly and inclined his body slightly, hiding behind Ye Rong very naturally.

It wasn't that Jiang Chen was running away from anything; he truly didn't want to keep a high profile. What he wanted to do most at the moment was to close his eyes and rest for a bit, simulating a battle with a spirit realm practitioner.

Because he was going to face Xin Wudao's challenge next. This matter had to do with the life and death of the Qiao brothers.

Under these circumstances, Jiang Chen truly had no interest to bother himself with these things. He knew that if he asked a question, he'd be subjecting himself to all sorts of rumours and gossip.

It was better to avoid these things if possible.

When Tian Shao saw Jiang Chen like this, he knew that Jiang Chen had truly decided to give up his chances and wasn't putting on a show of false politeness. He said to Lin Qianli, "Qianli, you ask first."

Lin Qianli also wanted to protest out of modesty, but his resolution towards martial dao overcame his modesty in the end and he took a step out.

"Honored tutor, your junior, Lin Qianli, of the Azure Heaven Southern Palace, would like to ask a question with regards to martial dao. Your junior has constantly sought after the great perfection of twelve meridians true qi within the true qi realm. I have meditated arduously for three years but have never obtained it. Your junior would like to ask the honored tutor, is the great perfection of twelve meridians true qi just an insubstantial mirage in the end?"

A sudden beam of shrewd light shot out from the honored tutor's eyes, shooting into Lin Qianli's heart like an arrow of unparalleled sharpness.

"Aren't you half step spirit realm already? And you still cannot let go of your fixation on great perfection? There has never been such a thing as great perfection on the path of martial dao. Perfection means there is no longer any room for improvement. You are fixated on great perfection, yet you do not know that you are already passing up the best timing to enter the spirit realm?"

These words were as lightning streaking amidst the dark, dim hillsides as they lit up Lin Qianli's world of martial dao.

Lin Qianli was akin to being struck by lightning in that moment as he stood there, petrified. Abruptly, the light of enlightenment shot out from his eyes as a relieved smile blossomed on his face.

He bowed deeply, "Many thanks for the honored tutor's blow to the head, allowing your junior to brush away the clouds and see the clear sky."

The old tutor smiled faintly and said nothing else. He rather admired Lin Qianli's decisiveness and strong capabilities of comprehension.

"Junior Tian Shao..." Tian Shao walked on stage next.

Although Jiang Chen had said that this was a gift from all three of them, Lin Qianli had asked one question and Tian Shao was taking the other.

Didn't this mean there were no opportunities for Jiang Chen to ask anything?

Jiang Chen wasn't asking? Even the people on Ye Dai's side was faintly astonished.

Lu Wuji was even cursing Jiang Chen in his heart, "Jiang Chen that fool, how could he pretend to be generous and give such a prime opportunity to someone else? He's a fool, alright. Motherfucking hell, why won't such great opportunities fall into my lap?"

Although Lu Wuji had just been hectored by Dan Fei, he still maintained absolute worship and admiration towards Ye Chonglou, just like everyone else.

He would even dream of having an opportunity to ask questions like this, but he knew that such a chance would never come around to him.

As he saw Tian Shao walk onto stage, Lu Wuji's heart felt like it had been bitten by a viper as he was filled with jealousy. Just who the hell was Tian Shao? He'd always been someone beneath Lu Wuji's feet, someone whose status had never been able to match up to Lu Wuji. How could he swagger on stage to ask questions of the honored tutor now?

"Little petty men getting their wish!" Lu Wuji cursed inwardly. He could only scorn the person who obtained what he desired but could not have.

Dan Fei was also slightly surprised. She'd been curious about Jiang Chen and really wanted to know what questions he'd ask.

But, even though she'd waited and waited, the end result was that none of the people asking questions was Jiang Chen.

In this regard, Dan Fei's curiosity towards Jiang Chen increased even more.

Tian Shao's question naturally had to do with martial dao. The honored tutor was obviously a teacher who taught without discrimination. No matter who it was who asked a question, he treated them all fairly and give targeted explanations.

His final answer also greatly benefited Tian Shao.

When the old tutor had finished answering Tian Shao's question, first prince Ye Dai also breathed out a long sigh of relieved comfort. This unlucky break was finally over.

The segment of offering gifts concluded here.

Although he was in third place, this ranking caused him to be dejected.

Even so, he was fully anticipating the next segment, because sister Dan Fei had just mentioned that another segment would be spontaneously added after the gifts were presented.

Ye Dai was rather looking forward to this segment because he had prepared long and hard for it. He'd even given no thought to the costs and had purposefully invited a disciple of the Precious Tree Sect to come just for this matter.

"I hope that the intelligence was correct this time, and that the additional segment sister Dan Fei mentioned was the item that I prepared for. If I can help the honored tutor to relieve his burdens, then I

am sure that I will become his most favored student. When I ascend to the throne in the future, I am sure to receive the honored tutor's support and approval!"

Ye Dai's eyes were full of ardent fervor as he looked at Dan Fei with a hotly burning gaze. His heart itched to advance to the next segment.

When he thought of Dan Fei's promise, all of the blood in Ye Dai's body thrummed and boiled...

Those who could help the lordmaster resolve this difficult would receive a favor from the honored tutor!

After receiving a nod from the lordmaster, Dan Fei once again came to the front of the stage and smiled demurely, "Everyone, I already mentioned earlier that there will be an additional segment added after offering the gifts. According to prior agreement, whoever can help the lordmaster with his troubles in this segment will receive a favor from the lordmaster. Remember, this is a favor that the lordmaster will expend his full energy to fulfil. Everyone please rack your brains."

"A favor that he'll use his full energy to fulfil?"

"My gosh! How many years has it been since the honored tutor has made a promise like this?"

"Tsk tsk, if I could receive a favor from the honored tutor, joining even the Precious Tree Sect would be but a word from the lordmaster away?"

"We must cherish this opportunity!"

"Heh, even the king is likely to be jealous of whoever receives this favor."

"Heh heh, if this favor falls to me, I would hail the lordmaster as my master immediately and reside with sister Dan Fei. This way, heh heh..."

All sorts of thoughts and ambitions permeated the great yard in this moment.

Chapter 175: Five Winged Phoenix-Dragon

Everyone was greatly tempted after hearing the honored tutor make such a solemn promise.

This included even princes Ye Dai and Ye Rong.

Everyone was well aware that this favor was on a completely different level compared to the guidance given previously. This favor was absolutely unparalleled and incomparable.

Dan Fei looked at everyone's gazes of desire and expressions that were itching for action, and knew that people's will to fight had been aroused to the fullest.

She smiled faintly as her shapely body walked towards the back. Shortly after, she returned , leading along an exotic beast and walking slowly into the hall.

This beast had a body of jade green feathers. It had a dragon's head, two wings on its back, but its tail was like a phoenix with three wings attached.

When this exotic beast appeared, it brought with it a tremendous sense of awe and pressure. Even Jiang Chen, in the midst of his meditation, was shaken by this strong oppressing pressure. The strong pressure shot into his consciousness like an arrow.

Jiang Chen's eyes opened slightly as he looked at this exotic beast. Internally, he was also a little astonished. "This is an ancient bloodline, a Five Winged Phoenix-Dragon produced from the crossbreeding of dragons and phoenixes!"

"This world actually has ancient bloodlines?" Jiang Chen was slightly surprised, but he immediately brought his thoughts around to it. Although the ancient bloodlines were rare, but heritage would be passed down through the generations and there would always be crossbreeding in between the generations. There were bound to be all sorts of bloodlines roaming the various worlds and planes of existence.

It wasn't that astonishing that some of ancient bloodlines could've made their way here.

Except, Jiang Chen was still faintly astonished to see one appear in a small place such as the Skyl Laurel Kingdom. When he further looked at the quality of this Five Winged Phoenix-Dragon, it was undoubtedly one in which the ancient bloodline was very weak and diluted.

According to Jiang Chen's judgment, at most it would be a bloodline of the upper spirit degree. It could possibly evolve to the upper saint degree if all went well.

If it wanted to reach a higher level, it would either have to encounter great fortune or be exposed to superior cultivation. Otherwise, the saint degree would be the limit of this Five Winged Phoenix-Dragon's abilities.

"As the spirit king protector of the kingdom and a practitioner at the peak of the spirit realm, it's not a ridiculous thing for the lordmaster to have had a few favorable turns in life. It seems that the lordmaster isn't simply just the spirit king protector." Jiang Chen drew this conclusion in his heart.

When his thoughts traveled here, Jiang Chen's God's Eye couldn't help but cast a few more glances at the Five Winged Phoenix-Dragon before sinking deep into thought.

"Although this Five Winged Phoenix-Dragon has an awe inspiring presence, it seems a bit listless. It looks like the lordmaster is worried about this matter?"

Jiang Chen could not hold back a laugh as he thought, "Old tutor Ye is barking up the wrong tree in his panic. Although its level isn't high, it's still of the ancient bloodline. How many of these foppish dandies are able to understand it? Even if something is wrong with this beast, what kind of ideas can these fellows come up with?"

It wasn't that Jiang Chen looked down on these people, it was that these noble disciples of the Skyl Laurel Kingdom were not qualified enough and hence likely hadn't heard of ancient bloodlines at all.

If they hadn't even heard of them, how could they offer any ideas?

Of course, this matter had nothing to do with himself, and Jiang Chen had no plans to step in. What he cared most about right now was the battle with Xin Wudao.

He had to deploy his abilities to the utmost in this battle in order to see even a ray of hope.

His eyes closed as he once again shut himself into the world of meditation.

Dan Fei's voice sounded once again at this moment, "This creature is a Phoenix-Dragon, and is the steed of the lordmaster. I'm sure some of you in the audience will have heard of it before. Some problems developed with it three months ago and it became fretful and anxious. It doesn't eat any of the spirit foods offered to it. The beast has lost all desire for food and drink over the past couple of months and is not only dispirited but also lacks energy. Even a spirit creature cannot hold up beneath such torment. The lordmaster has searched for many spirit creature experts but he still cannot identify the reason why."

Jiang Chen laughed coldly within his heart. You don't even know where the beast is from, how would you be able to find the reason why? Prescribing medicine and treating the symptoms still requires knowledge of its origins and what the situation is.

"Everyone, to speak candidly, the lordmaster views this creature as his life. As it goes through such torment, the lordmaster also suffers. If any of you have a way to find out the reasons why, the lordmaster will owe you a favor even if you cannot offer the cure. If you can prescribe the appropriate treatment and solve the issue, then the lordmaster will not only owe you a favor, but will also grant you a great gift."

"What? Not only owing a favor but giving a gift as well?"

"So generous! Just what is wrong with this spirit animal? Damn it, why haven't I spent more time on the study of spirit animals earlier?"

"Now that the time has come to use them, I rue that I have not perused enough books. I regret not reading more classics and not understanding more of spirit creatures. What a pity, a pity!"

When Ye Dai heard Dan Fei finish speaking, his eyes lit up. He'd already heard some of this news from other channels.

Therefore, he'd gone to the Precious Tree Sect this time and spent a lot of money to invite a genius disciple from the Four Seasons Hall of the Precious Tree Sect, a personage they hailed as one of the five pill geniuses from the Four Seasons Hall, to bolster his group this time.

"Brother Xianke, this time, it's time for you to show your capabilities!" Ye Dai turned and spoke to the mysterious person in all black robes and wearing a cape next to him.

This person was the person whom Jiang Chen was most on his guard against. His level of training was above that of Xin Wudao and Liu Can.

The caped man was a disciple of the Precious Tree Sect. He was a genius in the dao of pills.

"First prince, I don't want to boast emptily but those who are stronger than me in the dao of pills in the Four Seasons Hall can be counted on one hand. Amongst the younger generation, if I call myself the second expert in the field of pills and raising spirit creatures, then no one will dare call themselves first."

This caped man's name was Han Xianke and he possessed the pride and confidence unique to sect disciples.

“Mm. This prince has invited Brother Xianke this time because I value this point of Brother Xianke. If it wasn’t for the fact that Brother Xianke’s name reverberated in my ears like thunder, how would I place as much importance on you as I do now?”

On Ye Dai’s side, he’d invited the genius disciple Han Xianke from the Four Seasons Hall of the Precious Tree Sect.

Ye Qiao had also made some preparations and brought a senior executive from the Qingyang Valley.

As for Ye Zheng, he’d also invited someone, but his guest was relatively less-renowned. He was a renowned veterinarian and had conducted many studies in the area of spirit animals.

Ye Rong finally took stock of the situation and understood what he’d missed out on.

It turned out that these princes had all received intelligence on why the honored tutor was worried. Ye Rong suddenly realized why sister Dan Fei would use such an odd tone to ask why he hadn’t seemed to know anything when he had passed through the door just now.

So this was what was going on.

“To think that Ye Dai and the others had such effective and pervasive channels of intelligence. Looks like there’s much for me to do if I want to become a strong contender for the position of Crown Prince. I need to make more connections and build more intelligence networks.”

Ye Rong was a bit depressed. He knew that if Ye Dai and the others succeeded this time, then the gap between the two of them would grow quite large.

Receiving the old tutor’s favor and an additional gift held great meaning.

For reasons unknown, Ye Rong couldn’t help but turn his head back and look at Jiang Chen. When he saw Jiang Chen with his eyes closed, having entered into a meditative state, he couldn’t help but be a bit disappointed.

In the instant that he considered of Jiang Chen, Ye Rong suddenly had a thought — a thought that desired a miracle to appear.

But he immediately smiled ruefully. Jiang Chen wasn’t omnipotent after all. Besides, he himself had not possessed foreknowledge of this matter, what could Jiang Chen possibly do then?

“Ai, Jiang Chen has just accomplished a great achievement for me, I can’t ask that much of him.” Ye Rong thought.

At this moment, Ye Dai took the lead and stood up, cupping his fists, “Sister Dan Fei, a genius pill master from the Four Seasons Hall of the Precious Tree Sect happens to be amongst my followers today. Amongst the young folk of the Precious Tree Sect, if this genius is number two in the areas of pills and raising spirit animals, then no one will dare call themselves number one.”

“Oh? What name does this genius go by?”

“Untalented Han Xianke greets Miss Dan Fei.” Han Xianke was different from the others. He was a sect disciple and wasn’t willing to to humble himself in front of Dan Fei.

“Sir Han, hello.” Dan Fei smiled. “I hope Sir Han can work a miracle and help the lordmaster resolve this issue.”

“I will attack this problem with all my strength.”

“Sister Dan Fei, I’ve also invited an elder of the Qingyang Valley. He has quite some experience in the ways of spirit creatures. Whenever anything goes wrong with the steeds of the four great sites of the Dragonteeth Guard, we all go to him for answers.”

The person speaking was second prince Ye Qiao. A middle aged man stood next to him and he looked wealthy, with some middle age fat and a potbelly. In terms of external appearances, he didn’t present as convincing a front as Han Xianke.

“Qingyang Valley?” Han Xianke suddenly laughed coldly. “And what the hell is the Qingyang Valley? Is it worthy of being mentioned in the same breath as I, Han Xianke?”

The facial expression of the middle aged elder from the Qingyang Valley grew ugly. “Sir Han, you heal yours and I heal mine. Everyone’s going off of their own abilities so there’s no need to be this domineering, is t’here?”

Han Xianke was unyieldingly lofty, “Domineering? Are you even worthy of me being domineering towards you? I’m simply conveying a truth. Even if old man Fei was in front of me, he’d have to grovel and play nice to me!”

The four great sites were very imposing within the Skylareel Kingdom, but only within it. To the disciples of the Precious Tree Sect, particularly geniuses like Han Xianke, the four great sites were merely a trash dump.

Only those who had no future in the Precious Tree Sect and disciples who sought to obtain wealth, prosperity, power, and influence in the mundane world would leave the sect and make a living for themselves in one of the great sites.

Therefore, it was quite normal for a genius like Han Xianke to disdain the members of the four great sites.

The middle aged elder from the Qingyang Valley had been insulted to his face, but he could only pinch his nose and hold his anger in. He also knew full well that Han Xianke was a genius within the sect. For him, stepping on an elder of a mundane site would be as effortless as stepping on an ant.

The vet that third prince Ye Zheng had invited stood naively to the side, barely even daring to breath. He was so scared that he didn’t even dare speak.

When first prince Ye Dai saw that Han Xianke’s presence was so strong, he was privately gleeful. He flicked a glance at second prince Ye Qiao, thinking Ye Qiao, you kid, you want to fight with me? You’re humiliating yourself this time, aren’t you?

I can even bring along a genius disciple of the Precious Tree Sect, what can you bring forth to battle with me?

There was an unbecoming expression on Ye Qiao's face , but he also knew that an elder of the Qingyang Valley truly didn't dare to fight with a genius disciple of the Precious Tree Sect. His strength was unable to overcome the other's.

"Alright, since all of you have come, display your talents! The lordmaster has spoken that whoever can cure the Phoenix-Dragon is the true genius!" Dan Fei didn't like to see conflict.

So what if he was a Precious Tree Sect disciple? If he couldn't cure the lordmaster's spirit creature, that still made him mediocre and in possession of an unearned reputation!

Others had to give the disciples of the Precious Tree Sect face, but the lordmaster didn't have to at all. To speak frankly, even if it was the senior executives of the Precious Tree Sect, the lordmaster didn't have to give them any face.

Rather, it was Jiang Chen who found all of this funny. Han Xianke was throwing his weight around like he was all that; he seemed to really think that he was quite awesome. Jiang Chen would like to see just how much knowledge and skill he had to his name!

#### Chapter 176: The Cocky and Bullying Genius Sect Disciple

Jiang Chen didn't know why either, he just felt uncommonly pissed off at Han Xianke. Perhaps it was because he had that arrogant, lofty air about him that sect disciples commonly had. Or maybe it was because of his humiliation of the Qingyang Valley.

Old man Fei from the Qingyang Valley was now Jiang Chen's servant at the very least. The middle aged fatty was obviously one of old man Fei's. Jiang Chen was naturally ticked off to see him shamed.

One had to see who the dog's owner was before beating it, no?

The middle aged fatty was from the Qingyang Valley and thus, he was one of old man Fei's men. The latter was now one of Jiang Chen's servants.

Although the follower of a servant had no status, Jiang Chen didn't want to see someone else being all hoity toity and running rampant over the fatty.

When he heard Dan Fei's words, Han Xianke smiled reservedly and took a step back, "Forget it, I don't like to be associated with trash. Let them go first! If they can handle it, then it isn't a big problem. I'll take action if they can't handle it."

Although sect disciples had all sorts of strange and eccentric tempers, they would also be a bit bizarrely proud at certain times. Take Han Xianke right now for instance, he was proudly allowing others to go first.

This was because he was a sect disciple and he didn't want to be lumped in with some ordinary, mediocre talents. This would only degrade his status.

He loved seeing others fail and then making his move in the face of difficulties, resolving the issue with one stroke. And then basking in the admiration and respect of others.

This was a little bad habit that almost all sect disciples had.

The first to walk up was the civilian vet that Ye Zheng had invited. This fellow also had an opportunistic mindset. He wanted to use this chance to make a name for himself and make a play for wealth and fortune. Thus, he gathered up his courage to approach.

The Phoenix-Dragon suddenly roared lowly before the vet was within even three meters of it. The vet ghastily cried out and tumbled backwards, spewing fresh blood out of his mouth.

He was just a civilian vet and the level of his martial dao training was middling. How could he hold himself up in the aura of a spirit creature? The shock naturally caused him to cough up blood.

A hint of a jeering smile played about on Han Xianke's lips as he looked at the fat elder of the Qingyang Valley.

The fat elder also had a wry look on his face. He knew that he was caught between a rock and a hard place. He wouldn't be able to not take the stage either.

Not matter what, he'd go up, take a few peeks and pretend to give a diagnosis. Whether or not he succeeded, he'd be able to give the second prince an explanation if he went for a spin on stage.

One had to say, an elder of the Qingyang Valley still had some true skills to his name. At least he wasn't sent spewing blood from the Phoenix-Dragon's aura.

After following the four ways of diagnosis in looking, listening, questioning, and feeling the pulse, the fat elder had a woebegone expression as he spread out his hands. "Miss Dan Fei, there's nothing wrong with this spirit creature."

Dan Fei's beautiful features darkened. Nothing wrong with it? What are you doing here if nothing's wrong with it? Here to watch a good show?

Old Tutor Ye sat on the side privately shook his head. It had been Dan Fei who'd insisted on adding this segment, he actually didn't approved of doing so. He didn't feel that these young folk could solve any problems. He hadn't objected out of consideration for Dan Fei's feelings, and because he was resorting to desperate measures.

No one had any suggestions anyways, what harm would there be in a couple more quacks having a go?

"And you didn't want to accept the fact that you're trash! Why aren't you getting the hell off the stage right now?" Han Xianke floated onto the stage, grabbed the fatty and threw him off the stage.

The tyranny of sect disciples were fully illustrated in this moment.

It was a good thing that the fat elder had a bit of training. His two feet strove mightily to keep their balance after he was thrown off stage, helping him find his footing.

His face was pale as he said huffily, "Second prince, this is bullying taken to the extreme!"

Ye Qiao also smiled ruefully. "Forget it, forget it! Restraining yourself is to keep to gentle breezes and calm waves, taking a step backwards will bring the wide sea and spacious sky into view. Why don't you go back first?"

The fat elder cocked his head. "I'm not going back. I'd rather like to see just how much skill the so-called sect disciple has to so humiliate me of the Qingyang Valley!"

A Buddha made from clay would still retain several hints of the temper from the material that it'd been made of. The fat elder had been thoroughly infuriated by Han Xianke, and he'd made his up mind to stay and observe.

If Han Xianke could resolve things, he could steal some knowledge and learn something.

If Han Xianke couldn't resolve things, the so-called genius of the sect was also trash, and no different from him of the Qingyang Valley.

Since they were both trash who couldn't cure the Phoenix-Dragon, what right did he have to humiliate others?

Han Xianke did indeed have some reasons for being so proud. The Phoenix-Dragon's anxiety lessened noticeably when he walked up.

Han Xianke was also met with barely any resistance when he probed and tried to make a diagnosis.

It could be seen that Han Xianke still had some accomplishments in the area of communicating with spirit creatures. The Phoenix-Dragon didn't resist strongly at least.

Given this case, even Dan Fei couldn't help but have some anticipation towards Han Xianke.

But, time progressed, an hour passed, and then two hours. Everyone's stomachs started rumbling, attesting to their empty state. Han Xianke still hadn't come to any conclusions.

Some became unhappy beneath the stage.

"Can you do it or not? Get off the stage if you can't. More than two hours have passed. We're all waiting to take our seats and eat, aren't you hungry?"

"It seems like sect disciples are just that!"

"He was so cocky earlier that I thought he truly did have some special abilities! Heh heh, he's just outwardly attractive but a worthless person after all."

"He insulted the Qingyang Valley elder to the point of making him out to be worthless earlier. I was almost truly frightened by him, thinking that he really did have some skills to his name. It looks like I was too naive."

Some began to gossip slanderously beneath the stage.

Not everyone supported the first prince, and not everyone liked seeing the sect disciples run rampant with tyranny.

Although most people felt that sect disciples tended to be arrogant, and thus it had been natural for Han Xianke to act how he'd been earlier, there was another portion of steely minded folk who didn't like seeing such style.

Han Xianke did feel a bit awkward at the moment.

This was because he'd deployed everything he had learned in his life, but he'd really discovered that there was nothing wrong with this Phoenix-Dragon.

If you were to say that it was sick, well, no changes had appeared in any of its bodily functions.

If you were to say that it wasn't sick, well, it was truly listless and it wouldn't eat or drink. It also had lost some weight.

But if you were to say that it was listless and lacking in energy, well, the presence within its body was abnormally strong. So it wasn't like a sick spirit creature at all.

Han Xianke really was at a bit of a loss at the moment.

He'd just cussed someone saying they were trash, and now, he'd busily worked away for two hours and also didn't find anything wrong. Could he possibly use, "There's nothing wrong with it" to gloss things over?

If that was the case, then what was the need for him, Han Xianke?

The conclusion that nothing was wrong with it had long been given by the Qingyang Valley's fat elder, and he'd actually thrown the other off the stage when it was given.

Then how could he possibly say the same words, no matter how thick his face was? Would he be thrown off stage like the fat elder by the lordmaster if he said those words?

"Genius Han, you called me trash just now, but you've probed for two hours now. Just what is the problem here? Tell us so we can all learn something." The fat elder asked evenly beneath the stage.

Fatties were indeed a group of people that one couldn't offend. Even if he couldn't best you in a fight and didn't possess power and influence as domineering as yours, he would never forget to exact revenge if you gave him the chance to do so.

The fat elder was perfectly depicting the law of the fatties.

Even though Han Xianke was wearing a cape, those beneath the stage could sense his predicament. Look at sect disciples and how awesome, how full of genius they were!

What was the result?

Still blank, goggle-eyed stares in the end!

"Sir Han, what is your diagnosis?" Dan Fei faintly asked.

Han Xianke stammered after Dan Fei's question, "This... it is indeed a bit complicated. Perhaps this type of spirit creature is only suited to run wild, and not to be raised by humans?"

Han Xianke could only give a clumsy, inferior answer like this one now that things had developed to this point.

When Dan Fei heard these words, disappointment flashed slightly through her beautiful eyes. How would she not know that these were Han Xianke's empty words? This Han Xianke, a sect disciple, a

bunch of eccentricities to his name. She'd actually thought that there might've been some astonishing knowledge to his name. The result had still been a disappointment in the end.

"Miss Dan Fei, perhaps, we could consider returning this creature to the deep mountains and its original environment. If it recovers its primal nature, then perhaps..."

"Sir Han, do you have a proper diagnosis or not?" Dan Fei was not that happy to see him equivocate.

"In my opinion, it's that this creature's wild nature hasn't been tamed and it's not suited to be kept in captivity."

Dan Fei said noncommittally, "Forgive me for not being able to agree. The lordmaster has had this spirit creature for many years and he has always raised it well. If its wild nature had not yet been tamed, it wouldn't surface after so many years!"

Han Xianke was speechless and spoke woodenly, "Then perhaps the climate is unsuitable for it."

When these words were spoken, Jiang Chen couldn't bear to listen any longer and splurged out a chuckle.

This laugh was uncommonly ear piercing in Han Xianke's ears. His face darkened as he screamed shrilly, "Who is it? Who dares be so bold? What right do ants have to raise a clamor when sect disciples speak?"

This flying into a rage was to cover his embarrassment.

Lu Wuji had been paying attention to Jiang Chen and immediately called out, "Jiang Chen, do you know Sir Han's background? What do you mean by laughing? Do you look down on Sir Han? Paugh! Are you worthy of doing so?"

Lu Wuji was standing firm for the cause of justice, but his intentions were quite clear. They were to stoke Han Xianke's flames of anger and induce them to burn Jiang Chen.

Indeed, Han Xianke had a belly full of frustrated anger and nowhere to vent it on. He shot a viciously sinister gaze at Jiang Chen.

Jiang Chen had been irritated by Han Xianke for a long time, and he was even more out of sorts with Han Xianke's glare. "Stop huffing through your nose and glaring at me. You should first measure whether or not you're trash when you call others trash. Don't be so cocky if you're trash. You're spinning so much crude and unfitting drivel now that you can't find a way off the stage, don't you find that funny?"

"Trash? Jiang Chen, you're crazy! How dare you insult a sect genius as trash? I think you're looking for death!" Lu Wuji fanned the flames.

Ye Dai also furrowed his brows, "Number four, your follower is quite immature. What the heck is he to besmirch a sect disciple? A village buffoon is ignorant, but are you ignorant as well?"

Ye Rong was momentarily speechless from Ye Dai's lecture.

Jiang Chen however, laughed heartily, "First prince, you keep calling me a village buffoon, so I'd rather like to ask you, a person from the big city. Just what is wrong with this Five Winged Phoenix-Dragon?"

You're not from a backwater, so give me an explanation! I'll admire you if you can say something, but don't pretend to be better than who you are if you can't, alright?"

The scene was gravely silent after these words. This fellow was so dauntless that he even dared to talk back to the first prince?

#### Chapter 177: Jiang Chen Makes His Move

It actually wasn't that Jiang Chen was purposefully picking a bone with Ye Dai, but rather that the first prince had provoked him and attempted to force him to submit over and over again.

Jiang Chen didn't want to cause trouble, but he couldn't hold up beneath the repeated provocation from these fellows.

Naturally, he didn't mind when they labelled him as a village buffoon, but he truly loathed and detested the first prince's lofty sense of superiority.

This sense of disdain had once appeared with regards to Long Juxue and the sect disciples of the Purple Sun Sect. It was appearing once again with the group around the first prince.

They were acting as if they were the venerated children of heaven so everyone else should naturally be their targets of abuse and humiliation, and stepped on beneath their feet!

What Jiang Chen abhorred most were idiots who obviously amounted to nothing, but loved pretending that they were the proud children of heaven.

If one was talking about geniuses, or favored geniuses of the gods, who had more right to be labelled thus other than Jiang Chen, who was the son of the Celestial Emperor in his past life!

However, Jiang Chen had never said he was a genius, and never used a lofty, holier-than-thou attitude to lord it over everyone else.

What need did true geniuses have for labels? Why would they seek satisfaction from oppressing others?

Dan Fei was slightly surprised to see Jiang Chen rebut Ye Dai. She wanted to smooth things over, but then, her thoughts raced and she suddenly wanted to see what Jiang Chen had up his sleeve. Pacifying words were at the tip of her tongue, but she swallowed them again.

At this point, second prince Ye Qiao also smiled. "That's right big brother, if you really do have some brilliant ideas, share them with us so we can all increase our knowledge as well."

Ye Rong was similarly ticked off. Although Ye Dai was hectoring Jiang Chen from the looks of things, he was actually targeting Ye Rong at the end of the day.

"Big brother, since you say that I'm immature and ignorant, then you should do something mature and wise to set an example for us. If you can help the honored tutor resolve his difficulties, then us brothers will also bow to your superiority. Otherwise, if you only know how to ride roughshod over everyone and yell at people, how will you be the model for us brothers?"

Prince Ye Rong had never publicly raised his voice against Ye Dai, but he was finally no longer willing to hold things in now.

Ye Dai smiled coldly, "Your follower even dares to offend the genius of a sect, what else is there that he is unwilling to do? Is there any point in us saying anything?"

Lu Wuji hastened to add, "That's right, Jiang Chen, the unprecedented way you throw your weight when you say that the sect genius can't do anything. What, can you resolve this?"

Han Xianke also spoke frostily, "Jiang Chen, you're a common, ordinary ant and you dare say that I am spinning tall tales. This is not only an insult to sect disciples but also an insult to the Precious Tree Sect."

All of them were up in arms while using words to suppress Jiang Chen.

Jiang Chen was as noncommittal as the clouds and wind as he said faintly, "Stop posturing. Sect disciples need to use their true abilities and knowledge to prove themselves. Using their reputation to lord over others isn't the act of a genius, but that of useless trash. You say I'm a common, ordinary ant. If you find that a problem that you, a so-called genius, couldn't handle was in fact handled by an ant, what would you think then? Where would you put your face?"

"You?" Han Xianke couldn't help but start laughing wildly. "You're mediocrity that's not even in the spirit realm! You don't even have the right to approach the Phoenix-Dragon. You'll handle the matter? If you can take care of it, I, Han Xianke, will immediately admit that I'm trash and you're the genius. I'll even be your dog from now on!"

"Be my dog? Heh heh, I'm afraid that you're not qualified to." Jiang Chen smiled carelessly.

Dan Fei's almond eyes moved slightly as a trace of hope flashed through them. "You're called Jiang Chen? Did you say just now that this creature is called the Five Winged Phoenix-Dragon?"

Jiang Chen nodded, "That's right, its proper name is the Five Winged Phoenix-Dragon."

"But, we've always just called it the Phoenix-Dragon."

"The Phoenix-Dragon is its origins, the Five Winged is its outward appearance. The bloodline from crossbreeding between phoenixes and dragons has been passed down since ancient times, with the bloodline becoming more and more diluted with every generation. This Five Winged Phoenix-Dragon counts as a lower grade of heritage. A truly strong heritage exists in the Twelve Winged Phoenix-Dragon. Now that's really something!"

"Twelve winged?" Looks of incredulity were revealed in Dan Fei's beautiful eyes.

"Jiang Chen, don't spin such a tall tale. Who doesn't know how to make up stories? How about you give us an explanation on what's wrong with this Phoenix-Dragon instead?" Han Xianke said angrily.

"Don't you try to provoke me now, I actually happen to know a bit more about this matter than you do."

Dan Fei's almond-shaped eyes widened. "Jiang Chen, do you really know? Tell us, tell us, just what is wrong with the Phoenix-Dragon?"

"The honored tutor has raised this Phoenix-Dragon since it was young, correct? That span of time equates to roughly thirty or so years all together, right?"

"This... how did you know?" Dan Fei was startled.

As for the old tutor who'd been sitting on his chair all along, a shrewd beam of light suddenly shot out from his eyes towards Jiang Chen.

"From the various emotions being displayed by this Phoenix-Dragon, it's most likely male. These problems wouldn't be cropping up if it was female."

"You know even this? Did you secretly observe it just now?" Dan Fei was even more baffled.

"Stuff like unsuitable climate and its untamed wild nature is all nonsense. The Phoenix-Dragon is one of the easier creatures to tame amongst the ancient spirit creature bloodlines. It is behaving like this for one reason only."

"And what is that?" Dan Fei asked unconsciously.

"Very simple, it's in heat." Jiang Chen chuckled.

Dan Fei immediately flushed bright red. "Jiang Chen, you're talking nonsense."

Jiang Chen said gravely, "Breeding between all creatures on the earth and beneath the heavens is a natural law of nature. How would this be nonsense?"

Seeing that Jiang Chen was speaking so seriously, Dan Fei debated with a red face, "You say it... it's in... whatever. Even if you're right, why hasn't this happened before? It... this is all of a sudden?"

"Stupid! Was I just running my mouth when I said it was roughly thirty years old? We humans start developing when we're thirteen or fourteen and begin to understand the matters between man and woman. The Phoenix-Dragon is more of a late bloomer and only start maturing after its thirty years old. It hadn't done so before because it was young. Now that it's started developing, it's thinking all sorts of random thoughts. You understand me?"

Even an open girl such as Dan Fei was blushing all over from Jiang Chen's words. For some reason, although Jiang Chen's conclusion sounded a bit like groundless gossip, she still believed seventy to eighty percent of what she'd heard.

One had to say, Jiang Chen's conclusion was frightful and shocking to the ear.

Most of the noble disciples present didn't believe him and felt that Jiang Chen was talking out of his butt. But even if he was bullshitting, they still rather admired his courage.

One had to know, to bullshit at a moment like this carried high risks. After all, the person sitting on the stage was the undying totem of the kingdom, Tutor Ye Chonglou!

And, if Jiang Chen's loose words were spoken randomly, then he was undoubtedly flirting and teasing sister Dan Fei. If Dan Fei found out in the end that Jiang Chen was leading her on, he would undoubtedly die a horrible death.

Who didn't know that even if it was the princes of the royal family, no one would dare speak frivolously in front of Dan Fei? Otherwise, Dan Fei would also give them the cold treatment.

Ye Rong was both delighted and worried as he saw Jiang Chen carry on. He knew that Jiang Chen often made surprising moves, and that he never failed with any of them.

He was delighted that Jiang Chen had made his move, but worried that if he messed things up this time, the consequences would be very severe.

Honored Tutor Ye would be unable to contain his anger, and even sister Dan Fei wouldn't show him a kind face from then onwards.

Ye Rong could only pray inwardly, "Jiang Chen ah, please don't mess this up. Ah forget it, I was the one who brought Jiang Chen here. If I don't trust him, then who would? If I use someone, I shouldn't suspect them. If I suspect someone, then I shouldn't use them. If I, Ye Rong, have so set my determination to compete for the position of Crown Prince, then I will need the tolerance of a ruler-in-waiting. My starting point in all areas is less than Ye Dai. If even my appetite for adventure is less than his, then in what else can I compete with him?"

Ye Rong was also a decisive person. Just like what he'd said when he first recruited Jiang Chen, he and Jiang Chen were both gold buried in the sand.

He felt that he and Jiang Chen were essentially similar. They were destined to emerge from the masses and soar over ordinary folk.

Therefore, he decided to take this gamble and bet everything on Jiang Chen.

Ye Dai had been thoroughly lectured by Jiang Chen earlier and his pride was naturally making him feel quite humiliated as the first prince. Now that he saw Jiang Chen carry on with such a frivolous subject, no matter how he looked at it, it seemed like Jiang Chen was making up a colossal joke.

Ye Dai knew that this was the perfect timing to make a move against his opponent.

He took a step forward and roared out, "Jiang Chen, sister Dan Fei is a belle of rare charm. Don't you speak filled with such depravity in front of her! What kind of diagnosis is this? You're acting like a thug! Damned despicable!"

Ye Dai put on the urbane, graceful demeanor of protecting Dan Fei.

He cupped his hands again and said to Dan Fei, "Sister Dan Fei, this kid is the son of a small duke in the Eastern Kingdom. He's a village buffoon, what would he know about spirit creatures? This brat has a sharp tongue, and he's particularly adept at spinning lies. Sister Dan Fei, don't fall for his lies."

Lu Wuji also added on, "Right, apart from a witty mouth and a glib tongue, this brat doesn't have any true abilities to his name."

Third prince Ye Zheng also sighed, "To think that, although the noble sons and disciples of our vaunted Skylaurel Kingdom number in great figures, along with countless numbers of experts, here we are, listening to a backwater kid run his mouth."

Ye Dai felt even more reassured having received support from so many. He roared with self righteous justice, "Number four, if you still want any face as a member of the royal family, tell this backwater buffoon to shut his mouth. What are your intentions in speaking so lewdly and blaspheming against sister Dan Fei?"

This huge crime came flying towards Ye Rong and Jiang Chen.

Blaspheming sister Dan Fei was a crime that was enough to make many of the young noble sons and disciples present view one as a common enemy.

One had to know, most of these young men had subtle thoughts with regards to Dan Fei. She was elegant and beautiful, poised and dignified. She was the goddess that many noble sons held within their hearts.

A stunningly beautiful appearance, a graceful and noble demeanor, and the most favored disciple of Tutor Ye. No matter from what angle they viewed her from, Dan Fei was the most perfect goddess.

Ye Rong had been oppressed several times by Ye Dai and also said with displeasure, "First prince, I honor you as a senior brother and have always held a tolerant attitude towards your oppression. You say that Jiang Chen is speaking loosely with no basis at all. I'd like to ask you, what evidence do you have that he's speaking loosely? Since the person you invited couldn't handle things, you disallow my guest to speak in return?"

"Evidence? Is proof needed to overthrow his ridiculous words?" Ye Dai smiled coldly and wondered if Ye Rong was so idiotic because his brains had been smashed between doors.

"You're merely slandering others if you have no proof." Ye Rong had also had his ire aroused and wasn't backing down at all. He knew that if he backed down from here, then his entire life would be equivalent to being beaten into the ground by the first prince. He would never have the chance to redeem himself.

On the contrary, if he held up beneath the onslaught this time or even came out on top, then it would greatly increase his reputation within the capital and give him the right to compete fairly with Ye Dai!

Seeing the two brothers insist on their sides, Dan Fei was also in a tough position. At that moment, she would invite unnecessary trouble if she favored any side and cause the scene to become even more chaotic.

#### Chapter 178: The Most Straightforward Way to Resolve Things

To be honest, she didn't think that Jiang Chen was some shady character that was trying to take advantage of her. Dan Fei had secretly been observing this young man. Even when the Nine Magnificence Dew Wine that he offered had been chosen as the best gift, no changes could be seen that had made their way across the young man's expression. This completely diffident expression was absolutely not something that a young man could put on.

Jiang Chen had even given up the coveted opportunity to ask questions of the honored tutor when his gift was chosen as the best, passing them onto his two companions.

Dan Fei also knew that some young men liked to pretend that they were deep or carefree in order to attract her attention.

Dan Fei had also originally suspected that Jiang Chen was pretending.

But after repeated conscious and unconscious observations, she discovered that she'd been thinking too much. Jiang Chen wasn't pretending, he truly didn't care about her.

When Lin Qianli and Tian Shao had asked their questions, Jiang Chen's eyes had even been closed. That completely indifferent expression was only missing these words tattooed on his face — what the hell does any of this have anything to do with me?

Even when she'd led the Phoenix-Dragon out later, everyone's attentions had been fixed on it and they had all wanted to give it a go. Although Jiang Chen had also paid some attention, he immediately had a flat and insipid look on his face afterwards, as if the matter of the Phoenix-Dragon was something he wasn't interested in at all.

If it hadn't been for Han Xianke's final diagnosis simply being too ludicrous and thus caused Jiang Chen to involuntarily break out in laughter, Jiang Chen likely wouldn't even have opened his mouth at all.

After Dan Fei's analysis, if Jiang Chen was still pretending, then this young man's acting skills were simply too good.

In either case, Dan Fei felt that Jiang Chen wasn't putting on a front, and likely did have some understanding of this Phoenix-Dragon.

At least, he'd known that the Phoenix-Dragon was male without having even walked forward. He could also make an accurate judgement of roughly thirty years time or so. The outside world would have no way of accessing this information.

Dan Fei didn't think that a young man would have the good luck to guess correctly with one random word.

Jiang Chen also clearly lacked interest in Ye Rong and Ye Dai's tit for tat verbal battle. He stretched lazily and said to Dan Fei, "Beautiful woman, I merely spoke carelessly, you can listen to as much of it as you will. If anyone else thinks that my words are ridiculous, I welcome everyone to slap me in the face with more accurate evidence. Otherwise, people stop your whining and crying if you have no evidence. Your voices irritate my ears."

Dan Fei was also slightly disappointed in Ye Dai's performance today.

Her brow furrowed, she spoke faintly, "If the two of you want to fight, then walk out of here and fight on the main street. Let the citizens of the capital see just how their princes act."

Ye Rong smiled ruefully and bowed, "Sister Dan Fei, younger brother here has always striven to hold myself in check. Unfortunately, while I seek to restrain myself, they continue to threaten me."

Ye Dai roared, "Ye Rong, don't you freaking act like you're innocent!"

Dan Fei's face darkened, "Are the two of you quite done yet?"

Although they were both princes, they still didn't have the right to act atrociously in front of Dan Fei. The two of them shut their mouths, but their gazes at each other were full of animosity.

Dan Fei's jade face was irritated as she looked at the two with displeasure. She turned around and walked towards the old tutor. Since matters had developed to this point, she could only ask the lordmaster for his opinion.

The old tutor hadn't said anything because he'd been using his consciousness to observe everything.

As Dan Fei walked over, the old tutor suddenly stood up and spoke to Jiang Chen, "Little younger brother, you're saying that the Phoenix-Dragon is in heat? Then, is this something to be concerned about?"

Jiang Chen wasn't the sort to put on airs, since the old tutor had questioned him specifically, he naturally wouldn't lord around like he was an expert. After all, his identity in this life truly was that of a junior to the old tutor.

"Lordmaster, it's both a cause and not a cause for concern. The Phoenix-Dragon isn't quite like humans. The yang qi within its body is becoming stronger and stronger as a direct result of the yang qi within its body being inadequately dealt with. If this continues on, eventually, it will result in the yang qi separating from the body and will cause damage to the meridians. In serious cases, its body will explode. Its current performance of not wanting food or drink is but the initial symptoms. You'll have a difficult case on your hands when things become this serious!"

"These are only the initial symptoms?" The old tutor had seen many odd things in his life, but what Jiang Chen was saying right now was rather new and interesting.

Jiang Chen nodded, "You'll know how scary it is when it really starts acting up in a few months. But with the lordmaster's strength, you should be able to keep it under control."

The lordmaster smiled wryly. This was his precious steed! Keep it under control? This wasn't what the old tutor had in mind. He only wanted to cure it so that it wouldn't continue to suffer.

"Little younger brother's words are quite refreshing to this old man's ears. I wonder who the little younger brother's master is? How do you know about the Phoenix-Dragon?"

Everyone inhaled sharply at these words.

What status did the honored tutor have? And yet here he was, talking with such a courteous and considerate tone, taking such a benevolent attitude when inquiring with Jiang Chen, and even calling Jiang Chen his younger brother!

This... this completely upended everyone's knowledge!

In that moment, even first prince Ye Dai felt like his mind was befuddled and completely confused. He was also almost crazed with envy and his belly was filled with frustrated anger. He wanted to erupt immediately, but had no place to vent his ill feelings.

How could he vent his feelings? Lose his temper at Dan Fei? Or throw his weight around with the honored tutor?

He didn't have the right or guts to. Taking a step backwards, even if he had the courage to, the other wouldn't care about him at all.

So what if he was the first prince? Tutor Ye had weathered through the reigns of several kings. Why would he even care about the feelings of a prince who wasn't even the Crown Prince?

Jiang Chen chuckled, "Lordmaster, the first prince and them are somewhat right. I am a village buffoon from the Eastern Kingdom. I have no master, only the good fortune to meet an extraordinary person and spend half a year with him when I was young. We were great friends despite our difference in age, and

coexisted like master and disciple. I listened to his chatter often and heard of a few things. The matter of the Phoenix-Dragon was also from this senior's mouth."

Jiang Chen naturally had a story ready. He'd said this to old man Fei, and naturally brought it out again when talking to Tutor Ye.

There were plenty of unexplainable things about him anyways. All of this could be shifted to that imaginary, mysterious person.

The heavens were thus vast. No one had ever met this mysterious person, and thus no one could prove that he didn't exist.

The old tutor was an open-minded person. He thought back and forth and didn't feel that there was anything amiss with Jiang Chen's words.

After all, no one would believe it if the son of a duke from the Eastern Kingdom had any sort of amazing master or used their master to intimidate others.

Besides, it was impossible for such a strong master, one with a thorough knowledge of the secrets of the Phoenix-Dragon, to exist within the sixteen kingdoms.

Ye Chonglou's strength was great and he'd adventured through many places when he was young. He was quite familiar with the overall strength of the neighboring sixteen kingdoms.

Even a premier sect like the Precious Tree Sect, which was within the sixteen kingdom alliance, would have no way of having knowledge of an ancient bloodline like the Phoenix-Dragon.

In actuality, the old tutor believed Jiang Chen the instant that he'd mentioned the ancient bloodline.

An inexplicable sense of agitation had appeared in the old tutor's heart at that moment, but, after all, he was still an experienced and shrewd person.

He naturally wouldn't jump out impatiently and seek knowledge just because of one word from a young man.

When he heard Jiang Chen speak thus, the old tutor heaved a sigh and actually had a few traces of envy and yearning in his voice, "Little younger brother is indeed lucky. The extraordinary senior that you had a relationship with was surely one that was at an incredible level of existence. Oh right, did he really say that the Phoenix-Dragon is an ancient bloodline, the result of crossbreeding between phoenixes and dragons?"

"Yes."

"And the highest level of the Phoenix-Dragon goes up to twelve wings?"

"Theoretically speaking, yes, but his experiences may not have stretched to the limits of the Phoenix-Dragon. Perhaps an even higher level exists that he'd never come in contact with? The world is so vast, and no one is able to speak with certainty, isn't that so?"

Ye Chonglou quite agreed and revealed an expression filled with extreme yearning. He sighed, "The bloodline of a twelve winged Phoenix-Dragon would surely be so pure, not to mention its level of existence. I have had the great fortune to meet even a five winged Phoenix-Dragon in this life."

Jiang Chen didn't respond. The old tutor knew his limitations. Indeed, even meeting a five winged Phoenix-Dragon of the ancient bloodline was a matter of great fortune.

Twelve wings? Don't even dream of it. That was a steed in which legendary figures from all planes of existence could only hope to encounter.

Twelve wings meant that this was the rare creature's strongest form, a king at the very top. It couldn't be tamed through strength or arts at all.

Ye Chonglou quickly switched from that sort of admiring mood and smiled, "I lost my composure just now. Little younger brother, how do you think we should treat the creature being in heat?"

"The best way is naturally find a mate for it." Jiang Chen smiled. "Except, I think that the Phoenix-Dragon bloodline is something that one can only hope to meet by chance, and can't be obtained through search. By the time you find a mate for it, it will have likely exploded and died long ago."

Ye Chonglou had a face full of ruefulness. Jiang Chen's words spoke to his heart. Where on earth would he go and find a female for the Phoenix-Dragon?

These kinds of matters were basically something that could come by through luck, but never through searching for it.

"Then, are there any other ways?" Ye Chonglou asked.

"Yes, and actually, it's the most common method." A hint of a bizarre smile suddenly appeared on Jiang Chen's face.

"What is it?"

"Castrate it and put things right once and for all."

The entire hall erupted into an uproar after Jiang Chen spoke. A hint of shyness flashed through Dan Fei's beautiful eyes as she stomped her foot lightly, her face a patch of red.

This Jiang Chen truly sought to shock everyone senseless every time he opened his mouth. Castrate it! This... could this be called the most common method? This was giving up eating for fear of choking!

Ye Chonglou had a wry grin on his face, "You... are you joking?"

Jiang Chen spoke seriously, "How would this be a joke? In actuality, the Phoenix-Dragon has always been a creature strong in yin but weak in yang. If Tutor Ye had received a female one, this its potential who would be quite limitless. However, male Phoenix-Dragons have always existed to serve the females, even to the point of being sacrificed for them. Usually, after intercourse, the essence of a male's blood and its meridians would be fully absorbed by the female. When the male dies, the female will eat the flesh and blood of the male and give birth to the next generation. This is an endless succession of life and death. When the gender of a Phoenix-Dragon is determined, it will determine their vastly different fates."

Even Ye Dai began to be swayed with these explanations. He really wanted to find the flaws in Jiang Chen's words, but he couldn't find anything no matter how he looked.

If it was him, Ye Dai, on the stage, could he fabricate such smooth lies? Craft such flawless excuses? Obviously not!

"Can it be that this brat really has some shitastically awesome luck, and struck up a relationship with an extraordinary person to receive these damnable tips? He's made such a play for himself in front of the honored tutor. This... this kid's luck is to the point of defying the heavens!"

Ye Dai was so depressed that he was about to burst. He was also so jealous of Jiang Chen's damnable luck that he was about to go stark, raving mad.

#### Chapter 179: The Lord Master's Shock and Handsome Gift

Everyone else was thinking similar thoughts, not even mentioning Ye Dai. They were no longer able to find any other evidence to question Jiang Chen with at this moment.

Therefore, they all felt privately depressed. Why hadn't such marvelous circumstances landed on their heads, but instead fallen on a backwater buffoon like Jiang Chen?

How was the son of a small duke from the Eastern Kingdom worthy of such wondrous encounters?

"If this had landed on my head, I surely would've deployed it to greater use, given both my status and identity in the Skylareland Kingdom, and reached new heights in my development," they all thought!

It was a pity that such a wondrous opportunity had been given to the minor character of Jiang Chen. This really was a pity.

There was a wry grin on Tutor Ye's face, "This is to say that the male Phoenix-Dragon that I've received is worthless in the end?"

"Not at all. Castrate it, and be done with this once and for all. In reality, most of the Phoenix-Dragons raised by great personages are male. Female Phoenix-Dragons are incredibly rare. To obtain one is absolutely the pinnacle of great fortune. If a male Phoenix-Dragon is used to breed with a female, its only outcome is certain death. If it doesn't breed, and is castrated and raised further, although it will be slightly different from a female, its bloodline can still evolve as well. This is the bit of experience that countless numbers of seniors have gleaned from tens of thousands of years of actual practice."

Ye Chonglou sighed, "Being advanced in age is indeed not something to bar one's ambitions. Your words are greater than a hundred-year study of books. Jiang Chen, this old man has truly gained knowledge from you."

Everyone beneath the stage was flabbergasted when they heard these words. Were these words really from the honored tutor? The lordmaster was thanking Jiang Chen with the attitude of a student?

This... this was completely unheard of!

"Jiang Chen, I have never liked to owe someone a favor. What I have promised before is immediately in effect. Dan Fei, go and take out the gift that I had prepared previously. Give it to little younger brother Jiang Chen as a token of my gratitude."

“Jiang Chen, you can also ask a favor of me. I owe you one. No matter what it is that you ask for, I can fulfill it for you as long as it is within the boundaries of the Skylaurel Kingdom.”

Dan Fei smiled slightly as a certain light flashed through her eyes. She looked at Jiang Chen, then turned and walked back inside.

Those beneath the stage, in their jealousy, were all swallowing audibly.

Jiang Chen had convinced the honored tutor with that string of words? The lordmaster was planning on making good on his promise just like that, without even verifying if those words were true or not?!

Jiang Chen also smiled, “Honored tutor, aren’t you going to verify my words? What if I’m conning you?”

“Hahah, if a young man can craft so many perfect lies, then you truly have some skill as well. Even if you’re lying to me, I will readily admit to my gullibility. The longer one lives, the fewer chances there are that one will believe a lie. Jiang Chen, you’ve succeeded regardless of whether or not you have lied to me.”

Jiang Chen laughed involuntarily -- this old tutor was quite something alright. His words were new and interesting, but he also understood the tutor’s meaning afterwards.

The honored tutor was a great person, and it would be difficult to pull the wool over his eyes. He only needed to analyze the various biological reactions of the Phoenix-Dragon in order to prove the veracity of Jiang Chen’s conclusion.

“That brat Jiang Chen actually lulled the honored tutor into believing him with a bit of fine rhetoric! My artfully laid plans have been completely shattered this time! Jiang Chen, you’ve ruined my affairs time and time again. You really can’t be allowed to exist within the Skylaurel Kingdom!” Killing intent exploded from within the heart of first prince Ye Dai.

Lu Wuji was both envious and mad with hate. “This brat Jiang Chen has convinced even the honored tutor? Is the lordmaster decrepit in his old age? How could he believe a tripe like this? This is bad, if Jiang Chen has a thick face and wants the lordmaster to take him as a disciple, wouldn’t that only spell misfortune for me? It will be difficult to oppress him in the future!”

The others all had their own thoughts as well. Some admired Jiang Chen, some held him in contempt. Some felt that he had incredible luck, while others felt that he was a petty little character realizing his ambitions.

Even Ye Rong was half excited and half envious.

He was excited because the person he’d brought this time had completely KO’ed the first prince and his party. He’d thoroughly suppressed the first prince in both segments and made it so that the arrogant first prince couldn’t even raise his head at all.

He was envious about the fact that Jiang Chen had received the honored tutor’s favor. If this favor fell to him, Ye Rong, then it would become a sharp weapon on his path to competing for the title of Crown Prince.

However, although Ye Rong was quite moved, he never thought of seizing this favor from Jiang Chen.

He also knew that he had to maintain harmonious relationships with Jiang Chen and not hostile ones. Ye Rong knew that he would lose out greatly if their relationship soured.

After a while, Dan Fei's alluring body shape once again walked out from behind the scenes .

"Lordmaster, here is the item."

Lordmaster Ye waved his hand, "Give it to Jiang Chen."

Dan Fei nodded and offered the jade tray in her hand to Jiang Chen, "Jiang Chen, this is the Skylareal Kingdom Medallion. Only one is created every ten years."

"What? The Skylareal Kingdom Medallion?" Greedy glints were reflected in the eyes of the sons and disciples of the noble courtiers and officials beneath the stage.

Even the facial expressions of several princes changed slightly.

Never would they have thought that the honored tutor would bring out such a fine gift!

One had to know that even the king of the Skylareal Kingdom didn't have the authority to unilaterally award this medallion. The construction of each medallion had to be authorized by both the Precious Tree Sect and Tutor Ye. Only then could the king command its production afterwards. It was only effective after unique marks from all three parties had been imprinted on it.

It was an optimistic way of putting things to say that one of these appeared every ten years. In reality, sometimes thirty years had already passed before someone last received a medallion.

The recipient of the medallion could do as he wished within the Skylareal Kingdom. He didn't have to bow when he saw the king and could visit with Tutor Ye whenever he wished to. The most important thing was, although the Skylareal Kingdom Medallion didn't guarantee admission into the Precious Tree Sect, it would greatly enhance the bearer's chances!

There were countless nobles within the Skylareal Kingdom, but not a single one of them had received a medallion in almost thirty years.

And today, on an occasion like this, one had appeared and been awarded to a young man who had just arrived in the Skylareal Kingdom less than two months ago.

This scene was as if a heavyweight bomb exploded in everyone's hearts.

Even the Dragonteeth Guard general, Xin Wudao of the first level spirit realm, was a bit envious of Jiang Chen. His gaze drilled viciously into Jiang Chen.

"I must provoke Jiang Chen to participate in the martial demonstration later and kill him." Xin Wudao knew that if he didn't kill Jiang Chen immediately, then it would be difficult to suppress him when his wings filled out.

"Jiang Chen, by what virtue and right are you worthy of the Skylareal Kingdom Medallion?" A ball of anger burned in first prince Ye Dai's chest.

Lu Wuji was almost frothing at the mouth with jealousy. "That dumb animal Jiang Chen has seriously good luck! This won't do, we must find a way for him to die. If Jiang Chen doesn't die, there will be no way that I'll be able to find my footing in the capital in the future."

Even Jiang Chen's own companions, Tian Shao and Lin Qianli, felt that Jiang Chen truly had good luck in this moment, not to mention those who opposed him.

However, they only admired him and weren't jealous. After all, they had all basked in Jiang Chen's glory. If it hadn't been for Jiang Chen, how would they have the opportunity to receive guidance from the lordmaster?

The person most excited wasn't Jiang Chen, but Ye Rong instead.

The person he'd brought had received the Skylareal Kingdom Medallion. This was undisputedly an enormous honor. In the future, others would categorize Jiang Chen as one of Ye Rong's men.

The stature of his camp would undoubtedly increase markedly with the addition of the medallion, giving him an even higher status with the princes within the capital.

"Jiang Chen, the lordmaster favors you so. The Skylareal Kingdom Medallion hasn't appeared in thirty years. You should thank the honored tutor."

When Ye Rong saw that Jiang Chen's reaction wasn't as overjoyed as everyone thought he'd be, he couldn't help but verbalize a reminder.

Jiang Chen wasn't haughty and didn't try to put on a show of declining. He could tell from everyone's response that this medallion should be something quite useful.

He took the medallion off of the jade tray, "Lordmaster, Jiang Chen accepts this with a stricken conscience."

The old tutor was in a great mood, "No, no, you should accept this with a clear conscience. Oh right, according to the rules Jiang Chen, you can also request a favor of me. Please speak freely of any hopes or wishes."

It could be seen that the lordmaster was keenly interested as he once again brought up this matter.

How was this owing someone a favor? He was basically gifting one to Jiang Chen! It was apparent that the lordmaster was truly delighted this time.

That gaze and tone carried a sense of encouragement within it, as if hoping that Jiang Chen would make a request.

Ye Rong caught Jiang Chen's eye and he curled his fingers slightly, indicating that Jiang Chen should make the request of hailing Ye Chonglou as his master.

Jiang Chen seemed not to see Ye Rong's movement however, as he smiled, "I can make any request?"

"Haha, nothing is off limits, as long as it is within my power."

Jiang Chen nodded, "Alright, then I think with the lordmaster's power and influence, there should be no problem in ordering about the Dragonteeth Guard?"

“The Dragonteeth Guard?” The old tutor was startled and his tone was slightly disappointed.

Dan Fei had been staring at Jiang Chen with her beautiful eyes before as well, her lips twitching slightly, obviously wishing to see what request that Jiang Chen would make.

Upon hearing Jiang Chen’s words, a hard to detect bit of disappointment flashed across her face.

Jiang Chen wasn’t making the request to hail Ye Chonglou as his master?

One had to know that there were countless numbers of people begging and crying to hail the lordmaster as their master. Even the lordmaster’s tone itself carried some hints of it.

Everyone present was wondering if Jiang Chen would ask to hail the honored tutor as his master.

However, Jiang Chen didn’t mention it at all and had brought up the Dragonteeth Guard. Xin Wudao however, suddenly thought of something and his face darkened slightly.

“Lordmaster, two of my men have just arrived in the capital and didn’t know the rules. They were arrested by the Dragonteeth Guard. It isn’t a big deal, but General Xin Wudao has told me that they will be executed without a doubt. I may not know much of the laws of the kingdom, but I had no idea that flying on steeds within the capital is worthy of the death penalty?”

Tian Shao hastened to add on after Jiang Chen’s words, “Unregistered fowl cannot be used for transportation within the capital. However, this isn’t a serious crime. If arrested, the most severe punishment would be fines and detention in jail for three days. If the offense is repeated, then the offender will be jailed for a year.”

The lordmaster finally understood the situation and spoke with a furrowed brow to the first prince, “Ye Dai, look into this matter. Bring his men to me with utmost speed.”

Ye Dai was quite dejected, but how could he say no when the lordmaster himself had spoken?

If he said no, then he’d be disobeying the honored tutor. If he said that he couldn’t interfere with the Dragonteeth Guard, then it would indicate that he was incompetent and didn’t have enough influence. If he couldn’t handle even this matter, then the lordmaster would surely look down upon him.

“Wudao, bring them here now.” Ye Dai pinched his nose and gave Xin Wudao the order.

Xin Wudao was so angry that he almost wanted to spit blood. He had finally gotten a hold of something to hold over Jiang Chen with his arrest of Qiao Shan and Qiao Chuan. He’d been planning on making use of this opportunity in order to suppress Jiang Chen. Who would’ve thought that Jiang Chen would blow some air in front of the honored tutor and lay to rest all his maneuverings in one fell swoop?

Chapter 180: Take a Master? I’m Really Not Interested

One had to say, one word from the honored tutor was more useful than any golden law or precious rule.

Qiao Shan and Qiao Chuan were brought over after a relatively short while. The two had obviously suffered much in the Black Dungeons, and they appeared a bit worse for the wear.

Tian Shao stepped out appropriately, “Fourth prince, younger brother Jiang, let me escort the Qiao brothers back.”

His mission had been completed, and it was now time to step out and lighten some of Jiang Chen's burdens.

"Alright, General Tian, we'll have to trouble you to make a trip." Ye Rong nodded.

Qiao Shan and Qiao Chuan also knew that they had committed a mistake and didn't dare meet Jiang Chen's eyes. Jiang Chen walked over, patted their shoulders and said, "Let's talk when we get back."

First prince Ye Dai had come up short in two consecutive segments. Since he'd been left with dust on his face thanks to Ye Rong, for the moment he lacked interest in the proceedings for the time being.

Now that Jiang Chen had rescued the Qiao brothers, their previous plan of using the brothers to provoke Jiang Chen into a martial demonstration was also naturally in ruins.

The most intriguing thing was that the lordmaster had Dan Fei announce, "There will not be a martial demonstration for this year's banquet. Everyone is free to drink and chat."

After he made the announcement, the old tutor took the Nine Magnificence Dew Wine, led the Five Winged Phoenix-Dragon away and leisurely took his leave, leaving behind a group of open-mouthed and wide-eyed teenagers.

They had wanted to display their prowess in the martial demonstration, and perhaps attract the honored tutor's attention if they made a good showing with their skills.

"Sister Dan Fei, what's wrong with the honored tutor today? There's always been a martial demonstration every year. Why is it suddenly cancelled this year?"

Ye Dai was a bit surprised. He'd brought several spirit realm practitioners with him this time and had thought that he would be able to make a showing for himself in the martial demonstration segment.

Although he'd lost a lot of face in the two previous segments, he had thought about it and still hoped to find an opportunity to strike back against Jiang Chen.

He hadn't expected that it would end up as though the honored tutor had seen through his intentions and thus directly canceled the demonstration.

Dan Fei however, smiled faintly, "The lordmaster has already probed everyone's martial dao development the first time he made his entrance. Right now, whether we hold a martial demonstration or not holds no meaning to the lordmaster."

The overtone of her words was obviously, "Your martial dao improvement has been insufficient in the past year to surprise the lordmaster. There is no need at all for this martial demonstration."

When Tutor Ye had made his entrance, he had used his footsteps to disturb the heartbeat of those present as a test. Apart from Jiang Chen, the Old Tutor had fully assessed the martial dao training of all present.

Ye Dai was disappointed once again to see Dan Fei's cool reaction.

Even the martial demonstration had been cancelled. That meant that he, Ye Dai, had no chance to redeem himself during this birthday banquet. He had completely and utterly failed.

What followed afterwards was just eating and drinking.

As the first prince, how much interest could eating and drinking hold for Ye Dai?

Add to that everyone at the banquet were all discussing what had happened today and talking quite animatedly whenever they spoke of Jiang Chen.

It was obvious that the main character of the banquet had become Jiang Chen.

Even fourth prince Ye Rong appeared much more frequently as a topic in conversations than the first prince.

As thick as Ye Dai's skin was, he couldn't remain sitting at an occasion like this. As though he was at a business meeting, he drank a round of wine and left with a darkened face.

Although Jiang Chen truly wanted to leave, he had to smooth things over for Ye Rong at least a little bit. Ye Rong had reaped great rewards today, but if Jiang Chen left now, then his rewards would be cut in half.

When the birthday banquet neared its end, Dan Fei's moving figure once again walked next to Jiang Chen. A faint fragrance accompanied her as her body leaned slightly down to Jiang Chen's ears. Her sexy nose almost touched his earlobe as her thin lips blew out a breath that smelled like orchids, "Stay behind after the banquet. The lordmaster would like to see you privately."

Just as Jiang Chen was raising his head with shock, a faint smile spread out over Dan Fei's classy face as she turned to leave.

Ye Rong had no particular suspicion as he patted Jiang Chen's shoulder. "Younger brother, the honored tutor rarely sees a young man alone these days. If a good opportunity presents itself, you must grasp it well."

Instead of taking Ye Chonglou as his master earlier, Jiang Chen had saved two followers. Even Ye Rong had felt it was a pity.

Jiang Chen could've absolutely hailed Ye Chonglou as his master. Once he became the honored tutor's treasured disciple, would he have been unable to save two followers then?

Even a proud man like Lin Qianli felt it was a bit of a pity, not to mention Ye Rong. Before he left, he hemmed and hawed for a while before finally saying, "Jiang Chen, I was wrong before. Credit is due to you for allowing me to overcome the obstacles in my martial learning and achieving a breakthrough in my martial dao. I won't waste words in thanking you. Only, I will consider you as my brother in the future and as brothers, I also want to remind you that if the lordmaster wishes to take you as a disciple, you must treasure the opportunity."

Even Lin Qianli felt that the old tutor had asked Jiang Chen to stay behind because he wanted to take Jiang Chen as a disciple.

Jiang Chen smiled and made no response.

Take a master?

Jiang Chen really had no thoughts about this matter. Although he respected the old tutor, but Tutor Ye truly didn't have the qualifications to be his teacher.

When all the guests had left, Dan Fei's limpid eyes creased in a demure smile. "Let's go."

This woman had a demeanor that naturally attracted others to her every laugh and sigh. Jiang Chen shook his head with a wry smile. Even looking at only the profile of her back was enough to give rise to countless daydreams. No wonder the drool from those young men had trailed three feet from their mouths. This woman did have the right to take pride in herself.

They meandered through the front yard arrived in the backyard of the Tutor Manor.

The decorations of the backyard was a bit less grandiose and more exquisite. It was less luxurious, and more unearthly.

"Haha, Jiang Chen, come come. Come sit." Ye Chonglou didn't have the bearing of a spirit king protector at this moment. He was more like an amiable grandpa from next door.

Jiang Chen didn't stand on ceremony. He pulled over a chair woven out of bamboo and sat down.

"Elder Ye, the earlier you castrate the Phoenix-Dragon, the better. Otherwise, when the level of its yang qi reaches a certain level and damages the meridians, there will be less available potential for you to cultivate."

Jiang Chen had no interest in taking a master, but he still rather respected the old tutor's personality and disposition. He was treating the old tutor as a friend with his words.

"Jiang Chen, let's not talk about the Phoenix-Dragon for now. Do you know why I've called you in here?"

Jiang Chen smiled wryly as he looked at the old tutor and didn't know how to respond.

When the old tutor saw Jiang Chen was like this, he too sighed privately. His words were hinting to Jiang Chen for a second time that Jiang Chen could take Ye Chonglou as his master.

At the end of the day, now that he'd reached his position, the old tutor couldn't find it within himself to be the one to do the asking. If Jiang Chen happened to reject him, then he would lose his face as the spirit king protector of the kingdom.

It was already difficult for him to give this level of hint. When he saw Jiang Chen smile wryly, the old tutor knew that it wasn't that Jiang Chen had not understood him, but that he truly didn't want to call Ye Chonglou master.

When Jiang Chen saw a bit of disappointment flash through the old tutor's eyes, he suddenly could not bear to let him down and could only offer this explanation, "How could Jiang Chen not know of the honored tutor's great favor? Except, when I met that wondrous person, I made a promise to him that I would not take a master before he nodded his approval."

Ye Chonglou indeed revealed a relieved smile when he heard these words. "Ah, so this is the case, this is the case. No wonder. No wonder. Such a vaunted senior is both like your master and your friend, he naturally wouldn't want you to take another master. Jiang Chen, for you to respond this way illustrates the upright, moral nature of your character. It is I who have acted rashly. Haha! Now that we've laid this

out on the table, I feel quite at ease. Jiang Chen, you've given me another lesson. I've lived so long yet I have not lived as level headedly and open-mindedly as you have."

"It is miraculous that the honored tutor is complimenting me this much, your junior is almost unable to keep his seat."

Tutor Ye was in an excellent mood as he asked again, "Did the wondrous senior also brew this Nine Magnificence Dew Wine?"

"He gave me the recipe and I brewed this a while ago. There are many levels to this wine, and this particular one is only at the spirit degree. A saint degree Nine Magnificence Dew Wine is truly rare."

A shrewd light suddenly shot out of Tutor Ye's eyes as he seemed to think of something. "Saint degree? Jiang Chen, do you know how to brew a saint degree version?"

"Grasp of materials and flame are the most important components so it is actually not necessarily harder than the spirit degree. Of course, if one has yet to enter the spirit realm, then it would be difficult to brew the saint degree version of the wine."

The light of deep contemplation could be seen in Ye Chonglou's eyes, he seemed to be considering something. After a while, the old tutor suddenly said, "Jiang Chen, if the opportunity arises in the future, I would like to sincerely request that you brew a jug of a saint degree Nine Magnificence Dew Wine for me. Would this request be too much?"

He seemed to be deathly afraid that Jiang Chen would turn him down. "Feel free to set any conditions you wish to."

Jiang Chen smiled, "It's very difficult to collect all the ingredients for a saint degree wine. Much fortune is required. This isn't simply a matter of setting conditions. But if there is such an opportunity, it won't be a big deal to brew a jug for the lordmaster, and no payment is necessary."

"Excellent. A young man who can sit and converse with me without holding a whit of profit or accomplishment in his mind. Jiang Chen, you're different from the rest alright." The old tutor laughed heartily. "I've heard that you've been in the Skylaurel Kingdom for less than two months?"

"Yes."

"You've caused a number of great ripples in such a short amount of time?" Tutor Ye said with a shadow of a smile.

"Your junior possess a stubborn nature and awaits the lordmaster's admonishment." Jiang Chen simply decided to admit to things, and quite starkly at that. He didn't say anything silly like he'd been forced to.

"Mm. Young folk should have a sense of wildness about them. If you go about your matters in a timid and cowardly way when you're young, then what can you hope to accomplish? Jiang Chen, no matter what camp you stand in, I only have one request of you."

"What is it?" Jiang Chen started slightly.

"Freely do as you will! Do whatever that's in your heart! Don't be constrained by anyone and worry neither about the pressures from the outside world, nor what troubles and oppression that you may

face. I have perceived that there is a large power hidden within you. This is a power that even I cannot fully pierce through. If you give way to pressures from multiple sides and suppress your energy, then this will only bring numerous disadvantages to you with not a single gain in your development. I would be rather disappointed if that were to happen.” The old tutor spoke faintly. “It is precisely because of this that I gave you the Skylaurel Kingdom Medallion.”

Jiang Chen’s thoughts raced as a deeply contemplative look appeared in his eyes. Once again, he’d experienced the way the old tutor cudged his brains to help Jiang Chen.

One had to say, although the old tutor wasn’t his master, but he had the eye of someone skilled at evaluating talent and had unique measures to conveying his teachings.

“Alright, litte Dan, send our guest out for me.” The old tutor waved his hand and walked towards the back.

Jiang Chen was silently digesting the old tutor’s words as he followed behind Dan Fei and walked outside.

“Jiang Chen, you really don’t know how to appreciate what’s good. Many people dream of hailing the lordmaster as their master, and you’ve actually turned him down!” Dan Fei’s voice held vague tones of censure.

Jiang Chen could only smile ruefully. He knew that his moves would appear simply too high-and-mighty in the eyes of outsiders. This woman viewed the old tutor as her heaven so naturally, now that he’d rejected him, she wouldn’t give him any good attitude.

“You think you’re all that but without the lordmaster’s protection, you’ll find it difficult to even take a step in the capital. It’s obvious that Ye Dai’s crew would chew you up and leave not even the bones sooner or later.”

Dan Fei was exasperated at his failure to make good and kept nagging at him.

They’d reached the main door by now.

“Sister Dan Fei, here is good.” Jiang Chen knew that he was about to be unable to hold up beneath Dan Fei’s nagging.

Dan Fei snorted lightly, “I didn’t say I was going to keep showing you out. You didn’t need to remind me.”

Jiang Chen chuckled. He knew that this woman was purposefully finding fault. When women were like this, there would be no end to how much they would trouble him in the future.

He suddenly thought of something and reached into his pockets, taking something out. “Sister Dan Fei, the matters of today are a result of me not being able to tell what’s good for me. You’re a noble personage and have great magnanimity so don’t be mad for such a small matter like this. I have a supreme rank pill specifically for retaining youthful looks. It’s called the Four Seasons Eternal Spring Pill. Its effects are not bad. This is for sister Dan Fei. I hope you will remain forever young and that your looks last as long as the heavens.”

Jiang Chen shoved the bottle into Dan Fei’s slender jade hand, turned, and ran off.

Dan Fei hadn't had time to react before Jiang Chen had vanished without a trace around a street corner. As she looked at the pill bottle in her hand, Dan Fei was a bit irritated, "This wild youth likes to play his tricks alright. What pill of youthful looks? Am I very old? So old that I need medicine to maintain my looks?"

As she walked back through the door and closed it, she became more and more irritated and huffily threw the pill bottle into the bushes next to her.

She did not really hold a grudge against Jiang Chen, but simply held a baffling anger towards him in her heart. Who knew if it was because Jiang Chen had rejected the lordmaster's desire to take a disciple, or something else?