

## Three Realms 241

### Chapter 241: Proposing a Marriage, a Wedding

Since the head of the Southern Palace had hardened her heart with ideas of proper social status, naturally, Jiang Chen wouldn't let Qiao Baishi come up short.

Jiang Chen was unequivocal when it came to his own people, and he absolutely wouldn't allow his own men to suffer losses.

After taking care of old man Fei, Jiang Chen sent a few personal guards to deliver his handwritten letters to vice head Shi Xiaoyao of the Myriad Treasures Palace, Crown Prince Ye Rong and Tian Shao of the Dragonteeth Guard...

Even Miss Dan Fei of the tutor's manor received Jiang Chen's letter.

Didn't the head of the Southern Palace want to make a fuss about a display of splendor? Then let's see who could be more ostentatious!

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When Jiang Chen arose the next day, one of his underlings came in to report that Tian Shao of the Dragonteeth Guard had arrived.

One had to admit that Tian Shao was now one of Jiang Chen's loyal and diehard supporters.

Jiang Chen had taken him on his solo quest through the Guard headquarters. He'd been the only one to witness the entire process, and the psychological impact that that had left in his heart was indescribable with words.

"Young master Chen, I'd wanted to immediately come and visit you when I received your letter last night, but I learned that you had just emerged from closed door cultivation. So, I was worried that it was too late and I'd be affecting your rest, so..."

"Haha, old Tian, what are you being so polite with me for?" Jiang Chen chuckled.

Tian Shao also smiled and then responded, "Oh right, young master Chen, vice director Zhou Kai prevailed upon me to ask you today when he heard that you had invited me to propose a marriage on behalf of your friend. He is also very interested and he would like to join in later if possible."

Vice director Zhou Kai was one of the biggest benefactors after Yang Zhao had fallen.

Previously, his title of first vice director of the Guard had far less influence than that of Yang Zhao's. Now that Yang Zhao had fallen, he was truly experiencing the sensation of being the first vice director.

His gratitude towards Jiang Chen wasn't his primary motivator, but that he too could discern Jiang Chen's uncommonalities from this matter.

He felt that he didn't have many conflicts of interest with Jiang Chen and he had stood opposite of Yang Zhao in many areas. Therefore, there seemed to be no problem in him taking the initiative and approaching Jiang Chen.

It could even be said that Zhou Kai's forwardness had a few traces of buttering up Jiang Chen.

Although he was the vice director of the Dragonteeth Guard, he was well aware that in the eyes of a genius like Jiang Chen, a vice director was just a fart!

Yang Zhao had also been a vice director with great power and incredible domination. And what happened to him? He'd paid the price with his life after offending Jiang Chen.

Zhou Kai's sensitive perception noted that Jiang Chen had a great future in front of him. This was a person worth creating a relationship with.

Jiang Chen knew that Zhou Kai was offering an olive branch when he heard Tian Shao's words. He smiled, "It's rare that vice director Zhou Kai is also interested. With vice director Zhou Kai's aid, the entourage to propose the marriage will be even grander!"

Dan Fei also arrived as they were speaking.

Dan Fei had obviously taken special pains in making herself up today. Fresh, light makeup added a few hints of friendliness to her demeanor.

"Sister Dan Fei, as an ethereal goddess, you don't mind that I'm asking you to run an errand? Do you?"

Dan Fei's slender eyebrow arched, "Don't poke fun at me. What would you do if I minded?"

Jiang Chen chuckled. "Then I'll be part of your entourage in the future when you marry and heighten your presence!"

Dan Fei's elegant mouth moved slightly when she heard these words and her exquisite nose wrinkled slightly.

Her lips quivered but she didn't say anything, rolling her eyes at Jiang Chen.

Crown Prince Ye Rong, vice head Shi Xiaoyao, and the vice director Zhou Kai all arrived at the Jiang manor not long after.

Old man Fei also rushed in as soon as they'd set foot through the door.

All of Jiang Chen's invited party were present and accounted for.

Qiao Baishi tsk'ed inwardly in amazement as he looked at the impressive entourage, touched beyond words. He knew that his honored master had called for so many on such a short amount of time to bolster his, Qiao Baishi's, entourage!

Who in the Skylaurel Kingdom would be able to measure up to this entourage?

Wasn't Ning Qingyan's mother, the head of the Southern Palace, disdainful of his birth?

Qiao Baishi was well aware that the honored master was doing this to enhance his public image and give him face.

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It was destined to be a bustling day in the Southern Palace's stronghold in the capital.

Elder Ning of the Southern Palace was publicly selecting a groom, this was one of the biggest matters in the capital.

As one of the four great sites, the Southern Palace's position in the capital was more than ordinary. The fact that one of the elders of the Southern Palace, the daughter of the head, was publicly selecting a groom would naturally cause an uproar throughout the capital.

What kind of talented man would it take to be worthy of an elder of the Southern Palace and the Palace head's son-in-law?

One entourage coming to propose marriage had arrived at the door of the Southern Palace's stronghold at this moment.

This entourage had come from the Northern Palace.

The star from the Northern Palace was the personal disciple of the head of the Northern Palace, one of the three great geniuses, Xiao Yu.

This Xiao Yu wasn't on the same level as Liu Can.

Liu Can had broken through half step spirit realm on a fluke to become first level spirit realm. He'd barely managed to squeeze into the top tier of disciples within the Northern Palaces.

However, Xiao Yu was one of the three big geniuses of the Northern Palace, his level of training had reached second level spirit realm.

Entering the Precious Tree Sect was a foregone conclusion.

However, at Xiao Yu's level, his goal wasn't simply to enter the Precious Tree Sect. He wanted to achieve even better results during the sect's selection process and stun everyone present, achieving an even higher position when he entered the sect.

Entering the sect was no longer Xiao Yu's goal.

His goal was to obtain an even higher title when he entered the Precious Tree Sect.

He possessed full confidence when coming to propose marriage this time. To be honest, he didn't have much interest in an alliance by marriage to the Southern Palace.

He hadn't been too happy to hear the seniors in his Northern Palace mention this matter.

But after seeing Elder Ning's features, his more base desires came to the fore.

Having been made over by the Four Seasons Eternal Spring Pill, Ning Qingyan's beauty was at the level of causing disasters. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that her beauty would cause cities and kingdoms to capitulate.

Add to that, Ning Qingyan's unique aura, all of it made her seem greatly different to ordinary girls!

Xiao Yu normally had a high consideration of himself but he acted quite out of the ordinary when he saw Ning Qingyan's looks, proactively pursuing her with declarations of love.

He also cooperated fully with the Northern Palace's marriage plans.

Due to the previous matter of Liu Can and the others, the Northern Palace had also realized that they were being subtly ostracized by the other three sites.

Therefore, this time's marriage was one of the ways they could break the stalemate.

They didn't wish to see the other three sites reach an accord amongst themselves and exile the Northern Palace. Once they were ostracized, the Northern Palace would be beaten down by the others sooner or later.

The senior executives of the Northern Palace wanted to avoid this at all costs.

Therefore, they had chosen to ally through marriage and change the situation.

Xiao Yu had been the one selected. Although he was a few years younger than Ning Qingyan, with his level of training, it was feasible to overlook being a few years younger.

Particularly when Xiao Yu himself had been mesmerized by Qingyan's beauty, and she was the daughter of the Southern Palace head to boot.

They were of equal social status when it came down to it.

His entourage included almost all of the senior executives of the Northern Palace. He'd also invited quite a few sect disciples to bolster his train.

It could be seen that he was determined to get the girl.

Xiao Yu himself had also gone to great pains to dress himself. He looked quite vigorous and energetic, with a demeanor of "who else if not me?".

"Northern Palace disciple Xiao Yu greets Southern Palace head Ning."

The head of the Southern Palace was also surnamed Ning. This meant that Ning Qingyan had taken her mother's surname.

The princess of the Southern Palace, old woman Ning, liked what she saw more and more as she looked over the tall and handsome Xiao Yu. "Heh heh, not bad, not bad. I too have heard of you, the genius of the Northern Palace. Your future is unlimited once you enter the Precious Tree Sect to pursue advanced studies."

Xiao Yu was inwardly filled with pride when he heard these compliments and he smiled demurely, flicking a glance at Ning Qingyan behind the old woman. When he saw Ning Qingyan's sexy and alluring body, the blush peeking through her glistening, translucent skin, and how her exquisitely shaped face was accompanied with defined features, he couldn't find the slightest bit of flaw to her, even when using the most critical of eyes to assess her. She appeared quite lovely and she seemed to invite others to protect her.

"Qingyan, Xiao Yu greets you."

Ning Qingyan frowned slightly. Although this Xiao Yu looked gentlemanly, she wasn't the slightest bit predisposed towards him.

She even slightly disliked him in her heart. If it wasn't for this guy, her mother may not have objected to her and Qiao Baishi!

However, she still maintained her composure in front of so many others and nodded faintly, "Hello."

Her eyes scanned outside the door a bit anxiously after she spoke, her slender neck craning like a white swan as her two clavicle bones further offset the length and paleness of her neck.

Judging from Xiao Yu and the Northern Palace's attitudes, they felt that they had it in the bag already.

Qingyan was a bit worried, but in a woman's heart, it was naturally the man that she loved who was the best in the world.

She believed that Qiao Baishi wouldn't flee and he would surely come with his entourage to propose marriage to her.

She already decided that if someone was up to anything in the shadows today, she wouldn't mind eloping either.

She liked Qiao Baishi. She liked his conversations, his demeanor, his being, and everything about him!

In the moment that he'd offered the pill to her, she could no longer tolerate another man in her heart.

"Qingyan, sit down. So many honored guests have come today, why are you so distracted?" Palace head Ning's tone was slightly displeased.

A report came in from outside the door at this time, "Palace head, another entourage proposing marriage has arrived outside."

#### Chapter 242: A Frightening Entourage to Propose Marriage

Since it was a public selection, it was rather normal for several entourages to put in an appearance.

However, Palace Head Ning was quite aware that this so-called "other entourage" was none other than that foreigner Qiao Baishi.

Who didn't know that this public groom selection was something she had cooked up to advertise the alliance between the Southern and Northern Palace?

She'd also wanted to use the name of the Northern Palace to push out Qiao Baishi, making him realize his situation and beat a retreat in the face of difficulties maintaining his distance from her daughter.

Ning Qingyan's alluring body shot to its feet. "Is it Baishi? Hurry and show them in."

Palace Head Ning's face darkened as she shouted, "Qingyan, sit down! What Baishi or Laishi? There's only sir Xiao Yu today, here to propose marriage on behalf of the Northern Palace. I will consider no one else!"

Ning Qingyan wore an aggrieved expression. "Mother, are you the one getting married or am I the one getting married? What do your considerations have to do with me?"

"Parents have the final say in something as momentous as marriage." Palace Head Ning was quite domineering.

She raised her eyebrows and called out, "Go, sweep that brat who doesn't know how to appreciate a favor out the door. Tell him that the Southern Palace doesn't welcome him, and that he should give up!"

The messenger stood there a bit awkwardly, not sure whether to leave or stay.

Palace Head Ning's face froze, "What, are my words hot air? Go and throw them out, get the hell away!"

"Palace Head... this won't be easy to do."

"Why isn't this an easy thing to do?!" Old woman Ning slapped the table.

"There are a lot of your friends in this new entourage."

"Friends?" Palace Head Ning started. "Who?"

"Elder Fei from the Qingyang Valley, vice head Shi from the Myriad Treasures Palace, vice director Zhou from the Dragonteeth Guard... and Crown Prince Ye Rong. There are also quite a few other nobles and powerful characters."

"What?" Palace Head Ning's face was full of astonishment. "What are they doing here? Can it be that they know I am marrying off my daughter and have come to have a celebratory drink?"

"Judging from their posture, they look like they're part of Qiao Baishi's entourage." The messenger had to respond truthfully.

"Impossible!" Old woman Ning shook her head immediately. "Qiao Baishi is just a foreign kid. He can send my daughter's head spinning with some fancy words, but how would he be able to impose on these characters to come help him propose marriage? He must've just so happened to run into them coming to congratulate me. Hmph, swaggering about on borrowed influence, he's just appearing together with them."

She then turned her attention towards the senior executives of the Northern Palace, "Please take a seat honored guests; unfortunately, I cannot sit idly by now that so many guests have arrived."

Northern Palace Head Liu Chengfeng knit his brow slightly. His intuition buzzed; even if this group of people had wanted to come and drink in celebration, wasn't it too much of a coincidence for them to all come at this particular time?

Although he was a bit taken aback, he still maintained his gentlemanly demeanor. Liu Chengfeng chuckled, "Please do as you'd like, Palace Head Ning."

Ning Qingyan didn't need her mother's summons to follow excitedly behind her.

"Qingyan, what are you doing coming with me instead of keeping the guests company?"

"Dearest mother, I'm so bored inside."

Palace Head Ning snorted, "Damned girl, don't blame me for not warning you. If that Qiao Baishi creates a fuss today, I'll see to it that he doesn't have an easy time of things!"

"Dearest mother, then I'm also telling you that I'm not marrying if I don't marry Qiao Baishi!"

"Damned girl, must you really send me to an early grave from anger?!"

The mother and daughter duo had arrived outside the door as they spoke.

Seeing a bevy of familiar faces rather startled Palace Head Ning.

“Valley master Fei, vice head Shi, vice director Zhou, and Your Highness — and who might this young, handsome man be?” Palace Head Ning had never seen Jiang Chen before, and had no idea who he was whilst he was surrounded by the crowd.

“I am Jiang Chen, greetings to Palace Head Ning.” Jiang Chen smiled faintly.

Old man Fei however, immediately started clamoring about with that brass gong like voice of his, “Palace Head Ning, you can’t favor one more than the other! I’ve heard that the entourage from the Northern Palace has long since been sipping fine wine and tea, yet we stand out here suffering from cold and hunger. Not fair, this isn’t fair!”

This old man had always been an expert at quipping and pestering others endlessly. Although it seemed like he was protesting Palace Head Ning’s unfairness with his cries, he was actually conveying an important message that they were here to propose marriage.

Indeed, Palace Head Ning blanked, “Old man Fei, what are you talking about?”

Old man Fei laughed oddly, “Palace Head Ning, I’m really pissed off. The Northern Palace proposes marriage and so has my friend, but I hear that you’ve thrown my friend out and treats the Northern Palace as honored guests. I’d like to listen to your explanation of why a friend of mine is less than a so-called genius disciple from the Northern Palace?!”

Shi Xiaoyao was also someone who enjoyed making a good show even better. He chuckled, “Palace Head Ning, it’s your fault that you treat one side better than the other. Qiao Baishi is also my friend. Why is it that you’d rather select a Northern Palace disciple with absolutely no relationship with your Southern Palace, and not a handsome genius whom your daughter likes?”

Zhou Kai also smiled, “Big sister Ning, Qiao Baishi is a fine little fellow. I feel that his future won’t be less than that of the Northern Palace disciple.”

The Crown Prince smiled, “Let’s not stand here and talk in cramped quarters, why don’t we go inside and chat? Everyone’s here to propose marriage; we should have a fair competition, no?”

Since everyone had spoken up and Dan Fei was also here via Jiang Chen’s invitation, she couldn’t stand idly off on the sidelines. He’d accompanied her into the maze realm after all.

She smiled faintly, “Madame Ning, sister Qingyan and little Dan has always been like sisters. I know that she likes Qiao Baishi. Madame, little Dan dares not interfere with your decision, but even the honored tutor rather approves of Qiao Baishi.”

Old woman Ning felt completely ill at ease now.

She’d thought that these people had come to congratulate her. Who would’ve thought they were really here to propose marriage on Qiao Baishi’s behalf!

Her very brain hurt in this moment.

She hadn't thought that a foreign kid would be able to convince so many great personages to come speak on his behalf!

Just what was going on?

She glanced at her daughter, seeing a smile of extreme joy unabashedly hanging on Qing Ningyan's exquisite face.

But going back to the topic at hand, even Qing Ningyan had no idea what Qiao Baishi had done to have so many dignitaries come speak on his behalf.

One had to know that any one of these people could be considered a heavyweight of the Skylaurel Kingdom, playing momentous roles with all their decisions. Their combined influence was absolutely stronger than the Northern Palace's entourage!

"The man whom I've selected will never let me down. Baishi, you're the best!" Happiness and contentment was written all over her face as she looked at Qiao Baishi.

At the moment, Qiao Baishi was neither overly cocky nor too reserved.

"Palace Head Shi, although my birth is not as illustrious as that of a Northern Palace disciple's, I firmly believe that no one can measure up to my genuine heart for Qingyan. After much contemplation, I also feel that as long as I work hard, my future accomplishments will absolutely not pale to those of a Northern Palace disciple."

Old woman Ning had to reevaluate Qiao Baishi in this moment. She'd realized that since Qiao Baishi was in the habit of keeping a low profile, she'd really underestimated him before.

To be able to mobilize so many great characters, this man truly wasn't simple. Regardless of what reasons lay behind all this, one thing was certain, and that was even Xiao Yu wouldn't have so much face to invite so many to come make a case on his behalf.

Dan Fei's last bit of words in particular made old woman Ning feel a bit panicked.

"Even the noble tutor knows Qiao Baishi? Exactly how deeply have I underestimated him before?"

Palace Head Ning clearly knew that it was not an easy thing to leave an impression in the noble tutor's heart. It was even more difficult to receive a word of praise from the old tutor.

Regardless of whether Dan Fei's words were true or false, her attitude more or less represented the noble tutor's sentiments. Palace Head Ning had to treat this declaration seriously.

No matter what, she would be denying these people face if she swept Qiao Baishi out the door today.

Any of these distinguished individuals were people that the Southern Palace had no wish to offend!

If she offended these people as well, it would be immensely difficult for the Southern Palace to ally with the Northern Palace in the future.

"It looks like I must set my prejudices aside and view this matter seriously. I must give Qiao Baishi a fair chance. An alliance with the Northern Palace pales in value when compared to the consequences of offending these people."

Palace Head Ning had rather let go of things when her thoughts traveled down this path.

“You are all luminous characters within the Skylaurel Kingdom. I am already beyond honored to have you come personally. The entourage from the Northern Palace has already arrived, and I have noted your sincerity. I won’t voice platitudes of being caught between two sides. Why don’t we let the two men engage in fair competition?”

“Please come inside.”

After all, Palace Head Ning was in charge of one of the four sites, she still possessed this bit of appropriate bearing. She welcomed them all inside when she thought through the matter.

The two entourages sat on two opposite sides, with no particular conflicts between them.

However, when Northern Palace Head Liu Chengfeng saw so many people surge in all of a sudden, he was privately on his guard. Although he greeted everyone cordially, his hackles were absolutely raised on the inside.

He had absolute confidence in the success of this marriage alliance and didn’t want anyone to ruin it.

Liu Chengfeng caught a whiff of danger when so many people suddenly appeared, all on Qiao Baishi’s side.

“Liu Chengfeng, don’t you exchange empty pleasantries with me. This old man is saying this today, my brother Baishi will be taking the girl home today!”

“Brother Baishi?” Liu Chengfeng and Palace Head Ning both started.

Although they knew that old man Fei had no compunctions about restraint and often shocked those present with his words, his eyes were also placed on top of his head and was quite particular. How would he call Qiao Baishi his brother?

“Indeed, Qiao Baishi is my good friend of many years, comparable to even blood brothers. Although your disciple is not bad, but save your efforts if you want to compete with my brother. Liu Chengfeng, I’d recommend you go home early and avoid making a fool out of yourself.” Old man Fei said strangely.

Liu Chengfeng was displeased. “Old man Fei, even if your old man came, there’s no way my Northern Palace would give way in front of your Qingyang Valley, much less a random brother.”

Liu Chengfeng knew that he had to take a tougher tone at this time.

Chapter 243: Jiang Chen is My Honored Master!

Old man Fei chuckled when he heard these words and nodded, “Good, very good. Liu Chengfeng, I’ll remember your words. I hope you don’t regret them in the future!”

Old man Fei had always been an eccentric person and liked to carry grudges. Liu Chengfeng’s words had thoroughly offended old man Fei.

Liu Chengfeng snorted lightly and didn’t pay much attention to old man Fei’s words. Of the four great sites, his Northern Palace had always been ranked number one.

The Qingyang Valley had always ranked last.

Therefore, Liu Chengfeng truly didn't pay much heed to old man Fei's words. Not to mention that Liu Chengfeng was well aware of old man Fei's history, that he was a discarded pawn of the Precious Tree Sect. He'd offended those within the sect and had been exiled. His life was basically worthless.

Liu Chengfeng would naturally not mind the threats of a piece of trash.

"Old brother Shi, this old man Fei says that Qiao Baishi is his brother. I'm rather curious, what is Qiao Baishi's relationship with you?"

Liu Chengfeng was planning on dismantling all parties involved and had started targeting Shi Xiaoyao of the Myriad Treasures Palace with these words.

Shi Xiaoyao's temper wasn't any better than old man Fei's.

He rolled his eyes when he heard Liu Chengfeng's impertinent question, "What the hell does Qiao Baishi's relationship with me have to do with you? Aren't you a little busybody?"

"Shi Xiaoyao, what are you strutting about for? My palace's head is giving you face in asking you a question!" A senior executive yelled from the Northern Palace's side.

Liu Chengfeng looked at Shi Xiaoyao coldly and then turned his gaze to Zhou Kai.

Zhou Kai didn't wait for Liu Chengfeng to speak before he smiled faintly, "Old Liu, you don't need to ask me what my relationship with Qiao Baishi is. I admire young men like him and need no reason."

These words directly threw Liu Chengfeng off guard and made it so that he didn't even have the chance to ask anymore questions.

Although the position of vice director of the Dragonteeth Guard was mighty and influential, the position of a Palace Head wasn't that much worse off. Not to mention the two really didn't interact much, so Zhou Kai had no need to fear him.

As for Crown Prince Ye Rong, Liu Chengfeng didn't dare pose any questions to him.

And for Miss Dan Fei, even if she had no relationship to Ye Chonglou, Liu Chengfeng didn't dare start anything when such a goddess-like girl was sitting there.

Flicking a glance at Jiang Chen by Dan Fei's side, Liu Chengfeng had a strange expression on his face, "I wonder what kind of background this brother Jiang Chen has in order to sit at the same level with so many noble courtiers and officers of the kingdom?"

Liu Chengfeng was more than aware of who Jiang Chen was given that the Northern Palace's patron in the Precious Tree Sect was Elder Iron.

How would he not know who Elder Iron's hated personage, Jiang Chen was?

Jiang Chen flicked a noncommittal glance at Liu Chengfeng, "Palace Head Liu, I don't have any pleasantries to exchange with you. You have a large group of disciples with whom I have blood feuds with. You better keep a close eye on them and ensure that they don't end up in my hands."

Since they were enemies, Jiang Chen had no need to be polite with him. The Northern Palace was obviously here to fight over Ning Qingyan today. They were going to erupt in open hostilities sooner or later, so there was no need to be polite with them.

Not to mention that he had been pursued by so many Northern Palace disciples when he first traveled to the Skylaurel Kingdom. Although he'd disposed of Liu Can in the maze realm, the others still remained at large.

Liu Chengfeng had gotten a face full of dust for his troubles in front of the others, but who would've thought that Jiang Chen would be even more outrageous!

"Good, good, very good! I, Liu Chengfeng, have truly had my eyes opened after living so many years. Jiang Chen, you were the one who mentioned death grudges. You beat one of my Northern Palace disciples to death in the streets of the capital last time. Liu Can's mysterious death within the maze realm also probably has something to do with you as well. I'm going to find some time to thoroughly settle these debts with you!"

Liu Chengfeng was thoroughly irritated.

Although Elder Iron had lost so much face in front of Jiang Chen, Liu Chengfeng had thought that it had been because of Ye Chonglou's aura, not that Jiang Chen had that much ability to him.

Liu Chengfeng wanted to make use of this opportunity to take Jiang Chen down a peg and accomplish something in Elder Iron's eyes!

Jiang Chen smiled faintly, "You don't need to find a separate time, it's a rather good time today. Don't you have a so-called trio of geniuses within your halls? I just so happen to despise the most the sort of trash that blasphemes the title of genius. My greatest hobby is to trample over all sorts of fake geniuses and thoroughly destroy them!"

Provocation! This was naked provocation!

Even the Crown Prince and Dan Fei were rather surprised and looked at Jiang Chen in astonishment.

However, they immediately understood the meaning behind Jiang Chen's actions.

For one, Jiang Chen's new and old grudges with the Northern Palace were fated to be impossible to resolve.

Secondly, he could make use of this opportunity to thoroughly crush the aura of these so-called geniuses. The supreme art of war was to subdue the enemy without the slightest bit of effort.

Once these so-called geniuses were suppressed, what face would Xiao Yu have to continue to linger here? How much face would he have to fight with Qiao Baishi?

Indeed, the expressions of the disciples behind Liu Chengfeng changed drastically when they heard these words.

They had heard of Jiang Chen's reputation during this time and knew much about him. They knew even more deeply of the various conflicts and grudges between their Palace and Jiang Chen.

The news of Jiang Chen killing Xin Wudao and Qi Fengxian with three arrows had travelled like wildfire, making it difficult for them not to hear of it even if they didn't want to.

Although Xin Wudao and Qi Fengxian's level of training weren't up to that of the three geniuses of the Northern Palace, the gap between the two parties shouldn't be too wide.

Therefore, when the three geniuses were directly slapped in the face in front of all those assembled, although they had the urge to charge up and challenge Jiang Chen, they withheld their impulse with effort when they thought of Xin Wudao and Qi Fengxian.

Although the courage to advance in the face of adversity was necessary on the path of the martial dao, this didn't mean that one should charge in heedlessly and recklessly. It was obvious that Jiang Chen harbored a great amount of grudges against their Northern Palace and was making use of this opportunity to create trouble for them.

If they couldn't rein in their temper and rushed into Jiang Chen's trap, they'd be absolutely walking to their deaths!

Liu Chengfeng felt sour that Jiang Chen had sidelined his three geniuses with a mere word. However, he was used to interacting in large scenes and smiled faintly, "Jiang Chen, you don't seem to be the one proposing marriage today, are you? You're shouting and yelling in Palace Head Ning's territory, don't you think you're acting like a gatecrasher supplanting the host?"

"If I'm a gatecrasher, then what does that make you?"

Jiang Chen's words were cuttingly sharp. Although Liu Chengfeng was an old hat in matters like these, he also rarely met opponents who were so wholly unreasonable as Jiang Chen.

Although he really wished to maintain his composure, he still had the urge to grind his teeth in anger.

He controlled the flames of rage in his heart with effort and said, "Xiao Yu is my disciple and I'm here on his behalf as his parent to propose marriage. What wrong is there in doing so?"

Jiang Chen couldn't help but laugh, "Why can't I represent Qiao Baishi if you're representing Xiao Yu?"

"You're representing Qiao Baishi?" Liu Chengfeng looked strangely at Jiang Chen and then at Qiao Baishi.

Qiao Baishi was someone who was at least thirty years old, and this Jiang Chen was not even twenty. A young man was representing Qiao Baishi?

Even Palace Head Ning creased her forehead slightly as she looked at Qiao Baishi with some dissatisfaction. Why were the people who Qiao Baishi had invited such fools?

Qiao Baishi smiled leisurely when Palace Head Ning's gaze swept over. "Honored Palace Head, it seems that Baishi should be forthright regarding some matters. Young master Chen is my honored master. A master is as if one's own parents."

Although a few present knew that Qiao Baishi and Jiang Chen were in the same party, they all thought that Qiao Baishi was just one of Jiang Chen's guests or a follower at most.

No one had thought that they would be master and disciple.

“Jiang Chen is your honored master?” Liu Chengfeng splurged out in laughter. “Qiao Baishi, have you gotten senile in your years? A brat still stinking of his mother’s milk is your honored master? You should draft better lies!”

Even Palace Head Ning couldn’t help but exhort lowly, “What a farce.”

It was old man Fei who wouldn’t stand for this kind of treatment now. They were looking down on young master Chen! Turning their nose up at young master Chen was the same as doing so to him, Fei Xuan!

At the heart of things, he didn’t even have the right to be young master Chen’s disciple! He was only a medicine boy!

Of course, he couldn’t very well say these things.

However, these bastards were thus blaspheming the name of young master Chen, essentially giving him no face!

Thoroughly rolling his eyes, old man Fei laughed coldly, “Liu Chengfeng, is this all you’re capable of? A disciple is not necessarily lower than their master, and a master doesn’t necessarily have nothing to learn from their disciple. Who says one can’t be a teacher just because they’re young?”

“Heh heh, you are all ignorant and ill informed.” Shi Xiaoyao also laughed coldly.

Ye Rong sat with a demure smile. Although he didn’t say anything, he was obviously in accordance with old man Fei and Shi Xiaoyao.

Zhou Kai also had a trace of a smile as he shook his head, thoroughly disagreeing with Liu Chengfeng’s words.

Although Dan Fei wasn’t quite aware of what was going on, she understood some of Jiang Chen’s secrets more than anyone present. So when she heard Qiao Baishi’s words, not only did she not suspect their truthfulness, she also contemplated about how many secrets this fellow had about him.

Even the honored tutor asked for Jiang Chen’s opinion with regards to many matters. He was such a genius that he was capable of teaching Ye Chonglou, not just Qiao Baishi.

When old man Fei saw that his own camp was supporting him, he felt even more bolstered.

He was one who grew more excited with the situation. With this reassurance, his tone became even more domineering. “Liu Chengfeng, I would hail you as my master if you could refine the Four Seasons Eternal Spring Pill, the Heavenly Karma Pill, or the Nine Magnificence Dew Wine. You don’t have what it takes! I don’t want to bluff as to how much Jiang Chen’s potential is. I will only say that even I am only fit to carry young master Chen’s shoes in terms of knowledge and potential of the dao of pills. I don’t know what kind of problem there is in such a genius being Qiao Baishi’s teacher?”

Dan Fei had always suspected that the Four Seasons Eternal Spring Pill had something to do with Jiang Chen. This had finally been verified through old man Fei’s lips, and a meaningful gaze shot out of her beautiful eyes.

Palace Head Ning was flabbergasted in this moment.

Although old man Fei Xuan was quite eccentric, he was still a proud man at heart. He was particularly talented in the area of pills, and all the heads of the four great sites publicly acknowledged Fei Xuan as number one.

His potential and level in pill making was quite remarkable even when placed in the Precious Tree Sect.

However, everyone knew that Fei Xuan had offended someone he shouldn't have in the Precious Tree Sect and was exiled for his troubles, wasting away the rest of his life in the Qingyang Valley.

That the proud old man Fei would say that he was only fit to carry Jiang Chen's shoes when it came to pills, although his words were a bit of an exaggeration, it was still quite shocking!

Any of the Four Seasons Pill or Heavenly Karma Pill would be an incredible product when placed on the market, to say nothing of the others. If it wasn't the act of a master, there was no way that any of these pills could be produced!

#### Chapter 244: Palace Head Ning Wavers

Not to mention that even a mortal rank Nine Magnificence Dew Wine had by now, already become the current "it beverage" in the capital, thanks to the Myriad Treasures Palace's packaging and marketing.

Everyone thought that this wine had been crafted by the Palace. No one could imagine that the person behind all this was actually Jiang Chen!

And judging from Shi Xiaoyao's demeanor, not only did he not refute this, but he looked on the scene with a slight smile. The gaze he used to look at Jiang Chen was filled with admiration and even some traces of hero worship!

Yes, hero worship.

If one was to say that Shi Xiaoyao had a slight bearing of an elder when he first interacted with Jiang Chen, then by this time, he had already completely accepted Jiang Chen.

A foreign young man had completely upended the situation within the Skylaurel Kingdom in less than a year.

He'd carved out an avenue of light in the chaotic mess of the capital.

Everyone knew that the achievements of Ye Rong in becoming Crown Prince and triumphing over the strong were mostly to be attributed to Jiang Chen.

Shi Xiaoyao no longer dared to have any sort of the attitude of an elder towards Jiang Chen now. It had been replaced with the friendship between equals, even with him on a bit of a lower footing than Jiang Chen.

How much profit had the wine brought to the Palace, to say nothing of anything else? How much glory had that wine brought to him, Shi Xiaoyao?

Jiang Chen was the god of fortune for the Palace; how could Shi Xiaoyao not fawn over him?

Palace Head Ning's heart was a bit in a disarray right now. She had to admit that at that moment, her heart was wavering.

Prior to today, she had never even really looked at Qiao Baishi, and hadn't seriously considered him for the position of son-in-law at all.

But now, she could no longer overlook this mysterious foreigner.

Before saying anything else, so many old fellows had come to propose marriage on his behalf, this at least demonstrated that they all greatly valued Qiao Baishi.

This Qiao Baishi truly did have it in him for others to give him face!

Looking at the entourage that had accompanied him, Palace Head Ning knew that there was no way she could refuse him. If she did, her Southern Palace would be besieged on all sides.

She'd be thoroughly offending the Qingyan Valley and Myriad Treasures Palace.

As for Ye Rong, he represented the royal family.

Miss Dan Fei represented honored tutor Ye Chonglou.

Zhou Kai and Tian Shao represented the Dragonteeth Guard. After a round of assessment, she knew that if she forcibly allied the Southern and Northern Palace, her Southern Palace would be completely isolated!

If the Southern Palace ditched the Northern Palace here, the former would still be the Southern Palace without suffering much loss. After all, the relationship between the two hadn't been the best to begin with.

But if the Southern Palace offended these other powers, then its future would be dim and its development severely curtailed.

She also had to consider another factor, one of the most important —

Jiang Chen!

Indeed, the fact that Qiao Baishi was Jiang Chen's disciple had shocked Palace Head Ning the most.

Who was Jiang Chen? Although this was the first time she was seeing him, she had long since heard of his name.

She even wished that her daughter was ten years younger so that she could marry Jiang Chen.

A young genius whom Tutor Ye hadn't minded offending the Iron father and son for — this genius had a boundless future!

With Palace Head Ning's level of intelligence, it was impossible for her not to see this.

Elder Iron Can had lost so much face with Jiang Chen, and for what? There was no sign of retaliation even after he'd returned to the sect.

It wasn't necessarily that Iron Can was afraid of Jiang Chen, so this could at least prove one point that Iron Can's father, the esteemed elder Iron Long, didn't want to erupt in open hostilities with Ye Chonglou!

This was the only explanation.

Palace Head Ning couldn't find any reason to offend a young man like this.

Take Yang Zhao for example — his authority had been great enough, to say nothing of anything else? But so what if the vice director of the Dragonteeth Guard held absolute power? He'd been destroyed by Jiang Chen in the end!

Apart from Jiang Chen's strength, old man Fei's words had also deeply touched Palace Head Ning.

The Four Seasons Eternal Spring Pill, Nine Magnificence Dew Wine, Heavenly Karma Pill... all of these names thoroughly tugged on Palace Head Ning's heart strings.

What did the Southern Palace rely on in its development?

People and resources!

There was no way that the Southern Palace would be able to recruit such a talent like Jiang Chen, but Qiao Baishi was Jiang Chen's disciple and he was knocking and begging at their front door right now. If she still rejected him, she'd essentially be self satisfied with being a stick-in-the-mud. She's be picking up a rock to smash her own foot!

If any of these items were developed in house, they would bring untold fortune to the Southern Palace if they'd been developed in house.

The Nine Magnificence Dew Wine belonged to the Myriad Treasures Palace and so she couldn't take that.

But if the Four Seasons Eternal Spring Pill could be mass produced, the effect it would have on the market wouldn't be any less than the wine!

Men were besotted with the Nine Magnificence Dew Wine, but women coveted the Four Seasons Eternal Spring Pill!

Women were often even more of a ruthless entity than men when it came to spending money and consumption. What wouldn't they do for beauty? Not to mention just spending a bit of money to buy pill medicine?

She was most certainly the head of a palace. As these notions flashed through her mind, the equilibrium of her heart had already subconsciously started to tilt one way.

In comparison, although Xiao Yu was quite a good man, he only desired her daughter's beauty and didn't have much of any feelings for her.

That person's potential was indeed uncommon within the Skylarell Kingdom, but he was destined to just be a mere grunt for the Precious Tree Sect and couldn't become a highly ranked sect disciple.

Previously, she'd wanted to shove her daughter at Xiao Yu because she felt that the two were of the same social status. But considering this from the basic principles of a marriage, she knew that her daughter didn't like this Xiao Yu at all!

And Qiao Baishi had now revealed his backer, who in terms of social status, wasn't the least bit worse off than Xiao Yu. There were even signs of the former's resources being superior to Xiao Yu's.

If she had to nitpick something that Qiao Baishi was inferior in, that would be in his level of martial dao training.

However, the Southern Palace didn't lack highly trained practitioners at all!

They lacked talent, resources, and all sorts of channels to earn money!

Qiao Baishi and his honored master just so happened to be able to supply these resources and channels.

In the span of a moment, Palace Head Ning looked at Xiao Yu and felt that this urbane martial dao genius didn't seem that attractive after all.

Whether she looked at him up and down, sideways, or from the back, he no longer seemed as perfect as before.

In contrast, the Qiao Baishi she'd never approved of until now seemed reliable and reserved, neither proud nor fussy. He'd never given up even in the face of adverse circumstances.

And now that there were so many backing him up, he didn't puff himself up with arrogance or consider himself a world above others.

"Mm, Qingyan's eye is indeed a bit unique. This Qiao Baishi is neither proud nor fussy and continued on even in difficult circumstances. He stayed true to himself. Very good! He is someone who can achieve great things." Palace Head Ning suddenly had many good things to say about this son-in-law candidate whom she'd never favored before.

Liu Chengfeng had been continuously observing Palace Head Ning and grew a bit anxious when he saw that she was looking at Qiao Baishi oddly.

Thanks to the machinations of this group of people, it looked like the alliance was about to fall through.

Liu Chengfeng had plotted and schemed to bring about this marriage because he'd wanted to repair relations with the Southern Palace and break the partnership of the other three sites.

If this marriage failed, then the path of their Northern Palace would become more and more difficult in the future.

There would be a decreasing amount of space for them in the Skylareland Kingdom and they'd find it tough to survive.

"Palace Head Ning, old man Fei has always liked talking nonsense. The credibility of his words isn't high. Besides, Qiao Baishi is the one proposing this marriage. That doesn't seem like there's much to do with his background or whose disciple he is, is there now?"

Palace Head Ning didn't say much and just chuckled. She couldn't say much now.

“Liu Chengfeng, are you slapping your own face? If proposing marriage has nothing to do with background, then what is your Northern Palace doing by sending out such a large party? Don’t tell me your great fanfare and line up has nothing to do with helping Xiao Yu!”

“Tsk tsk, your Northern Palace disciples can talk about background and mention your masters to intimidate, but others can’t do the same?”

Old man Fei tsked and jeered, calling out, “This old man is going to lay everything out on the table today. I’m going to be Qiao Baishi’s backer no matter what! I’ll go at it with whoever wants to steal his girl!”

Liu Chengfeng was quite put out to see old man Fei fool around. “Old man Fei, I won’t stop you from jesting here, but a marriage proposal is a matter between our young folk so they should settle things between them. Everyone should go through fair competition. In my view, the world of martial dao should settle things through the rules of martial dao. Let Qiao Baishi and Xiao Yu fight it out. Whoever wins will win the bride!”

Old man Fei spat. “Shameless! Qiao Baishi’s area of focus is in pills. You want a disciple who trains in martial dao to fight one who trains in the dao of pills. Liu Chengfeng, don’t tell me that this is your definition of fair play? Why don’t you compete on basis of potential for the dao of pills or skill in pill refinement?”

Liu Chengfeng smiled faintly, “In the end, it all comes down to fighting strength in a world of martial dao. If your fighting strength isn’t enough, how will you guarantee that no one will rob you of your bride even if you take her home?”

Qiao Baishi’s level of martial dao training was still at the true qia master realm. This was likely the one area in which he was inferior to Xiao Yu.

This was also the only opening for the Northern Palace.

Dan Fei, who’d been silent all along, suddenly spoke up, “Martial dao and the dao of pills are all great daos. It is hard to identify which is superior. Since both have their good points, why not ask Sister Qingyan for her opinion? A marriage comes down to the inclinations of both sides. Palace Head Ning, what do you think?”

Palace Head Ning smiled faintly as she looked at Liu Chengfeng and then at Jiang Chen.

Old man Fei slapped his thigh, “Wonderful, wonderful! Miss Dan Fei is honored tutor Ye’s disciple alright. Your insights are truly different. In my view, this suggestion is wondrous. They would each take home one victory a piece between martial dao and the dao of pills so there is no point in such competitions. We can only determine the victor with a third way.”

Liu Chengfeng’s expression had turned ugly. This suggestion seemed reasonable so he really couldn’t find a reason to refuse. He turned and looked back as though he was groping for a lifeline.

He had one final trump card, and that was the Precious Tree Sect disciples he had brought with him.

With how things had developed, it remained up to the sect disciples to see if they could win the day for him. Sect disciples had never been a reasonable sort, and may be just the thing to counter these people with!

## Chapter 245: The Conflict Escalates

Liu Chengfeng had used both his network and Elder Iron's instructions to invite five disciples from the Precious Tree Sect this time.

Of these five, a middle aged man with a bulbous nose was their leader. Judging from his clothing, he was someone who held a certain level of status within the sect.

The other four were younger, but were all dressed in the accoutrements of core disciples.

All of the disciples within the Precious Tree Sect were divided into multiple levels.

The disciples of the four great sites were also technically disciples of the Precious Tree Sect. However, they were only considered outer disciples.

Those who'd entered the Precious Tree Sect were counted as inner disciples.

Inner disciples who did well for themselves could be promoted to core disciples.

The elite of those core disciples could be chosen as personal disciples for any senior executives that looked upon them favorably.

The senior executives wouldn't have only one personal disciple either. Of their personal disciples, any who were selected as candidates for passing on their heritage would become true disciples.

Thus, overall speaking, there were four levels of ranking for the Precious Tree Sect disciples, if one didn't include the outer disciples.

Every level was further divided into one star to nine star divisions, and everyone was strictly segregated.

The privileges and status enjoyed by each level was clearly delineated.

Therefore, although the Northern Palace had their so-called trio of geniuses, they were actually just outer sect disciples in the end.

They would only become true inner disciples if they made it through the sect's selection process.

The number of stars each inner disciple possessed would also result in greatly different treatment and status.

These four disciples were all core disciples, so their positions were quite different. Ordinary inner disciples couldn't measure up to them at all.

The clothing of the bulbous nose middle aged man was also obviously behind that of a disciple. Judging from his demeanor, he was likely mid to senior management within the sect.

With Liu Chengfeng's little bit of face, there was no way he would've been able to invite such a character himself.

He had actually begged Elder Iron Can for quite a while this time until Iron Can had personally given orders to one of his men to accompany Liu Chengfeng.

This senior executive was quite a personage even within the sect's middle management. Ordinary disciples had to stop and pay their respects to him when they saw him within the sect.

If it hadn't been for Elder Iron's instructions, this level of character would've disdained coming to a mundane kingdom, much less than propose marriage on someone else's behalf.

He had come completely because of Elder Iron, and was trying to facilitate the marriage alliance between the Southern and Northern Palaces purely because it was Elder Iron's plan.

After all, the Northern Palace was Elder Iron's sphere of influence within the Skylaurel Kingdom. If the Northern Palace folded in on itself, then Elder Iron's plans within this mundane kingdom would come crashing down like a house of cards.

As one of Elder Iron's men, the bulbous nose man naturally couldn't sit idly by and watch this happen.

Seeing Liu Chengfeng's distress signal, the man cast a glance at the core disciples, indicating for them to charge first.

Indeed, a core sect disciple took a lofty stance with an imposing aura. His gaze remote, full of the feeling of one looking down from a superior position, he swept his look over Jiang Chen's camp.

That arrogant gaze then shot towards Palace Head Ning.

"Palace Head Ning, I don't know what you're hesitating for. Xiao Yu is destined for great things within the sect and has an unlimited future. Even if a mundane pill master has some ability to him, what does he have to compete with a disciple of the Precious Tree Sect? You're a member of the sect, do you still need to consider anything about a matter like this?"

Another sect disciple also said, "Palace Head Ning, can it be that you've been polluted with the dust of an ordinary kingdom after spending so much time here? What choice would be more worthy than the boundless martial dao? A pill master that rolls around in the dirt of the mundane world is a pill master, to put it nicely, but an ant to put it bluntly."

"A mundane ant inviting a motley arrangement is enough to make your heart waver? Palace Head Ning, your heart of martial dao is still not resolute enough!" Another sect disciple sighed.

Palace Head Ning was at a momentary loss for words after being criticized by these core disciples. She looked at Qiao Baishi with a wry smile.

Although Palace Head Ning was the master of a great site, she was still a character on the sidelines in the backdrop of the Precious Tree Sect, and may not even hold as much power as these core disciples.

At the very least, she definitely wouldn't enjoy their kind of treatment within the sect.

They were young, had potential, and patrons.

It was a natural thing for youthful arrogance to completely dismiss her, the boss of a satellite organization.

She couldn't respond in kind though. If she did, she might offend those within the sect. It was unwise to give offense to these core disciples.

Dan Fei's graceful brow creased when she heard the tones of these disciples, the words of "a mundane ant inviting a motley arrangement" was particularly displeasing to her ears.

However, when she recalled the honored tutor's daily teachings, Dan Fei still controlled her temper and didn't engage in senseless fights over face.

Jiang Chen laughed coldly, "Motley arrangement? These words are rather suitable for you. Mouthing off about ants and mundane dust, you guys don't seem to be that removed from the earthly world either. Are those from the Precious Tree Sect all brainless fools like you with your noses to the sky?"

These disciples had long since grown used to the feeling of superiority afforded by a sect disciple. They'd long since been accustomed to pointing fingers at people's noses and sitting firmly on high.

In their eyes, it was a perfectly justified right to hector some lowly ants!

They hadn't thought at all that someone would dare talk back at them and call them brainless fools!

"Who the hell are you to talk back to a Precious Tree Sect disciple?!"

"You've got some guts brat! Do you know that a sect disciple holds the power of life or death in the mundane world? Killing you is like killing an ant!"

Jiang Chen chuckled, "I seem to have heard these words before. Did someone called Elder Iron or something like that threaten me like that before? But here I am, perfectly fine and healthy."

"I say you guys, what are you doing here making fools of yourselves instead of practicing in the sect? Even Elder Iron couldn't handle something like backing someone else up. You guys can just save it."

Liu Chenfeng roared around when he saw Jiang Chen strutting around, "Jiang Chen, you watch your mouth! You only luckily escaped from death last time because of the tutor's protection. You dare talk back to the core disciples of the sect this time and challenge the authority of the Precious Tree Sect! You're courting death!"

Old man Fei mocked when he saw Liu Chengfeng hop up and down, "Liu Chengfeng, don't you haul out the sect name to scare others. Your flustered emotions aren't frightening anyone."

"Shut up you old man! If I were you, I would've shut up and stayed quietly in a corner a long time ago! You offended Elder Iron when you were young and was exiled to the mundane world. Do you want to challenge the elder's authority again today?!"

Jiang Chen started, he'd heard old man Fei mention that he accidentally offended an elder's son when he was young and was exiled for that.

That had been decades ago.

Given this, that son of an elder was the current Elder Iron Can. Iron Can's father then hadn't been an esteemed elder then and was only an ordinary elder?

Old man Fei didn't have much to show for these decades of time and was much less than Iron Can. The latter had made use of his old man's power to become an elder!

One had to say, Liu Chengfeng's words thoroughly picked at old man Fei's old wounds and triggered his painful past, igniting the flares of hatred within his heart as well.

A harsh look shot out of old man Fei's eyes as he stared fixedly at Liu Chengfeng. The flames of fires roared to life in his eyes, wanting to burn Liu Chengfeng down to ashes at any moment.

"Liu Chengfeng, it's true that I offended Iron Can when I was young, but I'm at least more of a man than you. You slave away for Iron Can as his dog, but you're just a boss on the outside. I'm not Iron Can's dog but I'm not that much worse off than you. I'd like to ask you, is being a dog for hopeless trash like Iron Can really that much fun?"

Old man Fei had a rueful expression on his face as he counter attacked.

These words not only cursed out Liu Chengfeng, but those of the sect and even Iron Can as well!

Even Shi Xiaoyao was privately astonished when he heard these words. Hadn't old man Fei always reined in his temper before? What was going on today? Hadn't he always avoided Iron Can and was afraid of angering Iron Can?

Palace Head Ning was even more anxious. Old man Fei wasn't keeping a lid on his mouth at all and was thoroughly offending Elder Iron. Wouldn't this drag in the Southern Palace as well?

The expressions of the core sect disciples all changed drastically.

The bulbous nose man in particular, he was Elder Iron's confidante and had only climbed to his current position by hanging onto Elder Iron's thigh. He was now a novice senior executive within the sect and held an extremely high position.

Of course, he was indeed Iron Elder's lackey, but he was losing quite a lot of face when words like these were blatantly spoken!

His face frozen, he surged to his feet and exuded a powerful aura. He glared at old man Fei and roared, "Fei Xuan, it looks like you haven't learned your lesson after holing up in the Qingyang Valley for so many years! Elder Iron has almost forgotten you, but now you have the guts to jump out like this? Talking impertinently, you're courting death!"

"And who the hell are you?" Old man Fei rolled his eyes as he asked coldly.

Palace Head Ning hastened to smooth things over when she saw that things were about to get out of hand. "Everyone, be calm, please calm down. Small matters like these are not worth making a life or death issue out of them."

The bulbous nose man's eyes widened, "Palace Head Ning, don't get involved. This old man dared insult Elder Iron! Whoever wants to get involved in this matter today is going against Elder Iron!"

This man's position was obviously quite high as Palace Head Ning shut her mouth accordingly after he'd spoken.

It was rather Fei Xuan who laughed lazily, "Tsk ts, look at that posturing! I'm rather curious, just what you want to do with that kind of posturing? Scare me?"

Pa!

The man slapped something onto a table and shouted, “Fei Xuan, open your dog eyes and look closely at what this is!”

It was patently a Precious Tree Sect medallion. The words “senior executive” were carved on it.

Whether it was Palace Head Ning or Shi Xiaoyao, their faces grew a bit ugly when they saw the medallion.

Sect disciples could at most strut cockily and throw their weight around.

But this medallion was the equivalent of sect leadership, an item with true authority!

Seeing this medallion was the same as seeing the Precious Tree Sect.

This medallion was enough to crush those present to death!

Chapter 246: Old Man Fei’s Extraordinary Face Slapping

Now that the bulbous nose man had brought out the sect medallion, matters had gotten a bit grave.

Jiang Chen and Dan Fei were alright as they weren’t part of the sect, and so they had no particular feelings towards that medallion. They also didn’t think that the sect had the right to suppress them.

Although Ye Rong wasn’t part of the sect, it was hard for him to take a hard attitude in front of the sect medallion.

Zhou Kai and Tian Shao were of the Dragonteeth Guard, and so their attitudes were similar to Ye Rong.

As for Shi Xiaoyao and Fei Xuan, they were under the sect’s jurisdiction to begin with. Seeing the sect medallion was the equivalent of laying down sect law.

If the medallion was a rank higher, it would almost literally crush people to death then.

Even someone as fierce as Shi Xiaoyao had his facial expression twist when he saw the medallion. His mouth moved, but he looked weakly at Jiang Chen and then shut his mouth accordingly.

Cautious and wariness was also written all over Palace Head Ning’s face. A few more hints of submission was apparent in her gaze to the bulbous nose man.

The sect disciples were beside themselves with cockiness at this moment as they stood on both sides of the man, appearing as if they were on the top of the world and sneering arrogantly.

The discomfited expressions of those assembled were something that these sect disciples had long grown accustomed to. It was the kind of reaction that these lowly ants should have!

Fighting with the Precious Tree Sect — this was teaching your grandma how to suck eggs!

Liu Chengfeng also swept away his prior dejectedness like he’d suddenly received infinite strength. He crowed, “Old man Fei, weren’t you saying something? Were you strutting around? I’d like to see just how tough you can be, if you’re tougher than the sect medallion!”

A high rank could crush someone to death. With the rigid hierarchy in the Precious Tree Sect, a high rank could doom someone beyond redemption!

Liu Chengfeng sniggered inwardly to see the crowd fall dead silent after the medallion had been displayed. He couldn't help but admire his own wisdom. It was a good thing that he had asked Elder Iron to put in an appearance and resulted in the presence of a great personage like Executive Wang. Indeed, the scene had come under his control as soon as the medallion had been flashed.

Damn good, this feeling was damn good!

However, Liu Chengfeng was incensed to see a trace of a smile on Jiang Chen's lips. He knew that since Jiang Chen wasn't part of the sect and was bold enough to offend even Elder Iron, it was understandable that he wasn't afraid of this medallion.

However, with the situation as it was now, without the aid of old man Fei and Shi Xiaoyao, Jiang Chen would have no backup no matter how arrogant he was.

Liu Chengfeng restrained his irritation and said to Palace Head Ning, "Palace Head, look, even Elder Iron is inquiring after this marriage. Otherwise, why would he send such a mighty personage like Executive Wang to bear witness?"

Executive Wang was quite satisfied with this flattery and said loftily, "Palace Head Ning, this matter cannot be dragged on any longer. I must return to the sect for training after this issue is concluded."

Palace Head Ning knew that this was the senior executive's last warning to her. If she hemmed and hawed any longer, she likely incur his great wrath.

Once the senior executive grew wrathful and suppressed her with the sect medallion, things would become very tricky then. She might lose her position at the very least, or her life at the worst.

She looked at her daughter with resignation. She had no strength to look in Jiang Chen's direction now, deathly afraid that he would suddenly come up with something that would impact her standing in the senior executive's eyes.

Ning Qingyan's eyes grew red as tears welled up in her eyes.

"Haha, this is to say that Palace Head Ning has no further objections." Liu Chengfeng laughed heartily, and then swept his eyes provocatively across the room. "All of you surely don't have anymore objections now, huh?"

This was blatant provocation and mockery.

Old man Fei's face suddenly split into an odd grin as he stuck his finger into his ear to pick at his earwax, saying lazily, "Liu Chengfeng, are you unilaterally announcing your victory?"

Liu Chengfeng frowned, "Old man Fei, do you dare to make any further trouble in front of the sect medallion?"

"Medallion? Is having a medallion a thing now? Who knows if it's real or if it's fake?"

"Who dares fake a sect medallion?" Liu Chengfeng roared.

Executive Wang You also flicked an eyebrow, “Old man, you dare blaspheme against a sect medallion?!”

Old man Fei chuckled oddly, “The sect medallion represents the sect, and so I wouldn’t dare make light of it. However, if you’re going to bring out a medallion, at least bring one out with a higher rank, alright?”

What?!

A higher ranked medallion?

Would this executive level medallion not be enough to suppress you, a mere head of an outer faction?

Liu Chengfeng grew anxious and slapped the medallion down in front of old man Fei, yelling, “Open your dog eyes and look carefully. This is an executive medallion! Old man, you’re just a Qingyang Valley head, do you know the meaning of respecting your superiors?!”

The smile on old man Fei’s lips didn’t change as he lazily flicked a glance downwards, sweeping the medallion away casually like he was sweeping away trash.

“Such a low level medallion, are you bringing it out to slap your own face?”

Liu Chengfeng was shocked senseless by his actions. Even Palace Head Ning and Shi Xiaoyao were flabbergasted!

Fei Xuan had swept the medallion away like trash! This was an utmost blasphemy to the sect and he would absolutely be executed by the law-enforcing disciples!

“You... old man, you dare joke with the sect medallion? Are you courting death?!” Liu Chengfeng was beyond shocked as he quickly stooped down and picked up the medallion, wiping it off on his clothing. His face had an expression like he’d seen a ghost on his face.

Wang You was also thoroughly incensed as he slammed his hand on the table. “Old man Fei, you making yourself a public enemy of the sect! Do you understand that you need to give way in front of your superiors at all?! Do you understand the hierarchy in the sect at all?!”

Fei Xuan smiled faintly. “Of course I do. I should be the one asking you this question, given how the two of you are jumping up and down, yelling in front of me.”

There was a calm, showing off expression on his face as he flung out his sleeves, lightly setting something down on the table.

The scene froze in this instant as even the air seemed to stop flowing.

All eyes, apart from Jiang Chen’s and Dan Fei’s, were drawn to the item. All eyes widened as if they’d seen a ghost.

Incomprehensible. Completely incomprehensible!

It was a medallion. Old man Fei had indeed brought out a medallion that looked similar to Wang You’s.

However, whether in terms of quality or appearance, it was vastly superior to Wang You’s.

The words on the medallion weren’t that difficult to make out either — senior executive Fei Xuan.

It was a unique medallion with a special design and its own style. It was something that no one could forge and something that no one would dare to forge.

A sect medallion!

The medallion of a senior executive!

A senior executive was part of the senior leadership within the sect.

A novice executive was at most middle management.

The next step up for an senior executive was to be elder-in-waiting, representative of truly entering the ranks of the senior leadership!

"H-how... how is this possible?" Liu Chengfeng's eyes bugged out at the medallion. His mouth and tongue felt dry. Something also seemed to be caught in his throat. "This... this is a real medallion?"

Old man Fei smiled faintly. "Weren't you the one saying earlier that no one would dare to forge a sect medallion? What now, slapping your face with words you've just spoken?"

Liu Chengfeng was completely losing his mind. His teeth chattered as his legs trembled, his mind completely blank.

He never would've dreamed that the Qingyang Valley head he'd always sneered at, the weak and incompetent old man Fei, would turn out to be a senior executive of the sect with a shake of his hand!

He couldn't believe the scene in front of his eyes, but the sect medallion couldn't be forged. Whoever faked it would be asking for death!

He looked desperately at Wang You, but the latter wasn't any better off. Wang You's face had drained of all color and he completely lost his previously imposing aura.

The several core disciples were also dumbfounded. Their cocky air bled away like deflating balloons. They didn't even have the courage to look old man Fei in the eyes.

Senior executive! It was a level of existence that these disciples couldn't afford to offend within the sect.

Even Wang You had to admit that if a senior executive was to make trouble for him, life would be hell for him in the future even with Elder Iron's patronage.

However, he did find it odd. How had old man Fei suddenly turned into a senior executive all of a sudden? Just what kind of show was playing out?

Wang You had never heard of this during his training within the sect.

However, this medallion was the real deal and even if his courage stretched up to the heavens, Wang You didn't dare go head to head against it. Old man Fei was two levels higher than him, he could roll directly over him, and he could use the laws of the sect to suppress him!

"So tell me Wang You, are we listening to you now or are you listening to me?" Old man Fei chuckled.

"To you, of course." Although Wang You resisted inwardly, he appeared quite docile on the surface.

“Then this matter of proposing marriage?”

Wang You quickly responded, “None of my business. I have no ability to stick my nose in idle affairs like these. I’ll leave, immediately, straight away!”

Liu Chengfeng almost wanted to cry when he heard these words. Wang You was retreating! This was leaving him to face the music alone.

Wang You only prayed for self preservation right now, why would he care about Lu Chengfeng’s survival? He slunk away with the core disciples and he didn’t even have the courage to look back.

He only had one thought at the moment, and that was to hurry and return to the sect to tell Elder Iron of this news, to tell him that this thorn had once again returned to the sect!

When he saw Wang You run away, Liu Chengfeng collapsed on a chair. His expression was quite a show as he yearned desperately to hide in a hole in the ground.

Palace Head Ning had drastically different emotions from Liu Chengfeng. These great rises and falls had taken her emotions on a rollercoaster ride as well. She almost couldn’t follow the development of things.

Shi Xiaoyao was of a similar mind to her.

“Ai, old... old brother Fei. You know how to keep a secret alright! When were you promoted to senior executive? You walk amongst the clouds now and don’t notify your old friends?” Palace Head Ning smiled wryly.

It was blindingly obvious who her daughter would marry now.

A senior executive medallion was in front of her. She knew there was no other choice available to her even without another word.

Not to mention, they had mentioned all manner of good words earlier.

#### Chapter 247: The Marriage is Settled

The farce of proposing marriage was settled after old man Fei flashed his medallion.

If he hadn’t considered the fact that he was here on Qiao Baishi’s behalf, old man Fei wouldn’t even have let those from the Northern Palace leave that easily.

However, when Liu Chengfeng’s group slunk away with downcast heads, old man Fei didn’t forget to warn him, “Liu Chengfeng, you said earlier that you wouldn’t give half a step of ground away if I came to propose marriage. Mm. I’ve remembered these words. Out of consideration for the Southern Palace’s face, I’ll let you go today, but mark my words, I carry a grudge!”

Liu Chengfeng’s heart trembled when he heard these words, but he quickly scuttled off, not daring to even let out a fart. He was both regretful and shocked.

Even now, he still couldn’t make sense of things. How had old man Fei become a senior executive of the Precious Tree Sect?

Shi Xiaoyao was in a great mood when he saw Liu Chengfeng slink off. He laughed heartily, "Palace Head Ning, bring out the wine! We saw such a great show today, how can we not drink to our heart's content?"

This fellow's alcoholic tendencies were showing again.

Crown Prince Ye Rong also chuckled. "Senior Fei, congratulations and much joy to you. You've finally left the outer sites and have successfully returned to the sect. You are sure to ride on the winds and part the seas in the future."

"Congratulations to you, old brother." Zhou Kai was also rather surprised, since he'd come to reinforce Jiang Chen's disciple today, but had instead witnessed such an exciting battle. The icing on the cake was that old man Fei, who usually looked rather crazy, had actually made this kind of ultimate comeback in the end!

Dan Fei flicked a glance towards Jiang Chen, and saw that he'd maintained that kind of coolly composed smile through it all. She brought her beautiful face close and murmured softly, "You brat, you arranged all this didn't you?"

Jiang Chen chuckled, "I didn't do anything. Old Fei was having a great time so I let him do all that he wanted to do."

It had been his own disciple who had been proposing marriage, but since old man Fei wanted to make use of this situation to wax eloquently, Jiang Chen was more than happy to relax and let the old man do whatever he wanted.

He also knew that the old man wanted to make use of this opportunity to thoroughly give vent to decades of depressed, anguished feelings, and enjoy his moment in the limelight.

He also wanted to make use of the Northern Palace to issue a challenge to their master, Elder Iron, that he, Fei Xuan, was back!

Fei Xuan had naturally been confident when he'd done all this.

He had been vested with the title of senior executive by sect head Xie Tianshu himself.

This had been because the Renewal Purity Pill had made Xie Tianshu greatly indebted to Fei Xuan.

The pill had provided priceless help to the sect head.

It wasn't that the sect head needed the pill, but that his precious son had wandered into a cultivation deviation once during a breakthrough because he'd been too impatient for success.

Xie Tianshu had used his incredible arts to suppress his son and ensure that his meridians weren't damaged, but was powerless to do anything about the internal demons that had taken up residence within his son's consciousness.

Of all the spirit medicines that could sweep away the demons of martial dao training, the Precious Tree Sect only knew of the Peaceful Ruler Pill.

Old man Fei had somehow learnt of this through some channels, and had seen a strand of hope in this- a chance for him to return to the sect.

Therefore, he had been obsessively searching for the ingredients for the Peaceful Ruler Pill all these years, wanting to refine one of these pills.

However, the ingredients for this pill were all treasures of heaven and earth and extremely hard to obtain.

It wasn't until Jiang Chen had appeared to light the way and point out that the Renewal Purity Pill had the same effects that any progress had made.

This was why old man Fei had done all he could do to fawn over Jiang Chen when he heard of the Renewal Purity Pill.

His efforts had finally paid off when Jiang Chen passed on the recipe to him, and he'd finally refined a pill successfully after much trial and error.

He brought this pill to the sect head after using a variety of channels and connections.

This pill did indeed have the ability to reverse the impossible, as it helped Xie Tianshu's son overcome his internal demons!

Xie Tianshu was naturally overjoyed about this matter and felt a debt of great gratitude towards old man Fei. When he heard of old man Fei's circumstances, and learned that he had once been a genius disciple but had been swept out the door by the Iron family, it further reinforced his notion to make great use of Fei Xuan.

After all, within the sect now, the sect head represented the Xie family, whereas the first amongst the esteemed sect elders was from the Iron family. These were the two great powers within the sect.

Although the two powers didn't engage in open conflict, covert struggles abounded between the two.

Since he was someone who the Iron family was oppressing, there was no reason for Xie Tianshu to not value old man Fei highly!

Even old man Fei himself hadn't thought that his fortunes would reverse so quickly, so suddenly, and so thoroughly.

Seeing that everyone was saluting him with wine, he hastily waved his hands, "This old man won't take attention away from today's main characters. Baishi and Qingyan are the stars of today, while we're merely the supporting cast"

Old man Fei was well aware that everything he had today had been thanks to Jiang Chen. This was a day in which Jiang Chen's disciple was proposing marriage, and there was no way he would usurp the host's place.

Qiao Baoshi and Ning Qingyan were finally able to be together amidst everyone's laughter.

Jiang Chen smiled, 'Palace Head Ning, it's been difficult for you to raise a daughter. Although I am young, I appreciate the difficulties of being a parent. Baishi has only me within the Skylaurel Kingdom, so on

behalf of the groom's side, I offer the recipe of the Four Seasons Eternal Spring Pill as a betrothal gift. I will also not inquire after about how the profits of the pill are shared between the Southern Palace and Baishi."

"This... this is too much!" Old woman Ning was at a slight loss for words and didn't know what to do. She had used the matter of marriage before to throw all sorts of obstacles in Qiao Baishi's way.

But the other side didn't mind at all and had in fact acted with such generosity.

She felt ashamed, and finally understood why Jiang Chen could have such a name and accomplish so much within the Skylaurel Kingdom.

How many could match up to this gesture and this style, to say nothing of anything else? At the very least, it was something that she as a palace head would never be able to do.

Shi Xiaoyao laughed heartily, "Palace Head Ning, I rather envy you for having such a good daughter. Ai, young master Chen, I have a daughter too, do you have anymore unmarried disciples?"

Fei Xuan chuckled, "Old Shi, don't you be greedy. You've already earned quite a bit from the Nine Magnificence Dew Wine."

Shi Xiaoyao smiled, "Does anyone ever get tired of making money?"

Zhou Kai said ruefully, "So it sounds like I should hurry up and make a daughter so she'll have enough time to grow up if young master Chen takes in any more disciples!"

Everyone laughed as the atmosphere was the epitome of harmony.

Ning Qingyan's heart overfilled with sweetness as she laid her head on Qiao Baishi's shoulder, feeling quite content.

She had fretted over this matter everyday, worried that Qiao Baishi wouldn't be able to hold up beneath the pressures of the Northern Palace.

But, in the end, her beloved hadn't let her down.

Qiao Baishi had used a marvelous way to completely triumph over Xiao Yu of the Northern Palace, and had used the most perfect way to propose to her.

The banquet lasted until late afternoon before wrapping up.

Jiang Chen left with his personal guard and the others bid farewell, but old man Fei followed behind Jiang Chen.

"What is it old Fei? What are you following me for?"

Old man Fei chuckled, "Young master Chen, do I look like someone that greedy? I'm thinking that the young master has already developed to the peak of your abilities within the Skylaurel Kingdom. Isn't it time to consider entering the sect?"

There was some sense to the old man's words.

Although Jiang Chen's development in the ordinary kingdom wasn't to the level of absolute authority, there was indeed not much left for him to challenge within these lands.

After all, his aims weren't for mundane power, but for boundless martial dao.

"Old Fei, are you trying to recruit me now that you've become a senior executive within the sect?"

Old man Fei smiled, "It would be an achievement of unparalleled honor if I were able to recruit younger master Chen. With the young master's potential, you are sure to become a legend within the sect!"

"Don't put on that front with me. I'll think about entering the sect. To be honest, my view of sect disciples is more than just a bit negative. Whether it's the Precious Tree Sect or the Purple Sun Sect I feel that all sect disciples are asking for a beating."

"Misunderstanding, this is definitely a misunderstanding. Don't have this kind of prejudice young master. Honestly speaking, the sect disciples you've seen are all half wits. They're not the premier geniuses within the sect. The true geniuses wouldn't come to a mundane kingdom to strut around. Their time and energy is never diverted by outside matters and they focus on martial dao with no other thoughts whatsoever."

Jiang Chen smiled, "Old Fei, go and be a happy senior executive. However, Iron Can is not likely to let you off the hook after your show today."

The muscles on old man Fei's face started twitching involuntarily when Iron Can was mentioned.

"Iron Can!" A thick sense of hatred shot out of old man Fei's eyes. "I, Fei Xuan have had half my life destroyed because of you, and my development halted and delayed. Now that I've returned to the sect, our grudges will be settled sooner or later!"

Old man Fei wasn't the sort to bow his head in front of destiny, and was not fodder just waiting for someone to slice and dice.

He had endured humiliation and kept a low profile all these years to the point where he almost faded out of existence. What had he done this for? It was to numb his opponents and have them overlook his existence.

If it wasn't for this, with Iron Can's personality, the latter wouldn't have let up on him even when he escaped to a mundane kingdom.

Of course, Iron Can hadn't sent anyone to kill old man Fei not because of some lingering sense of guilt and not because old man Fei had kept a low profile. It was because that there was more entertainment and sport in sending someone every now and then to humiliate the old man and make him eke out a living in the face of shame.

It was obvious that Iron Can had never thought that old man Fei would have the chance to make a comeback one day.

Old man Fei wanted to pull Jiang Chen into the sect naturally to make use of Jiang Chen's potential to further increase his own strength and to find a backer as well.

With the old man's understanding of Jiang Chen, he was sure to rise to the top with a single, astounding action once he entered the sect.

And if he acted as a matchmaker and enabled the sect head to meet Jiang Chen as early as possible, then if Jiang Chen became the head's favorite and even his true disciple, then old man Fei would truly become Iron Can's equal!

#### Chapter 248: A Plan for Future Strength

Old man Fei had also guessed that it wouldn't be easy to recruit Jiang Chen into the sect. This matter had to be approached slowly.

He wasn't in a rush to recommend Jiang Chen to the sect head yet.

After all, he'd been exiled from the heart of the sect's power for decades. Although he was now valued by the sect head, he couldn't appear to be too enthusiastic in the beginning. That might actually be met with rebuffs.

After returning to his manor, Jiang Chen organized all of the spirit medicine ingredients he'd gained from the maze realm. There was actually quite a bit to go through.

For the next month, Jiang Chen spent almost all his time and concentration on this. His unique eye for appraisal had left him with a rather sizable haul.

The last time he'd gone into closed door cultivation, he'd used all of the spirit medicines available to him. However, there was still a substantial amount of ingredients that weren't appropriate for use at the time.

It'd be a while before he found a use for the remaining ingredients.

"It'd be a waste to just store the spirit ingredients I don't have a use for, and I'm always short on ingredients I do need. It seems that there's a constant interplay between ingredients and their sufficiency that's at work here. There are many good items over at the Myriad Treasures Palace. Let's go and see if I can find some spirit ingredients that I need."

Apart from raising his own strength in this current stage, Jiang Chen was also well aware of the importance of helpers.

His eight personal guards all had good potential, but needed time to grow and develop.

Although Gouyu had broken through to the spirit realm, he had no wish for a woman to charge headfirst into danger for him.

Of course, he naturally had an idea of whom he wished to develop.

He had many trump cards right now, and many targets worth training.

Take the Swordbird Army for instance, if he could raise them all into spirit rank creatures, then the might of those hundreds and thousands of Goldwing Swordbirds would be no trifling matter.

The same was even more true for the Goldbiter Rats. The Rat King's own strength was heaven defying, and even on par with Ye Chonglou. Even setting him aside, some of his descendants were also quite strong, comparable to the level of a human earth spirit realm practitioner.

However, Jiang Chen didn't want to expose the existence of the Goldbiter Rats if he didn't have to.

Trump cards weren't meant to be uncovered unless he was forced into an uncompromisable position.

Aside from the Goldbiter Rats and the Goldwing Swordbirds, the ones with the most potential were actually the two baby Silvermoon Monsterapes.

Jiang Chen had used some special methods to test the bloodline heritage of the two babies that he'd brought out of the maze realm.

Although he couldn't make a definite conclusion, he was relatively certain that they possessed uncommon potential.

Most importantly, these Silvermoon Monsterapes were born into the spirit rank, and were already at the first level spirit realm as babies.

They were simply too small and hadn't had an opportunity to develop their fighting capabilities before they'd been kidnapped by Jiang Chen.

From his brief glance through the accompanying spirit ingredients in their cave, Jiang Chen could glean a hint of their bloodline characteristics. Thus, he'd already drafted a plan to develop these Monsterapes.

"The Silvermoon Monsterapes within the maze realm were the equivalent of human earth spirit realm practitioners. But, the actual level of their training was at fourth level spirit realm. This obviously speaks to the fact that their bloodlines hadn't fully awakened. Since even divine rank Monsterapes exist in the world, these spirit rank Monsterapes should be at the lowest level of existence."

The thought of cultivating these Monsterapes to the divine rank hadn't crossed Jiang Chen's mind. With his current abilities, it'd be impossible to do.

However, if he could think of a way to awaken their bloodlines, then the amount of potential stimulated would absolutely not leave them merely at the spirit rank.

"Ai, it seems like I've gained a lot, but still don't have enough in areas where I truly have need."

Although Jiang Chen had many channels of earning money and gaining resources, he had even more areas in which he needed to use them.

He'd first have to aid all the Goldwing Swordbirds to break through to the spirit realm. That would be a monumental expenditure all by itself.

Raising two Monsterapes would be even more of a bottomless pit. Jiang Chen was unable to calculate how much this would be.

"What a pity that I forgot to extort a hefty sum out of old man Fei. Now that he has a somewhat high position in the sect, he's definitely a rich guy. I'll have to make sure to get some handsome concessions out of him next time I see him."

Jiang Chen actually didn't need to swindle anything out of old man Fei at all. The worth of the recipe for the Renewal Purity Pill was on the scale of several cities. Once it went into mass production, the profits would be enough for Jiang Chen to dismiss worries about his expenditures for the next couple of years.

However, even if old man Fei lived in defiance of conventions, he didn't dare do so without Jiang Chen's approval.

After all, although Jiang Chen had passed down the recipe to him, he hadn't said that old man Fei could do anything he wanted with it.

Old man Fei was well aware of what he could or could not do.

"I should consider thoroughly making use of that Renewal Purity Pill next time I see old man Fei to address the immediate needs at hand."

Jiang Chen had now decided to make a trip to the Myriad Treasures Palace and trade the large amounts of spirit ingredients left for some necessities.

The Monsterapes wouldn't be raised in a day or a night, so Jiang Chen was in no hurry.

But that flock of Goldwing Swordbirds had been through thick and thin with Jiang Chen, so he naturally wouldn't give up on them.

He'd been worried about causing a stir when he came to the capital, and had only brought a couple with him, leaving the vast majority on the outskirts.

When Jiang Chen remembered this matter, he decided to pay Tian Shao a visit before heading to the Palace.

As long as he obtained the flight tokens, these Goldwing Swordbirds would be able to legally cross the borders without the slightest restriction.

There were almost a thousand of them, but Jiang Chen believed that this wouldn't be a problem at all for the Dragonteeth Guard.

When he arrived at the door of the Dragonteeth Guard headquarters, he happened to bump into Tang Long, who'd been in high and vigorous spirits lately.

"Young master Chen, what are you doing here?" Tang Lang quickly walked up in greeting when he saw Jiang Chen, surprise and joy written all over his face.

"Old Tang, is your General Tian in?"

"Oh yes, absolutely!" Tang Long hastened to nod. "General Tian has left instructions that if young master Jiang comes by, no notifications are needed. You can go right inside. Young master, let me take you in."

"Alright." Jiang Chen smiled faintly and didn't dampen Tang Long's enthusiasm.

Those on duty with Tang Long were all greatly agitated and in awe when they saw Jiang Chen. When they saw how familiar Tang Long was with Jiang Chen, looks of admiration and envy appeared in their eyes.

The current Jiang Chen was the legend of the Skylaurel Kingdom, and the idol of all the youngsters.

The world of martial dao worshipped the strong and the talented.

Jiang Chen undoubtedly fulfilled this image. A young genius fighting against insurmountable power by himself — this completely fulfilled the fantasies of many martial dao practitioners.

Jiang Chen didn't put on airs as he followed Tang Long with a slight smile on his face.

Tian Shao was equally overjoyed to see Jiang Chen. "Young master Chen, what brings you here today? Please have a seat, sit!"

"Old Tian, I've come to ask for your help this time."

"Young master Chen, you torture me with this kind of talk. The young master's affairs are my affairs. What's this talk of asking for me for help?"

Tian Shao wasn't being polite. He was a straightforward man and only Jiang Chen was worthy of him saying such words.

Ordinary people wouldn't have the right to make Tian Shao speak words as these.

"So I have a flock of Goldwing Swordbirds..." Jiang Chen thoroughly explained the matter.

Tian Shao mused silently for a moment after listening, "Young master, flight tokens are a small matter, but to generate a thousand of them can be a bit tough. With my level of authorization as a general, dozens or hundreds are no problem, but numbers going into the thousands will need approval from vice director Zhou."

"Zhou Kai?"

"Yes indeed. Young master Chen, vice director Zhou has always wanted to strike up a friendship with you. I'm sure that there will be no problem with this matter if you bring it up to him." Tian Shao smiled. "How about I take you to him right now? The vice director is in anyways."

Jiang Chen didn't reject him and nodded, "Sure."

Zhou Kai was now truly the first vice director in the Dragonteeth Guard now. Without his great rival Yang Zhao, he was riding on the crest of success and had swept away all his previous negativity and dejection.

He was finally grasping some of the power and image that a first vice director should have.

Therefore, Zhou Kai felt a large amount of gratitude towards Jiang Chen. Otherwise, he wouldn't have voluntarily joined the entourage to propose marriage.

When he saw Tian Shao bring in Jiang Chen for a visit, Zhou Kai was startled and almost overwhelmed by this honor.

Even Zhou Kai found his feelings a bit odd. After all, he was the first vice director of the Dragonteeth Guard, his position high and his influence great. Jiang Chen's true identity was just a second rank noble with no true power at all.

Yet his attitude had unwittingly placed Jiang Chen in a superior position.

“Vice director Zhou Kai, young master Chen has some matters here in which I cannot make the decision. Therefore, I must prevail upon the vice director to decide...” Tian Shao explained the matter.

Zhou Kai didn’t hesitate at all after listening, “What’s not to allow for a small matter like this? Tian Shao, I approve, hurry and oversee the creation of the flight tokens. Young master Chen, is there anything else?”

Jiang Chen hadn’t thought that Zhou Kai would be so accommodating and smiled, “I feel embarrassed with one matter already. Vice director Zhou is a decisive man alright. Please don’t hesitate to let me know if there’s any matters in which I can help with in the future.”

Jiang Chen had never been one to be stingy to his friends.

Since Zhou Kai was this quick on the uptake, he was obviously someone who Jiang Chen could be friends with.

Zhou Kai was inwardly gleeful when he heard Jiang Chen’s words. He’d been looking for a good opportunity to enhance his relationship with Jiang Chen, and hadn’t thought that this opportunity would come so quickly.

He was naturally quite happy to be able to do something for Jiang Chen and have the latter owe him a favor.

“I have long since heard of young master Chen’s reputation. Our Dragonteeth Guard has forged a friendship with the young master via conversations through our fists.”

Jiang Chen chuckled, “I asked for vice director Zhou’s forgiveness as well. I haven’t always handled things well in the past.”

“Say nothing of the sort young master, our Dragonteeth Guard has always been a rational organization. Those things were all a result of that dumb animal Lu Wuji. He provoked you and created trouble for the guard, it has nothing to do with you.” Zhou Kai hastened to say.

“Haha, vice director, let’s forget about past grudges. I happen to have two jugs of good wine here, shall we have a drink? Drink away that past?” Tian Shao interjected.

This suggestion hit the right chord with Zhou Kai. “Good, good. Young master Chen is a genius and I’ve always wanted to find an opportunity to strengthen our relationship.”

“Come, come young master Chen! No matter how busy you are today, you must have a few drinks with the vice director.” Tian Shao hauled on Jiang Chen’s arm and walked outside.

Chapter 249: The Mysterious Grandfather and Granddaughter Appear Again

Jiang Chen didn’t mind this kind of socialization, but he reached out a hand to stop Tian Shao when he went to get wine.

“Old Tian, what kind of wine do you have? You must drink mine if it comes to wine.” Jiang Chen took out two jugs from his storage ring.

In those jugs was the Nine Magnificence Dew Wine, and of the spirit rank at that!

Jiang Chen had originally brewed ten jugs. He'd given two away to Shi Xiaoyao and another to Ye Chonglou during his birthday banquet. He'd kept the rest and didn't drink them.

Since they were going to drink wine, Jiang Chen naturally wouldn't hesitate in bringing out a few more jugs.

"This... can this be the Nine Magnificence Dew Wine?" Tian Shao's eyes stared fixedly at the wine jug. He had accompanied Ye Rong to the tutor's banquet that day, and the events of that day had given Tian Shao quite a shock.

It had been precisely this jug of wine that had enabled their gift to be selected as the best at the banquet, winning Tian Shao the opportunity to ask the tutor one question.

Tian Shao would remember it for the rest of his life. The day had been that memorable.

"That's right, this is the Nine Magnificence Dew Wine. However, it's not on the same level as those on the market. This is the spirit rank version. Its ingredients are quite costly, the process to create it is more tedious, and the difficulty to create it is more than ten times that of creating a mortal rank version."

"A spirit rank version?" Zhou Kai's eyes were gleaming. Although he wasn't quite as much of an alcoholic as Shi Xiaoyao, he still looked forward to the contents of the cup.

Particularly after Shi Xiaoyao had boasted, all along the way back from the trip to propose marriage, that his experience in tasting the spirit rank Nine Magnificence Dew Wine was something imprinted on his heart for the rest of his life, and on a completely different level from a mortal rank version.

Zhou Kai had also purchased and tasted a mortal rank one before. In his heart, it was an irreplaceable king amongst wine.

However, after listening to Shi Xiaoyao's boasts, Zhou Kai quite yearned for a spirit rank version of the wine and thought about it day and night.

Who would've thought that a chance to taste it would arise so unexpectedly today!

They couldn't find cups of ancient vines on such short notice, so they could only use wooden cups as a replacement. If one immediately poured and drank the spirit rank wine however, it wouldn't affect the spirit qi embodied within the wine that much.

Zhou Kai and Tian Shao's expressions froze as the spirit rank wine traveled down their throats.

A marvelous sensation the like they'd never experienced before immediately suffused their bodies.

In that moment, they suddenly understood why Shi Xiaoyao had kept up a constant litany of boasts along the way, and why he said that the mortal rank version couldn't measure up to the spirit rank version at all.

It indeed couldn't measure up at all; they were on completely different levels.

The two didn't speak for the longest time after the wine settled in their stomachs. Zhou Kai sighed, "This wine should only exist in the heavens. How many times can we taste this in the mortal realm?"

“Young master Chen, if this wine were to be sold in the market, it would fetch unimaginable prices. No wonder the honored tutor would say this gift was first amongst them all that day. The honored tutor does indeed have a different eye for appraisal from others, and it’s not anything that we can measure up to.” Tian Shao sighed with emotion.

Zhou Kai and Tian Shao didn’t act gracefully after that as the two of them drank cup after cup, completely cleaning out the two jugs and leaving not a drop behind.

Jiang Chen was also quite content to see the two of them have such a good time. After all, it was a joyous thing that his friends would happily drink of the wine that he had crafted.

After drinking, Zhou Kai used his tipsiness as an excuse to chuckle, “Young master Chen, I heard old brother Fei mention at the Southern Palace marriage proposal banquet that the Nine Magnificence Dew Wine, Heavenly Karma Pill, and Four Seasons Eternal Spring Pill all came from you. I went home and boasted about it to my woman, but actually ended up causing a world of trouble. I’m a bit leery of returning home every day now, and have quite a headache about things.”

“Oh? Old brother Zhou, what makes you say this?” Jiang Chen smiled when he saw Zhou Kai was slightly exaggerating.

“Ai, it’s my fault for being a blabbermouth and mentioning the Four Seasons Eternal Spring Pill. When my woman heard that Elder Ning’s looks became at least 10 years younger after taking the pill, she went completely nuts and asks me about it day and night. She brings up this matter to me whenever I go home these days. Young master Chen, you gifted the recipe to the Southern Palace. Do you know when they’ll be able to mass produce it?”

Jiang Chen smiled as he understood Zhou Kai’s meaning.

It was a good thing that there were still a few leftover pills from when he refined the Four Seasons Eternal Spring Pill last time. Although he was out of upper rank pills, there were still a few mid rank ones left.

He took one out immediately. “Old brother Zhou, the Southern Palace would probably take a bit to start selling it on the market. But I happen to have one left and offer it as a gift to your wife. This is just a little token to show my respect to you.”

Jiang Chen didn’t think much of this kind of pill at all. They were like fruits and nuts to him, without the slightest bit of value.

If he could repay someone’s favor by gifting them one of these, then why not?

Zhou Kai became a bit flustered, “How... how can I accept this? This is worth several cities, I can’t accept it! How about I pay for it?”

Tian Shao smiled, “Vice director Zhou, young master Chen is quite good to his friends. If he says he wants to gift it to you, he’ll become unhappy if you try to give him money for it.”

“Old Tian makes sense. Old brother Zhou, you treat me as a friend and helped me with such a large matter. You talk of money for a mere pill? You’re looking down on me!”

Zhou Kai chuckled as he finally accepted the pill beneath Jiang Chen and Tian Shao’s ribbing.

Although Zhou Kai was highly esteemed and influential within the Dragonteeth Guard, he ranked number two at home. His wife was the real boss at home.

At the thought of being able to take the pill home and make his wife happy, and being able to speak with an upright back in front of her and having her serve him, Zhou Kai's heart lurched wildly. He couldn't wait to go home and strut with pride.

After they concluded their drinking session, Jiang Chen suddenly remembered something and pulled Tian Shao aside, giving him another jug. "Old Tian, give this jug to the general director for me."

Drinking the Nine Magnificence Dew Wine in the Dragonteeth Guard would make it to Shangguan Yi's ears sooner or later, and the fact that it'd been a vice director and a general who'd tasted it. This was a small matter, but it wouldn't do to overlook the general director.

Jiang Chen wasn't afraid of anything himself, but Tian Shao still worked for Shangguan Yi after all.

A jug of wine would act as a lubricant for their relationships.

After leaving the Dragonteeth Guard, Jiang Chen made a trip to the Myriad Treasures Palace and consigned the lot of the spirit ingredients over to them, making it a rather large business transaction.

Jiang Chen traded for as many items he needed from the Palace, and asked the Palace to sell all that was left. He didn't want money, he just wanted to convert it all into items he would need in the future.

The Myriad Treasures Palace didn't dare take a cut from this transaction, so it was a trade at almost equal value.

After the transaction was concluded, Shi Xiaoyao kept hanging onto Jiang Chen no matter what, wanting to drink with him. Jiang Chen knew that this fellow was likely still thinking of the Nine Magnificence Dew Wine.

Therefore, he had to gift another jug again.

After obtaining a few spirit ingredients he needed, Jiang Chen returned fully loaded.

Tian Shao delivered a thousand flight tokens later that afternoon. This efficiency was ridiculously high, and Jiang Chen was quite satisfied.

"Young master Chen, the general director was very happy to receive your wine and invites you for a visit whenever you're free."

Tian Shao's words to Jiang Chen were full of respect. He had finally understood why Jiang Chen had gifted the general director with a jug for himself.

The wine was secondary, the more important thing was that it would improve relationships, clear up estrangement, and smoothen their interactions.

Jiang Chen summoned Gouyu after receiving the flight tokens.

"Gouyu, I have a mission for you. Take these flight tokens and bring in the Swordbird army from the borders."

The Goldwing Swordbird army had lingered around the borders for quite a while. Jiang Chen found that he rather missed them.

Tian Shao spoke up on the side, "Young master Chen, this trip to the border will pass through Northern Palace territory. They might keep an eye on your comings and goings. Why don't I take some Guards with me and accompany Miss Gouyu? We can take care of each other along the way if anything happens."

Jiang Chen recalled the unhappy experience with the Northern Palace and nodded his head. "Old Tian, does this put you in a difficult position?"

Tian Shao smiled, "Young master Chen, you're now one of the key personnel we protect in the Guard. Serving you is one of my duties!"

"Haha, old Tian, you've learned how to talk glibly as well."

Jiang Chen was more at ease given that Tian Shao would be making the trip as well. To be honest, he'd felt a bit uneasy if Gouyu was going by herself.

The Northern Palace were renowned for being thieves. They were completely lawless in their territory. Add to that the matter of the recent marriage proposal, and it was likely that they hated Jiang Chen with all their might.

Tian Shao and the Guard's presence would be a good precaution.

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In a quiet corner of the Skylaurel Kingdom, a mysterious person had rented out an exquisite courtyard half a year ago.

There were many flowers and grass planted in the front of the yard. A girl with an ethereal presence wearing robes whiter than snow had rolled up her sleeves, displaying the palest of arms as she watered these plants.

An old man was holding a pair of pruning shears in his hand and was clipping away at branches.

"Huang'er, it's been half a year since we've taken up residence in the Skylaurel Kingdom. Is everything to your liking?" The old man asked merrily as he looked at the young girl with eyes full of love.

"As long as we are far away from all the conflict and can quietly enjoy this sunshine, Huang'er will be happy anywhere we live."

The girl's movements were as if faint clouds covering the moon, a light breeze flurrying up the snow. She seemed to possess a faintly divine aura as her words and laughter filled the courtyard with life, like a fairy realm.

"Ai, you've suffered much these past years." The old man sighed lightly as his tone became slightly heavy. He immediately changed the topic. "However, it's not like we haven't gained anything since coming to the Skylaurel Kingdom. This Jiang Chen has arrived for less than a year and thoroughly upended the situation within the kingdom. This kid is truly not simple."

"If Elder Shun thinks he's not simple, then there must be a certain uniqueness to Jiang Chen." Huang'er smiled faintly. Elder Shun had often mentioned Jiang Chen in the past year, so although she'd never seen him before, she still had an impression of this person.

#### Chapter 250: Elder Shun, Observing Jiang Chen from the Shadows

This young girl who seemed so ethereal and unworldly had an uncommon bearing. Her limpid eyes were clean and translucent, without the slightest impurity.

"Huang'er, this old man feels increasingly certain that old man Qian Ji's divination will be fulfilled in the form of Jiang Chen."

Elder Shun came alive with interest whenever he mentioned Jiang Chen. A benevolent smile split his aged face.

Elder Shun and Huang'er had come from a mysterious place because a magical seer had once divined that clues about Huang'er's illness could be found in this mundane world.

The dao of divination was a wispy, intangible art. It would seem definite, yet not, and was beyond mystical.

Old man Qian Ji very rarely employed his arts, but whenever he did, his accuracy was beyond doubt.

Since Qian Ji had once said that there would be clues about Huang'er's illness within the Eastern Kingdom, Elder Shun hadn't wanted to give up the slightest bit of hope.

Cultivation of any dao in itself had always been a mysterious matter.

As such, Elder Shun would rather believe in its existence than not.

It was because of this that he had taken Huang'er away from the place they lived and travelled to the Eastern Kingdom.

Even though this divination of them being able to find the merest wisp of a clue to Huang'er's illness in the Eastern Kingdom frankly appeared ludicrous on the surface.

After all, the world that Elder Shun and Huang'er resided in was so, so much stronger than these mundane kingdoms. They weren't on the same level of existence at all.

If even the world they resided in was unable to resolve Huang'er's illness, how would they possibly find any clues in a mere ordinary kingdom?

No one else would've believed it, but Elder Shun was no ordinary person.

The greater one was in the world of martial dao, the more one understood and knew that sometimes, strange twists of fate would occur according to divine ordinance.

Even though this mundane kingdom was weak and insignificant, this didn't mean that no clues would appear here.

In the laws of nature, the world took from the abundant to fill in shortfalls.

Elder Shun had shown off a few hands in the Hall of Healing and gotten the position of a resident expert.

It was this identity that had helped him gain a footing in the Eastern Kingdom.

Elder Shun had been quite disappointed in the beginning because he had gained nothing after staying in the Hall of Healing for so long.

This had stayed the case until the day that Jiang Chen appeared with the recipe for the “Heavenly Karma Pill”.

The appearance of that ancient formula had given Elder Shun a whiff of something suspicious. One had to know that an ancient recipe was rather precious even in Elder Shun’s former residence.

For it to appear in a mundane kingdom, it was something that would’ve been rare to see in a hundred, or even a thousand years.

From then on, Elder Shun had taken note of Jiang Chen, and pinned this tiny hint of hope onto Jiang Chen.

Jiang Chen’s performance after that had further aroused Elder Shun’s attentions.

His counter attack and face slapping at the banquet held by the Duke of Soaring Dragon, turning the tables at the foundational exams, soaring to brilliance in the Hidden Dragon Trials, and shocking the heavens when he suppressed the Soaring Dragon rebellion...

This string of events had happened in a short year. It was absolutely incredible that they would appear around the son of a duke who’d started off at a low place in this world.

Something had surely been up behind all these abnormalities.

Elder Shun had seen much, and he observed that Jiang Chen was the point of commonalities in all this.

If it was said that he’d only suspected Jiang Chen in the beginning, now that they’d spent almost a year in the Skylareland Kingdom and seen his rise in the kingdom, Elder Shun was almost certain that the hint of a clue that they’d searched for so long almost certainly lay with Jiang Chen.

The Four Seasons Eternal Spring Pill, the Nine Magnificence Dew Wine — even with Elder Shun’s level of existence, he had to sigh with admiration. He’d never heard of any of these either.

Furthermore, Jiang Chen’s own rate of self improvement was incredible. He’d barely passed three meridians true qi during the foundational exams. It’d been as if he’d reborn in a short year or two and progressed directly into the spirit realm, killing three peers with three arrows!

Elder Shun didn’t think much of the level of training in the spirit realm.

What had surprised Elder Shun was Jiang Chen’s rate of improvement, and the level of potential and charisma he’d displayed.

Elder Shun saw on this young man a potential that far exceeded the limits of this mundane kingdom.

Even though the potential and strength of the youngsters of Elder Shun’s world was far in excess of those of this mundane kingdom, Jiang Chen was on par in some areas, such as his bearing, and even exceeded those of his world in others!

“Heh heh, this Jiang Chen kid is more and more interesting. Judging from his intentions, he doesn’t seem to be that enthused about entering the Precious Tree Sect. I’m rather curious as to just what a young man from an ordinary kingdom is thinking about? Logically speaking, a young man of this caliber should be filled with yearning towards the so-called hidden sects. However, I don’t see that at all on Jiang Chen.”

Perplexed emotions could be heard in Elder Shun’s tone.

The young girl called Huang’er laughed softly, “Elder Shun, the young are proud and unbridled. There are many in our place who don’t like to enter the sects.”

Elder Shun smiled ruefully, “Most people who are like that are either unparalleled geniuses or idiots who are blindly confident. Huang’er, which type would you say Jiang Chen is?”

Huang’er cocked her head to the side and thought for a moment before saying, “He likely counts as a genius amongst the sixteen kingdoms?”

Huang’er had heard Elder Shun mentioned Jiang Chen almost everyday in the past year.

Elder Shun would thoroughly investigate whatever had happened to Jiang Chen and then fully relay it all to her.

In this way, although Huang’er had never met Jiang Chen, but she more or less had a hazy image of him over a year.

She didn’t know Jiang Chen and naturally wouldn’t have any prejudices against him.

Although she had a few words to say about some of the ways in which he’d handled things, with her temper and rearing, she wouldn’t look down on a young man whom Elder Shun was complimenting because of a few small details.

“Haha, if even our Huang’er admits that he’s a genius, then this Jiang Chen is definitely a genius.” Elder Shun clapped heartily in laughter.

“Elder Shun, with your level of attention, even if he’s not a genius, with your ability to turn stone into gold, you’d be able to turn him into the most preeminent genius amongst the sixteen kingdoms if you gave him just a few hints?”

Elder Shun shook his head and laughed, “Oh no, I will absolutely not appear to instruct him in person. A genius has a genius’ path. At least, I don’t want to give him pointers yet at this stage. Put it this way, although the current level of potential he’s displaying is in excess of the limits of the sixteen kingdoms, he’s still far away from my standards. Perhaps if he breaks through to the original realm in the next three or five years, then he might truly have the right for this old man to appear and tutor him.”

“Three to five years?” Huang’ers long lashes fluttered rapidly as her ethereal eyes looked at Elder Shun. “Elder Shun, Jiang Chen will be in his early twenties in the next three to five years? If he enters the original realm at that age, he’d be a strong genius even in our world, no? I don’t think this kind of genius has ever appeared in the history of the sixteen kingdoms?”

“Huang’er, if old man Qian Ji’s fortune is truly to be fulfilled in Jiang Chen, then he shouldn’t only be at the level of a genius of the sixteen kingdoms. The sixteen kingdom alliance is but a desolate martial dao

backwater in the greater world. My standards for him are not measured by the barometer of the sixteen kingdoms.”

Huang’er nodded, deep in thought, but still felt that Elder Shun was being a little too one sided in his enthusiasm. After all, the conditions of the sixteen kingdoms were limited. It would be incredibly difficult for a practitioner to achieve quick breakthroughs on the path of martial dao when the resources available to him were so limited.

It was likely that no one in the history of the sixteen kingdoms had broken through to the original realm at the tender age of twenty years old. It was indeed a bit harsh to take this kind of measurement to Jiang Chen.

“Huang’er, do you think that three to five years is too short?”

Huang’er didn’t like to conceal and hide her thoughts, so she smiled faintly when she heard Elder Shun’s question and didn’t deny it.

“Ahi, this old man also knows that three to five years is short, but Huang’er, have you thought of the fact that your illness can’t be dragged on for any longer? Although Jiang Chen is an important clue, but this old man cannot place all my bets on him. It’s nothing if I lose, but Huang’er, you can’t wait. You can wait three to five years, but we must start over again if Jiang Chen isn’t the one we’re looking for. I’m afraid clues will be difficult to find when time drags on...”

Elder Shun’s tone was filled with the worry over gains and losses.

Huang’er’s face of heavenly beauty revealed a touch of softness. She knew that Elder Shun was worried about her, and had come to this desolate place, wasting his time on mundane youths because of her.

For someone on the level of Elder Shun, time and energy were all quite precious.

“Elder Shun, Huang’er is greatly warmed by all that you have done for me. Even if Huang’er is destined to succumb to my fate in this life, such is my destiny. A person’s lifespan can be long or short, Huang’er has seen those around us that even if they live past ten thousand years, they pursue only fame and profit in their lives. Almost robotically absorbed in training, they can steal resources, slaughter brothers, friends, and those around them, all in the name of training. So what if this kind of heartless, mindless person achieves the great perfection of dao? Are they truly happy to be alone for the rest of their lives?”

“As for me, although I am young, I have Elder Shun who loves me and who has taken me to across a thousand mountains and ten thousand rivers, viewing all the wonders and sites of the world, and experiencing all there is in this realm. Even if I live to only this day in my life, my life would not be in vain. Compared to the peers of my clan, I have possessed more than a hundred times their happiness.”

Although Huang’er’s tone was noncommittal, her tone was suffused with sincerity as well as a certain realization and the intelligence of acceptance.

Elder Shun’s eyes filled with love when he heard these words. He roared raspily, “Huang’er, unless this old man dies, otherwise I will never give up on visiting all sorts of renowned doctors for you to cure you of your illness! You are a goddess amongst mortals. If your life is short, then that is because the heavens are blind! With this old man’s knowledge of the heavenly law, although Huang’er is troubled by your

affliction, you are not meant for a short life. You are destined to suffer first in your life before sweet rewards arrive. You are destined to have someone appear who will help you!”

It was as if spring had alighted in the courtyard when Huang’er smiled sweetly.

“Elder Shun, Huang’er is young and doesn’t understand talk of the heavenly law. Except, Huang’er will try hard for you to live on and not be beaten by this sickness. If there really is someone who will help me in my life, Huang’er will try her hardest to live until he appears and then tell him that Elder Shun has spent a lot of effort looking for him.”

Elder Shun laughed heartily. “That’s my good Huang’er!”

He paused and then said. “I hope this Jiang Chen doesn’t disappoint me. It doesn’t seem like there’s another clue worth pursuing in all of the sixteen kingdoms. Can it be that he really gained divine patronage after being caned by Eastern Lu?”