

Time 491

Chapter 491: Bai Longtian's reason

"Look! Is Jiang Chen really going to fight with Bai Longtian?"

"I don't think they will. After all, the sect's rules forbid fighting outside of the arena! However, what is Bai Longtian doing here? I know that his own courtyard isn't close to this place. Could it be that he has really come here to challenge Jiang Chen?"

The surrounding disciples who saw Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian ready to fight had started to gather a small distance away from Shun Long's courtyard, as they stared at the scene in front of them while discussing the possible scenarios.

Of course, most of those disciples were either disciples who had entered the sect at the same time as Shun Long, Bai Longtian and the rest, or they were those disciples who had been their opponents during the fourth test.

The rest of the outer disciples who didn't recognize Jiang Chen or Bai Longtian barely threw a glance at this scene before they continued with what they were doing.

At the same time, Shun Long was also curious as to how those 2 had ended up in a conflict... especially in front of his courtyard.

Without any hesitation, Shun Long then held Liu Mei's hand as he walked towards the entrance of his courtyard.

"Hey, isn't that Shun Long? Don't tell me that he is going to join the fight as well!"

"I wonder whose side he is going to take!"

"Who is that beauty next to him? Don't tell me... it's the goddess of death, Liu Mei?!"

The disciples who saw Shun Long and Liu Mei walking towards the entrance of the courtyard, immediately recognized him due to how much attention he had attracted in the fourth test, and subsequently they also recognized Liu Mei, even though she wasn't wearing her white veil.

However, Shun Long ignored the fervent crowd as he turned his attention towards Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian in front of him, before he said seriously

"Come inside!"

Taking out his sect identifying token, he then deactivated the protective formations around his courtyard, before he and Liu Mei stepped past the courtyard's entrance.

Jiang Chen looked at Shun Long seriously before snorting once, and after throwing one more look at Bai Longtian, he too entered the courtyard.

Bai Longtian instead had an excited look in his eyes when he looked at Shun Long, as he followed after Jiang Chen without a second thought.

"What? This is Shun Long's courtyard? Then why were those 2 waiting right outside of its entrance?"

"Wait! I heard that Jiang Chen refused senior brother Qian Tao's invitation to join his faction and declared that he would join Shun Long's instead!"

"Right! I heard about this earlier today as well! Maybe Bai Longtian has entered senior brother Qian Tao's faction already, and he came to fight with Jiang Chen to teach him a lesson?"

"But Jiang Chen is extremely strong... I don't think that's possible!"

Completely oblivious to the discussions among the disciples outside Shun Long's courtyard or the attention that they had both attracted, Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian both stared at Shun Long before they turned to look at each other.

Feeling the tension between them that still hadn't disappeared, Shun Long had a calm look on his face as he turned his eyes towards Jiang Chen and asked curiously

"What happened between the two of you?"

Of course, what also surprised Shun Long, was that within a single week both Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian had advanced in their cultivation.

Jiang Chen had already reached the middle of rank 4 in the Nascent Soul, while Bai Longtian had reached the early rank 4 of the Nascent Soul as well.

Of course, the reason why they could advance so quickly was because they had both reached the pinnacle of the early rank 4 and peak of rank 3 in the Nascent Soul respectively and were just a step away from breaking through, while the insights that they had obtained from their fights during the fourth test were actually enough for them to keep cultivating even more.

At the same time, Jiang Chen ignored Bai Longtian, as he turned his attention towards Shun Long before he replied

"I told you that I would come and visit you in a few days, but when I came to your place I saw this buddhist idiot standing outside the courtyard. I naturally asked him what he wanted to do, but as soon as I got close to him and saw his face, I could feel a huge irritation and barely held myself back."

Bai Longtian nodded his head when he heard this, as he looked at Jiang Chen and said seriously

"Senior brother Jiang, it is because your heart isn't pure. Cultivating in an evil Dao will only give rise to chaos and madness in your heart. This goes against the Dao of the Buddha!"

Instantly, a look of realization appeared on Shun Long's face as he stared at Bai Longtian and Jiang Chen and understood what the problem was.

Jiang Chen's 'Demonic Dao' and Bai Longtian's 'Dao of the Buddha' were 2 opposing Daos so it was only natural that the two of them would end up fighting with each other.

This was a reaction that came from their Daos themselves.

Even if Bai Longtian didn't show it to the same extent, it was obvious that he too disliked being around Jiang Chen.

At that moment however, Bai Longtian ignored Jiang Chen and he turned his attention towards Shun Long, before he said with a smile on his face

"Brother Shun Long, even though we both came from the Night star continent, this is the first time that we actually meet each other. I came to visit you a few days ago as well, but I could only give up since you were in seclusion."

As he said this, Bai Longtian cupped his hands at Liu Mei, as a gesture of thanks for informing him about this the last time and said that he could try again in 1 or 2 weeks if he wanted to meet Shun Long, before he turned his attention towards Shun Long once again.

Shun Long nodded his head with a curious look on his face as he stared at Bai Longtian.

Unlike Jiang Chen, the young man in front of him had no obvious connection with him and neither did he have an immortal grade bloodline, which made Shun Long curious as to why Bai Longtian had approached him out of his own volition twice.

Feeling Shun Long's profound and penetrative gaze landing on his body that looked like it could peer through all of his secrets, made Bai Longtian shiver for a moment, but the young white lord still took a deep breath and stared at Shun Long before he said seriously

"I believe that brother Shun Long is also curious as to why I came to visit you twice now."

Shun Long nodded his head while even? Liu Mei and Jiang Chen were also staring at the black-haired, blue-eyed young man as they waited for his answer.

Bai Longtian's eyes however were focused on Shun Long completely ignoring Liu Mei and Jiang Chen, while his tone slowly turned solemn as he continued

"It's because my fate is connected with brother Shun Long's!"

Chapter 492: Bai Longtian's fate

"What do you mean?"

Liu Mei was the first one to ask when she heard that, while Jiang Chen shot Bai Longtian a hostile glare at the same time.

The young white lord looked at Liu Mei and Jiang Chen for a moment, before he turned his attention towards Shun Long and explained with a serious look on his face

"As brother Shun Long may have heard, my father is the city lord of the 'White city' and is also a peak Dao King realm expert at the same level as the old king of the Shengtian dynasty, Sheng Jun."

Shun Long nodded his head without a change in his expression. Indeed, he had already heard that the city lord of the 'White city', Bai Longtian's father was a powerhouse in the Night star continent, one that could even be compared to the old king of the Shengtian dynasty!

The look on Bai Longtian's face, as he took a deep breath before he continued

"However, what brother Long doesn't know, is that 30 years ago, a friend of my father's visited our Night star continent and came to our 'White city' to discuss something important with my father.

That person was a senior who was cultivating in the 'Dao of Fate' as well as someone who was many times stronger than my father, a Dao Emperor realm expert.

Since my father knew that this friend of his was a true powerhouse, as well as a respectable senior even in the central region, my father asked him to take me as his personal disciple!

Haha, of course, back then I was only 12 years old and had barely started cultivating, having only reached the peak of rank 1 in the qi condensation stage.

And yet, my father's friend didn't seem to mind my low cultivation, and since he was good friends with my father he decided to test my fate before he gave his answer. Naturally, my father didn't object to it, and was instead extremely happy that a Dao Emperor realm expert would personally test my fate.

However, when that senior tested my fate, he seemed startled and instantly refused to take me as a disciple without a second thought, despite being friends with my father for many years.

Instead, he looked at me for a few moments with his deep brown eyes that seemed to have turned even darker at that moment, before he said

<Child, your fate doesn't lie with me. If I take you on as my disciple, it will do you more harm than good. You will have a chance to find your true fate 30 years from now, if you participate in the Holy sect's test. A person whose fate even I cannot peer into will appear at that time.

If you follow that person, you will have a chance to exceed your limits and touch the absolute pinnacle!

Remember, that cultivation is to fight against the heavens and strive to reach the peak of the world... becoming an immortal!

Only by reaching the peak will you be qualified to hold your fate in your own hands!>

When that senior finished testing my fate, he bade farewell to my father before he left our Night star continent.

Of course, as for who that senior referred to as 'that person', after seeing the result of the ball of fate, it is impossible for it to be anyone else than brother Shun Long.

Ever since that day, I thought seriously of whether I should even take the Holy sect's test in the first place, or if I should stay in the Night star continent.

However, the truth is that I want to chase my dreams! I want to see what the peak of this world looks like! I want to see the pinnacle and hold my fate in my own hands! I want to become an immortal!"

Bai Longtian's emotions started to pour out along with his words, putting his heart and soul in every single sentence while his eyes seriously stared at Shun Long.

Finally, after a brief moment of silence he then continued

"So, I will choose to follow brother Long!

Of course, I know that nothing in life is absolute, and I know that my choice today may also be mistaken, causing me to die in the future as well. But I am willing to follow my heart and take this risk! As long as you are willing to accept me... I will follow you!"

The entire courtyard had fallen silent, as Liu Mei and Jiang Chen stared at the young man with black hair and blue eyes in front of Shun Long with different expressions in their eyes.

At the same time, Shun Long's gaze had turned extremely deep and profound as he stared at the young man in front of him.

Although their goals were entirely different as Jiang Chen wanted to save his mother and take revenge while Bai Longtian wanted to follow his dreams, Shun Long clearly recognized that the resolve in Bai Longtian's eyes and words wasn't inferior to Jiang Chen's in the slightest.

Of course, although Shun Long wouldn't simply accept anyone who asked to follow him regardless of their reasons, he also understood that Bai Longtian was extremely talented, and even in the Holy sect he could be considered a true genius.

Thus, having such a person follow him along with Jiang Chen and enter his faction as well wasn't a bad idea!

At the same time, Bai Longtian had actually left a good impression on him, since he was somewhat similar to Jiang Chen in the fact that he was sincere and explained his reasons without holding back.

Seeing that Shun Long wasn't responding right away, Bai Longtian took a step forward and stared at Jiang Chen who was standing by Shun Long's side before he continued

"Brother Long... the truth is that I didn't use my full strength during the sect's test!"

Jiang Chen's eyes widened slightly when he heard this, but an evil grin appeared on his face when he realized Bai Longtian's intentions.

He wanted to fight against him to prove his strength, not just to Shun Long, but to him as well!

If Shun Long decided to accept Bai Longtian in his faction, this would be the fight to see who would be his strongest and the second strongest general instead!

However, Shun Long's lips curved up when he heard Bai Longtian's words, before he smiled and said in an easy-going manner, almost as if he had already expected to hear this from Bai Longtian long ago

"I know."

At that moment, Shun Long turned his eyes towards Jiang Chen who was obviously preparing himself for a fight and was sealing his cultivation to the early rank 4 of the Nascent Soul to match Bai Longtian's, before he said with that same smile on his face

"Jiang Chen, don't underestimate him or you may lose. Without your bloodline, you may not necessarily be able to win against him if you guys are at the same cultivation level."

Chapter 493: Bai Longtian's trump card

Both Bai Longtian and Jiang Chen stared at Shun Long with shock in their eyes, each of them for a different reason.

Shun Long said these words with so much confidence, almost as if he had already seen through all of Bai Longtian's secrets. At the same time, his gaze that was extremely deep and profound made Bai Longtian think that he was actually saying the truth.

And yet, although Bai Longtian wasn't arrogant, he was certain that if they were in the same cultivation level, even Jiang Chen wouldn't be his match without his bloodline. Perhaps Shun Long could fight against him without his bloodline since he probably had many other secrets, but it was impossible for Jiang Chen. The reason behind Bai Longtian's confidence was something that no one else knew about him besides his own father.

As for Jiang Chen, he was actually unable to believe Shun Long's words.

He was not only a genius who had inherited the bloodline of the 'Demonic Crow of Darkness', but he had also comprehended both the 'Demonic Dao' as well as the 'Dao of Darkness'. At the same time, he was also someone who was born with the 'Eternal Darkness unique physique' as well! It was nearly impossible to find freaks who could compete with him at the same level of cultivation! And yet, he also understood that Shun Long wouldn't say something like this lightly. He had obviously said this to make him go all-out during the fight.

At the same time, Shun Long smiled leisurely as he stared at Bai Longtian who had just steeled his heart and had decided to reveal his secret in this fight, before he said in a casual tone

"Although you can hide this from others, it's impossible to hide your unique physique in front of me. Hahaha, you and Jiang Chen are both more similar than you may think."

Shun Long's words instantly made Bai Longtian's body to suddenly shiver, while Jiang Chen's gaze that was calmly staring at the young man in front of him instantly turned serious at the same time, before he actually licked his lips in excitement.

At the same time, even Liu Mei couldn't hide the shock in her eyes as she stared at the 2 young men in the center of the courtyard before she turned her attention back to Shun Long.

Bai Longtian actually had a unique physique as well!

However, the most shocked out of this revelation wasn't Liu Mei or Jiang Chen, but Bai Longtian himself! He couldn't understand how Shun Long had found out about this as he turned his eyes and stared at the calm short-haired young man in shock. Even when he had sparred with Sheng Huang in the past, Bai Longtian had only revealed his Dao of the Buddha and hadn't showed his unique physique to anyone. Aside from his father, no one else knew about this, and yet Shun Long exposed it with a single glance.

At that moment, Jiang Chen was the first one to act, as he stared at the young man in front of him without holding himself back any longer.

His suppressed cultivation at the early rank 4 of the Nascent Soul exploded out, while at the same time, a black veil that looked like it had been formed by pure darkness appeared around his body, before it slowly expanded outwards, covering an ever-increasing area around him.

"You.. also have a unique physique?"

Jiang Chen flashed an evil grin as he stared at the dumbfounded Bai Longtian who couldn't stop himself from asking this question, before he answered casually

"Did you think that you are the only one with a unique physique? Remember, in this world, very few people are allowed to stand in front of me, and you are not one of them."

Although Bai Longtian wouldn't mind it too much normally if he was being mocked by someone, being mocked when you were about to go all-out during a serious fight was an entirely different thing.

"Don't blame me for this then!"

As he finished speaking, a bright golden light appeared around Bai Longtian's body, as his body actually started to increase in size.

His original height changed, and in just a few moments, Bai Longtian's body had already exceeded 10 meters(33ft) in height, looking like a giant golden buddha!

Looking down at the stunned Jiang Chen whose eyes were burning with a will to fight, Bai Longtian then said in a serious voice

"This is my unique physique, the 'Golden Buddha unique physique'!"

As he finished his words, Bai Longtian brought down his right palm towards Jiang Chen, as he was the one to make the first move in this fight.

The darkness around Jiang Chen instantly churned turning into a huge palm that was no smaller than Bai Longtian's, as it met his golden palm head-on.

BOOOM!

The entire courtyard shook from the impact of the collision between Jiang Chen's and Bai Longtian's attacks, while some of the defensive formations activated at the same time as well, suppressing the after-effects of the attacks from spreading to the room and the courtyard's walls.

At the same time, Liu Mei had also summoned more than 100 jade-white skeletons at the same time, and had them fight together to block the aftereffects of the fight that were about to hit her and Shun Long.

"Haha, let's continue! Don't tell me that that's all you have!"

Bai Longtian's mocking voice resounded behind the huge black palm and throughout, as he stared at the gigantic figure of Bai Longtian in front of him before he actually took the initiative to attack first.

His huge black palm clenched itself turning into a punch, as it traveled through the air flying towards Bai Longtian's head without any mercy.

Since Bai Longtian also had a unique physique, Jiang Chen had decided to really go all-out.

Aside from when he used his bloodline of the Demonic Crow of Darkness, this was truly his strongest state!

Chapter 494: Jiang Chen vs Bai Longtian

Bai Longtian's 2 palms immediately covered his face forming a wall that blocked Jiang Chen's punch, before his body suddenly started to glow with a bright white light as his gigantic golden buddha form immediately disappeared on the spot, leaving behind countless afterimages as he circled around Jiang Chen.

This was Bai Longtian's Dao of Light!

Using his Dao of Light, even with his enormous gigantic golden buddha body, Bai Longtian's speed was now countless times faster than most early rank 4 Nascent Soul stage cultivators!

At the same time, since both his and Jiang Chen's body refinement cultivation had obviously reached the early fifth stage as well Bai Longtian no longer held back in this fight, as he sent a flurry of attacks towards the young man in front of him.

And yet, Jiang Chen simply smirked when he saw this scene, and just before Bai Longtian's attacks could land on his body, a pair of pitch-black wings that were burning with dark red flames were formed on his back as he said calmly

"Demonic Wings!"

Using the first stage of this Saint low-grade martial skill that he had gotten from the barrier of knowledge, Jiang Chen's speed increased by many times, becoming even a bit faster than Bai Longtian's who was augmented with his Dao of Light.

Flying with a speed that was nearly impossible to match for most early rank 4 Nascent Soul stage experts, Jiang Chen was about to fly out from Bai Longtian's range of attack, but at that moment, a bright golden light erupted from Bai Longtian's body forming a small barrier that stopped Jiang Chen in his tracks.

Of course, Jiang Chen only needed a single moment to destroy the golden barrier created by Bai Longtian's Dao of the Buddha, but that moment was enough for Bai Longtian's attack to arrive in front of him!

Knowing that he had no way to dodge Bai Longtian's attack, the darkness around Jiang Chen's body surged, creating another huge black palm that collided with Bai Longtian's golden palm head-on!

However, how could Jiang Chen's palm that he had formed in a single moment really fight against Bai Longtian's strike that was further augmented by both his Dao of Light and his Dao of the Buddha so easily?

The huge black palm was instantly destroyed, as Bai Longtian's gigantic golden palm continued forward, landing on Jiang Chen's chest and instantly piercing through his defenses, as it sent him crashing back on the ground like a meteor.

Unable to resist the overpowering force, Jiang Chen spat a mouthful of blood as his body created a crater at the center of Shun Long's courtyard.

Shun Long and Liu Mei both stared at the fight between the 2 geniuses in front of them, as Jiang Chen's battered figure slowly stood up from the ground barely a moment later, his body filled with injuries.

Staring at the serious look on the gigantic figure of the golden buddha in front of him, the look on Jiang Chen's face gradually turned solemn as well, as he finally mumbled in a serious voice

"Forget it! I am not losing to you! Kingdom of Darkness!"

The darkness around his body then started to churn, expanding even further, like a veil of darkness completely submerging the area around him.

At that moment, an ominous feeling appeared in Bai Longtian's heart as he felt the darkness around Jiang Chen growing rapidly towards his direction, almost as if it was trying to submerge him.

Without any hesitation, Bai Longtian's body lit up as he circulated his Dao of Light, and yet he noticed that he was only able to barely slow down the advancement of the veil of darkness and not completely stop it, let alone destroy it.

Lowering his gaze Bai Longtian suddenly noticed that a small ball of darkness that he hadn't noticed earlier was actually stuck in his right palm.

A look of realization instantly appeared on his face as he understood, that this black ball of darkness came from Jiang Chen's body, as his last attack had sent him flying to the ground.

And yet, just as Bai Longtian was about to try and expel the black ball from his hand, the black ball suddenly exploded as his vision was instantly plunged into darkness.

In just a few moments, the veil of darkness around Jiang Chen expanded as well, covering a large area of the courtyard and completely trapping Bai Longtian's gigantic golden figure inside it as well.

As the darkness started to spread even further, even Shun Long and Liu Mei weren't able to see through the scene inside it any longer.

This was the true power behind Jiang Chen's Eternal Darkness unique physique, the 'Kingdom of Darkness'!

At that moment, Liu Mei turned her head to the side to look at Shun Long who was seriously staring at the black veil in front of him that had already covered half the courtyard, before she asked curiously

"Long-ge, which of them do you think is going to win?"

Even though Liu Mei could no longer see the fight in front of them, she still believed in Shun Long's judgement the most and she was also curious about which of those 2 did he think that was stronger.

Shaking his head, Shun Long looked at Liu Mei seriously before he replied

"Jiang Chen is definitely faster in terms of speed thanks to his 'Demonic Wings', but his real strength lies more in control and attacking. Although I don't know too much about his Eternal Darkness unique physique, it is definitely not easy to escape from it.

As for Bai Longtian, his attack, defense, and speed are all exceptional, while his Golden Buddha unique physique enhances those attributes even further.

If the 2 of them had to exchange full-powered blows in this situation, they would probably be equal with each other in terms of their attack, but Bai Longtian's defense will definitely be stronger.

Of course, that is only under the situation where Jiang Chen doesn't use his bloodline power of the Demonic Crow of Darkness, otherwise, Bai Longtian will have a really hard time against him!"

Nodding her head, Liu Mei had a serious look in her eyes as she stared at the black veil that had now encompassed more than half of the courtyard.

Chapter 495: Outcome of the fight

Knowing that he was trapped inside this place of absolute darkness where he couldn't see anything, Bai Longtian didn't move from the spot he was standing on, and instead, he closed his eyes as he spread his soul sense, trying to find Jiang Chen's location instead.

However, his expression instantly changed barely a moment later, as he realized that the darkness around him had already completely suppressed his soul sense, not allowing him to spread it around his body.

At the same time, a feeling of danger suddenly sprouted in Bai Longtian's heart as he immediately turned around and thrust his palm forward.

The air whistled from the force of his palm as his hand collided with a huge black palm formed from Jiang Chen's Dao of Darkness.

The 2 palms collided as both Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian were forced to take a few steps back from the impact.

However, even though he had managed to repel Jiang Chen's attack, the look in Bai Longtian's eyes turned even more serious than before as he looked around him in his gigantic golden buddha figure.

Inside his Kingdom of Darkness formed by his Eternal Darkness unique physique Jiang Chen's Dao of Darkness was also amplified, making his attacks even stronger than before. However, the most dangerous thing for Bai Longtian was still the fact that he couldn't see where the next attack would come from and he could only rely on his instinct.

Finally, the silence broke a few moments later, as countless palms created by Jiang Chen's Dao of Darkness emerged inside his Kingdom of Darkness, as they bombarded Bai Longtian's gigantic golden figure without stop.

And yet, despite being placed in such an unfavorable situation, Bai Longtian still didn't think that he would lose! Although Jiang Chen's attacks were even stronger inside his Kingdom of Darkness, Bai Longtian knew that his Golden Buddha unique physique was definitely strong enough to take them head-on.

At that moment none of those 2 held back any of their abilities any longer, as Jiang Chen's attacks were infused with both his Demonic Dao and his Dao of Darkness making any normal early rank 4 Nascent Soul stage cultivator who stood in front of him tremble in fear if they could sense his aura, while Bai Longtian circulated his Dao of the Buddha to its limits, creating a small golden sphere around his body that enhanced his defense even further.

No matter how many black palms landed on his body, although he would be forced to take a few steps back in the process, Bai Longtian wouldn't be too heavily injured!

Finally, an hour later, Shun Long saw the black veil that had covered more than half of his courtyard slowly dissipate, as 2 figures appeared inside it, both of them facing each other with serious looks on their faces.

Shun Long noticed that Jiang Chen's 'Demonic Wings' were already on the verge of disappearing as his qi had already been completely depleted, while even his energy from his body cultivation could no longer sustain his Kingdom of Darkness!

As for Bai Longtian, his golden buddha figure had already disappeared as his body had already reverted back to its original appearance. It was obvious that both he and Jiang Chen had reached their limits, and yet neither of them was willing to stop.

After a few moments of tension that seemed like an eternity, Bai Longtian was the first one to speak, as he looked at Jiang Chen opposite to him and said seriously

"Senior brother Jiang is really stronger than I expected. I thought that without your bloodline power I would easily win, but in the end I was wrong."

Shaking his head, Jiang Chen had an unresigned expression on his face as he looked at the young man in front of him, almost as if he was unwilling to accept this outcome before he answered

"This time it's a draw, but this isn't the end!"

Nodding his head, Bai Longtian also didn't want to accept that the outcome of their fight didn't have a clear winner. Although it was a draw this time since both of them had already depleted both their qi and the energy inside their bodies from their qi refinement cultivation, making Jiang Chen unable to sustain his Kingdom of Darkness any longer and even Bai Longtian to be unable to stay in his gigantic golden buddha form, they would definitely settle this in the future.

At that moment, everyone saw Bai Longtian turning his eyes to look at Shun Long with an expectant gaze, almost as if he was waiting to finally hear his answer.

After a moment of silence, Shun Long nodded his head with a smile on his face, before he turned around and walked towards the main room, beckoning for Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian to follow behind him as well.

As soon as he sat down on the white cushion in front of his bed with Liu Mei sitting next to him, Shun Long looked at the 2 young men who sat down in front of him and was about to speak, when suddenly, the restrictions around the courtyard lit up before the image of a peerlessly beautiful young woman with blond hair and bright emerald eyes appeared in his mind.

Realizing that Xie Xingyi had also arrived at this moment Shun Long then deactivated the restrictions around his courtyard, allowing her to enter inside as well.

As soon as Xie Xingyi stepped into the room, everyone's attention was instantly focused on her, as they realized that she had also broken through in these last few days, entering the early rank 4 of the Nascent Soul stage.

At the same time, Xie Xingyi was also stunned when she saw Bai Longtian appear in Shun Long's room since she already knew from Liu Mei that the 2 of them weren't familiar, causing Liu Mei to explain the situation that had taken place before Xie Xingyi arrived.

Hearing that both Bai Longtian had a unique physique as well and was actually just as strong as Jiang Chen made the beautiful young woman open her mouth in shock as she stared at him for a few seconds longer.

After all, Xie Xingyi also came from the Night star continent just like Bai Longtian, and she clearly knew that the biggest genius of the Night star continent was rumored to be Sheng Huang and not him. There were some rumors that Bai Longtian may be at the same level as Sheng Huang of course, but since the 2 of them hadn't openly fought, everyone considered the prince of the Shengtian dynasty as the strongest genius of the entire continent.

However, with his unique physique, there was no doubt that Bai Longtian would have been hailed as the strongest genius of the continent instead if as he had actually revealed it!

Of course, that was under the assumption that a monster like Shun Long wasn't included in this discussion.

Xie Xingyi still remembered Shun Long's fight with Jiang Chen from a few days ago and how he had revealed his Dao of Time, causing her heart to thump wildly as she thought back of that scene.

At the same time, sitting on his white cushion, Shun Long's eyes swept past Xie Xingyi, Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian, with a deep look in his eyes, before he took out his sect identifying token and placed it on the floor in front of him.

Seeing that everyone's gaze was focused on him, Shun Long took a deep breath, before his voice resounded throughout the room

"If you really want to follow me, you most likely won't have a peaceful life in the sect in the future. Doing so will mean that you will have to fight against the top factions of the sect as well as its strongest geniuses, and many of them are most likely Dao Kings already. If any of you wants to back out from it, this is your chance!"

Chapter 496: Approached

Jiang Chen was the first one to react when he heard Shun Long's words, as he instantly took out his sect identifying token without any hesitation, and placed it above Shun Long's own.

His action by itself seemed to be his answer.

Since he had already decided to follow Shun Long, he wouldn't go back on his word no matter what.

Besides, aside from Shun Long, he didn't know who else could possibly help him fight against the immortals from the Yu family of the Eternal Darkness world in the future.

Perhaps even Shun Long wouldn't be able to do help him, but Jiang Chen had already made his choice.

Barely a moment after Jiang Chen had extended his hand, Xie Xingyi and Bai Longtian took out their sect identifying tokens and placed them above Shun Long's as well.

Being slower than Jiang Chen by a second didn't mean that Xie Xingyi or Bai Longtian were uncertain or that they were less determined about joining Shun Long than Jiang Chen.

Instead, this just showed Jiang Chen's mental preparations, as he didn't even need to think over what Shun Long had said just now before giving his response.

The lack of hesitation in Xie Xingyi's and Bai Longtian's actions also showed that they had already decided in their hearts already as well.

Shun Long smiled when he saw this scene, as he nodded his head and touched his sect identifying token in front of him, infusing it with his qi.

A bright white light soon covered Jiang Chen's, Bai Longtian's and Xie Xingyi's sect identifying tokens, before the words Shun Long's faction soon appeared on their surface.

And yet, the words only appeared on the tokens' surface for a single moment as they quickly disappeared a moment later.

Liu Mei's face blossomed with a brilliant smile that was akin to spring coming inside the room when she saw the scene in front of her, while at the same time, Shun Long waved his hand, taking out a large wooden barrel and 5 small wine cups from his herb garden in the 'Stone of Time'.

After tilting the barrel slightly and filling all 5 cups with the bright red wine, an intoxicating fragrance instantly filled the room and soon spread throughout the entire courtyard!

An expression of fervor appeared on Jiang Chen's and Xie Xingyi's faces when they saw the bright red wine in their cups, while even Liu Mei licked her lips in anticipation.

As for Bai Longtian, the look on his face was originally a nonchalant one when he saw Shun Long taking out a barrel of wine, but as soon as he smelled the intoxicating fragrance that assaulted his senses, his expression quickly changed into that of disbelief.

Placing the wine cups in front of him, Shun Long then handed a cup to Liu Mei, Xie Xingyi, Jiang Chen and Bai Longtian while he kept one for himself, before he said with a calm look on his face

"Although we have created a faction, it is not eligible to join the faction wars just yet. For a faction to be able to join the faction wars and faction rankings and be able to fight other factions, it first has to complete 5 D-rank faction missions and a single C-rank one. However, forget about the C-rank one, even the D-rank faction missions will be extremely challenging for us right now. Even Jiang Chen is only at the middle of rank 4 of the Nascent Soul while miss Xingyi and Bai Longtian have just advanced to the early rank 4 as well.

So, in 10 days from now, each of us will go and complete 2 personal D-rank missions without any help, both so that we can get a hang of the sect's missions and their difficulty level as well as train ourselves.

Although none of us lacks combat experience, fighting against middle-stage Nascent Soul criminals is still the best form of training to hone ourselves and advance as quickly as possible!"

As he said this, Shun Long turned his eyes to look at Liu Mei next to him, as this was even more true for her. Fighting and killing middle-stage Nascent Soul cultivators and absorbing their qi was the best way for her to advance her cultivation as well as further comprehend the Dao of Death.

As for why Shun Long decided to wait 10 days instead of going right away, it was mainly because Jiang Chen, Xie Xingyi and Bai Longtian had all broken through in their cultivation, so they needed at least a week to solidify their cultivation levels.

At the same time, Shun Long knew that he couldn't just stay holed up inside his room and cultivate day and night either, and he had to go out and pressure himself in order for his spiritual strength to keep up with his rate of cultivation.

Simply sitting cross-legged and meditating wouldn't work.

Only by pressuring himself and putting his mind and soul to extreme situations, could Shun Long's spiritual strength match up to his cultivation speed!

Of course, Shun Long also knew that 3 days from today, Liu Mei's master and disciple ceremony would also take place in the 'inner court', so he couldn't leave and go train himself before that either.

Shaking her head, Xie Xingyi looked at Shun Long and pouted lightly as she said

"Brother Long can just call me Xingyi.

Also... brother Long, the truth is that an Elder approached me today and asked me if I wanted to accept her as my master. I... actually agreed!"

Nodding his head, Shun Long wasn't too surprised by this and felt that it was only natural that Xie Xingyi would be approached by an Elder to take her on as a disciple. With both the extraordinary fate that she had shown during the test of the ball of fate, as well as the fact that she had an

extremely rare unique physique, at least one Elder or two would be interested in taking her on as a personal disciple.

At that moment, Jiang Chen also spoke barely a moment later as he looked at Shun Long and said in a serious tone, attracting everyone's attention inside the room

"I was also approached by an Elder today who asked me if I wanted to take him as my master."

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Jiang Chen's words didn't cause any waves as Shun Long and the rest all stared at him apathetically.

Even if he and Shun Long hadn't been forced to fight against stronger opponents during the fourth test after attracting Elder Cao Ling's attention who wanted to find out what secrets they were hiding, and even if Jiang Chen didn't have an extraordinary fate after testing himself on the ball of fate, just from the fact that he actually had an immortal-grade bloodline was enough for many Elders to become interested in him.

Thus, Shun Long barely looked at Jiang Chen after hearing this, before he turned his attention towards Bai Longtian.

Surprisingly, Bai Longtian also nodded his head in response, and after scratching his head in a slightly awkward manner he said

"Me as well. The truth is that I didn't have any hopes of an Elder choosing to take me as their disciple, since the only thing that I revealed during the fourth test was my Dao of the Buddha. But Elder He Kun found me almost instantly after we entered the Holy sect a week ago, and told me that I have potential in becoming a powerful swordsman even if I haven't comprehended the Dao of the Sword, and that he wanted to take me as his disciple."

Shun Long nodded his head in response, while inwardly he felt that Bai Longtian was really lucky.

Out of the 4 people around him, Shun Long knew that Bai Longtian had the lowest chances of having an Elder taking him as a personal disciple due to the fact that he hadn't exposed his Golden Buddha unique physique during the sect's test.

So, having an Elder take a liking to him and choose him as a disciple even though he hadn't shown his full abilities was really a form of luck.

At the same time, Xie Xingyi had a curious look on her face as she seemed to have realized something, and staring at Bai Longtian she then asked without any reservation

"Since you have such a powerful unique physique, why didn't you reveal it during the fourth test? Isn't the goal of entering the Holy sect, for us to become stronger while also getting a master?"

Bai Longtian shook his head, while the look in his eyes was serious as he responded without any hesitation

"Although getting an Elder to become interested in me would be easier that way, my strength isn't used as a show to attract attention. I will only use my Golden Buddha physique when I don't have any other choice, otherwise, I feel that I wouldn't be myself anymore if I did it to attract a master that way."

Shun Long and the rest all nodded their heads when they heard this, while even the apathetic look in Jiang Chen's eyes when he looked at Bai Longtian diminished slightly as he seemed to have agreed with what he said.

Indeed, as cultivators, even if it was to accept a master, none of them would go all out in a fight if they didn't have to, and would definitely save some of their trump cards for the future.

This was also part of the reason why Jiang Chen had concealed his Eternal Darkness unique physique and didn't reveal it during his fight. Of course, unlike Bai Longtian, Jiang Chen had already revealed his strongest trump card which was his immortal-grade bloodline.

After chatting for some more time, Jiang Chen was the first one to stand up from his cushion as he looked at Shun Long and said that he would spend the next few days stabilizing his cultivation, as well as go and pick 2 personal D-rank missions from the Assignment Hall, and that he would come and find Shun Long again in 10 days, before they left the sect to complete their missions.

The truth was that Jiang Chen was just a step away from breaking through to the peak of rank 4 of the Nascent Soul, and if he wanted to, he could actually step in that level within the next few days, but stabilizing his cultivation after a breakthrough was extremely crucial to every cultivator.

Failing to stabilize your cultivation properly could mean that you would be unable to breakthrough any further in the future.

It was no different than trying to build an enormous building that reached the clouds. If its base wasn't strong enough, it would at some point be unable to support more weight and would eventually collapse.

Even Shun Long had to stabilize his own cultivation in a certain sense, since he had to always purify his qi balls, bringing the older ones at the same level as the new ones, while making every subsequent qi ball even purer with every breakthrough.

Bai Longtian soon followed a few moments later, obviously unwilling to fall behind Jiang Chen any longer. After all, Jiang Chen was already a minor stage above him in cultivation to begin with.

Seeing that she was the only one who had remained in the room along with Liu Mei and Shun Long, made Xie Xingyi's heart start beating faster the moment that her eyes landed on the young man sitting calmly in front of her. After taking a deep breath to calm herself down, Xie Xingyi's eyes that were filled with curiosity stared at Shun Long before she asked in a gentle yet curious voice

"Brother Long... since you are an alchemist, have you ever heard of 'earth flames'?"

"Earth flames?" Liu Mei's eyes were filled with confusion when she heard this unfamiliar term that she had never heard before, but as soon as she turned her head to look at Shun Long, she saw that the look in his eyes had already changed, almost as if Xie Xingyi had mentioned an extremely rare treasure!

Indeed, Shun Long nodded his head barely a moment later as he looked at the young woman in front of him and asked in a tone that didn't hide his curiosity

"Xingyi, you have heard about the existence of 'earth flames'?"

Chapter 498: Earth flames

Xie Xingyi nodded her head when she heard Shun Long's question, before she shook it barely a moment later as she replied in a hurry

"I- I have only heard of their existence from master and don't know much about them either. Master is actually the Elder responsible for the Refinement Hall inside the sect. She said that she is in charge of the 2 earth flames that the sect has in its possession. When I asked master what are earth flames, she simply said that it's something extremely precious for alchemists and formation masters alike, without explaining anything else."

A stunned look flashed inside Shun Long's eyes when he heard Xie Xingyi saying that the Holy sect actually had 2 earth flames in its possession.

A few moments later, after calming down the upheavals in his heart, Shun Long looked at Liu Mei and Xie Xingyi in front of him before he explained

"Earth flames aren't simple flames, but flames that are born from the essence of this world. They are special, extremely rare and powerful flames that alchemists and formation masters both need to find if they want to become stronger.

For an alchemist to even have a chance of creating a top-grade rank 6 pill, he needs to refine the pill using the power of an earth flame.? Only then can the impurities from the medicinal herbs be completely expelled, leaving behind the purest medicinal essence and allow the pill to become a top-grade rank 6 pill. Otherwise, without the use of an earth flame, the chances of producing a top-grade rank 6 pill will be practically zero. Even a high-grade rank 6 pill will be difficult to refine without the assistance of an earth flame.

As for rank 7 pills, it's even harder. Without an earth flame, an alchemist will usually be unable to refine anything above a middle-grade rank 7 pill, unless his cultivation has already reached the peak of the Dao Emperor realm!

This is why earth flames are considered to be treasures to every single high-grade alchemist.

Of course, this doesn't mean that middle-grade rank 7 pills aren't useful, but the difference between a middle-grade rank 7 pill and a high-grade or even a top-grade one is simply incomparable."

As he finished explaining the usage of the earth flames, Shun Long saw a look of realization dawning upon Liu Mei's and Xie Xingyi's faces as they seemed to have suddenly realized the value of an earth flame.

If it was something that even high-grade alchemists needed to use, then the value of an earth flame couldn't be estimated. Thus, the Holy sect possessing 2 earth flames and having them sealed in the Refinement Hall was something that exceeded their expectations.

Of course, using an earth flame to refine a pill didn't mean that an alchemist would necessarily be able to refine a high-grade or top-grade rank 6 pill. It only meant that their chances would be higher during the pill refinement process.

Seeing that Liu Mei and Xie Xingyi had both realized the importance of the earth flames Shun Long nodded his head, before he turned his eyes towards the beautiful blond-haired young woman in front of him and asked

"Xingyi, is the Refinement Hall located within the inner court?"

Shun Long already knew that the Holy sect was divided between the outer court and the inner court. Although he didn't know the specifics, he knew that very few outer court disciples were allowed to step foot into the inner court.

At the same time, considering that he and Liu Mei had already walked through a large part of the outer court already, but he had yet to see the Refinement Hall in the outer court, it was very likely that it was located in the inner court instead.

Of course, since no one below the level of a Dao King would have a need to use an earth flame, it made sense that most outer court disciples wouldn't be aware of the existence of the Refinement Hall within the sect until they entered the inner court.

Indeed, Xie Xingyi nodded when she heard Shun Long's question, before she replied in a gentle voice a moment later

"Brother Long is right. Master said that the Refinement Hall is located within the inner court. However, according to master, only the top 1000 outer court disciples on the Martial Roll of Honor, the members of the top 100 factions of the outer sect, or the personal disciples of an inner court Elder are allowed to enter the inner court. The rest of the outer disciples aren't allowed to enter. However, if brother Long wants to enter the inner court and visit the Refinement Hall, I... will ask my master to allow it for you."

"There is no need. I was just curious after hearing that the sect actually has 2 earth flames in its possession. Usually, alchemists will absorb the earth flames in their bodies and wouldn't place them in a place where everyone can use them. After all, only by absorbing the earth flames inside their body could a cultivator allow the flame to show its real strength!"

Shun Long shook his head when he heard Xie Xingyi's suggestion, but he still rejected it in the end.

Regardless, having an outer court disciple who isn't even at the Dao King realm enter the Refinement Hall would draw too much attention even for him.

Although Shun Long wasn't planning to stay lowkey inside the sect, showing his full talent as an alchemist was currently out of the question. At least until he reached the Dao King realm he had decided that he wouldn't do so.

However, he had now met with another problem as well.

As it was right now, Shun Long had already reached the standards of a peak rank 2 gold grade alchemist and was already strong enough to concoct some of the more common rank 6 pills. Even his soul sense which was his biggest limitation during the pill refinement was already strong enough for him to complete the refinement of a rank 6 pill without any issue.

At the same time, Shun Long estimated, that by the time that he broke through to the rank 6 of the Nascent Soul, he would also reach the standards of a peak rank 3 gold grade alchemist and be able to refine even the most difficult rank 6 pills.

However, without the use of an earth flame, it would be extremely difficult for him to refine even high-grade rank 6 pills.? As for top-grade rank 6 pills, it would be nearly impossible. Thus, the truth was that Shun Long urgently needed an earth flame.

Hearing that the Holy sect actually had 2 earth flames within the Refinement Hall made Shun Long unable to fully stop the waves of greed that were rising in his heart.

After all, every alchemist that met with an earth flame would do everything they could to obtain it, and this was even more true for Shun Long. Although most of his memories regarding the earth flames were still sealed in his mind, Shun Long knew that if he could absorb an earth flame and utilize it fully, not only would his skills as an alchemist would rise, but his combat strength would see another leap forward as well, while he would have an extra trump card to use.

And yet, he also knew that there was no chance for the Holy sect to simply allow him to absorb either of the 2 earth flames in the Refinement Hall.

After all, it was unknown how many alchemists in the sect were eyeing those earth flames already.

As for allowing Xie Xingyi to bring him in the Refinement Hall and allow him to concoct his pills using the assistance of the flames, although that thought had flashed through his mind for a moment, Shun Long quickly rejected it as well.

As a rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivator, he shouldn't even be able to refine a top-grade rank 5 pill just yet, let alone a rank 6. one

After all, according to the normal standards, only those alchemists who had reached the peak of rank 6 in the Nascent Soul stage could reach the standards of a rank 1 gold grade alchemist, while Shun Long had already become a rank 1 gold grade alchemist as soon as he broke through to the rank 3 of the Spirit realm.

Even as an extreme genius, this wasn't something that could be easily explained even in a place like the Holy sect that was filled with monster geniuses of all kinds.

Shun Long guessed, that even a genius alchemist of the Holy sect would only be able to refine a top-grade rank 5 pill at most if he was at the same cultivation stage as him, and he most likely wouldn't be able to do that consistently either.

Xie Xingyi was excited when she saw Shun Long's piqued interest the moment that she mentioned the earth flames, since she already knew that Shun Long wouldn't usually show interest in most things.

Just from his tone alone, it was evident how interested he was in the earth flames.

However, she still felt somewhat disappointed in her heart when she realized that it was probably impossible to obtain the sect's earth flames.

Almost as if he had guessed her thoughts, Shun Long's expression slowly warmed towards her as he then said in a gentler tone

"Xingyi, don't think too much into it. Although earth flames are indeed rare, they aren't impossible to find either. Additionally, if I really need to use an earth flame to refine a rank 6 pill in the future, I will make sure to ask for your help to enter the Refinement Hall."

"Mm!"

Xie Xingyi nodded her head gently when she heard this as she stared at the young man in front of her with a look of determination inside her emerald-colored eyes.

After staying in Shun Long's room for a few more minutes, Xingyi was a bit reluctant, but she still stood up with a somewhat complicated expression on her face, as she bade farewell and said that she would come and visit Shun Long and Liu Mei again in a few days.

Without waiting for a response, her peerlessly beautiful face had already turned a light shade of red as she looked at Shun Long and Liu Mei next to him, before a veil of shadows covered her body as she then disappeared from Shun Long's courtyard.

Chapter 499: Shun Long plays the guqin

After staring at Xie Xingyi's figure that had already disappeared from the room, Liu Mei turned her gaze towards Shun Long barely a moment later before she then asked

"Long-ge, what do you think of Xingyi?"

.. I am sure that Long-ge has noticed it already, but Xingyi seems to have developed feelings for you long ago. Actually, the truth is that if Long-ge really wants it, I won't be against it either. After all, I have already spent a lot of time with Xingyi and it's also obvious that she really likes Long-ge too. This is also why she joined Long-ge's faction without any hesitation. So, instead of having someone else take her away in the future... it's better if Long-ge takes her instead."

Shun Long was caught off-guard by Liu Mei's sudden 'proposal' causing his eyes to widen in the process, but he quickly regained a calm expression barely a moment later, as he looked at Liu Mei and smiled gently before he asked

"Mei'er, isn't it normally I who should say that I am interested in a girl instead of having you do it for me? Do you really want to place another girl in our life?"

Liu Mei could feel herself blushing when she heard Shun Long's answer, as it indeed felt like she was trying to match Shun Long with Xingyi out of nowhere. However, a few moments later, the look in her eyes turned resolute as she said

"If it's someone who really cares about Long-ge then I won't mind it too much..."

But I am still selfish so I still want to be the one that Long-ge likes the most in the end!"

Shun Long nodded his head while his lips curved up into a smile as he pulled Liu Mei into a hug and carried her to the bed behind him without responding directly to her 'request'.

Removing his outer sect robes Shun Long didn't hesitate to unrobe Liu Mei as well, allowing his eyes to feast on her flawless body once again.

The expression on Liu Mei's face that was filled with love and gentleness when she looked at him which was contrary to her usual cold and indifferent expression that she showed to outsiders, only fueled to ignite Shun Long's inner desires even further, as a feeling of lust filled his mind.

Placing himself on top of Liu Mei, Shun Long's hands moved directly towards her breasts and her 2 cherry-like nipples, fondling them and pinching them slightly, making Liu Mei let out moans of pleasure that she could no longer contain due to the intense stimulation.

At the same time, Shun Long's hands didn't stop, as his right hand moved downwards, starting to caress Liu Mei's soft body, while his fingers explored every nook and cranny of hers without restraint.

A few moments later, the room was filled with sounds of pleasure and ecstasy that lasted for more than 3 hours until they started to slowly die down.

Lying on top of the bed with his face up, Shun Long turned his head to the side, to look at Liu Mei who had half her body placed on top of him and was staring at him with a look filled with love and infatuation on her face, as he then smiled and asked gently

"Mei'er, do you want to hear a song?"

"A song... played by Long-ge?"

Liu Mei's eyes instantly sparkled as she remembered the wooden guqin that Shun Long had purchased from the Golden Treasures Hall.

Liu Mei had thought that Shun Long had only purchased it because it was a treasure, and she didn't think that he would try to play the instrument by himself.

After all, in the past 4 years, he had never shown an interest in any musical instrument.

Nodding his head, Shun Long put on his outer sect robes before he sat on his white cushion in front of the bed and faced Liu Mei before he waved his right hand. A wooden, silver-colored musical instrument with 7 strings immediately appeared in front of him, bringing along with it a scent of vitality that quickly filled the room.

Closing his eyes, Shun Long's attention was placed completely on the 'Silverbark guqin' in front of him, as his hands lightly touched the strings on the guqin's surface.

No sound was produced when his fingers touched each of the icy strings created from the silk of a 'Frigid ice spider', but the coldness of the strings produced a refreshing feeling that made Shun Long feel as if his mind had taken a dive inside a refreshing pool filled with cold water, instantly calming it down.

With his eyes still closed, Shun Long touched the first string of the guqin before he plucked it gently

Ping~

A beautiful sound instantly echoed throughout the room, making Liu Mei's heart involuntarily tremble when she heard it.

It was only a single pluck of a string, and yet the note that it produced seemed to have been something that had already transcended this world!

This was unlike anything else that Liu Mei had ever heard in her life.

At that moment, as Shun Long held the guqin in front of him, Liu Mei felt that Shun Long's aura had suddenly changed.

Peng~

Another sound followed soon after, as Shun Long's fingers started to become more accustomed to the wooden guqin.

In the beginning, the movements of his hands were still somewhat stiff, creating a weird image of someone who was touching the guqin 'for the first time', and yet was still producing flawless notes that had already exceeded Liu Mei's wildest imagination.

However, as his fingers kept plucking the strings, Shun Long no longer had to think as he played, and instead he allowed his memories and the feelings inside him to all burst out at once, as his hands consecutively plucked the guqin's strings.

At that moment, Liu Mei could suddenly feel herself plunging in a dream as an intense and almost irresistible feeling of tranquility filled her mind. The existence of everything else around her seemed to have slowly disappeared, as Liu Mei felt that the only 2 people left inside the entire Holy sect was herself and Shun Long who was playing the guqin in front of her with his eyes closed.

Without even trying to resist this feeling, Liu Mei allowed herself to fall into slumber while her eyes started to involuntarily tear up at the same time.

Chapter 500: A soothing melody

The sound of Shun Long playing the guqin quickly permeated the entire courtyard but it didn't just stop there.

Barely a moment later, the disciples that were walking around Shun Long's courtyard and even in the surrounding courtyards were all dazed and they were stopped in place, as the indescribable, transcendent-like notes sounded in their ears as well.

Even though Shun Long's courtyard had protective formations that didn't allow sound to come in or go out and disturb the rest of the disciples so that they could cultivate in peace, the protective formations around the courtyard that could even block the full-powered attacks of early-stage Dao Kings, were actually unable to stop the sound of the guqin from spreading in the surroundings.

In just a few moments, every single one of the disciples in the surrounding courtyards, including those who had already reached the peak of rank 6 in the Nascent Soul stage, had all fallen in a daze as they involuntarily drifted into slumber from Shun Long's performance.

Even middle-stage Nascent Soul cultivators were actually unable to stop their minds from relaxing before falling asleep.

In less than a minute, in this area of the sect where this cluster of courtyards was located, the only sound that could be heard was the melodious sound of the guqin that had already transcended this world.

At the same time, Shun Long wasn't aware of anything that was going on in his surroundings, as his mind was completely absorbed into playing the guqin.

It was only after nearly an hour had passed that the sound of the guqin finally stopped, and yet every single courtyard around Shun Long's had fallen silent as the disciples inside them and those who were previously walking on the streets had fallen asleep and had yet to wake up.

Opening his eyes, Shun Long saw Liu Mei lying on the bed with a smile on her face and her eyes closed, while 2 streaks of tears had fallen from her eyes as they rolled down her cheeks.

The notes that Shun Long had played just now didn't correspond to a specific song from his memories. Instead, it was a song that he poured his own feelings into... a soothing beautiful melody that was aimed to calm Liu Mei's heart.

Shun Long already knew that Liu Mei was having a hard time resisting the influence of the qi that she was absorbed with the Blood Absorption art. During her breakthrough to the Nascent Soul

stage, even with the pill that he had created by mixing the rank 5 'Dream ash flower' and the 'Icicle soul grass' that he had obtained from the lair of the of rank 5 'Snow apes' in the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range', he knew that Liu Mei would still have a hard time completing her breakthrough.

So, after breaking through to the Nascent Soul stage as well and unsealing some of his memories inside him, Shun Long had already decided to let Liu Mei hear him play the guqin and allow her to calm both her mind and her heart at the same time.

Shun Long already knew from his memories, that a cultivator who has enough insights to play a musical instrument well enough could even affect the psyche of other cultivators. With his own skills in music that had already reached the peak of the 'Immortal Dimension' in the past, Shun Long was certain that as long as he was next to her, Liu Mei wouldn't fall into qi deviation in the future unless something completely out of his expectations happened.

Closing his eyes, Shun Long let Liu Mei sleep as he held the guqin in his hands and entered the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time'.

However, as soon as he returned in this place, Shun Long noticed that even Little Silver had fallen asleep in the process, as the black panther slept next to Little Black.

At that moment, with his connection with Little Silver, Shun Long realized that the panther was on the verge of breaking through to the middle of rank 6!

For so long, Little Silver had stayed in the early rank 6 and was unable to breakthrough, even after consuming more than a thousand stalks of 'Dragonblood grass'. But as soon as he heard Shun Long playing the guqin, the black panther was quickly swept asleep, while the condensed energy inside his body started to churn.

Unlike Little Black, Little Silver hadn't restarted its cultivation from the start and was only a normal 'Silver-winged panther king'. Although such magic beasts were still considered rare, normally, an adult 'Silver-winged panther king' would only reach the peak of rank 5 and would very rarely become an early rank 6 magic beast. Being on the verge of a breakthrough to become a middle rank 6 magic beast was already something that other 'Silver-winged panther kings' couldn't even dream of. And yet Shun Long knew that unless he found some rare medicinal herbs, the beast cores of peak rank 6 magic beasts or the souls of late-stage Dao Kings, it would be extremely tough for Little Silver to breakthrough again in the future and ever become a peak rank 6 magic beast.

With a smile on his face, Shun Long sat cross-legged on his usual seating spot, and after throwing one more look at the sleeping Little Black and Little Silver, he placed his 'Silverbark guqin' by his side before he took out some middle-grade spirit stones and started to feed them to the Heaven Swallowing vine one after another.

He had decided to stay in seclusion for the next 2 days and try to breakthrough to the early rank 3 of the Nascent Soul, as well as purify the remaining balls of qi to bring them at the same level as well. After all, in 10 days, both he and Liu Mei as well as Jiang Chen and the rest would all leave the sect to go and complete 2 personal D-rank missions each, so bringing his strength to the peak before that to be able to deal with any unexpected circumstances was vital.

At the same time that Shun Long closed his eyes and started to absorb the energy of the pure qi from the Heaven Swallowing vine, the entire 'Enforcement Hall' had already been riled up, as the

enforcement disciples of the sect were already heard of the disciples that had fallen asleep on the streets of the sect and were furiously investigating the situation.

In the huge building of the 'Enforcement Hall' located barely a mile away from the Assignment Hall's location, the Elder responsible for the 'Enforcement Hall', Elder Kang, stared at the 'Enforcement Hall disciples' that were kneeling in front of him with a furious look on his face, as he roared angrily in a voice that shook the entire building while the aura of a peak Dao King exploded from his body at the same time

"WHAT DID YOU SAY?!"