

## Time 501

### Chapter 501: Stirring up the Enforcement Hall

The 'Enforcement Hall disciples' that were kneeling in front of Elder Kang all trembled when they heard his furious voice, but the young man who was in charge of reporting this matter whose cultivation was at the peak of rank 8 in the Nascent Soul, still took a deep breath before he said seriously

"Elder Kang, it is like this; Many outer disciples were found unconscious on the streets near the area of the courtyards where the new disciples live. Although they have yet to wake up, none of those disciples seemed to have been attacked nor have they been poisoned, and it looks like they have simply lost consciousness for now."

The young man who reported this didn't dare to raise his head and meet Elder Kang's furious gaze, as he simply narrated everything that he knew.

He was simply unlucky enough to be the one who had to report things this time.

However, the look on Elder Kang's face didn't soften after hearing the report, and instead, the white-robed Elder looked at the disciples in front of him with the same cold look on his face before he asked in a mocking tone

"None of them seem to have been attacked? Is that your excuse as a member of the Enforcement Hall? Do you claim to have comprehended how every Dao and every unique physique works before you came to this assumption? More than a hundred outer disciples are unconscious on the streets, and you dare to say that they are simply unconscious? If you don't investigate this and find out the reason behind this matter, every single one of you will be punished accordingly! Now scram!"

Elder Kang's tone had turned furious towards the end as his powerful voice and the unstoppable of a peak Dao King ended up shaking the entire Enforcement Hall!

The disciples of the Enforcement Hall all left the room in a hurry after hearing Elder Kang's words, almost as if they had been pardoned, as they left the Enforcement Hall in a hurry.

As soon as they left the hall, the disciple that had to make the report to Elder Kang had a murderous look on his face as he said in a furious voice

"I'm curious to see which idiot dared to attack other disciples in broad daylight like that! Tao Zheng, make sure to report to me immediately once any of those idiots wake up!"

"Yes leader!"

At the same time that this discussion was taking place among the disciples of the Enforcement Hall, inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time', Shun Long was still sitting cross-legged on the ground as he kept feeding middle-grade spirit stones to the Heaven Swallowing vine, before it absorbed them and quickly filled the air around him with extremely pure qi.

A little more than 2 days soon passed like this, while 21 days had already gone by in the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time' until Shun Long finally opened his eyes.

Raising his head with a smile on his face, Shun Long saw the 20 silver-colored balls of qi that were now floating inside the 'Monarch's Hourglass', as he had already entered the early rank 3 of the Nascent Soul.

Since today was the day that Liu Mei's master and disciple ceremony was going to take place in the inner court, Shun Long didn't stay inside the foggy space any longer, as he closed his eyes and simulated himself returning back to his room.

After taking a shower and changing himself into a pair of clean, yellow-colored outer disciple robes, Shun Long opened the door of the room and saw Liu Mei on the courtyard, sitting on the Death Eater's back with her eyes closed.

The enormous Death Eater was slowly walking around the courtyard, while an army of 60 undead knights and 1000 jade-white skeletons were marching behind it.

Noticing Shun Long's presence, a brilliant smile soon formed on Liu Mei's face as she waved her hand, allowing the Death Eater and the rest of her undead army to disappear before she flew towards Shun Long and greeted him warmly

"Long-ge!"

"Mei'er, are you ready?"

Shun Long looked at Liu Mei who had a dazzling smile on her face as she stared at him, while a bright look flashed inside Shun Long's eyes at the same time.

It was obvious that Liu Mei's control over her undead army had increased significantly in these past 2 days.

The skeletons and the undead knights were now moving less raggedly and in an even more natural manner than before, while the Death Eater's aura of madness and cruelty was also suppressed to a certain extent.

Of course, that didn't mean that the Death Eater was weaker or less mad than before. Instead, Liu Mei was intentionally suppressing it for now, in order to increase her control over her undead army even further. After all, with her breakthrough to the Nascent Soul stage, Liu Mei no longer treated her undead creatures as inanimate objects that she simply used to fight. Every single one of them felt no different than actual living creatures, even though they were obviously undead.

Nodding her head, Liu Mei took a step forward and hugged Shun Long before she gave him a kiss that was filled with love and joy as she then said

"Long-ge, thank you!"

Shun Long simply smiled in response as he used his right hand to gently brush Liu Mei's hair.

He knew that the reason why Liu Mei was thanking him, was because of the guqin song that he had played for her 2 days ago.

It was obvious that a large part of the discomfort that Liu Mei was feeling in the past from her 'Blood Absorption art' had already disappeared as the guqin's sound had cleansed her mind.

Without wasting any more time, Shun Long and Liu Mei then left the courtyard as they headed directly towards the north of the sect where the inner court was located.

Shun Long had already learned that the Holy sect was divided between the outer court where the outer disciples and the outer court Elders lived, and the inner court where the inner disciples and the inner court Elders stayed.

Normally, outer disciples wouldn't set foot into the inner court unless there were some special circumstances. Of course, an inner court Elder like Elder Xuan Jiao accepting a personal disciple was precisely one of those special circumstances.

#### Chapter 502: Intercepted?

However, the moment that he and Liu Mei stepped out of his courtyard and started to walk towards the inner court, Shun Long heard discussions among some of the surrounding outer disciples that made him suddenly stop into place, while even Liu Mei's expression changed into one of disbelief

"Hey, did you hear about it? The Enforcement Hall disciples have already verified, that the person who attacked the disciples on the streets 3 days ago, was an expert who played the guqin. Every single disciple who heard his guqin had fallen asleep, and they only woke up almost a full day later!"

"That's all you know? I heard that it's not just the disciples that were walking on the streets during that time that they were affected by the guqin, but even some people who were cultivating inside their own courtyards. Every single one of them fell asleep, completely unable to resist that feeling!"

The second outer disciple had lowered his voice when he said this almost as if this was something that not many people knew of just yet.

"What? How is this possible? The protective formations around the courtyards in this place -even if they are the weakest among the entirety of the Holy sect- can even take on the full-powered attack of an early stage Dao King without any problem. Are you saying that the person who attacked those disciples has already exceeded the level of a Dao King?"

The second outer disciple shook his head with an uncertain expression on his face before he replied

"I am not sure... I actually heard that the protective formations around the courtyards weren't even triggered by the sound of that guqin! I don't know how that's possible but it's the truth!

Additionally... the disciples who heard the guqin were not only unharmed in the end, but it seemed that their mental state even improved somewhat! However, the disciples of the Enforcement Hall are still looking for that person who played the guqin, and I am not sure what they want to do with him!"

Seeing Liu Mei turn her gaze towards him with a worrying look, Shun Long simply smiled and patted her head lightly, indicating for her that there was nothing to worry about, as they kept walking forward.

Of course, Liu Mei instantly understood that the person that these disciples were talking about and the person that the Enforcement Hall disciples were also looking for was obviously going to be Shun Long! After all, who else had played the guqin 3 days ago and could possibly make everyone else relax and cleanse their minds, in the same way that Shun Long's guqin did with Liu Mei?

Although Shun Long hadn't even thought that the sound of his guqin would actually escape his own courtyard and would spread on the streets around it, let alone that it would spread into the surrounding courtyards, after barely a moment of thinking he realized that he had been negligent in this matter.

With his skill and his memories of the guqin from his previous life, and as someone who had already reached the pinnacle of playing the guqin in the 'Immortal Dimension' in the past, even if

his cultivation was still at the early stages of the Nascent Soul, how could the protective formations around the courtyard ever match the profoundness of the sound of his guqin?

This was a melody that even people in the Immortal Dimension couldn't hear at will!

Even if these formations could actually block the full-powered attacks of early-stage Dao Kings, the sound of Shun Long's guqin was completely different.

After all, the profoundness hidden inside it wasn't something that normal protective formations could block!

Of course, this didn't mean that the sound of his guqin was actually stronger than the full-powered attack of a Dao King! Instead, it was the profoundness and the mystery of the magical sound that had already reached a level that was above this world!

As these thoughts appeared in his mind, Shun Long realized that it was only natural for the sound of his guqin to escape the confines of his courtyard and even be heard by the surrounding outer disciples instead.

Naturally, the effect that the guqin would have on those disciples who heard it, wouldn't even be a tenth of the effects that it had on Liu Mei, but it was still something that allowed the people who heard it to benefit greatly.

As the 2 of them walked towards the inner court, Liu Mei could no longer contain her worry that had already covered her face, as she asked in a concerned tone

"Long-ge, are you sure that it's going to be alright? After all, in the Golden Treasures Hall a few days ago, there were plenty of disciples around us when Long-ge bought the silver guqin..."

Hearing Liu Mei's concerned voice, Shun Long smiled and held her hand as they walked forward, before he replied in a calm tone

"Mei'er, don't worry. Even if someone reported it to the disciples of the Enforcement Hall, it's simply impossible for them to think that a disciple at the early rank 3 of the Nascent Soul could actually ignore the restrictions around the courtyards which can even block the attacks of Dao Kings. At most, it will definitely attract some more attention to me, but it's nothing too important in the end. Even if people really learned about it, we are not going to stay lowkey inside the sect to begin with!"

Liu Mei nodded her head gently while her left hand that was holding Shun Long's tightened in response. No matter what Shun Long decided, even if he wanted to fight against the disciples of the Enforcement Hall in the end, Liu Mei would always stand by Shun Long's side anyway.

Shun Long and Liu Mei kept walking towards the north of the outer court, and half an hour later, the gigantic gates that separated the outer court and the inner court soon appeared in Shun Long's and Liu Mei's eyes.

The enormous black gates were nearly 10 meters(33ft) tall, and were the only place where one could pass through to enter the inner court. And yet, although the gates were wide-open, 2 disciples with yellow-colored robes and a badge with the words 'Enforcement Hall' guarded it by both sides, not allowing anyone to step past it without permission.

However, before Shun Long and Liu Mei could even reach the gates of the inner court, 2 young men dressed in yellow robes both appeared in front of them and blocked their path at the same time!

Liu Mei's eyes widened in shock, while Shun Long's eyes narrowed, as they both recognized the 2 young men that appeared in front of them. The man in front of Shun Long was the prince of the Shengtian dynasty, Sheng Huang, while the young man in front of Liu Mei was the young lord of the 'Mercenaries' Association' of the Night star continent, Zhong Fang!

#### Chapter 503: Intercepted (2)

Sheng Huang had a glimmer in his eyes as he stared at Shun Long completely ignoring Liu Mei who was standing next to him, while a deep killing intent seemed to have involuntarily burst out from his body.

Liu Mei's eyes narrowed when she saw this, and completely ignoring the fact that Sheng Huang had already advanced to the early rank 4 of the Nascent Soul, she took a step forward while her entire body overflowed with the aura of Death. It was obvious that as long as Sheng Huang wanted to start a fight here, Liu Mei would happily oblige and take him on, even if her cultivation was 2 minor ranks lower than his.

Shun Long however simply shook his head and pulled Liu Mei back, and ignoring the silver-haired young lord of the 'Mercenaries' Association' that was standing by the side and was looking at him with a scornful look on his face, he focused his eyes on Sheng Huang as he asked coldly

"Sheng Huang, what do you want? Don't you know that a good dog doesn't block the way?"

Of course, Shun Long wasn't planning on being polite with Sheng Huang. Putting aside the fact that Sheng Huang appeared out of nowhere and blocked his way, just from the fact that this was the second time that he had showed his killing intent towards him was enough for Shun Long to treat him like an enemy.

The killing intent in Sheng Huang's eyes became even more apparent when he heard Shun Long's provocative words, as he took a step forward and extended out his hand before he said

"Shun Long, hand over the star-rank sword that you took from the 'Dragon Lord's villa' and I can let bygones be bygones between us. I know that you are definitely related to the 2 people on that black dragon who snatched the sword under my grandfather's nose from the core of the villa! Refuse to hand it over and I will let the Elders of the sect know that you are related to someone who is connected with a dragon! Even if the Elders of the Holy sect are all saints, I am sure that at least one of them will be interested in finding out the whereabouts of a living dragon! Hehehe, even if it's just an outer court Elder that targets you, I am sure that you can imagine the results."

Liu Mei trembled in anger when she heard Sheng Huang's blatant blackmail attempt that was obviously trying to force Shun Long to hand over the black sword that they had obtained from the 'Dragon Lord's villa' while the chubby Zhong Fang by Sheng Huang's side simply smirked.

Of course, since neither of the 2 black-robed people that were on the black dragon's back in the 'Dragon Lord's villa' hadn't dared to fight against the old king of the Shengtian dynasty, Sheng Jun, Sheng Huang had already assumed that any normal outer court Elder of the Holy sect could simply take care of them all the same. As long as they learned of the existence of a living black dragon, Sheng Huang was certain that even if no inner court Elders actually did anything about it, at least 2 or 3 outer court Elders of the Holy sect would be interested in this.

And yet, Shun Long's expression didn't change as he kept staring at the prince of the Shengtian dynasty like he was looking at an idiot, and looking at Sheng Huang's extended hand that was still waiting confidently for him to hand over his black sword, Shun Long shook his head before he said in a mocking tone

"Why would I give my own weapon to you? What do you think I am? Your father?"

No, I doubt that even your father would actually give you a star-rank sword, even if he had one in his possession. Is this why you came here to beg uncle Shun Long? Stop begging and scram out of my way. Do you think I have so much time to waste on an idiot like you?"

Sheng Huang's eyes widened like saucers while even Zhong Fang could no longer help but have his expression change when he heard Shun Long's mocking words that were obviously trying to anger Sheng Huang even further.

As for Liu Mei, although the aura of Death around her didn't dissipate, a brilliant smile was formed on her lips as she couldn't hold her laughter back any longer.

Taking a step forward, Sheng Huang furiously took out his bronze-plated rank 3 gold-grade warhammer from his spatial ring and held it in front of him almost as if he was ready to attack as long as Shun Long said another word, while at the same time, his body was covered with the aura from his Dao of Destruction.

Barely managing to suppress himself from killing Shun Long on the spot, Sheng Huang took a deep breath before he asked coldly

"Shun Long, do you really dare to refuse? Do you think I won't inform the Elders of the sect about it? Hand over the star-rank sword or your life in the Holy sect will become more miserable than you can imagine!"

"Idiot, let alone that it's useless to even dream of taking away something that belongs to me, even if I gave you the sword, do you think I would trust you with keeping your mouth shut?"

Besides, you are not the only one who knows that there is a living black dragon somewhere in the Night star continent. The hall master from the Demon Emperor Palace also knows it. Even if the Elders of the sect hear about it, do you think that they would come and bother me instead? What are the chances that a normal outer court disciple would know about the whereabouts of a dragon in the first place? Do you really think that a dragon would stay in the same place if it senses danger? Instead of bothering me, the Elders would go directly to the Night star continent and search for him."

#### Chapter 504: Intercepted (3)

Sheng Huang's expression finally changed as he seemed to have realized that Shun Long's words were probably correct.

Indeed, as long as those Elders who were interested in a dragon heard that there is a living, breathing dragon somewhere in the Night star continent, they wouldn't even bother with a small early-stage Nascent Soul outer disciple of the sect and would depend on their own resources to find his location.

Besides, the chances that Shun Long really knew the actual location of the dragon were most likely going to be nonexistent in the Elders' eyes.

Taking a step forward, Shun Long appeared next to Sheng Huang who could barely hold himself back from attacking him with his warhammer and killing him in an instant, but Shun Long simply muttered a single word, as he and Liu Mei walked past the golden robed prince of the Shentian dynasty and the young lord of the 'Mercenaries' Association' that were blocking his way, and towards the inner court gates in the distance

"Idiots."

Sheng Huang's face instantly turned bright red with anger, while even Zhong Fang's chubby face had a murderous expression inside it, but in the end, they both allowed Shun Long and Liu Mei to keep walking forward while they stared at his back with a murderous look in their eyes.

Taking a deep breath, Zhong Fang looked at Sheng Huang before he said seriously

"Brother Huang, there is no reason for us to be rash and fight against that brat. Right now although he is definitely unable to use his bloodline, his cultivation has most likely advanced to the early... no, to the middle of rank 2 in the Nascent Soul already. Although I don't want to admit it, but even with your cultivation at the early rank 4 of the Nascent Soul, you may not necessarily be able to defeat him. Besides, that kid may not accept a deathmatch challenge in the arena in the first place!"

"What are you trying to say?"

It was obvious that Sheng Huang was still irritated, as his tone held no trace of politeness when he responded to Zhong Fang, while his eyes were still glued on Shun Long's and Liu Mei's disappearing backs.

Zhong Fang's eyes narrowed when he saw Sheng Huang snapping at him, but a smile was still formed on his lips barely a moment later as he shook his head and continued

"Brother Huang seems to have misunderstood me. Although you may not be able to defeat that brat now, it doesn't mean that you won't be able to defeat him in the future either. As long as you manage to breakthrough to the middle of the fifth stage in body refinement, with your Dao of Destruction you will definitely be able to kill him without any issue. Even though Shun Long seems to also be a body refiner, he is still only at the peak of the fourth stage, making his body refinement cultivation essentially useless. Even if he breaks through to the early fifth stage in the future, he will still not be a match for brother Huang who will have definitely broken through again by then."

Sheng Huang's eyes lit up with a bright light, while the murderous intentions inside his eyes only became even stronger! Indeed, as long as he broke through to the middle of the fifth stage in body refinement, Shun Long was as good as dead. Of course, he wouldn't tell Shun Long about his breakthrough beforehand, and would simply kill him in one strike.

With both his body refinement cultivation and his Dao of Destruction, even Shun Long with his Dao of Space and his star-rank sword won't be able to withstand a few strikes against him.

After all, Sheng Huang's strongest attribute was his offensive ability!

As long as the 2 of them were trapped inside the arena in a deathmatch, Shun Long's death would practically be assured.

At the same time, Shun Long simply smirked as he felt the dense killing intent coming from Sheng Huang's gaze behind him, as he and Liu Mei continued walking towards the inner court gates.

No matter what, he wouldn't shy away from fighting against Sheng Huang to begin with. Since this prince of the Shengtian dynasty had not only shown killing intent against him twice already but had even eyed his black sword and tried to threaten him, there was no way that Shun Long would allow him to stroll freely in the sect.

However, although Shun Long was certain that he was already stronger than Sheng Huang, in a situation where he wouldn't easily expose his Dao of Time, he wouldn't take this prince of the Shengtian dynasty -who had already comprehended the Dao of Destruction- lightly.

A few moments later, Shun Long and Liu Mei had already arrived in front of the inner court gates, when the 2 disciples of the 'Enforcement Hall' that were guarding the gates took a step forward before one of them shouted

"Halt! What are you doing here?"

At the same time, the 2 disciples that were guarding the huge black gates both burst out with their auras that were at the middle of rank 9 and the peak of rank 9 of the Nascent Soul stage respectively, ready to attack as long as Shun Long and Liu Mei tried to trespass within the inner court.

Waving her hand, Liu Mei took out a golden-colored token from her spatial ring and showed it to the 2 'Enforcement Hall' disciples in front of her, before she said in her usual apathetic voice

"I am the personal disciple of Elder Xuan. I am here to complete the 'master and disciple' ceremony with my master!"

The 2 disciples of the 'Enforcement Hall' both trembled barely a moment later as they stared at the golden token in Liu Mei's hands that had the word 'Xuan' on it, before they turned their eyes towards Liu Mei herself, while looks of disbelief had covered their faces.

Chapter 505: Senior sister?

The token in Liu Mei's hands was obviously the personal token of the inner court Elder, Elder Xuan!

However, the two of them that were guarding the inner court's entrance today, had already seen 4 other new outer court disciples that had been accepted as personal disciples by inner court Elders and were going to complete their 'master and disciple ceremony' with their respective masters. Could it be that there was going to be a fifth as well?

The 'master and disciple ceremony' was extremely important in the cultivation world. Only after the ceremony was completed would a disciple be formally considered a personal disciple. Otherwise, if there was no 'master and disciple ceremony' between a master and his disciples, then those disciples can only be considered as in-name disciples at best.

Although in-name disciples usually received decent treatment from their masters and they would more often than not get some pointers in their cultivation as well, guiding them on how to progress in the future, they simply couldn't be compared to the treatment that a personal disciple received.

A personal disciple would usually be able to cultivate using their master's personal techniques, they would often receive pointers in their cultivation, and they would also get plenty of resources, including but not limited to spirit stones, Saint-grade cultivation techniques and martial skills, high-grade pills or rare medicinal herbs, and even powerful weapons and protective artifacts!



It wasn't an exaggeration to say that the status of an in-name disciple and that of a personal disciple were like the difference between the clouds and the mud.

After staying silent for a few moments, the 2 disciples of the Enforcement Hall both nodded their heads towards Liu Mei as they opened up a path for her, but the young man on the left looked at Shun Long and said seriously

"Only the person who holds the personal token of an inner court Elder is allowed to enter the inner court! Stand back!"

Shun Long didn't respond to the young man from the Enforcement Hall, as Liu Mei's eyes narrowed before she said seriously

"Long-ge has already received permission from master to enter the inner court along with me. If you have a problem with it, you can come along with me and meet master yourself!"

Without waiting for a response, Liu Mei who hadn't let go of Shun Long's hand took a step forward, as she walked towards the inner court's gates.

"This..."

The 2 young men from the Enforcement Hall were both troubled when they heard this, as they turned to look at each other with uncertain looks on their faces.

Normally, they would never allow someone who didn't hold the token of an Elder to enter the inner court, but if it was something that was personally allowed by an inner court Elder, they would be offending that Elder themselves.

Besides, although the disciples of the Enforcement Hall usually enjoyed a lofty status in the outer court, their status was still lower than that of a personal disciple of an inner court Elder. It was practically guaranteed that the personal disciples of the inner court Elders would also become inner court disciples in the future as well!

Thus, although the 2 of them wanted to stop Liu Mei, in the end, the young man on the right whose cultivation was at the middle of rank 9 in the Nascent Soul looked at the young man next to him, as he gritted his teeth and said in a low voice

"If a problem really occurs we will blame that girl instead! If she really used the name of an Elder to sneak someone into the inner court, even Elder Xuan will not let her go like that."

The young man on the left nodded his head, as the 2 of them saw Shun Long and Liu Mei stepped past the huge gates and enter the inner court.

Liu Mei had a pout on her face as she looked at Shun Long before she said seriously

"Hmph! They thought they could stop Long-ge from coming with me? If they really insisted, I would go and bring master to teach them a lesson!"

Shun Long smiled at the angry-looking Liu Mei who was obviously still in a bad mood due to their meeting Sheng Huang earlier, as he patted her head gently.

At that moment, as soon as Shun Long and Liu Mei entered the inner court, a young woman dressed in yellow robes who was standing a few meters away from their location actually approached them at full speed as soon as she spotted them, appearing in front of Liu Mei in the blink of an eye.

Even Shun Long was astonished by this woman's speed, causing him to look at her for a few more moments with a serious look on his face.

This woman who looked to be in her mid-20s, whether it was her face or her body, she definitely had an above-average appearance.

As for her cultivation, from the aura coming from her body, Shun Long instantly understood that this woman was at the peak of rank 9 in the Nascent Soul!

Her aura was even slightly stronger than the young man from the Enforcement Hall who was guarding the gates of the inner court just now as well.

For some reason, Shun Long could feel that although the woman in front of him was smiling, she was no different than a magic beast that was ready to attack at any moment!

This woman had a bright smile on her face she looked at Liu Mei, and taking a step forward, she affectionally held Liu Mei's hands with her own before she said in a warm tone

"Hehe, you must be our new junior sister, Liu Mei. You really had this senior sister wait for a long time today. Hehe, our master said that you are beautiful, but you are even more beautiful than I imagined!

Let me introduce myself. My name is Wei Yaling and I am a personal disciple of our master. Hehehe, you can call me senior sister Wei from now on!"

Chapter 506: Dong Ai

Wei Yaling then took out a golden token from her spatial ring and showed it to Liu Mei with the same unchanging smile on her face, before she continued

"Master sent me here to fetch you, junior sister. Hehehe, the truth is that master only has 4 personal disciples so far... well... 5 now that junior sister is also going to become one of us as well."

Nodding her head, Liu Mei's expression finally softened somewhat after hearing Wei Yaling's gentle tone and seeing the word 'Xuan' on her token as well, proving that she was also a disciple of Elder Xuan, before she too held her own token in her hands showing it to Wei Yaling.

"Senior sister, my name is Liu Mei and this is my husband, Shun Long!"

Shun Long cupped his hands at Wei Yaling who in turn seemed to have shot him a curious look for a few moments, when a bright smile appeared on her face barely a moment later as she too cupped her hands in response.

Hearing the excited tone that was filled with unconcealed pride as Liu Mei introduced her husband to her, made Wei Yaling a bit curious about the young man in front of her. However, as a peak rank 9 Nascent Soul stage outer disciple and a personal disciple of an inner court Elder, she wouldn't pay any attention to the new disciples that had just entered the sect. If it wasn't because Liu Mei was going to become her new junior sister, it was very unlikely that Wei Yaling would even know of her name until she advanced in the rankings of the Martial Roll of Honor or if she became a member of one of the top 1000 factions.

Turning her eyes towards Liu Mei a moment later, Wei Yaling then said

"Junior sister, let's go! We shouldn't make master wait for too long!"

Liu Mei turned her eyes towards Shun Long who nodded his head in response, before they both followed Wei Yaling as they walked through the inner court.

A quarter of an hour later, their group arrived in front of a huge courtyard that was covered with many different flowers.

Turning around, Wei Yaling looked at Liu Mei with a smile on her face before she said

"This is master's residence in the inner court. Let's enter inside."

Wei Yaling then placed the golden-colored token in her hands with the word 'Xuan' on the entrance gates, as Shun Long then saw the gates slowly open as an enormous garden appeared in his and Liu Mei's vision.

This garden was filled with countless trees and flowers, making it look like a place meant for immortals inside the Holy sect.

However, what shocked both Shun Long and Liu Mei weren't the many different trees and flowers around them. Instead, it was the extremely pure qi that had filled the courtyard.

Shun Long's eyes widened when he realized, that the pure qi in this place was barely inferior to the pure qi inside his foggy space in the 'Stone of Time' when he fed the Heaven Swallowing vine with middle-grade spirit stones!

With a proud smile on her face, Wei Yaling turned around to look at Liu Mei and Shun Long before she asked

"Surprised? Master's residence is indeed one of the best places in the entire Holy sect. The pure qi in this place is simply incomparable to anything else I have ever seen as well! Even my own grandfather's residence doesn't have pure qi like master's residence!"

As she finished speaking, Wei Yaling didn't look like she intended to explain anything else, as she led Liu Mei and Shun Long deeper inside Elder Xuan's residence.

A few minutes later, the 3 of them arrived in front of a large tree that seemed to have extended for hundreds of meters into the sky.

On top of the huge tree, a small but luxurious mansion that was covered with beautiful flowers seemed to have been built there, instantly attracting everyone's attention.

Seeing Wei Yaling fly towards the flowery mansion, Liu Mei and Shun Long both followed after her as they appeared outside the mansion's entrance.

Taking a deep breath, Wei Yaling had a solemn look on her face as she said in a serious voice

"Master, disciple has returned. I have brought junior sister Liu with me as well!"

"Hehe, come inside then."

Elder Xuan's gentle voice resounded in Shun Long's ears, before Shun Long suddenly felt himself being covered by countless flower petals.

Shun Long noticed that the flower petals did not only block his vision, but even his soul sense was completely suppressed.

And yet, this state lasted for barely a few moments before the flower petals slowly fell to the ground one by one, revealing the scene in front of his eyes.

At that moment, Shun Long saw that Liu Mei was standing by his left side while Wei Yaling had already taken a few steps forward standing next to a young woman behind Elder Xuan.

Elder Xuan Jiao took a step forward and quickly appeared in front of Liu Mei with that same gentle smile on her face, while her limpid black eyes were staring at her with a satisfied look inside them.

As for the young woman in yellow robes next to Wei Yaling, she seemed to have been studying Liu Mei with a curious look in her eyes, while Shun Long could practically feel the competitive spirit that was burning inside them.

And yet, Liu Mei only threw a look at that young woman for a few moments, before she turned her attention towards Elder Xuan that was standing in front of her.

The beautiful middle-aged Elder who had her black hair tied in a ponytail looked at Liu Mei and smiled before she introduced the 2 women behind her

"Hehe, little Mei, these 2 are your senior sisters from now on, but even though they are your senior sisters, your status is actually the same as theirs. You have already met with Yaling on your way here so I don't need to introduce her. As for the girl next to her, hehe, her name is Dong Ai, and just like you, she entered the sect recently as well... just a few months ago."

Chapter 507: Dong Ai's outburst

Dong Ai puffed out her chest when she heard this while her gaze was fully focused on Liu Mei, almost as if she was studying this new 'junior sister' of hers.

As for Liu Mei, she also stared at this new 'senior sister' of hers for a few moments with her usual apathetic gaze, before she turned her attention back to Elder Xuan who was standing in front of her barely a moment later.

Even though Dong Ai had a look in her eyes that was saying 'I am superior to you in every way and you have nothing else but looks to show off in front of me', Liu Mei didn't care about this challenging look in her newly acquired senior sister's face at all.

Elder Xuan's lips curved up into a smile when she saw this scene, but she didn't seem to be willing to solve a quarrel between her 2 newest personal disciples, as she turned around and sat towards the main seat of the hall.

With a gentle look on her face, she looked at Liu Mei before she said with that same, warm smile on her face

"Little Mei, the 'master and disciple ceremony' is very simple. All you have to do is pour a cup of tea for your master and offer it sincerely. As long as your master accepts the cup and drinks the tea, you will formally be accepted as a personal disciple."

Nodding her head, Liu Mei turned her eyes towards Shun Long for a moment, before she stepped forward, towards the already prepared cup of tea on the simple-looking, wooden table by Xuan Jiao's side.

Holding the cup with both hands Liu Mei then carried it towards Xuan Jiao's seat, before she knelted down on both knees and offered it sincerely to her master.

Elder Xuan didn't conceal her expression of joy and approval that she had on her face, as she elegantly received the cup with both hands and drained it in one gulp.

Her limpid black eyes then looked at Liu Mei who was by her side before she said smilingly

"Little Mei, stand up! Hehe, this elder sister is very proud to get a disciple like you."

When Elder Xuan said this, Shun Long noticed the yellow-robed Dong Ai's expression turn angry for a moment while a glint appeared in her eyes that she managed to quickly conceal, while even Wei Yaling's lips twitched slightly for a second.

With her usual ice-cold expression that had softened ever-so-slightly as she looked at her master, Liu Mei stood up and bowed to Elder Xuan as the final part of the 'master and disciple ceremony'.

"Hehe, since I have accepted a new disciple, it's only fair that I will give you a small welcoming gift as well."

Using both of her hands, Elder Xuan then carefully removed a small pendant that she was wearing on her neck, and handed it to Liu Mei under Dong Ai's and Wei Yaling's stunned eyes.

"Master!"

"Sigh, Junior sister is really lucky to be favored by master like this!"

Dong Ai was the first one to speak, as she looked at the small pendant in Elder Xuan's hands with an unconcealed expression of jealousy on her face, while even Wei Yaling couldn't hide her envy as her words implied that their master clearly favored Liu Mei more than them.

After hesitating for a moment, Liu Mei extended her hand, accepting her master's gift, before her eyes widened barely a moment later.

Just from the qi fluctuations coming from the pendant in her hands, although Liu Mei didn't know what it was used for, it was obvious that it was an extremely rare treasure.

Of course, something that Xuan Jiao was wearing on her person couldn't be something of no value to begin with!

Staring at the beautiful middle-aged woman in front of her who was still smiling warmly, Liu Mei bowed before she replied with a tone filled with gratitude

"Thank you, master!"

Even Shun Long nodded his head as he looked at Xuan Jiao, agreeing that this was how a master who valued their disciples should act.

In comparison to Liu Mei's father who could be considered half of Liu Mei's master and had only given her a half-assed cultivation technique as well as that martial skill that could create an ice pillar even though she was his own daughter, it was obvious that Xuan Jiao valued Liu Mei much more.

Even though he hadn't touched it himself, just from the mysterious runes and patters on the pendant's surface, as well as the powerful qi fluctuations that were coming from it, Shun Long could accurately judge that it was most likely a defensive treasure that one couldn't buy with sect points inside the sect.

"Hehe, no need to thank me. Didn't I say it already? This is just a welcoming gift for my youngest disciple."

As she finished her words, Elder Xuan turned her eyes towards Dong Ai and Wei Yaling before she said seriously

"Do the 2 of you really want to compare your assets with someone like Liu Mei?"

"But master... even I didn't receive such a rare welcome gift from ma-"

"Junior sister, shut up!"

As soon as she heard Elder Xuan's words, Dong Ai was the first one to step forward and complain, but surprisingly Wei Yaling's expression seemed to have suddenly changed as she snapped at her. And yet, the beautiful yellow-robed young woman's expression turned even uglier when she heard this, as she looked at Wei Yaling and said angrily

"Shut up? Why should I? Senior sister Wei, who do you think you are to tell me to shut up? Besides, I am only saying the truth here! Neither I nor anyone else aside from eldest senior sister has ever received such a welcoming gift from master, so why should she get master's pendant?"

Finally, Elder Xuan's expression changed, and as the look in her eyes chilled, the entire room suddenly turned freezing cold as Xuan Jiao's piercing gaze fell on Dong Ai's body that had suddenly stiffened.

Chapter 508: Elder Xuan's real reason

"Ai, you dare to question my decision? Do you actually believe that I treated you unfairly 2 months ago when I handed you a complete Saint middle-grade cultivation technique as a welcoming gift?"

"Master... that is not what I meant! But-"

"Not what you meant? What you meant was clearly that the value of Mei's gift was above yours isn't it?"

Dong Ai immediately fell silent when she heard this as she nodded her head with an unresigned look in her eyes. Indeed, in her eyes, the value of a complete Saint middle-grade cultivation technique was nowhere near close to the value of the pendant that Liu Mei just received from their master.

However Elder Xuan's eyes only turned colder when she saw her disciple's reaction before she continued

"Ai, you complained about neither you nor any of your senior sisters aside from your eldest senior sister have ever received such a welcoming gift from me, but you didn't even stop to think what kind of background do you and Yaling really come from compared to Mei!

Both you and Yaling come from influential families and are even the direct descendants of your own family line! You have been showered with the best resources ever since your birth and you still dare to complain that my treatment towards you wasn't equal in value?!

In that case, let me ask you, Ai! What did you do with the Saint middle-grade cultivation technique that I gave you? Did you only keep it for yourself or did you share it with your family instead?"

Dong Ai's face immediately paled when she heard this, as she lowered her head and said

"I... I shared it. But master... even if I shared it, it is still not as valuable as master's pend-"

"Enough! Of course I knew that you would share it with your family and that in turn, your family would reward you for it. After all, practically every single influential family that is adjacent to our Holy sect sends its descendants and disciples here, in hopes that they will become stronger.

Did you think that I didn't know how valuable a Saint middle-grade cultivation technique is to a family? Even if your family has 10 Saint low-grade cultivation techniques, I know that you at most will have 1 or 2 that have reached the middle grade!

And yet I still gave you the technique without forbidding you from sharing it with your family since that was my welcoming gift to you!

How many spirit stones, protective artifacts and rare pills did your grandfather give you to reward you for bringing home a Saint middle-grade cultivation technique? Even if it wasn't at the value of Mei's pendant, it's still not too far off either!"

Seeing the regretful look that slowly appeared on Dong Ai's face, Elder Xuan's cold expression slowly softened as she shook her head and said

"Questioning your master is not something that is taken lightly! Even more so when you feel jealousy for your junior sister!"

"Yes master!"

Dong Ai lowered her gaze as she responded, not daring to meet Elder Xuan's eyes any longer.

"Master... I apologize. I also felt some envy in my heart when I saw master giving your pendant to junior sister. If master punished Ai, then I should be punished too. Junior sister... I apologize!"

Dong Ai raised her head in surprise but she still shook it defiantly barely a moment later, almost as if she was unwilling to accept Wei Yaling's 'charity', while Liu Mei had the same cold expression on her face as she nodded her head, accepting Wei Yaling's apology.

Being envious after seeing something that you want being given to someone else wasn't easy, and this was something that Liu Mei also understood herself as well, so it wasn't hard for her to accept Wei Yaling's apology.

At the same time however, Elder Xuan's cold expression hadn't disappeared from her face after hearing Wei Yaling's words, as she replied seriously

"Since I accepted Mei as my disciple today and I also don't want a chasm to be formed among yourselves for such a reason, there will be no punishment this time. However, I want you to remember that being senior and junior sisters should be a relationship that goes beyond material needs. It should be a form no different from blood-related sisters!"

Turning her attention towards Liu Mei, Elder Xuan's gaze turned gentle as she looked at the small pendant in her hands and started to explain in a gentle tone, almost as if she wasn't speaking to Liu Mei but her own child instead

"Little Mei, this pendant was something that I got from my master as a present, and I am now handing it to you. This is a protective artifact that I have been carrying with me for many years. It can protect you twice from the attack of anyone at the Dao Emperor realm and below. Even if you are attacked by someone who is at the late stages of the Dao Emperor realm, this pendant will still

save your life twice. As for the specifics, since I never had the heart to use it, I can't tell you how it works."

Shun Long's eyes widened when he heard the description of the pendant and was surprised by how valuable it actually was, while Dong Ai had an even more fervent look in her eyes as she stared at it, almost as if she was staring at a treasure that she couldn't lose no matter what. As for Wei Yaling, she nodded her head, but there was still a shocked look in her eyes, almost as if she hadn't expected it to be this valuable after all.

Wei Yaling and Dong Ai already heard that in the past, their master had given a peak rank 1 star weapon to their eldest senior sister when she accepted her as a disciple.

Although they were descendants of powerful families, neither of the 2 girls was qualified to hold a peak rank 1 star weapon. After all, the difference between a normal rank 1 star weapon and a peak rank 1 was much bigger than one could imagine.

As for Liu Mei, she bowed deeply, accepting her master's gift while thanking her.

However, Elder Xuan Jiao simply shook her head and waved her hand before she continued

"Little Mei, do you remember what I told you 3 days ago? I said I am the only Elder in the entire sect that can help you with your control of your Dao of Death, and that there was a reason behind that! Although I haven't comprehended the Dao of Death, I know that it is an extremely dangerous Dao, one that is practically impossible to be traversed fully! I know that because my master had also comprehended the Dao of Death herself!"

#### Chapter 509: Xuan Jiao's master

Elder Xuan's words were like a bolt of lightning that shocked even Wei Yaling and Dong Ai who were obviously unaware of this piece of news as well.

However, the most shocked out of everyone else was clearly Shun Long followed by Liu Mei.

He already knew from Little Black that the difficulty in comprehending the Dao of Death, regardless of one's cultivation level was extremely tough.

One had to practically enter a state that was almost dead and yet not dead, while they managed to survive being grabbed by the Hand of Death as they peered through the Death Abyss.

Only after those conditions were successfully met would one be able to truly start comprehending the Dao of Death.

Even in the Immortal Dimension, the Dao of Death was considered an extremely special Dao due to its mortality rate and the difficulty that one needed to have in comprehending it. After all, regardless of whether one was a Heaven stage cultivator or an expert that had reached the Dao Emperor realm, the danger in comprehending the Dao of Death was the same! In front of death, everyone was equal.

Thus, hearing that Xuan Jiao's master had actually comprehended this Dao made Shun Long stare at the beautiful middle-aged woman with a stunned look on his face. Although he knew that Liu Mei wasn't the only person in this world who had comprehended the Dao of Death, hearing that Xuan Jiao's master was similar to her was really too big of a coincidence.

"No, perhaps it's not a coincidence. After all, Elder Xuan clearly approached Mei'er because she knew that she has comprehended the Dao of Death."



As he reached this conclusion, Shun Long stared at the white-robed Elder who was standing in front of Liu Mei with a curious look in his eyes as he waited for her to continue explaining.

Indeed, Elder Xuan didn't let him down, as she stared at him for a moment and smiled before she turned her attention towards Liu Mei and spoke with a gentle smile on her face, one that was clearly reminiscing of certain scenes in her mind

"My master was an expert that had reached the very pinnacle of the Dao Emperor realm, someone who could walk through the land unafraid of nearly every other Dao Emperor realm expert. In front of master and her undead army, only the strongest Dao Emperor realm experts even dared to raise their heads!

Even the martial skill that you obtained from the Barrier of Knowledge, the 'Death's chant', it's a martial skill that master created herself after a lot of pain and effort.

Hehe, master would surely have been very happy if she knew that I obtained a disciple who has comprehended the same Dao as her."

Shun Long and Liu Mei, and even Wei Yaling and Dong Ai all clearly understood, that Elder Xuan's tone was one filled with many complicated emotions, including sadness, grief, melancholy, regret, and yet also longing, admiration, respect and familial love.

At that moment, they also understood from Elder Xuan's words that her master had most likely already perished.

Without bothering to mask any of her emotions, Elder Xuan looked at Liu Mei as if she was looking at her own child as she continued

"However, although master had reached the peak of the Dao Emperor realm, like every other cultivator she couldn't remain stranded to her level forever as she longed to reach the peak of the world. After all, even after knowing how tough every subsequent breakthrough becomes in the future, cultivators are attracted like moths to a flame, as they do their best to become even stronger and live forever.

So, one day, master decided to try and breakthrough to the level above the Dao Emperor realm! However, as fate would have it master failed her breakthrough, causing her soul to scatter in the end."

Although Elder Xuan tried to say this with the most gentle tone, almost as if she was a mother who was telling a story to her own children, allowing Dong Ai and Wei Yaling to listen from the side, the warm tears that rolled down her cheeks betrayed her inner heart that was clearly in pain.

And yet, no one dared to interrupt this powerful Dao Emperor who continued speaking barely a moment later

"My master was my only family, the person who raised me from nothing and gave me everything in this world. Even though I wanted to try and cultivate in the same Dao as master, she always forbid that without a second thought, saying that the Dao of Death isn't something you can consciously cultivate, but instead it is only a small chance that you need to be very lucky to grasp."

Shun Long listened attentively at Elder Xuan's words, but he didn't agree with the last part of her master's words. He already knew from Little Black, that in the Immortal Dimension, there was a

crazy powerful family who had every single one of its disciples and descendants cultivate in the Dao of Death.

Of course, it also wasn't wrong to consider the Dao of Death a 'lucky Dao' that only the few really 'lucky ones' could survive from and comprehend in the end.

Unable to notice the almost non-existent change in Shun Long's expression, Elder Xuan who still had her eyes entirely focused on Liu Mei then continued

"The reason why I said that I could guide you through your control of the Dao of Death was precisely because master imparted with me her knowledge and experience. Although she forbid me from ever trying to cultivate in this Dao, she hoped that her experience could prove useful to me, and perhaps even allow me to breakthrough to the level above the Dao Emperor realm in the future.

So little Mei, I will tell you everything that my master taught me about the Dao of Death, so pay close attention to it. After all, even though your fate said that you have hopes of becoming an immortal in the future you do not understand the dangers of the Dao of Death just yet. But before that, the rest of you can all get out!"

Chapter 510: The balance of the sect's territories

Neither Dong Ai nor Wei Yaling were surprised after hearing that Liu Mei's fate held some chances of becoming an immortal. After all, nearly every single disciple in the top 100 rankings of the Martial Roll of Honor possessed an immortal fate as well, and even Dong Ai and Wei Yaling also had immortal fates too, and the same went for their 2 senior sisters that weren't present today.

Of course, if the 2 girls knew that Liu Mei's fate had actually created a tiny crack on the ball of fate during her test, then their expressions would definitely be completely different than they are right now.

After all, the news of Liu Mei cracking the ball of fate and Shun Long completely shattering it had only started to spread throughout the Holy sect recently, and the most powerful outer disciples wouldn't pay any attention to such news while even those who heard it would treat it as nothing more than a baseless rumor.

How could the sect's ball of fate shatter so easily after all?

However, what the 2 girls were most surprised about, was when they heard Elder Xuan expelling them all from the room and keeping only Liu Mei inside. Without so much as even the slightest ability to resist, the 2 girls and even Shun Long were all sent outside the mansion, staring at the luxurious mansion on the huge tree in front of them with complicated expressions in their eyes.

Only Shun Long had a calm look in his eyes as he sat down cross-legged on the ground and waited for Liu Mei to come out.

Stomping her foot down angrily, Dong Ai stared at the mansion on the large tree in front of her as she asked angrily

"Why did we have to leave? Aren't we all martial sisters? Why does Liu Mei get to be the only one who hears more things about master's master instead?"

Wei Yaling looked at her junior sister and shook her head before she said in a disappointed tone

"I also wanted to hear more about it, but it's only natural that master wouldn't permit us to do so. After all, Liu Mei has comprehended the same Dao as our grand master so it's only normal that master allows her to learn more about it.

Besides... junior sister, you clearly understand that master is definitely going to dote more on junior sister Mei than she does with you or me. In her eyes, junior sister Mei is probably the same as eldest senior sister!"

Shun Long opened his eyes when he heard this, as he stared at the 2 women next to him who were discussing things between them without caring about his presence.

Dong Ai's expression turned even uglier when she heard her senior sister's words, as she stared at him with an angry look in her eyes before she responded angrily

"This is unfair! Coming from a powerful background should have been something that should make master happy for her disciples and not wary! Doesn't it simply mean that we can get stronger faster when we come from powerful clans or families that are willing to support us instead of being rogue cultivators without any backing and resources? Why should master simply favor.. junior sister Mei more than us then?"

Although Dong Ai's tone was angry, it was obvious that she also understood what Wei Yaling meant by this but she simply wasn't willing to accept this. At the same time, she struggled to say the words 'junior sister Mei',? but she still did so in the end.

Shaking her head however, Wei Yaling didn't even look at her junior sister any longer, as she turned her eyes towards Shun Long and said seriously

"Actually, this is not a secret, which is why neither I and junior sister Ai don't care if you hear about it from us or not. The reason why master is so happy to take on junior sister Mei as her disciple isn't only because junior sister has comprehended the same Dao as our grand master. Although that was definitely important for master's decision, I believe that master would still try to take junior sister Mei as a disciple even without her having comprehended the Dao of Death either.

The reason behind that is because, the Elders of the sect will always prefer to take on talented disciples that don't have a powerful background rather than those who come from powerful forces.

Of course, it's not because the Elders are looking down on those disciples who come from powerful clans or families like junior sister Ai's 'Dong clan' or my 'Wei family'. Instead, it's because those clans and families are already part of the Holy sect and are under the direct influence of the sect as well. So if an inner court Elder like master ends up favoring me or junior sister Ai more, I am sure you can imagine how the balance of power would change among the powers that are governed by the Holy sect if one family has the support of an inner court Elder.

However, that is also extremely hard for the Elders as well, as the disciples who belong to the powerful families are almost always the most talented ones as well, so the inner court Elders end up taking them as disciples in the end regardless of them being part of a powerful family or not."

Shun Long seemed to have just realized a huge part of the internal situation of the Holy sect after hearing Wei Yaling's words, as many thoughts flashed through his mind at the same time

"So this is why Mei'er, Xingyi, Jiang Chen and Longtian were all accepted by the Elders so quickly.

Since their talents are exceptional and they don't come from any powerful families or clans of the central region, it's only natural that the Elders will look to snatch them away and take them as personal disciples. After all, if they were too late to make their move, it's possible that some of the clans or families adjacent to the sect would do so as well. Hmm, what about me though? Is it because I destroyed the ball of fate that I wasn't approached by any Elder? Regardless, the Elders should still think of me as a potential seedling that they should be willing to nurture as well..."