

Unparalleled 71

Chapter 71: Gluttonous Devouring Technique, Marriage Cancellation, A Lush Green Young Emperor of the Shang Clan

Capital City, inside one of the inns.

Chu Kuangren was tidying up the items inside his Yin and Yang ring.

He had obtained numerous items and treasures from the Secret Realm. Although most of it had been handed over to Elder Ruyan for her to bring back to the sect, there were still some that he kept with him.

“Hey, is this...” Chu Kuangren suddenly wondered in a soft voice.

While he was tidying, his eyes could not help but lit up when he found another Yin and Yang ring from the Black Light Sage’s corpse.

‘The Yin and Yang ring of a sage. What kind of valuable riches will lie in this?’

Chu Kuangren opened it up excitedly.

However, what he saw instead was an empty dimension within the Yin and Yang ring. There were some soulstones, a few vials of medicinal pills, and some other scraps.

“It can’t be. Was that Sage really that poor?” Chu Kuangren pouted before he continued to tidy the items inside it.

There was no need to bother with the medicinal pills and soulstones.

His attention was drawn to the piles of scrap instead. There was a token, a Jade Scroll, and a few pieces of clothing among them.

The token was black and it emanated a heavy aura when held in his hands. There were also some Qi of Death swirling around the token, which had multiple runes and the words ‘Preserve Technique’ carved onto it.

Chu Kuangren remembered that when he checked the Black Light Sage’s information using his Eye of Revelation, he obtained the words ‘Sacred Palace of Death’.

“What kind of force is the Sacred Palace of Death? I’ve never heard about it before. But with a sage within its rank, it must be a formidable group.”

Chu Kuangren thought of it and kept that token away.

After that, he picked up the piece of Jade Scroll.

As his spiritual thoughts began, a sudden burst of Daoist Rhyme erupted before large amounts of information flowed into his mind and formed into two big words ... Gluttonous Devouring!

A Sage Technique was recorded onto that piece of Jade Scroll!

Having gone through multiple occurrences of Daoist Enlightenment, Chu Kuangren's understanding of the Dao was already at a very deep and refined level. It was even comparable to an Honorable Realm cultivator's level.

Although that Sage Technique seemed very interesting, Chu Kuangren had a general understanding of its uses just by taking a look at it.

"How powerful!"

"This is definitely a type of Sage Ruler Technique!"

"This might even be a more exquisite technique than the Human Mountain Stamp! I'm afraid this technique is very close to the level of an Emperor Technique."

Chu Kuangren was extremely surprised.

Ancient legends had it that there was once a dragon who had nine children and one of them was named Avarice. It was said Avarice possessed the ability to devour thousands of living beings to strengthen itself.

Hence, the Gluttonous Devouring Technique was created based on the ancient beast Avarice. It had the function to devour the essences of flesh and blood to increase the user's cultivation.

“Consuming others to strengthen oneself. This technique is quite creepy.”

“Yet, this is a world where the strong preyed on the weak. If one is not strong, they will, in return, be bullied by others for their weaknesses!”

When Chu Kuangren thought of that, he then decided to cultivate that technique for his use.

Taking the opportunity that the marriage by combat had not started, Chu Kuangren informed Lan Yu and Li Xingchen about this before he began his closed-door meditation to cultivate that technique.

Since the Black Light Sage himself had also cultivated that technique, the remnant Daoist Rhymes in his corpse was a great help to Chu Kuangren in learning how to use that technique.

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In the Capital City, everyone was looking forward to that marriage by combat event.

This was especially for the crowd of sky-prides who were looking forward to the chance of getting the Godly Essence. They intended to use it to break through into higher realms of cultivation and surpass Chu Kuangren’s level.

However, the date of the marriage by combat had yet arrived before they received extremely enraging news instead. The marriage by combat was... Canceled!

That news immediately angered everyone.

They had traveled a long way from their respective areas just to take part in that competition, yet they did not even have a chance to touch a single hair of hers. Instead, they were all fooled by the Royal Azure Dynasty.

Numerous cultivators were filled with so much outrage that they demanded an explanation from the Royal Dynasty.

“I’ve come to a far *ss place just to take part in the Princess’s marriage by combat, but now you’re telling me that it’s canceled?”

“Are you messing with us? You’re kidding, aren’t you?”

“I haven’t even seen the Princess yet and the event is already over?”

“What a scam!”

Many sky-prides in the Capital City said angrily.

The cultivators from the normal orthodoxies were fine with it since they could easily be dealt with if the Royal Azure Dynasty just gave them some amount of soulstones as repayment.

It was the ones from the sage orthodoxies who were pissed off.

Some consideration would have to be done to deal with those people.

However, the Royal Azure Dynasty King was dealing with another person at that time.

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The Shang Clan's Young Emperor had arrived in the Capital City.

He was being welcomed personally by the Royal Azure Dynasty King himself.

Even Princess Linglong had shown herself at that time. When he first laid eyes on her, the Shang Clan's Young Emperor was a bit stunned by her beauty despite being a devoted Daoist.

Princess Linglong was an exquisite beauty and unparalleled in looks. Her every move had a dignified and noble temperament, which made anyone want to look up to her.

For a rare moment, the Shang Clan's Young Emperor had a faint feeling that he was falling for her.

"Greetings Your Majesty the Royal Azure Dynasty King and Your Highness the Royal Princess." The Shang Clan's Young Emperor gently nodded.

“At ease, Young Emperor.”

The Royal Azure Dynasty King smiled and brought the Shang Clan’s Young Emperor to the gardens at the back of the palace. Not sparing any time for nonsense, he immediately told him about wanting to dissolve their marriage agreements.

The elder who was accompanying the Shang Clan’s Young Emperor had a terrible look on his face when he heard that. He said, “Your Majesty, are you messing with my Shang Clan?”

The Shang Clan’s Young Emperor then took a look at Princess Linglong and said, “Is there any dissatisfaction that Your Highness the Princess has about me?”

“The man is not the problem, but...” When the Royal Azure Dynasty King spoke of this, he paused and sighed with regret. Then, he told them what had happened inside the Secret Realm of the Luminous Moon.

“Now that my daughter has lost her innocence and purity, she doubts her qualifications as the Young Emperor’s bride. This is why she personally suggested the idea of dissolving the marriage agreement.”

“I’m naturally aware that he’s at fault, hence I have prepared generous gifts as compensation. Besides this, I shall send someone out to the Shang Clan to deliver my personal apologies.”

Upon hearing this, the Shang Clan’s Young Emperor’s expression was already very grim. He felt as if a field of grass had grown on his head, sporting with green lushness¹.

‘I can’t believe Princess Linglong gave her Godly Essence to someone else!’

Glaring at the peerless beauty that was Princess Linglong, the Shang Clan's Young Emperor erased the hint of love that he had for the Princess before.

The more he thought about it, the more angry and uncomfortable he felt. That unbearable feeling was like a large boulder on his chest, making him feel overwhelmed and out of breath.

He had intended to use the Godly Essence to ascend to a higher cultivation realm, but now his plans were ruined. No matter man or cultivator, that was something which would enrage them and made them feel unacceptable.

"Fortunately, only both our Royal Azure Dynasty and your Shang Clan know of the arranged marriage. Now that we're dissolving the marriage agreements, it'll be easy to act as if nothing has ever happened, and there will be no damage to either party's reputation."

The Royal Azure Dynasty King continued speaking.

Up until that point, Princess Linglong, who was beside him, did not utter a single word.

"Very well, splendid!"

"Since your majesty has already made all the necessary agreements, what else is there for us to say? Elder, let's leave now!"

With that, the Shang Clan's Young Emperor stood up and left, all while trying hard to hold back his anger.

“Hold up.”

The Royal Azure Dynasty King’s words made him stop in his tracks. “I shall be hosting a large banquet in the palace today. In addition to this, I have invited many sky-prides as well to explain why the marriage by combat was canceled. The Young Emperor is invited to attend if he is interested.”

“Then what about that Chu Kuangren? Will he be attending?”

“He should be.”

“Got it, I’ll be there.”

The Shang Clan’s Young Emperor replied coldly.

After that, only Princess Linglong and the Royal Azure Dynasty King were left in the garden.

“Father, will the Shang Clan give up that easily?”

Princess Linglong asked.

“I’ve prepared generous amounts of gifts for them besides upholding the required etiquettes that are necessary. The higher-ups of the Shang Clan are not foolish. Although this matter will damage both sides’ relationship, no major conflict will happen because of it.”

“Then... What about the Black Heaven Sect?”

“I’ve already discussed with their Honorable Xuan Qi. From this day onwards, Chu Kuangren will not only be the Black Heaven Sect’s Elder Senior Brother, but also the Fiancé of the Royal Azure Dynasty’s Eldest Princess. Regarding the date of the wedding, I’ll leave it to both of you to decide yourselves.”

Chapter 72: I’ve Been Sold Off, Clear Boundaries, A Talkative Queen

Capital City, inside one of the rooms of an inn.

Chu Kuangren had just woken from his closed-door meditation. In just a few days, Chu Kuangren had achieved a preliminary mastery of the Gluttonous Devouring Technique based on the level of understanding he had in the Dao and the help he got from the Black Light Sage’s corpse.

That technique was a very powerful one and would be of great use to Chu Kuangren. However, it could easily harm a person’s karmic luck, so it had to be used with caution.

It was true.

Luck and merits existed in this world of cultivation. Based on this belief, numerous cultivators who possessed terrifying powers dared not go on a killing spree, for fear that their karma would incur debts and accumulate bad luck.

“You’re finally awake, little fella. Did you make any progress?”

The Seventh Forefather’s voice came from the void.

“Yeah, somewhat I guess,” Chu Kuangren replied gently.

“Good to hear. Listen, I have some news to tell you, kid. To be able to make Princess Linglong yours, you really are not short in terms of luck, looks, or prosperity.”

Chu Kuangren was just taking a drink of water when he heard what the Seventh Forefather told him, and he immediately spat it all out. His face was full of shock. “How did you know about this Seventh Forefather!”

“Not only me, kid. Even the Sect Leader and all the others know.”

“What’s going on?”

Chu Kuangren hurriedly asked.

“The Sect Leader has agreed to an alliance between the Black Heaven Sect and the Royal Azure Dynasty two days ago. And you kid will soon be the Fiancé of the Royal Azure Dynasty’s Eldest Princess.”

Chu Kuangren was dumbfounded.

What in the world had happened during the days that he underwent a closed-door meditation?

Only a few days had passed and he was already sold off?

‘How much was I sold off for?’

‘Maybe split some of it with me?’

“No, wait. Seventh Forefather, why didn’t you inform me earlier?”

“Her Royal Highness Princess Linglong has already given you her Godly Essence. Now that the people from the lady’s side are at your door, don’t tell me you’re thinking of backing them down?”

The Seventh Forefather teased.

“Princess Linglong and I did that for valid reasons. Besides, we were just trying to protect ourselves when we decided to do that. We have no feelings for each other at all. ”

“It’s alright, kid. Relationships can be nurtured and built up gradually. If you really are not fond of her, you can still settle that matter on paper when the time comes and when you’re even more powerful.”

Chu Kuangren was speechless.

'How can I do this? That's too scummy even for me!'

However, Chu Kuangren seemed to understand something else from the Seventh Forefather's words.
"So we're letting me be under the Royal Azure Dynasty's protection."

"Yeah, right on all accounts."

"The first reason we agreed this was that an alliance with the Royal Azure Dynasty will benefit and serve to help both parties. Secondly, we did it because of you."

"Listen, kid, your abilities and skills are just too talented and remarkable. Because of them, you will be a target for many others out there. Although the Black Heaven Sect's influence is large, we cannot assure you that your safety will be guaranteed all the time. To do this, we'll need the help of our allies too."

"The Royal Azure Dynasty is a sage orthodoxy whose power is on par with the Black Heaven's Sect's. If we put you and Princess Linglong in a marriage arrangement, the Royal Azure Dynasty will no doubt be obliged to have you under their protection as well. All in all, both our sage orthodoxies will ensure your safety together."

At the Seventh Forefather's words, Chu Kuangren went into deep thought.

He was not only grateful for how thoughtful the Black Heaven Sect was but by doing this, he would also be able to return what he owed to Princess Linglong for her help and sacrifice.

As of now, the marriage arrangement only had benefits and no repercussions for him.

“Fiancé? Now that’s a first for me.”

Chu Kuangren said as he scratched his head.

“Oi kid, how many times do you want to be one huh?”

The Seventh Forefather replied unpleasantly.

...

As Chu Kuangren came out of his room, Lan Yu was already waiting outside.

“Master, I see you’re finished with the closed-door cultivation.”

“Yeah.” Chu Kuangren laughed and nodded. He hesitated for a while before he told Lan Yu about his arranged marriage with Princess Linglong.

Lan Yu was stunned for a while with a bitter feeling in her heart. “I didn’t expect Master to have such an arrangement with Princess Linglong. With this in mind, how shall I address her the next time we meet? Shall I call her Mistress?”

“There’s no need for those worries. Another thing, Lan Yu. I have never regarded you as my slave nor servant.” Chu Kuangren spoke the last sentence in a serious manner.

When she heard that, Lan Yu's heart throbbed.

To someone like her, Chu Kuangren's existence was similar to that of a God, a creator so to speak, while she only saw herself as a servant that he had created.

There was a clear boundary between a servant and a God.

However, this God had been treating her with too much gentleness.

He was so gentle that a different feeling might arise within her from time to time, seemingly making her want to cross the imaginary boundary that she made herself.

"Brother Chu, there's someone here to see you."

At that time, Li Xingchen shouted for him from below.

There was an old man with a tall hat behind him.

"Hey look, that's Magistrate Cao from the Royal Palace."

"Word says that this guy is the confidant of the Royal Azure Dynasty King. He usually stays within the royal palace on normal occasions, so what brings him here today?"

“Moreover, he’s looking for Chu Kuangren as well. That’s weird.”

The cultivators in the inn were deep in discussions.

Chu Kuangren then brought Lan Yu downstairs with him.

“Master Chu, it’s a pleasure to meet you today.” Upon seeing Chu Kuangren, Magistrate Cao immediately went up and bowed to him in front of everyone.

The crowd was instantly dumbstruck.

Magistrate Cao’s position was quite extraordinary as he was in charge of the royal palace’s internal affairs. Due to that, even the crown princes had to treat him with respect.

Now, a person like him was bowing down to Chu Kuangren.

On some level, it was a representation of the Royal Azure Dynasty King’s will.

“It’s my pleasure as well, Magistrate Cao.” Chu Kuangren chuckled as he casually checked that man’s information using the Eye of Revelation. ‘Damn, this fellow is an Honorable Realm cultivator.’

Indeed, people like him who were able to accompany the Royal Azure Dynasty King was no joke.

“Master Chu, his majesty has asked me to invite you for a visit to the royal palace.”

“Alright, I understand.”

Chu Kuangren nodded and he then took Lan Yu with him to visit the royal palace.

Further at the back of the royal palace’s gardens.

The Royal Azure Dynasty King had already been prepared to welcome Chu Kuangren for a while now. Since he had only heard of Chu Kuangren, he was quite excited and intrigued to finally meet him.

Not long after.

Magistrate Cao led Chu Kuangren and Lan Yu into the gardens.

Seeing Chu Kuangren for the first time, even the Royal Azure Dynasty King, who was very knowledgeable and had seen many things, could not help but be surprised. He said as he marveled, “A fairy who’s living among men.”

Donning a white robe and a jade crown on his head, the Royal Azure Dynasty King had an exceedingly handsome look for someone his age. He was like a piece of jade who possessed unparalleled beauty.

“Greetings, Your Majesty the Royal Azure Dynasty King.” Since this was his first time meeting His Majesty as well, Chu Kuangren could not help but be attracted to the sparkling imperial robe he wore.

“At ease. Come, take a seat.”

“Thank you, Your Majesty.”

“Heh, you won’t need to address me like that for long. After a few days, you’ll have to address me as ‘father’ like Linglong does now.” The Royal Azure Dynasty King chuckled.

Chu Kuangren smiled and laughed, but he did not say much.

“I have asked you to visit this time because I wanted to meet you personally. Also, I wanted to inform you that I’ll announce you as her fiancé to the public in two days.”

“Understood. I shall leave the necessary arrangements to Your Majesty.”

“Mhm, very well.”

The Royal Azure Dynasty King nodded and did not say another word after that.

However, that made Chu Kuangren even more uncomfortable as he did not know what to talk about. With the two of them sitting there together, the atmosphere suddenly became somewhat awkward.

“Her Majesty the Queen has arrived.” At that moment, a woman with a noble and graceful poise walked towards them slowly. Her appearance was quite similar to her daughter, Princess Linglong.

Chu Kuangren then stood up to greet her. "Greetings Your Royal Majesty Queen of the Royal Azure Dynasty."

"Oh my, you must be Chu Kuangren, am I right? You do have the look of a heavenly being. No wonder my Linglong was completely charmed by you."

"Your Majesty's praise is too generous. Seeing that Your Majesty the Queen is the mother of the whole nation, that to me is the true appearance of a heavenly being."

"Oh, that's so sweet of you."

The Royal Azure Queen was a very chatty person, having talked endlessly about topics ranging from astrology to geography while casually inserting some interesting anecdotes in between.

Besides, she was also quite perceptive to body language. The moment she noticed that Chu Kuangren was not able to continue with a certain topic or was uninterested in it, she would instantly change to another with grace and elegance.

From the moment she arrived, the atmosphere had suddenly become a lot warmer.

"Kuangren, do feel free to visit the royal palace when you're free."

Before they left, the Royal Azure's Queen said reluctantly.

“I will, Your Majesty.”

Chu Kuangren was quite anxious at that time. That Queen was too good of a speaker, having spoken and talked for almost a whole day without any breaks between; even he felt unable to carry on with the conversation.

The Royal Azure Dynasty King chuckled.

Chapter 73: The Royal Palace Banquet, Chosen Fiancé, Are You Drunk?

Capital City of the Royal Azure Dynasty, inside the royal palace.

The cancelation of the marriage by combat had caused a lot of dissatisfaction from many parties, so handing out a bit of compensation for the general people would suffice.

Even so, some of the sage orthodoxies were not easily fooled.

That was why the Royal Azure Dynasty King organized the large banquet — to entertain the sky-prides from those orthodoxies.

Inside the luxurious royal palace hall.

A crowd of sky-prides had gathered there, but most of them had no intention of enjoying the numerous delicacies that were served before them. After all, they still had an unknown flame welling up within them.

They had traveled far just to join the marriage by combat, yet it was just canceled like that. It would be strange to say that they did not mind it.

Everyone was waiting for the Royal Azure Dynasty King to give them an explanation.

However, a part of the crowd had also noticed a seemingly unknown sky-pride among them, but that person was sitting extremely close to the front. It was even closer to the host's seat compared to top-tiered sky-prides like Fangtian or even Yuanhong.

"Who is that person?"

Some of the people were curious to find out.

Just then, two figures walked into the royal palace hall. It was Chu Kuangren and Lan Yu.

When they saw him, everyone in the crowd started talking.

"What's Chu Kuangren doing here? Isn't he uninterested in the marriage by combat?"

"You're right. Everyone present is those who wanted an explanation for the cancellation. What's that uninterested guy doing here for?"

Facing the confused gazes from the people in the crowd, Chu Kuangren was calm and he eventually found his seat with the guidance of a palace maid.

His seat was extremely close to the front, which was in the same row as Gu Changge.

“D*mn, why is he sitting in the same row as me?” Gu Changge secretly cursed as he felt somewhat uncomfortable near him.

Chu Kuangren did not care. In fact, he was even delighted to see Gu Changge’s aggrieved look because honestly speaking, Chu Kuangren was quite adept at scheming sometimes.

Yet suddenly, he felt someone’s very unpleasant and hostile gaze on him.

Looking towards its direction, Chu Kuangren saw a green-robed cultivator glaring at him. There was a strong feeling of hostility in that guy’s eyes.

‘An unknown sky-pride?’

‘Then again, where’s all this hate coming from?’

Puzzled, Chu Kuangren activated his Eye of Revelation and checked.

“Shang Han, Shang Clan’s Young Emperor, Cultivation level – Paradise Realm Complete ...”

Only when Chu Kuangren saw the information did he realize why.

So that was the Shang Clan's Young Emperor. No wonder that guy had so much hostility towards him. After all, Chu Kuangren had cucked the guy.

He then looked back at Shang Han with a pitiful gaze.

Click...

As if he had noticed Chu Kuangren's sorrowful gaze, Shang Han immediately clenched his fist, shattering the glass of wine he had into dust.

The surrounding sky-prides were startled when they saw that.

'That unknown sky-pride seems very pissed off at Chu Kuangren.'

At that thought, they all felt better as they looked at Shang Han. Some of them even felt that similar anger and rage.

'I guess everyone here must be sky-prides that were dominated by Chu Kuangren before huh.'

"His Royal Majesty has arrived."

The Royal Azure Dynasty King was seen with the Royal Azure Queen beside him, and following them from behind was Princess Linglong. The crowd of sky-prides immediately rose to greet and welcome them upon seeing this. Most of their gazes, however, fell behind the Royal Azure Dynasty King and onto Princess Linglong instead.

Princess Linglong was wearing a splendidly beautiful dress that day. With her hair rolled and held up with a nine-feathered phoenix hairpin, it made her look ever so stunning and noble as well.

Even Chu Kuangren subconsciously looked at her.

Both of their gazes met for an instant before they immediately separated.

However, in Shang Han's eyes, that scene seemed like an intimate gaze between loving couples, brewing with some sort of affection.

At that point, the hostile intent in his eyes became even stronger.

"At ease everyone, please sit."

The Royal Azure Dynasty King smiled calmly.

Once everyone had sat down, the Royal Azure Dynasty King spared no time for nonsense. "I know that everyone is very displeased by the cancellation of the marriage by combat event. That is why I've organized this banquet for everyone today to give an explanation and also some compensation."

“After the banquet, every orthodoxy here is allowed to send forth a representative to pick any one item they desire from the royal treasury.”

The Royal Azure Treasury was the very foundation of the Royal Azure Dynasty, and within it laid countless valuables and treasures. Letting them inside the treasury to pick any one item was truly a display of sincerity from the Royal Azure Dynasty King.

By then, most of the dissatisfaction within the crowd had disappeared.

After all, the organizers had decided to cancel the marriage by combat, so what else could they do? Force them to reorganize it?

Being able to get their hands on any treasure without doing anything was already splendid news to them.

Although the items within the royal treasury would not be as worthy as the Godly Essence, they were not sure they could stand out and win if the marriage by combat were to continue.

However, the valuables were real and could surely be obtained.

“If I’m allowed to ask, can Your Majesty explain why the marriage by combat event was canceled so abruptly?” Fangtian was still curious.

“This is what I’m about to explain. This marriage by combat event was canceled because Princess Linglong already has someone in her heart. Coincidentally, that person is sitting among all of you today.” The Royal Azure Dynasty King chuckled.

The moment those words came out, everyone in the crowd looked at each other confusingly.

“Who is it? Which b*st*rd here stole the Princess’s heart?”

“Don’t tell me it’s Chu Kuangren. Thinking back then, the Princess did look at him with starry-eyes for a few times.”

“It can’t be right. Isn’t Chu Kuangren not interested in Princess Linglong? He had never bothered to join the marriage by combat event before.”

“Then who could it be?”

Some of them were staring at Princess Linglong, intending to spot any clues from her. However, they noticed that her gaze was locked in a certain direction across the hall.

Following her gaze, all they saw was Chu Kuangren.

Fangtian, Yuanhong, and others all felt a sudden halt in their hearts.

‘It can’t be, it can’t be, it can’t be, right? Is it really Chu Kuangren?’

“That man is the Elder Senior Brother of the Black Heaven Sect, Chu Kuangren!” Just when everyone in the crowd was unsure about the person, the Royal Azure Dynasty King announced immediately.

Everyone’s gaze shot towards and focused on Chu Kuangren.

“Besides, I have already made arrangements with Black Heaven Sect. From this day onwards, Chu Kuangren shall be the Fiancé of the Royal Azure Dynasty’s Eldest Princess.”

Without waiting for the crowd to recover from their daze, the Royal Azure Dynasty King dropped another bombshell onto them which shocked them silly.

Fangtian, Yuanhong, and the others looked at Chu Kuangren with bloodshot eyes.

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‘Go f*ck yourself!’

‘Didn’t you say you were uninterested in the Princess?’

‘Now why the h*ll are you the Fiancé of the Royal Azure Dynasty’s Eldest Princess?’

‘As if letting you completely ransack the Secret Realm was not enough, now you even upped and took Princess Linglong for yourself as well! Can’t you leave us a good reward?’

Everyone lost it at that moment.

They cursed Chu Kuangren in their hearts with every word in the book.

However, what use could that do?

Most of the treasures in the Luminous Moon Secret Realm were already taken by Chu Kuangren, yet now, he was the Fiancé of the Royal Azure Dynasty's Eldest Princess too. Possessing both wealth and women, what a great winner he was!

"Father, I object to this!"

Then, Gu Changge leaped out with his objection.

Giving Chu Kuangren the Godly Essence and declaring him the Fiancé of the Royal Azure Dynasty's Eldest Princess, what kind of joke was this! He would be enraged if that were the case!

"Silence!"

The Royal Azure Dynasty King yelled with a chilling gaze, "You are a Crown Prince of the Royal Azure Dynasty. You're now in a place before the public, so act like one!"

He was the one who planned the marriage arrangement with the Black Heaven Sect. How could he willingly cancel it just because of a few words from Gu Changge?

“Father, Chu Kuangren is an arrogant and mad person. He is not suitable as the Fiancé of the Royal Azure Dynasty’s Eldest Princess!”

“He is suitable because I myself deem him so. As to being arrogant and mad, who was not crazy during their younger years? And what’s so wrong about it then?”

“Father...”

“My dear Prince, are you drunk perhaps?”

Just when Gu Changge was about to say something, the Royal Azure Dynasty King glared at him as he spoke those words. That very indifferent look was a sign that his father’s anger was about to erupt.

Gu Changge shuddered. Although he felt very unsatisfied and reluctant, he did not dare to further go against his father. Hence, he had no choice but to bow and sit back down.

Chapter 74: Shang Han’s Challenge, No Difference At All, Shattered Hopes

The Royal Azure King had publicly announced Chu Kuangren as the Fiancé of the Royal Azure Dynasty’s Eldest Princess!

That news alone was like a tossed stone that stirred up thousands of ripples as all the sky-prides present had a complicated feeling within them. At that same time, they also thought about how the alliance between the Royal Azure Dynasty and Black Heaven Sect would impact the former's power.

However, no matter what, the fact that Chu Kuangren was now the Fiancé of the Royal Azure Dynasty's Eldest Princess had been established.

The crowd of people in the banquet could only stare at him with looks of jealousy and contempt.

'Possessing a Supreme Daoist Physique, having peerless talents, and coming from a Black Heaven Sect sage orthodoxy with various cultivation resources available at demand, and now Chu Kuangren has become the Fiancé of the Royal Azure Dynasty's Eldest Princess; even Princess Linglong who has unparalleled beauty is now...'

'Oh right, there's also Lan Yu who was even more devoted to him as well.'

'Powerful techniques, beautiful women, properties of wealth, and pieces of land. All of these are things that cultivators should not yearn to possess!'

'Yet Chu Kuangren alone possesses all of them!'

'How can anyone not feel jealous of him? How can anyone not despise him for what he has?'

Chu Kuangren sat in his place and paid no heed to the dozens of gazes that were as sharp as knives. 'What's the matter, scared to make a move?'

“Brother Chu, you are indeed full of surprises.” Sitting beside him, Li Xingchen hurriedly leaned towards him with an impressed expression.

‘Take a look at this guy. Saying all those things about not having any interests, but he still went and took Princess Linglong for himself without anyone knowing.’

‘That’s f*cking awesome!’

“With Princess Linglong’s noble position and Royal Azure Dynasty behind your back, Brother Chu, you have obtained a huge benefit for yourself,” Li Xingchen said.

“I for one think that being able to be the Master’s Fiancée is a culmination of the karmic blessing that Princess Linglong has cultivated for eight lifetimes,” Lan Yu who was beside them said with a somewhat bitter tone.

Li Xingchen then thought for a while. “Yeah, it does make some sense.”

Chu Kuangren had the heavenly looks of a fairy, vast amounts of talent, and also a high ranking status in the world of cultivation. Compared to Princess Linglong, he would appear better if not similar.

If Princess Linglong was said to be the best among the young female cultivators, then Chu Kuangren would be the most unique and peerless one among the male cultivators.

The more Li Xingchen thought, the more he felt that it made sense. He further lamented, “Wait until the news of this spreads, who knows how many female cultivator’s hearts will be broken then.”

“You must be joking. That’s too ridiculous!”

Chu Kuangren laughed.

“The Royal Azure Dynasty is one of the best Sage Orthodoxies in the world, so its Elder Princess’s Fiancé should naturally be one of the best talents in this world too.”

At that point, the voice suddenly rang out.

It was Shang Han, the Shang Clan’s Young Emperor.

Everyone looked towards him as he continued speaking, “Word says that our fellow Daoist Chu has peerless and remarkable talents. My name is Shang Han, please allow my bold request to learn from you by combat.”

Fangtian, Yuanhong, and the others looked at each other confusingly.

‘What?’

Did they hear that right?

‘This guy wants to challenge Chu Kuangren?’

'Who the h*ll is he kidding. Does he want to die so quickly?'

Although they had an unpleasant opinion of Chu Kuangren, they still had to admit and acknowledge his depressingly overpowering strength.

They were not even a match for Chu Kuangren despite having banded together to fight him, yet this guy here dared to challenge him alone? Did something break in his head?

"Sigh, he's seeking a shameful disgrace!" Fangtian said as he shook his head.

"We might have had such an idea of challenging Chu Kuangren alone in the past, but now... Sigh, the very thought of bringing it up pains me to tears."

Lin Batian of the Zhiyang Valley could not help but sigh in despair.

"Wait a minute, Shang Han..."

One of the sky-prides suddenly reacted, feeling that the name was quite familiar to him.

Yuanhong's pupils immediately shrank. "Shang... Can it be the ancient clan of the Scarlet Phoenix Domain, the Shang Clan! That means Shang Han is the Shang Clan's Young Emperor!"

When the words 'Young Emperor' came out, everyone in the crowd gasped.

They had never thought that they would meet a Young Emperor here.

“The Shang Clan is one of the Sage Orthodoxies in the Scarlet Phoenix Domain. Their power is quite similar to the Royal Azure Dynasty, if not weaker. So that’s him huh, the Young Emperor Shang Han.”

“No wonder he dares to challenge Chu Kuangren.”

/strong>

“I’ve heard the rumors say that he might be stronger than Lei Ao.”

Multiple discussions started to build up among the crowd in the banquet, with everyone looking at Young Emperor Shang Han with gazes of admiration and curiosity.

Meanwhile, Chu Kuangren, the challenged party, sat quietly in his place and chuckled. “Fellow Daoist Shang, are you sure you want to challenge me?”

Shang Han raised his eyebrows in surprise. “What’s the problem? Can’t do it?”

“Nope, it’s not that. But I have a little problem and that is I can’t really hold back my punches that well. A few days ago, I accidentally killed a Young Emperor because of that, so I’m worried that you won’t be able to handle my attacks for long.”

Everyone’s mouth could not help but twitch when they heard his words.

'Accidentally killed a Young Emperor?'

'Lei Ao will rise from the dead out of pure spite and anger if he heard that.'

Everyone naturally understood the hidden meaning behind Chu Kuangren's words, which implied that he was not taking this Shang Clan's Young Emperor seriously at all.

To put it simply, his words meant, 'I have accidentally killed someone else on the same Young Emperor level as you, so how long do you think you can withstand my attacks?'

Shang Han's expression was so cold, it was as if there was a layer of frost on his face. He then said, "Chu Kuangren, your name isn't misgiven indeed."

"I agree that it's not a bad one. It was given to me by my parents."

"Kuangren, since the Shang Clan's Young Emperor has traveled far and is interested in fighting you, why don't you agree and keep him company? Either way is fine with me," the Royal Azure Dynasty King suddenly said.

Chu Kuangren nodded. "Since Your Majesty has spoken, then I shall not back down. It's not convenient for us here, let's head outside for our match."

Without another word, Shang Han stood up and headed outside the palace hall.

...

Outside the royal palace.

Shang Han stood still as the wind blew against him. His green robes could be heard fluttering in the wind as Daoist Rhymes swirled around his body. His terribly potent and domineering aura was so strong that it almost choked the nearby onlookers.

“Such tremendous power! It’s even stronger than Lei Ao’s!”

“Perhaps he can take down and wipe away Chu Kuangren’s arrogant spirit...”

Fangtian, Yuanhong, and the others looked towards Shang Han with a ray of hope glimmering in their eyes.

They were defeated by Chu Kuangren too harshly, hence all of them desperately hoped that someone could step out and take down Chu Kuangren now.

“I know you’re strong since you killed Lei Ao. But you should not compare me with someone like him!” Shang Han said indifferently.

Opposite him, Chu Kuangren merely replied, “It makes no difference.”

Since Shang Han did not hesitate to show him hostility, then naturally, he need not do the same as well. Chu Kuangren's attitude of contempt towards him was clear.

"The difference is great!" Shang Han snorted coldly as rays of light started to gather and swirl around his hand. Then, a dark long spear with runes engraving appeared.

A cold bitter surge of Daoist Rhyme immediately burst forth!

"Take this attack of mine, Soaring Waterfall Technique!" The spear in Shang Han's grasp shook and out came a spear beam that blasted forward like a raging waterfall that rumbled the surrounding void.

Chu Kuangren held his Self Descendant Sword and swung it lightly. An incredibly dominating purple sword ray instantly shot through the night sky and shattered the spear beam immediately.

Then, the horribly terrifying sword beam instantly and forcefully pushed Shang Han dozens of feet back. His gaze became stern as he leaped high into the air, and when the spiritual power in his body had reached its peak limit, the turbulent Daoist Rhyme behind him formed into a fierce and strong wind.

"Sage Technique, Nine-Day Storm Terror!"

That attack was an extremely terrifying one.

As the endless gusts of wind gathered on Shang Han's body, he then landed a single strike with his spear, releasing a pressure that could engulf the entire world!

Fangtian, Yuanhong, Gu Changge, and the others looked up with faces full of hope. 'He can win. This attack has a chance to take Chu Kuangren down!'

"Heaven-Slaying Sword Drawing Technique." A soft roar was heard. After that, a glistening purple sword ray rose from the ground like a dragon flying out of a mountain range. Within an instant, the strong winds and storms in the skies were ruptured by the sword ray before it landed on Shang Han's body.

With a 'clang' sound, the spear fell off his grasps and plunged into the ground.

At the same time, Shang Han was flung out of the sky like a piece of falling rag.

"I told you earlier, there's no difference." Chu Kuangren stood unmoved from his place. Up until that point, he had not moved a single step at all.

The hopes that Fangtian, Yuanhong, and the others had shattered.

"Another Young Emperor falls again," Fangtian said bitterly.

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What were they hoping for?

They were hoping for someone to appear and defeat Chu Kuangren...

However, how could such a thing ever happen?

Chapter 75: Chatting With the Princess, The Female Cultivators' Sorrow, What Plans Do You Have Next

“Being able to withstand two of my attacks, you truly are a great Young Emperor!” Chu Kuangren grinned as he looked towards the injured Shang Han on the floor.

Fangtian and the others' mouths twitched when they heard those words from afar

‘A Young Emperor can only take two blows?’

‘And you still call him a great Young Emperor? Can't you be any more obvious with those insulting remarks?’

‘Isn't he only hostile towards you?’

‘Is there a need to humiliate him like this though?’

Everyone muttered within their hearts as they dared not speak out openly.

Princess Linglong, who was beside the Royal Azure Dynasty King, looked at the dazzling white-robed Chu Kuangren with sparkles in her eyes.

That was the man she would marry in the future and he truly was a peerless talent indeed!

‘Which lady has never thought of being in love?’

‘Which lady has never wished or hoped that the person she chooses will be a strong and powerful hero?’

Although that marriage arrangement was based on a transaction of benefits, yet at that moment, sparks of affection started to grow within Princess Linglong’s heart.

‘In terms of talents and looks, my heavenly Chu Kuangren has it all’

‘He’s the most unique in this world!’

Whoosh...

An elderly man flew to Shang Han’s side. Picking up the Young Emperor in his arms, the elderly man asked, “Young Emperor, are you alright?”

Looking at the embarrassing mess Shang Han was in, the elderly man’s heart was filled with shock.

One should know that Shang Han himself was a Young Emperor!

He was one of the most top-notched sky-prides on the Firmament Star. However, why would he end up in such a disgraceful manner before Chu Kuangren?

‘That’s impossible!’

The elderly man was confused and puzzled.

Even Shang Han himself could not understand why as well. All these years, he had been a near-invincible person among his peers, so this was his first time experiencing the taste of defeat.

Anger, dissatisfaction, shame, shock...

Various emotions riled up within his heart as he stared at Chu Kuangren as if he wanted to burn his opponent’s face into his mind forever.

“Just you wait, I shall return for your head next time!” Shang Han spoke ruthlessly and left the palace with the elderly man.

The battle today had shattered all the pride he once had.

However, he had also found a new goal because of that.

‘I shall surpass Chu Kuangren!’

“His Daoist core is quite strong, unlike a certain crown prince I know of,” Chu Kuangren casually said, with no intentions to kill off his opponent.

Previously in the secret realm, it was Lei Ao who wanted to kill him first, whereas this time, it was just a simple sparring match. If he dealt a ruthless killing blow to Shang Han, the Shang Clan might not let him go that easily, unlike the Thunder Falcon Tribe. If an orthodoxy great war happened because of this, it would only bring harm to both sides.

He did not deny that he was indeed a mad person sometimes.

Even so, a mad person like him had a wide perspective and could see the bigger picture beyond what was happening.

Not far away, Gu Changge was raging with fury when he heard Chu Kuangren’s words. That ‘certain crown prince’ was definitely a reference to him.

The banquet carried on after Shang Han’s departure.

Once it ended, each of the sky-prides then represented their respective orthodoxies and went into the royal treasury to choose their treasure.

...

Inside the gardens behind the royal palace.

The surrounding area was silent as only Chu Kuangren, Lan Yu, and Princess Linglong were there. None of them spoke while they took a quiet stroll through the gardens.

“Father has said that the wedding date will be up to us to decide. Since the fact that you are now the Fiancé of the Royal Azure Dynasty’s Eldest Princess can’t be changed anymore.”

Princess Linglong was the first to speak up.

“Yeah. So what’s your view about this?” Chu Kuangren asked.

“We have only known each other for a few days. Whatever happened in the secret realm was done because we had no choice. However, I have to admit that I have some feelings for you, but it’s only a little. I’m still not sure as to whether I’ve fallen for you or not.”

Princess Linglong spoke earnestly.

“It’s the same for me as well. Although our marriage agreement is a transaction, both of us are soon to be husband and wife. I will fulfill my responsibilities as best as I can.”

“Alright, so let’s put the wedding date aside for now, do you have any plans for the future?” Princess Linglong asked.

“The reason I came down from the mountains was that I wanted to gain more experience and further train myself. Besides, I want to see the world as well.”

The Firmament Star was a large world with a total of four domains. Chu Kuangren had not even finished exploring the Azure Dragon Domain, yet he already had plans to visit others.

“It’s to be expected. You are a dragon amongst men after all. There’s no way the Royal Azure Dynasty’s tiny piece of land can keep your interests for long.” Princess Linglong was not surprised.

After chatting for a while longer, both of them started to open up to each other and it pulled their relationship closer.

The next day.

Chu Kuangren and Lan Yu left the royal palace.

Meanwhile, news of him becoming the Fiancé of the Royal Azure Dynasty’s Eldest Princess had spread throughout the Capital City. Even the whole Azure Dragon Domain was shaken by the news.

“Wh... Wh... What the d*mn hell? You’re telling me that Chu Kuangren is now the Fiancé of the Royal Azure Dynasty’s Eldest Princess, while the Royal Azure Dynasty and the Black Heaven Sect have now allied?”

“It seems that these two great sage orthodoxies intend to become Chu Kuangren’s protector on his path of cultivation. By the gods, this is unprecedented news indeed.”

“The rise of Chu Kuangren’s fame and power cannot be stopped by anyone!”

“The hell, Chu Kuangren himself already has a supreme heavenly form, and if someone like him gets the Godly Essence, how hopeless will everyone be?”

“There’s only Chu Kuangren in this era and if he wishes to become Emperor in the future, there’ll be no hope for anyone else.”

While some people were shocked by the rapid rise of Chu Kuangren, others felt anxious and intimidated by the alliance between the two great sage orthodoxies.

However, some were also saddened and enraged by the news.

Such as the female cultivators from the Black Heaven Sect for instance.

“Fiancé of the Royal Azure Dynasty’s Eldest Princess? Sobs, my Elder Senior Brother!”

“My god, how many lifetimes did Princess Linglong have to spend to gather such prosperous merits. I can’t believe she can tie the knot with our Elder Senior Brother. I don’t want to accept this!”

“I don’t care, our Elder Senior Brother belongs to everyone.”

“Elder Senior Brother, I shall give you my blessings.”

“Don’t be sad my fellow sisters. Although our Elder Senior Brother will marry Princess Linglong, he will forever be our Elder Senior Brother.”

“That’s right, I still like our Elder Senior Brother. Even if he marries someone else, as long as I can secretly admire him from afar, then it’s enough for me.”

The news of Chu Kuangren’s marriage saddened the female cultivators of the Black Heaven Sect for a few days. Rumors said that even Elder Ruyan was in a sad mood.

Reportedly, someone spotted Elder Ruyan standing on a cliff overlooking the Royal Azure Dynasty with a sad expression, mumbling things like ‘It’s nice to be Princess Linglong’ or ‘My beloved didn’t appear when I’m young, but only appears when I’m old’.

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...

At that time, Chu Kuangren had already left the Royal Azure Dynasty’s Capital City.

With a fairy boat that he had procured from the Royal Azure Dynasty, he randomly chose a direction and traveled toward it. Even though he was traveling aimlessly, it was quite relaxed too.

Only Chu Kuangren and Lan Yu were on the fairy boat. As for Li Xingchen, he had been ordered back to White Cloud City by his father Li Ye.

In the Era of great battles, every sky-pride would put in the effort to improve themselves. Since Li Xingchen was naturally talented, Li Ye would never allow him to simply wander around like that.

“So, my two fellow seniors, any ideas where I can go to gain more experiences?” Atop the fairy boat, Chu Kuangren spoke as he turned to face the void behind him.

He was speaking of those two. Besides the Seventh Forefather who had been secretly protecting him from the void, the Royal Azure Dynasty had also assigned a protector of their own as a sincere gesture to the alliance.

“The Firmament Star is a large world. With us watching your backs, you’re free to travel anywhere except the Ten Great Forbidden Areas,” the Seventh Forefather said casually.

The Ten Great Forbidden Areas he mentioned were the ten most dangerous places in the Firmament Star. It was rumored that even a sage might not come out alive once they went into a place like that.

Although extremely curious, Chu Kuangren was not in a hurry to die just yet.

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“It is said that you killed a sage and saved everyone in the Luminous Moon Secret Realm. Maybe you can take this opportunity to visit the other orthodoxies then.” The voice of an old lady rang through the void. She was the protector sent forth by the Royal Azure Dynasty.

Chu Kuangren’s eyes lit up upon hearing her words.

Besides the Black Heaven Sect and Royal Azure Dynasty, there were still six other sage orthodoxies in the Azure Dragon Domain. Namely, they were the School of White Lotus, Five Ways Sect, Zhiyang Valley, Dharmas Sect, Sacred Lands of Serene Wisdom, and Thunder Temple. Each of which had its own respective mysterious techniques and knowledge.

Although his understanding of the Dao was extremely high, his understanding and knowledge about the art of techniques was still limited and was far worse than what he knew about the Dao. Perhaps he could take this chance to visit each of the sage orthodoxies to learn about their techniques and specialty.

“Alright, let’s go visit all these sage orthodoxies one by one. I hope they don’t treat me with too less of a welcome.”

Chu Kuangren smiled.

Chapter 76: A Visit To The School of White Lotus, A Spar With The Maiden Sage

The School of White Lotus was located within the southern countries of the Azure Dragon Domain, occupying more than thirty nations of various sizes. Differing from other sage orthodoxies, territories under the School of White Lotus were often heavily influenced by religious elements.

Most of the inhabitants in the southern countries were devoted followers of the School of White Lotus, and it all began from a horrible turmoil that happened twenty thousand years ago.

Legend had it that twenty thousand years ago, a demon had ascended from hell and caused widespread terrors in the southern countries. Countless lives were lost and many others lost their homes.

It was a dark era that caused much blood and tears. Until this day, the event was still recorded in the history books of these southern countries.

Then, out of nowhere, a Sage Ruler appeared and immediately sealed the demon under the Earth, saving countless lives from demise.

The Sage Ruler was none other than the founder of the School of White Lotus, the White Lotus Sage Ruler!

Although it had been centuries since the passing of the White Lotus Sage Ruler, his tales still resonated amongst the people in the southern countries. Many still worshipped him as a deity and held him close to their spiritual hearts.

The School of White Lotus was also delighted at such an occurrence, so they did not hesitate to use it to leverage their influence.

...

Full Moon Kingdom, the largest of all southern countries.

It was where the headquarters of the School of White Lotus was at.

Chu Kuangren was strolling along the streets of Full Moon Kingdom where the majority of the kingdom's residents dressed in all white. Very few dressed in other manners.

Rumors had it that the White Lotus Sage Ruler was fond of the color white and loved to dress in that color. Since religion was the core of Full Moon Kingdom, it was no surprise that their residents had chosen to preserve this tradition.

“Lan Yu, do you think it’s unpleasant for me to visit this place empty-handed?” Chu Kuangren stroked his chin and asked.

It had been two days since the duo arrived. Chu Kuangren was taking his sweet time immersing himself in the local kingdom’s cultures instead of making his visit to the School of White Lotus his priority.

However, now that he had enough fun, it was time for business.

“Why don’t we buy some fruits?” Chu Kuangren stopped at a fruit stall and nonchalantly bought its entire stocks.

“Thank you, Master! Thank you!”

The shopkeeper expressed his gratitude when he received his soulstones.

“I still don’t think it’s enough,” Chu Kuangren murmured.

The other shopkeepers who had been staring in envy immediately rushed forward and recommended their own fruits enthusiastically.

“Master, these apples are not only huge and juicy, but their vibrant colors make them suitable props for joyous occasions. I also have grapes, pears, and...”

“Master, my banana trees are watered using spiritual marrows. Look at them, do you think a typical banana would be this firm and straight?”

“Look over here, Master...”

Circled by a group of shopkeepers, Chu Kuangren let out a faint smile. Then, like a rich tycoon, he took out a large pile of soulstones and bought every single fruit from them.

The Daoist Protectors, who were keeping watch from the shadows, were stunned at the sight.

Was he bringing fruits to visit a sage orthodoxy?

It was their first time witnessing such a gesture.

The headquarters of the School of White Lotus.

Inside a Grand Pagoda, a few elders were inspecting offerings that had been sent from all over the world.

At that moment, a disciple walked in and announced, “Elder Hui, there’s a cultivator called Chu Kuangren who’s here to visit.”

“Who?” An elder was surprised.

“Chu Kuangren.”

In the School of White Lotus, many disciples had congregated together.

They were staring curiously at Chu Kuangren, who had just arrived at the gate during that time. Some of the female disciples could not even move their eyes away from him.

Some were even at the point of salivating.

“He’s Chu Kuangren, the most popular supreme sky-pride in the entire Firmament Star. I heard that even the Young Emperor couldn’t be his match.”

“He’s too handsome.”

“Princess Linglong is so lucky she could marry a person of his level. If it was me, I would probably wake up every morning with a smile on my face.”

“Indeed.”

“Look, he’s staring this way. So handsome...”

Chu Kuangren was standing near the gate, waiting for someone to welcome him in.

Soon, an elder with a white beard and white hair came forward. Chu Kuangren recognized the person as he was one of the Honorables who was present at the Secret Realm.

“Buddy Chu, you’ve come to visit. It must be quite a distance for you.” The elder smiled as he approached Chu Kuangren. However, deep down, he was secretly cursing at his guest. ‘Why is this little b*stard suddenly at the School of White Lotus? What’s his plan now?’

“Greetings, sir. I’ve come to accept your invitation to pay the School of White Lotus a visit. At the same time, perhaps we can even spar and learn from each other.”

Chu Kuangren greeted the elder with a lighthearted smile.

“Accept my invitation?”

The elder was confused. Since when did he extend an invitation to Chu Kuangren?

“Exactly. You said at the Secret Realm that you would welcome me to visit the School of White Lotus at any time. Do you still remember?”

“Of Course, of course.”

The elder could finally recall.

When Chu Kuangren killed the Black Light Sage in the Secret Realm, thus saving the various sage orthodoxies, the Honorables had thanked him excessively.

Many had indicated that their doors would always be opened for Chu Kuangren to visit.

However, those are merely polite words and nothing more.

No one had actually thought that Chu Kuangren would visit within a few days' time.

What else could the elder do?

He could only welcome him now. After all, if word spread that he had closed his doors to Chu Kuangren, the entire of the Royal Azure Dynasty and the Black Heaven Sect would be after him.

"Buddy Chu, please come in."

The elder welcomed Chu Kuangren into the School of White Lotus.

"Oh, I've bought some gifts on the way here," Chu Kuangren said. Then, he took out several crates of fruits from his Yin and Yang ring. One after another, they appeared before the eyes of the crowds.

The elder simpered for a moment.

Chu Kuangren had actually bought crates of fruits as gifts for his visit to a sage orthodoxy.

It was a courtesy that was completely unheard of in a cultivator's world.

"Chu Kuangren, you're too generous."

The elder then ordered a few disciples to bring the fruits in.

"Chu Kuangren!" At that moment, a scream could be heard from far. At first glance, it was from a youngster whose face had changed drastically upon the sight of Chu Kuangren.

Chu Kuangren looked over and recognized him as the White Lotus Bachelor Sage whose arm he chopped off. He smiled and said, "Hey, it's you, I hope you're doing well. Congratulations, I see that your arm has been rejoined to your body now."

In this world, there was always the possibility of rejoining a broken limb and even bringing someone back from the dead. With the resources that the School of White Lotus had, rejoining the White Lotus Bachelor Sage's arm was not a difficult task. All it needed was a little time for him to readjust.

The White Lotus Bachelor Sage's face went pale upon hearing Chu Kuangren's remarks. He subconsciously felt a tingling pain on the spot where his arm was reconnected as Chu Kuangren's slash had left a traumatic impression on him.

“What a surprising moment to hear that you’re paying us a visit, Brother Chu.”

The White Lotus Maiden Sage had made an appearance too.

“Greetings, Maiden Sage.”

“I’ve heard that you and Princess Linglong are getting wedded. In times like these, how do you have time to pay the School of White Lotus a visit instead of staying in the palace?”

“Well, all good men have ambitions. How could I confine myself to that comfortable sanctuary all the time?” Chu Kuangren answered nonchalantly.

“Brother Chu, you always do have great ambitions. Since you’re here, how about we spar with each other?”

“I have the same intention too.” Chu Kuangren nodded.

The reason for his visit was to experience the School of White Lotus’s cultivation techniques. Since the White Lotus Maiden Sage was the most impressive sky-pride amongst the youngest disciple, she was the perfect partner for Chu Kuangren to spar with.

Soon, news of Chu Kuangren sparring with the White Lotus Maiden Sage spread throughout the School of White Lotus, shocking many disciples.

Under a pavilion within the School of White Lotus.

Chu Kuangren and the White Lotus Maiden Sage sat facing each other with their knees folded.

“Maiden Sage, my honor.”

“Then I shall make the first move.”

Then, potent surges of Daoist Rhymes came gushing out of the White Lotus Maiden Sage’s body as it charged towards Chu Kuangren.

It was the purest channeling of Daoist Rhymes, with not a single pinch of spiritual powers mixed within. While tactical, these Daoist Rhymes did not pack the power to inflict fatal injuries.

Chapter 77: Defeating Countless Techniques With A Single Sword, The Legendary Trait Meditational Clarity

In the pavilion within the School of White Lotus.

The White Lotus Maiden Sage sat with her knees folded while sparring with Chu Kuangren in complete silence, as her Daoist Rhymes thickened the atmosphere around her. Gradually, a string of Daoist Rhymes began to manifest around Chu Kuangren’s body as well.

As usual, his Daoist Rhymes were unprecedentedly sharp and powerful.

It resembled the glory of a divine sword!

The two different strings of Daoist Rhymes intersected midair and collided directly into each other.

“There are three popular techniques that the School of White Lotus practice. These are the Supreme White Lotus Chant, the Light of Purification, and the White Rainbow Charge!”

“Brother Chu, it is much obliged that you first witness my White Rainbow Charge.”

The White Lotus Maiden Sage said calmly.

Then, the Maiden Sage’s Daoist Rhymes began to spin wildly in the air. All of a sudden, it morphed into the shape of a figure that abruptly attacked Chu Kuangren with both its palms.

The crowd was astounded at the sight of that phenomenon.

“How deserving of her to be the Maiden Sage, to have mastered the White Rainbow Charge technique at such a level. I’m not surprised if her skills could even rival some of the elders.”

“Indeed, it’s very admirable.”

“I too would love to sit and spar with the Maiden Sage.”

“You’re fantasizing too much now.”

Everyone was focusing intently on what was unfolding in the pavilion.

At that moment, Chu Kuangren’s Daoist Rhymes began to condense and form into a Sword of the Heaven before it ejected a stream of sword rays.

Like a rainbow, the sword rays curved over and instantly tore the White Rainbow Charge apart.

“What an impressive sword Dao.”

Deep down, the White Lotus Maiden Sage was shocked but one after another, she unleashed the various techniques of the School of White Lotus. For a moment, the air was painted in a wide array of colors, creating a glamorous sight for all to witness.

However, no matter which technique the White Lotus Maiden Sage resorted to, her technique was immediately broken by a single stream of sword rays from Chu Kuangren’s Sword of the Heaven!

“How strong! Chu Kuangren really lives up to his name.”

“Am I witnessing the glamour of a supreme sky-pride?”

“How deep is his understanding of sword Dao? This is terrifying.”

Chu Kuangren had defeated countless techniques with a single sword!

His style had rendered everyone beyond speechless!

“Light of Purification!” When the White Lotus Maiden Sage realized that she had not been able to breach Chu Kuangren’s defense for a while now, she resorted to another signature technique of the School of White Lotus.

Streams of white lights exploded gloriously like it was cleansing the world from all its pollutants and contaminants as it headed towards Chu Kuangren.

“Heaven-Slaying Sword Drawing Technique!” Chu Kuangren let out a soft roar.

The Sword of the Heaven jerked abruptly before a wave of purple sword rays poured out like a tsunami and penetrated the white light, completely disintegrating the Daoist Rhymes that were contained within.

As the White Lotus Maiden Sage’s Daoist Rhymes began to disperse, she took a deep breath and said gently, “Looks like I’ve lost this sparring match.”

Neither her techniques nor skills were a match against Chu Kuangren’s.

“The Maiden Sage has lost?”

“Sigh, what to do? After all, it’s Chu Kuangren she’s fighting against!”

“He’s too impressive.”

...

A few figures could be seen peeping at the pavilion throughout the fight.

They were the elders of the School of White Lotus. Since the beginning of the match, these elders had been keeping a close eye on what was happening and they were not surprised at all that the White Lotus Maiden Sage was defeated.

The elders understood just how strong Chu Kuangren was.

If he was capable of defeating a Young Emperor, what more the White Lotus Maiden Sage?

“Although this youngster has relied on that single sword to defeat all her techniques, what’s impressive is that his skills are still in a rudimentary stage. Once this skill has developed to its fullest, I cannot imagine how terrifying his powers will become!”

“Chu Kuangren, what a remarkable individual.”

The few elders of the School of White Lotus were exchanging their thoughts through telepathy. They were all in awe of Chu Kuangren's display of skill sets.

Meanwhile, in the pavilion, Chu Kuangren had also recollected his Daoist Rhymes. He had gained a new set of knowledge about the School of White Lotus's techniques from this sparring session.

"The whole purpose of a spar is to learn from one another. If one merely obsesses over the victory, that would be extremely disgraceful," Chu Kuangren said softly.

"Brother Chu, your words make a lot of sense." The White Lotus Maiden Sage gently adjusted her attire.

After that, she proceeded to arrange a guest room for both Chu Kuangren and Lan Yu. The duo had planned to spend a few more days in the School of White Lotus.

The early morning of the next day.

Chu Kuangren woke up and spun the Fantasy Roulette as usual.

He did not harbor much hope that he would earn something useful. After all, he had just recently gotten the Treasure Locating Skill.

"Congratulations, host. You've won a Legendary Trait, Meditational Clarity."

What?

Chu Kuangren doubted his own hearings.

Legendary?

Did he just win another legendary grade item?

“Impossible, that’s impossible, totally impossible.” Chu Kuangren opened the Roulette room and saw a white orb lying within.

There was also a caption beside it... Legendary Trait Meditational Clarity!

Chu Kuangren was astounded.

However, he soon rejoiced in a smile. ‘Wow, this was huge!’

He had just drawn the Treasure Locating Skill a few days ago, and today, he had earned himself a legendary trait. This made Chu Kuangren overwhelmed with a sense of surrealism.

“Acquire Meditational Clarity,” Chu Kuangren murmured.

Then, a gush of peculiar sensation rushed into his mind. Chu Kuangren closed his eyes and indulged in that newfound sensation.

When Chu Kuangren opened his eyes once more, the entire world no longer felt the same.

The world felt much clearer now. It was not that he could now see better, but rather, his understanding and intuition towards the material world were now enhanced.

Meditational Clarity was an intelligence trait that would allow Chu Kuangren to quickly and conveniently learn the various techniques that existed in this world.

Chu Kuangren was already an intelligent person. Yet now that he could leverage on the effect of the Meditational Clarity, it was hard to imagine just how far he could take his limits.

Once the initial excitements faded, Chu Kuangren exited his room and stretched his hands as he bathed himself in the warm sunlight. “Wow, what a beautiful day!”

“Master,” Lan Yu greeted. She had initially come to wake Chu Kuangren up but was weirded out by how different he was behaving this morning instead.

“Cough. Good morning, Lan Yu.”

“Good morning, Master.”

Under the guidance of a servant, the duo then went on to have their breakfasts.

Later on, like a tour guide, the White Lotus Maiden Sage brought Chu Kuangren and Lan Yu around the place. It almost seemed like they were on a fun vacation.

...

The trio arrived at the base of a mountain wall.

The mountain wall's surface was so smooth, it resembled that of a polished mirror. There was even an enormous mural etched onto the wall — it was the picture of a white lotus. Under the warm glow of sunlight, the mural almost seemed as if it was coming alive.

There were also several School of White Lotus's disciples before the mountain wall, who were scratching their heads as they stared intently at the mural.

Chu Kuangren had also noticed the White Lotus Bachelor Sage present amongst the crowd.

"What are they doing here?" Chu Kuangren asked.

"According to a legend, our founding forefather, the White Lotus Sage Ruler had invented the supreme Sage Ruler Technique, the White Lotus Light of Purification before this very mural. These disciples are hoping to achieve the same realization as their forefathers," said the White Lotus Maiden Sage.

"Will an imitation like this work?" Chu Kuangren was surprised. If it was that simple to mimic a Sage Ruler's technique, the world would have been filled with Sage Rulers.

“Brother Chu, there’s something you don’t know. This mountain wall is different from the rest. It contains the remnants of Daoist Rhymes that were left by our forefather. The insights for the School of White Lotus’s three most popular techniques were all discovered at this exact spot. However, the techniques which we had intuited are only a fragment of what it once was — no more than ten percent,” the White Lotus Maiden Sage lamented.

Chu Kuangren nodded. “I see.”

Since Chu Kuangren’s interest was aroused, he walked forward to observe the mountain wall.

Upon noticing his arrival, the crowd soon engaged in discussions.

“It’s Chu Kuangren. What’s he doing here? Is he intending to gain insights into the White Lotus Light of Purification that was left by our forefather?”

“That’s nonsense. He’s not even a part of the School of White Lotus and has never been exposed to the core teachings of our school. It’s impossible for him to gain any insights into the technique.”

“Ever since the passing of our forefather, the White Lotus Light of Purification’s full technique had since been gone too. Many generations of disciples in the School of White Lotus have attempted to gain that insight from this mountain wall, but none have succeeded. It’s unlikely that he’ll be the one who does.”

The White Lotus Bachelor Sage approached Chu Kuangren and said, “How’s it going to be, Brother Chu? Would you like to give it a try and see if you’ll manage to gain any insights into the White Lotus Light of Purification’s full technique?”

Of course, it was not a sincere invitation at all. The Bachelor Sage merely assumed that Chu Kuangren would never succeed and wanted to embarrass him.

Chapter 78: White Lotus Light Of Purification, A Shocking Event For The School of White Lotus

Chu Kuangren had long seen through the White Lotus Bachelor Sage's intention, but he did not decline the invitation.

The insights into a Sage Ruler Technique, the White Lotus Light of Purification were just before Chu Kuangren, waiting for him to unravel the puzzle. Chu Kuangren would never miss out on such an opportunity.

"Let's see." Chu Kuangren smiled faintly as he took a few gentle steps towards the mountain wall. As he stared at the mural on the wall, he could feel his entire spirit immersed within the art.

The White Lotus Bachelor Sage observed Chu Kuangren's posture and let out a condescending sneer. "What a joke. As a generational sky-pride of the School of White Lotus, even I couldn't unravel the insights to the White Lotus Light of Purification despite having spent countless years at it. What makes you think a foreigner like you would succeed?"

The White Lotus Light of Purification could be said to be the source of all cultivation techniques in the School of White Lotus. Even a generational sky-pride would only be able to discover a fragment of the technique's insight after spending years mastering the other techniques that were taught in the School of White Lotus.

However, Chu Kuangren was not a disciple of the School of White Lotus and had never been exposed to their techniques before. So how could it be possible for him to learn the White Lotus Light of Purification then?

“Do you actually think that there’s nothing you can’t do?”

The White Lotus Bachelor Sage mocked.

The rest of the crowd felt that Chu Kuangren was attempting the impossible too. However, that did not stop them from watching as they kept a close eye on Chu Kuangren, waiting for the moment he would embarrass himself.

Yet, they soon noticed that something weird had happened.

As Chu Kuangren focused on the mural, his body soon began to radiate a mythical flow of Daoist Rhymes and a white glow surrounded his body, giving out warmth and purity.

“This Daoist Rhyme... It’s the Light of Purification!” The White Lotus Maiden Sage was visibly shocked. Having practiced hard on the Light of Purification technique, it was easy for her to pick up on the Daoist Rhyme.

However, why did such Daoist Rhyme appear around Chu Kuangren’s body?

What was happening exactly?

The White Lotus Maiden Sage was already clueless, what more the rest.

“Chu Kuangren, what’s happening?” The White Lotus Bachelor Sage asked nervously as he sensed that something unfavorable was about to happen.

Just when he was about to step forward, Lan Yu took a leap forward and blocked his path. “Master is gaining insights into a technique. No one is allowed to disturb him.”

With an intimidating demeanor, Lan Yu’s cold gaze swept across everyone at the scene. Her silver-white armor had long been equipped on her body as she prepared herself for a possible battle.

“No one is allowed to disturb Brother Chu.”

The White Lotus Maiden Sage said.

Her eyes were beaming with excitement. She had previously attempted to gain insights from the mural but yielded no results. Could Chu Kuangren do it?

...

The mural on the mountain wall was no longer an ordinary mural. The petals of the white lotus, its engravings, and roots were now enriched with a mythical flow of Daoist Rhymes. It was warm, pure, and magnificent at the same time.

Gradually, Chu Kuangren ascended into an ethereal state.

In an instant, the material world vanished before Chu Kuangren's perspective, and what was left was a clear vision and understanding of the Daoist Rhymes.

Meditational Clarity!

Chu Kuangren went into the state of Meditational Clarity to swiftly decipher the Daoist Rhymes that were engraved on the mural and the inner workings of a technique soon appeared within Chu Kuangren's mind.

Suddenly, Chu Kuangren could see a middle-aged woman suspending mid-air as she sat with her knees folded. She was smiling faintly as her fingers were folded into the shape of a seal. Around her, white lotuses appeared and each flower contained an enriched stream of Daoist Rhymes.

If Chu Kuangren was right, this person was none other than the White Lotus Sage Ruler.

In the material world.

The Daoist Rhymes that were dancing around Chu Kuangren grew stronger as its radius of effect expanded, comprising half of the entire School of White Lotus' headquarters.

Many warriors within the headquarters were shocked by it.

"Is this the Light of Purification's Daoist Rhymes? No, it feels even more complete and mythical than the Light of Purification. Could it be... Let's take a look."

“So many years have passed. Is it finally the time that a sky-pride has gained full insights into the White Lotus Light of Purification’s complete technique?!”

“Haha, God bless the School of White Lotus.”

Several of the school’s elders rushed to the scene.

Upon noticing Chu Kuangren who was radiating the stream of mythical Daoist rhymes before the mountain wall, they were all shocked.

How could it be him?!

“Maiden Sage, what’s happening?” one of the elders asked.

The White Lotus Maiden Sage then narrated the story from the beginning.

The crowd looked at each other, murmuring. They were all visibly incredulous towards what was unfolding.

Was it all a joke?

Despite having spent countless years trying to gain insights into the technique, the School of White Lotus had yet to succeed. Could a foreigner just swoop in and succeed now?

“If Chu Kuangren is successful, what should we do?” an elder asked worriedly.

“Let’s not rush to a conclusion first. He’s still searching for the insights, who knows it could just be a fragment of the Light of Purification,” another elder replied.

The results between a fragmented technique and a complete technique were totally different. Although it would be shocking if Chu Kuangren had managed to learn the White Lotus Light of Purification’s fragmented technique, it was still considered acceptable.

However, trouble would lie ahead if Chu Kuangren had managed to gain insights into the full technique of the White Lotus Light of Purification!

The White Lotus Light of Purification was the source of all techniques in the School of White Lotus, hence mastering this technique would mean that one could defeat all the remaining techniques of the School of White Lotus with ease.

If such power was to lie in one of their disciple’s hands, it would still be acceptable. However, the consequences would be grave should an enemy acquire that ability!

To put it bluntly, it was an issue that concerned the life and death of the orthodoxy!

The group of elders stared deadly at Chu Kuangren, in hopes that he would only manage to acquire a fragment of that technique. They did not wish to concede control over to Chu Kuangren.

It was a grueling feeling.

Someone amongst the crowd had tried to intercept Chu Kuangren. However, the auras from the two Supreme Honorables, that were hidden amongst the void, were too oppressive that they did not dare follow through with their actions.

Buzz...

Just then, the space surrounding Chu Kuangren began to shake violently before beams of bright, white lights exploded and a garden of white lotuses began to materialize in the air.

The phenomenon spread upwards into the sky and covered the entire firmament!

All the cultivators in the School of White Lotus could see what was happening.

At that moment, everyone felt as if their cultivations were suppressed. Even the Honorable realms cultivators were not spared from that feeling.

The elders swallowed their salivas as shock appeared across their faces.

“It’s the complete technique of the White Lotus Light of Purification!”

“He has really gained full insights into the White Lotus Light of Purification!”

“My God...”

It was a shocking event for the entire School of White Lotus.

Even the citizens who were living near the School of White Lotus were witnessing the peculiar phenomenon.

“Look, it’s the White Lotus Purification!”

“Could it be that the White Lotus Sage Ruler had been reborn?”

“All hail the Sage Ruler! Long live the Sage Ruler!”

Countless believers who worshipped the White Lotus Sage Ruler started to kneel on the ground and rejoice in his name as they cheered with the greatest devotions.

In the School of White Lotus, the cultivators were staring at Chu Kuangren in shock.

The techniques that they had cultivated had all come from the White Lotus Light of Purification. However, now that Chu Kuangren had acquired this technique, the influence of his Daoist Rhymes had quickly created an instinctual response amongst these cultivators to worship him.

“My God, he’s done it.”

“While the School of White Lotus’s sky-prides have failed even after countless years in deciphering the technique, Chu Kuangren has done it all by himself.”

“Not only that, but he’s done it in such a short period of time...”

“This guy’s too horrifying!”

All of the School of White Lotus, from the lowly disciples to the bachelor and maiden sages, and to the respectable elders; they were all dumbfounded.

Meanwhile, Chu Kuangren steadily lifted himself out of the state of Meditational Clarity, and soon, the White Lotus Purification phenomenon around him vanished.

“A Sage Ruler Technique indeed. It’s not much weaker than Avarice techniques, or perhaps in some ways, the Sage Ruler Technique is even stronger. Looks like I’m one step closer to Emperor technique now.”

Chu Kuangren murmured satisfyingly.

It was a huge advantage for him to acquire this Sage Ruler Technique.

“Quick, surround him now.”

One of the elders commanded.

A group of Honorables rushed forward and encircled Chu Kuangren.

Between the empty space, the Seventh Forefather and an old woman appeared out of thin air. They emitted a frightening aura of the Supreme Honorables as they stared coldly at their surroundings.

“What are all of you trying to do?” Seventh Forefather said.

Chapter 79: Becoming A Bachelor Sage, Protection From Three Major Sage Orthodoxies

“What are all of you doing?”

The Seventh Forefather and an old woman with a walking cane were defending Chu Kuangren.

The auras of the Supreme Honorables thickened as they locked eyes with some Honorables at the scene. If any of them dared make a move, they would immediately retaliate.

Some Honorables hesitated to make a move in face of the Supreme Honorables, and with that, they could not do much but stare at Chu Kuangren helplessly.

Not even in their dreams would they have thought that someone would acquire the complete technique for the White Lotus Light of Purification.

However, when that person was not from the School of White Lotus, the elders could no longer just sit and watch. After all, it was related to the survival of an entire sage orthodoxy!

How could they cede so much control to a foreigner?

“Stop right there.” At that moment, the voice of a woman was heard. From the void, a middle-aged woman dressed in white robes stepped out of the immaterial realm.

The Daoist symbols under Chu Kuangren’s eyes began to blink.

“Bai Qing, the leader of the School of White Lotus. Supreme Honorable cultivators...”

His actions had even surprised the leader of the school.

‘Perhaps things have gotten out of control.’

Chu Kuangren thought to himself.

“Greetings, leader.”

The crowd hastily bowed in respect. The White Lotus Leader came before Chu Kuangren and looked him in the eyes, “Brother Chu, can you describe the details of how you’ve come to acquire the White Lotus Light of Purification?”

“I looked at the mural and then I gained these insights.”

Chu Kuangren said faintly.

The crowd immediately grimaced upon hearing Chu Kuangren's reply.

Was he kidding? The School of White Lotus had poured unlimited blood and sweat into this and still failed, yet Chu Kuangren had done the impossible by just looking at the mural?

Was there anything more humiliating than this?

"The mural contained Daoist Rhymes that were left by our foremother and it represented the White Lotus Light of Purification. This technique could only be understood spiritually but not taught orally. Aside from our foremother, no other person has managed to do it until today."

"Brother Chu, your intelligence is impressive! How admirable."

The White Lotus Leader lamented.

Although she was disappointed, she knew that a technique like the White Lotus Light of Purification could never be obtained through brute force.

"Buddy Chu, I have a favor to ask from you and I hope you agree."

The White Lotus Leader said.

“What is it, senior?”

“I would like you to become a School of White Lotus’s Bachelor Sage.”

The entire crowd immediately went into an uproar upon hearing the leader’s request.

“Let Chu Kuangren become the White Lotus Bachelor Sage? How’s this possible!”

“What is our leader thinking?”

The expression on the White Lotus Bachelor Sage’s face changed and he opposed the leader’s suggestion, “Leader, please do not let him be. Chu Kuangren has stolen the Sage Ruler Technique from the School of White Lotus and must be held accountable for it. Why are you letting him become a White Lotus Bachelor Sage?”

He had long disliked Chu Kuangren, so he naturally refused to see him gain any advantages.

However, the White Lotus Leader said, “This mountain wall has been here for the past twenty thousand years. Anyone could come and try to gain its insights, but it’s just a matter of who’s qualified enough to succeed. How could you say that he’s stolen it from us?”

“What more, Buddy Chu is naturally talented and he has learned the White Lotus Light of Purification. I would say that he may even be overqualified to be a White Lotus Bachelor Sage.”

The White Lotus Leader had made her decision, with her mind long set on Chu Kuangren.

The few elders aside were equally puzzled too, but they did not object further.

The White Lotus Light of Purification was too big of a deal to fool around with. If they could not get rid of Chu Kuangren, the alternative was to form a diplomatic relationship with him.

Obviously, the former choice had too big of a price to pay.

Chu Kuangren was the Elder Senior Brother of Black Heaven Sect and the Fiancé of the Royal Azure Dynasty's Eldest Princess. If they chose to kill him, these two sage orthodoxies would surely make them pay.

The latter choice was evidently more preferable.

To make Chu Kuangren... one of their own.

That way, they did not need to worry about Chu Kuangren defeating them using their own White Lotus Light of Purification. Besides, they could even gain another excellent Bachelor Sage in the process.

It was killing two birds with one stone!

The elders could now see the reason behind their leader's decision.

"It's an enticing gesture. However, I'm already the Elder Senior Brother of the Black Heaven Sect, so I'm afraid that I cannot accept your offer."

Chu Kuangren said.

"Looks like you worry about Black Heaven Sect. Rest assured, I'll have a proper discussion with your Honorable Teacher. You should stay here for a few more days. If you have any other requests, please let me know, and I'll try my best to fulfill them," the White Lotus Leader said.

"Well... Alright then." Chu Kuangren nodded.

After all, he did not plan to leave soon as well. Staying a few more days there would do him no harm.

...

Black Heaven Sect.

Honourable Xuan Qi was sitting in front of a stele.

The stele was none other than the Dao stele, and engraved on it was the Heaven-Slaying Sword Drawing Technique which Chu Kuangren had previously invented in the library.

Ever since Chu Kuangren descended into the Earthly Realm, Honourable Xuan Qi had been incessantly studying the sword technique. Although he had yet fully mastered it, Honourable Xuan Qi now had a general grasp of the move.

Every day while he studied the technique, Honourable Xuan Qi would lament about how a destructive Sage Ruler Technique was actually created in the hands of a young disciple.

Each time he thought about it, Honourable Xuan Qi would feel a sense of pride.

After all, Chu Kuangren, who was excellent and talented in every way, was actually his disciple!

Even the Sage Ruler Technique was named by himself.

“Ehh...”

Suddenly, a strange expression was written across Honourable Xuan Qi’s face.

Not far away, he could see a white lotus coming towards him and when it was before him, it immediately bloomed into an elegant lady in a white robe.

“Honourable Xuan Qi, long time no see.”

The lady was none other than the White Lotus Leader.

“Wow, what a rare sight to see the White Lotus Leader here. You’ve come tens of thousands of miles to see me, what is it for?” Honourable Xuan Qi laughed lightly and said.

They were cultivators of the same generation who had interacted frequently when they were younger, so this meeting somewhat resembled a reunion between two old friends.

“It’s about Chu Kuangren,” the White Lotus Leader softly replied.

Honourable Xuan Qi’s face became solemn. “Please elaborate.”

Then, the White Lotus Leader explained her intention to make Chu Kuangren a Bachelor Sage, narrating each detail of how Chu Kuangren had managed to gain insights into the full technique of White Lotus Light of Purification.

When she was finished, even Honourable Xuan Qi was left in awe.

He soon let out a light peal of laughter. “That’s great. He’s indeed my disciple, unique and unprecedented in his own way.”

The White Lotus Leader rolled her eyes. Deep down, she was also envious of Honourable Xuan Qi to have such a marvelous disciple.

If only Chu Kuangren was her disciple to begin with.

“Alright, let’s talk business. Chu Kuangren possesses a very unique talent. Do you think it’s enough if he’s only protected by the Black Heaven Sect and Royal Azure Dynasty? Why not let the School of White Lotus join in as well?”

The White Lotus Leader simply suggested.

“I’ll think about it.”

“What’s there to consider? Only good will come out of such a decision. If Chu Kuangren has the protection from three major sage orthodoxies, no one would dare to touch him at least within Azure Dragon Domain.”

“I’ll have a discussion with the Royal Azure Dynasty.”

Honourable Xuan Qi then reached out to the Royal Azure Dynasty King and they both had a prompt discussion.

At last, the two major sage orthodoxies agreed with the request from the School of White Lotus. With Chu Kuangren in the middle, the three major sage orthodoxies could also form an alliance on some level by finding a common opportunity to grow together.

“I’ll let Kuangren know about this.”

“Great, then I shall make a move first.” Then, the White Lotus Leader vanished on the spot.

With that, Honourable Xuan Qi was left alone in his place. He lamented, “Three major sage orthodoxies offering their protections to a single person... Such an event must’ve never occurred before in history.”

...

In the School of White Lotus, Chu Kuangren received Honourable Xuan Qi’s telepathic message, where he was asked if he was willing to become a White Lotus Bachelor Sage.

“You don’t have to do much. For the moment it’s only a title. You can continue on your journey to train yourself,” Honourable Xuan Qi said.

“Sure.” Chu Kuangren nodded his head, agreeing with the School of White Lotus’s request.

After all, there would be no harm in having an extra title to his name and he could enjoy the protection from three major sage orthodoxies. If even Honourable Xuan Qi had agreed on it, he had no reason to decline.

Just like that, Chu Kuangren was not only the Black Heaven Sect’s Elder Senior Brother and the Fiancé of the Royal Azure Dynasty’s Eldest Princess, but he now had an extra title to his name.

The White Lotus Bachelor Sage!

Chapter 80: Grand Conferral Ceremony, Worshipping Him Like A God

Soon, the elevation of Chu Kuangren's title into a Bachelor Sage became widespread news throughout the School of White Lotus and countless disciples were dumbfounded by it.

After all, prior to this incident, Chu Kuangren was merely a name they had heard before that was frequently associated with negative news.

It was always something about declaring war against the entire world, annihilating the city hall of White Cloud City, or pillaging the Secret Realm. So they had always thought of Chu Kuangren as an absolutely evil person.

Yet now, the evil person was soon becoming their Bachelor Sage?

It was so dramatic.

"Chu Kuangren has become our Bachelor Sage. I don't know what the leader and the rest are thinking. This is a mess."

"You must know that Chu Kuangren has gained insights into the White Lotus Light of Purification. It'll be difficult to not make him a Bachelor Sage."

"Right? This is too surreal for me."

"Throughout generations, our sky-prides have all attempted but failed at acquiring the White Lotus Purification, so how did Chu Kuangren manage to do it like that?"

“Exactly...”

The disciples of the School of White Lotus were discussing passionately.

A group of female cultivators was gathering in a circle, with one of them saying, “Do you think Chu Kuangren will look like a barbarian?”

“I don’t think so. I heard that his features resemble that of an immortal.”

“Those are probably just rumors. Good looking people are just like fairytales nowadays,” another female cultivator said pessimistically.

Then, gasps of excitement could soon be heard amongst the crowd.

“Come look, it’s Chu Kuangren.”

“Indeed, he looks different and unique from the rest.”

Several female cultivators looked over and saw an immortal-resembling Chu Kuangren walk past the crowd with Lan Yu.

“Wow, he looks exactly like what was described in the rumors. Nay, he’s even better looking than that.”

“I agree. He’s so handsome.”

The female cultivator who had previously dissed Chu Kuangren was completely dumbfounded. It was not until Chu Kuangren had left that she finally recovered to her senses.

“I hereby announce that from today onwards, I fully pledge my support for Chu Kuangren to be our Bachelor Sage. Anyone who opposes that decision shall face my wrath!”

“Me too.”

Chu Kuangren was taking Lan Yu along for a tour around the School of White Lotus. Little did he know that he had earned himself a wider fanbase through a simple stroll around the compound.

...

The grand hall of the School of White Lotus.

The White Lotus Leader was smiling with contempt at an elegant white robe before her. She turned to Chu Kuangren and said, “This is the attire for the grand conferral ceremony. Try on and see if you have any comments on it.”

“I’m okay with any arrangements, senior,” Chu Kuangren said with a gentle smile.

After all, he was handsome enough to look good in any attire.

“Alright. Once the grand conferral ceremony is over, I’ll make an announcement to the public. From there onwards, you will have the protection from three major sage orthodoxies.”

The White Lotus Leader smiled plainly, but a hint of disbelief flashed across her eyes.

Three major sage orthodoxies were protecting the same person.

This had never happened before in history.

“Thank you, leader.”

Soon came the grand conferral ceremony of the School of White Lotus.

In the Capital of Full Moon Kingdom laid a huge platform. It was where the grand conferral ceremony was to take place, where Chu Kuangren would be officially made a Bachelor Sage in the presence of countless disciples!

On the large platform, the Ruler of Full Moon Kingdom and the White Lotus Leader each took their seats as countless disciples crowded the streets.

They were all excitedly anticipating the appearance of their new Bachelor Sage.

“I heard that the new Bachelor Sage has gained full insights into the cultivation technique that was left by a Sage Ruler. I don’t know whether it’s true, but I’m excited.”

“Of course it’s true. Two days ago, we all witnessed the white lotuses crowding the sky. There’s no way that the phenomenon was faked.”

“That’s great.”

“I agree. In the past, no one was able to decipher the technique that was left by the Sage Ruler. Fortunately, we now have a successor.”

The crowd was actively discussing the matter.

Due to the incident two days ago where white lotuses were seen crowding the entire firmament, the crowd was especially excited about this grand conferral ceremony.

On the platform, the royally-dressed Ruler of Full Moon Kingdom asked curiously, “Leader, did this Bachelor Sage really learn the technique that was left behind by the Sage Ruler?”

The White Lotus Leader gently nodded.

The Ruler of Full Moon Kingdom was initially shocked but a burst of joyful laughter soon followed. He lamented, “Finally, a successor to the Sage Ruler.”

“Yes, he’s an unprecedentedly excellent young man.”

The White Lotus Leader smiled.

“Here he is, he’s coming!”

Excited screams could be heard amongst the crowd, and soon, a male figure appeared from the end of the street, followed by a female figure.

The male figure was none other than Chu Kuangren. He was dressed in a marvelous white robe with a jade crown on his head, and his feet were in jade white shoes. His demeanor was graceful and resembled that of an immortal.

Meanwhile, Lan Yu followed closely behind him while dressed in her silver-white armor. Her wings were spread out as her hands held onto the Scepter of Light, symbolizing the Divine intent.

At that moment, the entire street fell into pitch silence.

All eyes were on the two of them.

“Play the music!” the White Lotus Leader instructed from the platform.

From the side, two people were seen blowing into a horn before the solemn ceremonial music resonated throughout the firmament.

Chu Kuangren radiated a surge of mythical Daoist Rhyme. With each step that he took, a white lotus bloomed under his footsteps.

With the blossoming of each flower, the street was soon covered entirely in white lotuses!

“It’s the Sage Ruler’s White Lotus Purification!”

“Is he the incarnation of the Sage Ruler?”

“All hail the Bachelor Sage.”

Countless disciples who were spiritual followers of the White Lotus Sage Ruler immediately kowtowed upon witnessing the White Lotus Purification.

At that instance, Chu Kuangren looked like the incarnation of the White Lotus Sage Ruler who had suppressed the hell demon and liberated countless lives out of torment twenty thousand years ago. Hence, they worshipped him like a God!

Behind him, Lan Yu also bore the same emotions as those disciples when she looked at Chu Kuangren.

To her, Chu Kuangren deserved to be at the top. He deserved to be respected and worshipped by billions of people!

The White Lotus Maiden Sage and a few Bachelor Sages watched from afar, but they then looked at each other and let out a bitter laugh.

They did not enjoy the same treatment when they were granted their titles previously.

“Although we are both Bachelor Sages, there’s no doubt that Chu Kuangren outranks us by a mile,” one of the Bachelor Sages said.

“Well, he did acquire the White Lotus White of Purification after all.”

“Maiden Sage, now that Chu Kuangren has risen up the rank and has also learned the White Lotus Light of Purification, are you not afraid that he would pose a threat to you?”

One of the Bachelor Sages asked the Maiden Sage curiously.

The White Lotus Maiden Sage shook her head. “He won’t.”

“Why?”

“The main reason our leader granted him the title of Bachelor Sage is that he had learned the White Lotus Light of Purification technique. However, he’s still the Elder Senior Brother of the Black Heaven Sect, so our leader will not grant him too much power.”

The White Lotus Maiden Sage could read the situation clearly. Although Chu Kuangren was now a Bachelor Sage, he was still different from the School of White Lotus’s pure disciples.

“Furthermore, Chu Kuangren wouldn’t even pay much attention to the School of White Lotus. With his abilities, he’ll soon have a bigger stage to dance on!”

The White Lotus Maiden Sage explained calmly.

Chu Kuangren’s abilities were too remarkable. If someone of this generation was meant to ascend into an Emperor, Chu Kuangren would no doubt stand a great chance.

At least, it was more probably him than any of them.

The School of White Lotus would bear no significance to Chu Kuangren’s future at all as he would only have more to lose if he confined himself to the School of White Lotus.

...

Once he had walked past the street, Chu Kuangren slowly stepped onto the platform.

The Ruler of Full Moon Kingdom hastily greeted him and said in awe, “Bachelor Sage, you are undoubtedly different from the rest.”

“Alright, let’s begin the grand conferral ceremony.” The White Lotus Leader retrieved a crown that resembled a lotus and placed it above Chu Kuangren’s head.

Then, she announced loudly to the disciples, “I hereby announce that from today onwards, Chu Kuangren is the School of White Lotus’s Bachelor Sage!”

“All hail the Bachelor Sage!”

“All hail the Bachelor Sage!”

“All hail the Bachelor Sage!”