

Villain 1131

Chapter 1131: The means of Tianxiang Sect, we will have to rely a lot on Mr. Gu

Lin Shuixuan was built along the Zigui River, with rows of pavilions and palaces, all surrounded by misty rain and clouds. Even at night, the lights shone brightly, the sound of the piano drifted leisurely, and the melodies of silk and bamboo filled the air. The graceful singing of many women echoed through the atmosphere, creating an enchanting ambiance.

It was as if the sound was heavenly, yet had the effect of a cat's claws scratching at one's heart, causing many cultivators who had stopped along the riverbanks to become entranced, unable to pull themselves away. The few women leading the way ahead were accustomed to encountering young masters like Chu Xiao. After a brief moment of surprise, they quickly let go of their initial respect, laughing and chatting with him while softly introducing the most famous oirans of Lin Shuixuan.

Chu Xiao responded with a smile, booked a private room for himself and Chu Xiao'er, and generously gifted them a few divine weapons. Such generosity from a young master was rare, causing the women's eyes to shimmer with admiration as they secretly committed his image to memory.

"Call for all the most famous women of Lin Shuixuan," Chu Xiao said smoothly. In the private room, immortal mist floated around, filling the air with an elegant floral fragrance. Sipping his wine and casually waving his folding fan, he exuded a carefree attitude, the image of a man who had recently come into possession of rare divine artifacts.

Given Chu Xiao's wealth, he hardly lacked such treasures. His actions were always generous, befitting his reputation as the number one playboy of Xian Chu. At that moment, his heart swelled with excitement and anticipation. Lin Shuixuan, after all, belonged to the Tianxiang Sect, and the women who had just brought the drinks were far more captivating than ordinary mortals. Draped in light gauze, with graceful figures, they could be mistaken for fairies elsewhere.

What was most striking was their clear, pure aura, far holier than the holy maidens of some prominent sects. Chu Xiao even suspected that these women might be disciples sent by the Tianxiang Sect for worldly training. Sometimes, the most beautiful women weren't the renowned oirans or noble ladies; rather, some female disciples of the Tianxiang Sect would hide among the ordinary maids, waiting for fate to bring them the right person.

"Please wait a moment, young master," one of the women said, her eyes growing brighter as she observed Chu Xiao. It was clear to her that this young man must have an extraordinary background, though it was not easy to inquire about his identity. After all, some disciples of the most powerful sects would conceal their true identities, even when visiting a place like Lin Shuixuan.

After the women left, Chu Xiao'er, unable to contain himself, said excitedly, "Master, this Lin Shuixuan truly lives up to its reputation with the backing of the Tianxiang Sect. The women here are all so beautiful and charming, and their cold, holy demeanor is absolutely captivating."

Chu Xiao snapped open his folding fan with a flourish and nodded in admiration. "This is indeed the formidable method of the Tianxiang Sect. They had to come down to this world to experience it all. The feeling of bringing fairies and saints down from their lofty heights is something beyond explanation to others."

As he spoke, his eyes sparkled with enthusiasm and anticipation. Meanwhile, on another floor of Lin Shuixuan, another swirl of immortal mist lingered. This place seemed to float in the void, yet was filled with liveliness. It was the highest level of Lin Shuixuan, known as 'Thirty Days Beyond the Sky,' and it radiated the essence of an immortal family.

Only the most distinguished guests of Lin Shuixuan were permitted to enter this area, but now it had been taken over by the young leaders of the most powerful sects from all over, who had gathered there for a small, exclusive meeting.

The air was filled with smoke and clouds, bathed in a heavenly glow, as graceful figures in flowing white dresses sang and danced. Not far from the curtains, a slender figure played the strings of a zither, her jade-like fingers gliding across the instrument. In the nearby banquet room, Zi Yunchuan wore a self-satisfied smile as he introduced Gu Changge's origins and identity to his companions.

Young elites from Lingshen Cave, Guangming Temple, Tianxiang Sect, Yuxu Temple, and other powerful forces had gathered, each of their statuses equal to Zi Yunchuan's. Together, they formed the most influential group in the Xi Yuan civilization, capable of causing a major stir in the outside world with just a single move.

Gu Changge, with a faint smile on his face, remained quiet, sitting calmly as he sipped his tea.

"I didn't expect Brother Gu to come from such a place. Now it all makes sense," remarked a tall, mighty man in astonishment after hearing Zi Yunchuan's introduction. He was Zhao Tianfan, one of the strongest contemporary disciples of Lingshen Cave, a force as powerful as Zixiao Mountain within the Xi Yuan civilization.

"I knew it," Zhao Tianfan continued, "Brother Yunchuan wouldn't accompany anyone without a good reason. Now we understand."

"Servant Cai Yun greets Mr. Gu," a woman in colorful clothes with a charming face said, smiling as she cast a bright gaze toward Gu Changge. Her eyes seemed to shine with a strange light. This was Fairy Cai Yun, whom Zi Yunchuan had mentioned—one of the strongest contemporary disciples of the Tianxiang Sect and a close confidante of Zi Yunchuan.

The holy maiden of Guangming Temple and Daoist Ming Ying of Yuxu Temple also looked on in admiration. Even for those as proud as Zi Yunchuan, they knew they might not have commanded his respect. But now, seeing how much he revered Gu Changge—having explained that he was rescued by Gu Changge from a spatial crack—left everyone in awe.

Considering what Zi Yunchuan had just revealed, the notion that Gu Changge might have come from a mysterious and forbidden place seemed plausible. After all, those from such places commanded immense respect, even from the elders of the most powerful sects.

“Indeed, if it weren’t for Brother Gu’s intervention, you might not be seeing me here today,” Zi Yunchuan said with a smile. “Brother Gu’s strength is beyond comprehension. In the current Xi Yuan civilization, I doubt you could find a peer capable of standing against him, even among the oldest hidden sects.”

“We will all need to rely on Brother Gu when we enter the Wanzang secret realm.”

Zi Yunchuan said this purposefully, intending to make it clear to everyone how close he was to Gu Changge. The benefits of such an association were clear.

“Brother Zi is too kind,” Gu Changge responded lightly, placing his teacup down gently. “There are always those more powerful, and the Xi Yuan civilization is full of hidden talents. I dare not be overly confident.”

Hearing this, Fairy Cai Yun smiled, then gracefully stood up. She rolled up her sleeves and, with light steps, picked up a wine glass, filling it for Gu Changge.

“Mr. Gu, there’s no need for such humility,” she said softly. “I don’t believe I could ever be your match. Since Brother Yunchuan speaks so highly of you, we’ll all be relying on you in the Wanzang secret realm.”

As she spoke, her breath seemed to linger in the air, seductive and alluring, while she approached him slowly, her pale fingers delicately holding the wine jug.

Chapter 1132: I can predict the value of a person, herdsman

There was a strong floral fragrance emanating from her, but it was not overpowering—rather, it was refreshing. Seeing this scene, Zi Yunchuan, Zhao Tianfan, and the others secretly cursed. They were quite familiar with Fairy Cai Yun, yet none had ever seen her take the initiative to pour wine for someone upon their first meeting.

Fairy Cai Yun was the daughter of a prominent figure in the Tianxiang Sect, holding a high status and having little need to refine her heart in the world of mortals. Although she exuded charm, she understood her value well and knew how to preserve it. She never gave in easily, and the pursuits of countless young heroes of her generation meant little to her; she passed by them as the wind passes without leaving clouds in its wake.

Both the Buddha girl and Daoist Ming Ying on the side realized that Fairy Cai Yun had made a calculated decision. She possessed an ancient secret technique, allowing her to perceive auras invisible to ordinary people—luck, cultivation, even the weather—and could estimate a person's true worth. For her to make such a gesture and express herself in this way clearly showed that Zi Yunchuan's words were no exaggeration. The origin and strength of the mysterious, white-clad young man named Gu in front of them were likely far more extraordinary than Zi Yunchuan had revealed.

Otherwise, how could he be worthy of Fairy Cai Yun's attention and actions?

Gu Changge picked up the wine glass, gently swirling the liquid within, which released a subtle floral scent. He naturally understood Fairy Cai Yun's intentions but merely smiled lightly, offering no response. At the moment, he was there at Zi Yunchuan's invitation, mingling with these people. However, in Gu Changge's eyes, they were the sort of people who could easily fade from his memory. They held no lasting significance for him.

His indifferent demeanor made it clear he had no desire to engage further with Fairy Cai Yun. Yet she remained unfazed, her beautiful eyes still glowing with determination as she moved her seat closer to Gu Changge.

Zi Yunchuan, Zhao Tianfan, and the others couldn't help but feel a twinge of envy at the sight. But this was Fairy Cai Yun's personal decision, and they chose to pretend they hadn't noticed, saying nothing further.

In the private room, clouds of smoke swirled as the courtesan ladies continued their dance. The woman who had been playing the zither earlier suddenly received a sound transmission from Fairy Cai Yun. Rising gracefully, she stepped aside, while Fairy Cai Yun took her place, seated at the zither's original position. Smiling enchantingly at Gu Changge and the others, she placed her slender hands on the strings.

In an instant, a more profound, lingering melody filled the room, tugging at the heartstrings and resonating deeply within the soul. The music seemed to stir emotions from within, captivating everyone present.

"Thanks to Brother Gu, we're fortunate enough to hear Fairy Cai Yun perform a piece," Zi Yunchuan, Zhao Tianfan, and the others said with admiration, their eyes alight. It was undeniable—Fairy Cai Yun, as a core disciple of the Tianxiang Sect, was proficient in many refined arts, including zither, chess, calligraphy, and painting. Her zither skills, in particular, surpassed the previous performer, and she could easily be regarded as a master in this regard.

However, despite the exquisite performance, Gu Changge's expression remained unchanged. To put it bluntly, he wasn't interested. A woman like Fairy Cai Yun, no matter how graceful or talented, wasn't worthy of his attention. Compared to the likes of Mu Yan and Ling Huang, who had accompanied him before—both of whom were considered unrivaled beauties—Fairy Cai Yun, though attractive, still fell short.

At this moment, Gu Changge continued sipping his immortal wine, his thoughts elsewhere. His mind was preoccupied with a different matter altogether.

"It seems that person has indeed arrived in Zigui City," he mused to himself. "That will make things much easier."

As Gu Changge pondered, his gaze drifted toward another private room in Lin Shuixuan, situated on one of the lower floors, not far from where they were.

Although each private room was separated by a divine formation, it could hardly obstruct Gu Changge's gaze. In one such room, a young man in brocade clothing, with a cynical expression, fanned himself lazily as he evaluated the beautiful women standing before him. Next to him, a boy stared wide-eyed in astonishment. This master and servant pair were none other than Chu Xiao and Chu Xiao'er.

"None of them," Chu Xiao said dismissively. "Though they're above average in looks, none of them are truly impressive."

Having seen countless women over time, Chu Xiao had grown extremely selective, and it was difficult for ordinary beauties to catch his eye. The middle-aged woman before him, who resembled a madam and carried the heavy scent of makeup, looked troubled as she heard his response.

"Young Master, but this is already the third group you've selected from," she replied hesitantly.

If it weren't for the fact that the other female disciples were aware of Chu Xiao's legendary generosity—he had already gifted several rare divine artifacts—the madam would have suspected he was here just to make trouble. Each of these women was considered saintly in her beauty, far surpassing the looks of many other women from outside forces. Yet, Chu Xiao seemed unimpressed.

"I told you to bring more, so do it. Less talk. Do you really think that any ordinary woman could meet my young master's standards?" Chu Xiao'er chimed in sharply, emboldened by his master's presence.

The madam, being business-savvy and still unsure of Chu Xiao's full identity, dared not offend him. Bowing slightly, she responded hurriedly, "You misunderstand, young master. We wouldn't dream of being negligent, but you must understand, several distinguished guests have arrived tonight and have nearly taken over Lin Shuixuan. The remaining Qing Dynasty ladies are already entertaining them..."

Chu Xiao's arrival, along with his extravagant spending, had clearly put the madam in a bind. She worried that Chu Xiao might attempt to break the rules, even though Lin Shuixuan, despite its romantic atmosphere, had boundaries. Many of the women were nobles who performed arts but did not offer their bodies. Some were even disciples of the Tianxiang Sect. The madam, though in charge, could not compel them beyond certain limits.

"Entertainers?" Chu Xiao scoffed with disdain. "It's just a matter of paying a higher price. Call them over, no more excuses."

His mood soured as the evening dragged on without him finding anyone who captured his interest. Impatiently, he waved his folding fan. As he spoke, a piece of immortal material, the size of a fist and glowing with vibrant, multicolored light, appeared in his palm. It radiated an astonishing aura, resembling a miniature divine phoenix soaring in the void, its wings spread wide and radiating divine brilliance.

"The Phoenix Heart Sacred Stone..." the madam murmured in awe, her eyes wide as she recognized the priceless immortal material before her. This was a rare treasure, used to craft weapons fit for Immortal Emperors. Even a fingernail-sized piece of this material was of immeasurable value—and yet, here was a piece the size of a fist.

"It's yours if you get what I want," Chu Xiao said with a playful smile, clearly enjoying the stunned expression on the madam's face.

Chapter 1133: This Lin Shuixuan is still so stunning, Miss Yiyi

A fist-sized Phoenix Heart Sacred Stone was enough to incite battles among many immortal emperors. Though the middle-aged woman was the manager of Lin Shuixuan, she had never seen such a large Phoenix Heart Sacred Stone. However, she wasn't an ordinary person—she quickly regained her composure and forced herself to look away from the stone with difficulty.

"Rest assured, my lord, I will certainly meet your expectations."

After speaking respectfully, the middle-aged woman withdrew and promptly ordered for a group of nobles to be summoned. She didn't know Chu Xiao's background, but seeing him casually present such a rare item as the Phoenix Heart Sacred Stone made it clear he was far from ordinary—far more impressive than she had initially imagined.

Chu Xiao wasn't surprised by the woman's reaction. He was accustomed to living extravagantly, and to him, a piece of the Phoenix Heart Sacred Stone was nothing. Though his parents had repeatedly cautioned him not to stir up trouble while away from home, reminding him to conceal his identity and keep a low profile, Chu Xiao was in the prime of his youth. To him, what was the point of having status and wealth if you didn't flaunt them?

Compared to his time in Xian Chu, Chu Xiao could be considered quite restrained now.

"Master, please don't be angry. Have a drink," Chu Xiao'er said, pouring wine for him. He had managed to stay by Chu Xiao's side, which was no small feat, as he was quite capable himself. Chu Xiao appreciated someone who excelled in various skills.

"What's that sound?" Chu Xiao asked, lifting the wine glass to his lips. He took a sip but suddenly frowned, surprised. Despite the soundproofing in every private room, he could still hear a melodious zither playing nearby. It was as if a gentlewoman was softly singing, her voice filled with deep emotion.

The zither's melody was unlike anything Chu Xiao had ever heard before. It was gentle and melancholic, reminiscent of a beautiful woman sitting alone in her boudoir, gazing wistfully out from an attic. Her eyes sparkled like mist, as if she were looking toward her beloved, her long black hair cascading down her waist, creating an infinitely enchanting figure.

"Who is playing this piece?" Chu Xiao suddenly felt intrigued; the music stirred something within him, prompting him to step outside for a closer look.

At that moment, a middle-aged woman resembling a bustard entered the private room, leading several graceful women who walked in with delicate lotus steps. The faces of these women were all strikingly beautiful, captivating in their appearance.

Everyone in the room wore veils that concealed their true appearances, dressed in flowing white garments that accentuated their slender figures. The few individuals who followed the middle-aged woman kept their eyes lowered, showing no sign of being swayed by Chu Xiao's identity.

"Young master, these are the nobles of our Lin Shuixuan today. They are skilled in various arts, including zither, chess, calligraphy, and painting, and their own cultivation is quite respectable," the middle-aged woman said, smiling as she introduced them to Chu Xiao.

She had spoken extensively about the palm-sized Phoenix Heart Sacred Stone, persuading the nobles that Chu Xiao's background was extraordinary and that he should not be offended. In Lin Shuixuan, they could rest assured that Chu Xiao would adhere to the rules.

Most of the Qing courtiers were entertainers, not their bodies, according to established norms, which meant no one could force them into anything against their will.

Chu Xiao paid little attention to the young nobles, instead focusing on the middle-aged woman. "Where is the sound of the zither coming from?" he inquired.

Taken aback by his question, the middle-aged woman listened carefully and discerned the indistinct sound of the zither emanating from outside. Glancing in that direction, she explained in a low voice, "Reporting to you, young master, it comes from the thirty-third floor, reserved for those distinguished guests."

The disciples from the most powerful factions, such as Zixiao Mountain and Lingshen Cave, were currently gathering in Lin Shuixuan, a fact that was no secret.

The Thirty-Third Floor was reserved exclusively for the most distinguished guests of Lin Shuixuan. Upon hearing this, Chu Xiao chuckled in slight dissatisfaction. "It seems that the most famous girl in Lin Shuixuan is not here but over there," he remarked. He sensed that the zither's sound was beyond the capability of ordinary players; it had to be performed by a true master. However, with disciples from the most powerful factions, such as Zixiao Mountain and Lingshen Cave, present, he decided not to join the festivities.

The middle-aged woman let out a dry laugh and explained, "The sound of this zither doesn't seem to be from any of our girls at Lin Shuixuan; it might be someone else." Having spent a long time in Lin Shuixuan, she was well aware of the talents of each girl.

Chu Xiao snorted, still feeling unsatisfied. He glanced at the elegant ladies standing before him once more and nodded slightly. Compared to the women he had encountered earlier, these girls, though veiled, possessed a natural beauty that was hard to conceal. Their slender figures were more enchanting than those of many saintesses from various powers.

"It seems that the young master has an affinity for music. As it happens, one of our girls at Lin Shuixuan is very proficient in this art," the middle-aged woman continued, smiling. "Why don't we have Miss Yiyi play a song for you to enjoy?" She pointed to the woman who had followed behind, whose head hung low among the crowd of nobles.

She held the zither, wearing a veil with her head bowed, her blue hair cascading down to cover her slender, snow-white neck and waist. Upon hearing this, Chu Xiao's gaze shifted, and he let out a light snort, his expression one of surprise.

"Slender and boneless, with a soft body, her skin as smooth as snow and as delicate as frost..." he mused. "I didn't expect Lin Shuixuan to have such stunning beauty. Look up."

His voice carried a newfound interest, as if he were admiring a flawless artwork carved from immortal jade. Chu Xiao had an exceptional eye for beauty, and even though the woman in white had her head down, her skin and figure far surpassed those of many fairies and holy maidens.

“You have a keen eye, young master. Although Yiyi has only been here for a few days, her zither skills have already surpassed many girls. She is a rare talent; all the guests who have heard her play have praised her,” the middle-aged woman said, her smile wide.

Hearing Chu Xiao’s words, the woman named Yiyi seemed momentarily startled. Hesitantly and timidly, she raised her head. She didn’t meet anyone’s gaze; her eyes remained downcast, her long eyelashes fluttering slightly, revealing the tension and unease in her heart.

“That’s right, it’s you,” Chu Xiao confirmed, nodding in satisfaction.

The middle-aged woman beamed at his words. Unlike the other young ladies, Yiyi had only been sold a few days ago, and her beauty was truly remarkable.

Chapter 1134: Who is Playing Here? The Seventh Prince Di Kun Comes

Even after many years in Lin Shuixuan, the middle-aged woman had never seen such a beautiful woman. However, while Yiyi’s demeanor appeared delicate, her methods were quite resolute. On the day she was sold, she had scratched her own face and refused to restore it, no matter the circumstances.

In a romantic place like Lin Shuixuan, how could anyone maintain their innocence? Even those female disciples from the Tianxiang Sect, who came to cultivate their minds in the world of mortals, ultimately succumbed and degenerated. The middle-aged woman had been genuinely dissatisfied with Yiyi’s actions at that time, especially since she had purchased her at a high price, hoping to recoup her investment.

Fortunately, Yiyi's zither skills were impressive. As a noblewoman, she didn't need to reveal her true face; her music alone could attract many guests. In that regard, the middle-aged woman was less concerned. She didn't know why Yiyi had been sold into such a place, but she believed that since Yiyi had come to Lin Shuixuan, she would eventually have to accept her fate. What was the use of resisting at the outset? Sinking and falling was something no one could avoid.

Once the middle-aged woman led the other courtiers out, the private room fell into silence. With her head still bowed, Yiyi moved to the other side of the screen, holding the zither. She sat cross-legged and began to adjust the strings.

Although Chu Xiao couldn't see Yiyi's true face, he could infer her stunning beauty from her prominent eyebrows and captivating eyes. Feeling in high spirits, he anticipated a delightful and wonderful night ahead.

Soon, the melodious sound of the zither began to flow, curling through the air endlessly. In the atmosphere, it seemed as though crystal symbols emerged, both brilliant and resplendent. Through the screen, one could glimpse Yiyi's slender figure, her fingers moving gracefully, creating a haze of beauty around her. The crystal-clear jade fingers appeared to possess a strange power, capable of resonating with the Dao rhythms of heaven and earth.

For a moment, the enchanting zither sound filled not only the elegant room but also reached the ears of many guests outside, captivating and surprising them.

As Chu Xiao listened, his surprise and delight grew, and a blazing excitement sparkled in his eyes.

Meanwhile, on a majestic and renowned mountain outside the Southern Wilderness Ancient Domain, a tall figure draped in a purple-gold cloak descended from the cosmos. His gaze was like a torch, emanating a terrifying majesty that made the void buzz and tremble around him. Wisps of malevolent energy coiled beside him, resembling a steaming purple fog, which was utterly astonishing.

"Have you finally arrived at the Southern Wilderness Ancient Domain?"

The newcomer was Di Kun, the Seventh Prince of the Demon Court, who had been urged to leave the Endless Demon Realm. He wasn't certain why the voice had directed him to achieve his goal in the Southern Wilderness Ancient Domain. However, compared to remaining in the Endless Demon Realm and clashing against Xian Chu without purpose, he opted to heed the voice's guidance and venture into the Southern Wilderness Ancient Domain.

The Southern Wilderness Ancient Domain was vast, and Di Kun found himself at a loss for what to do upon his arrival. At that moment, he had no clear purpose.

"That unknown, mysterious existence must have a reason for saying that," he mused. "Since it is omnipotent, it would be impossible for it to deceive me."

Di Kun's eyes, deep with ambition and insight, swept across the various land boundaries. He stood atop the renowned mountain, contemplating for a while before seizing a few cultivators nearby. He searched their souls, delving into their recent memories to uncover the current situation in the Southern Wilderness Ancient Domain.

"Wanzang Secret Realm has appeared?" he pondered. "Could it be that what the mysterious being mentioned is connected to the Wanzang Secret Realm?"

With that thought, Di Kun's figure flashed and he vanished from the mountain.

Meanwhile, in Zigui City at Lin Shuixuan, on the Thirty-Third Floor's pavilions, Zi Yunchuan, Zhao Tianfan, and others were captivated by the music of Fairy Cai Yun. "Who is playing outside? Such music rivals even Fairy Cai Yun," one of them remarked, enchanted by the sound that filled the air.

Outside the private room, a zither sound emerged suddenly, sometimes clear, sometimes high, and at other times low, as if the music of heaven were transforming in various forms. Crystal symbols appeared, interpreted in the virtual space surrounding the sound. Everyone was a bit surprised; they hadn't expected such a captivating melody in Lin Shuixuan, one that rivaled even that of Fairy Cai Yun.

"It seems that Lin Shuixuan is truly a place of Crouching Tigers and Hidden Dragons," Daoist Mingying remarked in admiration.

"Who is playing this?" Fairy Cai Yun wondered. She had intended to showcase her zither skills in front of Gu Changge to earn his appreciation. However, the sudden appearance of another zither sound disrupted her rhythm and forced her to stop. A hint of displeasure crossed her face, but she kept her composure in front of everyone.

Though Lin Shuixuan's private rooms had excellent sound insulation, the music still managed to filter through, indicating that the other player's skills were indeed extraordinary and had penetrated the soundproof barrier. Faced with this interruption, Fairy Cai Yun had no choice but to rise. Continuing to play would only deepen her frustration, as it was the other zither's sound that had disturbed her.

"When did Lin Shuixuan acquire such a talented master? Why wasn't I aware?" she mused, planning to have someone investigate later to uncover the identity of the individual who had spoiled her performance.

Despite her thoughts, she approached Gu Changge with a charming smile on her face, maintaining her poise.

"You made Mr. Gu laugh," Fairy Cai Yun said as she settled back down at the side.

Gu Changge nodded slightly and replied, “Fairy Cai Yun’s zither skills are superb; I’ll treat you to a real performance next time.”

“Thank you, Mr. Gu, for your praise. Cai Yun is flattered,” she responded with a charming smile.

After Fairy Cai Yun personally showcased her talent, Zi Yunchuan and the others began to sense her intentions. During the ensuing conversation, they did their best to sidestep the topic, not wanting to see Fairy Cai Yun and Gu Changge grow too close, as it wouldn’t benefit them. Although the most powerful forces appeared to coexist peacefully on the surface, competition simmered beneath. This was equally true among the younger generation.

As the conversation progressed, everyone began discussing the upcoming trip to the Wanzang Secret Realm, expressing excitement and hope for acquiring a few more pages of the wordless scriptures. Then, someone shifted the topic to the current situation in the Xi Yuan civilization. The ongoing conflict between Xian Chu and the Demon Realm had garnered attention, leading to speculation about its duration.

Someone asked Gu Changge for his opinion, seeking indirect insight into the stance of the forces behind him. Gu Changge simply smiled casually and remarked that the Xi Yuan civilization would face turbulence in the future, hinting that significant events might unfold. He then advised them to protect themselves during the impending turmoil, emphasizing that once something was lost, it would be gone forever, and their souls would be scattered.

Chapter 1135: You can figure it out yourself, so why force her?

At the same time, he smiled and remarked that Xian Chu would undoubtedly bear the brunt of it, adding that if necessary, it would be best to draw a clear line with them.

His words caused Zi Yunchuan, Zhao Tianfan, Fairy Cai Yun, and others to change their expressions. For some reason, they felt a chill running down their backs. They couldn’t tell if Gu Changge was hinting at something with this statement.

However, the forces backing them were indeed planning to sever ties with Xian Chu, although they had not yet issued a definitive order.

“This matter feels too distant to me. Even if chaos erupts, it will be those in the Dao Realm who will face the consequences. Worrying about it is futile for us,” Zi Yunchuan suddenly laughed, breaking the slightly heavy atmosphere.

“Yeah, Brother Yunchuan is right,” everyone nodded and smiled in agreement, no longer feeling overly burdened. They resumed their drinking and conversation, but shortly after, the sound of the zither outside faded away.

This surprised Zhao Tianfan, who had been quite interested. He was curious about the woman in Lin Shuixuan, whose zither skills were comparable to Fairy Cai Yun’s. Noticing the silence, he suggested they take the initiative to find out what had happened.

“A woman who can produce such beautiful zither sounds must be extraordinary.” Zi Yunchuan and the others shared a mutual curiosity and quickly found common ground.

However, as soon as they left the private room, a loud commotion erupted nearby.

“I paid a lot of money to buy you. Not only should you drink with me, but you also owe it to me to go to bed with me. Did you really think that just because I agreed to let you be a noblewoman, you’d be able to stay here forever? You are a gentleman. It’s your good fortune that the guests think highly of you. Tonight, you really overstepped! Not only did you spill the wine the guests handed you, but you even ran off without playing the zither?”

A middle-aged woman, looking like a bustard with a fierce expression, yelled at the woman in front of her.

The woman, covering her face, had fallen to the ground, her head lowered as she clutched the zither tightly in one hand. In a low voice, she explained, “I said I only perform as a musician and don’t engage with anyone. He wanted to lift my veil and insisted I drink with him, but I...”

Blood was visible at the corner of her mouth, staining her veil red, revealing that the middle-aged woman had been quite forceful and was clearly very angry.

“Do you know my lord’s identity? It’s an honor for you to accompany him. Don’t be ignorant. If my lord didn’t prefer not to force others, do you really think you’d be able to come out?”

A boy who looked like a servant chimed in, speaking with a sneer and a condescending tone, his arms folded. As he spoke, he casually tossed a palm-sized Phoenix Heart Sacred Stone in front of the middle-aged woman.

“This is a reward from my young master. You can decide what to do next.” After saying this, he pushed open the door to the private room and stepped inside.

Inside, a man in brocade clothes could be faintly seen, his playful expression suggesting he was sizing up his prey. Chu Xiao hadn’t anticipated that the woman named Yiyi would resist so strongly. As he approached her, she grew nervous, knocking over the wine he offered before fleeing the private room.

Chu Xiao had encountered many women with similar resistance in the past. Yet, he found himself drawn to this kind of defiance—the thrill of knowing she was resisting but ultimately unable to escape. In the end, wasn’t there only one choice: surrender? It was akin to taming prey.

“Thank you, young master...” The middle-aged woman was taken aback by the sizable Phoenix Heart Sacred Stone now in her hands. She hurriedly picked it up, her face alight with excitement.

Not far away, Zi Yunchuan, Zhao Tianfan, and the others were stunned to witness such a scene. However, being well-informed, they were surprised to recognize the Phoenix Heart Sacred Stone. While it wouldn't be difficult for someone of their status to acquire a piece like this, it was unthinkable for them to toss it aside casually.

This was the immortal material for forging the Immortal Emperor artifact, invaluable and difficult to price. Even those in the Dao Realm would often eagerly seek it.

“Is this the woman who played the fairy music just now?”

“Not surprising, really.”

Zhao Tianfan and the others were slightly taken aback when they saw the slender figure on the ground, her head bowed, black hair cascading over her face. They had initially assumed she would be a celestial beauty of a status similar to Fairy Cai Yun. However, they were surprised to discover that she was just an ordinary girl from Lin Shuixuan.

Their curiosity, which had been piqued earlier, was now entirely quenched. How could someone who carelessly discarded a piece of Phoenix Heart Sacred Stone be so unremarkable? After all, having too much was better than having too little.

While they weren't afraid of trouble, they also didn't want to offend anyone for no good reason over such trivial matters. Thus, Zhao Tianfan, Daoist Mingyang, Fairy Cai Yun, and the others all chose to turn a blind eye and watch the unfolding drama from a distance.

In the other private rooms, some guests emerged, all disciples of prominent sects with extraordinary backgrounds, and they appeared to be watching the unfolding drama.

“Does this figure look somewhat familiar to you, as if you’ve seen her before?” Zi Yunchuan furrowed his brow, sensing that the woman seemed to be looking in his direction. However, he didn’t dwell on it too much; such incidents were not uncommon in Lin Shuixuan.

“Brother Gu...”

At that moment, Zi Yunchuan, Zhao Tianfan, and the others were taken aback as they saw Gu Changge suddenly walking over. They never expected him to intervene in this matter and were momentarily stunned.

“Since this girl doesn’t want to drink, why force her?” Gu Changge said, his tone calm and unhurried. He approached the woman on the ground, bending down to help her stand up.

He could clearly feel the tension in her body, which became slightly stiff at his touch. However, this stiffness lasted only a moment. The eyelashes of the woman in white fluttered slightly, and she did not reject his assistance. As Gu Changge helped her up, he made sure to release her without overstepping any boundaries.

At the same time, he offered her a clean white handkerchief, gesturing for her to wipe the blood from the corner of her mouth.

At this moment, the plain white veil was already stained red with blood. The middle-aged woman had struck her face angrily, showing no mercy; otherwise, the woman in white wouldn’t have been unable to stand up for a while.

“Th-thank you, young master.” The woman in white looked at the clean handkerchief, slightly taken aback. Her long eyelashes trembled like a frightened deer before she reached out to accept it, thanking him in a soft voice.

“This... this young man...” The aggressive middle-aged woman, with her ferocious demeanor, hadn’t expected someone to suddenly come to Yiyi’s aid at this moment. Her expression froze, and her voice stuttered as she struggled to comprehend the situation. For a moment, she stood rooted in place, unsure of what to do.

Having worked as a steward in Lin Shuixuan for many years, she possessed the insight necessary to assess the situation. She had clearly heard the startled voices of Zi Yunchuan, Zhao Tianfan, and others just moments ago. The man in white, handsome and refined, was clearly associated with them.

The middle-aged woman recognized Zi Yunchuan, Zhao Tianfan, and the others, including Fairy Cai Yun, the heir of a prominent figure in the Tianxiang Sect, whose status was incredibly noble. She dared not offend any of them, nor could she afford to do so.

In the nearby private rooms, a group of disciples who had come out to watch the drama were equally surprised. No one had anticipated that someone would truly come to the woman’s aid.

“He’s with Zi Yunchuan and the others. Could he be the mysterious young man whom Zi Yunchuan was so polite to?” Looking at Gu Changge, everyone was astonished; the situation had surpassed all their expectations.

Chapter 1136: The face-slapping episode, unexpectedly stands out for her

The once noisy Lin Shuixuan suddenly fell silent due to this incident. Many guests poked their heads out from various private rooms, looking on in shock. Even the big disciples, who had been smiling while watching the unfolding drama, restrained their expressions, eager to see how the man in brocade would handle the situation next.

Initially, they all had a mentality of watching the excitement; such occurrences were not uncommon in a romantic establishment like Lin Shuixuan. Everyone was there for fun, and since they had reduced themselves to enjoying performances at Lin Shuixuan, it was unrealistic to expect them to stand apart from the crowd.

Moreover, anyone who could casually discard a piece of Phoenix Heart Sacred Stone undoubtedly had a significant background, and they dared not offend such individuals. The white-clad man accompanying Zi Yunchuan, Zhao Tianfan, and the others stepping in to help the woman was beyond everyone's expectations.

The Lin Shuixuan girls who peeked out to observe the scene had a glimmer of light in their beautiful eyes as they gazed intently at the figure with divine grace and an immortal presence, filled with longing. For many of them, being in such a position was a last resort; if it weren't for a lack of options, who would want to force a smile and flatter themselves in a place like this?

Originally feeling empathy for Yiyi's plight and sharing in her misery, they were now deeply moved by the appearance of such a young man, who resembled a banished immortal, lending a helping hand. If they ever found themselves in a similar situation, would they encounter a handsome and kind young man like him to assist them?

All the girls were lost in their thoughts, feeling a surge of envy toward Yiyi, who stood beside Gu Changge. The middle-aged woman, known as Madam Liu, commanded respect in Lin Shuixuan. Her fierce attitude toward the young man in brocade indicated that he held an extraordinary status; otherwise, she would never have scolded Yiyi so harshly in front of all the guests.

"Do you think this young man in white will take Yiyi away tonight?"

"Speaking of which, Yiyi has only been here for a few days, and she's already so lucky to meet such a kind-hearted young man who stood up for her."

As some girls whispered among themselves, their eyes sparkled with envy.

The woman in white, named Yiyi, held her zither tightly, her head bowed. The long strands of blue hair concealed her face, and she clutched the plain white handkerchief Gu Changge had given her, yet she did not wipe the blood from the corner of her mouth.

She could hear the envious voices of the women nearby, and she felt her cheeks heat up, unsure of how to process her emotions. Quietly, she raised her eyes to sneak a glance at the man in white beside her, but as soon as she sensed he might notice, she quickly averted her gaze, fearing she might overstep.

The distance between them was minimal, and she could detect a pleasant, light aura emanating from him, which brought her a sense of comfort. For some reason, she could hear her heartbeat clearly in her ears at that moment.

Since her childhood, Yiyi had endured bullying, and this was the first time someone stood in front of her like this, offering help. Even her cousin had merely glanced her way before choosing not to interfere.

“My lord, this matter is a private issue for Lin Shuixuan...” At that moment, Madam Liu seemed to recover from her earlier shock and spoke a little nervously. After all, she had accepted a piece of Phoenix Heart Sacred Stone from Chu Xiao.

Gu Changge, despite his own extraordinary origins, compelled a sense of restraint from Zi Yunchuan, Zhao Tianfan, and the others. Yet, Chu Xiao, who could casually give her a piece of Phoenix Heart Sacred Stone, was no simple figure. In Madam Liu’s eyes, even the statuses of Zi Yunchuan, Zhao Tianfan, and the others paled in comparison to Chu Xiao’s. Nevertheless, she dared not speak too freely, as she still had to conduct her business and couldn’t afford to offend Gu Changge.

“Oh, is it private?” Gu Changge replied casually, flicking his sleeves lightly. A piece of heavenly jade, palm-sized and emanating an aura of Dao and immortality, rolled to rest at Madam Liu’s feet.

“What about now?” Gu Changge’s tone remained unhurried.

“This is...” Madam Liu was taken aback, her eyes widening as she froze in place.

“Brother Gu...” Not far away, Zi Yunchuan, Zhao Tianfan, Fairy Cai Yun, and others approached, looking at Gu Changge with puzzled expressions.

In their opinion, it was unwise to offend the young man in brocade for the sake of such a girl. They also doubted that Gu Changge could recognize the value of the Phoenix Heart Sacred Stone. However, when they saw the bright immortal jade rolling to a stop at Madam Liu’s feet, their expressions stiffened and turned dull.

“This... this is... Daoyuan Immortal Jade...” Daoist Mingyang from the Yuxu Temple swallowed hard, struggling to tear her gaze away from the piece of radiant jade that flowed with Dao rhyme and sparkled like a jewel.

In the distant private room, many guests and disciples from prominent sects also recognized the jade, its crystalline clarity captivating their attention and igniting an instant sensation. If the Phoenix Heart Sacred Stone was a material for forging the Immortal Emperor Tool, then this piece of Daoyuan Immortal Jade was the supreme immortal material that all beings in the Dao Realm would envy.

Its value was immeasurable, and it was rare beyond compare. Millions of years ago, a piece of Dao Immortal Jade had surfaced in the Southern Wilderness Ancient Domain, drawing several Dao Realm beings who competed fiercely for it, leading to the destruction of several large universes.

No one had expected that, in this small Lin Shui Pavilion, a piece of Dao Immortal Jade would appear again today, and it was anything but small.

Some disciples questioned their own perceptions, comparing the jade's appearance to the descriptions of Dao Immortal Jade recorded in their classics. In another setting, there might have been cultivators who wouldn't recognize it, never suspecting that such a divine item would appear before them.

"This... this young man..."

"I don't dare..."

Madam Liu finally regained her composure, though her voice trembled as she stammered. She picked up the Dao Immortal Jade with shaking hands, intending to return it to Gu Changge. She could still feel some greed for the piece of Phoenix Heart Sacred Stone, which she had accepted. However, even if the Dao Immortal Jade was offered to her, she wouldn't dare to keep it.

Yet Gu Changge merely glanced at her casually, dismissing her concern.

"Miss Cai Yun."

Madam Liu recognized Fairy Cai Yun and turned to her with a look of desperation, hoping for her intervention. Fairy Cai Yun met Madam Liu's gaze, her brows knitting slightly, but she remained silent. She understood the rules of Lin Shuixuan; after all, this establishment was also part of the Tianxiang Sect. Madam Liu's actions were not entirely without justification.

However, she hadn't expected Gu Changge to step in and assist the woman. The presence of such a piece of Dao Immortal Jade left her feeling somewhat suffocated. Although she had wanted to approach Gu Changge before, her determination to do so now grew stronger.

In the private room, Chu Xiao, who had initially worn a playful expression, was taken aback by the unexpected intervention that disrupted his business. His face momentarily froze, then shifted to a look of displeasure, his brows knitting together.

“Hehe, this is quite amusing. You dare to intercept the person I like,” he sneered, a smirk curling on his lips. “But what does it matter if you possess Dao Immortal Jade?”

Soon after, he dismissed the situation with a laugh, standing up from his chair and snapping open his folding fan as he walked out, shaking his head. He had encountered such disruptions before, but Chu Xiao never let them concern him; there was no need to be worried.

As the little ancestor of Xian Chu, he couldn’t simply stand idly by while someone publicly challenged him. Initially, he thought that tonight would be dull, but the interference in his business sparked a renewed excitement in him. What he truly feared was a lack of engagement—no one bothering him at all.

Chapter 1137: Just at the right time, to restore the freedom

“Who are you? How dare you meddle in my lord’s affairs?”

Before Chu Xiao could respond, Chu Xiao’er stepped forward, casting a displeased and cold glance at Gu Changge as he shouted sharply. As a sycophant, it was unthinkable for him to let his young master lose face at that moment.

“Are you looking for death?”

Witnessing this, Zi Yunchuan, who had initially intended to question Gu Changge, felt his demeanor harden. He shot a glance at Chu Xiao’er and took a step forward. A terrifying aura emanated from

him, and a sword-like light seemed to flicker in his slightly enchanting eyes—tyrannical and oppressive. This caused Chu Xiao'er to pale, forcing him to retreat a few steps in fright.

“When did a mere servant dare to be so arrogant?” Zhao Tianfan, Daoist Mingying, and others frowned, their displeasure evident. In Xi Yuan Civilization, no disciple from any other faction would dare to insult them in such a way.

Though Chu Xiao had an extraordinary background, each of them was formidable in their own right. Anyone with a discerning eye could see that they accompanied Gu Changge personally. How could a sycophantic servant in this area dare to speak to their distinguished guest like that?

Near the private room, followers of Zi Yunchuan and the others began to arrive one after another, rushing to the scene and glaring at Chu Xiao'er and Chu Xiao with hostility. The expressions of all the guests in Lin Shuixuan changed dramatically as they witnessed this unfolding situation; they were filled with horror.

No one expected the atmosphere to turn so tense so suddenly. Zi Yunchuan, Zhao Tianfan, and the others represented the contemporary faces of Zixiao Mountain and Lingshen Cave. In Xi Yuan Civilization, who would dare to confront or disobey them?

Moreover, the identity of the young man in white who could produce a piece of Dao Immortal Jade was undoubtedly even more formidable.

“Looks like we’re in for an entertaining night; these few are certainly not harmless...”

“That man in brocade—who knows his identity? Could he really be unaware of who these people are?”

Many guests whispered among themselves, watching the scene unfold in shock.

Madam Liu's face turned pale, and cold sweat beaded on her forehead. She never anticipated that such a significant commotion would arise over something involving a girl.

"You're angry, but there's no need to take it out on a servant."

Chu Xiao, fully aware of the identities of Zi Yunchuan and the others, feigned indifference as he stepped forward with an air of nonchalance. "However, this girl was the first to express her feelings for me, and when this brother intervened, isn't it justified?"

Fairy Cai Yun, although reluctant to involve herself in such matters, stood by Gu Changge's side. She frowned and said, "Lin Shuixuan has never allowed the coercion of guests. There's no merit in disregarding rules; sense must prevail."

With Chu Xiao's support, Chu Xiao'er found newfound courage. He looked directly at Fairy Cai Yun and the others, declaring, "My young master merely wanted her to toast out of good intentions. If she declines, so be it; what's the significance of knocking over a wine glass?"

"Furthermore, my young master never forced her. As you've seen, he didn't say those words just now."

After finishing his statement, he cast a cold smile at Madam Liu, who was drenched in cold sweat, as if she had resolved to act.

At that moment, Madam Liu felt the Phoenix Heart Sacred Stone in her arms growing extremely hot, and she was filled with endless regret. Gu Changge paid no mind to the approaching Chu Xiao and Chu Xiao'er, treating them as if they were air.

He merely glanced at the woman in white beside him, who kept her head down and appeared a bit nervous. In truth, she could only be described as a girl; she didn't seem very old—about seventeen years old. However, there were no ordinary people in Lin Shuixuan, and all had cultivation bases, so her true age couldn't be discerned by her appearance alone.

“May I have your name?” His voice was calm and gentle.

The girl in white timidly looked up at him, then quickly lowered her gaze and whispered, “They all call me Yiyi.” She hadn't expected Lin Shuixuan to draw such a large crowd because of her, which made her feel anxious and uneasy.

“Were you playing just now?” Gu Changge nodded and asked again. He was actually contemplating how to find a suitable and reasonable excuse to confront Chu Xiao just moments ago. The appearance of the girl in white had come at just the right time, potentially saving Gu Changge considerable thought and effort.

“Yes...” The girl in white didn't fully grasp Gu Changge's question, but she nodded obediently.

“I really enjoyed the piece you played,” Gu Changge said again.

“Thank... thank you...” The girl in white was taken aback by Gu Changge's compliment. After a moment of surprise, she regained her composure and thanked him in a soft, shy voice.

“Do you want to leave this place?” Gu Changge asked with a slight smile.

Upon hearing this, eagerness flickered in the girl's eyes. Naturally, she didn't wish to remain in Lin Shuixuan, a place where she might one day lose her innocence. However, after a moment's thought, her expression dimmed once more.

"But I can't leave." She shook her head.

She still owed a significant amount of spirit stones to her sister, as well as to Madam Liu of Lin Shuixuan, and she needed to repay that debt. Although she knew that Gu Changge must have a way to help her escape this place, she couldn't bring herself to accept such kindness without reason.

Just moments ago, Gu Changge had come to her aid, helping her to her feet, which had already filled her with gratitude.

"Why can't you leave? Are they forcing you?" Gu Changge asked casually.

The girl in white opened her mouth, unsure of how to respond or explain, so she simply lowered her head shyly.

"How many spirit stones did you spend to buy her? I'll give you a hundred times, or even a thousand times?" Gu Changge seemed to understand the girl in white's thoughts, smiling lightly as he glanced at Madam Liu.

When Madam Liu heard this, she became visibly agitated and hurriedly replied, "My lord, if you want to take Yiyi away, please do so; how could I dare to ask for your spirit stones?"

Gu Changge casually responded, "I won't take your people for nothing."

Madam Liu's face twisted with bitterness as she continued to wave her hands, saying, "Yiyi is worthless; you can just take her away, young master." She had already retrieved the Phoenix Heart Sacred Stone from her bosom, intending to return it to Chu Xiao, wishing to avoid further entanglement in this messy situation. In her eyes, Yiyi was simply a disaster that would only bring her trouble.

"Brother, is it really right for you to do this?" Chu Xiao interjected. "Everything should follow the principle of first come, first served. Miss Yiyi was chosen first; isn't your behavior a bit too domineering?"

Chu Xiao had never expected Gu Changge to ignore him entirely, treating him like air. He even intended to redeem the woman named Yiyi directly. Unable to maintain his pretentious and carefree smile any longer, his brows furrowed, and his tone turned rude.

At that moment, Gu Changge seemed to have just noticed Chu Xiao and glanced in his direction. However, he quickly looked away and turned his attention back to the girl in white beside him, speaking slowly, "From tonight onwards, you are free, and you can leave this place at any time."

The girl in white was momentarily stunned. She hadn't expected Gu Changge to grant her freedom with just a few words. Could she truly regain her freedom and leave this place?

"Thank... thank you, my lord..." The girl in white regained her composure and started to express her gratitude.

However, Chu Xiao, who stood nearby, suddenly snorted coldly. His eyes darkened as he said, "Brother, you are being quite presumptuous; this is truly unacceptable. No one has ever dared to snatch the woman I like."

Chapter 1138: Lost all face and became a laughing stock, then you have met now

Chu Xiao snapped the folding fan shut, his eyes turning cold as the smile vanished from his face. It was the first time he had encountered someone who dared to belittle him as if he were nothing more than air. In Xian Chu, everyone had shown him respect.

Although his parents had advised him to avoid trouble and keep a low profile, at that moment, he could not simply pretend to ignore the bullying. How could he act like a coward when he was being challenged?

The atmosphere in Lin Shuixuan grew tense, and the faces of many nearby guests and disciples changed drastically. Most of them, unwilling to get involved, hurriedly made their excuses to leave. Only a few remained, eager to see how the situation would unfold.

“Lin Shuixuan has its own rules. Since this girl is willing to leave with Brother Gu, do you still intend to force her?” someone pointed out. “This is her choice, and your attitude is quite self-righteous.”

Zi Yunchuan, Zhao Tianfan, and others frowned as they stepped forward again, their expressions hostile and cold. They didn’t know Chu Xiao personally, but while they suspected he might have an extraordinary background, they were far more concerned with aligning themselves with Gu Changge at this moment. How could they care about someone like Chu Xiao?

Fairy Cai Yun, too, felt that Chu Xiao’s words were excessive, her beautiful eyes flashing with displeasure. Did he really think he could just snatch away any woman he desired? Was he implying that as long as he had his sights set on someone, no one could stop him from taking her away?

“Oh, since you mentioned that Lin Shuixuan has its own rules, then let’s follow those rules. We are merely noblemen, and whoever bids the most will take her away.” Chu Xiao sneered, ignoring Zi Yunchuan and the others as he glanced at Yiyi, who was hanging her head.

He hadn't anticipated that randomly selecting a girl in Lin Shuixuan would lead to such conflicts and troubles. Yet, he had never shied away from trouble. Originally, Yiyi was the woman he had his eyes on first, but now someone had intervened, forcing him to redeem her. How could he tolerate that?

"Oh, following Lin Shuixuan's rules?" Gu Changge finally turned his gaze to Chu Xiao, scrutinizing him carefully. His voice remained flat, as if discussing something trivial. "What if I don't follow Lin Shuixuan's rules?"

At that moment, Chu Xiao was taken aback, momentarily stunned. Not following the rules? Did that mean Gu Changge intended to seize Yiyi himself?

"Very well, I want to see how you plan to disregard the rules," Chu Xiao sneered again, his confidence returning.

Madam Liu, however, could no longer withstand the oppressive atmosphere. Trembling, she returned the Phoenix Heart Sacred Stone to Chu Xiao and looked at Yiyi, who was still hanging her head beside Gu Changge. "Young masters, Yiyi is now free and will not return. Lin Shuixuan is under my control. Yiyi can choose whoever she wants to leave with; that is her own business..."

These words caused Chu Xiao's expression to darken. He felt as if he had been publicly slapped by Madam Liu. Anyone with a discerning eye could see that the girl named Yiyi was clearly afraid of him.

On the contrary, Yiyi seemed willing to stay by Gu Changge's side. Chu Xiao's eyes turned cold as he glanced at her; she kept her head down, hugging the zither tightly and clutching her sleeve with her small white hand.

"Girl Yiyi, would you like to leave this place with me?" he asked, trying to maintain a gentle tone despite the simmering anger within. "The behavior just now was indeed quite offensive, and I want to apologize. If you leave this place with me, I swear there will always be a place for you as my concubine. If others can have that position, so can you."

He took a deep breath, suppressing the coldness in his heart as he fixed his gaze on the girl in white. This matter had escalated beyond a simple dispute; it was now a matter of pride.

However, Yiyi continued to keep her head buried, seemingly ignoring Chu Xiao's words. Instead, she raised her eyes timidly to glance at Gu Changge, only to quickly lower them again, as if feeling ashamed and not wanting to be seen.

Seeing this, Chu Xiao's gentle expression froze, revealing a flicker of suppressed anger. He had never experienced losing someone like this before.

Zi Yunchuan, Fairy Cai Yun, and the others couldn't help but wear mocking expressions, thinking Chu Xiao was simply being self-righteous and overly confident.

"Do you know what my lord's status is? Being able to be my lord's concubine is a blessing you can't cultivate in hundreds of lifetimes! How dare you remain indifferent and pretend you didn't hear him?" Chu Xiao'er, standing beside Chu Xiao, felt the need to defend his young master. He was aware of Gu Changge's strong and arrogant demeanor but didn't dare to scold him directly. Instead, he directed his ire at the girl in white.

"Shut up." When Chu Xiao heard this, he felt even more ashamed. He didn't bother to hide his frustration any longer and shot a cold glance at Yiyi. "I hope you won't regret today's choice in the future."

To him, it didn't matter how beautiful Gu Changge was. With his status, there was no woman he couldn't have. Today's events had turned him into a laughingstock, and he felt he had lost all his dignity.

Yiyi, on the other hand, hadn't anticipated that she would cause such a significant commotion tonight. Hearing Chu Xiao's words, a hint of paleness appeared on her flawless face beneath the veil, and she trembled slightly, clearly frightened.

"As I said, you are free, and from now on, no one can threaten you with harm," Gu Changge reassured her, his tone gentle yet firm.

"What does he count for?" Chu Xiao snapped, his expression darkening. Gu Changge's words only served to ignite the anger he had been suppressing. He couldn't understand how someone could so openly disregard him in front of everyone.

"It seems that you have a problem with this sentence?" Gu Changge remarked casually, glancing at Chu Xiao.

"It's funny," Chu Xiao shot back, a bitter laugh escaping him. "Growing up, it's the first time I've met someone who talks to me like you."

His eyes turned colder, and the anger within him simmered. Gu Changge's casual demeanor and understated confidence felt far more arrogant and powerful than any words he could say. Chu Xiao had always been the one to bully others, and he had never anticipated encountering someone who could outshine him in arrogance and strength.

Gu Changge merely smiled, his expression unchanging. "Then you have met one now."

Chapter 1139: I don't know which faction's giant baby it is, this guy is crazy

Zi Yunchuan, Fairy Cai Yun, and the others were momentarily stunned, unable to fathom Gu Changge's unexpectedly strong attitude. A few simple words had transformed Chu Xiao's expression into one of utter disgust, as if he had just swallowed something foul.

Though their acquaintance with Gu Changge had been brief, they had always perceived him as gentle and indifferent. He treated everyone with a casual, peaceful demeanor, appearing detached from the tumultuous world around him. This air of calm had created an invisible barrier between them, as if he existed in a realm far removed from their own.

Now, witnessing Chu Xiao's barely contained rage—one that threatened to shatter the defensive formation—suddenly illuminated their understanding. Gu Changge's tranquil facade was not a sign of weakness; rather, it was a reflection of his indifference to those around him.

"I want to see how capable you are to dare say such a thing," Chu Xiao spat, his face twisted in anger. He cast a cold glance at Gu Changge, no longer hiding the fury that surged within him. The folding fan in his hand shimmered with intricate lines, radiating an aura of order and law.

Despite his lack of focus on cultivation, Chu Xiao was well-armed, equipped with numerous treasures. Among them were various forbidden weapons—one of which could easily fell an Immortal King. At that moment, he no longer cared about Gu Changge's background; all he wanted was to obliterate the humiliation he had just suffered.

"Oh?" Gu Changge raised an eyebrow, feigning surprise. "It seems that you want to attack me?"

Buzz!!!

A palpable killing intent flickered across Chu Xiao's face as he remained silent. With a sweeping motion of his hand, a radiant divine tripod materialized from his sleeve. Instantly, a vast azure divine light cascaded down like a waterfall of flying immortals, carrying with it a formidable oppressive force.

The moment the divine cauldron appeared, Lin Shuixuan began to tremble slightly, the air vibrating with an ominous hum. Engraved patterns on the walls flickered with instability, threatening to collapse under the mounting pressure.

“Brother Gu...” Zi Yunchuan and the others exchanged worried glances, their expressions shifting dramatically. They hadn’t anticipated that Chu Xiao would unleash such a powerful forbidden weapon, making the looming threat all too clear.

“I want to see what abilities and background you possess to dare speak to me in such a manner,” Chu Xiao declared, his hostility unmistakable. His eyes glinted with cold fury, his tone laced with menace; the air around him crackled with an unmistakable sense of danger.

For someone who had always been coddled and indulged, this was a new experience. No one had ever dared to defy him so openly, let alone provoke his anger and murderous intent multiple times in one night. Chu Xiao had never endured such humiliation before.

The divine cauldron before him was no ordinary artifact; it had been meticulously refined by one of his elder sisters, a treasure that cost a fortune. His sister had condensed her Dao Seed many years ago, ascending to the Dao Realm—a power that amplified the cauldron’s might beyond mere imagination.

There were thousands of prohibition patterns intricately engraved inside the divine cauldron. If it were to explode, even an immortal emperor would find it difficult to survive, let alone an immortal king. The expressions of the remaining guests and disciples in Lin Shuixuan shifted dramatically as they sensed the terrifying power contained within this divine artifact. It could easily lay waste to Lin Shuixuan itself.

Some guests began to feel the rising tension and decided to quietly distance themselves from the brewing conflict, sensing the danger in the air. Madam Liu’s face reflected her growing fear; she hadn’t anticipated that Chu Xiao, despite his youth and apparent nobility, would possess such a headstrong nature. His inability to tolerate any form of opposition became painfully clear as he prepared to attack after just a few exchanged words.

This kind of character had clearly never faced any significant setbacks. For him, everything revolved around his own desires; he wanted the wind to blow in his favor and the rain to fall when he commanded it. Any slight deviation from his wishes could trigger his wrath, even to the point of violence.

“I wonder which faction’s spoiled child this is...” Fairy Cai Yun, Daoist Mingying, and the others furrowed their brows, a sense of dizziness overtaking them. They hadn’t expected Chu Xiao to exhibit such murderous intent over a mere disagreement. This killing intent wasn’t directed solely at Gu Changge; it extended to everyone present in Lin Shuixuan.

Did he truly believe he could rely on his own strength to contend with all the forces gathered in Lin Shuixuan? The atmosphere thickened with tension as they realized the gravity of the situation.

“Are you sure you want to attack me?” Gu Changge’s tone remained calm, utterly unaffected by Chu Xiao’s actions. There was no visible shift in his expression, his words as steady as ever, almost indifferent.

In Gu Changge’s eyes, Chu Xiao was even more foolish than anticipated. As the son of the Xian Chu Lord, one might have expected him to be more cunning, but instead, he was nothing more than a pampered child, provoked to murderous rage by just a few words. However, this played right into Gu Changge’s hands.

Chu Xiao, on the other hand, was enraged by Gu Changge’s demeanor. Not only was Gu Changge unfazed, but his deep, playful gaze—like a predator eyeing its prey—only fueled Chu Xiao’s fury. His killing intent surged, overtaking his senses.

“You’re courting death,” Chu Xiao spat through gritted teeth.

Without another word, he waved his hand, and the sacred cauldron he had summoned earlier ascended into the air. A cascade of lines erupted from it, and an ocean of azure light surged forth, descending toward Gu Changge. The sheer power was like a deep sea collapsing, the force enough to make the entire Lin Shuixuan complex tremble, its protective formations groaning under the immense pressure.

The atmosphere was filled with fear and panic. Many cultivators paled and bolted, realizing that Chu Xiao had lost his reason. No one had anticipated that he would go so far, unleashing such destructive power in this setting. Lin Shuixuan, backed by the Tianxiang Sect, was a place where rules were normally enforced, and combat of this scale was strictly forbidden. But tonight, they had encountered a madman.

“He’s lost it!” one of the fleeing guests muttered in shock.

“This is insane!”

Faces blanched as the terrifying power from the cauldron engulfed the area, forcing everyone to flee for their lives. Only a few remained still, those with powerful backgrounds and life-saving treasures, confident they could withstand the danger.

Zi Yunchuan, Fairy Cai Yun, and the others chose not to engage directly, wisely stepping back. They were unwilling to waste their valuable protective treasures on what was fast becoming an all-out catastrophe.

Boom!!!

The divine cauldron ascended into the heavens, its massive form blotting out half the sky. At each of its four corners, dazzling divine light erupted, cascading down like the heavens themselves descending. The sheer force it radiated seemed capable of subduing the entire world.

In that instant, the void quaked violently, as all the laws of the universe and natural order were being annihilated. Tendrils of chaotic energy shot out in all directions, spreading like the end of the world.

Many tried to resist, but it was futile. The moment they came into contact with the chaotic energy, they were obliterated, reduced to nothing more than blood mist and scattered ashes. Their bodies and souls alike were erased from existence.

Even immortal kings, beings who had cultivated for millions of years with deep mastery of the Dao, were no match. They too fell, obliterated before they could even cry out in terror.

The pavilions and palaces of Lin Shuixuan were decimated, collapsing under the immense force. From Zigui River to the distant banks, a section of the city's walls crumbled, reduced to ruins. Those disciples who hadn't fled in time were obliterated along with it.

Among the dead were a few prodigies, beings with extraordinary backgrounds, tied to powers no less influential than the greatest immortal sects. Yet even their brilliance was snuffed out in the face of this overwhelming force.

And this was only from a casual wave of the cauldron. It hadn't even been fully unleashed.

This divine cauldron was a forbidden weapon, painstakingly crafted by a Daoist of immense power. If it were fully activated, even an Immortal Emperor would struggle to withstand its might. With one full blow, it could erase the Southern Wilderness Ancient Domain from existence.

Little Zigui City? It would be wiped out in the blink of an eye.

Chapter 1140: Dao Realm Existence Appears, Unspeakable Feeling of Uneasiness

“Do you really think you have the strength or the background to stand against me? You clearly don’t know how to value your life.”

Chu Xiao ascended into the sky, his luxurious brocade robe fluttering in the wind as he sneered, a smug expression settling on his face. The divine cauldron, now suspended above him, no longer descended but hung in mid-air, radiating an overwhelming divine light like a waterfall, bathing him in a celestial glow, making him appear like a young god.

“But to be honest, Fourth Sister’s cauldron really is handy,” he mused, his voice laced with pride. “She fashioned it after her own weapon and gifted it to me. I don’t use it often, but it’s more than enough to handle this guy today.”

Chu Xiao glanced across the ruins of Lin Shuixuan, now shrouded in dust and debris, and the mocking glint in his eyes deepened. His fourth sister, while not the most powerful among his siblings, doted on him the most. She had crafted this powerful forbidden weapon just for him, sparing no effort or resources.

Without needing to fully activate it, this weapon, in its mere sacrifice, could threaten even those at the Dao realm. And against common opponents, it was overwhelmingly destructive.

In the distant sky, numerous figures hovered, glaring at Chu Xiao with expressions of fear and anger. These were the cultivators who had managed to flee in time. If they had been even a second slower, they would have perished in the devastation just like the others.

“Who is this madman? He almost leveled Lin Shuixuan, and countless disciples from prestigious sects were just killed!”

“Does he plan to turn Zigui City upside down?”

“How can such a dangerous forbidden weapon be entrusted to a lunatic like him? Which force raised this menace?”

Further away, many onlookers were trembling with fear, shocked by the sheer devastation they had just witnessed. Even some quasi-immortal emperors who had been in seclusion were stirred awake, their expressions grave, sensing the dangerous aftermath.

But despite their dismay, no one dared to intervene. The power of this forbidden weapon was no trivial matter, and to stand against it meant courting death.

In the eyes of the surrounding cultivators, Chu Xiao appeared like a reckless child wielding an apocalyptic weapon, one that could easily obliterate an entire city. His actions were purely driven by his whims, showing no regard for consequences or those around him.

Completely ignoring the fearful looks from the spectators, Chu Xiao snapped open his folding fan with a sharp flick, resuming his usual nonchalant and cynical demeanor.

“Antagonizing me leads to this,” he stated arrogantly.

In his mind, Gu Changge was likely around the same age, and it seemed impossible that anyone could withstand the power of his divine cauldron. Anyone without powerful protection would surely meet the same fate as the countless cultivators just moments ago—reduced to dust, their bodies and Dao obliterated.

However, Gu Changge’s calm and unhurried voice suddenly pierced through the smoke and ruins of Lin Shuixuan. His tone was as composed as ever, almost mocking in its lightness, causing the smile on Chu Xiao’s face to freeze.

“Oh? Using a Dao Realm forbidden weapon gives you the confidence to massacre innocent cultivators at will?” Gu Changge’s voice carried a hint of ridicule. “Is that the extent of your ability?”

Chu Xiao’s expression darkened instantly. The fact that Gu Changge was still alive left him stunned. He glared coldly, preparing to summon the divine cauldron once again, determined to crush Gu Changge entirely this time.

“You’re still alive?” Chu Xiao’s voice dripped with disbelief and frustration.

“With just that much, you thought you could kill me?” Gu Changge chuckled softly, as if he had heard an amusing joke. Despite the chaos surrounding him, he stood unharmed, as though an invisible barrier separated him from the destruction, shielding him from both heaven and earth’s forces.

When the violent explosions touched the invisible barrier surrounding Gu Changge, they dissipated like harmless ripples, soundlessly dissolving into the air. Behind him, the girls from Lin Shuixuan and the surviving disciples of the Great Sect, who had narrowly escaped death, stood in shock, their hearts still pounding with fear. If not for Gu Changge’s protection, they would have perished in the chaos.

Gratitude filled their gazes as they looked toward Gu Changge. Even Madam Liu, who had been overwhelmed by the devastation, was filled with fear and horror. She never imagined Chu Xiao would be so merciless, willing to destroy even Lin Shuixuan in his rage.

“Thank you, sir,” some murmured, their voices filled with relief and appreciation.

Despite Gu Changge's swift actions, many disciples of the Great Sect had already been obliterated by the divine cauldron's earlier assault, their bodies and souls annihilated in an instant. Those who survived realized just how close they had come to sharing the same fate. Filled with gratitude, they all began to thank Gu Changge.

"If it weren't for your intervention, we would have all met a tragic end," one of the disciples said, his voice trembling with relief.

Gu Changge responded with calm humility. "It was a small effort, nothing to thank me for. I only regret that I couldn't save more. My subordinates weren't quick enough to protect everyone," he said with a slight shake of his head, his tone tinged with regret.

Hearing this, the surviving disciples' anger toward Chu Xiao only deepened. Their hatred for him burned stronger, mixed with fear of his reckless cruelty. He had caused the deaths of innocents without a second thought, a crime they found unforgivable.

Chu Xiao's face darkened, his frustration growing as he looked around at the guests in Lin Shuixuan—Yiyi, Madam Liu, and the others—witnesses to his humiliating failure. His pride demanded he eliminate them all to erase the shame they had seen. But he hadn't expected Gu Changge to possess the power to protect them.

"It seems you do have some skill," Chu Xiao said coldly, eyes narrowing as he prepared to strike again, intending to summon the divine tripod for a final attack. "But even so, what of it?"

Just as he was about to make his move, the air around him wavered, and the void blurred. A hunched, crooked figure with a wrinkled, aged face suddenly materialized in front of him, halting his actions.

“Master Xiao, let this matter go. There’s no need to escalate things over an emotional dispute,” the elderly figure said calmly, positioning himself between Chu Xiao and Gu Changge.

Chu Xiao blinked in surprise, momentarily taken aback. “Uncle Fu, why are you here?” he asked, recognizing the old servant who had served his father loyally for many years. This man, who had taken care of his father since youth, was not someone Chu Xiao expected to intervene now.

Seeing Uncle Fu’s arrival gave Chu Xiao pause, but his rage simmered beneath the surface, still unresolved.

Although Uncle Fu had no cultivation talent of his own, Chu Xiao’s father had repaid his lifelong loyalty by raising his cultivation base to the Dao realm using countless rare treasures. In Xian Chu, Uncle Fu was a revered figure, and even Chu Xiao dared not show him any disrespect. His father’s wrath, along with the collective disapproval of the family, would be swift and harsh if he ever slighted the old servant.

“Uncle Fu, so you’ve been here all along,” Chu Xiao said, a flash of relief and surprise crossing his face. Though caught off guard by Uncle Fu’s sudden appearance, the realization that the Dao realm expert had been nearby eased his concern. With Uncle Fu at his side, why should he fear anything?

But the old man shook his head slightly. “Young Master, today’s events have gone too far. There is no need to escalate this over a personal matter,” he said calmly, his voice carrying a weight of experience and caution.

Under orders from Chu Xiao’s mother, Wang Xuexin, Uncle Fu had been secretly trailing the young master to ensure his safety. Normally, he wouldn’t interfere unless Chu Xiao faced genuine danger. But today, to his surprise, the reckless behavior of Chu Xiao—caused by something as trivial as a girl from Lin Shuixuan—had triggered a dangerous conflict.

If Chu Gucheng learned of his son's actions, he would undoubtedly punish Chu Xiao severely. The situation had already spiraled out of control, and if Uncle Fu didn't intervene now, the consequences would become even more significant.

More than that, the presence of the mysterious man in white—Gu Changge—gave Uncle Fu an inexplicable sense of unease. This was no ordinary quarrel, and he could feel it in his bones.