

The Immortal's Wine Store #Chapter 141 - Wine Master Jiu Wants The Little Dragoness To Work For Him? - Read The Immortal's Wine Store Chapter 141 - Wine Master Jiu Wants The Little Dragoness To Work For Him?

Chapter 141 - Wine Master Jiu Wants The Little Dragoness To Work For Him?

Emperor Elyk frowned and rubbed his temples as he thought deeply. 'If the words of Lord Ren is true, then my Silver Wing Empire might really experience a catastrophic civil war, but if the Xue Family is really that strong, then why are they still not taking action until now? Could it be... Could they have known about my secret? Impossible! Only I know about it... But, it appears that the Xue Family discovered something. Do I really have to awaken him now? *Sigh...*'

Jiu Shen glanced at Ren Shuang and said. "Shuang, get us six bottles of Deep Sea Spring Dew here."

Ren Shuang nodded his head and left.

Emperor Elyk turned to look at Jiu Shen as if he wanted to say something, but in the end, he just shook his head and sighed.

Jiu Shen remained silent and just observed him. He knew that Emperor Elyk was now helpless at the current situation that his Silver Wing Empire was facing.

The four guardians also remained silent since they knew that they couldn't do anything in this situation. The atmosphere became awkward, but luckily, Ren Shuang arrived with six bottles of Deep Sea Spring Dew floating around him.

"Master, here are the wines." Ren Shuang bowed at Jiu Shen and placed the six bottles of Deep Sea Spring Dew on the table.

"You can leave now, Shuang. If you want to take a rest, you can go back to your room." Jiu Shen said in a calm voice.

Ren Shuang shook his head lightly. "There is no need, master. I've already taken an ample amount of rest, so I should just stand guard as per usual."

Jiu Shen waved his right hand and nodded his head. "Hm, okay."

After Ren Shuang left, Jiu Shen opened one bottle of Deep Sea Spring Dew and took out six silver cups from his space earring. He then quietly filled each cup with the wine.

Looking at the golden liquid inside the silver cups, Emperor Elyk's eyes turned a shade brighter.

Jiu Shen was amused when he saw the expression on his face, but he just silently passed the silver cups to the five of them.

"As of the moment, this is the most expensive wine in my store. You guys have drunk it many times already, what do you think about it?" Jiu Shen changed the topic to ease the atmosphere. He then held his cup of wine and looked at the golden liquid within as it emitted a dense fragrant aroma that could make anyone enchanted and enthralled.

Emperor Elyk knew that Jiu Shen wanted to lighten the atmosphere around them, so he let out a smile as he answered. "To be honest, after drinking Wine Master Jiu's Deep Sea Spring Dew, I felt that my treasured Phoenix's Godly Flames Wine tastes bland. Sigh! Too bad I only discovered it when I'm already this old..." His melancholic voice had a tinge of regret.

Emperor Elyk closed his eyes as he gently placed the cup close to his lips. He could already smell its pleasantly enticing oceanic scent which made his body quiver in delight. And with an entranced look, he emptied his cup of wine.

"Sigh... Even after drinking it a couple of times, I still get dazzled by its unique taste and smell. Wine Master Jiu, I'll bring a bottle of this today." Emperor Elyk smiled at Jiu Shen as he said that.

Jiu Shen nodded his head calmly as he filled everyone's cup again. "Sure. Since you have the VIP Card, it's not a problem." He replied.

Emperor Elyk smiled and he just quietly enjoyed the wine since he might not be able to drink it peacefully like this again.

Jiu Shen the four guardians similarly remained silent.

"Master, the one-hour time limit has just passed. These four can go, while he can stay since he has the VIP Card. " Ren Shuang suddenly came and pointed towards the four guardians and the emperor with a deadpan look. Now, aside from Jiu Shen, there is another expressionless block of wood in the store...

Defender Duanmu and the other three guardians sighed in pity, but they did not dare linger for long since they didn't want to displease Ren Shuang and Jiu Shen. "Thanks for the wine, Wine Master Jiu. Your Majesty, we will wait for you downstairs." They then bowed before they left.

Jiu Shen was silent for a moment before he spoke. "Elyk, you have good subordinates."

Emperor Elyk smiled widely at his praise.

"Oh, by the way, my people will be busy in the coming days, so we might be understaffed. I'd like to invite the fifth princess to work for me, what do you think?" Jiu Shen said with a smile. Actually, Jiu Shen also thought of inviting the fourth prince to work for him, but after careful consideration, he thought that it wouldn't be ideal for the emperor since he felt that Emperor Elyk was secretly grooming the fourth prince to join the fight for the throne.

The emperor was stunned at this, but he suddenly laughed heartily. "Hahaha! Wine Master Jiu, if you like that little brat of mine to work for you, then it's not a problem at all. However, that little kid is quite hard to control and is untamable, and even everyone in the imperial palace could hardly restrain her. I don't know if that little brat will agree to this, but I'll tell her about it after I return to the imperial palace."

Emperor Elyk was excited at the thought that Jiu Shen wanted to invite his daughter to work for him. Although she had to work as a waitress in his store, the emperor didn't think that it was something shameful since he knew Jiu Shen's strength. He truly wanted to immediately go back to the imperial palace and bring that little dragoness here. Who knows, maybe Jiu Shen would even decide to impart his teachings to her. That would really be good for her and the Silveria Imperial Family and even to their Silver Wing Empire!

Jiu Shen's lips twitched when he heard his reply, and he then recalled the shy and adorable look of the young fifth princess and compared it with the emperor's description, but then he suddenly remembered the scene when the little girl scammed the second prince of his True Crystals. Jiu Shen couldn't help but nod his head in agreement at the emperor's words.

"Don't worry about her, Elyk. She wouldn't act like a tyrant here under Theia's watchful eyes." Jiu Shen said in amusement.

Emperor Elyk laughed when he heard those words. He had seen Theia a couple of times in the store, and he knew that the latter was an expert at the 9th-rank Saint. Thinking about the rumors about Theia, Emperor Elyk's smile abruptly froze.

"It seems like my worries are unnecessary. With Young Miss Theia around, that little brat will surely behave herself..." Emperor Elyk forced out a smile.

Jiu Shen remained silent when he heard that and he just quietly drank his cup of wine.

"Wine Master Jiu, I know you just want to stay peacefully here in Beltran City, but I hope that you can protect Dante and Sylvia for me if ever a war breaks out." Emperor Elyk's tone had a trace of pleading in it, but he still maintained his dignified expression.

Jiu Shen was surprised at this. He thought that the emperor would ask for his help, but it looks like he had misunderstood the latter. Jiu Shen glanced at the emperor and

nodded his head calmly. "You have my word, Elyk. I will protect those two when the time comes."

Emperor Elyk heaved a sigh of relief after getting Jiu Shen's promise. He was truly unsure if Jiu Shen would aid them if a battle occurs in the future, so he could only ask for Jiu Shen to protect the fourth prince and the fifth princess, the two children that he doted the most.

"With Wine Master Jiu's promise, I can now stay at ease. Later, I will tell those two to come here and work for you. I hope you don't mind taking my son Dante as well, Wine Master Jiu." Emperor Elyk smiled in embarrassment.

Jiu Shen was pleasantly surprised when he heard that the emperor would also tell the fourth prince to come to his store, so he immediately nodded his head. "It's not a problem at all, Elyk."

Emperor Elyk was overjoyed and he could not help but smile widely after getting Jiu Shen's approval. "Hahaha! Great!"

Chapter 142 - Stunned Emperor Elyk

A few hours after that, Lu Sulan came to the second floor to look for Jiu Shen. She went back to the Ice Cloud Sword Sect last night to talk with the elders and the disciples about what Jiu Shen had told her. Of course, she did not divulge some matters to the disciples and only talked about it with the elders.

Initially, the elders of her sect adamantly refused when Lu Sulan told them about Jiu Shen's proposal, but when she told them about Jiu Shen's identity as an Alchemy Saint and also his unparalleled strength, their resistance became weaker, and then they decided to meet Jiu Shen before making any decisions.

Lu Sulan walked towards her master and was surprised to see him talking with the emperor. Her master even looked to be in a good mood which made her even more stunned. Although Jiu Shen's face was still indifferent, she could feel the elation in his eyes.

"Greetings, master. Greetings, Your Majesty." Lu Sulan bowed her head at Jiu Shen and then curtsied at the emperor.

Jiu Shen's remained calm after seeing Lu Sulan, but the emperor's face became slightly unnatural.

"Sulan, how's your discussion with the elders of the Ice Cloud Sword Sect? Did they agree to my proposal?" Jiu Shen asked in an indifferent tone.

Lu Sulan glanced at her master and then to the emperor with a look of hesitation, but then she suddenly heard her master's voice.

"You don't have to worry about Elyk. He will know about it soon anyway. Just say it."

Lu Sulan nodded her head in understanding and calmed herself down before she spoke. "As per master's orders, I went back to the Ice Cloud Sword Sect to discuss with the elders about your proposal. At first, they immediately refused it, but then after I told them about master's identity and strength, they decided to compromise and meet with you first. They said that they want to see you before making any decisions since this matter is related to the future of the Ice Cloud Sword Sect."

Jiu Shen leaned on his chair and nodded his head calmly. "Mn, I see."

Emperor Elyk who was listening at the sidelines was shocked when he heard Lu Sulan's words. 'Just what is Wine Master Jiu planning to do with the Ice Cloud Sword Sect? He seems to be making a big move now, but what could it be?'

"Sulan, take a seat first. Tell me everything that happened during your discussion with them, including their reactions." Jiu Shen gestured for Lu Sulan to sit beside him.

"Yes, master." Lu Sulan sat down and pulled her chair closer to Jiu Shen before she started talking about what had happened during her discussion with the elders of her sect last night.

"Master, here's what happened..."

Elyk wanted to leave and give them space, but he was truly curious about what Jiu Shen was planning, so he shamelessly remained seated on his chair and acted as if he wasn't listening to their conversation. However, the more he heard Lu Sulan's words, the more he became stunned.

'What?! Wine Master Jiu is planning to set up a sect?! And he's even planning to integrate the Ice Cloud Sword Sect as a part of his sect?! This...' Emperor Elyk almost choked on his wine as he listened attentively.

It was truly a shocking surprise for Emperor Elyk to hear this since he had thought that Jiu Shen only wanted to live an idle life in his store, but to think that Jiu Shen was actually planning of establishing a sect... Even Emperor Elyk could hardly calm himself down from this piece of news. Who was Jiu Shen? He was an Alchemy Saint! Aside from that, he was also able to defeat a dragon with a cultivation level at the peak of the 9th-rank Saint! Not to mention that he has a few strong subordinates serving under him.

After Lu Sulan was done telling Jiu Shen about what happened last night, she quietly filled his cup with wine while looking at his pondering face. Even until now, she could still not believe that this otherworldly man had become her master. 'Jiu Shen...' Her

heart which was like a frozen iceberg for many years slowly melted as she stared at this man.

Jiu Shen didn't see the infatuated look of his disciples since he was pondering upon her words. 'It seems like I really have to meet the elders of Sulan's sect...' Jiu Shen muttered in his heart as he took a glance at the emperor only to see his dumbfounded expression.

Jiu Shen was amused to see the look on his face.

When Emperor Elyk saw Jiu Shen look his way, he cleared his throat and spoke in a probing tone. "Um, Wine Master Jiu, are you really planning to set up a sect?"

Jiu Shen was silent for a moment, but he nodded his head at the emperor soon after. "Indeed. Since you're here. I will ask if it's fine with you if I set up my sect within Beltran City."

Emperor Elyk lips quivered as a series of thoughts flashed within his mind. 'I know that Wine Master Jiu has no malicious intentions, but this is so sudden... Oh, right! I have an idea!'

"Wine Master Jiu, I can agree to this and I'm even willing to give you the piece of land around your store, but I have one request." Emperor Elyk's expression turned serious as he spoke those words.

"What is it?" Jiu Shen asked, but he could already guess what was on the emperor's mind. He understood the latter's plight, so he patiently waited for him to answer.

Emperor Elyk suddenly stood up from his seat and bowed deeply at Jiu Shen as he spoke. "Wine Master Jiu, I hope that you can offer your assistance to the Silver Wing Empire if ever a war breaks out!"

Lu Sulan was a bit surprised when she saw the emperor display such a humble attitude to her master, but she thought that it was understandable as well. Although she had no idea about the empire's precarious situation, she can still feel the tense atmosphere within the empire. After breaking through the 9th-rank Saint, her senses were heightened to a certain degree and she can somehow feel the danger lingering in the air.

Jiu Shen sighed softly and replied. "Alright, I'll tell my subordinates to come and aid you when that time comes."

The emperor felt the pressure on himself lightening down after hearing his reply. "Thank you, Wine Master Jiu! If you ever need my help in the future, I will never hesitate!"

Jiu Shen's lips curved upwards to form a faint smile, but he hurriedly concealed it. "Don't think too much about it, Elyk. This is merely a deal between us."

Jiu Shen stood up and pulled Lu Sulan's hands which made the latter blush. "Bring me to your elders." He muttered as he looked at Lu Sulan.

"Mn..." Lu Sulan replied with her head down to hide her blushing face.

"Elyk, I've to go now. Don't forget your words. I want those people around this plot of land to leave as soon as possible so that I can begin the construction of my sect." Jiu Shen's voice drifted to the emperor's ears, but the latter remained silent as he watched Jiu Shen pull Lu Sulan out of the second floor with a complicated look on his face.

Sigh. It seems like you've already found your man, Sulan...

Chapter 143 - Cold Rejection

Jiu Shen came downstairs with Lu Sulan following behind him. The latter was looking at her master's back with a crimson red face as her expression alternated between that of shyness and elation. When Jiu Shen held her hand a moment ago, she felt like she was walking in a field of flowers and greeneries, making the throbbing of her heart even more intense.

As for Jiu Shen, he was unaware of his disciple's thoughts since his mind was occupied by something else. He was confident that he can persuade the elders of the Ice Cloud Sword Sect into accepting his proposal, so he wasn't worried about it in the slightest. And after he's done with his discussion with them, he was planning to visit Green Cloud City and complete his mission to get the God Crystals and the rewards from the system.

"Sulan, where are the elders of your sect?" Jiu Shen turned to glance at Lu Sulan and saw her dazed expression.

"Ah! T-There they are seated there..." Lu Sulan woke up from her stupor and pointed in one corner of the store where ten mature ladies can be seen seated closely together. They were wearing the standard robes meant for the elders of the Ice Cloud Sword Sect. Each of these mature ladies looked to be in their early thirties with different kinds of charms, but they all had one thing in common - they have the same frosty expressions on their faces.

The ten of them were already aware of Jiu Shen and Lu Sulan's arrival, and they could not help but feel surprised when they saw Jiu Shen. His face was otherworldly like an immortal that had descended to the mortal world, and even these frosty mature ladies felt their hearts fluttering when they saw his handsome face. And they didn't even realize that their eyes flashed with a bright glow at that instant.

Just as these beautiful elders of the Ice Cloud Sword Sect were about to greet Jiu Shen, the respectful voices of two old men suddenly echoed inside the store.

"Wine Master Jiu, Qi Hongtian would like to accept you as my master! Please accept me!"

"Wine Master Jiu, Fengzi would like to accept you as my master! Please accept me!"

Everyone inside the store was surprised to hear their words and they instantly turned their gazes towards the two old men who were now kneeling beside Jiu Shen. They displayed the most humble expression as they prostrated reverently before Jiu Shen. However, the customers' expressions turned strange when they recognized the identity of the two.

"Aren't they Master Fengzi and Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian of the Alchemy Hall?! They actually want to accept Wine Master Jiu as their master? Woah!"

Even the ten elders of the Ice Cloud Sword Sect were dumbstruck at what they saw. Their beautiful faces suffused with a look of disbelief.

They finally realized that Lu Sulan wasn't exaggerating Jiu Shen's strength at all! Heck! He even made the two proud top alchemists of the Alchemy Hall willing to take him as their master! No one else was capable of doing that!

Jiu Shen's eyes remained peacefully calm as he slowly turned his gaze towards the two old men kneeling before him. "The both of you are not qualified to become my disciple. Leave." His voice was cold and emotionless as if he didn't regard the two old men seriously.

The bodies of Master Fengzi and Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian trembled when they heard his cold rejection. They thought that Jiu Shen would accept them considering their high attainments in alchemy, but they didn't know that Jiu Shen never treated their alchemy skills seriously.

The two old men lifted their heads and looked at Jiu Shen's calm face with dejected and perplexed looks.

"Wine Mas-"

"The both of you may be talented in everyone's eyes, but to me, your talents in alchemy is mediocre at best. Leave now." Jiu Shen cut them off and no longer bothered with them.

The customers and everyone else was dumbfounded at this. To think that Jiu Shen didn't accept the two as his disciples. It was truly shocking for them!

Master Fengzi and Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian glanced at each other and saw the despair in each other's eyes. They then stood up and left the store, but to everyone's surprise, they actually knelt outside the store amidst the hot sunny weather! Everyone admired their determination, but they could only sigh in their hearts since Jiu Shen didn't even bother to glance their way.

"We greet you, Wine Master Jiu!"

"We greet you, Wine Master Jiu!"

The elders of the Ice Cloud Sword Sect who were as pretty as the flowers hurriedly stood up from their seats and greeted Jiu Shen with utmost respect in their eyes. They didn't dare treat him lightly anymore especially after witnessing the scene earlier.

Jiu Shen nodded his head at them and gestured for them to sit down. "Everyone, please sit down."

The ten elders promptly sat down and looked at Jiu Shen's face with eager looks.

Lu Sulan who was standing behind her master could not help but let out a smile when she the expressions of the elders.

"Sulan might have already told you guys about my plans, but I will tell it to you once again." Jiu Shen grabbed a seat for himself as he spoke those words, while Lu Sulan stood behind him with a look of reverence.

"I plan to visit Green Cloud City this time and after I complete my business there, I will begin the construction of my sect here in Beltran City. At that time, I hope that your Ice Cloud Sword Sect will be willing to become part of my sect." Jiu Shen added with an indifferent look as he eyed the ladies in front of him. He was confident that they would accept his proposal.

The ten elders glanced at each other and knelt in front of Jiu Shen without hesitation.
"We greet you, Lord Sect Master Jiu Shen!"

"We greet you, Lord Sect Master Jiu Shen!"

Their beautiful voices reverberated within the store, but their words came as a surprise to everyone.

"What?! Wine Master Jiu is setting up a sect?!"

"This is an astonishing piece of news! I need to go back to my clan and report this to the elders."

"I would surely apply to become a disciple of Wine Master Jiu's sect!"

The customers' discussed excitedly as they watched the scene with wide eyes.

Jiu Shen didn't stop them and only gestured for them to return to their seats after a few seconds. "Inform the disciples of the Ice Cloud Sword Sect about this and settle them down here in Beltran City. Also, the emperor will give this plot of land to us, so you must help the Silveria Imperial Family in cleaning the entire place. Make sure that nothing goes wrong while I'm gone, and you don't have to worry about experts at the 9th-rank Saint since there will be someone who will deal with them if ever they decide to confront us."

Jiu Shen gave a series of commands, but there was no displeasure on the ladies' expressions. In fact, they were eager to serve this handsome and unfathomable man.

"We follow Lord Sect Master's orders." They said solemnly as they stared at Jiu Shen.

Jiu Shen was pleased with their attitude so he let out a smile. "Great."

Looking at his smile, the ladies went into a daze and they seemed to be enchanted by his looks.

"Master, I want to go with you!" Lu Sulan held Jiu Shen's right arm and looked at him with a pleading expression.

Jiu Shen felt her warm and soft body sticking closer to him, but he remained indifferent. "Absolutely not."

"But master..."

"Sulan, don't be stubborn. Don't leave the elders here to work alone. Besides, you have to protect everyone while I'm away. I will feel more at ease with you present here to oversee everything." Jiu Shen rubbed her head gently with a smile.

After hearing his words and feeling his tender touch, Lu Sulan dipped her head shyly as she replied in a small voice. "Okay, master. I will stay here."

Staring at Jiu Shen who was surrounded by more than ten pretty ladies, the customers could not help but click their tongues in admiration.

Chapter 144 - Preparations

Jiu Shen didn't mind how other people called him, as long as they maintain their respectful attitude, then it's fine with him.

"Lord Sect Master, although Sulan can't go with you to Green Wood City, you should bring someone along who can help you do the menial tasks." One of the ladies glanced at Jiu Shen in anticipation as she spoke those words. This elder's name was Xia Xinyue. She was not the prettiest among the elders, but her figure was definitely comparable to Lu Sulan. Aside from that, her cultivation level was also at the peak stage of the 7th-rank Emperor realm. Within the whole of the Silver Wing Empire, she could already be considered as a top class expert!

Jiu Shen thought for a moment and felt that she made sense, so he nodded his head in agreement. "Hm, okay. You'll go with me later, but before we leave, you go make some preparations first."

Xia Xinyue smiled and nodded her head eagerly. "Yes, Lord Sect Master! I will prepare immediately!"

She then bowed her head at Jiu Shen and sprinted out of the store to prepare herself, leaving behind a group of women who were wearing peculiar gazes as they watched her disappearing figure. Even Lu Sulan giggled when she saw Xia Xinyue act like that.

"Everyone, I have to go and prepare as well. You can return to your lodgings and begin with your tasks. Sulan, you'll manage things in my stead, okay?" Jiu Shen patted Lu Sulan's head gently, making the ladies reveal a trace of jealousy.

"Yes, master..." Lu Sulan replied in a mosquito-like voice.

After he got Lu Sulan's reply, Jiu Shen stood up from his seat and walked towards Ice who was lying on the floor with her chubby belly facing upwards. Jiu Shen then grabbed the fat cat and walked towards the exit of the store while carrying it in his arms.

"Meow! Human, where are you taking this cute cat?! You actually dare to kidnap me?! Meow!" Ice waved her paws threateningly while glaring at Jiu Shen's face with a hostile look.

Jiu Shen's glanced at the cat and his face suddenly turned incredibly serious, making the fat cat put on a wary look.

"Meow!"

"Ice, after I leave Beltran City, I want you to protect everyone while I'm gone. Although Ren Shuang and Theia are here to keep an eye on things, it would still be difficult for them to protect so many people at once, so I want you to help them if ever something happens." Jiu Shen's voice was solemn, making the usually arrogant and mischievous fat cat nod her head involuntarily.

"Meow. I want two bowls of milk a day and I'll agree to this request." Ice replied with a pair of big shining eyes.

Jiu Shen nodded his head promptly at her request. This wasn't a problem for him at all in exchange for her protection. "No problem."

Although this little creature was lazy in nature, it was still a genuine god beast progeny with a cultivation level at the early stage of the Nascent God Realm! She was even stronger than Jiu Shen at the moment! Of course, it will be different if Jiu Shen wields his Baleful Dragon Sacred Sword...

Ice's cute large eyes brightened in elation when she heard his promise.

Outside the store, Jiu Shen saw the figure of two old men kneeling with resolute gazes. When the both of them heard Jiu Shen's footsteps, they immediately stared at him with firm looks on their aged faces. They were already rejected once, so they no longer spoke and just silently glanced at Jiu Shen's figure. They only hoped that their unswerving determination would move Jiu Shen's heart.

In the end, Jiu Shen didn't even bother to stop in front of them and just walked past them, ignoring the two old men completely.

Master Fengzi and Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian sighed in their hearts, but they remained kneeling on the ground while looking at Jiu Shen's receding figure.

"Sigh! It looks like our talent is truly nothing in Wine Master Jiu's eyes." Master Fengzi shook his head with a dejected look.

"Indeed, but we should still wait here until he accepts the both of us as his disciples. We're already so old, and with our current attainments, the best we can achieve is only the peak stage of the 9th-rank Saint in terms of spiritual power, so we have nothing to lose anymore." Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian nodded his head with a wry smile.

Hearing his words, Master Fengzi's eyes flickered with resolve.

Jiu Shen brought Ice to the beast fighting arena and threw her randomly to the establishment, making the cat bounce on the ground a couple of times before she managed to balance herself. "Some of our people are there inside, so make sure that none of them dies. If one of them is missing, I'll throw you back to the Divine Beast Continent."

Ice's fur stood on end as she glared at Jiu Shen while raising her front paws. "Meow!"

Jiu Shen smirked and ignored the chubby cat who was looking at him with a fierce look. "It's hard to believe that you're a descendant of a Glacial Sovereign Tiger..." He muttered to himself with a look of disdain which garnered Ice's displeasure, but in the end, she could only stare at Jiu Shen's figure as he swaggered out of the scene.

"What a hateful human! Stinky human! Meow!"

* * *

In the outskirts of Green Wood City, more than a dozen groups of cultivators and mercenaries can be seen sprinting towards a certain location. If one would look closely, there was a huge cave in the direction where these people were headed into.

"Boss Scar, there are a lot of strong people this time, so it might be hard for us to gain a lot of benefits." Liu Xiufeng glanced warily at the other groups as he spoke those words.

Boss Scar's gaze became solemn when he heard him speak. "Xiufeng, some of them may be stronger than us, but don't forget that there are also a lot of groups here, and it is still unknown who will get more benefits. We just have to act carefully and not provoke these people."

Liu Xiufeng and the others nodded their heads gravely as they followed behind Boss Scar. Although they were not optimistic in the mission this time, they were still willing to follow Boss Scar even if the situation was unfavorable for them.

This was the group of Boss Scar and they were coincidentally in Green Wood City to inspect the cave that was discovered by the locals of the city. This mission was the reason why they were not present in Jiu Shen's store during the past few days. Their goal here was to temper themselves and get a few treasures if they were lucky enough...

Boss Scar thought that only a few people would dare to check this place, but when they arrived in Green Wood City a few days ago, the mysterious cave was already the talk of everyone, making it quite famous in the city.

"Everyone, tempering ourselves is the number one priority here, and the treasures only come second, so make sure to stay safe and be wary at all times." Boss Scar warned his friends with a solemn look.

Liu Xiufeng and the other mercenaries nodded their heads in understanding.

No data found.

Chapter 145 - Streaking Through The Skies With A Beauty In His Arms

"With Ice overseeing things here, I can now visit Green Wood City without worrying about anything." Jiu Shen muttered to himself as he went back to his store.

Just right outside his store, Jiu Shen met Emperor Elyk who had just exited. The latter was somewhat surprised when he saw Jiu Shen, but he immediately let out a smile filled with complicated emotions. "Wine Master Jiu, I heard that you will be going to Green Wood City. What might your reason be for visiting that place?" He inquired with a curious look.

Jiu Shen glanced at Emperor Elyk and remained silent for a moment before he replied in a calm voice. "Nothing special. I'll just pluck a few spiritual plants and other ingredients for my wines."

Emperor Elyk looked at Jiu Shen deeply, but he could not read the latter's expression, so he could only choose to accept his reason. "Hm, I see. I wanted to discuss more things with you, Wine Master Jiu, but it appears that you are in a hurry, so I won't take much of your time. For now, I'll just return to the imperial palace and tell those two little brats of mine to immediately come here and work for you. Hahaha! Be careful on your journey, Wine Master Jiu!" Emperor Elyk chuckled before he left with his men. He was eager to let the fourth prince and the fifth princess work in Jiu Shen's wine store. If they receive Jiu Shen's guidance, their growth would surely increase by leaps and bounds.

Jiu Shen watched their disappearing backs indifferently and turned to walk inside his store. He also ignored the two alchemists who were still kneeling outside his store. This made the two old men bitterly shook their heads.

If they thought that it was that easy to move Jiu Shen's heart, then they are terribly wrong...

Inside the store, Jiu Shen saw that Xia Xinyue was already there waiting for him. He could also see the excitement in her eyes as she talked with Lu Sulan and the other elders of the Ice Cloud Sword Sect, but when the ladies saw Jiu

Shen's figure walking towards them, they abruptly stood up from their seats and bowed respectfully at him.

Jiu Shen waved his right hand and gestured for them to sit down before he turned his attention to Xia Xinyue. "Have you prepared your things?" He asked.

Xia Xinyue put on a meek appearance as she faced Jiu Shen's expressionless face. "Yes, Sect Master Jiu. I've already prepared everything on my end." She replied while stealthily looking at his eyes. She didn't dare stare at him for too long, afraid that she might be enchanted by his charms again.

"Good! Let's go." Jiu Shen turned around as he said those words, but he suddenly stopped in his tracks and looked at Lu Sulan with a serious expression.

"Sulan, you stay here and handle the store for me, okay?" He said solemnly.

Lu Sulan nodded her head at her master and smiled gently. "Master, don't worry about the store and just focus yourself on your journey. With Young Miss Theia and Lord Ren's presence, no one will dare to create a ruckus here."

Jiu Shen nodded his head at Lu Sulan and beckoned at Xia Xinyue to follow him. He then communicated with the system inside his head. "System, give me the mission details."

- Ding!

- Mission: A hidden cave was discovered within the territory of Green Wood City. However, this was once a dwelling of a peak stage Nascent God who failed to break through to the Origin God Realm. In the deepest part of the cave, the system has detected the presence of several God Crystals which can be of help to the Host's cultivation.

"God Stones... Could it be... System, are the God Stones in that cave sufficient to help me break through to the Nascent God Realm?" He asked with a hint of anticipation.

- Ding!

- Host, you have to find out about this yourself. Please work hard!

Jiu Shen's face twitched when he heard the system's reply, but he was now feeling slightly expectant about this hidden cave. The owner of the mysterious cave was an Origin God Realm expert which was the next realm after the Nascent God Realm. With his strength, he should have a lot of treasures in his possession, but this was nothing to Jiu Shen since what he lacked right now were not treasures, but resources that could help him promote his cultivation level. Aside from that, the mission provided by the system only stated about the God Stones, so Jiu Shen's number one goal in this trip was to get those God Stones from the cave.

"Lord Sect Master, can I know your purpose in visiting Green Wood City?" Xia Xinyue asked while looking at Jiu Shen's side profile.

Jiu Shen glanced at her with a calm face and replied indifferently. "You'll know soon."

Xia Xinyue pursed her lips at his reply, but she didn't ask him about that again. However, she was really curious as to what made Jiu Shen decide to visit Green Wood City. 'Just what could it be...'

Jiu Shen then looked at Master Fengzi and Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian who were still prostrating before him and sighed in his heart.

"The both of you should stop doing this. You will only waste your time here since I will never change my mind." Jiu Shen said in a cold tone.

Master Fengzi and Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian stared at Jiu Shen unyieldingly.

"Wine Master Jiu, even if you don't accept the both of us as your disciples, we will still willingly follow you." Supreme Elder Qi Hongtian balled his thin and weak-looking hands as he gazed at Jiu Shen.

Master Fengzi remained silent, but his expression was the same as the supreme elder.

Jiu Shen shook his head and grabbed Xia Xinyue's waist tightly in his embrace before he unfurled his inky black wings. While ignoring Xia Xinyue's embarrassed look, he soared through the skies as he hugged her supple figure tightly.

Xia Xinyue was still at the peak stage of the 7th-rank Emperor realm, so she was still incapable of flying. Only when one breaks through the 8th-rank Divine realm will they be able to use their true essence to manipulate the power of the elements and allow themselves to fly in the skies.

Xia Xinyue's face was beet-red as if she was drunk, and she also appeared to be in a dazed state as she held Jiu Shen's arms tightly, afraid that she might fall from the sky.

With the power of Jiu Shen's dark wings, it wouldn't be long before they would arrive in Green Wood City. He didn't use his ability to cut through space as it consumes a lot of his true essence. Furthermore, he already expected that the mysterious cave wouldn't be safe, so he must conserve his strength. The deceased expert was an Origin God Realm, and that kind of cultivator was still too strong for Jiu Shen. He might have placed some traps inside the cave, so every bit of Jiu Shen's true essence was needed for the exploration within the mysterious cave.

* * *

More than several hundred cultivators were standing outside the mysterious cave. Some of them were in groups, while a few others were lone travelers. All of them were wearing cautious expressions as they glanced at the cultivators around them.

"Boss Scar, we've been waiting here for several hours already, but no one is still willing to go inside first. It looks like everyone is afraid that there might be some traps laid inside the cave." Liu Xiufeng muttered as he alertly observed the other cultivators around them.

Boss Scar nodded his head gravely and replied. "No one here is dumb enough to send themselves to an unknown place. Later, the stronger groups might force the weaker ones to lead the exploration, so everyone must prepare for that."

Liu Xiufeng and the others nodded their heads solemnly. Although their group was fairly strong, they still remained alert as they waited for things to happen.

The atmosphere suddenly became tensed as all the cultivators held the handles of their weapons tightly. No one wanted to become the cannon fodder, so they didn't dare step forward to go inside the cave...

"Fellow warriors, I have a suggestion!" A bald man with dark skin shouted in a loud voice which instantly made everyone glance his way. The bald man looked like a monk, but the dangerous presence he emitted was similar to those who had gone through countless battles, so no one dared to make any rash moves.

Here it comes...

After getting everyone's attention, the bald man smiled and said plainly. "I can see a few friends here who are at the 2nd-rank Elite Warrior realm. How about letting these friends lead the way for us?"

Everyone's expression turned weird when they heard his words. They understood his intentions and they could not help but feel that this bald man was truly vicious. He was actually suggesting to send the weakest among them to lead the exploration! But upon thinking it through, they also thought that his suggestion was reasonable, so they didn't oppose the idea.

Boss Scar and his buddies heaved a sigh of relief. The weakest among his group was already at the 3rd-rank Crusader realm. They felt that they had just survived a disaster at that instant.

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All the 2nd-rank Elite Warrior realm cultivators felt indignant in their hearts, but they couldn't do anything since the baldy looked like a very strong person. Even if the bunch of them grouped up together, they would only be lambs for him to slaughter.

"I won't join this exploration anymore. Farewell."

"Me too. I don't want to use my life to exchange for the unknowns. I might as well return to Green Wood City."

A few of the 2nd-rank Elite Warriors voiced out their thoughts. None of them wanted to be the cannon fodder, so they could only choose to leave. Who would want to trade their lives for something uncertain? Not to mention that the mysterious cave might be very dangerous.

Everyone frowned when they heard those low-level cultivators speak, but none of them stopped them from leaving.

Just then...

"Did I give you guys the permission to leave?" The bald man's face darkened as he glanced at those low-level cultivators in disdain. He was a 7th-rank Emperor realm expert, so he didn't really take them seriously.

After hearing his cold words, those low-level cultivators who initially wanted to leave suddenly stopped in their tracks. They could not help but look at the bald man in fear while holding their weapons tightly.

When he saw their actions, the bald man chuckled in derision. "Friends, please lead the way while I'm still in a good mood."

His threatening words reverberated within the minds of everyone, making them feel slightly anxious. The only thing that consoled them was the fact that this bald man appeared to be a lone cultivator. However, their vigilance towards this bald man still heightened considerably.

"Sir, this is the territory of Greeb Wood City! No one can force us if we want to leave!"

"That's right! You may be strong, but do you have the guts to ignore Green Wood City's rules?"

The bald man became enraged when he heard their dissatisfied voices. He then sneered at them. "Rules? Do you think I care about some measly rules? Since you guys are tired of living, there's no use in keeping you alive anymore!"

After saying those words, the bald man pounced towards the low-level cultivators and raised his fists in midair causing a violent fluctuation in the surroundings.

His abrupt attack surprised everyone around and they didn't even have the chance to stop him.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

And just like that, the bald man started his killing spree without even a look of hesitation in his pair of dark obsidian-like eyes that seemed to contain a trace of cruelty in his already brutal visage.

Those 2nd-rank Elite Warriors didn't even last after a single blow from him before their bodies burst into smithereens. Blood and broken bones scattered on the grassy field, painting a crimson color in this beautiful greenery.

The bald man's eyes flashed with a flicker of savagery as he killed those low-level cultivators, while the other warriors could only look on in surprise. No one even dared to offer help to those pitiful cultivators since everyone was scared witless at this man's cruel nature.

"You're a demon! Stop! The City Lord of Green Wood City strictly forbids killing within his territory! If this is known by him, you'd surely be punished by him!" A middle-aged man with rough facial features glanced fearfully at the bald man's face as he grabbed his bleeding left shoulder which no longer had an arm attached to it. He grimaced in pain and his complexion was already pale. If not for him being a 2nd-rank Elite Warrior, he would have already passed out from the severe loss of blood.

"Friend, hold back your anger. We can talk this out, so there is no need for this unnecessary killing. Just give me some face here, how about it?" A voice echoed in a distance, stunning the bald man. He was surprised that someone was actually brave enough to stop him from killing, but when he saw the owner of the voice, his killing intent died down almost instantly.

Walking towards the bald man was a towering figure with bulging and refined muscles. His head was covered by long wavy red hair and there was also a tinge of coldness in his pair of eyes. If Jiu Shen was here, he would surely recognize this man since this was none other than Hu Xiandao who formerly only had one arm but had fortunately regrown his severed limb with the help of Jiu Shen's Body Reforging Heaven Pill.

Currently, Hu Xiandao was already an expert at the early stage of the 8th-rank Divine realm in terms of physical body strength, and his aura which had weathered through countless bloody battles in the violent and dreary Mythos Wildlands unconsciously gushed out of his body.

The bald man immediately let out a warm smile when he saw Hu Xiandao stepping out for those low-level cultivators. He could not see through Hu Xiandao's exact level of strength, but he could still somehow sense his overpowering and oppressive aura. With this, he no longer dared to continue his madness and abruptly stopped his killing spree.

"Since this friend has spoken, I will of course take a step back, but these bastards will have to lead the way for us inside the cave." The bald man smiled at Hu Xiandao as he cupped his fists at the latter to show his respect.

Hu Xiandao nodded his head at his greeting but he frowned when he heard the bald man's words. "Friend, although letting them lead the way inside is indeed a good idea, but I don't like using the lives of other people to get what I desire." Hu Xiandao shook his head calmly and glanced at the low-level cultivators.

"Leave. This place isn't something that the likes of you could casually enter. Only death awaits you inside."

After hearing Hu Xiandao's clear warning, the low-level cultivators no longer hesitated and left one by one after offering their heartfelt thanks to him. They also didn't forget to glare at the bald man before they left the place.

The bald man felt somewhat humiliated for having been disregarded by Hu Xiandao. In all his life, he had never been treated like this, so he was truly furious in his heart. However, he was wary of Hu Xiandao's power so he didn't dare act rashly, and he could only force out a crooked smile.

"Friend, may I have the honor of knowing your name?" The bald man asked while hiding his displeasure inside his heart.

Hu Xiandao fixed his gaze on him and replied in a cold tone. "Hu Xiandao." After telling him his name, Hu Xiandao turned around and went back to his spot.

The bald man's eyes flickered with rage after seeing Hu Xiandao's attitude, but he forcefully pressed down his anger and coldly snorted.

Hu Xiandao sighed as he looked at the bloody remains of those who died. At first, he didn't want to help them, but after seeing their unswerving will and pitiful faces, Hu Xiandao's gentle nature immediately kicked in. 'It looks like I'll have to delay my return to Wine Master Jiu's store. I hope he won't be displeased by my actions. I just can't pass up on this opportunity or I would surely regret it for the rest of my life.'

He was supposed to come back to Beltran City after sending his message to the Mythos Wildlands, but he inadvertently heard the rumors about this cave from the residents of Green Wood City. And as a man with great aspirations, he instantly decided to take a look at this place, but who knows that before he could even step inside the mysterious cave, he would actually see this brutal sight. Although those that had died were only strangers with weak cultivation bases, Hu Xiandao didn't want to see them dying for just a simple reason. That's also the reason why he decided to intervene.

Now, the situation returned to how it has been a few minutes ago, but everyone was already starting to get impatient, so some daring groups decided to sprint towards the

cave. This instantly drew the crowds' attention, and not long after that, many others went towards the cave after seeing that those people arrived safely inside.

Boss Scar and the others also followed behind the crowd but their faces were grim and alert as if they were prepared for any surprise attacks. They had seen how the bald man had killed those low-level cultivators without even a hint of hesitation. This action made Boss Scar and the others feel a huge amount of dread in their hearts, making them slightly nervous as they went inside the cave.

"Brothers, we must all stick together at this instant. I'm afraid that this journey is much harder than our last missions. I apologize for implicating you guys in this. Sigh!" Boss Scar sighed and shook his head in regret. He was the one who suggested in going to this place to temper themselves, but he didn't think that it was actually extremely dangerous...

Liu Xiufeng and the others bitterly shook their heads, but they didn't blame Boss Scar for this since his intention was good.

"Boss, what are you apologizing for? All of us agreed to complete this mission and this was not your choice alone." Liu Xiufeng chuckled as he lightly slapped Boss Scar's back with a smile on his face, while the others nodded their heads in agreement.

Boss Scar felt a surge of warmth in his heart after seeing the consoling looks of his buddies, and he immediately vowed in his heart that he would protect them at all cost!

Chapter 147 - Meeting Acquaintances

Jiu Shen with Xia Xinyue on his bosom landed on the grassy field outside of the mysterious cave. The pair saw a few dead bodies strewn all over the place which made Xia Xinyue a bit surprised. Jiu Shen merely took a quick glance at those corpses with his emotionless gaze before he walked straight towards the mouth of the mysterious cave.

"Lord Sect Master, are you here for this cave?" Xia Xinyue was truly curious about this. With the strength that Jiu Shen showed and his high and mighty identity, what could be inside this cave that suddenly moved his heart? She started to speculate, but she really had no idea what Jiu Shen was here for.

Jiu Shen turned his gaze to Xia Xinyue and replied in an indifferent tone. "This cave is an abode of a top expert, and hidden inside his lair are countless high-level treasures. I'm here for those treasures, so don't ask any more questions and just silently follow behind me."

Xia Xinyue sensed the impatience in his voice, so she promptly nodded her head in an obedient manner. In her mind, Jiu Shen was not someone who can be easily swayed by treasures, so her doubt increased when she heard his reply. 'Just what did he come here for?'

Jiu Shen used his spiritual power to scan the passage ahead of them. He can sense that more than a hundred cultivators had already gone inside, but Jiu Shen wasn't worried that they would take the God Stones since he had already seen the layout of this mysterious cave through his spiritual power.

This cave actually had ten levels in total, and the deeper one goes inside, the more treasures they would find. However, hidden inconspicuously within this cave were numerous traps that could even threaten an 8th-rank Divine realm expert. And if not for the long passage of time, these traps could have had the ability to even kill Nascent God Realm experts, but since so many years have already passed by, the power of these traps had greatly diminished.

Along the way, the pair saw a few bloody corpses that met their ends from those hidden traps. That's why their journey was rather carefree since most of the traps were already disabled by the cultivators that went inside earlier.

Xia Xinyue hid behind Jiu Shen and held the hem of his robes when she saw how those cultivators met their ends. Although she was already a peak stage 7th-rank Emperor realm expert, she was strangely meek and reliant if she was together with Jiu Shen. Furthermore, she could feel that her heart was at ease if she was near him, it was as if nothing could go wrong as long as this man was there for her.

This was a strange and new feeling for Xia Xinyue.

She had been cultivating diligently in the Ice Cloud Sword Sect for many years and she had no idea about the relationship between a man and a woman, so she could not understand the sensation she was feeling right now.

Just then.

Shua! Shua! Shua! Shua!

Dozens of bone arrows suddenly streaked towards them which instantly made Xia Xinyue went pale in shock. She could feel the strength behind these arrows and it was definitely enough to injure her severely and it could even possibly take her life. Although her life was at risk, she believed that Jiu Shen could easily ward off this attack, so she only let out a surprised shout without taking any further actions.

"Ahh!"

Jiu Shen didn't even bat an eye as they faced those bone arrows, and before those arrows could penetrate their bodies, they evaporated into thin air, leaving no traces behind.

Xia Xinyue's eyes widened when she saw that and she could not help but glance at Jiu Shen in awe, surprise, and bewilderment. He didn't even see how Jiu Shen moved, but those bones arrows weren't even able to touch their shadows...

Initially, Xia Xinyue wanted to ask how Jiu Shen managed to destroy those bone arrows, but when she recalled his words earlier, she immediately decided to swallow down her curiosity.

As the pair moved deeper inside the mysterious cave, the corpses that they encountered increased.

"Pay attention to your surroundings. We've already reached the second level of the cave and this place is much more dangerous than the first level. The hidden traps here are many times deadlier than that one earlier." Jiu Shen grabbed Xia Xinyue's hand and pulled her closer to him.

Xia Xinyue nodded her head while pursing her lips.

Earlier, Jiu Shen tried controlling the space element to arrive inside the tenth level right away, but it seemed as if there was a strong formation that prevented him from using his power to control space. So he had no choice but to go through all levels and he even had to take care of Xia Xinyue long the way.

After walking for several minutes, they could finally see the cultivators who had gone inside the mysterious cave earlier than them. There were only a little more than a hundred of them left and they all appeared to be in a sorry state.

After staring at them for a brief moment, Jiu Shen was a bit surprised since he saw a few acquaintances among the group, but when he looked at the injuries all over their bodies, Jiu Shen knew that they definitely had a tough time surviving.

"Let's go." Jiu Shen pulled Xia Xinyue's dainty hand, causing the lady to produce a light sound of protest, but she didn't pull her hand away from Jiu Shen's grip.

Hu Xiandao's ears suddenly twitched and he immediately turned around to check the situation, but when he saw Jiu Shen walking towards them, he could not help but feel a bit stunned. "Wine Master Jiu!?" He exclaimed in surprise.

Hu Xiandao's voice wasn't that loud, but the volume of his voice was loud enough for everyone to hear it, so these cultivators instantly turned around to see what's going on. And when they saw the two persons walking nonchalantly towards them, they felt a bit

indignant in their hearts since they had gone through fire and water just to reach this place, but the both of them didn't even appear to be injured.

The bald man frowned when he saw the unharmed Jiu Shen and Xia Xinyue. He had already been pressing down his rage since they had gone inside this damnable cave, and now he saw that this pair was totally unharmed, and this made his anger soar, so he strode towards Jiu Shen and Xia Xinyue with bloodshot eyes.

"Friends, did you intentionally let us go inside the cave first to disable the traps for you? The both of you are unharmed because we have already disabled all the traps on the first level! You wretched couple!" The bald man could no longer hold back his rage as he spat out those cold words.

Jiu Shen didn't even spare a glance at him and continued walking towards the severely injured Boss Scar and his buddies. To his surprise, all of them were alive and this perplexed him a bit, but when he saw Hu Xiandao standing together with them, he suddenly understood what had happened.

Hu Xiandao must have protected Boss Scar's group from the traps of the first level.

Jiu Shen casually threw a couple of healing pills to them and nodded his head at Hu Xiandao as if he was praising his actions.

Hu Xiandao smiled foolishly as he stared at Jiu Shen's figure with a look of worship.

Not far from them, the bald man who was ignored glanced murderously at Jiu Shen and Xia Xinyue.

Chapter 148 - Illusionary World

Jiu Shen felt a strong killing intent piercing through his back and he could not help but smirk in amusement. A flicker of imperceptible anger flashed before his pair of silver eyes as Jiu Shen turned to face the bald man with a calm look.

"I chose to ignore this ant earlier since I don't want to dirty my hands with his filthy blood, but who knows that this guy is actually tired of living..." Jiu Shen muttered as he looked at the bald man as if he was looking at a corpse.

Hu Xiandao, Boss Scar, and the others who were familiar with Jiu Shen's personality were surprised to hear these kinds of words from him. The Wine Master Jiu in their minds was quiet and had a lazy disposition, but this face of Jiu Shen in front of them gave a different feeling.

The baldy's face contorted with fury when he heard Jiu Shen's words.

"Brother Hu, I want to give you face, but this damnable bastard is just too much so don't blame me for being merciless!!" The bald man glared at Jiu Shen with a face full of wrath.

Jiu Shen's eyes looked calm and tranquil on the surface, but the killing intent in his heart has reached to a terrifying degree that everyone could feel the atmosphere around them suddenly drop.

Just because he appeared to be harmless and quiet doesn't mean that Jiu Shen didn't want to kill. It's just that he preferred to live a peaceful life in this mortal world, but never did he thought that he would actually be treated casually by the mortals of Nuar.

"It seems like I have truly been merciful all this while. Sigh." Jiu Shen shook his head lightly and the majestic and overpowering demeanor of one of the top paragons in the Primordial God Realm suddenly burst forth from his being, bringing awe and fear to the onlooking crowd.

Jiu Shen's eyes were still serene, but this time, even the weakest among everyone present could already feel the oppressive might that Jiu Shen possessed.

The bald man's eyes went wide in panic and he immediately regretted his rashness. To think that this brat that didn't look older than twenty could actually exude such an earth-shaking aura. This truly made the bald man vexed in his heart, but he could do nothing but sigh to himself with a bitter look.

"Little bro-"

Pu.

Like a watermelon hit by a huge mace, the bald man's head suddenly exploded under the dumbstruck gazes of everyone.

The headless corpse staggered briefly before it dropped to the ground.

Thud.

Fear enveloped the hearts of the onlooking crowd after seeing how a 7th-rank Emperor realm expert died just like that. He wasn't even able to continue speaking before his head exploded into a bloody mess. Such cruelty...

Jiu Shen's silver eyes were still tranquil as if nothing noteworthy happened. He then grabbed the dumbfounded Xia Xinyue towards the deeper parts of the mysterious cave while ignoring the crowd who stood rooted in their spots.

Suddenly, Hu Xiandao, Boss Scar, and the others heard Jiu Shen's voice inside their heads. "Leave this place. You will only be courting death if you foolishly get inside."

After that, they all looked at each other and smiled wryly to themselves.

"Let's go back. Since Wine Master Jiu has already spoken, we should just listen to his orders." Hu Xiandao said to Boss Scar and his buddies. At first, they were strangers, but after casually talking among each other, Hu Xiandao learned that they were actually customers of Jiu Shen, so he readily provided them with help and prevented them from dying. If not for this barbarian's assistance, Boss Scar and his buddies might have already lost their lives.

Boss Scar glanced at Jiu Shen's back with a complicated look and shook his head. "Wine Master Jiu has hidden himself deeply, but it seems like he is now allowing others to see his true power. Is this a good thing or a bad thing?" He muttered in a barely noticeable voice.

Hu Xiandao naturally heard Boss Scar's words and his heart became agitated all of a sudden. Even this fearless barbarian felt fearful as he recalled Jiu Shen's pair of incomparably cold and emotionless eyes.

"Luckily, I'm not his enemy." He muttered in his heart with relief.

After that, their group started to leave the mysterious cave. When the other groups saw them leaving, they promptly abandoned the idea of going deeper into the cave, but some brave souls still dare to go deeper with resolute faces.

* * *

Within the 3rd level of the mysterious, the scene in front of Jiu Shen and Xia Xinyue suddenly changed.

Before them was a vast expanse of greeneries, tall mountains, and beautiful rivers. There were also a few savage beasts that emitted violent roars after sensing the pair's arrival.

Xia Xinyue's gorgeous face revealed a hint of pleasant surprise when she saw the splendid scenery in front of them.

"Illusionary World?" Jiu Shen muttered under his breath and nodded his head inwardly.

"The fellow who owned this place isn't just an ordinary Origin God Realm expert if he was capable of constructing this illusionary world. If it wasn't eroded by the endless passing of time, it could have trapped Nascent God Realm experts, but now, it could only manage to confine experts below the 9th-rank Saint realm. What a pity." Jiu Shen said in a casual tone, but Xia Xinyue who heard his words suddenly revealed a tinge of cruelty and she took out a cold and gleaming sword before plunging towards Jiu Shen.

Jiu Shen sneered as he swiped his right arm, brandishing it like a dragon's claw which instantly tore through the air and sliced Xia Xinyue's body apart.

Rip.

The scene in front of Jiu Shen once again changed. This time, he was back inside the cold and gloomy cave with dim lighting.

He saw that Xia Xinyue was still under the effects of the illusionary world, but he didn't help her right away and instead went towards a corner of the third level. He then pressed his hands on a bulging part on the wall, which caused a clicking sound to echo faintly.

Click.

And as if forcefully awakened from a long slumber, Xia Xinyue panted while holding her ample chest with a look of terror. She finally realized that the beautiful place that she had seen earlier was only an illusion created by a high-level array formation. Thinking about this, sweat trickled down her pretty face as her chest rose up and down as she breathed heavily.

She then looked in front of her and her eyes exhibited a trace of horror after realizing that her companion wasn't present. Jiu Shen. Sect Master Jiu Shen. Where is he? She suddenly felt a sense of emptiness as if she was abandoned by the world...

Step. Step. Step.

When she heard those footsteps Xia Xinyue abruptly turned around and immediately dashed towards Jiu Shen after seeing his figure. She dived into his embrace and sobbed like a married woman who had finally seen her husband after being separated for many years.

Jiu Shen's eyes flickered and wanted to push her away, but when he heard her sobbing sounds, he just stood there foolishly and allowed her to vent her emotions.

'Ays... This little girl is so troublesome. I shouldn't have brought her here...'

Chapter 149 - Unexpected Customers

Jiu Shen didn't know how to coax a woman, so he just rubbed Xia Xinyue's back gently. If there was someone else here, they would have surely believed that they were a couple.

'She's already a very strong woman in Nuar's standard, but she's still acting like a little girl. Perhaps she might be someone with a not so nice past.' Jiu Shen's eyes turned milder when he thought about that.

After crying her heart out for several minutes, Xia Xinyue realized that she was too childish, so she couldn't help but blush in shame as she stared at Jiu Shen's handsome but expressionless face. 'If only I could see his smile...'

"Lord Sect Master, my apologies for having wasted your time." Xia Xinyue dipped her head in embarrassment. She actually cried in front of someone that she had just met. Although she admired Jiu Shen's power and charisma, it didn't reach the point of feeling affection towards him.

Jiu Shen shook his head and pulled her towards the fourth level of the mysterious cave. He wanted to complete his mission as soon as possible so that he can try to break through to the Nascent God Realm.

* * *

A day later.

The Immortal's Wine.

The wine store was packed with people like always, and the four little beauties Xia Hua and her friends were so busy attending to the customers, but there was not even a hint of dissatisfaction on their youthful faces. In fact, they were even proud to work as a staff in Jiu Shen's store.

At first, they had some resistance, but after receiving Jiu Shen's sword guidance, the four of them no longer harbored any discontent. Aside from that, nobody dared to bully them because no one had the guts to do so. Who would be foolish enough to flirt with these little beauties inside the store when there was always a pair of incredibly cold eyes watching them?

Not long later, Emperor Elyk came back to the store with a broad smile on his face. His appearance inside the store brought exclamations from the customers, but they instantly reverted to their normal states since they already knew that the emperor was also a regular customer of Jiu Shen's wine store.

Following behind the emperor were two teens wearing excited looks as they glanced at the new design of the store; they were the Fourth Prince Dante Silveria and the Fifth Princess Sylvia Silveria.

The emperor had already told them about Jiu Shen's proposal, and the both of them immediately accepted the offer without even voicing out their displeasure. This surprised Emperor Elyk especially after he saw the eager look of Sylvia, his only

daughter. He thought that the little demoness would reject it instantly, but who knew that she was even more excited than him about it. As stunned as he was, the emperor looked at his fourth son to know why his daughter was acting weird, but the fourth prince merely let out an ambiguous smile. The emperor had a bad premonition about it when he saw the fourth prince's cheeky smile, but he didn't dare think about it anymore.

Emperor Elyk was not surprised about Jiu Shen's absence since he already knew that the latter would visit Green Wood City. However, he was dying to know the reason for Jiu Shen's sudden decision in going there.

"Young Miss Theia, I've brought my kids here under the instructions of Wine Master Jiu." Emperor Elyk smiled warmly while pushing his son and daughter forward.

Theia nodded her head indifferently at the emperor before she swept a casual glance at the fourth prince and the fifth princess. Her icy gaze sent shivers down their spines, but the two still flashed a forced smile.

"Greetings, Young Miss Theia."

"Greetings, Young Miss Theia."

They already heard about Theia's strength from their father, so they were more reserved and respectful to her this time.

"Go look for Hestia. She will teach both of you about what to do here." Theia said calmly.

The fourth prince and the fifth princess timidly nodded their heads and they didn't even dare look at Theia's eyes. After that, the two immediately sprinted out of the scene to look for Hestia. They were afraid that they might collapse if they stay near Theia for a much longer time.

Now, only the emperor and Theia were left standing there. The atmosphere suddenly became awkward as the two remained silent.

"Young Miss Theia, do you know how long will Wine Master Jiu stay in Green Wood City?" Emperor Elyk could not help but ask to dissolve the awkward air.

Theia shook her head lightly and answered with an imperceptible longing in her pair of enchanting eyes. "I don't know, but master wouldn't stay there for long. After completing his matters in Green Wood City, he will certainly return right away."

Emperor Elyk nodded his head in understanding and hesitated for a moment before asking another question. "Then what about Su... Sect Mistress Lu?" He didn't know why he asked that question, but his heart seemed to have not released all his feelings for Lu Sulan yet.

Theia's beautiful face turned weird when she heard him ask that and she didn't even bother to reply. And without even looking at him, Theia walked out away, leaving the emperor behind who was wearing a self-mocking smile.

'Sigh... Why is it so hard to forget her?' He muttered in his heart as he walked towards the second floor with a desolate look.

Just as he was about to go upstairs, he suddenly sensed two strong auras outside the store, making Emperor Elyk abruptly stop in his tracks. He frowned and peered deeply towards the figure of the two and he could not help but gasp in surprise.

"Two 9th-rank Saints?!"

Outside the store stood two old men wearing a set of embroidered black robes and their murky eyes revealed a trace of Corpse Qi that was invisible to the eyes of others.

"So this is the store of that bastard Jiu Shen. It doesn't look that bad." Xue Yangkai the Patriarch of the Xue Family muttered in a disdainful tone, but he was inwardly shocked at the store's exquisite design. He could even feel a strong fluctuation of energy surrounding the store that seemed to be a protective barrier. Although he could barely sense it, he could still somehow tell that it was definitely a high-level array formation. This revelation shocked him senseless since it was even stronger than their Xue Family's protective array formation.

Xue Yangkun the Supreme Elder of the Xue Family furrowed his eyebrows as he looked at the store with great interest. "Oh, this Jiu Shen isn't simple indeed. Perhaps only Elder Ming can stand on the same level as him." He muttered.

The two old men impatiently stepped inside the store and their faces immediately changed after sensing the slight shift in space. The store looked huge from the outside, but it was actually a lot larger inside!

"Space Manipulation!" The two glanced at each other as they exclaimed with dumbfounded looks. They've already heard about this from the customers of the store, but they still felt shocked after experiencing it themselves.

"Welcome dear guests." Xiao Hua smiled radiantly at the two old men as she curtsied elegantly. Hestia taught them that everyone that steps inside the store was their customer and they should be treated with equal respect no matter what their race or social standing was. So upon seeing these two old men, she immediately revealed a professional smile.

Xue Yangkai and Xue Yangkun glanced at Xiao Hua with amiable smiles on their faces. They didn't come here to wage war with the store, and they were only here to gather information about the store's strength.

"Guests, may I be presumptuous and ask you guys about the level of your cultivation?" Xia Hua asked in a humble tone, but the two old men were caught off guard by this sudden question.

"Little lass, why do you ask this?" Xue Yangkun smiled gently at her, revealing the look of a cordial and kind-hearted elder.

Xiao Hua glanced at him gently and pointed her right index finger upwards and said in a mysterious tone. "Experts at the 7th-rank Emperor realm and above are allowed to go to the store's second floor."

Xue Yangkai and Xue Yangkun revealed confused expressions when they heard her answer, but their curiosity towards this second floor intensified.

"Oh, little lass, can you tell us what is the benefit of going up there?" Xue Yangkai asked.

Xiao Hua gave them a brilliant smile before she replied. "Guests, you'll know about it once you go upstairs."

Xue Yangkai and Xue Yangkun felt a bit doubtful since this might be a trap set up for them, but when they saw Xia Hua's innocent smile, they instantly discarded the thought.

"Ho, you're playing mysterious with us old men eh? In that case, we shall see what's so special about this second floor. If we will be disappointed about this, I won't be lenient with you little lass." Xue Yangkai jokingly said as if he was a harmless old man.

Xiao Hua giggled when she heard that and she didn't even realize that Xue Yangkai actually meant his words. "Guests, follow me upstairs and you'll know why I'm so confident about this."

Xia Hua turned around and gestured for the two old men to follow him.

Xue Yangkai and Xue Yangkun smiled widely and trailed behind her with amused faces.

Looking at their figures, Emperor Elyk who was now standing beside Theia frowned as he pondered deeply.

Chapter 150 - Broadening Horizons

Jiu Shen and Xia Xinyue were already at the seventh level of the mysterious cave, and the traps were also becoming stronger and deadlier as they moved deeper, but Jiu Shen's expression was still calm. He could have been at the tenth level of this cave by

now if he was just moving alone, but with Xia Xinyue following him, he naturally had to protect her from danger, making this exploration a bit longer.

At the moment, the pair was now resting in front of a bonfire that was set up by the sensible Xia Xinyue. Of course, she had to use a fire element treasure to build this bonfire because she was not proficient in fire elemental spells. After all, her Ice Cloud Sword Sect only focused on Water and Ice elemental spells and cultivation techniques.

Jiu Shen could actually make a much better bonfire with his power, but he didn't want to dampen Xia Xinyue's mood, so he just allowed her to do as she pleased. Furthermore, the coldness inside the mysterious cave was of no effect to him with his present cultivation level, so he didn't really care much about the coldness.

"Lord Sect Master, the traps here are getting more and more dangerous. Just what kind of expert was able to build this entire place?" Xia Xinyue's complexion turned pale as she thought of the dangers that they had faced in the lower levels. She knew that she would have already died many times if not for Jiu Shen's protection, and she felt useless during the entire journey since Jiu Shen did everything on his own without even needing her help.

Jiu Shen who had his eyes shut tight a few moments ago raised his head to look at Xia Xinyue. Looking at her terrified appearance, his gaze softened as he replied in an indifferent voice. "The owner of this cave is a bit special. Although he is just an Origin God Realm cultivator, his attainment in array formation making isn't that low. Just that, the power of the array formations inside this cave has already weakened after thousands of years of inactivity..." Since Xia Xinyue was already one of his people, Jiu Shen decided to tell her the truth. Besides, he also wanted to broaden her horizons by telling her this.

Xia Xinyue's gorgeous eyebrows knitted in confusion. Origin God Realm? What is that?

"Lord Sect Master, what is this Origin God Realm that you speak of?" She asked as she eagerly looked at Jiu Shen's face. She didn't know what the Origin God Realm was, but she could tell that it was definitely a higher level of cultivation, so she was wanted to know everything about it.

Jiu Shen reclined on the chair that he brought out from his space earring and placed one of his legs on top of the other before speaking in a lazy tone. "With what I've seen so far, the cultivation levels of the cultivators in the Profound Dragon Continent are divided into nine levels:

1st-rank Warrior

2nd-rank Elite Warrior

3rd-rank Crusader

4th-rank Knight Crusader

5th-rank Spirit

6th-rank King

7th-rank Emperor

8th-rank Divine

And 9th-rank Saint

However, do you know what is after that?" Jiu Shen's fixed his nonchalant gaze on Xia Xinyue's face.

Xia Xinyue was stunned when she heard Jiu Shen's question, but she still replied albeit with a perplexed look. "After the 9th-rank Saint isn't it the 10th-rank God?"

"10th-rank God? You're not entirely wrong, but you're not correct either." Jiu Shen shook his head lightly.

He then continued. "After the 9th-rank Saint, a cultivator will face their lightning tribulation. Everyone's lightning tribulation differs depending on their strength, and after one survives this, they will be promoted to the Nascent God Realm, gaining tens of thousands of years of additional lifespan."

Xia Xinyue's beautiful eyes widened and her jaw almost dropped to the ground, making this pretty lady look silly. "Lord Sect Master, you mentioned that the owner of this cave was an Origin God Realm expert, could it be the next realm after the Nascent God Realm?" She asked with shining eyes. This was quite shocking to her since she thought that the 10th-rank God realm was the final phase of cultivation.

Jiu Shen nodded his head calmly. "Indeed. After the Nascent God Realm is the Origin God Realm... I'm just curious how Nuar was able to give birth to such an expert with its thin amount of true essence? Perhaps this planet was once a place with an abundant amount of true essence and cultivation resources. Just that, how did it devolve into this after merely a few tens of thousands of years?" Jiu Shen muttered to himself with a pondering expression, but his voice was still loud enough for Xia Xinyue to hear.

Jiu Shen's words made Xia Xinyue tremble in shock. How can Jiu Shen speak these words so casually? And how come he knows so much about this as if it was the back of his hands? Could he be...

Xia Xinyue's scalp tingled and her thoughts were now in disarray after hearing all of this. The way she looked at Jiu Shen also changed and there was even more respect and veneration in her violently flickering eyes.

"Lord Sect Master, we have a few books that recorded the presence of 10th-rank God realm experts during the great war between the Demon Race and the Alliance fifty thousand years ago. However, the details about these experts are only so few." Xia Xinyue shook her head regretfully. She had read those books before, but it didn't mention anything about what Jiu Shen had just told her earlier.

According to Jiu Shen, the experts at that level had more than several ten thousand years of lifespan, but why did they suddenly disappear without a trace in the Profound Dragon Continent? Some of them should still be alive, but she had heard none at their level throughout all these years. The strongest that she knew were only the Alliance Leaders of the Alliance, but they were only at the peak stage of the 9th-rank Saint. She could sense that this matter wasn't as simple as it seemed to be, and there might be a hidden conspiracy about this.

"Lord Sect Master, what do you think about it? As far as I can remember, the strongest in the Profound Dragon Continent is only at the peak stage of the 9th-rank Saint." Xia Xinyue glanced at Jiu Shen who was still absorbed in his own thoughts. At this moment, the image of Jiu Shen suddenly changed in her heart. How could a normal person know about all this?

Jiu Shen shook his head and sighed in his heart. He wasn't an inhabitant of Nuar, so he truly had no idea about what might have happened many years ago to this place.

"There's no use in asking me about this since I also don't know, but we might be able to get a few clues from this cave." Jiu Shen replied calmly. Now, he was even more curious concerning the history of Nuar.

Xia Xinyue's eyes shone when she heard that. Right! The owner of the cave was an expert at the Origin God Realm, so he might have written a few things about events of their time, but it was still not certain whether they can get any clues regarding the era of those experts.

"Let's go. We've rested enough. It's time to go to the eighth level." Jiu Shen stood up from his seat and put the chair inside his space earring as he said those words.

Xia Xinyue nodded her head with a solemn look.

* * *

The Immortal's Wine Store.

Xue Yangkai and Xue Yangkun followed Xiao Hua to the second floor of the store with cautious looks. They didn't dare put down their guards since the possibility of them being ambushed at this point wasn't low.

Suddenly, the pupils of the two old men contracted when they saw the figure of Ren Shuang standing upright outside the entrance of the second floor. They could not see through the latter no matter how hard they looked, and this alone made the both of them greatly alarmed.

'An expert?!

Xue Yangkai and Xue Yangkun were both experts at the early stage of the 9th-rank Saint, so they were surprised that they couldn't read the strength of the man standing outside the second floor.

"Guests, please follow me inside." Xiao Hua smiled at the two old men as she opened the entrance of the second floor. And the moment she opened the door, Xue Yangkai and Xue Yangkun immediately felt an abundant amount of true essence hitting their bodies. The faces of the two old men brightened as they stepped inside the second floor. They even momentarily forgot about Ren Shuang after feeling the dense amount of true essence inside.

They didn't know that right after they entered, Ren Shuang who had his eyes shut tight the entire time suddenly revealed a cold grin, but it soon reverted to his usual calmness.

"What a good place for cultivation!"

"Little lass, you didn't deceive us indeed! Hahaha!"

Xue Yangkai and Xue Yangkun exclaimed as they glanced around.

Xiao Hua smiled proudly as she replied. "I told you guys that this place won't disappoint you. Now you know why I'm confident. Hehe."

Xue Yangkai and Xue Yangkun glanced at each other and smiled amiably.