

Doctor 501

Chapter 501: Ambrosia Baptism, Marrow Cleansing!

What comforted Master Xuan Nan was that Fang Bai's eyes were clear, and he possessed an upright spirit. Although his will to kill had grown heavier in dealing with Misty Rain Tower and Qingcheng Temple, he differentiated clearly between gratitude and grudges, acting honorably and righteously without involving a single innocent person.

From this, it could be seen that Fang Bai was not a wicked person full of malice and cruelty.

"Master, in our battle, you expended too much True Yuan. The lamp of life is short of oil, and I fear that your time may be limited to within this year!"

Fang Bai, looking at Xuan Nan whose face was pale and countenance withered, sighed softly.

"Uncle Master!"

Hearing Fang Bai's words and seeing Xuan Nan did not deny it, Xuan Ku and the other old monks were all shockingly pale, revealing expressions of sorrow.

Xuan Ku clenched his fists tightly, glaring at Fang Bai, thinking if it weren't for Fang Bai's forceful battle with his senior brother, his senior brother could have lived for another ten or eight years. How could he be left with only one year?

Xuan Nan remained neither happy nor sad, glanced at Xuan Ku and other old monks, and said indifferently, "Life and death are predestined. There's no need for sorrow!"

Fang Bai suddenly walked in front of Xuan Nan and sat down cross-legged, speaking earnestly, "I, Fang Bai, make a clear distinction between gratitude and grudge. Master's palm helped me achieve a breakthrough, how can I stand by and watch the Master run out of life force and ascend to bliss?"

At this moment, Xuan Nan's state of mind was peaceful, having let go of life and death. He smiled slightly and said, "Could it be that Young Benefactor Fang still has a method to snatch life from heaven?"

"Indeed! I wish to lend the Master a helping hand, to seize life from heaven!"

Fang Bai laughed heartily and declared loudly, "If the Master's cultivation level advances once more, you could extend your lifespan by thirty years!"

Xuan Nan's eyes suddenly widened as he looked at Fang Bai with a serious expression. His skinny frame uncontrollably trembled slightly at the thought.

Although Xuan Nan knew his end was near and had already seen through life and death, if offered a glimmer of hope for life, he would still struggle desperately to survive.

"Could what this young man is saying be true? Given Master Xuan Nan's current condition, how could it still be possible for him to advance to a higher realm?"

Long Jingtian's eyes gleamed with disbelief as he looked at Fang Bai.

If Master Xuan Nan hadn't engaged in that fierce battle with Fang Bai, perhaps there might have been some possibility for him to advance in the future. But now, it was clear to anyone that the recent battle had depleted nearly all of his True Yuan and caused his physical functions to weaken even further. It was not just about advancing, but maintaining his current realm was already an admirable feat.

Then Fang Bai continued, "Each advancement of a martial artist is subject to many constraints. With Master's cultivation level, you have long possessed the conditions to advance. What is lacking is merely an epiphany and a bit of opportunity."

Ultimately, Xuan Nan was an enlightened monk and quickly suppressed his excitement, restoring a tranquil state of mind. His gaze intense, he looked at Fang Bai with a smile and said, "Is the old monk's opportunity destined to be fulfilled through Young Benefactor Fang?"

"Opportunity also requires seizing!"

Fang Bai smiled faintly and said, "If the Master trusts me, I will help you break through this final barrier. If you don't trust me, I'll leave immediately."

Xuan Nan hesitated for a moment and then joined his palms together, saying, "Buddhism values the concept of 'karma'. My meeting with Young Benefactor Fang is karma! The old monk trusts Young Benefactor Fang!"

"Haha... Good! Since the Master trusts me, I shall not disappoint your expectations!"

Fang Bai burst into laughter, suddenly stood up, moved behind Xuan Nan, and gently placed his right palm on the top of Xuan Nan's head, right over the "Baihui Acupoint".

The Baihui Acupoint is a major acupoint on the human body. If Fang Bai wished to harm Xuan Nan now, a sudden burst of True Yuan could instantly kill Xuan Nan on the spot.

"What are you doing?"

Xuan Ku, Jueren and the other old monks, greatly alarmed, cried out in unison.

"If Young Benefactor Fang wanted to harm me, he would have succeeded long ago! Who among you could stop him? Step back, all of you!"

Master Xuan Nan said calmly, and at the same time, he seemed to realize what Fang Bai was about to do. With a peaceful mind, he crossed his legs and sat down, quietly waiting.

"The meridians and blood vessels within the master's body have already turned as dry as deadwood. I will now rejuvenate them, breathing new life into the withered veins!"

Fang Bai spoke in a deep voice.

Master Xuan Nan asked, "What must this old monk do?"

Fang Bai replied, "The master only needs to maintain a calm spirit and sit cross-legged. Remember one thing, no matter what happens, the master must not circulate his own cultivation technique to resist the external force!"

"This old monk will keep that in mind!"

"Good! Then let's begin!"

Fang Bai slowly circulated his cultivation technique, and within his Qi Sea, water and wood True Yuan began to separate from the mass of Chaos Origin Energy. Like strands and threads, they passed through Fang Bai's arms, overflowing from his palms like ambrosia baptism, continuously streaming into Master Xuan Nan's Baihui Acupoint at the crown of his head.

Master Xuan Nan felt an external force suddenly pouring into him through the Baihui Acupoint and instinctively wanted to circulate his cultivation technique to resist, but then he remembered Fang Bai's admonition and decided to let it be.

Once the water and wood True Yuan entered Master Xuan Nan's body, they started to flow through his meridians, coursing through his countless veins and vessels.

Master Xuan Nan quickly felt the uniqueness of the two strands of True Yuan that Fang Bai transferred into him.

One strand of True Yuan was like a spring breeze, laden with the vibrant force of life, revitalizing and reenergizing the meridians and blood vessels that had weakened like deadwood.

The other strand of True Yuan was like the hand of an immortal, gentle and moist, carrying a wondrous healing power, repairing and transforming the revitalized veins and vessels.

Under the continuous nourishment of these two strands of True Yuan, Master Xuan Nan felt a profound and silent transformation occurring within his body.

The sensation was indescribably delightful.

The old monks, including Xuan Ku and Jueren, who had stepped aside, watched Master Xuan Nan's facial expressions without blinking. Seeing that he was experiencing no pain, only peace and tranquility, they began to feel a little relieved.

However, it wasn't long before Xuan Ku noticed that black impurities were seeping out of Master Xuan Nan's pores, quickly forming a thin layer on his skin, causing his brows to furrow.

"This... this is genuine Marrow Cleansing!"

Long Jingtian was once again astounded by Fang Bai.

Although he was a Heaven Level Martial Artist and had undergone so-called "Marrow Cleansing" with special medicines, the effects couldn't compare with what was happening to Master Xuan Nan.

When Long Jingtian underwent "Marrow Cleansing," only some impurities in his flesh and blood were expelled, and what came out was nothing but turbid sweat.

But now, even the impurities in Master Xuan Nan's internal organs, bones, and meridians were being expelled, hence the layer of black filth on the surface of his body.

Long Jingtian, having read some ancient martial arts historical records, knew that a condition like Master Xuan Nan's, where all internal impurities are completely purged, represented genuine "Marrow Cleansing."

After going through true "Marrow Cleansing," the body is no longer a 'mortal fleshly womb' but gains a sort of spiritual essence.

For a common person, this means freedom from various illnesses, a healthier body, and a significantly extended lifespan.

For a martial artist, any cultivation of techniques and martial skills thereafter will proceed unimpeded, achieving twice the result with half the effort.

Chapter 502: Transmitting Techniques and Imparting Teachings

In Long Jingtian's understanding, the true "Marrow Cleansing" could be achieved through three methods.

One was to take special medicinal herbs that were over a thousand years old, using their strong medicinal power to expel impurities from the body.

Another was for martial artists to utilize their own True Essence Force in conjunction with a special cultivation technique to reach the purpose of "Marrow Cleansing."

The third method involved other experts using an Ambrosia Baptism-like technique to help martial artists force the impurities out of their bodies.

However, all three of these methods were difficult to achieve.

Medicinal herbs with a thousand years of medicinal age were extremely rare in the world.

Cultivation techniques that allowed a martial artist to perform Marrow Cleansing did not seem to exist in the Secular Ancient Martial World.

Experts who knew how to perform Marrow Cleansing on other martial artists with the art of Ambrosia Baptism were also hard to find.

Therefore, in the Huaxia Secular Ancient Martial World, very few martial artists had undergone true Marrow Cleansing.

Even Heaven Level martial artists like Xuan Nan and Long Jingtian had only undergone simple Marrow Cleansing, which greatly limited their cultivation levels and condemned them to never reach higher realms.

Long Jingtian never thought that Fang Bai would know this legendary technique of "Marrow Cleansing," which caused his eyes to brighten and his heart to heat up.

Old monks from Shaolin like Xuan Ku, who were experienced and knowledgeable martial artists, knew that Master Xuan Nan had encountered a great opportunity this time. They suspected he would truly break through and rise to a higher level of strength, which made them even more excited than Long Jingtian.

If, as Fang Bai had just said, Master Xuan Nan could extend his lifespan by thirty years after advancing, then Shaolin's position in the Huaxia Ancient Martial World would be further solidified.

Just think, with a mid-stage Heaven Level martial artist sitting in the stronghold, who in the entire world would dare to cause trouble at Shaolin? Even the legendary Hidden Sect experts would have to weigh their chances carefully!

Of course, Fang Bai was an exception.

This young man was a freak of nature, not to be judged by common sense!

After a while, both Fang Bai and Xuan Nan had vapors rising from the tops of their heads, and Fang Bai's forehead was covered in fine beads of sweat.

To perform Marrow Cleansing for a regular person, just a low-level Marrow Cleansing Pill was sufficient, but a higher-level Marrow Cleansing Pill was needed for a Heaven Level Martial Artist like Xuan Nan. Since Fang Bai didn't have one at the moment and didn't have the capability to refine one either, he had to use the clumsy method of Ambrosia Baptism for Xuan Nan's Marrow Cleansing.

Xuan Nan was advanced in years with weakened bodily functions, making the Marrow Cleansing much more difficult. Fortunately, Fang Bai had just advanced in level, significantly increasing his strength; otherwise, it would have been very difficult to accomplish.

Starting from when he began transferring True Essence Force into Xuan Nan's body, it took a full half hour before Fang Bai finally released his palm from the Baihui Acupoint on Xuan Nan's head, letting out a breath and feeling like a heavy burden had been lifted.

Marrow Cleansing for Xuan Nan was even more exhausting than battling with him. Fang Bai stepped back and, with a reverse grip, took out two Essence Stones and held them in his palms. Sitting cross-legged on the ground, he circulated his cultivation method, quickly absorbing the Essence Energy from the Essence Stones to replenish his own depleted energy.

Shortly thereafter, Fang Bai and Xuan Nan got up almost simultaneously, an old monk and a young layman, smiling at each other.

"Master, you seem much younger after advancing a level!"

Even though Xuan Nan had concealed his aura after advancing, Fang Bai could still feel the surging True Essence Force within him and said with a smile.

Master Xuan Nan placed his palms together, bowed deeply to Fang Bai, and said with a solemn tone, "Young Benefactor Fang does not hold our Shaolin disciples responsible, showing magnanimity and compassion; assisting this old monk to break through and advance in realm, borrowing life from the heavens, is to grant the grace of rebirth. Shaolin is endlessly grateful! This old monk is endlessly grateful!"

Old monks such as Xuan Ku and Jueren only then truly felt admiration and conviction towards Fang Bai. Standing behind Xuan Nan, they too respectfully bowed deeply to Fang Bai.

"I once inadvertently obtained a set of Buddhism cultivation methods, which I would like to discuss with Master Xuan Nan. I wonder if the master would be interested?"

Fang Bai asked, smiling at Xuan Nan.

Although Fang Bai spoke politely, Xuan Nan could sense the implicit intent to impart teachings in his words. Knowing this young man was extraordinary, and that the Buddhism cultivation technique he mentioned must be exceptional, he promptly said, "This old monk listens with respectful attention!"

Seeing that old monks like Xuan Ku and Jueren were preparing to leave, Fang Bai said with a smile, "This set of Buddhism cultivation technique is most suitable for you monks to practice. It will be beneficial for all of you to listen as well! However, what you comprehend will depend on your own fortune."

"Brother Fang, do we grandfather and grandchild need to leave?"

Long Jingtian asked, with a trace of eagerness in his eyes.

Even the Dragon Maiden showed a look of curiosity, wanting to hear what cultivation method Fang Bai would speak of.

Fang Bai said, "This cultivation method was created by a high monk, most suitable for monks to practice. However, if you wish to listen, you may do so, but I advise against practicing it, as it would not only be of no benefit but could potentially cause harm."

"Then we will not listen."

Long Jingtian, quite disappointed, saw the seriousness in Fang Bai's words and knew he would not deceive him. With a sigh, he took the Dragon Maiden to a farther spot, to avoid the temptation to eavesdrop and secretly practice.

Ghost Hand followed suit in leaving. He had been taught the "Buddha's Fury Golden Staff Technique" by Fang Bai. This technique seemed to have some connection with the Buddhism cultivation technique and was enough for him to dedicate his life to practicing. There was no need to learn more.

At that point, Fang Bai sat in the center on a stone platform and began to impart the Buddhism cultivation technique word by word.

Xuan Nan sat opposite him, while old monks like Xuan Ku and Jueren sat behind Xuan Nan, listening intently.

The "Thunder Sound Subduing Demon Technique" that Fang Bai taught was an innate Buddhist cultivation method he had obtained in his previous life in the Cultivation World. Just now, he had used Xuan Nan's strength to break through the barrier of his realm; now, by passing this technique to Xuan Nan, he was repaying him.

After hearing the Thunder Sound Subduing Demon Technique, Xuan Nan memorized it deeply, feeling that the technique was profound and vast, seemingly more formidable than the strongest technique handed down in Shaolin, worthy of a lifetime of study. Knowing this was a tremendous opportunity given by Fang Bai, he was filled with gratitude.

Although old monks like Xuan Ku and Jueren did not have the comprehension of Xuan Nan, they also sensed the extremely profound Martial Dao Aracana and even Buddhist truths contained within the technique. Looking at Fang Bai, their eyes held nothing but gratitude and awe.

"With diligent cultivation of this 'Thunder Sound Subduing Demon Technique,' Master, perhaps within thirty years there might be hope for reaching yet another higher level. At that time, master could once again snatch life from the heavens and extend your lifespan,"

Fang Bai concluded after imparting the technique.

Having received Fang Bai's help to snatch thirty years of life from the heavens was a miracle Xuan Nan had never dared to imagine. Hearing that he still had the hope of advancing in realm and once again extending his life, Xuan Nan could not contain his excitement, chanting Buddha's name and repeatedly expressing his thanks.

Subsequently, under the arrangements of Abbot Jueren of Shaolin, Fang Bai found a room, took off his blood-stained clothes, cleansed his body, and then applied some healing medicine he had concocted. Afterward, he retrieved a set of spare clothes from his Spatial Ring and put them on.

Though Fang Bai had many cuts and bruises on his body, these were merely superficial wounds. After applying the medicine he had concocted, they would scab over overnight and heal completely within three days, leaving no scars.

Chapter 503: Sister Chenyu is Here

Having declined the strong entreaties of Master Xuan Nan and other Shaolin monks, Fang Bai, Ghost Hand, Long Jingtian, and Dragon Maiden together said their farewells and descended the mountain to leave Shaolin.

When they left, Xuan Nan, Xuan Ku, Jueren, and other Shaolin monks accompanied Fang Bai's party all the way to the Reception Pavilion at the foot of the mountain.

Ghost Hand had sought justice for his sect, and having let go of all the resentment in his heart after leaving Shaolin, he wore a smile on his face, appearing to be in a very good mood.

Long Jingtian and Dragon Maiden were headed back to the Dragon Guard headquarters in Yanjing, while Fang Bai and his disciples were preparing to return home to Zhongzhou for the New Year. The four braved the wind and snow and, when they arrived at a crossroads, exchanged pleasantries, folded their hands in a salute, and parted ways.

"Brother Fang, after the New Year, when you return to Yanjing, remember to come visit me! I'll have Dragon Maiden receive you!"

Before parting, Long Jingtian, departing from his usual calm, steady, and imposing demeanor, piled on a smiling face, and spoke to Fang Bai with unprecedented enthusiasm.

Long Jingtian couldn't help but be enthusiastic; Fang Bai was not only a master of medicine but also a martial artist of great strength. Such a talent in both medicine and martial arts was extremely rare. As long as Fang Bai would stay with the Dragon Guard, their strength would reach an unprecedented level, enabling them to effectively deter those miscreants.

Dragon Maiden rolled her eyes upon seeing her grandfather calling Fang Bai "Brother Fang" relentlessly, thinking to herself, if you call Fang Bai "brother," wouldn't that make my seniority two levels below him, and wouldn't I have to call him "Grandpa Fang"?

Facing Long Jingtian, the leader of Dragon Guard with Heaven Level martial artist strength, Fang Bai maintained sufficient courtesy and with a smile, accepted Long Jingtian's invitation and bid farewell to him and his granddaughter with a hand salute.

"Ghost Hand, what are you thinking about?"

Once separated from Long Jingtian and his granddaughter, Fang Bai saw that Ghost Hand was somewhat absent-minded and casually asked.

"Master, the murderer who slaughtered the disciples of Myriad Medicine Valley has been executed, and the three Heaven Level Martial Artist relics stolen have been recovered. I'd like to take some time to return to Myriad Medicine Valley to pay respects to my deceased fellow disciples," Ghost Hand said, stopping in his tracks with a solemn expression.

Fang Bai nodded, patted Ghost Hand on the shoulder, and smiled, "After the New Year, I'll go to Yanjing, and you can go to your sect to pay your respects. Then you can stay at the Chinese Medicine Clinic. From now on, that will be your home, and my family will be your family!"

"Thank you, Master!"

Ghost Hand nodded with a choked voice.

.....

When Fang Bai and Ghost Hand returned to Zhongzhou, it was already the twenty-eighth day of the twelfth lunar month. The entire city was decked out in lanterns and streamers, presenting a scene of prosperity, and the citizens were also busy purchasing their New Year goods in those last couple of days.

"You two kids, it's almost New Year's, where have you been running off to?"

Fang Bai and Ghost Hand had been popping in and out recently, hardly staying home at all. Their return this time inevitably brought a barrage of complaints from Fang Gang and Yang Mei.

Naturally, Fang Bai and Ghost Hand wouldn't tell the whole truth; they fumbled through with an excuse and then checked what New Year goods were still needed at home before going out to buy them.

On the morning of New Year's Eve, Fang Bai's family, along with Ghost Hand, got up early. Yang Mei and her husband were in the kitchen preparing to make dumplings, while Fang Bai, Fang Yun, and Ghost Hand were responsible for cleaning, posting Spring Festival couplets, and hanging up festive lights.

Around eight o'clock, Fang Bai's ears twitched slightly as he sensed a familiar aura and murmured, "Why has she come?"

A few minutes later, Ghost Hand and Fang Yun also picked up on a whiff of an aura similar to their own. Discarding the broom in her hand, Fang Yun called out joyfully, "It's Sister Chenyu! I'll go receive her!"

With a look that was half-smiling, half-serious, she glanced at Fang Bai, then bounced out of the courtyard with excitement.

"Chenyu is here?"

Yang Mei, hearing her daughter's excited shouts, walked out of the kitchen with a face full of joy, followed closely by Fang Gang. Together, the couple headed out to greet the visitors at the front gate.

"It seems like everyone knew Chenyu was coming? Is there something they're keeping from me?"

Fang Bai thought for a moment, then decided to stride out as well.

On the wide space outside the courtyard gate, Xia Chenyu was climbing out of her red sports car.

Xia Chenyu was wearing a red trench coat that accentuated her figure, making her waist appear even more slender. On her feet were a pair of red thigh-high boots, which highlighted her straight, long legs. Her black and glossy hair flowed over her shoulders, and when a cold breeze blew, a few strands fluttered in the air, like dark spirits dancing.

Xia Chenyu nonchalantly brushed the windblown strands of hair behind her ear, an effortless gesture filled with boundless allure and elegance that made hearts flutter involuntarily.

From Xia Chenyu's complexion and expression, it was apparent that she had been living comfortably and happily of late.

Her company was thriving, the Shen Family had stopped bothering her for the time being, and she had a man she liked in her heart... Now, wherever Xia Chenyu went, a hint of a happy smile lingered at the corners of her mouth.

After getting out of the car and seeing the Fang family coming out to meet her, the smile on her lips quickly spread across her beautiful face, radiant as a spring bloom.

"Uncle, Auntie, I'm so sorry for being late... Some last-minute business came up at the company," Xia Chenyu said, her face full of apology, as she approached Fang Gang and Yang Mei.

"It's fine! It's fine! We're so happy that you could come!" Yang Mei enthusiastically took Xia Chenyu's hand, looking her up and down with a smiling face, "It's been a while since I've seen you, Chenyu, you're getting more and more beautiful! Come on, it's cold outside, let's talk inside!"

Xia Chenyu responded with a polite nod, exchanged a few words with Fang Yun, and then brought out many gifts from her car.

Xia Chenyu was known for her generosity. She had visited the Fang Family several times before, and each time she brought several valuable gifts for both Fang Gang and his wife, as well as Fang Yun.

Yang Mei had repeatedly advised Xia Chenyu not to bring gifts when visiting their home. Although Xia Chenyu would agree to her face, she would still bring gifts the next time she came, which made Yang Mei helpless but also more fond of President Xia, who was not only beautiful but also knew how to win people's hearts.

At that moment, Fang Bai also came out from the courtyard. Seeing the smiling and fiery-dressed Xia Chenyu, he joked, "What wind has blown President Xia our way?"

"North wind!"

Xia Chenyu glanced at Fang Bai with her beautiful eyes and laughed teasingly, "What's the matter, Boss Fang, you don't welcome me?"

Listening to the duo addressing each other as "President Xia" and "Boss Fang," Fang Gang and Yang Mei exchanged glances, wondering why their son was calling Xia Chenyu "President Xia," which was understandable, but why was she calling their son "Boss Fang"? What was going on?

"It's an honor to have President Xia grace our humble abode, of course you're welcome! Please come in!" Fang Bai said, stepping aside and gesturing for her to enter, his gaze lingering on Xia Chenyu's face.

Ever since she started practicing the cultivation technique he had taught her and using the beauty medications he had formulated, Xia Chenyu had become even more fair-skinned and lovely. Her aura was more ethereal, and every move she made was seductive—she was utterly enchanting.

Chapter 504: Xia Chenyu's Thoughts

Xia Chenyu saw Fang Bai sizing her up with admiration in his eyes. She couldn't help but feel overjoyed, her beautiful eyes sparkling as she gave him a charming smile and said coquettishly, "What are you looking at? Haven't seen me in a few days and Boss Fang no longer recognizes me?"

Fang Bai sighed, "What my mom said earlier was right, President Xia is getting more and more beautiful!"

Fang Yun couldn't help but let out a "pfft" of laughter at their flirting and said, "Little brother, Chenyu sister, isn't it a bit cheesy to play on words like this? By the way, Chenyu sister, why do you call my little brother 'Boss Fang'?"

"You ask him!"

Xia Chenyu pursed her lips towards Fang Bai.

"Little brother, you tell us!"

Fang Yun turned her head to look at Fang Bai.

Fang Bai chuckled, "Sister, it's called having a sense of romance, understand?"

Fang Bai certainly wouldn't tell them that he was one of the major shareholders of Beauty Company, who earned a ten-figure income each year without lifting a finger, to spare his family the cardiac stress.

"Oh... I get it now!"

Feigning an epiphany, Fang Yun laughed and said, "So that's how you two are spicing things up, huh? But Chenyu sister really is the genuine President Xia. You, little brother, are far from it – you're nothing like the image of 'Boss Fang'!"

"How am I not like a boss?"

Fang Bai looked down at his outfit, his face full of disagreement.

"From head to toe, you're not!"

Fang Yun shook her head, critiquing from top to bottom, "Firstly, a boss's hair would be combed neatly, not a single hair out of place; secondly, a boss should dress stylishly and have good taste; thirdly, a boss should wear a pricy international brand watch; and fourthly, when a boss goes out, he should have a personal driver and a luxury car... You don't have any of that, who would believe you're a boss!"

Pausing for a moment, she pointed at Fang Bai and laughed, "The way you're dressed now, with casual wear matched with jeans and sneakers, you look just like a fresh university graduate! You don't cut it as a big boss, but maybe you could pass for a small boss. If you wear a few gold chains around your neck, put a couple of name brand watches on each wrist, slick back your hair with some gel, throw on a suit and some dress shoes, and have two bodyguards following, then the image of a small boss will emerge."

Fang Bai laughed out loud, "What you're describing is a nouveau riche, not a boss! Real wealthy bosses are very low-key! Like me..."

"Alright, alright, no more showing off! Let Chenyu come inside; don't let her catch a cold!"

Yang Mei interrupted her son's bragging, pulling Xia Chenyu's hand and leading her into the yard.

Xia Chenyu looked back at Fang Bai, who was shrugging with a wry smile, and chuckled secretly, thinking that Fang Bai truly was a low-profile boss, a pity his own family didn't know. Should she spill the beans?

After a second thought, Xia Chenyu decided against it. If Fang Bai wanted to tell, he would have informed his family by now; why wait till now? She decided to keep silent.

Since it was New Year's Eve, there were still many chores to be done, so after sitting in the living room and chatting for a while, they got back to their tasks.

Xia Chenyu took off her coat and entered the kitchen to help Fang Gang and his wife make dumplings. Fang Yun stopped what she was doing and came to sit beside Xia Chenyu to help as well.

Fang Yun and Xia Chenyu were both beauties and only a year or two apart in age, so they had a lot in common. They whispered to each other while making dumplings, and bursts of giggles would occasionally slip out.

Yang Mei had originally thought that as the president of a big company, Xia Chenyu would be too delicate to have ever set foot in a kitchen. But to her surprise, Xia Chenyu was extremely adept at rolling out dough and making dumplings. It was clear she had done this many times before.

A woman who could grace a hall, work in a kitchen, looked beautiful, knew how to win hearts, and also owned a big company... Where could you find such a daughter-in-law?

Yang Mei looked at Xia Chenyu, and the more she looked, the more she liked her, lavishing her with unabashed praise.

Outside, Fang Bai, who was cleaning and posting Spring Festival couplets with Ghost Hand, heard the tone in his mother's voice and realized she completely regarded Xia Chenyu as her daughter-in-law, he couldn't help but shake his head with a wry smile.

Xia Chenyu stayed at the Fang Family's for meals at both noon and evening, then joined the Fang family members to watch the Spring Festival Gala, staying up until midnight.

Yang Mei originally wanted Xia Chenyu to stay and sleep with Fang Yun, planning for her to leave after the first day of the New Year, but Xia Chenyu politely refused, saying there were still some matters to attend to at the company.

Seeing that Xia Chenyu was insistent on leaving, Yang Mei had no choice but to ask Fang Bai to take her home.

"On such a festive occasion, why must you go back? Don't you find it boring to be alone in the company?"

On the way to take Xia Chenyu home, Fang Bai softly asked.

He was riding in Xia Chenyu's sports car, planning to walk back after dropping her off at her place.

Xia Chenyu didn't have much family in Zhongzhou City, and usually took the company as her home. Previously, her secretary Zhao Xiaomeng had kept her company living at the company, but Zhao Xiaomeng went back to reunite with her family these last few days, and the other employees were also on leave. Besides a few security guards, the company was left with only Xia Chenyu.

Ever since gaining the Martial Arts Techniques taught by Fang Bai, Xia Chenyu's strength had improved rapidly. Her cultivation level had reached the high rank of Yellow Level, and because the cultivation technique she practiced allowed her to challenge those beyond her rank, she wouldn't be harmed by any martial artist below the high rank of Profound Level.

Xia Chenyu also gained a lot of confidence in her own strength, so much so that she simply dismissed the few female bodyguards she had.

If it weren't for Xia Chenyu's capabilities to defend herself and the Jade Pendant that held a few threads of murderous intention, which he had given her for protection, Fang Bai would not be at ease with her staying alone at the company.

"Mmm, I really have something to do!"

Xia Chenyu smiled and said, "Otherwise I would definitely stay at your house. At your home, uncle, auntie, Xiao Yun... and you, you all treat me very well, and I feel very warm and touched. To tell you the truth, I really don't want to go!"

"Do you have something on your mind?"

Fang Bai saw a forced smile on Xia Chenyu's face and a very low mood, as if she was carrying a heavy heart, and he asked with a frown.

"I..."

Xia Chenyu hesitated.

"I don't mind being your listener... as long as you're willing to share what's on your mind!"

Fang Bai said earnestly.

Xia Chenyu's gaze drifted to the distant night sky, and she fell silent for a long moment, without her realizing, tears had begun to fall from her eyes.

"Today... is the anniversary of my mother's death... "

Just when Fang Bai thought Xia Chenyu would not share her troubles with him, she slowly opened her mouth.

Fang Bai was startled, then he recalled Xia Chenyu's background.

If it were not for Shen Dongyang, the current head of Anxi's number one family, the Shen Family, who had heartlessly betrayed her in the past, Xia Chenyu would have been the treasured daughter of the Shen Family; her name would have been Shen Chenyu, and she would be enjoying the warmth and happiness of family underneath the care of her parents.

Chapter 505: I Will Use This Lifetime to Repay Him

For his own and the Shen Family's interests, Shen Dongyang chose to marry the daughter of another powerful clan that year, but heartlessly drove Xia Chenyu and her mother out of the Shen Family without recognition, causing them to drift in a foreign land, and finally, Chenyu's mother died of depression.

Until her death, Chenyu's mother kept muttering Shen Dongyang's name, hoping the man would come to see her, stay with her for a while, speak a few words to her, but her wish was never fulfilled before she passed away.

Chenyu's mother left this world full of regrets and endless resentment. Seeing her mother close her eyes for the last time, Xia Chenyu cried her heart out until she fainted at her mother's bedside.

After burying her mother, the innately stubborn and strong Xia Chenyu swiftly pulled herself together and focused on managing the Beauty Company her mother had left behind.

Xia Chenyu wanted to fulfill her mother's dying wish to bring down the Shen Family, their most important beauty industry, to let the Shen Family taste pain and to make Shen Dongyang regret it for the rest of his life.

Xia Chenyu's wish was gradually coming true.

Xia Chenyu would never forget the boundless disappointment in her mother's eyes the moment she died, and the deep affection she had for her. From that moment on, Shen Dongyang became the person Xia Chenyu hated the most in this life, despite their blood relationship as father and daughter.

In Xia Chenyu's view, since Shen Dongyang had heartlessly driven her and her mother out of the Shen Family, no longer considering her his daughter, why should she recognize him as her father?

Thus, after that, no matter whether Shen Dongyang came personally or her half-brother Shen Huanian tried to persuade her to acknowledge her ancestors and return to the Shen Family, they received only endless mockery and deep disdain from Xia Chenyu.

"The day my mother died was the early morning of New Year's Day, at two-fifteen... I remember it very clearly..."

With tears streaming down her face, Xia Chenyu choked up and said, "Every year at this time, I honor her with a memorial, then sit in front of her portrait and talk about my innermost thoughts. Sometimes, I feel like my mother isn't really gone, as if she's always by my side, watching me grow day by day, watching me eat, sleep, rest... Fang Bai, I'm sorry, I really didn't mean to reject your aunt's retention, I... I just miss my mom so much..."

Xia Chenyu said this, her shoulders trembling violently, unable to speak through her sobs.

Fang Bai sighed softly, stopped the car by the roadside, reached out his arms, gently embraced Xia Chenyu, allowing her to lean against his chest and wet his shirt with her tears.

"I want to go to your place to see your mother, if that's okay?"

When Xia Chenyu's crying subsided, Fang Bai patted her shoulder and softly asked.

"Mm."

Xia Chenyu hesitated for a moment, then nodded.

"It's one-thirty now... there's still plenty of time, we can make it..."

Fang Bai took out a tissue, wiped the tears from Xia Chenyu's eyes and cheeks, said a few comforting words in a gentle voice, then stepped on the gas, driving the sports car to speed through the roads.

Upon arriving at Xia Chenyu's residence, they saw that it was five minutes to two in the morning.

Xia Chenyu's office and residence were both on the top floor of the Beauty Company's office building. The two took the elevator straight up.

This wasn't Fang Bai's first time entering Xia Chenyu's residence. He found that underneath the mature exterior of this formidable CEO, there was a hidden girlish heart. Year-round, her house would change colors, filled with a youthful and romantic atmosphere.

Under normal circumstances, when Fang Bai came to Xia Chenyu's place, she would always joke around with him, and even make some flirtatious gestures, but today, neither of them was in the mood.

Xia Chenyu was filled with sorrow, and Fang Bai also had a solemn expression.

Xia Chenyu asked Fang Bai to sit on the living room sofa, then entered a small room next to it. When she came out, she held a portrait of her mother in both hands.

The woman in the portrait was probably in her early forties, her features delicate and lovely, bearing a resemblance to Xia Chenyu. However, there seemed to be an indelible, thick sorrow between her brows.

Xia Chenyu placed her mother's portrait on a table in the living room and then set up an incense burner and a few offerings. After lighting incense for her mother, she knelt and kowtowed several times.

"Mom, your daughter has come again to talk with you..."

After the ritual, Xia Chenyu moved a chair to sit beside her mother's portrait, gently caressed her mother's face in the picture, and spoke softly.

She had barely started speaking when her eyes reddened, and tears overflowed, falling ceaselessly.

Fang Bai stepped forward, silently lit a stick of incense, and said, "Auntie, Chenyu is doing very well now. If you have spirit in heaven, you can rest easy. Rest assured, as long as I am here, Chenyu will no longer be wronged, nor will anyone dare to bully her..."

Hearing Fang Bai speak seriously, Xia Chenyu's tears flowed even more fiercely and quickly.

"Mom, this is Fang Bai, he's my... very, very good friend... He's come with me to see you! Fang Bai is my savior, without him, there would be no me today... You always said while you were alive that one should be grateful and repay their debts, and I will use my life to repay him... Mom, so much has happened this year, I will tell you slowly..."

After Fang Bai finished speaking, Xia Chenyu also began to murmur softly, pouring out her heart about the year's events.

Standing to the side and watching Xia Chenyu murmur, now joyous, now sorrowful, now crying, now laughing, Fang Bai's heart was filled with pity.

He also moved a chair and sat next to Xia Chenyu, wrapping an arm around her delicate body, letting her rest her head on his shoulder.

Who knows how long it was before Xia Chenyu's voice gradually softened and weakened, and finally, with faint breathing, she fell asleep.

Fang Bai gently removed the portrait she was clutching in her arms, then picked up her soft and boneless body, carried her to her bedroom, carefully laid her on the bed, removed her shoes and socks, and covered her with a blanket.

"Fang Bai... don't leave tonight, I want to sleep in your arms, can I?"

Xia Chenyu's eyes, hazy with drowsiness, suddenly opened, and she gazed at Fang Bai with an almost pleading tone.

Although it was New Year's Eve, a night for family reunions, how could Fang Bai bear to leave?

"Okay."

Fang Bai nodded, took off his shoes and socks, and lay beside Xia Chenyu in his clothes.

Xia Chenyu shifted slightly, snuggling into Fang Bai's open arm like a small bird cuddling up to him, and slowly closed her eyes.

Although their bodies were touching and their breaths could be heard, their minds were calm, without a hint of improper thought.

Xia Chenyu fell asleep quickly, and she slept soundly that night, always with a girlish sweet smile on her lips.

The next morning, when Fang Bai walked out of the Beauty Company building, the security guards on overnight duty at the door all widened their eyes in disbelief.

They could never have imagined that President Xia, the goddess who all the men in the company regarded as inviolable and sacred, had actually had a man stay over!

The few guards exchanged glances, took out their phones, ready to capture Fang Bai's image to show off to their colleagues after the New Year, but they found the man turned his head and gave them a look, leaving them a profound and inscrutable smile before his figure flickered a few times and disappeared around the corner of the distant street.

Chapter 506: Which one do you like more in your heart?

On the morning of the first day of the lunar new year, Fang Bai got up, set off firecrackers with Ghost Hand, had breakfast with his family, and then started to make phone calls and send texts non-stop, sending new year wishes to relatives and friends.

At the same time, Fang Bai also received many phone calls and text messages from relatives and friends, from Zhongzhou, Yanjing, Jinling, Lingnan, Anxi...

From Zhongzhou, there were calls and texts from relatives of the Fang Family, the CEO of Beauty Company, Xia Chenyu, Fang Bai's old classmates, the couple Ruan Hongpeng from Red Leaf Entertainment Club, siblings Su Yifei and Su Linglong from the Su Family, Hua Yi from Rejuvenation Hall of the Hua Family, among others.

From Yanjing, there were messages from the Dragon Maiden of Dragon Guard, Dongfang Ruhua from the Dongfang Family, the family of three from the Lu Family, Lu Xingping and Lu Xinghe couple, Jiang Xiaoyu from the Jiang Family, Wang Miaomiao from Doctor Pavilion, and the family of three Baile Mingyue from the quadrangle courtyard, and so on.

The blessing message from Jinling was sent by Qin Yaorao from the Qin Family.

The blessing call from Lingnan was made by "National Sweetheart" Ye Wumei.

The blessing call from Anxi was made by Tang Wenrou from the Tang Family.

There were also some blessing calls and texts from various parts of Huaxia sent or made by interns and doctors from Yanjing Hospital who had a good relationship with Fang Bai.

In short, Fang Bai's phone did not stop at all during the entire morning of the first day of the lunar new year; he was incredibly busy.

Fang Gang and his wife knew their son was now very capable and knew many people, which was why he was so busy. They felt both proud and relieved.

"Was that last call from Chenyu? Has her business been taken care of?"

"That was Linglong's call, right? Hmm, it sounds a bit like her."

"Wumei? Judging by the name, she must be a girl, right? What's your relationship with her?"

"Who is Ruhua?"

"And who is Mingyue?"

"I know Teacher Qin. But who are these people like Police Officer Tang and Group Leader Dragon?"

...

While Fang Bai was making and receiving calls, Yang Mei stood beside her son with her ears perked up, especially when her son was talking to girls; she listened even more attentively, and after the call ended, she couldn't help asking a few questions.

Yang Mei noticed that among her son's friends, there were many girls, and when her son talked to those girls, he did so with a smile and a gentle tone, not at all like they were just ordinary friends.

"They are all my friends. It's the new year, everyone's just making a call and sending a few words of blessing, that's all. Mom, don't overthink it!"

After ending the last call, Fang Bai let out a long sigh, put away his phone, and said to his mother with a smile.

"Chenyu is a girl with good qualities in all aspects. Your dad, sister, and I all like her quite a bit. Let me tell you, Fang Bai, don't go messing around with other girls outside... If you're playing both sides, be careful that in the end, you capsize both boats and end up with nothing!"

Yang Mei glared at her son with a "warning" look. She felt that her son was great in every aspect except when it came to women, where he seemed somewhat indecisive.

Both Fang Gang and his wife leaned toward traditional thinking. From their perspective, their son was now successful in his career. If he could also find a stable relationship, get married, and have children, nothing could be better.

When faced with his mother's "warning," Fang Bai chuckled and gave a noncommittal "haha," thinking to himself that there was more than one woman with whom he had an ambiguous relationship. If his mother found out, he wondered if she would be furious enough to enforce the Fang Family's discipline on him.

"Son, I have a question for you, and I want you to answer me honestly!"

Yang Mei's expression suddenly turned serious.

"Mom, please ask."

Fang Bai said with a smile.

Yang Mei hesitated for a moment, then sighed softly and said, "I feel like both Chenyu and Linglong have some feelings for you. Who do you fancy more?"

"Mom, I'm only twenty years old. I'm still young, and love can wait a while! By the way, our family's traditional Chinese medicine clinic is doing better and better. Have you and dad thought about expanding it further?"

Every time Fang Bai came home, the last thing he wanted his parents to bring up was this topic. Thus, whenever they did, he would play Tai Chi to change the subject, and this time was no exception.

His tactic worked wonders as always. As soon as Yang Mei heard about the clinic, she perked up and said excitedly, "Your dad and I have discussed it. Once the new year is over, we'll rent the shops next to our clinic and hire a few more TCM practitioners to help. Ah, it would be great if our 'Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic' could grow as big as 'Rejuvenation Hall'!"

Fang Gang chimed in from the side, "Rejuvenation Hall belongs to the Hua Family, a prominent TCM lineage that has been around for hundreds of years and is renowned throughout Huaxia. We can't compare with them. We have to eat one bite at a time; it's unrealistic to expect to get fat in one gulp!"

Fang Bai nodded and said, "Dad's right; we shouldn't rush things and need to take it step by step. In fact, the development of 'Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic' has already been very rapid. Surpassing 'Rejuvenation Hall' is just a matter of time. I believe that in the near future, 'Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic' will not only become the number one TCM lineage in Huaxia but also go international, making it known to the entire world!"

"Yes, 'Fang's Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic' will become number one in Huaxia, number one in the world!"

Fang Gang imagined the bright future described by his son and was boiling with excitement and emotion.

Yang Mei said, "Once we expand the clinic, what we'll need most are experienced TCM doctors like your dad. Fang Bai, you have many friends; could you recruit some honest and experienced TCM practitioners to help us? We can offer high salaries! Although Big White is not bad, he is still too young and lacks some experience in medicine..."

As Yang Mei said this, she glanced at Ghost Hand, who was outside in the courtyard clearing away the snow on the roadside, and whispered to Fang Bai, "You mentioned before that Ghost Hand's medical skills are even better than your dad's. Is that true?"

Ever since Ghost Hand followed Fang Bai back to Zhongzhou, he had been busy recovering justice from the three major sects – Misty Rain Tower, Qingcheng Temple, and Shaolin – and hadn't had the chance to showcase his skills in the clinic. Thus, Yang Mei was uncertain about his medical expertise, only remembering that when her son brought Ghost Hand home, he said his medical skills were formidable and urged her husband, Fang Gang, to learn from Ghost Hand.

Yang Mei would, of course, not doubt her son's words, but since Ghost Hand was still so young and hadn't had experience treating patients in the clinic – she remained unsure.

Fang Bai laughed and said, "I'm not just speaking in favor of Ghost Hand, but even Hua Chun, the head of the Hua Family from 'Rejuvenation Hall,' must admit defeat in terms of medical skills compared to Ghost Hand! So, with Ghost Hand in the clinic, along with the treatments for complex diseases that I've left behind, there won't be any diseases we can't cure. You both can rest assured!"

Originally a disciple of Myriad Medicine Valley, one of the Ancient Medicine Sect in Huaxia, Ghost Hand's skills had greatly advanced after becoming Fang Bai's disciple. His medical expertise had improved qualitatively, and for certain diseases, he was even superior to the four National Doctors of modern-day Huaxia.

Chapter 507: Su Linglong Pays a New Year Visit

Hua Chun is the Hua Family Patriarch and the owner of "Rejuvenation Hall". In the Huaxia traditional Chinese medicine community, he is known as "Paragon of Hua Tuo". Aside from the four current National Doctors of Huaxia, there are no other medical practitioners who can be compared with Hua Chun.

Ghost Hand is the disciple of their son; Fang Gang and his wife believe that his medical skills definitely wouldn't be bad, but they found it hard to believe that Hua Chun would bow down before Ghost Hand.

Fang Bai couldn't be bothered to explain further, thinking to himself that once Ghost Hand stayed to see patients at their family clinic, his parents would surely be astonished.

At noon, Fang Bai was called away by Zhou Dabai, Hong Dabao, and a few other old classmates. Once Fang Bai had left, Fang Gang couldn't wait to call Ghost Hand over and began inquiring about his medical knowledge.

Fang Gang, who was also a seasoned traditional Chinese physician, had initially wanted to test Ghost Hand, but to his surprise, not only did Ghost Hand easily answer his questions, but in many areas, his insights were even more profound.

Only then did Fang Gang believe his son was right and dared not underestimate Ghost Hand, humbly asking for advice.

On the second day of the new year, what surprised Fang Bai was that Su Linglong actually brought some gifts and drove to his family's home, escorted by several bodyguards from her clan.

"It's the New Year, shouldn't you be visiting friends and paying respects to elders? How come you have time to come here?"

After Su Linglong's bodyguards had left, Fang Bai took her small hand and asked softly.

"You are my friend, aren't you? Your parents are my elders too! It's only natural that I come to visit and pay New Year's respects!"

Su Linglong blinked her bright, charming eyes and smiled sweetly, "Actually, yesterday I already accompanied my parents to pay New Year's visits to a few relatives with whom we're quite close. Today I had some free time, so I came over to your place!"

"It was my parents who invited you, right? Come clean, or don't blame me for being impolite!"

Fang Bai suddenly wrapped his arms around Su Linglong's slender waist, pinning her against the wall outside his family's courtyard, and then looked down at her, asking "ferociously".

On New Year's Eve, the sudden appearance of Xia Chenyu had caught Fang Bai off guard. Later, after careful questioning, he learned that she had been invited by his parents to celebrate the New Year with his family.

Now with Su Linglong's sudden visit, Fang Bai felt it very likely that the same might be true for her. Otherwise, being a young lady from a prominent family like herself, she would surely be hosting many relatives and friends before and after the New Year. How could she have the spare time to specifically come to his house to pay a New Year's visit?

Whether it was Xia Chenyu or Su Linglong, both had good relationships with him. If his mother had extended an invitation to them, they probably would not feel comfortable declining and would accept the invitation.

The breath Fang Bai exhaled while speaking wafted across Su Linglong's face, making her feel weak all over and her cheeks flush with heat. She wasn't good at lying and, like a panicked little rabbit, tried to avoid Fang Bai's piercing gaze, shyly saying, "It was Auntie... Auntie said she hadn't seen me for a while and wanted to talk to me. So... I came!"

After a pause, she added, "My grandfather and brother both know I came here. They also asked me to pass on New Year's blessings and regards to your whole family!"

In the Su Family, Su Linglong was closest not to her parents, but to her grandfather, Old Master Su, and her brother, Su Yifei, so there were many things she was willing to share with them.

"How is Old Master Su doing? How's your brother's business been lately?"

When Su Linglong mentioned Su Hongyuan and Su Yifei, Fang Bai casually asked.

Su Linglong nodded, saying, "Grandfather is in good health; he still practices Tai Chi Fist every day! My brother's business has been good lately too, but these past couple of days, he's been obsessed with gambling on stones. He keeps dragging Uncle Qin Shan from the Qin Family in Jinling to the gambling stone festival in the west of the city. I heard he's already lost quite a bit of money..."

"Qin Shan?"

Fang Bai hadn't expected Qin Yaorao's second uncle to have also come to Zhongzhou, he knew that Qin Shan was a well-known jade merchant in Huaxia. It seemed he must have been attracted by that Betting Stones Festival.

All he could hear was Su Linglong continuing, "My grandfather scolded my brother for that gambling with stones, saying he wasn't focusing on proper business! But my brother, he pretends to be obedient on the surface, and still sneaks off to the festival... He's really impossible to manage!"

Fang Bai couldn't care less about some Betting Stones Festival. He placed his hands on Su Linglong's shoulders, speaking earnestly, "Linglong, I know for prominent clans like yours, there must be a lot to handle before and during the New Year. You've definitely been busy these past few days! But you felt awkward refusing my parent's invitation, so you came anyway, right? You don't need to put yourself out, just refuse if you need to, my parents won't be upset!"

"No, I was really happy when uncle and auntie invited me! Really!"

Su Linglong smiled sweetly, as if being invited by Fang Bai's parents was a great honor.

"Alright, let's not talk about this anymore! Come on, let's go inside!"

Fang Bai, carrying the gifts that Su Linglong had brought, walked shoulder to shoulder with her into his family's courtyard.

Fang Bai could guess what his parents were hinting at by inviting Xia Chenyu and Su Linglong over for New Year's - they wanted to give him a "double guarantee." If things didn't work out with one, he would still have the other.

It was amusing and slightly frustrating that not long ago, his mother Yang Mei had "warned" him not to play both sides, but now she was actively preparing two boats for him to step on.

Thankfully, his parents staggered the invitations to Xia Chenyu and Su Linglong; otherwise, it would have been quite awkward if the two had met.

Seeing Su Linglong's arrival, Fang Bai's parents were naturally overjoyed. After sitting down in the house, Fang Yun eagerly offered her seeds and sweets, while Yang Mei asked Su Linglong about various family matters.

Su Linglong kept a sweet smile on her face the entire time, maintaining an elegant and ladylike image. She answered each of Fang Bai's parents' questions thoughtfully, showing great docility.

Su Linglong stayed at Fang Bai's house for a whole day. After dinner, Yang Mei took her hand and talked with her for a while before reluctantly asking Fang Bai to escort her home.

"Dad, Mom, what's going on with you two?"

After sending Su Linglong back to the Su Family, Fang Bai ran all the way back to his own house. Upon entering the living room and seeing his parents sitting on the sofa sighing, he couldn't help but ask.

"It's all because of you!"

Yang Mei sighed and said with a worried look, "Chenyu is charming and Linglong is gentle and well-behaved. I like both girls, so what should we do? Eventually, one of them has to become a daughter-in-law of the Fang Family!"

Fang Gang also sighed, "Son, I can tell, Chenyu and Linglong both like you a lot, and you're quite fond of them, right? But matters of the heart can't be taken lightly; the deeper you fall, the harder the hurt. You need to make a decision soon!"

"It's still too early to talk about these things, let's wait a few more years! Ah... I'm so sleepy, off to sleep!"

As soon as Fang Bai heard his parents discussing the matter again, he felt a headache coming on. Yawning, he escaped back to his room.

Chapter 508: Let Everything Follow Fate

As for how to deal with the relationship between himself and the several beauties close to him, Fang Bai had never deliberately thought about it.

Fang Bai was not an ordinary person, so naturally, his thoughts and considerations greatly differed from those of ordinary people.

For ordinary people, life is but a mere century, and some matters do not afford the luxury of waiting or delay, such as the major event of marriage. Many parents, upon seeing their children grow up, look forward to them finding their significant other early to settle their own worries.

However, for Fang Bai, as long as he persisted in his cultivation and continually advanced in ranks, his life was destined to be far longer than that of ordinary people.

When one day he returned to his peak and became the Immortal Emperor again, tens of thousands of years would merely be a snap of the fingers to Fang Bai.

And this world, at present, was destined to be just a station on Fang Bai's path to resurgence. Despite his deep fondness and attachment to this place, he would never stop his cultivation or give up on returning to the Immortal Realm.

To the relatives and friends, confidants and beauties in this world, what Fang Bai could do was to lead them onto the same path of cultivation, allowing them to possess great strength and extended lives as well.

Whether it was Xia Chenyu or Su Linglong, or any other woman, their futures were destined to be extraordinary after their encounter with Fang Bai.

Towards romance, whether in his past life or the current one, Fang Bai always let things take their natural course. He would come and go as he wished, never forcing anything.

Martial artists walk the world with not only a heart that never yields but also seek fortuitous opportunities.

When fate arrives, everything will fall into place naturally.

Without destiny, even forced efforts are futile.

So it is with cultivation, so it is with emotions, and so it is with all things.

Therefore, no matter how his parents urged him, Fang Bai turned a deaf ear, letting the future unfold as it may, all depending on fate.

Fang Gang and his wife were people who could not stay idle. Just after the second day of the new year had passed, they set off a string of firecrackers outside their traditional Chinese medicine clinic and resumed business.

Because the hired medical staff would not come to work until the sixth day of the lunar new year, the large clinic was only manned by Fang Gang, Yang Mei, Zhou Dabai, and Ghost Hand. Fortunately, there were not many patients during this period, and the four of them could manage.

As for Fang Bai, even though the deep mountains and old forests near Zhongzhou City were covered in ice and snow, it did not hinder his cultivation.

Every morning, Fang Bai persisted in physical training, sprinting all the way to the mountains. There, in the snowy landscape with relatively dense Essence Energy, he would sit for an entire day.

Not long ago, when he went to Qingcheng Temple, Fang Bai obtained a significant amount of Essence Stones and other cultivation resources from the Fat Taoist Wu De and the tomb chamber of Zhuge Dingtian. With these resources aiding his cultivation, Fang Bai absorbed Essence Energy daily to replenish himself, his cultivation level growing ever more profound.

Every few days, when Fang Bai introspected with his Divine Sense, he would observe the Chaos Origin Energy in his Qi Sea undergoing wondrous changes, which filled his heart with joy.

While Fang Bai himself was engrossed in cultivation, he did not forget about Fang Yun and Ghost Hand. He took the time to set up a small Gathering Essence Array in the yard behind his family's traditional Chinese medicine clinic using a large number of Essence Stones.

This small Gathering Essence Array could attract and gather the Heaven and Earth Origin Energy from within ten miles into the yard of the Fang Family. This way, Fang Yun and Ghost Hand, who were both martial artists, could constantly bathe in Essence Energy. At night, when resting, they too could circulate their cultivation techniques and immerse themselves in cultivation.

Although the Origin Energy in the city was thin, with the boost from this small Gathering Essence Array, the yard's Essence Energy became much denser, not much different from that in the mountains.

In his spare time from cultivation, Fang Bai would occasionally take some time out to call over a few close friends like Zhou Dabai, Hong Dabao, Xiao Minglang, and others to sit together, have a few drinks, chat, reminisce about their old school days, and casually ask if they needed any help with anything.

There's no need to mention Zhou Dabai, as Fang Bai found him before the New Year and gave him a bank card without allowing any refusal, instantly elevating Zhou Dabai to the ranks of a billionaire.

Zhou Dabai didn't get carried away by his newfound wealth or squander it recklessly. He's now trying hard to learn from Fang Bai, dressing ordinarily, and even after the New Year, the car he bought was a secondhand one, very low-key.

While studying at Zhongzhou Medical College, Zhou Dabai had an eye for a fellow student, Feng Ya, and the two had mutual affections. Later, when Zhou Dabai's family fled to avoid debts in Jinling, the two lost contact, but recently they reconnected, and their relationship rapidly heated up to the point of being inseparable now.

Hong Dabao, with Fang Bai's help, opened a "Beauty Company" cosmetic product specialty store in the city, able to get supplies directly from "Beauty Company" at low prices. His business is thriving, and he's living a comfortable life now.

And after Hong Dabao's mother took the medicine prescribed by Fang Bai, her health improved rapidly, and she now helps her son manage the business every day.

Back when Hong Dabao's family was poor, no woman would consider him, but now there is an endless stream of matchmakers at his door, much to the joy of his mother.

As for Xiao Minglang, he also succeeded in his relationship with his girlfriend Zhao Miaomiao, planning to get married soon, and has already informed Fang Bai and others in advance.

Seeing that his good friends were all doing well, Fang Bai was also very happy.

That afternoon, after having lunch with a few friends, Fang Bai watched as they left one after another and was about to get into his car to go home when suddenly a luxurious SUV came speeding over, screeching to a halt beside him.

Fang Bai turned his head to glance at the SUV and, sensing two familiar presences inside, knew who it was.

"Fang Bai."

Su Yifei leaped out of the car and came up behind Fang Bai, greeting him warmly.

Following Su Yifei out of the car was Qin Yaorao's second uncle, the well-known jade magnate of Huaxia, Qin Shan.

During a previous incident in Yanjing involving his nephew Qin Yujie, Qin Shan nearly had a conflict with Fang Bai but was later grateful when Qin Yaorao stepped in to mediate, avoiding further issues. Hence, Qin Shan was somewhat embarrassed upon seeing Fang Bai.

However, Qin Shan was a shrewd old man and smoothed over the awkwardness quickly; he approached with a beaming smile and took the initiative to shake hands, saying, "Brother Fang, when you visited my

brother's house before the New Year, why didn't you tell me? I could have rushed over to join you for a drink!"

The "brother" Qin Shan mentioned is the current Family Head of the Qin Family in Jinling, Qin Yaorao's father, Qin Ling.

Before the New Year, Fang Bai had accepted an invitation from Qin Yaorao to visit the Qin Family in Jinling. At the time, Qin Shan was away, and later he learned that the arranged marriage between the Qin Family and Wen Family from Misty Rain Tower had been disrupted due to Fang Bai's intervention.

Following that, the Wen Family father and son were killed, and Misty Rain Tower's martial experts above Profound Level were annihilated. The incident shook the Ancient Martial World of Huaxia, and the Qin Family was secretly relieved that Fang Bai had interfered; otherwise, their daughter being engaged to Wen Family's Eighteen would have been a mockery.

Qin Ling, the head of the Qin Family, suspected that the incident at Misty Rain Tower was related to Fang Bai and his disciple, but later he felt it was impossible for just the two of them to have eliminated Misty Rain Tower's experts and did not pursue it further.

However, Qin Ling took note of the young Fang Bai, thinking that although his family was ordinary, his practice of both medicine and martial arts made him young and promising with a bright future. If his daughter Qin Yaorao could get along with him, that would be quite good.

But as the Qin Family was a prominent clan, even though Qin Ling favored Fang Bai, he could not lower his status to broach the subject himself.

In Qin Ling's view, if his daughter liked Fang Bai and Fang Bai also had feelings for her, then let the two of them interact on their own. How far their relationship would go in the future would depend on their fate.

Chapter 509: The Outgoing Girl

Although there had been a bit of unpleasantness between Fang Bai and Qin Shan, that was all in the past, and since Qin Shan was Qin Yaorao's second uncle, Fang Bai wouldn't hold a grudge against him, especially out of respect for Qin Yaorao.

Furthermore, there's a saying that goes, "don't strike a smiling face," and since Qin Shan was now treating Fang Bai with utmost politeness, Fang Bai responded with a smile as well.

"Last time there was an urgent matter, so I didn't stay for long at Teacher Qin's home. Next time I have a chance, let's have a drink together,"

Fang Bai responded with a smile.

"Haha, you've got my word!"

Seeing Fang Bai's sincere smile and knowing he wasn't just putting on an act, Qin Shan secretly breathed a sigh of relief,

Although he had not interacted much with Fang Bai, he knew that Fang Bai was a remarkable person proficient in both medicine and martial arts whose achievements would be boundless in the future, and he had always been interested in forming a connection with him.

"Yifei, where are you guys heading off to?"

Fang Bai turned his head to ask Su Yifei.

"We're going to check out the jade gambling festival at the west side of the city!"

Su Yifei said with a grin.

"Jade gambling festival?"

Fang Bai was taken aback, then burst into laughter.

"What's so funny about that?"

Su Yifei looked at Fang Bai, completely baffled.

Fang Bai chuckled and tapped Su Yifei, saying, "I heard from Linglong that you've been into jade gambling these past two days and seem to have lost quite a bit? So, you're not over it yet? Not afraid of getting scolded by Old Master Su again?"

"Dang, you know it all?"

Su Yifei's face turned red and he hesitantly said, "Actually, I haven't lost that much... just over a billion..."

Then he rolled his eyes and muttered through gritted teeth, "That darn Linglong is really lawless, actually gossiping about my embarrassing moments to you... Hey, no wonder they say women look outwards, she is practically throwing elbows outward already and she hasn't even married you yet, what's going to happen if she does marry you?"

After pausing, he moved a bit closer to Fang Bai and whispered with a mischievous smile, "Brother, you and my sister have long turned that raw rice into cooked rice, haven't you? When do you plan to marry her? I've been looking forward to being your brother-in-law for quite some time!"

His words were half-joking, half-serious, and after he finished speaking, he stared at Fang Bai's face to see how he would respond.

Fang Bai said resolutely, "My relationship with your sister is pure and innocent; don't talk nonsense!"

"Pure and innocent? Dang, you say that and you're not even blushing?"

Su Yifei looked at Fang Bai with disdain and then couldn't help but laugh again, saying, "Alright, we are all adults here; you have to take responsibility for what you've done, and face up to it. Just come clean!"

Fang Bai looked serious as he said, "In all the time you've known me, have I ever told a lie?"

Su Yifei thought about it carefully, then shook his head saying, "This... it doesn't seem like it..."

"That's right."

"Brother, you really never touched my sister?"

Su Yifei sighed with a bit of disappointment and then pressed on, unwilling to give up.

Fang Bai shrugged and said, "If you don't believe me, there's nothing I can do about it! Why don't you go back and ask Linglong?"

Su Yifei said irritably, "Nonsense, my sister's heart is with you, I trust her words even less!"

"I'm done with you!"

Fang Bai turned his head and leisurely admired the city's streetscape.

Su Yifei scratched his head and once again stood in front of Fang Bai, asking, "Isn't my sister beautiful?"

"Beautiful!"

"Is my sister's figure not good?"

"OK!"

"Is my sister not gentle enough?"

"Gentle!"

"Does my sister like you?"

"She probably does!"

"Damn, what do you mean probably? Even a fool could see that she likes you! So, do you like my sister?"

"I like her!"

"My sister is beautiful, has a great figure, and is gentle too. Where would you find such a woman? You two have dated for so long and like each other, how could you bear not to touch her? Are you blind or..."

At this point, Su Yifei seemed to think of something unbelievable, his eyes widened as he looked at Fang Bai, hesitating to speak.

"What are you trying to say?"

Fang Bai couldn't help but ask.

"Brother, we're not strangers to each other. Just be honest... Is it that you're not capable in that department?"

Su Yifei asked with a serious face.

"..."

"Don't look at me like that, I know for a man, to be incapable in that aspect is a sad story... Wait a minute! You're a doctor, doctors are so skilled, even if there were a problem, you should be able to treat it, right? Could it be an innate dysfunction? That would be tough to handle..."

"Get lost! You're the one with the problem!"

Fang Bai found Su Yifei's wild guesses both annoying and hilarious, and shoved him to one side.

Seeing Fang Bai's expression, Su Yifei obviously breathed a sigh of relief, walked back to Fang Bai's side, and joyfully said, "Looking at you, there shouldn't be a problem... That's good! That's really good! Otherwise, if my sister married you, it would ruin her life! But..."

He scratched his head, puzzled, "But what I don't understand is, you and my sister work in the same hospital in Yanjing, see each other often, and have many chances to be alone. It's the perfect setting for sparks to fly when you're together, so why hasn't anything happened between you? Could it be that my sister disagrees? That can't be... With just a wave of your hand, she would certainly throw herself at you..."

"Do you have anything else? If not, I'm going home!"

Fang Bai, tired of Su Yifei's endless talk on the subject, made a move to leave.

"Don't go, brother!"

Su Yifei hurriedly held onto Fang Bai, saying apologetically, "We'll continue this topic another time, not now! Do you have anything to do at home? If not, come with me to the jade stone festival at the western city. Let's check it out!"

Fang Bai shook his head, "I know nothing about jade stone gambling, and I'm not interested either!"

"Not knowing is fine, once I explain it to you, you'll get it!"

Su Yifei pointed to Qin Shan who was nearby, saying, "Teacher Qin and I are business friends; we both like jade stone gambling. He said you're a martial artist and a doctor, you must have much sharper eyesight than the average person. You could help me recover some losses! Come on, consider it a favor for your brother! I'll treat you to a meal afterwards!"

"Alright, you guys go ahead, I'll follow in my car," Fang Bai agreed, reluctantly ready to check out the jade stone festival site. If it wasn't interesting, he planned to head home early.

Worried that Fang Bai might slip away halfway, Su Yifei decided to ride with Fang Bai, instructing Qin Shan to drive his car and lead the way in front.

The three of them drove off, speeding along the way, and in less than half an hour, arrived at the jade stone festival site located in the city's west.

The jade stone festival was held annually at an open-air stadium in the city's west, attracting scores of jade merchants and enthusiasts from all over the place.

Fang Bai and his companions parked outside the stadium and walked onto the field. Looking around, the vast stadium was divided into several areas, each piled with jade raw stones of various sizes.

Hundreds of jade merchants and enthusiasts wandered around the mounds of jade stones, occasionally choosing a few pieces of raw material to take for cutting, hoping to strike it rich overnight.

As Fang Bai, Su Yifei, and Qin Shan walked shoulder to shoulder past the jade stones, Fang Bai occasionally sensed faint Heaven and Earth Origin Energy emanating from some of the jade stones.

Chapter 510: The Stone That Moved Fang Bai's Heart

Essence Energy permeated between heaven and earth, omnipresent.

However, only martial artists who have reached the Heaven Level Realm or who possess an Innate Spiritual Root could communicate with heaven and earth, sense the existence of Essence Energy, and then, with the help of some special cultivation techniques, absorb Essence Energy for cultivation.

The Essence Stones stacked in the stadium had been buried deep underground for millions of years, each originally containing a trace of Essence Energy. However, the majority of Essence Stones, upon being mined and exposed for too long, had almost completely dissipated their Essence Energy.

Only martial artists with a keen sensitivity to Heaven and Earth Origin Energy like Fang Bai could detect the faint presence of Essence Energy within the heaps of stones.

Currently, there were tens of thousands of Essence Stones piled in Fang Bai's Spatial Ring, casually taking out one would reveal that the Essence Energy contained within was much richer than that of the stones present here.

Qin Shan and Su Yifei were both enthusiasts of gambling on stones. Since the opening of this year's Gambling Stones Festival, the two of them had spent the majority of their time here, apart from eating and sleeping.

For ordinary gambling stone aficionados, the hope was to turn a small bet into a fortune, while for wealthy tycoons like Qin Shan and Su Yifei, the thrill and excitement of the gambling process mattered more, with wins and losses being of secondary concern.

That being said, Su Yifei had been having bad luck these past two days, losing over a billion in stone gambling, prompting a scolding from his grandfather Su Hongyuan, which made Su Yifei a bit anxious.

As a well-known jade connoisseur from Huaxia and an expert in the jade industry, Qin Shan's eye for jade and experience far surpassed that of Su Yifei. Thus, he hadn't lost any money but had even made a small profit of several million, which further stimulated Su Yifei.

Su Yifei was the type who became more courageous the more he was setback. Despite losing a significant amount of money on stone gambling and being chastised by his grandfather for not engaging in more respectable pursuits, he remained unrepentant and still dragged Qin Shan to the stadium.

Today, on their way to the stadium, Qin Shan mentioned that Fang Bai's superb medical skills implied a unique vision, and Su Yifei agreed, so they brought Fang Bai along in the hopes that he could lend a helping hand.

Once Qin Shan and Su Yifei arrived at the stadium, they both entered an excited state, engaging in knowledgeable discussions in front of the piles of raw stone materials, emanating the air of true experts.

Fang Bai stood behind Qin Shan and Su Yifei for a while, finding it somewhat boring, so he leisurely strolled around the stadium. Unconsciously, he arrived at the Stone-Solving Yard to see several master stone-solvers busy at work, with people occasionally bringing in raw stone materials for solving.

Having nothing better to do, Fang Bai stood by the Stone-Solving Yard to watch.

On his way to the stadium, Fang Bai learned a bit about stone gambling from Qin Shan and Su Yifei, understanding that it relied on one's vision, experience, and luck. Some became wealthy overnight through stone gambling, while many more lost everything, even to the point of bankruptcy and destitution.

After watching for a while at the Stone-Solving Yard, Fang Bai witnessed firsthand the saying "one cut poor, one cut rich."

Some gambled on a stone bought for a few thousand and ended up solving a top-tier Ice-Type Jadeite, increasing its value by dozens of times in an instant.

Others spent hundreds of thousands on high-priced materials, only to solve for poor quality seed stones, resulting in total losses.

And there were those who spent a considerable sum but ended up with mere worthless rocks.

Seeing some ecstatic, some smug, others crestfallen, and some crying and beating their chests at the Stone-Solving Yard—all for the sake of money—Fang Bai found it uninteresting. Shaking his head, he turned to leave.

"Master, solve this stone for me!"

Just then, a fat middle-aged man wearing glasses squeezed through the crowd, cradling a stone slightly smaller than a watermelon in his arms.

Fang Bai's eyes scanned over the watermelon-shaped stone, and suddenly, his eyes blazed with sharpness, his heart filled with excitement.

He took a deep breath, strode toward the fat man, pointed at the watermelon-shaped stone placed on the solving machine, and smiled, "Big brother, how about you sell this stone to me?"

The chubby man sized up Fang Bai with a glance and shook his head, "Not selling! Based on my years of experience, this stone has a high chance of yielding jade!"

"How much would the jade be worth if it comes out?"

Fang Bai asked again.

The chubby man said, "That's hard to say, if it's Ice-Type or Glaze Type jade, then I've struck it rich... haha..."

Someone in the crowd who recognized the chubby man laughed and said, "Fatty Zhou, go on and dream your grand dreams! With your lousy taste, what good stone can you pick? Talking about Ice-Type, Glaze Type... just don't end up with a worthless stone after it's cut!"

The chubby man rolled his eyes and said irritably, "Don't you jinx it with your damn crow's mouth, I'm full of confidence this time, there's definitely jade in it! Even if it's not Ice-Type, at least it might be Sticky Type, right? With Sticky Type, I won't lose money this time..."

"Big brother, I really like the look of this stone and want to buy it to use as a landscape stone at home! Just give me a price!"

Fang Bai suppressed the excitement in his heart and spoke again.

"Just give you a price?"

The chubby man adjusted his glasses, originally wanting to ask for an exorbitant price and fleece Fang Bai, but seeing Fang Bai dressed so average, not looking like someone wealthy, he guessed that Fang Bai couldn't offer much money and thus lost his enthusiasm.

"Yes! Just name your price!"

Fang Bai smiled confidently and nodded assertively.

From the moment he laid eyes on the stone in the chubby man's hand, Fang Bai was determined to get it, even if the chubby man quoted an exorbitant price, he wouldn't bat an eyelid.

"This..."

Seeing Fang Bai's sincere interest, the chubby man's eyes darted around as he thought about what price to ask for.

The chubby man had spent three thousand yuan on this stone, and actually had no clue, he just wanted to take one last gamble on his luck.

In the last few days gambling on stones, the chubby man had already lost over a hundred thousand. His wife had scolded him more than once, even taking control of all his money. He had just borrowed three thousand yuan from a friend, preparing for one last bet. If he lost, he would stop and go home, ready to face his wife's towering rage.

If luck was on his side and the stone yielded jade, and the jade was of good quality, maybe he could win back all the money he had lost in these days.

However, the chubby man's fortune had always been poor. Since the start of the stone gambling festival, he'd been there every day, losing daily. So, when he picked a raw stone to cut, many were waiting to see him become a laughing stock.

"One hundred and fifty thousand! If you really want to buy it, that's the fixed price, one hundred and fifty thousand!"

The chubby man thought it over and then said to Fang Bai.

If Fang Bai was willing to pay one hundred and fifty thousand for his stone, he could instantly recoup the money he had lost in the past few days.

Besides, even if the stone could yield Ice-Type Jade, it would only be worth this much, unless it was Glaze Type jade, which would be worth more.