

## F Disciples 281

### Chapter 281: 281

The night passed. Chen Wentian did not torment Li Yuechan and Xu Lanyi too much. Li Yuechan, especially, was emotionally drained and he let them rest early. He could control himself in that regard, he was mindful of their needs over his.

Li Yuechan was an interesting predicament. She was similar to Wu Qianyu in some ways and different in others. Their shyness about intimate moments and the way they carried themselves in public were similar. Yet Li Yuechan carried burdens that Wu Qianyu did not have.

Wu Qianyu was someone who experienced unspeakable tragedy but it was also a rebirth. She was a blank book for Chen Wentian to write his will upon. She was his and she would follow him to the end of the world. It was easier for her to declare her feelings because she only had him in her life.

Li Yuechan had not only him but her four sisters to consider. She was the elder sister, the steadfast leader. The survival and prosperity of the group rested on her shoulders. Perhaps she felt that she could not declare her feelings because she was putting her sisters' feelings into considerations. Perhaps she was thinking of them when she made that crazy declaration the previous night.

Chen Wentian felt awkward and did not voice his thoughts over breakfast. He did get a chance to after that as Li Yuechan and Xu Lanyi had to head out for their next challenges.

Song Wushuang and Su Xue'er were on another challenge together while this time around, Li Yuechan and Xu Lanyi would separate and tackle their own. Perhaps still feeling a bit of distance from the previous night, Chen Wentian assigned Zhou Ziyun to pair up with Li Yuechan.

He dropped Li Yuechan off at the Lake District and gave her Tortoise Can Fly. He wished her good luck and a speedy challenge and flew off with Xu Lanyi towards the second destination.

"Is she angry at me or something?" He asked along the way.

“What, Yuechan?” Xu Lanyi snorted, “Of course, not. She's probably feeling embarrassed for saying something so dumb. She doesn't often blurt out her feelings like that. When she does, she gets really shy and will retreat into her shell for a little while. She'll be fine.”

“What about you?” She poked him, “What would you do if something happened to us?”

“I would wipe out that criminal's family and their entire sect.” Chen Wentian said immediately.

“What if it's a Spirit King sect?”

“I'll wipe them out when I'm a Spirit King.” He replied.

“Pshhh.”

He slapped her butt, “Then I'll train you until you can take revenge yourself.”

“That's more like it.” She grinned and slapped his butt as well.

Audacious! He wanted to do some unmentionable things but they were in public. Xu Lanyi knew how to get him riled up. It was her specialty.

“You're lucky I'm not an exhibitionist. Otherwise, I might just punish you here.” He growled.

She jumped away from him, loudly saying, “Master, let's go, the next challenge is this way!”

He glared at her but she merely smirked. He calmed himself and quickly caught up.

They were at the Old District. It was where the Eastern Sanmu Metropolis was first established. There used to be a spiritual lake here, similar to the Lake District. It used to be filled with water-attribute spiritual energy and water-attribute spiritual beasts.

Now, there was nothing left, not even the lake. Over thousands of years, all the resources here were drained by generations of human cultivators. They consumed the spiritual beasts and drank all the water. As the population increased, the drying lakebed was used as land for building or farming.

In the present day, there was almost no trace of spiritual energy left here. It was the cheapest place to live in the capital and those that could afford elsewhere all congregated here. This caused the district to turn into a continuous mass of human habitation. It was almost impossible to distinguish individual towns or cities because it all melded into one continuous mass of crooked buildings and narrow streets.

Such a crowded place was naturally chaotic. The Spirit Kings didn't bother with this district and let the residents to their own devices. Various small sects, gangs, and other organizations fought each other for power and influence. Because of this, it was a haven for seedy, unpleasant people, criminals of the cultivation world.

The challenge of the Old District naturally fitted into its theme. The one Xu Lanyi was assigned was to investigate numerous disappearances of the citizens over the past few years. People died from fights and gang battles all the time but this was different.

Citizens reported seeing a black shadow snatching cultivators at the Spirit Initiate Realm off the street at night. It happened often, almost every week, and those taken were subdued by mysterious ways. Those taken included not only lowly cultivators of trashy sects but ones from the major sects as well. This forced the Spirit Kings to finally pay attention but they made no headway in the past few months. The culprit was elusive and losses continued.

If the rankers could find a clue that furthered the case, they would receive a golden feather. The hope was that some might have special ability or Dao that could counteract whatever was behind the disappearances.

"Shit, can I skip this challenge?" Xu Lanyi said after hearing Chen Wentian's words.

"You scared?"

"Yes... what if it's a rapist demon?" She asked.

"Don't worry. Those that disappeared included both men and women."

"What if it likes both?" She asked again.

"Don't worry. I'll be staying with you for this one. I'm curious about the powers that it has and how it compares to Chen Mo's powers and my bees."

"But you're not allowed to help me. I thought all sect masters swore a spiritual oath to do so."

Chen Wentian merely smirked and held a finger to his lips. The fact that spiritual oaths did not properly apply to him and his soul art was something he didn't feel like explaining out in public. Spiritual oaths didn't work on him because it was only tied to the soul that made the oath and not to all the other souls that he possessed.

As the main soul, he could also force the oath on any subservient soul he chose. This effectively meant that spiritual oaths were completely ineffective on him and he could do what he pleased.

Still, he wasn't going to go around advertising this fact to the whole capital. There were probably a few eyes and ears watching their every move.

"Alright, this is as far as I can take you." He said, stopping in the middle of the street.

He rubbed her shoulder, letting several shadow anchors were transferred onto her body. At the same time, a squadron of void bees flew out of his sleeve and into the folds of her dress.

"Yes, master." Xu Lanyi grimaced, slightly squirming from the insects that were now crawling around.

Chen Wentian then made a show of taking off into the air, leaving her alone to tackle the challenge.

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Xu Lanyi steeled her nerves and looked around at her surroundings. The city center where she stood was surrounded by a large traffic circle. More than six avenues branched off from the circle. There were hundreds of horse carts, ox carts, and hand-pulled carts coming and going. Those were swamped by thousands of people rushing about on foot. It was barely organized chaos. If she stumbled, she was liable to get trampled before people even noticed.

She pulled out a map and after consulting it for a long time, started down one of the avenues. She was alone this time and could not rely on Li Yuechan.

She walked along the sidewalk, away from the main stream of traffic. The buildings were unlike Ember Cliffs. They had a nondescript color of ash and dirt. They were made of bricks that were crumbling and wood that was rotting. Some houses were simple shacks.

There were shops and stalls, the same as any other busy city or town. Yet there was also something that she did not expect to see in the metropolis for human cultivators, beggars.

Beggars weren't something new to her. They were common in Glacier Province, Dragon Flower Province, and every other place with human society. She had high hopes for the metropolis but this was dashed and reality set it. This place was no better than anywhere else.

"Lady! Spare some change?"

"Miss, would you like to buy a wooden carving?"

"Please help me!"

Voices called out to her as pass by but she ignored them out of habit. Back during her days with Glacier Palace, she never had a lot of money. Allowances were slim and she could not afford to give it away.

Now things were different. Ten Thousand Flower Valley had completely changed her concept of money. She had no real need for money anymore as her master showered everyone with gold and treasure at every opportunity. Her camouflaging spatial bag, in the form of a necklace, was filled with things she could never have afforded. Her extra money bag that she used day-to-day was filled to the brim with gold taels.

She looked around at the poverty around her and her shell began to crack. The sack of gold weighed heavily in her pocket. The final blow came when a group of kids no older than ten came into view. They wore dirty, tattered clothes and were peddling small flowers, probably grown in an alley or back garden and completely worthless.

“Special flowers! One tael of silver each!”

Their voices tugged at Xu Lanyi. She was reminded of the difficult years of her childhood and the beginning years in the sect. Her money pouch felt too heavy.

She didn't even know she stopped. Her hand moved on its own and withdrew a handful of gold taels. Using her spiritual energy, she dropped one golden nugget in each of the children's hands.

“Thank you, big sister!”

“Dummy, call her princess!”

“Generous princess!”

Other children noticed and gathered around her. Seeing the expressions on their faces after being given the money kept her going. Her hand moved automatically as her heart swelled. When they smiled, she smiled. When they laughed, she laughed.

More children rush up and the commotion attracted older ones as well as grownups. They all saw a generous person and were eager to get a share.

“Make way.”

“Give me!”

Pushing and shoving started. Xu Lanyi quickly became surrounded. They hemmed her in, hands extended, all desperately begging. Grown men started overpowering the children and cut in line. She gave them gold as well. She had plenty to spare and she didn't mind as long as it helped everyone.

However, what followed next shocked her and brought her down to reality.

“Eyy!” She yelped.

Someone had touched her, groped her butt!

In the sea of dirty faces and dirtier hands, she could not tell who it was. She didn't want to stop just because of this but then... a rough hand grabbed at her breast.

“That's it!” She was infuriated.

Icy energy blew out, knocking everyone around her away by several meters.

“Who was that?” She yelled.

No one answered. The crowd back away, frightened by her show of force.

She stamped her foot in frustration. Perhaps there were one or two perverts among the crowd of innocent. She couldn't go around beating everyone up. She felt dumb and naïve for being swindled in more ways than one.

"Don't move!" A forceful voice cut through the hubbub.

A female cultivator wearing purple flowing robes leaped over the stunned beggars and kicked one in the head. The man crumpled to the ground and before Xu Lanyi could react, the new arrival rummaged through the man's clothes and pulled out a distinctive money bag, it was hers. She had been pickpocketed without even realizing it.

The purpled garbed woman stood back up and held out the money bag. Xu Lanyi received it and bowed slightly.

"Xu Lanyi of Ten Thousand Flower Valley. Thank you, heroine, for your assistance. May I ask your name?"

The woman had a similar stature, equally tall with an unspectacular but nonetheless pretty face. She smiled and bowed back.

"Tang Xiang of the House of Axes. It was my duty to help Sister Xu. I could not sit still and do nothing." Tang Xiang pointed to the man beneath her feet, "These people cannot be trusted. Sister Xu was too generous and attracted this type of people."

"I know..." Xu Lanyi said, embarrassed.

"Come, let's take this criminal to the enforcement branch office. That is where you are headed, am I right?" Tang Xiang asked.

"How did you know?"

"The House of Sabers is responsible for law and order in this area. We are given direct authority by the Spirit Kings in this matter. I am one of the enforcement officers on duty."

Xu Lanyi nodded, "In that case, I shall follow Sister Tang."



“Good, come.”

Tang Xiang wrapped up the criminal in rope and then woke him up. After a short one-sided conversation, the man was forced to march in front of them as they headed to the enforcement office.

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Xu Lanyi entered the enforcement office which was a formidable building that took up most of a city block. The walls were solid stone mixed in with inscription arrays. There were no windows at all for the three-story building and only one entrance that was heavily guarded.

“Welcome, Executor Tang Xiang!”

The guards greeted them as they walked past. They all wore purple robes over heavy armor and carried what could only be described as head-chopping axes.

Xu Lanyi didn't say anything, her senses alert. She held her composure but still remembered to be alert. Chen Wentian mentioned that they should be courteous to representatives of the four major powers.

Tang Xiang's House of Axes was a branch sect of the House of Armament. It was one of the powerhouse sects backed by a Spirit King. Only such a clan could adequately control the chaotic situation of the Old District.

The pair of women walked with their prisoner through several corridors and courtyards and finally entered a small room. To one end of the room was a metal contraption with dangling shackles and a strong spiritual aura. The tables on either side contained an interesting assortment of tools and what looked like knives and medical instruments.

“Come here, you criminal!” Tang Xiang said harshly.

She secured the man on the contraption and locked in his arms and legs so that he couldn't move. Whatever runic inscriptions on the metal frame activated and Xu Lanyi could sense that the man's

spiritual energy was suppressed. The man who was a peak of the Mind Focusing Realm could only let out the strength at the Body Refinement Realm and he could not escape.

"Criminal, what's your name?" Tang Xiang asked.

The man shook for a few seconds before gathering his wits. He glared at the two women in front of him and spat. A mouthful of spit and blood almost landed on Tang Xiang's face but she blocked it with her spiritual energy.

"Go to hell." The man said and then went silent.

"Good... good... I was going to go easy on you since I have a guest..." Tang Xiang muttered.

She turned to Xu Lanyi with a dangerous gleam in her eyes. "Sister Xu, I sincerely apologize for this but I have to take of this case. Could you wait outside at the pavilion we passed by?"

Xu Lanyi understood what was happening and nodded, "Sister Tang, understood. I take my leave."

She backed away and then left the room. The door was closed behind her and she heard some muffled sounds of Tang Xiang who began to speak to the thief.

Xu Lanyi kept walking a short distance and sat down on the benches of a shaded pavilion. She looked back at the closed door to the room in the distance and could not sense or hear anything. She was reminded of the crime and punishment department of Black Rock City when she and her sisters had stayed there for many months.

Tang Xiang was a part of something similar and soon enough, a man's wretched screams erupted. It was loud enough to make Xu Lanyi shiver. It sounded like a pig being slaughtered. No doubt he was being tortured to within an inch of his life.

Xu Lanyi didn't think the man's purported crimes warranted death. She found the subject interesting but only partly. She was interested in turning wrong into right and helping those being oppressed by

criminals and evil people. However, the thought of punishment and torture was uncomfortable. She knew that senior sister Wu Qianyu liked those things but it was not for her. She cared more about helping those that wronged rather than seeking retribution from the perpetrators.

“Noooooooo!” One final, horrifying scream rang out, and then there was silence.

A spiritual signal shot out from the room and soon, a pair of guards rushed up.

The door opened and Tang Xiang stepped out with a cheerful expression. She dusted off her sleeves and pointed inside. The guards bowed and went in. They came out just as quickly, dragging the bloodied criminal.

“Take him out and chain him to the Silver Hawk Square for two days. Here are his crimes.” She said and handed them a small piece of paper.

“Yes, executor!” The guards saluted and took the man away.

Xu Lanyi extended her spiritual sense as they were doing so and frowned. The man now had some frightening injuries, far more than what she felt was warranted for the crime.

“Sister Xu, is there anything wrong?” Tang Xiang had arrived.

Xu Lanyi stood and smiled stiffly, “Nothing... well, if I may ask, why was the punishment so harsh for that man?”

Tang Xiang shrugged, “Hands cut off for thievery. Tongue cut off for insulting an executor. Genitals cut off for assaulting an important female guest of the four kings. I think it's just?”

Seeing that Xu Lanyi was still uncertain, Tang Xiang explained further, “It's actually not up to me. The crimes and their respective punishment are determined by the master of the House of Axes. We as disciples simply follow it. Though, we are free to interpret how painfully we are to carry out those punishments... Sister Xu, I know of your background. Ten Thousand Flower Valley is a small sect and

perhaps there is no need for such things. But I have to assume that there were similar things at Glacier Palace in your past?"

Xu Lanyi nodded but did not elaborate. She was reminded of those years that she wished to forget. Beatings for having accidents were common. Imprisonment for simple mistakes was meted out left and right. Although she never did anything truly bad, such punishment left its mark on her that could not heal with time.

This situation was a learning experience for her. She decided that if Ten Thousand Flower Valley expanded to the point of needing a department for crime and punishment, she would do her best to make sure it was fair and just to the victims as well as the accused.

"Sister Tang, let's talk about something else." Xu Lanyi said, "I am, after all, still in the midst of the Golden Feather Hunt."

"Ah, yes. My apologies." Tang Xiang looked bashful, "I got caught up and forgot. The case of the shadowy disappearances, where to start..."

She snapped her fingers, "The day is still early. I will show you around the district and show you where the shadow took the cultivators. If we are able to uncover any clues together, the credit for the challenge will naturally go to you."

"Alright, let's do as you say." Xu Lanyi nodded.

Chapter 284: 284

All of Chen Wentian's disciples were on their second challenge except for one. Su Yue was still struggling on her first one although today was expected to be the last day. It had been a long and difficult time and she wasn't sure if she would be able to succeed. Although Lin Qingcheng was with her, she could not help much not that she didn't want to.

Su Yue's challenge in the river district involved helping a famous but struggling fancy restaurant that catered to the rich and powerful of the metropolis. It was called The King's Laundry. Its reputation

within the city was as immovable as a Spirit King for over a hundred years. But in recent years, it had fallen into steady decline for various reasons that were unclear.

The task for the rankers was to help the restaurant recover a bit of its reputation as well as business. This sounded simple enough but the problem was that the scoring was completely subjective and up to the whims of the immortal chef-owner of the restaurant. It was the final day for Su Yue but she had no idea if she had done enough.

“Welcome, illustrious immortal!” Su Yue bowed to a guest that had just been seated in a private room, “Welcome to The King's Laundry! Here is this season's menu.”

She carefully laid down a jade plaque in front of the immortal whose name she did not know. If it was the regular waitstaff, they would have but she had only been working here for six days. She was responsible for waiting on guests today although she dearly wished she could have had kitchen duty instead. She enjoyed cooking much more than putting on a fake smile for others.

She stepped back, trying to not look awkward, and fiddled with the strange and intricate uniform that was required of her and other female staff. It made her look like a peacock and her chest was uncomfortable from the outfit pushing her breasts together for maximum cleavage.

The nondescript male Spirit Lord glanced at the menu only once before staring at Su Yue and her assets that were on display.

“Beauty, I haven't seen you around here before. Are you new?” He asked with a warm smile but a cold and penetrating gaze.

Su Yue immediately knew what was up. She had experienced many bad customers like this in the past few days. She avoided his uncomfortable gaze and began to recite the menu.

“Sir Immortal, for this season's menu, we have Hong River Salmon with Flame Beets, Pearl Rice, and Royal Horseradish in a Cream Sauce... Sweet Butter-Poached West Sea Lobster with Globe Artichoke, Mokum Carrots, Ice Pearl Onions, Maiden Parsley, and a Red Reaper Reduction... Herb-Roasted Elysian Lamb Rib-Eye with Infusion of Spiritual Wine, Jade Bean Purée, Jingle Bell Peppers, Arugula and Lamb Sauce...”

The immortal burst out laughing, "You're cute. Don't be shy. You may not know me but I am Immortal Flare Osprey Chu Fengwei. Perhaps you have heard of me?"

Su Yue's feet didn't move but she found herself being pulled closer to the table by the man's spiritual force. His eyes continue to rove over her body, making goosebumps rise on her skin.

"Don't be scared." The man said, "I don't bite, not unless you ask me to."

He winked at her and she shuddered. She didn't know what to say or what to do. This was a customer as well as an immortal. She shut her eyes and wished her master could come and save her.

"Come now..." He frowned and read her name tag, "Su Yue... What a beautiful name for a beautiful woman. Come here, come closer."

He reached out and grabbed her hand, rubbing his thumb and enjoying the feeling, "Beauty, I like you. If you serve me well, I will reward you with everything you desire and more."

Su Yue was now completely creeped out. Previous bad customers that had tried this were all at the Spirit Initiate realm and she managed to block their advances. Why did her luck have to be so bad to get a pervert immortal on her last day?

She didn't know what to do. She tried to pull her hand back but it was locked firmly in the man's grasp. She wanted to scream and call for help but that would cause even more problems. His eyes were becoming more and more obscene. Her senses were screaming at her, this was an incredibly dangerous situation.

Interpreting her inaction as something completely different, Chu Fengwei tugged her hand, bringing her even closer. She was now right next to his seat and he could smell her sweet fragrance.

"Beauty, don't be shy." He repeated, "I'm a gentleman..."

She turned her head, refusing to look at him. She hoped that he would suddenly lose interest in her but that was impossible. An immortal like him was not used to women saying no to him. He wouldn't be denied once he set his sights upon someone. He was the lord and people beneath him were simple mortals.

He finally had enough of acting nice and moved in. His hand left hers and aimed to wrap around her narrow hips. A discrete push of spiritual force on the back of her knees made her unbalanced and fall forward towards him.

Chu Fengwei smiled wide in perverted satisfaction, eagerly awaiting the beautiful woman who was about to fall into his arms.

Ssssiinnng!

A power surge of icy spiritual energy shot out from nowhere.

It came directly in between the Spirit Lord and the helpless Su Yue. The man's dirty hands were knocked away and she was pushed back onto her feet and backward several meters until she was by the doorway.

Su Yue gave one hateful look towards him before rushing out and disappearing down the hallway.

Chu Fengwei was left empty-handed and spooked. He opened and closed his left hand in confusion. The foreign spiritual energy had come and gone so quickly he couldn't quite believe it. There was no immortal nearby, he was sure of it, so he could not figure out how Su Yue had managed to escape. There was no chance of getting her back now so he could only call for another waiter.

Su Yue rushed through the restaurant and up the stairs to where the dormitory was. She burst through the door without looking.

"Chengcheng, help..."

Lin Qingcheng had her back turned to her, sitting on a stool. Her skirt was hiked up to her waist and she was flushed and sweaty.

“Sister Yue'er!” Lin Qingcheng screamed in panic.

She jumped up, pulling down her skirt and hiding whatever she had been doing from view. It should have been a titillating situation and she was incredibly embarrassed. She tried for a few moments to come up with an excuse before she noticed that Su Yue was completely distracted with tears in her eyes.

“Sister Yue'er, what's wrong.” Lin Qingcheng cried out and rushed forward. “What happened? Are you okay?”

“Chengcheng, wuuuw...” Su Yue buried her head into her sister's chest as the previous crisis overwhelmed her.

Lin Qingcheng was completely baffled but being a good senior sister, she pulled Su Yue to the bed and let her cry until she calmed down. Eventually, Su Yue gathered enough wits about her to describe what had just happened.

“That asshole!” Lin Qingcheng shouted, leaping up in fury, “I will call master right now to teach him a lesson!”

“No!” Su Yue cried and pulled her down, “Wait... can we talk about it? Do you think I should have known what was happening and tried to resist earlier? I'm incompetent... I'm a bad disciple!”

“What? No!” Lin Qingcheng said and hugged her, “It's that immortal's fault!”

“But... I'm scared... What if master blames me for being useless?”

“Absolutely not!” A voice said emphatically, but it did not belong to either woman.



“Eh!”

“Master!”

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Chen Wentian already knew what had happened. Su Yue wore the Winter's Sun sword everywhere and he was able to sense that bastard immortal making a move on his disciple. He only used a little bit of icy spiritual energy to block the assault. He couldn't do much else without raising too much suspicion. It wasn't like he could kill an immortal in the middle of the capital.

He silently apologized to Xu Lanyi and rushed across the whole of the Eastern Sanmu Metropolis. At this moment, he understood that he had to be by Su Yue's side.

Once he entered the room, he rushed forward without a word and buried her in his arms. She was shaking badly and her emotions were spilling out.

“Master... I'm sorry...” She mumbled into his chest, half crying.

He rubbed her head and held her tighter. Lin Qingcheng gave him a cheeky thumbs up.

“Silly girl, what do you have to be sorry about?” Chen Wentian said gently, “I should have come sooner.”

She squealed incoherently and cried some more, this time happy tears. She had been afraid that he would get angry. Most men were the jealous type and would not take kindly to their women being ogled or touched others. From various stories she had heard over the years, these men tended to get irrational and place a part of the blame on the victim.

It was good that Chen Wentian was not this type of person. Or perhaps, it was lucky that he had a trusty soul that was keeping an eye out that let him witness everything. It was still uncertain how he would react in a different situation if he did not have all the facts at hand. If something bad had happened, would he trust the words of his women unequivocally or would a seed of doubt be planted?

He could not decide on how he would have reacted then. He was thankful that he did not have to face that and silently vowed to protect his disciples better. He was probably being a little too clingy and paranoid but it never hurt to be too careful!

Su Yue was mostly placated by his arrival but she kept holding onto him and pretended to cry a little longer. She felt safe in his arms, for the first time in several days. She missed his touch and Lin Qingcheng made no move to interfere. It was rare for her to get personal attention from her master and she savored it.

Eventually, they separated and able to sit down for a proper discussion. Su Yue talked about the incident as well as the past few days with Lin Qingcheng chiming in here and there.

Chen Wentian frowned, "I have not heard of this guy, Immortal Flare Osprey Chu Fengwei. He's not a Spirit Lord of any renown in the capital but I should still do some digging and find out his background."

Lin Qingcheng tugged at his shirt excitedly, "Master! Are you going to punish him?"

"Hmph, of course! He can't make my Yue'er cry for free!" He said and gave Su Yue a smile.

She blushed and looked away, mumbling something incoherent. She found it hard to meet his eye, it was a strange and completely new feeling. His gaze made her fingers tremble and her stomach do summersaults.

Chen Wentian was a bit oblivious and did not notice the change in her expression. If he was truly paying attention, he would have been able to make a good guess. Wu Qianyu gave him plenty of loving looks like what Su Yue was shooting in his direction. He wasn't that dumb, just a little preoccupied.

"But I can't exactly go start a fight in the middle of the capital." He said, "I will get the asshole but payback will be a patient affair."

He turned Lin Qingcheng, "Chengcheng, I left Lanyi alone in the Old District. I need you to team up with her. I want to stay with Yue'er for a little bit."

“Understood, master!”

“Mmm, I think I will also recall Chen Mo to give you a little more backup.” He pondered.

Chen Mo was currently in the midst of the tracking mission to uncover the whereabouts of the source of spatial bags and camouflaging special bags. It was important but not as important as the safety of his disciples.

He had an instinct about these things from years of being overly careful. His senses were starting to tingle and warned him that something might happen if he wasn't prepared. He almost wanted to call Jasmine over but things weren't that desperate. She was his last resort and he hoped he would not have to risk her cute little behind.

“Alright, I've decided.” Chen Wentian said and stood up, “I will take Chengcheng to Lanyi as well as call in some of my allies. Don't worry girls, I will protect you!”

In a well-practiced manner, Lin Qingcheng fell into his right arm and kissed his cheek. He held out his other hand and after a moment of hesitation, Su Yue also jumped in and gave him a very sweet and tender kiss on his other cheek.

He laughed and took off out of the window with them in his arms and both cheeks tinged with rouge.

They flew across the city lazily and found Xu Lanyi in the middle of a patrol through the old city. She was with Tang Xiang who gave him a weird look.

“Greetings, Immortal Blue Dragon Chen Wentian...” She bowed, “I have to say, with respect, that it is inappropriate for a non-participant to assist in a challenge for the Golden Feather Hunt.”

“Yeah, see, I don't care.” Chen Wentian said flatly, “This challenge sounds rather dangerous with Spirit Initiates disappearing constantly. I'd rather have my first disciple around as extra muscle.”

Lin Qingcheng flexed her skinny but toned arms behind him for emphasis. "Sister Tang, don't worry. I promise not to interfere. Just treat me as a tourist."

Tang Xiang frowned, "Lord Chen, are you implying that the House of Axes, as well as the House of Armament, is unable of protecting a participant in the challenge?"

Chen Wentian snorted, "I didn't say that... but if you want to make that assumption, I won't stop you."

She sighed and acquiesced. It wasn't her place to argue with an immortal. She would report this to her master and the news would eventually reach the grand sect master. But she guessed that nothing would happen due to Chen Wentian's status. With a disciple in the first place and another in third place, the Spirit Kings were bound to look the other way for such minor things.

"Good. I will leave my first disciple in your care. If anything happens to them, I will overturn the whole capital and I am not kidding."

"Yes, Lord Chen."

"Bye girls."

Chen Wentian rose into the air with Su Yue. Lin Qingcheng and Xu Lanyi waved as they returned to the River District.

Chapter 286: 286

Chen Wentian and Su Yue returned to the King's Laundry as it turned from late afternoon into dusk. The residents of the River Districts were starting to take to the streets and the air, filling the entire district with lively energy.

Nighttime was when the River District truly came alive. There were fancy restaurants, fancy entertainment, and plenty of men and women to keep customers happy. That's right. Powerful male

cultivators sought female companions. Powerful female cultivators with special tastes sought their own male companions. All that mattered was power, prestige, and most importantly money.

This was a place where money talked. If someone didn't have money, then they were pushed aside, even immortals. The ones that operated the restaurants, hotels, and brothels all had equal or stronger backing. They had nothing to fear except a rich person.

The King's Laundry was a buzz of activity inside as the workers and chefs prepared for the evening rush. When Su Yue showed her face, she was immediately accosted by the manager, a smartly dressed man with perfect hair.

"Su Yue, where have you been?" He almost shouted, "Dinner service is about to start, go get changed! It's your last night here, you have to perform well, or else you'll have no chance of obtaining the golden feather!"

"But, my master..." Su Yue managed before she was cut off.

"Immortal Blue Dragon." The manager barely managed a bow, "We are really busy tonight. Your disciple has a lot to do, please don't distract her."

Su Yue looked worried but Chen Wentian didn't get angry. He understood how things worked at such immortal restaurants. A mere Spirit Lord was just a common customer and not anything special.

He instead flicked his wrist and a sizable chunk of red spiritual crystal appeared. It weighed over one kilogram.

"I want to sample the fare of this place tonight. I want a private room."

The manager's face twisted slightly, "Lord Chen, you aren't allowed to help your disciples during a challenge! It's highly inappropriate, not to mention that it goes against the spiritual oath that all the immortal masters had to take, including you!"

Chen Wentian looked him up and down for a while before answering, "Are you dumb?"

"... No?" He answered, confused.

"I think you're pretty dumb. You should work your cultivation a little more instead of working here all day." Chen Wentian said lightly patted the man's shoulder, "Did you honestly think I would do something that would damage my cultivation? Over a meal?"

"..."

"I am not helping my disciple. I am simply here for a meal, an ordinary meal. That's it, that simple. Now, get me a room. Or is my money not good?"

"No, Lord Chen. Your money is perfectly good here! Come this way!"

"Good, Su Yue, go and work. Good luck!"

Su Yue nodded and dashed off upstairs to get changed. They had already discussed the plan for tonight and she was eagerly looking forward to it.

Chen Wentian watched her disappear and then followed the manager through some well-lit and ornately decorated corridors and plazas and arrived at a small dining room that offered complete privacy. It even had a plush sofa set along the wall, perfect for extra activities and some post-meal exercise.

"This is your room, Lord Chen. A waitress will be here shortly to take care of your every need. Of course, there is a price for everything."

"Understood." Chen Wentian said and stepped inside.

"Lastly, per the rules of the challenge, the waitress assigned to serve you will not be your disciple."

“Naturally.” Chen Wentian smiled and waved the man away.

The door was closed behind him and he sat down at the table. He studied the details of the room and couldn't help but be impressed. The King's Laundry was an establishment capable of serving Spirit Kings and it was on a different level from the average places he visited. The table was made of polished wood of a type he did not recognize. It emitted a fragrant smell and a strong spiritual aura. The rest of the furniture was equally expensive and exuded class. The cost to set up a restaurant like this astronomical. He could only hope that food was equally as good.

A few minutes later, there was a knock on the door.

“Come in.” He called out.

A svelte woman in the prime of her beauty slinked in and came to a stop before him. She bowed low, letting him see directly down the deep cleavage of her tight dress. There wasn't much hidden from the imagination. Her assets were on full display and they were substantial.

“Sir Immortal, welcome The King's Laundry. My name is Xu Lingjing and I will serve you tonight. If you have any requests, please don't hesitate.”

She rose back up and stood very close. She seemed a little nervous but quite eager to please.

“My lord, would you like to view the menu for tonight?”

Chen Wentian shook his head and looked at her, “Do you know Su Yue?”

“... Yes?”

“I ran into her at the entrance and I like her.”

Xu Lingjing looked crestfallen but then perked up in the next moment. This was because Chen Wentian withdrew a chunk of red spiritual crystal.

“This is over a kilogram of red spiritual crystal. It's yours if you can find Su Yue and swap places with her. Don't tell anyone including the manager about this. Can you do this?”

Xu Lingjing nodded rapidly. One kilogram of red spiritual crystal was worth one hundred thousand taels of gold. For someone at the Spirit Initiate Realm, it was a huge amount of money. It far surpassed anything she could earn in a single night, even from the most prodigal immortal.

She bowed a few times before disappearing from the room. Chen Wentian suppressed a chuckle. It wasn't a very good plan but at least it was a workable one. As long as no one knew both of his relationship with Su Yue and the fact that she was serving him, there was some plausible deniability. As long as nobody looked too closely, there wouldn't be any problems.

He didn't have long to wait. The door soon opened without a knock and Su Yue came in carrying a lacquer tray with a bottle of wine and a couple of cups. She had a beaming smile and when they locked eyes, she did not look away but stared back at him with happiness.

She arrived at his side and said softly, “Master, please let disciple Su Yue serve you tonight.”

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“Yue'er.” Chen Wentian gave a light chuckle, “I hope to hear you say that more often in the future.”

“Master... you're so mean.” She pouted but it just made her look cuter.

Her outfit certainly helped. The design was more intricate and elegant than what they had at home. It was formal and yet sexy at the same time. It accentuated her best features in an inexplicable way. He didn't know how a mere uniform could have such an effect but the owner of the restaurant certainly knew a man's taste.

“How much revenue are you short by for the challenge?” He asked.



“Master, since the lunch service was a bit disastrous, the amount will be sizable.” She replied.

“Don't worry about it, whatever is required, I will spend it.”

“Mmm.” She nodded happily and explained the situation once more.

The challenge of The King's Laundry was for the rankers to help its business over a period of a week. They could contribute in several ways, including helping to improve the menu, draw more customers, or help those that came to spend more money. It seemed like an innocuous challenge at first and Su Yue had been very excited because she had a simmering interest in spiritual food and cooking.

However, she didn't have a lot of experience since Chen Wentian did not specialize in the area of cultivation that dealt with food. It was certainly a valid Dao and many practiced it. It allowed one to inject their spiritual energy and understanding into the process of turning raw food into cooked versions. The process was able to extract more spiritual energy out of the material than if cooked normally. There were also secret recipes where certain combinations and cooking processes could turn a dish into something akin to raw spiritual crystals. There were even ones that contained special attributes that could help improve a person's comprehension towards a certain Dao or inject their bodies with special properties.

Like any Dao, the possibilities were endless and mysteries only grew and grew as one progressed and increased their cultivation. Su Yue was a complete beginner and so she was kicked out of the kitchen and relegated to serving the customers.

This was where the challenge took a turn for the worse. Being a waitress and serving customers also required skills that she didn't have. It needed her to smile and flatter guests, even rude ones. It needed an ability to absorb harassment and not let it affect their service. It was all in all a terrible task and one that completely inappropriate for the top one hundred of the Immortal Sect Competition.

“They said we would be able to taste the fancy dishes free of charge but we only got a few tidbits at the beginning.” Su Yue complained, “After that, we were only given simple food. Most of the customers are unreasonable, dirty men. I was always given them instead of the other waitresses. It was completely

unfair but I couldn't say anything... Master, I don't care about this challenge anymore. It would be better if we didn't give them any money!”

Chen Wentian understood her feelings but he had a different view. “Yue'er, I am determined to spend money tonight. I have the means to easily earn more. I won't let you be bullied for free. I am determined to win this golden feather.”

“Even over five hundred thousand taels of gold?” She asked tentatively.

“Even a million gold is not a problem!” He laughed, “Now, tell me about this menu and how I can spend that much.”

“Hehe! Okay!”

She brought over the menu and began describing the dishes.

“Oh, this one very popular, it costs one thousand taels for one plate... This one is market price which is five thousand taels for one pot... The five-century venerable ice wine is fourteen thousand taels for one bottle!”

Chen Wentian nodded and went along with her suggestions. When they were finished, he had ordered over half of the items on the menu. The total came out over three hundred thousand taels but not quite the target she needed.

“This is only the first order. I will order more later.” He said and dropped three kilograms of red spiritual crystal in her hands and slapped her butt, “Go! Look confident!”

Su Yue pouted at him but her eyes were smiling brightly.

She got up and left the room to put in this massive order. The restaurant had many employees, not just chefs and waitresses. There were cook assistants as well as servers that helped carry food as well as those that took orders down to the kitchen.

She only had to drop off the order and the money and everything would be taken care of after that. She was solely responsible for entertaining guests in her private room.

She returned to Chen Wentian and in a few minutes; the first appetizer arrived. She stepped outside briefly and returned carrying a tray containing two crystal goblets with something colorful inside.

“Master, this is the Hurricane Flying Salmon Tartare Cornet. It is made from Flying Salmon that is caught within the eye of devastating coastal hurricanes. This dish is infused with dual attributes of wind and rain. Plus, it is very tasty.”

“Mmm, good!”

She placed both goblets and a pair of pure gold spoons on the table. She then sat down and scooted up next to Chen Wentian, who didn't hesitate to wrap a hand around her waist.

“Master, please try it!” She said, waiting for him.

He grinned but didn't take up a spoon. “Yue'er, I suddenly seem to have lost strength in my arms, I need your help, can you help me?”

She blushed but nodded. She scooped out a bit of the salmon tartare and held it out close to his lips. He opened his mouth, expecting her to feed him, but nothing happened. He glanced over to find the spoon and its contents had entered her own mouth.

She toyed with him!

“Hey!” He complained, “I want!”

She giggled and scooped up some more. He opened his mouth again expectantly. He could smell the spicy and sweet fragrance of the tartare but it disappeared as quickly as it arrived.

“Hehe!” Su Yue giggled uncontrollably.

She had once again stolen his morsel of food. The audacity!

“You minx.” He muttered.

He tipped her chin up to look into her mirthful eyes. He leaned in.

“Mmmm...”

He savored the taste of the dish on her lips. It was salty, spicy, and sweet. Her mouth opened obediently and his tongue darted in, savoring her flavor that mixed with the dish that he had paid an exorbitant amount for.

They broke apart a few moments later. His eyes playful, hers unfocused and wanting more. He grabbed the spoon and finally got a taste of the dish for himself. It was smooth, savory, the taste was excellent. It wasn't useful for his cultivation at all but he had to admit the chef-owner of this establishment had skill.

He wanted to take another bite but before he could do so, Su Yue cupped his face and sought his lips once more.

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They were lost in each other and almost forgot where they were. A knock at the door broke them apart and Su Yue pushed his grinning face away. She left the room briefly and returned with several more trays of food.

The dining table filled up with an array of colorful dishes until there was no room left. There was fragrant flame-broiled meat, delicately steamed fish, fragrant soup, and so much more. Some of the dishes contained ingredients at the Spirit Initiate Realm while a few had small portions at the Spirit Lord Realm.

Su Yue sat back down beside him and began to feed him morsel by morsel.

“Do you like that?”

“Mmm... yeah!”

“Try this one.”

“Oh, that's good!”

Chen Wentian was enjoying himself greatly. Every bite was an explosion of flavors that perfectly melded together. On top of the flavors, the spiritual energy within the ingredients was exquisitely in tune and easily absorbed into the body without even needing to be digested. There was a noticeable effect on his cultivation, even if it was a tiny amount.

Once he was halfway full, he took the initiative and fed Su Yue. She sat in his lap like a purring kitten while he returned the favor. She had expected this and the dishes she ordered were an even mix of ones that contained both fire and ice spiritual energy. He ate up most of the fiery ones and she sampled the icy ones.

The effect of the high-class cuisine on her was even more dramatic. He could feel waves of spiritual energy swirling within her, entering her lower dantian. Her skin started to become ice cold as each bite steadily increased the concentration of ice energy.

His body was boiling with fiery yang. Her body was filled with icy yin. The contrast was especially striking whenever their skins touched.

Chen Wentian finally couldn't hold himself back anymore. He let out a quiet growl and kissed her exposed neck. At the same time, his hands clawed at her skirt and spread the opening in fabric apart.

She was still on his lap so he lifted her up and somehow freed his dick from his pants. He dropped her back down, moving aside her undergarments and plunging into her with one smooth motion.

“Ohh!” Su Yue exclaimed.

His dick was fully inside her, pressing against her deepest parts. She was already very wet from sitting on his lap for so long and feeling his erection. It didn't hurt much but the rapid entry left her speechless and gasping for air.

“I guess you're my dessert.” He whispered and nipped at her earlobe.

Su Yue giggled uncontrollably at his lame joke.

Chen Wentian decided that this wasn't proper and lifted her perky ass with his large hands. He kneaded them briefly as he pulled himself halfway out of her dripping pussy.

“Ohhh!” Su Yue let out an uncontrollable moan.

She had been dropped back down onto his lap. His hard shaft speared her pussy with a very wet sound that was music to her ears. She was forcibly stretched out even more as he went even deeper. She was already impossibly aroused but this made her even more so.

“Ahh... master!”

She braced herself against his thigh and started bouncing. Her ass slapped against his groin as she frantically rode him. He matched her motions, rocking his hips and thrusting up to elicit delicious squeals.

“Ahh... Ahh...”

“Yue'er, baby...”

“Master, I'm close!”

They didn't care where they were. They were lost in passion in that moment.

“Come for me,” Chen Wentian growled into her ear, “Come for me.”

“Yessss! Ahhhhh!”

Su Yue's vision exploded in color. Her body shook, her pussy convulsed around his cock, milking him furiously.

Her orgasm was driven by the overflowing icy yin energy within her. With such a high level of icy energy taunting and teasing him, he couldn't hold on and his own release roared with a sudden arrival. He clutched her waist and shoved himself as deep as could before the dam broke.

“Yue'er!”

He could only utter her name as the powerful release twisted his insides with searing pleasure. Jet after jet of hot essence sprayed her insides, filling her to the brim. It felt incredible and he wished the moment could have lasted for hours instead of a few seconds.

They remained like that for a while. She didn't want to let his seed go to waste. Her source of yin was already busy sucking up his fiery yang essence and soon, there wasn't a single drop left inside her.

This left her with an empty feeling that she didn't like. She mewed something incoherent and leaning into him. She shifted sweaty bangs from her eyes and turned her face to look at him.

He glanced down at her smiling, post-coital expression that was begging for more. He couldn't help but lean down and kiss her. The dinner remained forgotten as both were still immersed in each other.

Eventually, there was another knock at the door. The second round of dishes had arrived.

Su Yue got up, almost in a panic. His tired little dragon popped out of her pussy, leaving a mess. She blushed and shoved her skirt down while he pulled up his pants. She shot him a warning look and slipped outside.

Chen Wentian couldn't help but burst out laughing. He imagined her standing in the hallway, talking to the restaurant staff with her pussy and thigh covered in arousal. Her hips were probably aching a little, her legs might be a little wobbly. He wondered if they would suspect what she had been up to.

Su Yue soon returned. She cleaned up the plates on the table and took it all outside. She then came back with even more plates of food, once again covering the entire table with an assortment of delicacies.

They sat down once again to sample the cuisine. With their sexual desires satisfied momentarily, it was a less desperate, more laid-back affair.

Chen Wentian enjoyed himself. The food was excellent, even by his terrible standards. Each plate cost a small fortune but it was worthwhile. He had never splurged like this on food before. He always looked down on immortals who wasted money on such pleasures. But now, he totally understood the appeal.

Culinary cultivation was a real thing, not a scam to make money. He wondered if he should find a disciple who was good at cooking and develop her talents in this area. Then, he would be able to reap the benefits without having to spend exorbitant amounts of money.

He looked to Su Yue who seemed engrossed, describing the contents of each dish in minute detail. Her face was bright and she was almost giddy with excitement as described what she knew of the preparation process as well as the recipe.

He realized something and felt dumb for not noticing it sooner.

"Hey." He said, stopping her.

"Master, what is it?"



“Tell me honestly, do you like this stuff? Things to do with spiritual cuisine?”

Su Yue paused, not knowing what to say.

Chen Wentian coaxed her with a soft hug, “You can tell me anything. I won't judge.”

“Umm... yes... I do like cooking and spiritual cuisine. Sorry for not bringing it up earlier.” She muttered.

“Yue'er, don't be embarrassed. You have nothing to be sorry for. Tell me?”

His gentle words melted her uncertainty.

“Master, when I was still with Glacier Palace, I had started taking lessons from the managing elders about cultivating yin ingredients and practiced making small dishes in the kitchens. When we were away on missions, out of my sisters, I would usually be the one in charge of getting food. After we joined master, there wasn't an opportunity since you treats us so well. We have servants to make food and we often have banquets with hired chefs. I didn't get a chance to raise the subject. To my joy, this challenge was perfect for me. Even though there were many difficulties, I still learned a great deal...”

Chen Wentian nodded in understanding. It was natural for his disciples to each have unique interests. He didn't see a problem with letting Su Yue pursue this in her spare time. Although he felt that dual-attribute cultivation with Summer and Winter's Eternal Sutra was best suited for her, spiritual cuisine was not a problem as a side hobby. He was also interested to see how it could benefit the other disciples if she could produce a few good spiritual dishes. It would be much better than the ordinary food made by the servants or eating at expensive immortal restaurants.

“Yue'er. After this trip is over, I permit you to study spiritual cuisine in your spare time. Understand that your priority still has to be the Eternal Sutra and that I won't be able to help you much. I find you some spiritual cuisine recipe books. I'll also increase your allowance and you can buy whatever ingredients you need.” He said, “Lastly, I want to be the first to try any dishes you create.”

Su Yue flashed a dazzling smile. She didn't reply but thanked him with a feather-light yet meaningful kiss.

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Chen Wentian ended up spending slightly over five hundred thousand taels of gold that evening. They were both completely full by the second course but they kept ordering. Those they could not eat, he stored away in his spatial bag. Although the freshness could not be kept for long, it was still quite good if it was only for a few hours. Since he was spending so much money, he would share the goodies with his other disciples.

At the end of the meal, Su Yue received the golden feather for her 'great contribution'. It cost a small fortune but he was willing to spend it to simply prove a point. Nobody was going to bully his disciple for free.

She was happy for completing the challenge. She was also extremely appreciative and that evening, she thanked him over and over again in many ways, too numerous to mention.

The next day, Chen Wentian reshuffled the challenge teams to provide his disciples maximum protection and teamwork. The twins reunited and along with Song Wushuang formed a three-person team, one that had two immortal souls of the fire wolf and ice wolf between them. Li Yuechan remained on her own but she had both the giant mole worm as well as Tortoise Can Fly. Lin Qingcheng and Xu Lanyi were still together, still working on the missing cultivator mystery. They only had the golden serpent at first but were now supplemented with Chen Mo.

This left Zhou Ziyun, who remained by herself within the libraries of the Sky District. There were fewer dangers in such a sacred location within the capital. He decided she would be fine for the time being and went off on his own to investigate his enemies.

Chen Wentian arrived at Ember Cliffs in the Canyonland district. This was the first location on his target list. It was where Li Yuechan and Xu Lanyi narrowly managed to avoid a trap set by some people with evil intentions.

“Rainbow Canyon Temple... Let me see your true nature!” Chen Wentian muttered.

His eyes narrowed as he zoomed off towards the canyons to the north.

It was only a short flight and he soon arrived at the location of the sect. It was a winding canyon around thirty or forty kilometers long and over two or three kilometers in depth. The top of the canyon was not a continuous plateau as the land had already been eroded by the eons. Huge pillars of rock remained in certain areas, almost like fingers of the gods.

The most striking thing was that the kilometer-tall walls of the canyon were in all sorts of colors, not just of the rainbow but in between as well as outside of its bounds. It was an explosion as well as a combination of colors at the same time. It was truly a rainbow canyon.

The temple was situated all along the canyon, with buildings at the bottom next to the winding river or built into the canyon walls. There were tens of thousands of disciples cultivating below. Some were climbing rocks and training their strength. Others were meditating atop many of the rainbow-colored pillars that contained a myriad of spiritual energies of all attributes.

It could be said that the appeal of the Rainbow Canyon Temple was that it did not have a specialty. It was a place where anyone could find a home because it was a jack of all trades but a master of none.

He flew into the canyon without hiding his immortal aura. This had the expected response. Disciples below ducked for cover and many emergency talismans were activated at once. Soon, not one but two auras rose to meet him.

True to the reputation of the capital, even the immortal sects here were much stronger than ordinary immortal sects in the provinces. A sect having more than one Spirit Lord automatically took it to another level. It meant it was able to consistently produce talents as well as raise them to break through their mortal shackles. Their history would endure for hundreds, if not thousands of years.

Two men flew up and blocked Chen Wentian's way. One of them was quite old, with shimmering white robes that morphed into different shades of silver under the sunlight. The other one was around middle-aged and had on a radiant ensemble of different colors.

"Halt! This is the domain of Rainbow Canyon Temple!" The younger one shouted.

Chen Wentian smiled casually and pulled back his flaming aura, "Immortal Blue Dragon Chen Wentian greets two seniors. I apologize for coming unannounced and so suddenly. I hope did not startle anyone."

"Hoh... It is actually such a famous name! Well met!" The old one laughed, "I am Kun Yi. This here is my son, Kun Fei. He is the sect master as I am already retired."

"Elder Lord Kun, my complements to an excellent immortal father and son! Truly a talented family!" Chen Wentian replied.

"Lord Chen, your words are too gracious... Though, you still came by unannounced... is there anything you seek?" Kun Yi asked.

Chen Wentian nodded and went straight to the point, "Do you have a disciple named Kun Meng? What is his status within your esteemed family?"

Kun Yi looked at his son, Kun Fei, who frowned slightly.

"Lord Chen, Kun Meng is a core disciple and my grandson," The younger one replied, "Although his talent is average, it is good enough to become an elder in the future. Why do you ask about him?"

Chen Wentian laughed disarmingly, "Good, good. I am not here for any unhappy business. Instead, I am here because I heard of good news about Kun Meng from my disciples."

"Oh?"

Both father and son looked skeptical. They understood the scandal that Kun Meng caused. It was impossible for them to be at ease with their guilty hearts.

“Truly. My disciples, Li Yuechan and Xu Lanyi, met this Kun Meng during a Golden Feather Hunt challenge in Hell's Grotto. They had nothing but good things to say about an excellent cultivator and well-raised young man.”

Kun Yi and Kun Fei didn't reply. They were still trying to figure out what was going on. Chen Wentian's tone was sincere, without an ounce of sarcasm or ill-intent. However, his words seemed wrong and made them feel uncomfortable.

“Although they did not have a chance to tackle the Hell's Grotto together with your disciple, they still appreciated Kun Meng's assistance and advice during the short time they were acquainted. I have to admit that Kun Meng left a great impression. They were saddened and overjoyed at the same time to hear that he managed to find his true love within the caves. Even I was surprised when I heard that it was a double match. I am here to offer my congratulations on your disciples' upcoming nuptials with disciples of the Legendary Fighter League. Although I won't be able to attend the festivities in a few months, I am here bearing gifts from myself and my disciples.”

The elder Kun Yi was the first to react. He laughed brightly gave thanks.

“Immortal Blue Dragon is a true man amongst men. A person with a broad mind and generous heart. Come, come! Let me treat you properly as a guest. Kun Fei!”

“Yes, father.”

“Go, go find Kun Meng and Shen Kexing so that they can receive Lord Chen's graciousness.”

“Yes!” Kun Fei bowed and shot away.

“Lord Chen, please, this way.” Kun Yi waved his hand towards a glittering palace nearby.

“Elder Lord Kun, please, lead the way.”

Chen Wentian followed the elder immortal down and entered the palace. He secretly had to admit that it was quite impressive. It had four tiered levels, golden roof files, redwood beams for windows, and white marble for the walls. It looked worthy of an immortal.

His own was rather plain in comparison but he didn't mind much. He wasn't planning on having that many disciples. He would never be able to manage them all properly.

Kun Yi took Chen Wentian to the grand hall, which grand as its name suggested. It was a wide room with three-story-tall ceilings. The floors and walls were adorned with as much exotic material as one could afford. It was a vain attempt to show off.

They sat down and made small talk until Kun Fei arrived a few minutes later with two people in tow, one man and one woman.

"Father, Lord Chen, I have brought Kun Meng and Shen Kexing." Ken Fei said.

"Mmm, sit. Kun Meng, Shen Kexing!"

"Yes, Grandmaster!" They bowed reverently.

"Introduce yourselves to our guest, Immortal Blue Dragon Chen Wentian!"

"Greetings, Lord Chen!"

"Lord Chen, this one's name is Kun Meng. I am a core disciple of Rainbow Canyon Temple. My ranking is within the top three and I am seeking the immortal Dao. I met Lord Chen's disciples at the entrance of Hell's Grotto. They were new to the place and I offered them some assistance. I gave them a lot of background information about the caves and offered to be their guide but they declined. We parted on good terms." Kun Meng said evenly.

Shen Kexing went next and said mostly similar things. She was slightly weaker, but also a core disciple. Both seemed relaxed and unworried. Perhaps Kun Fei had already spoken to them prior and prepared

them. Chen Wentian wasn't going to get any clues from this conversion but it wasn't his purpose in the first place.

“Good, two excellent people, two talented cultivators.” Chen Wentian praised, “As a token of appreciation from my disciples, I have brought gifts for your upcoming good fortune. I hope you can accept it freely.”

Two items appeared in his hand. One was a gleaming long saber. The other was a necklace made of gold and precious gems. Both gave off an aura at the upper levels of the Spirit Initiate Realm. He floated the items over to the two, whose eyes gleamed with surprise and happiness.

“Thank you, Lord Chen!” They said quickly.

Kun Yi and Kun Fei nodded approvingly, as Chen Wentian's expensive gifts had given them a lot of face.

Chen Wentian laughed, “Why don't you two try it out, so I can make sure they are suitable for you.”

“Yes!”

Kun Meng waved the saber around experimentally, putting what he thought was a show for the visiting immortal. Shen Kexing put on the necklace and twirled around. She shot Chen Wentian a few flirty looks in the process.

“Great, looks like a great fit.” Chen Wentian then got up, “Elder Lord Kun, Lord Kun, that concludes my intended business for today. I have to leave.”

“Lord Chen, can't you stay a little longer, at least for lunch?” Kun Fei said.

“No need, no need.” Chen Wentian said, “These gifts, I hope you can accept them freely. I still have to watch over my disciples as they participate in the Golden Feather Hunt.

Kun Fei looked at his father who nodded.

“Very well, let me escort you out. Please.” Kun Fei said, rising.

“Please, lead the way.” Chen Wentian said and followed.

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Chen Wentian was safely escorted out of the territory of Rainbow Canyon Temple. Kun Fei returned to the great hall where the other three remained.

“Anything?” He asked the elder immortal.

Kun Yi shook his head, “The two gifts are safe. There is no tampering or anything. I don't know why he chose to give us these gifts. They are quite valuable. Chen Wentian is quite a strange man. So young and yet so eccentric.”

Kun Fei frowned, “I will send some disciples to keep an eye out for him and his disciples around the capital.”

“Good, good. Let's do it like that. You two, you can go.”

“Yes, grandmaster, master!”

Kun Meng and Shen Kexing bowed and left the grand hall. They walked out of the main palace together and eventually arrived at a separate set of buildings nearby. It was the dormitory for the core disciples.

They entered a private courtyard and residence whereupon Shen Kexing immediately buried herself into Kun Meng's chest.

“Brother Meng, I'm worried.” She said in a soft voice, “Do you think that immortal suspects anything.”



Kun Meng hugged her intimately, "Xing'er, don't be. Grandfather will protect us no matter what happens."

Their relationship was clear. It was not uncommon for male and female disciples to hook up or even get married. What was notable was that they were together when they were both supposed to be getting married to other people in a short time.

The amorous pair chatted idly until their desires got the better of them. They fell onto the bed and tumbled together for several rounds. They got up afterward, cultivated together, and then fought in bed for another round.

"Brother Meng, after the marriage, you can't abandon me to that useless man, Xin Zhen." Shen Kexing teased after they untangled their bodies.

"Hahaha, how could I? Your womb is carrying my child. I have to check up on you often." Kun Meng replied.

Shen Kexing giggled, "Right, it works out perfectly. I can refuse him while the child is growing. When the child is born, I can still ignore him for the baby. By the time the baby has grown up a little, the impotency drugs should have already ruined him."

The couple shared a conspiratorial laugh.

"I apologize for letting you suffer." Kun Meng said, "I would have preferred that he didn't even touch you once. Who knew that idiot still had his virgin yang, what a freak."

"Sigh... it's all for Brother Meng's future. I am willing to do anything!"

He rubbed her stomach and then got up. He walked to the wall opposite the bed which was adorned with an interesting inscription array and several paintings. There was a pentagram with the characters of the five elements; fire, earth, water, metal, and wood. Each had a corresponding color of red, yellow,

black, white, and blue. Under four of the elements hung portraits of four different women with Shen Kexing being the one under the element of water. The only missing one was of fire.

“Ying Shenwu was the best candidate of the fire element I could find.” He muttered, half to himself, “With her, I will be able to complete the Wuxing Color Transformation and move into the lesser realm of Spiritual Growth.”

“Mmm, Brother Meng, although you took longer than your two elder brothers to complete the Wuxing, the quality of your women is heads and shoulders above theirs. They thought they had already jumped ahead of you for the successor position but they are only fooling themselves.”

Kun Meng thumped his chest with his fist, “Grandfather and Grandmaster also know this, or else they would not have supported me. Our sect has never had less than two spirit lords. My generation is the last chance to continue this streak. I won't let them down; I will be the future sect master. It's the only way we can keep our standing among the vassals of the Eastern Light Clan!”

Filled with determination, he pulled Ying Shenwu for another round of 'practice'.

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Chen Wentian finished reviewing the intelligence from the shadow anchors he laid down in the Rainbow Canyon Temple. He finally found a worthwhile lead after sacrificing two good items. The shadow anchors were initially attached to the saber and necklace but as soon as two disciples touched them, the anchors moved onto their bodies. No matter how hard those two Spirit Lords examined, there was no more trace of anything left on the gifts.

He knew there had to be a power backing the sect and now he knew which one it was the Eastern Light Clan. Although sects could operate independently, this was only superficial. With four Spirit King factions in one capital, they were constantly competing for power and influence. It was impossible for a Spirit Lord faction to remain independent forever in such a place.

The Eastern Light Clan was already on his hit list and now, it had moved up to the top. He was going to peel off their skin and reveal their ugly, true nature of the world.