

F Disciples 441

Chapter 441: Gift Exhibit (II)

Long Yifei stayed in the song exhibit for a while longer after Xuan Xina left. She did not pursue the immortal and instead perused some of the other songs in the room. Each one displayed the title, writer, the first few phrases, as well as the expected sell price or price range. Only a few were being sold by private parties and most were advertised by various auction houses.

The Golden Basin Auction House that Xuan Xina mentioned was the largest and most influential but there were several others that offered similar goods. The songs sold by auction houses had a wide price range. Some songs were priced below one million taels. Others were between one million and ten million taels of gold.

Individual songs were cheaper than big-ticket items like instruments but overall, the Dao of song was equally as expensive as the Dao of instruments. To properly cultivate one's voice, many different songs were required. Each one had to be high quality and required legitimate writers.

Long Yifei calculated an estimate in her mind of how much she would have to spend. It was a shockingly large number. She probably needed fifty million to buy Prioress Xuan's songs at auction as they were sure to be hot items. She did know if her master could afford that.

With a sigh, she left the song exhibit, deciding to visit the other exhibits. She grabbed a glass of ice grape wine from a nearby attendant, wandered the halls for a while, and finally entered the dance exhibit.

The exhibit occupied the largest room in Spring Rain Hall. It was comparable to the entrance hall in size and was filled with people. Instead of glass displays like the other exhibits, there were many live demonstrations on the raised platforms that dotted the floor. Sacred Daughters and acolytes alike were gathered around these, studying and discussing the choreography of various dances on display.
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Dancing as an immortal Dao had many uses. The most obvious was physical improvement. There were several dancers displaying their agility, flexibility, and fighting ability. These were quite popular and their choreography was equivalent to tomes that described martial arts such as the Nineteen Demon Subduing Palms.

Other dances could benefit those around them instead. They provided powerful supporting effects. Some were no less impressive than Jasmine's Lunar Blessing. One that caught her eye was called the Snow Sword Dance. The dancer who was showcasing this exuded two auras at the same time. They boosted both ice and sword-based Daos. It was easy to see how useful such a dance was during a large-scale battle.

While Long Yifei was watching the Snow Sword Dance, a burst of bellowing laughter to her side drew her attention. She glanced over and saw a middle-aged man with unremarkable features. She didn't recognize that immortal but she did recognize the Sacred Daughter next to him. She was Ye Landou, a new student and part of her day-to-day group.

Ye Landou's eyes were shining with admiration as she clung to the man's arm. The man, enjoying the attention, was making a variety of boasting statements about his wealth. Ye Landou, who had no acolyte of her own, was hanging onto his every word, clearly smitten.

Long Yifei's lips twitched with amusement. So, this was another purpose of the Gift Exhibit, for unattached Sacred Daughters to meet potential acolytes. It wasn't her business to interfere with Ye Landou's affairs so she did not go and greet her.

As Long Yifei was about to go and watch another dance, a figure stepped in her way.

"Beauty, are you enjoying the exhibit? My name is Immortal Bamboo Wave Yang Gehu."

This Spirit Lord Realm immortal was strikingly tall, nearly half a head taller than her. He had a long, chiseled face with sharp features. His clothes were rich and classy, exuding the aura of someone who lived in wealth.

Long Yifei bowed slightly, "Good evening, Immortal Yang. My name is Long Yifei, a first-year Sacred Daughter."

Yang Gehu chuckled handsomely, showing a sliver of pearly white teeth, "A beautiful name for a beautiful woman! Miss Long, if you have any questions about the Dao of dance, I am a bit of an expert. You've seen the Snow Sword Dance. That dance was created by my Yang Clan. It is a specialty that few can properly learn. But if you are interested, I can give you some additional instruction to guarantee that you can master it completely."

He leaned into her as he spoke, forcing her to take a step backward. She was quite unhappy about the situation but she couldn't be rude. She had never had to deal with men seeking her attention so aggressively so she didn't know what to do.

While she was still mulling her options, he continued talking, "Where are you from? I heard from some contacts at the school that you are not from the Martial Brilliance Continent. You probably won't have heard of it but my Yang Clan is one of the Seven Potentates of Jiannan. The Seven Potentates are seven of the most powerful and influential factions. Each one is a founding member of the Millennium Mountains Campus. We have many acolytes and Sacred Daughters. We always welcome newcomers from the subcontinents and try to make sure that you smoothly get accustomed to life in the main continent."

Long Yifei remained unimpressed. She naturally disliked pushy, arrogant men. Yang Gehu's background and his looks might have captivated an average Sacred Daughter. But she wasn't just some average Sacred Daughter. Even now, she didn't know what she really felt about Chen Wentian so it was impossible for Yang Gehu to do anything with a few words.

"Immortal Yang, I appreciate your kindness. Though, I was merely strolling around looking for my fellow sisters. If you'll excuse me..."

"Wait." Yang Gehu said, taking a step closer to her. Two glasses of wine appeared in his hands and he offered one to her, "Do you want some more wine? Which subcontinent are you from? I want to get to know you more."

Long Yifei ignored him and turned to leave. As she stepped away, a dark expression flashed across his face. His hand shot out, aided by immortal energy, to grab her arm. The exhibit room was dimly lit and crowded so nobody saw him do this.

Before she could even react, his fingers touched the sleeve of her white dress. Terror surged through her. Even though they were in public, she still felt alone and helpless at that moment.

But then, her Flawless Snowfrost earrings pulsed with spiritual energy. A blast of snowy wind intercepted Yang Gehu before he could touch her. It also pushed her away to a safe distance, leaving him empty hand and gaping in surprise.

"What's going on?" A strong woman's voice called out.

A prioress noticed the commotion and strode over. But by the time she reached Long Yifei, Yang Gehu had disappeared into the crowd.

Chapter 442: Gift Exhibit (III)

Seeing that nothing had actually happened, the prioress spared Long Yifei only one extra glance before returning to what she had originally been doing. Long Yifei was left alone in the exhibit hall, shock and fear turning to indignation and anger, with many pairs of eyes in her direction. Some were filled with interest, others with disdain.

She clenched her fists, trying to calm the storm in her mind. She felt irrational fury like she had never before. It threatened to overwhelm her stoic demeanor. No man had treated her like that before. No one had dared to blatantly touch her in public, like she was some easy woman.

She had always stood alone on a pedestal. At Glacier Palace, she was the master's most prized disciple. She was always surrounded by elders and disciples, protected like a precious flower. No stray man had ever dared to disrespect her.

That Immortal Bamboo Wave Yang Gehu disregarded all propriety. He treated her like a common woman, a toy for him to touch and play with. Merely thinking about that person brought another surge of anger.

Even her master hadn't treated her like that. Chen Wentian was sometimes lustful but he was kind and respectful. He also had enough self-control when it was proper. He treated her so well, unlike this rotten slag of a man. So this was what the best of the Martial Brilliance Continent could offer?

What made it worse was that the multitude of immortals nearby probably knew what Yang Gehu would try to do. Yet nobody stood up for her. That prioress only intervened after Chen Wentian's earrings had done all the work. Long Yifei didn't know what she would have done if she didn't have her master's protection.

With her mood thoroughly ruined, Long Yifei rushed out of the dancing exhibit. She spent the rest of the evening wandering the halls. Even when she reunited with her group of acquaintances, she remained silent and followed them around until they returned to the dorms.

As the evening drew to a close, everyone apart from Long Yifei were still excited. They chatted loudly about what they had seen, heard, and experienced during the Gift Exhibit.

The most discussed topic was Ye Landou's performance during the Gift Exhibit. She had managed to attract the attention of a potential acolyte with a fearsome background. He was the middle-aged man that Long Yifei had seen talking to Ye Landou. Apparently, they had chatted for most of the evening and their pairing had become widely known.

He was known as Immortal Bronze Tiger Wu Lao. He was a member of the Beast Mountain Alliance, one of the Seven Potentates of Jiannan and one of the most powerful factions in the Martial Brilliance Continent. Even if his appearance wasn't the much to brag about, his status as an immortal of such a powerhouse meant that he was man of standing.

Ye Landou was a pretty maiden without an acolyte. Wu Lao wanted to be an acolyte. To many at the school, including the teachers and students, they were a perfect match. Nobody could see any flaw if their relationship progressed and he actually became her acolyte. Many Sacred Daughters were even jealous of her good fortune and ability to entice him.

"Hehehe, you guys are overstating my ability!" Ye Landou complained, though the smile on her face couldn't be erased, "I didn't do anything special. It was all thanks to Sister Wei's help that I was introduced to Lord Wu."

"Impossible!"

"How did that happen?"

Some of the more envious women in the group demanded.

Ye Landou quickly hid behind Wei Shuangshuang and hugged her arm, "Sister Wei, tell them. I really didn't do anything improper!"

Wei Shuangshuang flipped her hair back in an arrogant manner and waved her hands to calm the others, "Sister Ye is telling the truth. I did introduce her. My Wei Clan is also a member of the Seven Potentates of Jiannan. We have a close relationship with the Beast Mountain Alliance. Immortal Bronze Tiger Wu Lao is even my in-law. I originally wanted to introduce Sister Ye to a member of my own clan but no immortal was looking to take on a Sacred Daughter at the moment. So, I asked around and got some assistance from the Beast Mountain Alliance."

"Wa!"

"So lucky!"

"Sister Wei, do you know any other immortals? Please introduce us!"

The group dissolved into excited shouts. Among those shouting the loudest was Zhao Linmei, who already had an acolyte from the Western Wumu Subcontinent.

This caused Long Yifei to frown. She caught up with Zhao Linmei and pulled her aside.

"Sister Zhao," She said in a soft but firm voice, "You already have an acolyte, don't you think your words are a little improper? What would he think if he heard you?"

Zhao Linmei shook off Long Yifei's hand, "Oh, come on, Sister Long. It's not that serious. So, what if I talked to some other men other than my acolyte. He doesn't own my mouth. It's just harmless fun!"

She then rejoined the group of giggling women, "Right, everyone? A lot of the men here tonight were so handsome! My legs went weak more than a few times!"

This was met with more laughter and plenty of agreement.

Long Yifei followed them helplessly. Zhao Linmei left many words unsaid but her stance was clear. Some people were simply like this and they couldn't change. They lacked moral integrity. They had difficulty keeping promises. They were inconsistent and easily swayed.

It wasn't just Zhao Linmei. Many women in the group thought this way as well. It was an ugly, dirty side of human nature.

And Long Yifei was completely against such conduct. She could never act like that, treat her man with such disregard. She could never do anything that would betray Chen Wentian's trust.

"What about you, Sister Long?" Zhao Linmei countered. She pulled Long Yifei back into the group with a sly smile, "I heard that a lot of Sacred Daughters came away of the Gift Exhibit empty handed because of you."

"Me? Why?" Long Yifei asked.

"Hahaha, you don't know? The word is that many of the guests had been captivated by your unnatural beauty. They were all hoping to get a chance to talk to you. But after you rejected Immortal Bamboo Wave Yang Gehu so bluntly, nobody dared to approach you for fear of receiving the same mistreatment."

Long Yifei was stunned speechless. How did the narrative become like this? She was blunt? She mistreated him? Preposterous!

"Don't look so surprised." Wei Shuangshuang chimed in, "I'm sure the whole school knows by now. Though, I have to commend Sister Long on one thing, she certainly has peculiar tastes. Hehe, even members of the Seven Potentates of Jiannan are beneath her. How can anybody compare? Is anyone good enough?"

Seeing the varying expressions of those around her, they all had similar thoughts. It was pointless trying to argue, not with such obvious barbs towards her master.

Long Yifei palmed her face, let out a long sigh, and then stormed off towards her room, leaving the gossiping group of women behind. She always disliked befriending women and tonight reminded her why.

Chapter 443: Plotting Enemies

The night of the Gift Exhibit came to a close. The gifts were returned to their owners. The male guests and acolytes left the Millennium Mountains Campus. The students returned to their dorms. Even the servants had all left Spring Rain Hall.

The only ones that were left were two immortals of the Virtuous Order, one abbotess and one prioress. They were in one of the staff rooms, sharing a pot of fragrant tea while waiting for the morning.

"Master, I think this year's Gift Exhibit went very well. The gifts on display were all a step better in terms of quality and uniqueness than the years prior." Immortal Winter Hymn Xuan Xina said, pouring more tea into another's cup. "All the major auction houses showed up as well as members from each of the Seven Potentates of Jiannan. I would say that it was the most exciting Gift Exhibit in the last decade."

Immortal Dawn Euphony Li Shishi accepted the cup, took a small sip, and nodded slowly, "Mmm. I would say so as well. This year's roster has great potential. These men have their sources and it was impossible for them not to know of this fact. And where there are beautiful and talented women, great men are sure to follow."

Master and disciple fell silent for a while, each one absorbed in their own thoughts. They were a fitting pair, both stunningly beautiful and elegant without fault. A mortal observer would have thought they were sisters.

Li Shishi emptied her cup and looked over at her disciple, "Xina, what did you think about Long Yifei's performance tonight?"

"She... lived up to master's praises." Xuan Xina said, "Her demeanor, her charm, her talent, I think she is suitable. But..."

Li Shishi's lips twitched and turned into a small smile, "Speak your mind. What did you see in her?"

"The information we got from Gui Li and Zhu Yao'er doesn't seem to be quite correct. I thought that Long Yifei would be accepting of my offer, of the Order's intentions. But it seems that her acolyte holds a much higher standing in her heart than any of us have realized." Xuan Xina huffed in frustration, "I don't know about Gui Li but I always knew Zhu Yao'er had terrible attention to detail. Asking her to read a person is like asking her to read a pig."

Li Shishi chuckled, "Perhaps, or perhaps not. A person's heart can change over time. Currently, Long Yifei is still getting accustomed to a wholly new environment. It is natural for her to cling more strongly to the remaining vestige of home, her acolyte. But as she stays here longer, her old life will gradually fall away and her new life here will dominate. She will see that staying with her acolyte has no future."

Xuan Xina cut in, "We might not have the time. She has already caught the eyes of the Seven Potentates. They will move quickly to suppress her acolyte. If she stays with him, she won't be able to receive any good gifts. He will only waste her talent as a divine daughter. Or she might even get snatched up by them. We have to get her on our side as quickly as possible! She is our hope, she can bring the Virtuous Order to new heights. Perhaps she could help us suppress the Sororal Order once and for all! We can't let the Seven Potentates have a divine daughter. I would offer myself before I let Long Yifei be taken!

Li Shishi waved her hand to calm her disciple, "I understand... and I feel the same. It's not like we won't do anything. I will put you in charge of gathering gifts for her, use my authority and funds as you see fit. At the Gift Giving Ceremony, the Seven Potentates can oppress and humiliate her acolyte however they like. But Long Yifei will still receive the best gifts from us. We will make our stance clear to these men; nobody is allowed to touch her!"

"Yes, master!"

To the south of the Martial Brilliance Continent, far away from the Millennium Mountains Campus, there was a prosperous land filled with lakes and rivers called the Million Lakes Province. Its climate was mild. It was teeming with life and sources of spiritual energy. It was a cultivation holy land.

This place belonged to the Yang Clan, experts of all kinds of Dao related to water. They resided in the many palaces that had been constructed on islands in the middle of lakes and rivers. Each of these hundreds of palaces was on par with an immortal sect or the royal palace of an empire. And among these, The Palace on Lake Bai was the residence of Immortal Bamboo Wave Yang Gehu...

Bang!

The front doors to the palace crashed open, bouncing off the stone walls, almost tearing off the hinges. Yang Gehu stormed inside, sweeping away the servants and guards behind him. He had returned from the Gift Exhibit in a towering rage, unable to accept that he had been rejected by Long Yifei.

"Long Yifei... Long Yifei..." He slammed his fist through a nearby wall.

He had been utterly humiliated, in public no less. Many people had seen his actions and her response. She might as well have slapped his face and stepped on his pride. He was the joke of the other potentates. He wouldn't be able to raise his head in their presence for a month at least. It was intolerable!

"Black River, Yellow River, where the hell are you two? Come out!" He bellowed; his voice echoed throughout the palace.

A few breaths later, two immortals appeared before him and bowed. They were both short and skinny, with unattractive square faces. They looked like twins.

They were at the Spirit Lord Realm, the same as Yang Gehu. But their status couldn't be compared to his. These two were servants of the Yang Clan. Even after reaching the immortal realms, they were still servants, bound to the clan that supported their cultivation.

Yang Gehu stared at the two with a cold gaze. "I have a task for you both."

"Young lord, please instruct us!"

"Young lord, please instruct us!"

"There is a Sacred Daughter named Long Yifei. She dared to humiliate and reject me. I will make her pay! Her acolyte is from the Eastern Sanmu Subcontinent and is known as Immortal Blue Dragon Chen Wentian. Black River, go to the subcontinent and find out everything you can about these two people. I want to know everything, even the smallest detail."

"Yes!"

"Yellow River, keep tabs on Chen Wentian here in the Marital Brilliance Continent. He is sure to be looking for gifts for the Gift Giving Ceremony. Contact our people at the auction houses. Make sure this peasant from the subcontinent can't buy anything useful. Outbid him on everything, bleed him dry. It doesn't matter how much money it takes. I have to crush him with the might of the Yang Clan! I want to see Long Yifei utterly humiliated at the Gift Giving Ceremony! Understand?"

"Yes, young lord!"

"Yes, young lord!"

Chapter 444: Blue Moon Tower (I)

The Gift Exhibit was an enlightening evening for Chen Wentian as well. Although he was not in attendance, his soul was, residing within the Flawless Snowfrost earrings that Long Yifei wore everywhere. He could not utilize Chen Mo at the campus as they had too many protective arrays. Instead, the immortal snow monkey soul of the earrings did an adequate job.

He went everywhere Long Yifei went while she wore the earrings. She met Immortal Winter Hymn Xuan Xina and so did he. She met the rude Immortal Bamboo Wave Yang Gehu and so did he. He knew there would be people trying to break Long Yifei and him apart and now, he could finally add faces to his enemies.

Chen Wentian, the day after the exhibit, was a man on a mission. He set out for the various auction houses that dotted the southern region of the Martial Brilliance Continent. If he wanted to fight back against enemies from all sides, he needed to obtain the best and most precious gifts for his disciple. His gifts had to overshadow anything and everything the Order or the Seven Potentates offered up. That was the only way he could maintain his reputation, the only way he could emerge from the Gift Giving Ceremony with his head held high. f ree web novel.com

The first auction house he visited was named the Blue Moon Tower. It was located in the middle of a vast city named the Holy City of the Waning Moon. The city was a paradise for immortals. With buildings constructed of moon marble and ample use of moonjade crystals for windows, the whole place exuded a lunar aura. Jasmine would definitely enjoy this place very much. He vowed that he would bring her here if he got the chance.

Chen Wentian strolled through the wide streets, avoiding stray immortals, and arrived in front of the auction house. The Blue Moon Tower contained seven levels, with each level providing progressively more valuable goods. Using his identity as an acolyte of the Virtuous Order of Chunzhen, he was able to enter the first level. Seeing nothing interesting in the Spirit Initiate Realm section, he tried going upstairs to see the items that were at the lesser realms.

"Halt!" A pair of guards shouted rudely.

They wore scaled armor of a bright blue hue and carried heavy spears that were crossed together, denying his path up the stairs. To Chen Wentian's surprise, they were both at the Spirit Lord Realm. He didn't expect the Blue Moon Tower to be so extravagant, to have two Spirit Lords act as mere guards.

He presented his identification badge from the Order once again, "I am Immortal Blue Dragon Chen Wentian, an acolyte of the Virtuous Order. Can I go upstairs?"

At the same time, he released a sizable amount of blue flames, showcasing the power of a Spirit Lord at the peak level of spiritual strengthening. His spiritual energy clashed against those of the two guards. Although they were clearly struggling to match up to him, their faces remained impassive.

"You may not... enter!"

Chen Wentian snorted and recalled his powers, "Why not? I am not just a random immortal from the wilderness. Since when does Blue Moon Tower reject acolytes of the order?"

"We don't reject acolytes of the order." One of the guards said with a scowl, "We are just rejecting you."

"Cheh, well said brother. Do you know where you are? You are with the Blue Moon Tower. This isn't some peasant auction house in a subcontinent. This place belongs to the Seven Potentates of Jiannan!"

Chen Wentian rolled his eyes, "Whatever, I'm not going to argue with you two anymore. Since the so-called Seven Potentates want to use their vast influence to bully me, it seems I have no other choice."

He whirled around to leave but paused to look back at the two guards, "But don't you think it's silly? Why would such a big name want to bully a figure of no renown like myself? Are the Seven Potentates so insecure? Are they so impotent?"

"You!"

Chen Wentian roared with laughter and walked away, leaving two steaming guards behind. He didn't worry about those two. They were simply servants, bound to their masters. It was a standard custom of many large clans in the immortal world. They needed immortals to bolster their ranks and fight for them but they didn't want these immortals to disobey and go rogue.

There were many ways for humans to enslave each other, countless Daos developed over the ages. Some were crueler than others but they all achieved the same goal, ensuring eternal loyalty. His own soul art could be considered a form of enslavement too.

Chen Wentian wandered the first floor of the Blue Moon Tower for a while longer, unwilling to leave. With this interference by the Seven Potentates, he wouldn't be able to obtain a dance choreography that Long Yifei was interested in. It was a small setback but a loss was still a loss.

Just as he was about to leave, he saw a familiar face out of the corner of his eye. It was Immortal Drifting Axe Han Baohu, a Spirit Lord from the Western Wumu Subcontinent. They had chatted during the first day of the school year. This was the first time seeing the immortal after that day.

Chen Wentian watched as Han Baohu was also blocked from going upstairs. But then, Han Baohu retrieved a letter which greatly shocked the two stingy guards. Realizing something was afoot, Chen Wentian summoned his spiritual energy. He arrived beside Han Baohu in a few breaths and clasped his hand on the taller man's shoulder.

"Brother Han! What a surprise! I didn't expect to see you here!" He said cheerily.

"Wha... Oh, it's Brother Chen." Han Baohu's alarmed expression vanished in an instant, replaced with an unreadable smile, "Truly a surprise. I didn't expect to see you here either. Hahaha!"

The pair shook hands and shared a laugh.

Ignoring the displeasure on the faces of the two guards, Chen Wentian continued, "Brother Han, I guess you are here to seek gifts as well. Aiya, these Sacred Daughters, they certainly have expensive tastes. Want to compare wish lists? How much do you want to bet that mine is more expensive than yours?"

"Ah... something like that." Han Baohu replied awkwardly, "We don't have to compare wish lists, Brother Chen. It is something private to each Sacred Daughter and we might even have to compete for the same items."

"Brother Han, how could you say that? I thought we were going to be friends!" Chen Wentian exclaimed, "We don't have to fight for any items. Instead of driving the price higher by competing, we can work together and keep the price low! Come, let's go upstairs, I'll show you around!"

He patted Han Baohu's back and steered the larger man towards the stairs. But just like before, a pair of spears crossed together in his face.

"Go away!"

"You can't go up!"

The two Spirit Lord guards bellowed, furious at being ignored and at Chen Wentian's second attempt that disregarded their previous words.

"I can't?" Chen Wentian asked, pretending to be bewildered, "But you let Brother Han go up the stairs. He is also from a subcontinent. If you're going to bully peasants, why don't you bully all peasants equally? Why do you have to be unreasonable and unfair? Is this how the Seven Potentates do business, willy nilly and without any sense?"

"Absolutely not!"

Once again, three sets of spiritual energies billowed out and clashed together. This time, it caused a powerful storm that swept through the first floor of the auction house, alarming the other guests.

But this time, a fourth source of spiritual energy surged out and broke the stalemate. True to his name, Han Baohu's aura contained a powerful and sharp force, like a giant ax falling down from the sky. Chen Wentian was forced back several steps, leaving Han Baohu standing with the two guards.

"My apologies," Han Baohu said, his tone now devoid of any friendliness, "You seem to have misunderstood something. I am able to go upstairs because I had been invited by the owners of the Blue Moon Tower. I can do nothing for you if they rejected you. Please understand."

Without waiting for a reply, Han Baohu passed by the guards and disappeared up the stairs.

Chen Wentian was left abandoned on the first floor, in the same state as before. Not wanting to look at the smug and ugly faces of the guards anymore, he promptly left the auction house.

Back outside, he clicked his tongue and scratched his head, greatly annoyed. It seemed that Han Baohu was now on the side of the Seven Potentates. Why or how that happened, he didn't know. But he would soon find out. Just by touching the other immortal, he had placed a shadow anchor within their clothes. He wanted to see just what kind of scheme his enemies were cooking up.

Chapter 445: Blue Moon Tower (II)

Han Baohu headed up the stairs of the Blue Moon Tower, unaware that he was being spied on. He did not stop on the second floor or the third floor. The guards let him through to the top floor where he knocked on the door to a private room.

"Come in!" A bright voice came from within.

Han Baohu pushed open the double doors, revealing a luxurious sitting room. The chairs and sofas were plated with shiny precious metals and upholstered with leather from powerful spiritual beasts. The walls were filled with artwork and calligraphy. The corners of the room were adorned with sculptures, vases, and other rarities.

A man emerged from the back room. He had a small stature and a small round head. This contrasted sharply with the elegant and rich clothes he wore from head to toe. Although he carried an immortal aura, it was overwhelmed by his aura as a businessman.

"Chief Auctioneer, I am Immortal Drifting Axe Han Baohu, thank you for meeting with me today!" Han Baohu gave a courteous salute with his hands.

The chief auctioneer smiled and waved towards a sofa, "Likewise, I am glad you could come. Sit!"

They sat down and soon after, a group of servants came in carrying trays of food and drink. It was all high-class fare and quickly filled the room with gentle and stirring fragrances. However, Han Baohu remained still and didn't touch anything.

After an awkward pause, the chief auctioneer laughed, "Relax, since you agreed to our offer, there is no reason for us not to be friends. Here, drink!"

He poured Han Baohu a cup of wine and the other accepted. They toasted each other a few more times after that while the food remained ignored.

Chen Wentian watched the whole exchange with apprehension. Immortal Drifting Axe Han Baohu was a rather famous persona in the Western Wumu Subcontinent. Just a little bit of investigation had revealed his good reputation and standing among the immortal community there.

Han Baohu was an independent immortal who reached the Spirit Lord Realm and founded a successful immortal sect. His disciples were all talented and one even managed to reach the Spirit Lord Realm, following his path. His Axe Sect was one of the best in the subcontinent.

He was an immortal who could truly hold his head high and not bow down to anyone. Therefore, it was alarming seeing him so subdued and obedient in front of an auctioneer. Even if the auction house was famous in the Martial Brilliance Continent, independent immortals all had their own arrogance and pride. For Han Baohu to cast it all away... there had to be a good reason.

Chen Wentian's question was answered when the chief auctioneer finally put down his wine and pulled out a tablet made of spiritual metal. It was engraved with a lengthy spiritual contract, a more formal version of a spiritual oath, the contents of which explained the whole situation.

The contract stipulated that Han Baohu would revoke his position as the acolyte of Ye Landou. She would then be free to choose her own acolyte. In return, Han Baohu would receive two kilograms of

yellow spiritual crystal, a cultivation resource at the Spirit King Realm which was worth a billion taels of gold per kilogram.

This Ye Landou was the same Sacred Daughter that was close acquaintances with Long Yifei. She was the same one that had attracted the attention of a member of the Seven Potentates of Jiannan. Now, the Blue Moon Tower wanted to buy her from her acolyte. It was all starting to make sense.

"Mmm. Everything in the contract looks fine to me." Han Baohu said after some time.

"Excellent! Here." The chief auctioneer retrieved a leather sack and placed it on the table, "One kilogram of yellow spiritual crystal, an advance payment for our agreement. Do you have Ye Landou's wish list for gifts?"

Han Baohu studied the contents and nodded in satisfaction. He produced a scroll and handed it over. There wasn't a single trace of hesitation or regret in his actions.

The auctioneer opened the scroll and read it quickly, "Heh, her wish list is more conservative than I expected, only around a hundred million taels. Not a problem. The Blue Moon Tower will handle everything with regards to the gifts so you do not have to worry."

He pocketed the wish list and laughed. The two immortals shared another drink before the auctioneer spoke again, "Do not worry about Ye Landou's future. She has caught the eye of the Seven Potentates so her talent is certainly good enough. She will reach the Spirit Lord Realm though it will probably require an investment of over five hundred million taels, depending on future circumstances. Now, you don't have to spend so much and you even made a tremendous profit! A good deal!"

Han Baohu's face remained impassive, "May I ask, which one of the Seven Potentates is interested in her?"

The auctioneer's smile didn't reach his eyes, "Ah, I apologize. The Blue Moon Tower merely serves the interests of the Seven Potentates. I cannot reveal that information to you and it shouldn't matter anyway. After we complete this contract, you will no longer have any need to care about Ye Landou's fate."

Han Baohu nodded slowly and replied, "That is true. Chief Auctioneer, about the other part of the contract..."

"Hahaha, I knew you would be interested! As a hot-blooded male in their prime such as yourself, I expected no less!" The other immortal waved his hand, sending a spiritual message out of the room.

The double doors opened and two women stepped in. They were both tall and willowy. They had long black hair, fair features, and a submissive demeanor. They wore the same outfit, the classic white robe of the Virtuous Order as well lacy black chokers around their slender necks.

They walked up gracefully to the two immortals and bowed deeply. "Greetings, lords."

This time, Han Baohu couldn't keep his composure and he stared at the two beautiful women with a hungry, almost beastly expression.

"Do you like them? Hahaha, I knew you would." The auctioneer said, "Azhu, Azhi, show your new master."

The two nodded and placed their hands on their lower abdomen. There was a surge of spiritual energy and a warm, silvery glow appeared beneath their hands. It carried a distinctive aura filled with warmth, love, and a deep sense of motherhood.

It was the Silver Luan, a famous secret art of the Order. The purpose of the Silver Luan was to produce the most powerful offspring, one that could carry the father's talent and even exceed it. Sacred Daughters who practiced this secret art cultivated their womb with their entire being, even putting their life energy into the effort.

The auctioneer got up and strolled around the two women, like a merchant examining his goods, "Azhu and Azhi are excellent products of the Blue Moon Tower. They both graduated from the Millennium Mountains Campus of the Order last year but they have been cultivating the Silver Luan for their entire adult lives. Being at the lesser realm of Spiritual Awakening will be more than sufficient for your purposes. They will each only be able to produce one offspring but that's twice as much as you were originally going to get with Ye Landou. Now you will get two immortal offspring for the price of one, how good is that? Hahaha!"

Han Baohu nodded, a smile finally gracing his lips.

The auctioneer laughed again and held out a hand. Han Baohu shook it.

"Good, with this deal, you will forever be friends with the Seven Potentates of Jiannan!"

Chapter 446: Her Past (I)

Chen Wentian observed the whole transaction through his shadow anchor while sitting at a nearby restaurant.

After the spiritual contract was signed by both parties, Han Baohu did not stay around the Blue Moon Tower. He took his newly acquired concubines and left the city. The man was no doubt anxious about making children as soon as possible with his two slave concubines.

"Cheh... what a crazy guy." Chen Wentian muttered.

He waved his hand in the air. He withdrew the shadow anchor, having already seen enough. He wasn't interested in another man's private activities.

Han Baohu's choice was cowardly to Chen Wentian but it was also reasonable. The talent of one's descendants was rarely guaranteed. It depended on the specific immortal Dao but more importantly, it depended on the father as well as the mother.

Immortal disciples were not the same as immortal children. The bond between master and disciple was strong but it was still a bit lacking compared to that between parent and child. Han Baohu was already a successful immortal with an immortal disciple but the allure of immortal children was still too much to ignore.

But Chen Wentian still felt a wave of stirring anger from the situation. The Seven Potentates of Jiannan were too intolerable. They could bully a proud and independent immortal so easily. They were able to force a deal that was far more profitable for them than Han Baohu.

His Sacred Daughter, Ye Landou, had a definite potential to reach the immortal realms. That fact in itself was priceless. She could not be compared to two Sacred Daughters stuck at the mortal realm. Even ten more such women could not be compared to one Ye Landou at the Spirit Lord Realm. Although the investment would be high, the payoff for the Seven Potentates in the future could not be measured.

Han Baohu surely knew this as well but there was nothing he could do. He dared not fight back against a preeminent power of the Martial Brilliance Continent. He could only capitulate and become their obedient dog.

Shah!

Chen Wentian crushed the teacup in his hand.

These people wanted Long Yifei even more. He wasn't going to let them have her. It was simply an impossibility.

He wouldn't let them humiliate him either. He didn't care about the Blue Moon Tower or any other second-rate auction houses that were owned by the Seven Potentates. His target from the beginning was the Golden Basin Auction House, the best in the continent and which bowed to no one.

As the lord of the soul realm, as the inheritor of the legacy of the blue dragon, he wasn't going to back down from threats against himself or his disciples. If these dirty men continued to push him, he would wipe them out entirely.

While Chen Wentian was fighting for gifts for the upcoming Gift Giving Ceremony, Long Yifei was also hard at work. Every day was filled with studying, training, and more studying. After the basic lessons of the four classics wrapped up, the new students began practical lessons in each specific classic.

"Well done, that's enough for today!" The Spirit Lord instructor said, clapping her hands.

Long Yifei and four other Sacred Daughters let out sighs of relief. Some rubbed their weary feet while others wiped the sweat from their brow and neck.

It had been several arduous hours of dancing practice. It was part of her chosen classic, song and dance. There wasn't enough time in the day to learn all four so she could only practice one.

She looked around at the other students. They were not a part of her regular group. They were similar to her, with no background in dancing. They all had to start from the very beginning, with the most basic aspects of dancing such as body control, steps, and rhythm. Others that had an early introduction to the subject could take advanced lessons. Some even had over a decade of experience and could directly cultivate immortal-level dance choreographies.

"Sister Long, are you tired, hungry? I'm starving! do you want to go to dinner?" A Sacred Daughter popped in front of her and asked.

Her name was Su Yaoci. She was the friendliest out of the bunch. She had a messy head of curly brown hair that framed her oval face and delicate features. She was small and petite, more cute than beautiful. Her origin was ambiguous but it didn't stop her from trying to be friends with everyone regardless of their talent or status.

Long Yifei greeted her warmly. Su Yaoci reminded her of the twins, Su Xue and Su Yue. "Sister Su, my apologies. Next time, I will definitely accompany you. I am too busy tonight. I have to go to the library."

Su Yaoci pouted, "Library? Hehe, don't joke! Are you going to secretly practice more after lessons? Yaoyao won't be able to keep up with you anymore if you work so hard. Your talent is much better than mine!"

Long Yifei smiled lightly. They had all started at zero but their progress wasn't the same. Her fearsome talent as a divine daughter wasn't a joke. She had been able to complete three months' worth of dance instructions in only a week. Su Yaoci wasn't bad but she was already falling behind.

"But, Sister Long," Su Yaoci said, her expression turning more serious, "Having innate talent towards a particular classic is important but having good gifts are more important. The usefulness of these fundamental lessons that the Order provides will soon diminish. You must make sure that you get good dance choreographies at the immortal realms or else your progress will inevitably stagnate."

Her tone was a surprise. It made it seem like she knew a lot more than her usual demeanor indicated. There were crouching tigers and hidden dragons everywhere in the Order. This Su Yaoci was certainly a person with a strong background.

"Mmm, I understand. Thank you, Sister Su, for your concern." Long Yifei said. "I promise we can have dinner together next time.

"Alright, next time!" Su Yaoci said.

She returned to her original playful self and bounced away.

Long Yifei shook her head and headed out of the classroom. She walked across the campus alone and headed into the library. She hadn't lied to Su Yaoci. She actually did have important business here.

She had finally located something important, something she had been searching for since the day she came here. She found it just yesterday, a historical record of the Great Falls Province, a province within the Martial Brilliance Continent. In order not to arouse suspicion, she dared not borrow the tome and could only study it within the library.

She hoped that it could illuminate her still-forgotten past; the Kingdom of Silver Cascades, how it met its doom, and how she became its last survivor. The immeasurable amount of time in the dream array as a reward for the Monster Fighting Competition had been useless for her cultivation but she had been able to unlock more memories from her childhood before she had arrived at Glacier Palace.

She had to know... the reason behind her insatiable desire to be strong, the mystery of her physique that protected her virginity. She had to find out the truth about her past. It was one of her main goals for joining the Order.

Chapter 447: Her Past (II)

The library was quiet. There were only a few people about this time before dinner so Long Yifei did not attract any attention. She greeted a few familiar faces in passing but gave the excuse that she was researching the history of song and dance. Everyone was focused on their own studies and they didn't pay her any extra attention.

Long Yifei arrived at a particularly deserted section of the library which contained books about the history of the Martial Brilliance Continent. She had searched for material about the Great Falls Province without success for several weeks before she recalled something from her deeply seated memories. Her mother had told her something when she was young, a name. It was not her mother's name but the name of a secret friend she had.

Long Yifei stopped beside a dusty, crowded bookshelf and finally found it. It was a series of books named *The Records of the Abbess of Glacier Springs Province*. Its author was Immortal Tranquil Flute Dong Ruming, the person her mother had named.

"Finally..." She muttered softly.

Dong Ruming was an Abbess of the Virtuous Order of Chunzhen. She was in charge of the Glacier Springs Province within the Martial Brilliance Continent. Such was the power and influence of the Virtuous Order that a single province required an abbess to manage its affairs.

Long Yifei dragged her hand along the spines of the books until she found the one she wanted. It was the records from the decade that contained her birth and her eventual escape from the calamity that befell her family. She hoped that it would give her a clue, something, anything.

Everything else about the Kingdom of Silver Cascades and Great Falls Provinces as a whole had been wiped out from the records. Not a single tome in this vast library spoke of these two names as if they had never existed in history. It was obvious that someone or some group didn't want anybody else to know. Their reason for doing so had to have something to do with her past.

Long Yifei took the tome to a secluded table and began to study it.

Immortal Tranquil Flute Dong Ruming was a careful and detail-oriented person. Each page was filled with tiny, hand-written characters that detailed everything and anything about her province. There were records of all the Sacred Daughters that had been recruited from the province. There were discussions about power struggles between local sects as well as outside influence from the Seven Potentates. There were accounts of the seasons and the weather patterns. There were detailed numbers about the population and economy.

However, there was still no mention of the Kingdom of Silver Cascades or Great Falls Province, even after reaching the end.

A sharp pang of nervousness filled Long Yifei's heart. This wasn't right. There had to be something here. There had to be. It was her only hope!

She couldn't give up. If this lead didn't work, she really had no other ideas. She had already looked everywhere else. She briefly thought about asking Chen Wentian for help but quickly stashed that idea away.

She hadn't even told him about the contents of her memories yet. She didn't want to rely on him for everything and anything. This was something she had to find out on her own!

Long Yifei pushed the tome to one side and retrieved another one from the same collection. This one was a record of the previous decade by the same author. After reading through everything and finding nothing, she picked up another from an older decade.

Dinner and evening activities were forgotten. She read into the night, covering the history of Glacier Springs Province decade by decade. At some point, the author was no longer Dong Ruming but the previous abbottess that had been in charge of the province. She continued reading, learning far more about a province than she ever wished to know.

All of it was useless to her except... one lonely page.

It took over two hundred years of boring history before she finally found it, a few stingy lines that mentioned her mother's name. It was nestled in a large section that described all the women that had joined the Order who was born in the province.

With shaking hands, Long Yifei traced her finger across the rough pages and read word by word.

"In the year eleven thousand six hundred and thirty-three of the Virtuous Order, Long Tao from Glacier Springs Province was identified as a potential Sacred Daughter at the age of fifteen. Her background was unknown, with no family or relatives, so she was directly recruited into the Order."

It was her! It was her mother!

Long Yifei didn't remember her mother's face or her name before but staying in the dream array had unlocked those memories. She could now recall her ethereal features that weren't dissimilar from her own. Her mother's name was Long Tao and this person recorded on the page had to be her. With such devastating beauty, there was almost no chance that her mother wasn't recruited by the Order, especially if she resided in a province under the management of the Order.

The only problem was the year. This record was over two hundred years ago, two hundred forty to be exact. How could her mother have lived for so long and given birth to her? There was only one possibility.

Her mother had been an immortal, a Spirit King at least!

Great waves of relief washed over her taut mind. Her hopes and expectations were satisfied by only a little but it brought a smile to her face. She finally had a tiny ray of hope.

Even if the enemies that wiped out her family and her kingdom had all the power in the world, it was impossible to completely erase the trace of a Spirit King of the Virtuous Order, especially one that was recruited so recently. There had to be people still alive who knew her mother, that knew what had happened!

With this idea in hand, she continued reading the record and found what she was expecting.

"In the year eleven thousand six hundred and forty-three of the Virtuous Order, Dong Ruming was recruited from Glacier Springs Province as a Sacred Daughter at the age of twenty-five. She came from the Eastern Spring Clan."

Long Yifei couldn't help but let out a laugh. There it was.

Her mother, Long Tao, and Dong Ruming had to have been classmates. Their age was the same. For two Sacred Daughters from the same year to both become Spirit Kings, they had to know a lot about each other. Her mother had mentioned that Dong Ruming was her best friend growing up. Given such a background together, it made every sense in the world.

An unfamiliar feeling of satisfaction struck her. After desiring answers about her past for so long, she finally had a solid lead. Although the full truth behind the fall of her family and her kingdom remained hidden, she now had a name, a real living person who was still an active abbottess of the Order.

Although it was past midnight and she was already very tired, she continued to study the records, hoping for any more clues. The mystery of her past, someone or some group had put in so much effort to conceal it. She was determined to reveal it slowly and carefully until it had nowhere to hide.

She continued valiantly but her eyelids dropped lower and lower. Eventually, her head hit the aged pages and she lost herself to slumber. The only sound that permeated the vast halls of the library was her occasional soft murmurs as she dreamed.

Chapter 448: Share With Me

When Long Yifei woke up, she was lying on a soft bed. A fluffy beast pelt was draped over her body. There was also a layer of warm spiritual energy on top of her like an extra blanket. It was so comfortable that she didn't want to open her eyes to greet the morning sun that peeked in through the windows.

She briefly wondered where she was. She then realized that she was still in the library and that a familiar presence was nearby. She opened one eye and saw the blurry image of her master's back. He was sitting cross-legged right next to her and busy meditating. Without knowing why, she watched him silently as his immortal spiritual energy swirled about.

Chen Wentian sensed that she was awake but he didn't turn around. He had to act cool and composed in front of his disciples every now and then. He couldn't always act like a smitten lover even though he wanted to. He still had to uphold his reputation as her master.

Long Yifei finally stirred and sat up. When she noticed that her clothes from last night still remained, an ambivalent feeling struck her, as if she was almost disappointed. This in turn caused her cheeks to turn slightly pink.

"Master... you came?" She said softly.

"Morning Fei'er, did you have a good sleep?"

"Mmm. But master, you didn't have to come back in the middle of the night to see me."

He snorted softly, "Fei'er, did you not want me to come?"

"I meant..."

He finally turned around, his eyes bright and teasing, "I came because you called me."

"No, I didn't."

"Yes, you did." Chen Wentian pretended to sleep, placing his head in his arms, and mimicked her voice, "Wentian... where are you... Wentian..."

He then laughed, "How could I not come to see you when you called my name so sweetly?"

"No way." She denied though she was unsure in her heart.

She had several dreams last night. They varied from memories of her past and the Kingdom of Silver Cascades to the present and the man who was ever-present in her life. Perhaps it wasn't impossible...

She stuck out her hand and pinched his leg. She then hid her face beneath the furry covers.

Chen Wentian's heart swelled at the sight. Long Yifei never acted cute and bashful. It was an impossibility. But she had just acted like that... without a doubt!

It was certainly peculiar. Her demeanor was different this morning, very receptive to him, far different from usual. It was as if something good had happened, something that made her very happy. He certainly hadn't done anything so it made him incredibly curious.

"Tell me..." He said, "You seem to be in a bright mood this morning. Something good must have happened last night. Tell me, share the honey with your master!"

She sat back up and studied him. Her icy blue eyes were filled with uncertainty but also a warmth that wasn't there in the past. She cocked her head to one side, still pondering him, still stingy about her secrets.

This had always been a sore spot for him. She was always guarded with him, showing him an image of herself that was carefully crafted to display no weaknesses, only perfection. Up until now, they had shared countless intimate physical moments. And yet emotionally, they were still far apart. He desperately wanted to get closer to her but couldn't find a way.

However, today felt different so he decided to try again.

Chen Wentian sat down on the bed next to her. He spied one of her snow-white hands clutching at the fur pelt. Taking the opportunity, his own hand darted out and grabbed onto hers. Her skin was cold as ice while his was filled with searing heat.

She eyed him with the wariness of a trapped rabbit. He responded with a warm smile and a short chuckle.

"Fei'er, don't you know? If you are happy, you can share it with me and I'll be just as happy. If you are angry, I will be angry for you. If you are sad, then... I might not be able to feel the same as you but I will do my absolute best to resolve the source of your sadness."

He took her hand with both of his and patted it, "I want to help you. If you need anything, anything at all, I'm here for you, unconditionally. This is my responsibility. I will always take care of you."

She stared at him, waves of unfamiliar emotions rocking her mind. She didn't know what to say. What could she say that would be adequate compared to his words?

Chen Wentian, seeing that she was still reluctant, lightened the mood and told her about his recent adventures in the continent. He described going from auction house to auction house and how he was rejected from each one through various means.

He complained about the power of the Seven Potentates of Jiannan that was omnipresent. They were the overlords of the land. They ruled the southern region of the Martial Brilliance Continent without contest and they intended to suppress him completely.

He sighed, "It's been a frustrating few weeks. To be honest, I haven't been able to obtain a single item on your gift list. But don't be disheartened. Fei'er, trust me, I still have a few tricks left to play. I promise I will get you everything you wanted and more. Look."

He took out a small item. It was a golden cup engraved with an intricate pattern. It fit inside his palm and radiated an aura of immeasurable wealth.

"This is a special invitation to the Grand Annual Auction of the Golden Basin Auction House. They only give this out to powerful dignitaries and influential people but I was able to snatch one using my wits and strength. The Seven Potentates won't know what hit them! They may be arrogant but the Golden Basin Auction House doesn't care about them at all. Hahaha!"

Seeing his laughing face, his expression filled with excitement for her sake, one of the many walls within her heart began to crumble. Everything he was doing; he was doing for her. He left all of his other disciples behind, at least for the moment, just for her. He was so good to her.

"Oh, that reminds me, I got another little gift from the Golden Basic Auction House!" He said and produced a small lacquer box.

He opened the flower-pattern lid. The inside was packed with two rows of small round cakes that were covered in powdered sugar. They emitted an icy and sweet fragrance.

Long Yifei closed her eyes and took in the familiar scent. It was her favorite snack, snow cakes. The center was filled with a variety of icy fruits. The dough was flaky and crisp. The powdered sugar that covered every surface was like fresh snow. They were popular among those that cultivated ice Daos and she liked them above all else.

"I got them just for you. Try one." He said.

He took one snow cake and held it close to her lips.

She obediently took a bite. Her plump lips were smeared with white as she chewed. She swallowed greedily and her lips turned upward into an ethereal smile.

"Mmm." She let out a low, throaty moan as she savored the lingering flavor.

Chen Wentian almost lost it then and there but he somehow managed to hold himself back. Instead of pushing her down, he remained where he was, silently watching her with a silly grin.

Long Yifei wiped her lips with her fingers and finally looked up at him. Their eyes met, her piercing blue matching his fiery brown. A spark of emotion erupted between them.

Her lips looked so kissable at that moment. He wanted to but resisted mightily.

She expected him to do it. She was surprised when he didn't. A great sense of impatience and want rose within her. Why wasn't he kissing her? Didn't he want her? Why does he always have to kiss her first?

Her thoughts became more and more muddled the longer she looked at him, the longer he looked at her. That instant seemed to last forever until she finally let down her guard and let her emotions take charge.

Her body acted on its own, with her as a helpless spectator. Her hand reached up and grabbed the front of his shirt. She tugged him towards her and at the same time leaned towards him. She closed the distance with him until their lips finally touched.

It wasn't the first time but it was the first time for their hearts to touch as well.

Chapter 449: A New Beginning in Their Relationship

Chen Wentian's eyes widened in surprise as Long Yifei's lips touched his. This was the first time she had ever kissed him on her own accord. She pressed against him with a great amount of enthusiasm although her movements afterward were a little stiff and awkward. He couldn't help but smile at her antics.

Long Yifei was experiencing something else altogether as her heart pounded in her chest, blood rushing to her head. She felt his warmth on her, his breath, his laugh. She reveled in his comforting presence, his protective aura. It was thrilling, intoxicating, this kiss that signified a new beginning in their relationship.

She had always kept herself guarded. They had made a deal when she agreed to be his disciple. She had given her body to him but not her heart. She let him play with her any way he wanted, not unwillingly but merely as a part of her duty, an obedient disciple before an immortal master.

She always respected his effort on her behalf but now, something had changed. She appreciated him, wholeheartedly. His actions had touched her deeply and finally, there was a crack in the shell she had wrapped around herself for so long.

The moment of impulse passed and Long Yifei tried to pull back. Chen Wentian felt the heat on her cheeks and saw her bashful eyes fluttering, avoiding his gaze. She felt her task was finished but he was far from satisfied. Unwilling to let her go, he wrapped an arm around her waist and leaned in, capturing her once again.

She let out a sigh of surrender as she melted in his arms. She let go of all other thoughts and simply enjoyed the moment and the sensations like she had never before.

He, on the other hand, had a million thoughts racing through his head. He was far past being simply being aroused. He was agitated, impatient, and on the edge. He desperately wanted to push her down and strip off her clothes but he continuously fought back those urges.

He knew he had made a significant breakthrough with her and he didn't want to ruin the moment. He didn't know exactly why but he felt a passive approach was the most effective. He let her lead and took only what she was willing to give instead of pushing and asking for more.

After an eternity, the pair finally separated. Their eyes connected once more, hers quivering with vulnerable emotion that shook his soul, his burning with a passion that seared her to the core.

"Master..." She whispered.

Although she still called him master, the way it left her lips was so gentle and poignant that she might as well have called him 'husband'.

"Fei'er." He replied with a silly grin.

Long Yifei decided then and there that she couldn't keep everything a secret anymore. She still wasn't willing to bare herself completely but she didn't want him to be completely in the dark about her past. That would only hurt him and stunt their relationship. She didn't want that.

"Master." She said again. She pulled over the aged record book that held a clue to her past and hugged it to her chest. "You know that I once lost the memories of my childhood, before my time at Glacier Palace. I told you after we came back from the Eastern Sanmu Metropolis that the dream array had dislodged some of those memories but I had never told you exactly what they were."

"I don't blame you. You don't have to tell me if you aren't comfortable."

She glanced at him and smiled sweetly, "I'm still not fully ready but I want to tell you something, about what I've been searching for in the library, something that I found just last night."

"Oh..." He quickly covered them both in a bubble of immortal energy and waited, not daring to breathe.

She nodded and slowly told him. She disclosed that she was originally born in the Kingdom of Silver Cascades in the Great Falls Province. She described how she escaped the destruction of her royal family and escaped from the Martial Brilliance Continent to the Eastern Sanmu Subcontinent using a spatial treasure. She revealed her mother's name, the identity of her friend Dong Ruming, and their connection that was hidden within the historical records of the Glacier Springs Province.

She also voiced her thoughts about the unknown enemy that wiped out her kingdom and an entire continent, how they had the power to not only perform the deed but get rid of all records about it. It was as if the Kingdom of Silver Cascades and the Great Falls Province had never existed.

"So..." Long Yifei finished with a sigh, "With such a powerful enemy hiding in the shadows, I feel that it is too dangerous for me to approach Immortal Tranquil Flute Dong Ruming. That's why I wanted to ask for your opinion and see how we should proceed."

Chen Wentian crossed his arms and pondered for a while, "Such a vicious enemy... only the Seven Potentates of Jiannan immediately comes to mind. They are a bunch of seriously unreasonable people. They bully people as they please and strut around like they own everything."

"Do you think it could be all seven acting together or perhaps it was only done by one of them?" She asked.

"I don't know. Such a large coalition of immortals, there should definitely be cracks and divisions. However, at least towards annoying outsiders, they present a unified front. I am working on getting more information on them though it will take time. We are an unfortunate pair of master and disciple, to have attracted their attention so quickly. We cannot do anything that would rouse their suspicion. Their methods are unreasonable and there is no guessing what they could do if pushed."

"I agree. I promise I won't do anything else for now. Since I found out about my mother's past and her relationship with Dong Ruming, I am satisfied. This is all I can do with my abilities." She said.

"Fei'er, leave it to me. I will investigate her for you. Messing with people in secret is what I do best!"

Long Yifei smiled and leaned on his shoulder, "Thank you."

Chen Wentian's heart swelled and he hugged her tight, "Don't worry. Just concentrate on your studies. I will take care of all your worries. Did you know? I'm progressing steadily towards the Spirit King Realm. Jasmine is also going to be Spirit King after her hibernation. The Spirit King Realm is a big leap from the Spirit Lord Realm. In a subcontinent, a Spirit Lord is awesome existence that can rule whole provinces. Here in the main continent, they are nothing and serve as servants or mercenaries. Spirit Lords here don't have the power to decide their own fates but Spirit Kings do."

He chuckled and continued to boast, "I'll be a Spirit King soon and this will give me a lot more influence and respect within the Order. I will be able to gain real allies. Instead of people trying to use me for their own benefit, my power will be a real force. When that time comes, if there are still unruly people standing in way of your past, I will simply destroy them for you!"

Long Yifei let out a soft chortle. She leaned up, kissed his cheek, and then whispered in his ear, "Master, I will wait for that day."

Chapter 450: Five Prohibitions

Chen Wentian and Long Yifei didn't have much time to explore the breakthrough in their relationship. He had to continue to search for gifts while she had to continue her studies. But both of them tackled their duties with newfound energy and passion.

A few days after that morning, the scheduled classes of the morning were canceled. Instead, there was an assembly in the grand banquet hall of the main campus building. All new students were gathered as well as the members of the Order. Immortal Dawn Euphony Li Shishi stood in the center of the stage, exuding a holy aura that befitted her status as the head abbottess of the school.

As Long Yifei found her usual spot, her classmate Ye Landou turned and whispered, "Sister Long, where have you been the past few days? I haven't been able to find you during meals, what happened?"

"Ah, my apologies, Sister Ye. I have been really busy studying the classic of song and dance lately. As you know, I have no background in the classic so it has been a struggle trying to catch up." Long Yifei replied.

"I see, hehe. Sister Wei said that was probably the reason, I should have trusted her wisdom." Ye Landou said. "I thought for a moment that you didn't like us anymore."

Long Yifei inwardly frowned. There was no need to ask why Ye Landou was so close to Wei Shuangshuang now. Ye Landou and her acolyte Immortal Drifting Axe Han Baohu had accepted a deal from the Seven Potentates. With the Wei Clan being a member of the Seven Potentates, Ye Landou and Wei Shuangshuang were naturally able to get along.

On the other hand, Long Yifei faced mounting pressure from this group that she had befriended in the beginning. Since she had rejected a member of the Seven Potentates at the Gift Exhibit, their outward friendliness was also infused with an abundance of veiled insults and back-handed criticisms. She didn't want to deal with such nonsense day after day so she had quickly distanced herself from them.

"There is no reason for me to dislike anyone. We're all good sisters. I am simply too focused on my studies at the moment so I hope you can forward my regret to Sister Wei." Long Yifei said.

Ye Landou assented but before she could chatter on about other useless things, a wave of spiritual energy swept over the gathered students. Everyone quieted down and faced the stage.

A few breaths later, Li Shishi's voice drifted towards them all like a song, "Today is the day for a special lecture. It is an important one that we hold each year for all new students. Some that have already joined the Order know of this but the things I will discuss must be emphasized for it deals directly with the survival of our Order, our values, everything we stand for."

She paused to let the severity of her words sink in, "Today, we are going over the five prohibitions of the Order, the four great eccentricities and the one absolute sin. That's right, they are five prohibitions that our enemy, the Sororal Order of Endless Love, uphold as their virtues. Their minds are twisted. Their spirits are unclean. There is no possibility of harmony between the two Orders, not when they take part in such revolting acts that destroy a woman's virtue... Now, listen closely!"

The Virtuous Order of Chunzhen valued womanly virtue; purity of body, mind, and spirit. The four classics were considered the epitome of femininity, the right way for women to cultivate so that they could properly serve their acolytes, their men. Standing at the polar opposite was the Sororal Order of Endless Love. They also had four famous paths of cultivation which were referred to as the four great eccentricities.

The first was the eccentricity of shameless clothing. For the Virtuous Order, their clothes were simple and pure white, a symbol of the purity of one's inner self. The design was highly conservative. There were many layers. Hardly any skin was shown.

The Sororal Order, on the other hand, celebrated shameless clothing, clothes that showed excessive skin, clothes that accentuated one's sensuality. They loved to wear red but they weren't limited to a single color. Immortal Fluttering Gown Liang Chuxian, the same Abbess Liang that tried to kidnap Long Yifei, was a practitioner of this Dao of shameless clothing.

This was improper for Virtuous Order. It was using external materials to shore up the qualities that the women lacked. If a woman lacked womanly qualities, they had to improve themselves from within, not put on a set of slutty clothes.

Along this line of reasoning, the second eccentricity was the Dao of acting and seduction. Acting was the art of hiding one's true self and presenting themselves as someone they weren't. It was a lie, a performance, a ruse. For a woman to put on an act to entice her man, it was an admission of their own weakness and a great disrespect to their man.

Seduction was even worse. It represented a vile intent to deceive, to seize a man through mere trickery. There was nothing honorable, nothing womanly about a seductress. They were the worst kind of women, cheap and lacking in morality.

The third great eccentricity was the art of body modification. The Virtuous Order believed that a woman's body was a pure vessel gifted by the heavens. These included such things as tattoos and body piercings. Apart from ear piercings for earrings, no other body piercings were allowed. The Sororal Order, on the other hand, celebrated all kinds of body modifications. There were all kinds of extra piercings; from tongue piercings, nose piercings, belly button piercings, to even piercings in intimate areas such as the nipples and on their pussy lips.

But that wasn't all. Body modifications also included unnatural additions or removals of physical characteristics through surgical procedures. The most popular was facial modifications to improve one's beauty. The second most popular was increasing their breast size and making their buttocks round and plump.

All of these were forbidden by the Virtuous Order because in their eye, no matter how much a person modified their physical body, they could hope to cultivate their inner self. Even if they became the most beautiful woman on the outside, they would still be an ugly toad inside.

The fourth eccentric Dao was not as well defined but it dealt with all kinds of bizarre interests that were intended to fool the opposite sex. They included makeup, perfume, aphrodisiacs, and even hypnotism. Each of these could be used to fool a man, to make them fall for a woman, but they were unnatural and did not rely on a woman's innate virtue but on external tricks. Thus, they were all taboo.

These four great eccentricities made up the primary ways members of the Sororal Order cultivated. Although the Virtuous Order chose the four classics of song and dance, music, literature, and art, these four great eccentricities were also valid cultivation paths. No matter what the Virtuous Order wanted to say, over the years, their opponent had produced just as many talented and powerful cultivators.

The Virtuous Order could have still gotten along with the Sororal Order if it had just been the four great eccentricities. But it wasn't the eccentricities. Of the five prohibitions, there was still the absolute sin, the thing that the Virtuous Order absolutely could not accept.

The absolute sin was that the Sororal Order had no regard whatsoever for a woman's virginity. They did not value it at all and even saw it as a detriment. The natural result of such belief was that the Sororal Order had a completely opposite view of the relationship between a man and a woman.

For women of the Virtuous Order, they protected their virginity above all else. The man to who they lost their virginity, would be their husband for life. This was what it meant to be virtuous, to be pure of body, mind, and spirit.

The Sororal Order had no such rules. Their women could sleep with whoever they wanted and as many as they wanted. There were no restrictions. It all depended on who could provide them the most benefits for the services they could provide.

These women played with men's hearts. They were disloyal. They were selfish. They cast men aside when they became useless. These women were obscene and despicable. They were sluts, prostitutes, common whores. They were the worst kinds of women in existence!

As far as the Virtuous Order was concerned, the Sororal Order was an existential threat. There could be no future for the Virtuous Order while the Sororal Order thrived.

"Hear me! Sisters of the Virtuous Order!" Li Shishi's voice thundered across the grand hall, "Remember everything I have said today. The Sororal Order, they are your enemy. They are evil incarnate. If you get into a fight them, kill without mercy, take no prisoners. Understand?"

"Yes, Abbotess Li!"