

F Disciples 561

Chapter 561: Greedy Black Heart

"That's impossible! That's utterly impossible!" The one who blew up in anger was Immortal Rumbling Blade Hei Shanzhi, the most irritable member of the Four Greats, "Everblade City is one of the safest places in the entire subcontinent. No beast or demon has ever dared to scheme against us in over five hundred years!"

"That's right, there must be some kind of conspiracy! There's no way we could have foreseen this!" Immortal Unbreakable Will Tai Wuyi quickly added.

The other two members of the Four Greats, Immortal Green Destiny Yang Kaitian and Immortal Thousand Swords Jin Wu, also joined in. They chattered like a flock of hens as they tried to defend themselves. They even dared to place the blame on Qiu Chuyi for being useless in this time of crisis.

These four were frightened because they knew that being trapped by the domain of a powerful demon was one thing while having their one escape route cut off by powerful explosive mines was another thing entirely. It meant that the Four Greats had completely failed in their duty to provide safety and security for the guests of the Convocation of Swords. They could not escape responsibility as the hosts. If the ground beneath the arena had been entirely turned into a demon trap without their knowledge, then even death could not erase their offense.

Su Tan directly ignored these useless words. She didn't have much faith in these four to begin. She turned to Peng Yuefeng and Yang Maoda and urgently conversed with them, trying to figure out any possible way they could still escape. Without Qiu Chuyi, their chances decreased dramatically but since they had seven immortals who could still fight, they wouldn't just roll over and die.

Chen Wentian, who was still playing dead, cracked open his dirt and fake-blood-covered eyes and took a quick glance around. He was lying amidst the stricken immortals, their figures strewn haphazardly across the stone tiles of the arena. Qiu Chuyi, who was still moaning in pain like a dying pig, was close by. Next to him was another person he knew, Immortal Phoenix Legend Shi Shi of the Legendary Fighter League. Black blood continued to leak out of her nose and lips but she was already unconscious. The others were also in bad shape and getting worse. The ones that were still sitting upright in meditation looked as if they were about to fall over.

The seven that could still stand and fight had devolved into arguments a short distance away. It seemed like panic and dread were starting to overwhelm their fighting spirit. Su Tan had lost her cool and was shouting at one person or another. Peng Yuefeng had a grave expression on his face and his eyes were

filled with fear. The only one that remained unnaturally at ease was the ugly goblin Yang Maoda who remained calm and confident.

Chen Wentian moved on from these people and quietly studied his surroundings. It wasn't time yet for him to make a move. Since the perpetrators hadn't appeared, he remained patient and analyzed the situation.

These demons obviously didn't want to kill but capture alive. To keep over twenty human immortals alive, they would have to have a secret lair to keep them imprisoned. If he could find out where this was, it would benefit him way more in the long run but he would have to take some risks and stay in the eye of the storm.

The shadow domain in the sky remained unmoving and ominous. Occasionally, he could feel the trace of an immortal being moving about. Normal immortals would not have been able to sense this. It was purely due to his affinity with shadow and darkness spiritual energies.

From his knowledge and from the various encounters of the past few days, he could guess with some certainty that this was the work of a shade, a type of demon that was born in the darkest places where sunlight never shined. There were many species but they were all tricky opponents. It was difficult to kill one without overwhelming suppression due to a difference in cultivation or an immortal Dao like the First Light of Zhulong that countered darkness to the extreme.

However, this Spirit King Realm shade wasn't of any concern to him at the moment. His spiritual sense left the sky and penetrated the ground. His original plan of escape was to use the Giant Mole Worm, a powerful underground spiritual beast with few equals. He didn't expect another layer of traps to appear in the form of Thunderfire mines.

Thunderfire mines, as the name suggested, combined thunder and fire spiritual energy to create a mighty explosion of chaotic forces. Qiu Chuyi hadn't been prepared so his spiritual sea had been directly damaged. But even if a Spirit Lord was prepared to take the hit, suffering three or four direct hits was enough to knock them out. Even the Giant Mole Worm couldn't survive.

Chen Wentian felt a surge of annoyance. It had to be doing of Qin Shiu'er, that slippery water demon. She could hide in rivers and lakes but she could also move through groundwater, albeit slowly. Who knew how much time she had spent creating such a trap beneath the arena?

But this kind of thing still could keep him here. He could still leave anything he wanted to. Except, there was another, far more troublesome matter. This incident was so earth-shaking that the Immortal Association was sure to launch an all-out counteroffensive when they found out about it. They would rouse all of their available forces in the subcontinent and investigate the matter to the very end.

If he, a small Spirit Lord who recently ascended, escaped by himself, he would instantly draw everyone's attention. Unless he pretended to be dead forever, he would have to answer difficult questions about how he managed to escape. He would have to answer why he didn't try and help the others fight the demons. Some ill-intentioned people might directly accuse him of colluding with the enemy.

Chen Wentian once again eyed the wounded immortals around him. It looked like he would have to take a few of them with him. If he saved their lives, they would owe him a debt of gratitude and perhaps help speak up for him.

The only thing was that he couldn't save too many. He wasn't that generous. He wasn't a saint. All of these people were going to die regardless if it was now or later. They were going to be food for demons so they might as well become fuel for his soul art.

He had absorbed a few Spirit Lord souls recently but he felt that he was far away from the Spirit King Realm. Jasmine would wake up in a few more months and she would be a Spirit King by then. He couldn't lose to her no matter what. He had very little time left. His greedy, black heart couldn't let this opportunity go.

Chen Wentian considered the issue for a short while and chose to save only two people, Immortal Tempest Badger Qiu Chuyi and Immortal Phoenix Legend Shi Shi. He would save Qiu Chuyi because he wanted to scheme against Beast God Sanctum. There was also a tiny connection between them due to his avatar, He Xingping, and that person's precious wife, Qiu Jingyi.

As for Shi Shi, she was a peculiar person. She was the first among his peers to seek him out without any ill intentions. Because of this, it could be considered that they also had a small relationship. He was sure that she would speak up for him if he saved her.

With this decided, his right hand twitched slightly as a dark shadow emerged and slid away to hide amongst the wounded immortals. He then became still once more as he waited for the conclusion of this battle.

Chapter 562: The Real Deal

Out of the seven remaining, Immortal Yellow River Yang Maoda was the one who finally acted. A giant gourd appeared on his back which was the size of a water buffalo. It was a Water-Carrying Gourd, the special treasure of the Yang Clan of Great Waves.

The cork at the top flew off and a great fountain of yellow, muddy water poured out. The volume of water was astonishing, akin to a surging river after a downpour. The stone floor of the arena was quickly covered by the yellow water. It quickly grew in depth until it even covered the people that were lying on the ground. All of the excess water poured over the edge of the raised stone platform as a thundering waterfall but the height of the water continued to rise.

"What are you doing?" Su Tan asked sharply, "You're going to drown them!"

"Don't worry. Didn't I promise to use everything I had to save everyone? Since I've made such a promise, I naturally won't accidentally kill these useless people. Just make sure you don't forget your own promise!"

Su Tan glared at him but didn't say anything. What she had promised to ensure this disgusting person's cooperation filled her with even more dread than the invisible demon in the domain above them. If she didn't have so many people to save, she would have chosen death over such humiliation.

Chen Wentian was among those that were submerged. He opened his eyes but he could barely see anything through the murky water. However, he could still breathe as there was a large bubble of air around his mouth. He looked around and the other wounded immortals were also given the same treatment.

He could vaguely guess what Yang Maoda intended to do. Since the ground beneath them was no longer safe, the idea was to create a layer of water where the shadow domain could not easily penetrate. Everyone could then go through the water under Yang Maoda's protection and escape to safety.

This could have been good if there wasn't a fearsome water demon involved. Chen Wentian wondered if Yang Maoda was being a little too arrogant. It was very difficult for human elemental arts to surpass the innate powers of beasts and demons. This person from the Yang Clan of Great Waves had overwhelming faith in the might of their immortal Dao and was acting too arrogantly.

"Can we leave yet?" Tai Wuyi asked anxiously.

The water level was now approaching their waist. The arena had already been turned into a muddy lake but water continued to flow. This aged and most dignified member of the Four Greats had already turned into a frightened chicken that was clinging to any hope of survival. Everyone faced danger differently and this person's natural reaction was that of a coward.

"Not yet, a little bit more." Yang Maoda said through gritted teeth.

His entire being was focused on controlling so much water so he had few words to spare.

"Senior Ancestor Yang has abilities beyond our comprehension. We will surely be saved!" Yang Kaitian said.

His enthusiasm was ignored by the rest. They were too busy looking around in all directions, prepared to defend against a demon counterattack that didn't come. Their nerves were stretched to the breaking point but their invisible enemy continued to play with them. It would have been better to face down an unbeatable opponent than suffer such mental anguish.

"Alright, it's time." Yang Maoda said in a low voice. "Carry the wounded and follow me. I will open a way out."

"Okay." Su Tan said while the others replied with silent nods.

Just as they turned to grab their fellow immortals, Yang Maoda's head disappeared under the surface of the roiling lake. His body undulated like a fish as he darted away in a flash.

"What?" One of the sword brothers shouted.

"Where did he go?" Another asked in shock.

But Yang Maoda was already gone. He had already gone beneath the thick wall of impenetrable fog. It was obvious what he had done. He had abandoned them.

"Bastard!" Peng Yuefeng roared and slashed out in fury, creating three long fountains on the surface of the water with his sword energy.

Su Tan's reaction was one of numb disbelief. She couldn't imagine such a despicable person existed. As a resident of the subcontinent, the lowest tier of all human territories, she held great respect for the Martial Brilliance Continent in her heart. This person who hailed from a hegemon clan of the main continent was like a mountain, a noble and infallible pillar of support. Yang Maoda had made a sincere promise to help her in exchange for her dignity but it had all been a lie. He had been prepared to save only himself from the very beginning.

Chen Wentian held back a chuckle. This Yang Clan of Great Waves was indeed impressive. From top to bottom, it was all filled with scum. He had heard of this Immortal Yellow River from spies within the clan. Yang Maoda was merely a slave, a servant raised to carry out all the dirty tasks that the core family members could not be bothered with. Since the master, Yang Gehu, was already so vile, the servant couldn't be any better.

A few moments later, a towering column of water tore through the shadow domain. There was a clash of spiritual energies as two figures appeared within the fog. One side was small and hunched over like a naked monkey while the other was a towering demoness made of water.

Chen Wentian remembered her like it was yesterday, Qin Shiu'er, Lord of the Calm Lake. She was over three meters tall. Her face was flawless as if had been crafted by an artist. Her hair flowed behind her back like a waterfall. Her entire body was nothing water of a light blue hue.

Despite this intangible nature, she still had sizable bulges in all the right places, especially a pair of enormous breasts that straddled the fine line between fantasy and reality. Everything about her was exaggerated. She was clearly a demon but she also seemed like a mighty goddess, fitting the fantasies of all men.

"Aaarrggghh!" Yang Maoda's ragged howl broke the beautiful scene.

He had been pummeled into submission for a brief moment but he was not yet defeated. He gathered all the yellow water around and launched a crazed attack that was akin to a tsunami.

"Yuck, this water is so dirty!" Qin Shiu'er said after the attack passed through her without any effect, "So foul. Disgusting. Did your mother give birth to you in a gutter? Why are you so ugly?"

Even when she frowned, there was no flaw that could be seen on her face, only more perfection. The four sword brothers had even been struck dumb by the stirring sight before them.

"Wow..."

"What..."

Yang Maoda let out another furious shout, "Impossible! You're just a shuimu! I've killed countless shuimu before! This is impossible!"

Qin Shiu'er chortled, "Silly human, how could ordinary shuimu compare to me? I will tell you a little secret. Pure shuimu are immune to all water-based attacks. We are beings born of water so naturally, we are not afraid of the very thing we are made of. What you know as shuimu are simply bastards and half-breeds. Their ability to control water is pitiful so they deserve to be killed by humans. However..."

She raised an index finger and pointed it at Yang Maoda, "I am the real deal."

Instantly, a myriad of water droplets shot toward him like an arrow rain. The sky filled with watery death and there was nowhere to hide. He managed to block the first volley but there was a second and a third and a fourth.

This was a demon at the peak of the Spirit Lord Realm. She had already drank the essence of so many humans and immortals. Her strength already carried a hint of the might of Spirit King Realm. She was already on the boundary.

"Ahh! Ahhhh!" Yang Maoda bellowed in agony.

The arrow rain targeted his limbs and shattered his bones and tendons. His ability and talent were never that great to begin with. He was simply a slave of the Yang Clan. He could strut around the Eastern Subcontinent like a king but in truth, his strength was actually below the likes of Peng Yuefeng and Su Tan. From the beginning until the end, he had acted too arrogantly and it was his undoing.

"Ah... hah... shit..."

Yang Maoda couldn't hold on anymore as his defense was shattered. With all four limbs crippled, he had nothing left. His body trembled as the last bit of resistance left him and he fell face-first into yellow water that was already soaked red.

Chapter 563: True Domain

Yang Maoda lost just like that. The Yang Clan of Great Waves, there was no doubt he had put this resounding name to shame. The six remaining human immortals were stunned. Everything had happened so fast. Yang Maoda had been defeated way too quickly. They didn't expect him to be so useless.

Qin Shiu'er let out a vibrant laugh and approached the group. Her watery figure quivered with excitement as if she couldn't wait to swallow all of them at once. With so few humans left able to fight, her victory was assured.

"Well, well, well. One... two... three... four... five... six! Oh my! So sad! Hehehe! Don't you think we've dragged this on long enough? How about all of you come at me together?"

"Bitch, die!" Peng Yuefeng spat and launched a horizontal sword strike.

His massive sword split the air and shot out an arc of sword energy. In a flash, the strike sliced her body in two, leaving a wide gap where her waist used to be.

"Eh...? Ehehehe!" She giggled, "That hurt sooooo much! Do it again!"

As she spoke, the two parts of her body reconnected. Water flowed together and there was no sign of any wounds. She was unharmed, she was impervious to all physical attacks including sword attacks.

A split second later, a barrage of golden sword beams descended like divine rain. The attack came from Su Tan and could be considered a small step above Peng Yuefeng's but the result was still the same. After the mighty burst of sword energy dissipated, the water demon remained unperturbed. There wasn't a single mark left on her perfect, azure figure.

"Ow! All of you are bullying me!" Qin Shiu'er said in a sing-song voice, "So mean! So mean!"

She lifted both hands and there was a great surge of spiritual energy. The water around the six human immortals surged upward, threatening to drown them all. Although they could hold their breaths for long periods of time, being forcibly submerged was nothing good.

As one, the six immortals flew into the air. Their expressions were ashen and their spirits were at the breaking point. The final battle had arrived. They no longer had any thoughts of saving the stricken people below. They couldn't even guarantee their own survival.

"We can't beat this demoness. She perfectly counters our sword arts." Su Tan gritted.

"Then there is only one choice. Regardless of anything else, we have to charge through this shadow domain." Peng Yuefeng said, pointing upward.

"Okay." Su Tan nodded.

Peng Yuefeng whirled around and glared at the four frightened swordsmen behind him, "You bunch of useless things. Didn't you always want to surpass me? If you four can't keep up with me, then you can forget about the title of the strongest sword cultivator in the subcontinent!"

"What did you say?" Hei Shanzhi bellowed.

"You rabbit bastard!" Yang Kaitian added fiercely.

"Hahaha! Good, you still have some fighting spirit. Then put it to use. Follow me!" Peng Yuefeng shouted and brandished his sword toward the sky.

The others fell in line, knowing this was their only choice. Su Tan stood to his right, her golden blade glowing bright like the sun. The Four Greats of the Eastern Sword Alliance stood to the left. Their swords weren't as special but each carried a strong aura that was enhanced by their unique sword arts.

"Go!"

"Charge!"

Six streaks of light shot into the dark clouds, a pitiful human force struggling against the might and wickedness of demons.

Peng Yuefeng waved his Desolate Sword madly. Arcs of gray sword energy blew away the clouds in front of their path. His Lonely Sword Wanderer was displayed to the extreme. One man, one sword, their sword intent combined into one, a lonely wanderer who went where he pleased, slaying all that opposed his will.

Su Tan's golden sword was like a shining needle beneath the gloomy sky. She weaved a beautiful tapestry of destruction. Her spiritual aura was filled with golden might, strong and brave enough to defy all evildoers.

The other four's swords emitted rays of defiant sword lights. They worked together and unleashed the Four Great Colossus Sword Domain. Four immortal auras combined into one, unleashing wide swaths of destruction that was no less powerful than the other two.

Sha!

Sha!

Sha!

This was the most powerful display of sword arts in the entire Eastern Sanmu Subcontinent. It could be said that this brief moment represented the defiant will of all humankind. The way of the sword was the

pride and legacy of the human race, a race that was innately weak and fragile. It was one of the mightiest Daos that helped them conquer the land piece by piece; defeating beasts, demons, and other strange races along the way.

As the six ascended, the darkness around them became less and less. There was no response from the enemy but the shadow domain was being cut apart at a visible pace. They could see rays of daylight in the distance. They could almost see the sun.

But right at that instant when hope blossomed, an echoing, rumbling laughter filled the sky.

"Hahaha! Hahaha!"

The shadow came again. The surrounding clouds turned as black as coal. This time, it was overwhelming. It was utter darkness, so thick one could hardly breathe.

"What?"

"What's going on?"

"Keep charging upward!"

"Brother Tai, where did you go?!"

The formation of the human immortals was thrown into disarray. They could no longer see each other. They couldn't even see their own hands in front of their faces. North, east, south, west, they had no idea which way was which. A few even started to doubt if up and down were still true. Their movements also became sluggish. It felt as if they were struggling in a thick bog. They could barely summon enough spiritual energy to not suffocate.

"How does it feel?" A dark voice sounded all around them, "The struggle of humans is so pitiful. How is it? My true domain, Ancient Gloomy Underworld!"

"Ancient Gloomy Underworld?"

"Impossible!"

This name struck fear in their helpless souls. It was the domain attack of an ancient shade, the most powerful species of demonic shade. It was a demon that only appeared after secretly cultivating for tens of thousands of years. It drew upon darkness energy deep within the earth that was born from ancient crypts and prehistoric caves. Its might was not something ordinary immortals could contend with. Even if it was a Spirit King Realm cultivator, they would still have to fear for their life if they were trapped within an Ancient Gloomy Underworld.

"Help!"

"Nooo!"

"Don't kill me!"

"AhhhhhhhHH!"

Wretched screams rang out in the darkness.

Chen Wentian knew it was over. He could no longer see or sense Peng Yuefeng, Sun Tan, or the others. Since the demons didn't want to kill just yet, the six were in the process of being incapacitated and captured.

It was time for him to go. He couldn't leave too soon but he couldn't leave too late. He had already made all the preparations.

Chen Wentian instantly erupted into action. Purely utilizing his immortal strength and not his flames, he grabbed Qiu Chuyi and Shi Shi who were nearby. As he hugged the two limp figures to him, the ground beneath him crumbled and the gaping mouth of a huge beast appeared.

It was Little Carrot, his Giant Mole Worm. Its mouth closed around Chen Wentian and the other two humans and then swallowed, revealing a faceless furry head that didn't carry a single wound. Somehow, it had made it past the Thunderfire mine array without setting any off.

As the water demoness Qin Shiu'er looked on in shock and anger, Little Carrot wiggled around and disappeared underground. Its powerful body slid through the tunnel it had dug already. When it reached a depth of twenty meters, it met the crackling Thunderfire mine array that seemed impenetrable. But the beast didn't stop or slow down. It directly rammed its head downward at the mines.

At the same time, there was a flash of void energy and a spatial rift appeared directly in front. There was a faint buzzing sound as a large black-striped bee with an extended abdomen flew out. Little Carrot opened its mouth slightly, swallowed the bee, and then plunged into the rift.

Chapter 564: Acquaintance to Friends? (I)

Qin Shiu'er's watery figure splashed down and flowed into the escape tunnel. A moment later, she came back up because they were already gone. But the Thunderfire mine array was still in place so she had no idea where or how they had escaped. It was too late anyway because a few seconds was an eternity for immortals.

She slammed the ground with a burst of water, "Which one was it? Which dirty human dared to run?"

A black shadow descended from the sky and landed beside her. It carried six unconscious human figures. Thin trails of black smoke came out of their orifices and they were completely under the ancient shade's control.

"What happened?" It asked.

"I don't know. They... fuck!!" Qin Shiu'er slapped the ground again.

The other demon extended its spiritual energy to gather up the remaining sixteen human immortals. It then pulled all of them into its pitch-black body where they seemed to disappear from existence.

"Shiu'er, forget it. We managed to capture twenty-two humans. This is already a great victory." It said.

"Senior Brother Seventh Black... It was my fault. I didn't do a proper job laying down the mine array."
Qin Shiu'er said.

The ancient shade shook as if it was shaking its head, "We both made the same mistake. We assumed that there would only be one immortal with the ability to dig underground. We then assumed that none of them would have some kind of spatial treasure as something like that is usually limited to those at the Spirit King Realm. We were wrong on both counts. However, the losses are acceptable so you shouldn't worry about it for too long."

"But... the human association." She said.

Seventh Black snorted, "Who cares? They were going to find out sooner or later. Either way, they won't be able to find us or do anything to us. Once you use these humans to break through to the Spirit King Realm, you can slowly hunt down those three that escaped."

Qin Shiu'er's eyes gleamed with a fearsome light, "Senior brother is wise."

"Haha, good. Let's go!"

"Go!"

Her body morphed into a stream of water and also entered the ancient shade. Seventh Black then rose into the air and melted into the heavy fog that still remained. Before it completely disappeared, it left behind a strand of spiritual energy that penetrated the ground.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The entire convocation arena exploded. The entire Thunderfire array was released at the same time. It created a massive fountain of earth and stone that eventually settled into a gaping crater.

Deep underground, a giant furry head poked into a subterranean cavern. The place was spacious and warm. There was a crystal-clear stream that flowed through, fed by a gushing waterfall in one corner.

Chen Wentian flew out, carrying an unconscious person in each arm. He didn't return to Everblade City or try to go anywhere else. He didn't want to get caught in some other trap the demons had prepared.

This was the most chaotic moment. It was best to lie low for the moment and help these two people. He needed Qiu Chuyi alive for some plans in the future for the Beast God Sanctum. As for Shi Shi, he had a different intention.

He fed both of them a medicinal pill and then pulled Shi Shi to him. Physically, she felt weak and tender but her aura couldn't compare to his disciples. Jasmine was somewhat similar but still quite different. Her figure was small while Shi Shi was a mature woman.

He held her in his arms and studied her face. She didn't look too old. Perhaps the age she ascended was around the upper forties. It could be considered good. She had a few wrinkles but they didn't take much away from her naturally beautiful features.

She had half-moon eyes that held a certain air of mystery. Her nose was straight and narrow while her lips were full and inviting. She had a smooth complexion like honey. Combined with high cheekbones and a sharp chin, she exuded an air of nobility, of untouchable grandeur.

Chen Wentian snorted and directly groped her breasts over her clothes. She wasn't too big or too small. She felt nice and soft.

The prey within his clutches let out a small groan but otherwise remained unconscious. He was suddenly frightened but let out a sigh of relief. Immortal women were much harder to deal with. He couldn't swindle them like he had with his disciples. He could only take a slight advantage like this to satisfy his curiosity.

He didn't dare to take off her clothes completely but simply loosened them. With more room, he slid his hand down her front and squeezed her bare breasts. His hot palm pressed against her skin, sending fiery spiritual energy into her muscles and veins to purify the demonic energy within. He was a scoundrel but he was doing this to cure her.

After he got bored of her breasts, his hands roamed all over her body. He caressed her shoulders, her back, her arms, everywhere he could reach without undoing her robes completely. It was definitely different from his disciples. He didn't have to be as careful as she wasn't so fragile. He could touch her roughly without the worry of leaving a heavy bruise. He didn't have to hold back his strength.

Jasmine had fallen asleep for so long so he hadn't been able to experience such sensations for a long time. It was true that an immortal woman was completely different from a mortal one. This was why some picky immortals only chose immortal partners.

Chen Wentian eventually moved to her lower body. He took off her slippers and flipped up her dress. Her legs were long and slender. To his surprise, she was trimmed and well-maintained.

He managed her feet and legs and then eagerly went for the main prize. He explored her pussy which was of a darker color than the rest of her body, akin to an aged dark-red cherry. It wasn't unattractive, merely a different style. Her clit was hidden under thick lips and so was her entrance.

He poked and prodded. He rubbed and stroked. He even thrust a finger inside her, gently exploring her inner folds. All the while, he was still using Benevolent Hands to cure her.

After a long time, he let her go. He didn't want to go too far so he didn't do anything except touch her. There were still some traces of demonic poison within her but she would be fine. He put her clothes back together as best as he could and let her rest.

He didn't know she would wake up but it should be soon. He couldn't do anything about Qiu Chuyi's condition but at least he wouldn't die anytime soon. He might also wake up soon as his constitution as an immortal wasn't bad.

With both immortals taken care of, Chen Wentian sat down and waited.

Chapter 565: Acquaintance to Friends? (II)

"Uh... where am I..." A hoarse voice broke the silence of the dark cavern.

The first one to stir was Qiu Chuyi. The ragged figure moved about for a little while before going still.

"It's you?" Qiu Chuyi asked after a long pause.

"Stop pretending to be dead." Chen Wentian retorted lightly.

Qiu Chuyi's immortal strength had returned slightly. He could already sense everything in the small underground chamber and he could also see somewhat due to the torches Chen Wentian had lit.

Qiu Chuyi snorted and sat up. He winced in pain a few times as he examined his physical condition and eyed Chen Wentian suspiciously.

"What medicine did you give me?" He asked.

Chen Wentian withdrew a small jade bottle and shook it slightly. A trace of medicinal essence escaped, making Qiu Chuyi's eyes go wide.

"Something I bought in the Martial Brilliance Continent." Chen Wentian said with a smile and then put it away quickly, "Looking at you, its effect is quite good."

"Why did you save me?" Qiu Chuyi asked, still wary.

There were some other questions he couldn't ask. He knew that the Lion Lord had tried to kill Chen Wentian's disciples. Since those elders had all died so miserably and his disciples had survived, Chen Wentian surely knew Beast God Sanctum was behind it.

Chen Wentian smiled, "Last time, I killed a few rogue cultivators that harbored ill intentions against my disciples. I hope Brother Qiu will not blame me."

Qiu Chuyi froze before replying carefully, "You are right. These people deserved to die. How dare scheme against an honored guest of our Beast God Sanctum and the Immortal Sect Competition!"

The two men locked eyes for a moment before both of them laughed loudly. It wasn't exactly a friendly laugh but a competitive one. After all, they couldn't even be considered acquaintances. They were only a slight step above being enemies.

"It seems Brother Chen is a very shrewd person. Hahaha, good. Since you have saved my life, I am willing to listen to whatever request you have of me." Qiu Chuyi said.

Chen Wentian nodded slightly and said, "Hahaha, I knew Brother Qiu was a smart man but you are also open-minded. Good! It makes everything simpler. Actually, my request is quite simple."

"Oh? Please speak." Qiu Chuyi replied.

Life to an immortal was the most precious thing. As long as it didn't touch on certain bottom lines, he wouldn't be too stingy.

"My Ten Thousand Flower Valley doesn't seek to have conflicts with others. The Eastern Sanmu Subcontinent is so vast. There is plenty of space for everyone without butting into each other's business. Therefore, I hope that Beast God Sanctum will not try and find trouble for my little sect. In return, I will forget the small misunderstandings of the past." Chen Wentian said.

Qiu Chuyi stroked his beard, "Your sect isn't quite so small anymore. You now control Divine Blazing Mountain and Glacier Palace as well as Cloudy Mountain Province and Red Bamboo Province. Your appetite is quite large. You should know that Red Bamboo Province already borders on territory under my sect's control. What if your appetite continues to grow?"

"Is the Beast God Sanctum afraid of a small sect with one Spirit Lord? Although I have gained a few territories in recent days due to strange fortunes, what use is any of it to me? Useless lands filled with poor mortals, it's more of a hassle than any benefit." Chen Wentian replied.

Qiu Chuyi considered the matter and couldn't find any fault. However, the Beast God Sanctum's issue with Chen Wentian came from He Xinghan's jealousy. Since the Lion Lord's clan and a direct descendant were involved, it wasn't something that Qiu Chuyi could determine on his own.

"This matter... is quite difficult." Qiu Chuyi admitted in the end.

Chen Wentian laughed. This person was certainly interesting. Qiu Chuyi wasn't a frivolous person and treated matters with care and foresight. Although the He Clan people were irredeemable, he felt that he hadn't made a mistake in rescuing this person.

Chen Wentian waved his hand good-naturedly, "Then forget it. Instead of that, I hope that Brother Qiu can give me some information about the Three Beast Kings. Some of my territories border the Eastern Wilderness so I will probably encounter their subordinates in the future. I hope you won't be too stingy and simply repeat things I can learn for myself from the association."

The older man's expression lightened, "This matter is easy. Brother Chen, it is like this..."

Qiu Chuyi provided a lot of detail and didn't hold back. He described the most dangerous regions within the Eastern Wilderness. He gave estimates on the strengths of each faction. He even provided some information that Chen Wentian hadn't been able to find out using his shadow fox. The Eastern Wilderness was so vast, it was impossible for a single immortal to explore every nook and cranny. All of this was very important to him and Jasmine's revenge.

"Ughh, so noisy..." A voice cut off their lengthy conversation.

Both men turned towards the other person in the cavern as if they had suddenly remembered that she was there.

Immortal Phoenix Legend Shi Shi sat up and eyed them suspiciously, "What happened? How did we escape?"

She then looked down at her disheveled clothes and let out a cry, "What did you do to me?"

She hurriedly made sure that nothing was exposed and glared at the two like they were criminals.

Qiu Chuyi shrugged and looked toward Chen Wentian.

She also eyed him, "You saved me? How did you do it?"

Chen Wentian put on an innocent expression, "I didn't do anything inappropriate. I gave you a precious immortal healing pill and also helped you purify the demonic poison within you."

"Purify? How did you purify?" Shi Shi said as she checked her body once more.

Her face became scarlet as she seemed to discover something. She wanted to say something but eventually bit her lip and glared at Chen Wentian as if he was the worst sinner under the heavens.

Qiu Chuyi slapped his thigh and pointed at her, "Why are you so noisy? Aren't you already halfway recovered? If Brother Chen had not saved us, we would be suffering a fate worse than death at the hands of those demons!"

Shi Shi went silent for a moment but she quickly regained her demeanor. She was an immortal that had lived many decades and experienced many things. She wasn't a petty little girl nor was she a virgin. She already had a rough idea of what Chen Wentian had done. That pervert, if he wanted to touch, then she would let him touch. In fact, since she had always viewed him in a particular way, her heart was a little thrilled that he found her attractive.

She walked over and gave Chen Wentian a bow, "Brother Chen, thank you for saving me. I won't forget this favor. From now on, the Legendary Fighter League is your friend as am I."

Qiu Chuyi also stood up and bowed, "Brother Chen, thank you for this lifesaving grace. Although my lord is difficult to deal with and may still try to cause you trouble, I swear that I will never intestinally try to harm Brother Chen or his people."

Chapter 566: Are You a Man or Not?

After getting to know each other, the three immortals discussed various matters including how they got down here and what they should do. Chen Wentian answered their questions very vaguely, much to their dissatisfaction. He repeatedly used the Martial Brilliance Continent and the Virtuous Order of Chunzhen as an excuse.

He was always stingy with his secrets. These two didn't need to know that he didn't have a very good relationship with the order. They also didn't need to know about Little Carrot or his void bee queen. Even if they could take a few guesses that were close to the truth, he wasn't going to admit to anything.

"Tch, so stingy, I thought we were friends." Shi Shi muttered.

Chen Wentian replied expressionlessly, "You offered to be my friend. I don't think I did the same."

Shi Shi snorted and turned to the other person, "Old Qiu, have you recovered yet?"

Qiu Chuyi put on an act of wincing and groaning as he tested his injuries, "Not bad, my strength has returned close to twenty percent. I won't be a burden at least."

Shi Shi nodded, "I am good enough to fight a few rounds with that water demon. I think we should head out. It's been around two hours since the attack. The demons should have left already."

"I agree. But how do we get out of here?" Qiu Chuyi asked.

Both of them turned toward Chen Wentian as if they expected him to do everything for them. Since he was the one that saved them, maybe he should be benevolent until the end. Unfortunately for them, he had no such intentions.

"What?" He asked and shrugged, "I'm not the one with a digging ability." f(r)ee(we)eb(n)ovel

He said nothing else and sat there like a statue. The three immortals stared at each other for a while before Qiu Chuyi finally let out an exaggerated sigh.

"Fine, fine. Follow me." Qiu Chuyi said as his hands transformed into furry paws with huge claws.

Chen Wentian smiled to give some encouragement, "Be careful, Brother Qiu. Don't exert yourself too much!"

Qiu Chuyi cursed a few times as he began digging a narrow tunnel that went straight up. His progress was fast and after a few minutes, he had already reached the surface. He looked around for a good place to break out and dug into the basement of a large mansion within Everblade City.

The three immortals tumbled out and finally left the underground world. They didn't know what to expect but they were met with a human figure who was covered in blood and gore.

Seeing them appear, that person who seemed like a woman let out a demonic howl, "KaahhHH!"

But as it made to lunge at them, Qiu Chuyi's claws swept out and sliced them into several pieces.

"Heavens! What is going on?" He exclaimed.

The three immortals went up to the ground level and peered outside. What met them was utter chaos and scenes of bloodshed that surpassed their imagination. The people in the mansion and also the entire city seemed to have gone insane. Everyone was fighting each other, clawing and biting as if possessed by a demonic spirit. Young and old included, these crazed people formed into packs and roamed the city, devouring every living thing in their path.

Those that still held onto sanity defended themselves using their sword arts. They chopped their neighbors, friends, and families into pieces before eventually succumbing to the sheer numbers. It was brutal beyond words. It was hell. Chen Wentian had experienced it once before. It was the handiwork of that cruel demoness, Qin Shui'er.

"This..." Qiu Chuyi muttered in total shock.

"These demons. I'll kill them all!" Shi Shi said in a furious whisper.

She was about to charge out but Chen Wentian grabbed her arm and held her back, "Hold on, what are you doing?"

"Let go!" She insisted.

She obviously wanted to help the remaining humans and save the city but the other two were reluctant.

"We should be careful. I don't sense any immortal auras but the demons could have laid more traps. Maybe they were still somewhere waiting for us!" Qiu Chuyi said.

"That's possible!" Chen Wentian said, nodding his head.

"You two..." Shi Shi furiously pushed Chen Wentian away, "Are impossible! Are you two immortals or turtle bastards? Haven't you sensed it already? The teleportation array has been destroyed. Those two demons won't be dumb enough to stick around. With the array gone, the neighboring cities have probably discovered something amiss and alerted the association. I estimate that in another half-hour to an hour, our backup will finally arrive. But who knows how many innocent people will die in that time if we just let it be. So, I'm going!"

With that, she blasted off into the air, destroying half of the mansion in the process.

Qiu Chuyi frowned and didn't make a move. He held a hand to his chest and faked a few painful coughs. "You should go help her and keep an eye on her. I'm too weak to keep up with you two right now."

Chen Wentian suppressed a laugh. This fellow surnamed Qiu was quite shameless. But Chen Wentian already knew that it was safe so he flew off after Shi Shi. The demons had long since retreated. They weren't anywhere close to this province.

Immortal Phoenix Legend Shi Shi's figure streaked across the gloomy city, leaving a trail of purple flames. Every now and then, she would swoop down and unleash blasts of powerful flame from her palms. Other times, she would directly charge through a street packed with demonized human puppets. Each attack turned entire groups of enemies into ash. Without waiting to hear the cheers and cries of gratitude from the survivors, she would zoom off toward the next spot that needed her help.

Chen Wentian followed behind her with a curious expression. He shot a few fireballs here and there but his main focus was on her. He didn't expect her to utilize flame arts that were so profound. He had assumed that her moniker of Phoenix Legend was an exaggeration, much like what others thought of him as the Blue Dragon.

Instead, he could feel a unique aura from her purple flames. Others probably couldn't tell but he could because he had the physique of the divine blue dragon and the senses of one as well. He could identify a faint but familiar aura within those flames. It was unmistakable. It was the aura of a divine beast.

Could it actually be a phoenix's power, a divine beast that was on the same level as dragons?

He couldn't tell what species of phoenix it was but based on her name, it probably couldn't be anything else. He followed closely behind her and sniffed the flames she left behind. It didn't seem to be a complete inheritance. There was only a small trace of a divine beast's aura. Maybe she was holding back like he often did but he wasn't so sure. Divine beasts didn't hand over their divine powers to humans so easily. It was impossible except for unique circumstances.

But then again, this Eastern Sanmu Subcontinent had a suspiciously high concentration of divine beasts. He hadn't noticed it before but now he couldn't ignore it anymore. There was the baby blue dragon that had escaped calamity only to succumb to its wounds. There was Jasmine's mother who had left her daughter here for some reason. There was the remnant soul of the shining dragon that was hidden within the Eastern Light Clan. Now there was even an attractive, middle-aged lady wielding phoenix flames. It was really mind-boggling.

"Your flames are quite nice. Like a hot summer breeze. Can you teach it to me?" Chen Wentian teased, deciding to test her.

"Screw you." Shi Shi retorted and blasted another group of demonized puppets into smithereens. "Or are you admitting that your blue flames suck? Immortal Blue Dragon?"

Her manner of speech had changed noticeably after she declared she would be his friend. It was far less formal, almost as if they were old drinking buddies or something. Her personality was quite straightforward compared to some women who liked to be coy and restrained.

"My flames are quite good too. Do you want to learn it? I can teach you." He spoke some more nonsense.

Shi Shi laughed, "Maybe I will take you up on your offer. Since you've already said it, then you shouldn't take it back, or else you aren't a man."

Chen Wentian also laughed, "Regardless if my words are reliable or not, how would you know if I am a man or not?"

Shi Shi paused her flames and glanced at him with a curious expression, "Are you sure? Back in the cave, you molested me for so long and yet you still didn't find the courage to actually do it. So tell me, are you a man or not?"

Chapter 567: Ruler of the West

"What..." Chen Wentian was left dumbstruck.

He was caught red-handed and she directly called him out on it. If there were others around them, his reputation would have truly gone down the drain. He hadn't expected her to find out but he really should have. He had gotten too used to bullying his disciples. They gave in and accepted his naughtiness without much complaint. Xu Lanyi liked to be loud and combative but he could convince her with enough kisses and touches. Even Jasmine was easy prey because she no longer had any reservations about him.

"You should think about it." Shi Shi laughed and flew away.

He reluctantly followed at a distance. He didn't know what to say to her so he kept his mouth shut. The only positive aspect was that she didn't seem to be too angry about it. He didn't expect that either and he didn't know if he should be thankful or wary.

She was so different. She was calm and clever but also surprisingly straightforward and open-minded. Moreover, she was willing to take some risks to help mortals. Her traits had similarities to some of his disciples including Wu Qianyu, Li Yuechan, and Xu Lanyi. Yet, she was unlike them entirely because she was an immortal with an abundance of real-life experience that had shaped her personality.

This was something else entirely, something he didn't have experience with. He didn't have any experience with women until a couple of years ago. And ever since creating his Ten Thousand Flower Valley and accepting a few disciples, he had formed a skewed impression of the relationship between a man and a woman.

In his mind, his women should be young and vivacious. They should be innocent and honest. He hadn't strictly considered whether they had to be virgins or not but he had to occupy their heart entirely, this

was not negotiable. He was a selfish and controlling person. He wanted his relationships to be simple and completely within his grasp.

This was why he had never considered older women, especially immortals. He didn't understand them so he feared them. They were too complicated. He didn't know their minds worked and what they felt deep down in their hearts. There was too much uncertainty and he hated that.

Chen Wentian and Shi Shi continued to clear out the demonized puppets within Everblade City. Progress became slower after the larger groups had been wiped out. They did not want to destroy the city unnecessarily so they could only take out the puppets one or a few at a time.

They swept through the narrow side streets and individual houses. Shi Shi was especially careful around young children and babies. She made sure to move them and their parents to the safe zones before continuing. Her actions went beyond his expectations again and again.

He no longer knew what to think about her. He probably wouldn't have bothered with so much. But he wasn't a completely heartless person so he appreciated her efforts.

She wasn't an unattractive person. His tastes were not so deviant that he didn't know to appreciate her mature beauty. After being by her side for so long, he knew that she wasn't using any face-changing or illusory secret art.

He had also touched her body in the most intimate of ways. He knew all of her measurements. Her breasts were moderately sized and still carried an excellent shape. Her ass was not very perky but her hips were wide and sexy. He had even felt the moist warmth between her legs...

"Hey! Stop staring at my ass, we have company!" Shi Shi called out.

Not bothering to deny it, Chen Wentian jerked his eyes away and glanced all around. He sensed a great number of human spiritual auras rapidly approaching from the north. They had only come aboveground for slightly over thirty minutes. Her estimate had been on point and their backup had finally arrived.

A particularly powerful spiritual intent swept over the city like a collapsing mountain. It carried the might of a Spirit King, imbued with golden righteousness and nobility. It belonged to Immortal Solemn

Duke Huang Wuji, the most senior member of the Immortal Association within the Eastern Sanmu Subcontinent. He was at the head of a group of over twenty other immortals. There was even another Spirit King among them.

Chen Wentian and Shi Shi rose to greet the new arrivals. They were quickly joined by Qiu Chuyi who had been shamelessly conserving his strength all this time.

The two sides soon met above the city. Qiu Chuyi was the first to move forward and bow slightly in respect.

"Senior Huang, Senior Hai, thank the heavens you have arrived!" He said.

Huang Wuji merely grunted with his eyes half-closed while the other person, a tall and slender woman of indeterminate age, nodded slightly.

"What happened here? Tell me quickly!" Huang Wuji asked, his voice carrying an urgency that was incomparable to his old and frail demeanor.

"Yes, it is like this..."

Qiu Chuyi gave a summary of the events starting from the opening of the Forest of Swords. He described the dark fog that surrounded the whole arena and the subsequent battles. He concluded with how only the three of them had managed to escape.

While he was talking, Chen Wentian nudged Shi Shi and sent her a voice transmission, "Who is that other person?"

She shot him a glare and replied, "She is the sect master of the Seven Seas Sacred Palace, Immortal Scarlet Sea Hai Dan. Why, is she pretty?"

He snorted, "No, my disciples are much better."

This was the objective truth as this Hai Dan couldn't be considered all that attractive. Her face was angled in weird ways and her features seemed to contain a sense of imperfection. On top of that, she seemed to be flat as a board. Her only saving grace was her fearsome cultivation and her vast influence.

The Seven Seas Sacred Palace was a super sect that was situated on the western edge of the Eastern Sanmu Subcontinent. People weren't sure exactly where it was. Some said that the actual sect was located underwater somewhere within the Gulf of Giant Tortoises which partially separated the subcontinent from their neighbor, the Western Wumu Subcontinent.

The Seven Seas Sacred Palace couldn't quite compare to the might of the Beast God Sanctum to the east but it was still a Spirit King sect. While the four kings occupied the Eastern Sanmu Metropolis and the center of the region, the palace could be considered the ruler of the west.

Chen Wentian didn't really care about Hai Dan or her sect. He was merely curious. The world was so vast and there were talented people everywhere. A few fortunate encounters could turn anyone into a powerhouse. His soul art was very special but he wasn't the only lucky person in the world.

"Alright, I've heard enough." Huang Wuji eventually said, "Sovereign of the Seas Hai and I will look for the demons. You three can take a rest until we come back. We'll want to discuss the matter in more detail then. The rest of you, clean up the city. Repair the teleportation array and help the people."

"Yes, Senior Huang!"

"Alright, Old Huang!"

"Let's go!"

Chapter 568: Mysterious Forest (I)

Lin Qingcheng had to admit, she was completely lost. After heading in the same direction for most of the morning, she was no closer to finding her sisters. The forest was simply too vast and there was a mysterious aura that suppressed her spiritual sense. It felt as if she had made no progress despite running until her legs were tired.

She had shot off two more talismans after the first one. The first one received a reply but the second one didn't. She didn't have an unlimited amount of signal talismans so she decided to wait until the afternoon before trying again.

She was slightly worried but decided to trust her older sisters. Li Yuechan and the others weren't exactly pushovers. Unlike within the arena, they could now utilize their full ice arts. Even she couldn't beat them if they did so. Perhaps they had hidden for the moment so it was inconvenient. Perhaps they had encountered a sword truth.

Just as she was thinking about that mysterious treasure of the Forest of Swords, she heard a faint chattering from above her head. It was something she hadn't heard before so it meant that some kind of creature had appeared.

She looked up and squinted her eyes against the beams of sunlight that pierced through the thick foliage. There was some faint movement. She couldn't quite catch it as it seemed like a small animal.

Then, the chattering grew louder and louder. Brown blurs could be seen dashing through the branches, quickly getting closer. After only a few breaths, she was completely surrounded by fifty or so furry beasts at various levels of the Spirit Initiate Realm.

"Monkeys?" Lin Qingcheng whispered uncertainly.

They looked like ordinary monkeys with brown fur, slender limbs, and a long tail. They weren't too big, only around the size of a dog. However, what made her doubt was that each of them carried a straight piece of wood in their hand. They were jumping up and down and chattering while waving their wooden sticks around. It was as if they knew how to use the sticks as weapons.

"Sword monkeys?"

It had to be. She could faintly sense an aura of sword energy from these strange beasts. There was also something peculiar about their wooden weapons which also exuded an unnatural sword intent even though they were far from human swords made of steel and other precious metals.

"Ook, ook!"

"Ka, kah!"

The monkeys' chatters grew louder. They all glared down at her as they whipped themselves into a frenzy. Their spiritual energies combined, forming a ferocious cloud of sword intent that descended like a heavy blanket.

Lin Qingcheng let out a bright laugh as a golden metal rod appeared in her hand. She was never one to back down from a fight, especially not one so interesting. These monkeys were so smart, able to understand sword intent and able to wield sticks as swords.

"Come on!" She shouted and whirled the sword breaker above her head.

"Ook! Oook!"

The noise above her head became deafening as an almost tangible cloud of sword energy descended on her, threatening to flatten her completely.

She held her ground without a thought of fleeing. She gathered all of her spiritual energy into her weapon and swung in a vertical arc. She left nothing to chance and gave it everything she had.

"Break!" She shouted. "Ha!"

Kacha!

Her golden arc smashed into the transparent cloud of sword energy from the monkeys. With the sound of swords clashing against metal, her attack obliterated a path straight down the middle. The two ends of the monkey attack fell onto the ground on either side of her, leaving her unharmed. Not even a hair was out of place.

She pointed her golden weapon at the trees, "You want to fight? Let's fight!"

The sword monkeys hopped up and down, howling furiously. After a few moments, two sizable monkeys leaped down, wanting to test her strength themselves.

Lin Qingcheng brandished her bian and took a defensive stance. These two monkeys were at the 9th Level of the Spirit Initiate Realm. When they waved their sticks at her, they exuded a surprising amount of sword energy that was no weaker than the opponents she had faced during the challenge tournament.

"Awwoo!" The first monkey bellowed and slashed down at her shoulder.

Lin Qingcheng moved almost by instinct to counter. This was followed by a flash of gold as the bian in her hand danced and spun.

Clang!

The monkey's attack was decisively blocked and it was also forced back.

"Try again!" Lin Qingcheng declared.

She felt a sudden surge of confidence. She usually wasn't very diligent in her training but she had worked hard the past few weeks. She was also a popular person during the prior tournament and had fought a few people. She could say that she had grasped a bit of understanding of sword arts even though it wasn't her preference.

The second monkey obliged, spinning a few times in the air and striking at her head.

She squared her stance and raised her weapon with both hands. She swung mightily, her body turning in a blur.

Pa!

Crack!

Her golden rod smashed through the monkey's stick and landed directly on its body. After a sickening impact, the beast went flying and landed with a thud somewhere in the thick underbrush, outside of her vision.

A furious round of shouts came from above as the monkeys got even angrier. Many brown bodies leaped down and charged toward this arrogant human who had barged into their territory. They had so many brethren, they couldn't lose to a single pitiful enemy.

Lin Qingcheng was quickly swarmed by sword monkeys from all sides and above as well. Her heavy weapon swung out left and right. Her movements were swift but the monkeys were just as fast. For every monkey she blasted away, another took its place. There were too many and it became impossible to properly defend. She had to sacrifice her back to beat away those in front of her. There was no other way.

More and more sticks struck her body, only to be repelled by a golden shield. The Golden Serpent Robe protected her completely even as the monkey's attacks became utterly crazed. If it was another sword cultivator in her position, they might have already lost their life.

She wasn't simply being struck by pieces of wood but a strange wood that was unbelievably hard and filled with true sword intent. Each attack was akin to that from a real sword. Each monkey had great strength and they could split a weaker opponent into two with one blow. Even a spiritual armor at the peak of the Spirit Initiate Realm would not have stood up to this barrage.

Lin Qingcheng continued to brawl in the middle of the monkey swarm. Her way of fighting was simple beyond measure. It was a competition of brute strength against sheer numbers. Nobody else would have directly fought against so many beasts. Even if they did, they would barely last a few rounds.

But she was different. She had plenty of energy. And if she ran out, she could always generate more.

Lin Qingcheng fought on, one female warrior fighting against impossible odds. Within this mysterious forest, her lonely figure clad in golden energy became the most devilish nemesis of all sword monkeys.

Chapter 569: Mysterious Forest (II)

The troop of monkeys and Lin Qingcheng fought for a long time. The surrounding forest was wrecked by their chaotic battle. Many smaller trees had been directly knocked down. The mossy tree trunks were covered with blood. Dead monkeys that had been beaten to death littered the ground.

It wasn't until around half of the beasts had fallen that there was a sudden change.

"Oooh! OoohH!"

"Oook!"

The monkeys let out a series of frantic and sorrowful cries. After that, they stopped attacking and started retreating. Those that were still in good shape picked up the bodies of their comrades and fled. A few collected the dropped wooden swords, not willing to leave behind even a scrap for this ferocious human foe.

"Wait, that's not right." Lin Qingcheng said after catching her breath.

She searched the battlefield and discovered that the monkeys had actually left something behind. She strolled over and picked up what could only be described as an ordinary stick from its outward appearance. It was a bit knobby and covered in a dark brown bark. It wasn't too heavy and was instead a bit flimsy and flexible.

Curiously, she gave it a good swish.

There was a great burst of sword intent.

"Ah!" She let out a shout and dropped the branch.

She hadn't expected anything and felt her hand sting. The hidden sword intent within the tree branch had been suddenly released and it had been powerful enough to even slightly affect the defenses provided by her Golden Serpent Robe.

This was unprecedented. What did it mean?

"Could it be..." She wondered.

"Well done, hahaha!" A laugh came out of the blue.

Lin Qingcheng went into a fighting stance instinctively as several figures emerged. Five people, they wore two different sets of robes from the Mount Yun Sect and the Mount Xiong Sect. Their sects were allied with each other so they had also grouped up within the Forest of Swords.

"Miss, you are Miss Lin Qingcheng of Ten Thousand Flower Valley?" The tall man in the middle spoke.

"Yes, what do you want?" She replied in an unfriendly tone.

She didn't think these people had any good intentions. Their eyes kept roaming to the stick on the ground even though they tried to hide it.

The tall man waved his hand, "We mean you no harm. I am Yang Tie, senior disciple of the Mount Xiong Sect. These are my friends. We were attracted the by the sound of battle and caught sight of Miss Lin's awesome skills."

"That's right! You managed to not retreat against so many sword monkeys! Even I can't do that!" Another man added.

"Sister Lin?" One of the women chimed in, "Your spiritual weapon is so powerful, no wonder it could suppress them. I wonder if it has a name?"

The five of them took turns praising Lin Qingcheng, making her head spin. She didn't know what they were trying to do and merely responded with shakes of her head or unfriendly grunts. However, they were persistent and gradually closed the distance between them.

She was finally annoyed and said bluntly, "Look, I need to leave. It was nice meeting you all but I really have to go."

When she said this, the expression on Yang Tie and the rest turned in an instant.

"Do it!" Yang Tie snapped.

There was a surge of spiritual energy followed by quick footsteps. They had already gotten to within ten meters of Lin Qingcheng while they were flattering her. It only took half a breath to spring the trap and surround her from all sides.

"What are you doing?" Lin Qingcheng asked, looking frantically around.

"Hahaha!" Yang Tie laughed again. This time, it was a cruel, merciless laugh. "Idiot. Can't you guess already?"

Lin Qingcheng wasn't that dumb. She had actually made some guesses when these people had appeared. She had fought countless bandits and gangsters within the Bright Moon Kingdom and Moonlight City. She wasn't as silly as before.

She didn't try to run because she wasn't afraid of these five people. Her master had discussed potential enemies within the Forest of Swords and the disciples of the Four Greats were among the top. Although she was a bit tired from fighting with the sword monkeys, she was still in good condition. She didn't want to back down when her enemies offered themselves to her. This forest was so large and weird, if she wanted to find a few evil people to beat up, she would have to struggle for a long time. She didn't want to let go of this opportunity.

"So stupid." Yang Tie muttered and drew his sword.

The other four did so as well. As one, they raised their spiritual auras, preparing to take her down.

Lin Qingcheng hid a smile and glared at Yang Tie, "You want this?"

She kicked the wooden stick, "This should be a sword truth, right? You want to rob it with force? I can give it to you if you let me go."

The tall figure of Yang Tie stood a step forward, looming over her with a smug expression as if he had caught a helpless rabbit.

He smiled widely, "How can you give me something that is already mine?"

"You!" Lin Qingcheng's voice trembled.

She was getting excited. It was rare to find such a scumbag.

He laughed again, misunderstanding her reaction, "However, since you offered the sword truth to me so nicely, I will be a little gentler with you."

He glanced at the other three men in their group, "But I can't say if my brothers will be able to resist their urges after I am done with you."

"Hehehe!" The one woman in their group giggled uncontrollably as if this was the funniest thing she had heard in weeks. She wasn't pretty to begin with but when she laughed, her face became even uglier. "Elder Brother Yang, don't show this slut any mercy! Ruin her face!"

"Sister Jiu is jealous?" Yang Tie asked, "Don't worry, don't worry. After we have had enough of her body, you can do whatever you want with her face."

"Good, you all can witness my handiwork!"

The five people shared a round of laughter.

Lin Qingcheng also laughed. She felt refreshed. Her prior exhaustion was forgotten. This mysterious forest was so interesting. She had not been able to find such vile creatures wearing human skin in so long. Punishing such evil was her second favorite pastime.

Her laugh made the five people shut up. They glared at her and became wary. She glanced around with shining eyes and smiled, showing her white teeth like a predator ready to pounce.

"If you want it, come and get it!" She teased.

"What?"

"What did you say, slut?"

Lin Qingcheng ignored the shouts. She brandished her palms. There was a flash of light and a pair of golden metal gauntlets appeared. She then leaped towards Yang Tie.

"Get her!" Yang Tie shouted and slashed with his sword.

At the same time, the other four launched rays of sword energy at Lin Qingcheng's unprotected back.

Pa!

Ka!

The attacks shredded her robes which had already been damaged in the battle with the sword monkeys, revealing the shiny golden scales of her outfit underneath.

Yang Tie's sword clashed with Lin Qingcheng's metal palm. There was a collision of spiritual energy which sent him backward ten steps. She was barely affected and only took half a step back before throwing another punch.

His eyes widened, "Take her down!"

Although Yang Tie was already at the 10th Level of the Spirit Initiate Realm, he wasn't a very talented sword practitioner. He had no chance of competing against Lin Qingcheng one on one. Her strength was simply monstrous.

More swords fell on Lin Qingcheng's back. The light-yellow robes she always liked were finally turned into shreds, revealing her full golden glory.

Now, it was the other four's turn to stare. They had never seen such revealing, sexy attire. Everything was entirely skin-tight. There was almost nothing left to the imagination. Her exact bust size, her waist, her slender legs, there were absolutely no doubts!

"Wow..."

"Amazing..."

"Fuck, this slut!" The only one that seemed unhappy was that ugly woman named Sister Jiu.

However, Lin Qingcheng didn't give them any more time to ogle her. Her body became a golden blur as she attacked Yang Tie without mercy.

The Nineteen Demon Subduing Palms, First Palm, Demon Subjugation!

Pa!

Her mighty golden palm filled with heaven-gifted strength and demon-slaying might crashed into Yang Tie. He let out a frightened cry when his sword was crushed into dust. Then, he was abruptly silenced as the palm struck his chest, sending him flying until he crashed into a thick tree trunk.

"Brother Tie!"

"Brother Yang Yie!"

Before the other four could think of running, Lin Qingcheng had already arrived before them.

One punch broke a few ribs.

Another kick broke someone's leg.

A few more palm strikes later, they were all were lying on the ground, crying and moaning in pain.

Chapter 570: Mysterious Forest (III)

Lin Qingcheng stood over her defeated foes, glaring at the five frightened faces. She had dragged Yang Tie over so she could deal with them all at the same time. In her heart, she was angry but also disappointed. She didn't know if these people were simply too useless or if she had grown too strong. The fight had been too short and her fists were still itching.

What she didn't realize was that her fighting ability was actually greatly muted during the challenge tournament. Although the sword breaker was an adequate weapon, it was still a sword and she knew almost nothing about sword arts. Fighting up close with fists and kicks was her true calling. In this mysterious forest where there were no rules, she was a big boss that nobody below the lesser realms could hope to beat.

With a cold harumph, Lin Qingcheng stomped over the person who had wanted to ruin her. She gave him a hard kick, making him squeal, ruining his attempt to play dead.

"No, please. Heroine Lin, please let me go. I didn't do anything. I didn't mean to do anything. Please!" Yang Tie begged without a shred of dignity.

Lin Qingcheng scoffed. Evil people who were afraid to die were the most contemptible. "You, say it again, what you were going to do to me."

"Me? No, no. I didn't say anything!"

"You didn't?" She asked.

"No, I swear! I have never forced myself on a woman in my life!"

Such a lie was so ridiculous, she burst out laughing, "Good! Then you won't be needing this then."

She lifted her leg and threw a swift kick at his groin area. There was a miserable cry followed by a gurgle as he threw up everything that was in his stomach. After wailing and rolling around for a while, he eventually found enough strength to take a glance at the bloody mess that was left over.

"My... My... impossible..." He let out before he fainted.

Lin Qingcheng snorted and moved on to the ugly woman who was trying to crawl away. She grabbed the offender's feet and pulled them back.

"Hey you, are you a woman or a man in disguise?" She asked, "Do you not feel anything when you watch your brothers rape women? How can you be so cruel to your own kind? And you even like ruining people's faces?"

"No, no, I didn't mean it. Heroine Lin, Heroine Lin..."

Lin Qingcheng ignored the woman's blabbering. She hated this type of person the most. Ugly, jealous, and with a black heart, they were far more dangerous to other women than men could ever be.

She summoned spiritual energy into her fist and punched down. Her heavy gauntlets landed squarely on their lower stomach, directly above their lower dantian, the source of their foundation and cultivation.

Sister Jiu spat out a mouthful of blood and shrieked, "Ahhh! You bitch! I'll kill you! Ahhh!"

Lin Qingcheng simply slammed her fist down again, breaking down the other's physique that had been honed by spiritual energy and countless years of practice.

"Ahh! Noo! Help me... Brother Meng? Brother Zhu?" Sister Jiu howled at the sky.

Nobody came to her rescue. They weren't in any condition and they didn't want to lose their manhood like Yang Tie.

Lin Qingcheng landed a few more punches until she finally broke through. With one last punch, she directly sent the might of the Nineteen Demon Subduing Palms into that evil woman's lower dantian, directly bursting it open like a ripe melon.

Sister Jiu let a bloody gasp and went limp. Her complexion darkened and her skin became wrinkled. Her cultivation had dropped to the early levels of the Body Refinement Realm and she now looked like a weathered old matron.

The three remaining people that were still conscious shrank back and shivered in fright. They had thought that this little girl from Ten Thousand Flower Valley would be easy prey. But it was too late to regret. Now their fates were in her hands.

Lin Qingcheng stood up straight and wiped her hands clean, "You guys can go. I hope you can treat others with more kindness in the future. Or else, if you had my elder sister... you might not even know how you died."

She turned away before they could respond. She picked up the sword truth she had earned from the sword monkeys and disappeared into the forest.

The first day within the Forest of Swords inevitably came to an end. As the sunlight dimmed and stars blinked into existence, the cultivators that had stepped into this secret realm prepared to spend a precarious night in the wild. They had faced many dangers already and they were certain to face more. Most decided to set up camp while a few brave souls dared to continue exploring.

This vast forest was filled with mysteries. Some people were lucky while others were not. Like the group of five led by Yang Tie, some managed to find fellow disciples or allies quickly. Most others were still alone and had to fend for themselves.

Many ran into fierce beasts just like Lin Qingcheng. Some fought, some fled, and some lost their lives. Such was the way of cultivation. There was danger at every corner. Progress came at the cost of hardship and bloodshed.

The disciples of Ten Thousand Flower Valley all had their own unique experiences today. Starting with Zhou Ziyun, she discovered a strange peach tree orchard on an island in the middle of a lake. The countless pink flowers in full bloom filled the surrounding area with an irresistible sweet fragrance.

Guessing that there must be something good inside, she bravely charged into the maze of peach trees. She instantly became lost and she couldn't even leave. The trees and flowers contained profound sword energy that resisted all attacks and attempts to force her way out. After many hours, despite her innate talent for comprehension, she was still as lost as ever so she was forced to spend the night within the strange tree array.

For Wu Qianyu, her day was much more fruitful. She didn't run into anyone or anything for most of the day but she eventually ran into a powerful spiritual beast that was surprisingly at the second lesser realm of Spiritual Formation.

It was a blademaster bear. It stood over three meters tall and its front claws were over a meter in length, even deadlier than the sharpest sabers. A single swipe could decimate everything in its path. Its sleek black fur was also similar to sharp blades and provided excellent defense.

She fought with the blademaster bear for a whole hour. In the end, she managed to prevail due to the unbeatable suppression that her Purple Jade Sword provided. She had intended to slay the bear but caught sight of a few bear cubs that had emerged from a nearby den at the last moment.

She was immediately reminded of the ten dire wolf cubs she took in after she killed their mother. Because of this, she decided to let the mother bear go. She was merciless against evil but this bear had done nothing wrong. It had been minding its own business before she barged into its territory and gave it a good beating.

In a show of gratitude, the mother bear gifted her a crooked stick from within its den. This was also a sword truth, born from what seemed like an old pine tree. If she had chosen to kill the bear, she would have been able to obtain the sword truth just the same but this way, she didn't have to cause unnecessary pain.

The five ice sisters didn't get into so much trouble in comparison. They were mainly focused on grouping up according to the plan. Their luck wasn't too good. The forest was enormous so they couldn't find each other on the first day. All they could do was dodge wild beasts and other competitors for the whole day. When night fell, they found safe shelter to pass the night before starting all over the next morning.

As for Bei Yingluo, she hadn't even moved from her starting location. She knew her own limits and the unreliable nature of her secret power to cross realms. She played it safe and stayed within her group of new-found friends.

Chen Wentian's disciples were all handling themselves well. It could be said that they were all sensible and intelligent women. He still worried about them but their performances today gave him enough reassurance to deal with his own prickly problems.