

Full-Level 621

Chapter 621 - 621: Bloodline Sensing 2

At the scene, many unmarried girls, witnessing such a sight, felt an itching resentment. Initially, they couldn't fathom what kind of person Huangfu Ruiling was. However, once they saw where he took his seat, clarity dawned upon them. Simultaneously, their emotions were in turmoil

They had never imagined that the head of the Huangfu family would be so young. Even though he wore a mask, his handsome visage and regal demeanor were impossible to conceal.

When encountering such a towering figure, who wouldn't harbor thoughts in their hearts? This sentiment was especially true for the legitimate daughters of the major families who were still unmarried. They felt that only someone like Huangfu Ruiling was deserving of them.

Yet, before they could entertain such fantasies, Huangfu Ruiling already had a woman by his side. Moreover, judging by their intimate interactions, there was no chance for them!

Realizing this, how could they not resent Ye Lengan?

As for the heads of the other major families, they didn't entertain such convoluted thoughts. However, upon seeing Ye Lengan appear beside Huangfu Ruiling, a sense of regret crept in.

All along, Huangfu Ling had been their ideal son-in-law, the one they perceived as a rising star. After becoming the patriarch of the Huangfu family, the momentum of the Huangfu family's development became even more formidable. To the point where, now, the Huangfu family seemed to overshadow their own family.

Marrying their daughter or niece to Huangfu Ling would undoubtedly bring the two families closer. However, despite Huangfu Ling being the head of the Huangfu family, he rarely appeared publicly. Most family matters were handled by the Grand Elder.

Thus, they seldom saw Huangfu Ling, let alone had the chance to matchmake their daughter with him.

Unexpectedly, a girl appeared by Huangfu Lings side today. Moreover, judging by the current situation, even if that girl hadn't married Huangfu Ling yet, it seemed like it was only a matter of time.

At this moment, Ye Lengan naturally noticed various gazes from all directions – some appraising and some filled with hatred. However, she paid no mind, sitting there calmly without even blinking.

"How's it going?" Huangfu Ruiling looked at Ye Lengan and asked in a low voice. 'Do you confirm it?'

"Yes." Ye Lengan nodded. "I believe the situation is roughly as I expected.

However, this isn't the right time. We'll discuss it in detail when we return!" Huangfu Ruiling nodded.

Many people started inquiring about Ye Leng'an's identity. Soon, news spread across the entire venue that she was the fiancée of the Huangfu family head. In a short time, almost everyone knew that Master Huangfu already had a fiancée.

This was undoubtedly a heavy blow to those unmarried girls. If before, they could still harbor hopes, the precise information came from the mouths of the elders of the Huangfu family.

At the Zhongyu family's table, Zhongyu Jiarui kept her head lowered, not daring to look towards the Huangfu family.

When Ye Lengan appeared, she recognized her at first glance. She already knew she was from the Huangfu family when she was at the medicinal shop. However, she never expected her identity to be so prominent. That woman turned out to be the fiancée of the Huangfu family head.

Thinking about their previous conflict, she felt extremely regretful. If she had known her identity, she would not have clashed with her no matter what.

However, she also blamed the other party. Clearly, Ye Lengan was the fiancée of the Huangfu family head, yet she lied and claimed she had just come from the mortal world. This was misleading her and causing her to make a mistake. It was truly devious.

Even though she thought everything was the other party's fault, she knew that if her father found out about what happened in the medicinal shop, she would not have an easy time.

Though she was the third daughter of the Zhongyu family's direct line, her father's third daughter, she knew very well that in her father's heart, she was not important. She was not her elder brother who shouldered the heavy responsibility of the family, nor was she the educated and reasonable elder sister, nor was she the younger brother who was doted on by her parents. Among the four siblings, she was the one who was often ignored.

Now that the Huangfu family was at its peak, her father wanted to befriend them even more. If her father knew she had offended the fiancée of the Huangfu family, he would definitely not let her off easily.

Now, she prayed that the person called Ye An'an would forget her and that incident as soon as possible. Only then would she be at ease.

However, compared to this matter, she was more annoyed by Nangong Xuyao.

Before the Family Competition, she had brought Nangong Xuyao to see her father. However, his father's attitude was very cold. Although he didn't say anything harsh, she could tell that her father didn't think highly of Nangong Xuyao. Or more accurately, her father did not think highly of their relationship.

Now, she hoped that Nangong Xuyao would stand out in this competition. Only then would they have a chance..

Chapter 622 - 622: The Competition Begins 1

The Family Competition began swiftly. Although many families participated, the primary focus was on the competition among the ten great families.

In the Hidden World, the top tier consisted of the ten major families, followed by other prominent families and some smaller ones. However, even in the Hidden World, these major families couldn't act recklessly because the Enforcement Team maintained the rules of the Hidden World.

Ye Lengan sat in her seat, appearing bored as she observed the battles on stage. To her, these contests seemed akin to children fighting. The participants were bound by an age limit, and all were required to be under a hundred years old to partake in the competition.

In the Hidden World, cultivators under a hundred were mostly in the Qi Condensation Stage, with few reaching the Foundation Establishment Stage and even fewer the Fasting Stage. From Ye Leng'an's perspective, the competitions were undeniably dull.

Noticing Ye Leng'an's mood, Huangfu Ruiling leaned over and asked in a low voice, "Are you bored?"

"Yes!" Ye Lengan yawned and continued, "These people have such weak cultivation levels. Is this how the Family Competition always is? No wonder you never attend."

For someone with profound cultivation, these matches were indeed dull.

"This is normal." After hearing Ye Leng'an's words, Huangfu Ruiling couldn't help but chuckle. "Moreover, it's still the first round of the knockout stage, so it seems boring. Tomorrow's competition will be better than today's."

"Why didn't you mention that earlier?" Ye Lengan expressed her dissatisfaction. "If I had known, I would have come back tomorrow."

Now that she was already here, and everyone was watching the competition, she didn't want to leave early, feeling a bit awkward about it.

Huangfu Ruiling chuckled. "We met Ye Hongxuan and his wife today, didn't we? If you really don't want to watch, we can leave early! No one will object."

"Forget it." Ye Lengan shook her head. "Since we're already here, let's stay until it's over. Besides, we have a few acquaintances to watch!"

Just as they were talking, on the central competition stage, prominently standing was Huangfu Ruixiang. Opposite him, his opponent for this match, and also an acquaintance, was none other than Nangong Xuyao.

Watching Nangong Xuyao, Huangfu Ruixiang's heart was far from relaxed. Although they were both outer sect disciples, he was well aware that his cultivation couldn't match Nangong Xuyao's. It could be said that in this match, he had no chance of winning.

He had never imagined encountering such a formidable opponent in the first round. His mind was in turmoil because he knew he couldn't emerge victorious. However, being eliminated in the first round would be a great embarrassment. Moreover, the family members only cared about the outcome; they paid no attention to excuses.

If his performance was unsatisfactory, he might have to leave the main family after the Family Competition and return to the mortal world.

Ye Leng'an's bored expression changed upon seeing the two on stage. She turned to Huangfu Ruiling and playfully asked, "Who do you think will win?" Although the outcome was evident, she wanted to tease Huangfu Ruiling.

"Nangong Xuyao," Huangfu Ruiling stated confidently.

"You have high expectations for Nangong Xuyao!" Ye Lengan raised an eyebrow. "I always thought you didn't like him. Turns out, you have so much confidence in him!"

Hearing this, Huangfu Ruiling laughed. "It's not about favoring Nangong Xuyao. I'm merely stating a fact. Huangfu Ruixiang can't compare to Nangong Xuyao, be it in cultivation or talent."

"Huangfu Ruixiang is truly unlucky, encountering Nangong Xuyao in the first round," Ye Lengan snickered. "Do you think someone has a grudge against him and arranged this?"

"It was all arranged on the spot," Huangfu Ruiling said calmly. "He's just unlucky. There's no one to blame.."

Chapter 623 - 623: The Competition Begins 2

The competition was in full swing, with the two contestants on stage already engaged in battle.

While still somewhat childlike, the match was considerably more exciting than the previous ones.

However, there was a significant difference in their strengths. Nangong Xuyao had already reached the Foundation Establishment stage, while Huangfu Ruixiang was only at the middle stage of the Qi Condensation Stage. Hence, the outcome was predetermined.

As expected, in less than 15 minutes, Nangong Xuyao emerged victorious, a result that had been anticipated by the spectators.

Witnessing Nangong Xuyao's triumph, Zhongyu Jiarui couldn't help but smile. Although it was only the first round, she found Nangong Xuyao's performance outstanding. She believed that if he continued on this trajectory, he could keep winning. At that point, her father would undoubtedly hold him in high regard, and their plans would fall into place.

On the other hand, Huangfu Ruixiang, who had been defeated and knocked off the stage, felt deeply embarrassed. Despite mentally preparing for the possibility, being eliminated in the first round was still difficult to accept.

Maintaining composure in front of the audience, he swiftly stood up, though his expression remained grim. Nangong Xuyao gestured with a cupped hand before leaving the stage.

With the competition lost, Huangfu Ruixiang had no intention of lingering. Staying would only subject him to mockery.

Shortly after Huangfu Ruixiang's departure, Huangfu Ruiling spoke a few words to a person beside him. Following that, the person left.

With a downcast expression, Huangfu Ruixiang felt he might soon depart the Hidden World due to his failure. Although he had previously speculated about Huangfu Ling being Huangfu Ruiling, lacking substantial evidence, he had contacted his parents who claimed both were absent. However, absence did not confirm his assumptions.

He also wanted to find an opportunity to probe, but his identity lacked the qualifications to approach Huangfu Ling and Ye An'an directly. Now, with his imminent departure, such opportunities became even more elusive.

As Huangfu Ruixiang left the square, someone called out to him from behind.

Turning to the person, he expressed surprise. "Senior Brother, is there something you want to discuss with me?"

He recognized this senior brother who usually oversaw the daily training of their group of disciples. However, since he was in an overall supervisory role, they didn't have many opportunities to meet. Unexpectedly, this senior brother had come to find him at this moment.

"Huangfu Ruixiang, starting tomorrow, the family will assign a teacher for you. Follow the teacher and cultivate diligently!" The senior brother declared directly, "I've also arranged a new accommodation for you. When you return, pack up. Someone will take you to the new residence."

After conveying this, the senior brother departed, leaving Huangfu Ruixiang bewildered.

His emotions swiftly transitioned from despair to elation. Just a moment ago, he fretted over his defeat, but now he learned of the clan's intention to nurture him. This revelation was an enormous surprise.

While joyous, he began speculating. Could his previous conjecture be correct? Were Huangfu Ruiling and Huangfu Ling the same person, explaining their leniency?

Speculations aside, no conclusions had been reached.

Seizing the opportunity to test the waters seemed imperative. If Huangfu Ruiling and Huangfu Ling were indeed the same person, then he...

The thought of this made him unable to contain his excitement. For him, it was indeed a tremendous opportunity. One could imagine how bright his future would be if he turned out to be the younger brother of the family head.

Observing Huangfu Ruixiang's demeanor, others thought he resembled a winner rather than someone defeated.

In the square, Ye Lengan glanced at Huangfu Ruiling with a half-smile. "Are you arranging for Huangfu Ruixiang to stay?"

"Yes." Huangfu Ruiling nodded. "It was a prior decision, giving him a chance.

However, it's only an opportunity. Ultimately, it depends on him."

Ye Lengan chuckled. "Then he won't stay for long! Given his talent, the Hidden World is not a place he can remain."

“That’s his concern,” Huangfu Ruiling said nonchalantly. “I’ve given him a chance; it’s the extent of my goodwill. His future is no longer my concern.”

Ye Lengan nodded and continued, “That’s fair. But aren’t you worried he’ll become suspicious?”

“What does it matter to me?” Huangfu Ruiling replied indifferently. “Even if he suspects, does he have any evidence? Even if he becomes certain, what can he do? As long as I don’t acknowledge him as my younger brother, he won’t have any standing in the Huangfu family.”

Ye Lengan found it amusing. “True, Huangfu Ruixiang holds no position in the Huangfu family, and his words carry no weight..”

Chapter 624 - 624: Confirming the Speculation

The first day of the competition concluded quite early, given the limited participation allowed for each family. Otherwise, those with larger numbers could have employed a wheel battle, ensuring a certain victory. Furthermore, the first round was a knockout, swiftly concluding matches regardless of the level of contestants’ strength.

Returning to the courtyard, Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Lengan didn’t head directly to their rooms; instead, they went to a small side hall.

Ye Lengan couldn’t resist stretching, poured herself a cup of tea, took a sip, and then spoke, “Ling, do you think tomorrow’s competition will be as dull as today?”

To her, such contests were genuinely tedious. The fights lacked excitement, mainly due to the participants’ low cultivation levels, leaving her with no desire to watch.

“It should be more thrilling tomorrow.” Huangfu Ruiling chuckled. “However, this family competition focuses on the younger generation. Due to age restrictions, their overall cultivation tends to be modest. Though it might be better tomorrow, it might still seem uninteresting to you.”

Ye Lengan shrugged, expressing helplessness. “I was initially quite intrigued by this family competition. Now, hearing you talk about it, I’m completely disinterested.”

“Then we’ll skip tomorrow,” Huangfu Ruiling suggested. “After all, there are still three days until the finals; we can attend then.”

“Huh? Can we?” Ye Leng’an blinked, looking at Huangfu Ruiling. “The heads of other families have shown up, except you. Is that acceptable?”

“I rarely attend such occasions in normal times,” Huangfu Ruiling casually remarked. “They’re used to it. Moreover, the elders are always present. This event mainly revolves around the younger generation. Even if we don’t appear, it won’t have any impact.”

Hearing Huangfu Ruiling discuss the younger generation, Ye Lengan couldn't help but chuckle. "You make it sound like we're old. In the end, we're still quite young, even younger than many contestants today."

Huangfu Ruiling laughed, shaking his head before asking about the events of the day. "So, how was today? You haven't told me yet!"

"I should be the daughter of the Ye family," Ye Lengan stated indifferently as if narrating someone else's story. "I've used a secret technique to sense a bloodline connection between us."

"So, it seems you and Ye Wanwan were swapped back then." Huangfu Ruiling understood. "According to my previous speculation, it should be Lian Zixin who switched you and Ye Wanwan."

"Has Lian Zixin given birth?" Ye Lengan suddenly asked.

"She has a son and a daughter now," Huangfu Ruiling replied. "However, according to the investigation, before these two children, she had another child, but it died."

Since Ye Lengan started suspecting Lian Zixin, he had extensively investigated her. People were still discreetly monitoring Lian Zixin.

"It seems the child who died prematurely should be Ye Wanwan." Ye Lengan understood. She then wore a sarcastic smile. "She's scheming well, swapping her child with the Ye family's so that her child could inherit everything from the Ye family."

Ye Lengan then turned to Huangfu Ruiling, inquiring about the relationship between Lian Mengzhu and Lian Zixin.

"Although I know Lian Mengzhu is my biological mother, I still can't bring myself to call her 'mom' Ye Lengan expressed. "Moreover, despite the blood ties, we haven't interacted much, let alone developed any feelings."

"Lian Mengzhu treats Lian Zixin very well," Huangfu Ruiling explained. "According to the investigation, Lian Mengzhu is much older than Lian Zixin. From a young age, she took good care of her sister. As for how Lian Zixin treats Lian Mengzhu, that's unclear."

"Is that so?" Ye Lengan recalled the situation at the Ye family's residence. "I always felt Lian Zixin was quite jealous of Lian Mengzhu. Are the two sisters treated differently at home?"

"That's not the case," Huangfu Ruiling clarified. "Although the Lian family isn't a top-tier family, it's still a mid-tier one. Both Lian Mengzhu and Lian Zixin are legitimate descendants of the Lian family, receiving similar treatment within the family. However, the people they married led to vastly different fates. At that time, Ye

Hongxuan was still the young master of the Ye family. He had his eye on Lian Mengzhu and actively sought her hand in marriage. On the other hand, Lian Zixin chose the second young master of the declining Yan family and insisted on marrying him. After marriage, their lives took two extreme paths. Now you see the difference between them. Lian Mengzhu became the matriarch of the Ye family, while Lian Zixin married into the declining Yan family. If not for Lian Mengzhu's support, Lian Zixin's life would be even more challenging."

After listening to Huangfu Ruiling's explanation, Ye Lengan understood. "So, I now roughly understand what happened. Lian Zixin must have been jealous of

Lian Mengzhu, so she switched me with Ye Wanwan."

"It seems Lian Mengzhu has raised an ingrate," Huangfu Ruiling remarked. "What are you planning to do about the Ye family now? Do you want to acknowledge your biological parents?"

Ye Lengan did not immediately respond. At this moment, she wasn't sure what she wanted. Although she had been investigating her origins, she didn't know how she would feel once she knew who her parents were.

She had previously wondered about her feelings upon discovering her background. Now that she knew all the facts, she felt no excitement. Instead, she remained calm, as if the matter had nothing to do with her. Or perhaps, she had always felt like an outsider.

Seeing Ye Lengan fall into silence, Huangfu Ruiling didn't press. He couldn't offer advice on this matter as he wasn't directly involved. Regardless of Ye Lengan's choice, he would stand by her.

After a while, Ye Lengan sighed involuntarily. "Well, I don't actually know what I want to do. For now, let's stay put! Even though we know all the facts now, it's all just speculation on our part without any substantial evidence. Even if we tell Ye Hongxuan and the others, they might not believe us."

Huangfu Ruiling nodded. "I've already assigned someone to keep an eye on Lian Zixin. Shortly after you went to the Ye family, she met with Ye Wanwan outside. I'm not sure what they discussed. However, after that meeting, Ye Wanwan secretly sent someone to the mortal world."

"So, it seems Ye Wanwan also knows the truth now." Ye Lengan found it strange.

"However, Lian Zixin has been hiding it for so many years. I didn't expect her to tell Ye Wanwan now."

"Because Lian Zixin has no influence," Huangfu Ruiling said indifferently. "The Yan family has declined severely, and even now relies on Lian Zixin's dowry for support. Due to your probing, Lian Zixin is anxious, but she herself probably doesn't have the manpower to do anything, so she can only seek help from Ye Wanwan."

“Now Ye Wanwan should also be feeling uneasy.” Ye Lengan chuckled, “But if she sends someone to investigate, she should find out that the baby from back then is me.’

However, Ye Wanwan would know it was Ye Lengan, not Ye An’an.

Huangfu Ruiling nodded. “As to the Ye family, do you really intend to do nothing?”

“Before leaving the Hidden World, I will find an opportunity to meet with Lian Mengzhu again,” Ye Lengan said after some thought. “I will remind her. Of course, if she suspects anything, she can find out the truth herself.”

Huangfu Ruiling said nothing more.

On the other side, in the Ye family, after a day of watching from the sidelines, even though they were just sitting there, the time was a bit long, so Ye

Hongxuan and Lian Mengzhu were also a bit tired.

After returning to their rooms, the two began to talk.

“Hongxuan, did you have a strange feeling today?” Lian Mengzhu seemed to recall something and suddenly spoke, “Today on the square, there was a moment when I had a very strange feeling.”

“It’s like a sudden surge from the depths of the bloodline.” Ye Hongxuan’s eyes flashed with a hint of gloom. “Or, it’s like the bloodline is summoning something.”

“Yes, that’s the feeling.” Lian Mengzhu nodded repeatedly. “It was when Master Huangfu came over to greet us today. I suddenly had this feeling. But it came and went quickly. In a moment, it disappeared. I even thought it was my own illusion.’

“The actions of Master Huangfu today were also strange. He came over to greet us specially, but didn’t say anything else,” Ye Hongxuan said with a low voice. “I always feel that he should know something, or more precisely, he is hiding something from us.”

Of course, this matter was definitely related to them. Otherwise, he wouldn’t use the words ‘hiding’ to describe it..

Chapter 625 - 625: A Sudden Situation 1

Lian Mengzhu thought for a moment and then said, “Hongxuan, do you think we should directly approach the head of the Huangfu family?”

“If he truly wished to share with us, he would have done so by now.” Ye Hongxuan shook his head. “So, even if we seek him out, it won’t yield significant results.”

"I can't shake off the feeling that this matter is crucial for us," Lian Mengzhu said, covering her chest and furrowing her brow. "I won't find peace if we remain in the dark."

"Don't dwell on it too much for now." Ye Hongxuan sighed. "Let's focus more on Wanwan! As for other matters, if there's something we truly need to know, we'll find out eventually."

As cultivators, they believed in the natural flow of events. Since they couldn't discern anything and predict Huangfu Lings actions, it was better not to overthink. After all, there were still many important things on their plate.

Upon hearing Ye Hongxuan mention their daughter, Lian Mengzhu couldn't help but smile. "Speaking of Wanwan, she seems to have grown more sensible lately and shows more concern for us. It seems our guidance during this period has been effective.'

"Yes." Ye Hongxuan nodded. "We only have one daughter, and she'll have to bear the responsibility of the Ye family in the future. Only when she truly matures can we be at ease.'

Lian Mengzhu playfully shook her head. "You're thinking too far ahead. Wanwan is still young! She's not even eighteen yet! Even if we consider it, she's not an adult, still a child. The current her is already doing well."

"Times flies." Ye Hongxuan sighed. "Back then, she was just a little baby in our arms. Now, she's grown into a young lady. In the future, who knows which young man will marry her."

"Wanwan doesn't even have someone she likes yet. What are you thinking?" Lian Mengzhu laughed and shook her head. "Besides, a man and a woman should marry when they are of age. If she truly likes someone in the future, you can't stop her."

Speaking of their daughter, the couple felt a sense of relief.

However, in Ye Wanwan's courtyard, the atmosphere was far from relaxed.

Because the person she sent to investigate the mortal world had returned. To her relief, the baby from back then was not Ye An'an. However, she never expected it to be Ye Lengan.

Every time Ye Leng'an's name was mentioned, she felt a deep-rooted hatred. It was the first time she had suffered such a great insult from an ordinary person.

No wonder she felt uncomfortable the first time she saw Ye Lengan. It turned out they were natural enemies!

Although she felt unhappy knowing that the person was Ye Lengan, she also felt a slight sense of relief. Regardless of Ye Leng'an's excellence, she was just an ordinary person in the mortal world, lacking cultivation and alchemy skills. Even if this matter were to come to light in the future, Ye Lengan would undoubtedly be no match for her. At that time, in the Ye family, who stayed and who left remained uncertain.

If her parents learned of this, they would undoubtedly bring Ye Lengan back. However, the bond she shared with her parents over the years was beyond what Ye Lengan could fathom. Moreover, in the Hidden World, strength was paramount. Even if Ye Lengan returned, she wouldn't shake her position. At least, Ye Lengan wouldn't pass her grandfather's scrutiny.

If the person were Ye An'an, everything would be unpredictable. Despite not knowing Ye An'an's cultivation level, her status as the future matriarch of the Huangfu family would make her grandfather take notice.

However, what was the relationship between Ye An'an and Ye Lengan? How did Ye An'an acquire Lian Zixin's bracelet? Moreover, how much did Ye An'an know about the incident from back then?

Ye Wanwan felt that she hadn't figured any of these things out.

However, now that she knew the baby was Ye Leng'an, she needed to carefully consider what to do next.

Chapter 626 - 626: A Sudden Situation 2

To eradicate the problem at its source, the thing she most desired to do now was to eliminate Ye Lengan.

However, despite the significant impact this incident had on her, it did not lead her to lose her composure.

If she impulsively took action against Ye Lengan, she would violate the rules of the Hidden World. Regardless of success, the Enforcement Team would not spare her.

Moreover, if she harmed Ye Lengan, her parents would undoubtedly be displeased when this matter eventually surfaced. She would risk distancing herself from them even further.

Hence, her current objective was to capitalize on the situation before it escalated, working diligently to strengthen her position in her parents' hearts.

Crucially, she needed to enhance her standing within the family.

Certainly, she wouldn't remain idle regarding Ye Lengan.

While she wouldn't take any action against Ye Lengan, the same assurance couldn't be given by Lian Zixin.

She intended to promptly disclose the fact that the infant from years ago was indeed Ye Lengan to Lian Zixin. Lian Zixin was unlikely to sit back and do nothing. Dealing with an ordinary person from the mortal world should be within Lian Zixin's capability!

Furthermore, Lian Zixin probably feared the eruption of this matter more than she did. Ye Leng'an's existence was akin to a ticking time bomb.

As for what actions Lian Zixin might take, that was beyond her consideration.

Throughout the night, everyone harbored their own thoughts. Some slept well, while others did not. However, by the time the sun rose on the following day, each person had composed themselves and went about their respective activities.

Given the lackluster nature of the first day's competition, Ye Lengan chose not to go to the square for the second day's matches.

If Ye Leng'an abstained, Huangfu Ruiling would certainly follow suit. He wasn't interested in such matters and had only attended to accompany Ye Lengan.

The absence of Huangfu Ruiling drew no comments from the other families after a brief glance. Evidently, they had grown accustomed to such occurrences.

Originally planning to take Ye Lengan out for a date and some fun, Huangfu Ruiling received an unexpected call just before leaving. The nature of the call instantly sobered him up.

"What's happening?" Ye Lengan stood by his side, so she naturally noticed his unusual behavior. "Has something occurred?"

"Yes." Huangfu Ruiling began, "Do you remember our encounter at the southern boundaries?"

"You mean..." Ye Lengan frowned.

"The incident involved an evil cultivator utilizing forbidden techniques for cultivation," Huangfu Ruiling explained with a serious expression. "I just received a call from Li San. It seems there's a trace of that evil cultivator in a small village within the Hidden World. People there were found conducting the same ritual as Duo Ji."

"What?" Ye Lengan was shocked. "Could it be that this evil cultivator has deceived others?"

"It's still unknown," Huangfu Ruiling replied, shaking his head. "We need to go there and investigate to determine the specifics."

"Then let's go now!" Ye Lengan stood up, urging, "We can't afford to delay. Let's go!"

Huangfu Ruiling took Ye Lengan with him, departing the Huangfu family on a flying sword.

As they left, many observed the scene.

"Master is amazing. I wonder when I'll reach the level of sword flying."

"Just think about it. Sword flight isn't that easy! Given our current cultivation, who knows if we'll achieve it in a few hundred years? Also, we're not sure if our cultivation will let us live until then.'

"Master and Miss Ye are truly a match! I wonder when they plan to get married. Their wedding will surely be grand."

Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Lengan were unaware of the discussions within the Huangfu family, but Huangfu Ruixiang listened attentively to everything.

At this moment, he looked toward the direction Huangfu Ruiling had departed, eyes flickering with thoughts unknown to others.

“Ruixiang.” Zhong Yating approached Huangfu Ruixiang with a sweet smile. “What are you looking at?”

The sudden voice brought Huangfu Ruixiang back to reality. He felt a bit puzzled at the sight of her. “Yating, it’s already late. Why haven’t you gone to the square?”

“I’m about to go.” Zhong Yating’s face blushed. Then, as if recalling something, she suddenly asked, “Ruixiang, I heard that you moved to another place to live. Is that true?”

Upon hearing this news, she was quite surprised. Generally, if outer sect disciples like them lost in the competition, they were expected to leave the family promptly. After all, outstanding performance was necessary to be selected by the family and accepted into the inner sect for further cultivation.

However, Huangfu Ruixiang lost the first match just yesterday, and it could be said that he didn’t lose gracefully. Unexpectedly, he wasn’t expelled from the family but was instead accepted into the inner sect for further nurturing. This further convinced her that Huangfu Ruixiang’s relationship with the Huangfu family was extraordinary.. Otherwise, why would he receive such treatment?

Chapter 627 - 627: Announcement 1

“Hmm.” Huangfu Ruixiang didn’t want to say much. “It’s all arranged by the family.”

Although he had a vague guess in his heart, he wouldn’t tell Zhong Yating. Although he knew that Zhong Yating had a good impression of him, it was obvious that Zhong Yating wasn’t the type of person he would be interested in.

Moreover, if his guess was correct, then Zhong Yating was not worthy of him at all. Even if his guess was wrong, he had already entered the inner sect.

Zhong Yating, an outer sect disciple, still did not deserve him.

“Ruixiang, what’s wrong with you?” Zhong Yating wasn’t a fool. She naturally felt Huangfu Ruixiang’s coldness. She reached out her hand to pull him, but he dodged her.

Huangfu Ruixiang dodged Zhong Yating’s touch and frowned, saying, “It’s nothing. I still have something to do, so I’ll be leaving first.”

After saying that, he ignored Zhong Yating and turned to leave.

Looking at Huangfu Ruixiang leaving without hesitation, a trace of sadness flashed in Zhong Yating’s eyes. She knew very well that Huangfu Ruixiang was rejecting her with his attitude. However, Huangfu Ruixiang was clearly enjoying this kind of intimacy. Why did he suddenly change in such a short

period?

However, although Huangfu Ruixiang's attitude made her very sad, she was really unwilling to give up just like that. Especially now that Huangfu Ruixiang had entered the inner sect under such circumstances, she would never believe that he had no connections in the family.

As long as she could capture Huangfu Ruixiang, she would have a chance to enter the inner sect. Otherwise, with her cultivation talent, she would definitely reach a bottleneck in at most one to two hundred years.

Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Lengan flew on the sword and soon arrived at a remote mountain village in the Hidden World.

In fact, not all the people in the Hidden World were cultivators. There were still some ordinary people. However, these ordinary people usually lived in these small mountain villages. However, it was different from the mortal world. Even an ordinary person living in the Hidden World could easily live for more than a hundred years. After all, the spiritual energy in the Hidden World was more abundant than that in the mortal world, so people's lifespans would also be extended.

However, some people would choose to leave the Hidden World and live in the mortal world. This was because people like them who couldn't cultivate had a

very low status in the Hidden World. Moreover, if one accidentally offended a cultivator, he might lose his life. However, those ordinary people who were unable to cultivate would never be able to return once they left the Hidden World.

"Master, Miss Ye." Seeing the two of them, Li San quickly went forward and bowed respectfully.

Ye Lengan looked at Li San in surprise. Li San was wearing a long black robe and an iron mask that covered his entire face. If the other party had not spoken, she would not have recognized him.

Huangfu Ruiling seemed to have noticed Ye Lengan's confusion. He explained, "Li San is now the law enforcer of the Enforcement Team. That's why he's dressed like this. All the law enforcers in the Enforcement Team are dressed like this."

After hearing Huangfu Ruiling's explanation, Ye Lengan couldn't help but complain, "Whose taste is this? Do people still recognize each other?"

Huangfu Ruiling touched his nose and a trace of embarrassment flashed in his eyes, but he did not say anything.

Li San, who was standing at the side, had a look of amusement in his eyes, but he didn't dare to say anything. He could only lower his head to hide his true emotions.

However, Ye Lengan was just complaining, not really intending to dwell on it, so she immediately asked, "What's going on?"

Li San immediately became serious and replied, "Actually, after returning from the southern boundaries, Master instructed us to investigate the matter of the evil cultivator and the sacrifice. However, there has been no progress so far."

"Until a while ago, when we were investigating another case, we came to this small village. Just today, one of our colleagues found a very strange place in the small

forest here. There were also very strange patterns drawn on it. He felt that it was really weird, so he immediately reported it..”

Chapter 628 - 628: Announcement 2

“I came over to take a look and found that it has the same pattern as the sacrificial platform in the southern boundaries. So, I immediately informed Master.”

Ye Lengan nodded.

Huangfu Ruiling spoke directly,” Let’s go over and take a look at the platform now! ”

Soon, Li San brought them to the platform.

The platform was in a forest not far from the small village. However, although this small forest was very close to the village, it was rarely visited by people. Because this small forest was really too dense, there were even some small poisonous insects in the bushes. Although being bitten would not be fatal, it would still be uncomfortable for some time. Most importantly, this small forest was too ordinary. There were no valuable medicinal herbs or spiritual plants inside, so it was not worth entering.

Ye Lengan approached the platform and saw the pattern on it. It was indeed the same pattern as the sacrificial platform in the southern boundaries. Moreover, there were many dark red bloodstains on the altar. As for what kind of bloodstain it was, she would have to investigate it thoroughly.

After taking a look at the surroundings, Ye Lengan couldn’t help but click her tongue. “The person who set up this altar must be very clear about the surroundings. Although this place is very close to the village, no one will come

”

“This altar should have been abandoned for some time.” Huangfu Ruiling took a step forward. After taking a look, he frowned and said, “Look at the dark red bloodstains. It should have been a long time ago.”

“I just don’t know if the person who used the forbidden technique to cultivate moved his location or if there were other reasons that caused this altar to be abandoned.” Ye Lengan frowned. “Ling, do you think the person who set up the altar is the one who used the forbidden technique to cultivate or is he the same as Duo Ji, someone who was deceived?”

Huangfu Ruiling shook his head. “However, the color of the blood is so dark

There should be a lot of lives buried under this sacrificial altar.’

“Ling, do you think something happened to the person behind the scenes after we destroyed Duo Ji’s altar last time?” Ye Lengan thought for a moment and said, “And

did that person temporarily go into hiding because of our actions and abandon this place?”

“No matter what the reason is, the person who practiced the forbidden technique will not let it go easily.” Huangfu Ruilings eyes flashed with a glimmer of light. “The speed of cultivating with the help of the forbidden technique is indeed very fast, but the reason why the forbidden technique became forbidden is that other than harming the heavens and harmony, the side effects are also very significant.”

“Once someone starts practicing such a forbidden technique, they probably won’t be able to stop.” Ye Lengan couldn’t help but sigh. “Cultivation is something that goes against the heavens. If they still use such a method, even if their cultivation base improves greatly, they will definitely suffer the wrath of the heavens.”

Huangfu Ruiling nodded. “It seems that the evil cultivator behind this is not only using people like Duo Ji in the mortal world but also in the Hidden World.”

“Does the Hidden World know about this?” Ye Lengan asked. “Judging from the current situation, that evil cultivator hasn’t been idle in the Hidden World either. I believe the victims are probably cultivators!”

Compared to the blood of extreme Yin in the mortal world, the blood of cultivators would probably be more effective! However, it was also more difficult.

After thinking for a moment, Huangfu Ruiling looked at Li San and ordered, “Announce the evil cultivator and let those people be vigilant. Regardless of whether that evil cultivator has stopped temporarily, it’s always good to be vigilant.”

Li San replied respectfully, “I’ll do it immediately.”

After saying that, he left.

Ye Lengan looked at the shocking dark red color on the altar and couldn’t help but shake her head. “I wonder how many cultivators died here.”

Huangfu Ruilings eyes flashed with a trace of darkness. “Most of the cultivators who died here should be rogue cultivators. After all, if someone from a big family goes missing, the family will definitely send people to look for them.”

Ye Leng’an sighed helplessly and then said, “Let’s check it out first and see if we can find any clues from above!”

Huangfu Ruiling nodded.

Soon, the two of them began to examine the altar carefully. In the end, they found nothing.

Ye Lengan couldn’t help but let out a long sigh. “That evil cultivator was too cautious. He didn’t leave any traces behind.”

“As long as he did it, there will definitely be traces.” Huangfu Ruiling patted Ye Leng’an’s shoulder and said, “Moreover, the Enforcement Team has been investigating this matter. They will definitely find the mastermind.”

Ye Lengan nodded. “After this matter is announced, the mastermind behind the scenes should be on guard. By then, it will be even more difficult to find him.”

However, if it was not disclosed, who knew how many more people would suffer. Therefore, weighing the pros and cons, it was better to announce it. At least, those people would be more vigilant, and the evil cultivator would have more reservations, not daring to act recklessly.

Huangfu Ruiling shook his head and said, “It’s okay. Even if the evil cultivator stops temporarily, he won’t be able to stop for long. Once he stopped using the forbidden technique to cultivate, his cultivation would regress very quickly. He couldn’t hold it in for long. As long as he makes a move, we’ll definitely be able to catch him..

Chapter 629 - 629: A Match of Equal Status 1

Ye Leng’an nodded and said, “However, compared to the Hidden World, I’m more concerned about the mortal world. After all, the mortal world is larger. I think Duo Ji t s matter is not an isolated case.”

“I’ve already sent people to investigate in the mortal world,” Huangfu Ruiling said. “It’s just that there’s no news yet.”

While they were conversing, Li San returned with the results of the search conducted by their subordinates.

“Master, Miss Ye, within a radius of many miles, there are no traces. Most importantly, there were no corpses or bones. However, not far away, there’s a cliff. I speculate that those bodies might be at the bottom of the cliff.”

After pondering for a moment, Huangfu Ruiling instructed, “Then send someone down to search as soon as possible. At the same time, investigate the cultivators who have inexplicably disappeared in the past hundred years.” “I’ll do it immediately,” Li San replied before leaving.

When Huangfu Ruiling and Ye Lengan returned to the Huangfu family, it was already evening. After a busy day, the two of them were somewhat tired. After having a meal, they went to rest.

The next day, Ye Lengan still showed no interest in the Family Competition. If she didn’t attend, Huangfu Ruiling naturally wouldn’t attend either.

Therefore, the two main seats at the Huangfu family’s table remained empty.

However, others didn’t find it strange to see these empty seats since the head of the Huangfu family was frequently absent.

Nevertheless, there was still much curiosity about the fiancée of Mater Huangfu. Huangfu Lings fiancée seemed to have appeared out of nowhere, and no one had heard anything about her before. Therefore, everyone was intrigued about her identity.

Especially when they learned that her surname was Ye, many people started asking the Ye family. When they found out that the fiancée wasn't from the Ye family, everyone was a bit surprised.

Regardless of the various speculations, most of the attention remained on the Family Competition. This was because the outcome of the competition was linked to a spirit stone mine, and everyone was prepared for the contest.

It was already the third day of the competition, and the Huangfu family was leading. People from other families naturally felt a bit uneasy.

Spirit stone mines were scarce, and this particular one had proven to be excellent after exploration. Who wouldn't want to secure the mining rights first?

The Huangfu family was now subtly positioned above the other families. If they managed to obtain the spirit stone mine, they would undoubtedly become the foremost clan in the Hidden World within a few years.

Such a situation wasn't something the heads of the other nine great families wanted to see.

However, the Huangfu family's elders were all wearing satisfied smiles. It was clear they were content with the current results.

Ye Wanwan had just completed a match and returned to her seat. Unsurprisingly, she had won.

Although her expression didn't reveal much, it was evident she was pleased with her performance.

Ye Hongxuan looked at Ye Wanwan and nodded approvingly. He then offered a reminder.

"Wanwan, your performance these few days has been very good. But remember, you must not be arrogant, understand?"

"Father, don't worry." Ye Wanwan nodded and smiled. "Although I've won these few matches, I'm well aware that I haven't reached the end yet. I haven't encountered a truly strong opponent. There's always someone better than you.

I still understand that principle."

Ye Hongxuan didn't say anything more after hearing Ye Wanwan's response. However, his appreciative expression indicated he was satisfied with her reply.

Standing on the side, Lian Mengzhu looked at Ye Wanwan's demeanor and spoke with a smile, "During this period, Wanwan has really grown a lot! Your father and I are very pleased."

Even though they didn't know the reason, their daughter had indeed changed significantly during this period, and it was a positive development. Therefore, the couple was genuinely happy..

Chapter 630 - 630: A Match of Equal Status 2

"Mother, I didn't do well enough in the past." A trace of shame appeared on Ye Wanwan's face. "However, after your teachings during this period, I've completely come to my senses. In the future, I won't be so willful. Don't worry;

I'll definitely make you proud of me."

Previously, she thought everything was taken for granted. However, since learning about her background, her perspective changed. She was determined to become a stronger presence. Only then would her parents be reluctant to part with her, and her position in the Ye family would be more stable.

After hearing Ye Wanwan's response, Lian Mengzhu, while happy, shook her head and continued, "We do want you to become a better version of yourself, but this is not for us, but for yourself. Moreover, we also hope that you can live happily. This is also very important."

A trace of joy flashed through Ye Wanwan's heart. She nodded and couldn't help but walk to Lian Mengzhu's side. She held Lian Mengzhu's arm and acted coquettishly. "Mother, I knew you loved me the most."

Seeing how close her daughter was to her, Lian Mengzhu was naturally happy.

She reached out her hand, touched Ye Wanwan's nose, and said with a smile,

"You're my only daughter. If I don't dote on you, who else would I dote on?"

Ye Hongxuan, standing at the side, saw the mother and daughter chatting and laughing. A trace of gentleness flashed in his eyes.

Although Ye Wanwan had a smile on her face, she still felt a little uncomfortable after hearing Lian Mengzhu's words. She really wanted to ask Lian Mengzhu if they loved her so much because she was their daughter. What if she wasn't? Would they still love her as much as they did?

However, even though she was screaming in her heart, Ye Wanwan did not dare to ask. Because she knew that if she said it, everything she had now would be gone.

"Master Ye, Wanwan is really awesome!" The head of the Murong family,

Murong Jingming, who was standing next to the Ye family, looked at Ye Wanwan with satisfaction in his eyes. "What do you think of my eldest son? Is he worthy of your daughter?"

The Murong family and the Ye family were equally powerful, both being among the ten great families. A marriage alliance between the two could naturally be considered a match of equal status. The eldest son Murong Xingrui, mentioned by Murong Jingming, was handsome and had high cultivation talent. He was the successor that Murong Jingming had started to nurture. Therefore, Murong Xingrui was definitely worthy of Ye Wanwan.

Hearing Murong Jingming's sudden words, Ye Hongxuan was stunned for a moment before he smiled and said, "It's better for us adults not to interfere in the matters of our children. It depends on what they like. I'm a very open-minded father."

Although he was also very satisfied with Murong Xingrui, Wanwan was still young, and there was no need to rush to make a decision. However, it would be best if Wanwan liked it. At least, Murong Xingrui was many times better than that Huangfu Ruiling.

"Haha, that means you won't object." Murong Jingming laughed heartily. Then, he turned his head and looked at Ye Wanwan. "Wanwan, what about you? Do you want to meet your Brother Xingrui? He really likes you!"

The reason why he suddenly brought this up was not because he had an impulse but because he had already planned for it for a long time. It was just that he had not mentioned it yet. Moreover, he knew that his son liked Ye Wanwan, which was why he spoke.

Ye Wanwan was the only daughter of Ye Hongxuan, and in the future, she would undoubtedly inherit everything from the Ye family. When the two families united, it was a good thing for anyone involved. Moreover, after the family competition these past few days, it was evident that Ye Wanwan's cultivation was quite impressive. It had been heard that, despite her young age, she possessed considerable talent in alchemy and had already become an elementary alchemist.

From any perspective, Ye Wanwan was undoubtedly a suitable match for his eldest son.

He could see that other family heads have also set their sights on Ye Wanwan.

That was why he decided to take the initiative, and perhaps things would work out! Even if it didn't, it was still an opportunity for his son!

Ye Wanwan was stunned. She didn't understand why Master Murong would suddenly ask such a question. Her face couldn't help but turn red. "Uncle

Murong, don't tease me."

Although she said that, she had already begun to calculate in her heart.

If it was in the past, she would definitely not have made any decision so early. Because she knew that with her status, she would definitely be able to choose her husband at will in the future.

Moreover, the matter with Huangfu Ruiling hadn't passed for long, so she didn't want to talk about it for the time being.

However, her thoughts had completely changed. Ever since she found out about her background, she had been increasing her weight in the family all the time. All this was for the sake of gaining a firm foothold in the Ye family if something really happened in the future.

undoubtedly, the Murong family was the best ally. If she and Murong Xingrui got together, given the marriage between the two families in the future, her father and mother would not act rashly. Moreover, his grandfather would definitely not let anyone ruin the marriage alliance.

Therefore, she was still very moved by Murong Jingmings words. However, she also knew that if she could not wait to agree, it would seem too cheap. Moreover, it would also arouse the suspicion of his parents..