

Grasping 141

Chapter 141: I am Reluctant to...

In a dark room which had fragrant scent wafting in the air, there was a holy lady who was spotlessly clean. The eyebrows on her beautiful face were tightly frowned while bathing in a wooden bath.

A thin layer of fog evaporated in the air, making it difficult to see her skin clearly.

For this lady, there was a matter in her mind that she could not sort out.

At this moment, someone knocked the door of her room. The sound of Ning Fan's tease was heard from outside.

"Sisi, what's wrong with you? Do you need master to have a look? Oh, there is a sound of water splashing. Are you bathing? I am coming in right now..."

"Wait!"

Si Wuxie bit her lips and jumped out from the wooden bath. Then, she used her magical power to evaporate the water, drying the water in the bath. With a simple gesture of her hand, pieces of clothes were drawn to her hand. Within seconds, she had put on her clothes.

However, it seemed like she was very nervous and confused as she buttoned up a button wrongly. There was no time to fix that because the door had already been opened. Ning Fan stepped into the room with a smile. He got closer to Si Wuxie step by step.

"It's very fragrant. It seems like you have washed yourself clean. Not bad... I heard from Zhi He that you felt uncomfortable. So, she asked me to cure you. However, it looks like you want to tempt master. Is it the unsolved matter in your heart?"

"Don't touch me!"

Facing Ning Fan who was getting closer with every step, Si Wuxie turned nervous. She shook her sleeve and a sword shadow emerged on her palm. She pointed it to Ning Fan's chest. Upon seeing the sword, Ning Fan stopped and his smile faded. There was no longer any tease, only Ning Fan's sigh.

As expected, the lady's memories had been restored. She was no longer the lady who would do stupid things with Zhi He. She no longer was the lady who was dying to have Ning Fan's indulgence.

"Si Wuxie, you truly have your memories back... Go ahead. What do you want now?"

"I want a Nascent Formation Pill... If you don't give it to me, I will kill you!" said Si Wuxie with a cold light shining from her eyes.

She had regained all of her memories. She remembered that the young man before her eyes was the person who eliminated Heaven Separation Sect with his bare hands. Then, he humiliated, imprisoned and even erased her memories. After erasing her memories, he made her into a spiritual puppet.

With the loss of her memory, she acted like a slave and served Ning Fan with great respect... All these actions made the Si Wuxie today totally ashamed.

Her intention to kill Ning Fan would become firmer whenever traces of her memories flashed. Even now, after being teased by Ning Fan, she wished that she could pierce Ning Fan's chest with the sword in her hand. However, her hand was trembling...

That tremble did not escape Ning Fan's sight. Moreover, the sword was only a Middle Grade magical treasure. Ning Fan's body refining realm had already reached the Silver Bone. Her sword could not even make a scratch on Ning Fan's body...The only thing that mattered to Ning Fan was Si Wuxie's attitude. The reason he teased her as soon as he entered the room was because he wanted to conceal the slight nervousness within his heart.

From the bottom of his heart, Ning Fan was not willing to watch Sisi become his enemy again. However, judging from the current situation, it seemed like his desire was too fanciful.

"You want a Nascent Formation Pill? Is this the reason you lent me a hand during the battle?" asked Ning Fan with a hint of disappointment.

“Of course! Otherwise, what other reasons could there be!”

“You can have a Nascent Formation Pill. I happen to have one more here. Old Monster Purple Yin has been killed. Now, his pill belongs to you...”

Ning Fan closed his eyes and patted his pouch. He took out an exquisite jade box and tossed it to Si Wuxie.

“The Nascent Formation Pill is already in your hand. What do you intend to do next?”

“Hmm, for the sake of the pill, I will let you go. From today onwards, we owe nothing to each other...” said Si Wuxie, carrying a hint of weakness in her breath.

“You wish to leave? You don’t want to kill me? Is it because you’re afraid or you are not willing to kill me...” said Ning Fan. At the same moment, he opened his eyes and stared into Si Wuxie’s eyes as though he wanted to find the trace of Sisi within her.

“Hmm, I am just too lazy to kill you. Just don’t pester me anymore! Otherwise... I will not spare your life!”

“You can never kill me...” said Ning Fan as he snapped his finger. When his finger touched the sword in Si Wuxie’s hand, the sword vibrated and shattered into pieces immediately. Only cultivators whose body refining realm had broken through to the Silver Bone realm could shatter a sword with just a snap of the finger. After breaking Si Wuxie’s magical treasure, he pulled Si Wuxie into his arms and embraced her. When Si Wuxie was in Ning Fan’s arms, she shockingly discovered that she did not even have the strength to struggle even though she was a peak Gold Core expert.

“How can you be so powerful! One year ago, you could not even withstand my dance sleeve attack... Also, let me go now! Or else...”

“Don’t worry, Si Wuxie. This hug is not for you. This is for Sisi. You may go. I don’t wish to keep you. I will also not erase your memories again. But, if you dare to harm Ning City or Zhi He, I will let everyone know

that the holy Jade Pool Saintess had struggled in my arms after I ascend to the Four Heaven Immortal Worlds.”

The words that Ning Fan used to threaten Si Wuxie did not carry any killing intent. However, Si Wuxie’s facial expression changed after listening to those words.

“How dare you! If you dare to destroy the purity of my name, I will... I will...”

The moment when Si Wuxie fell into Ning Fan’s arm, she was powerless to struggle. Facing Ning Fan’s threat, she sadly found out that she did not have any words to refute Ning Fan to intimidate him.

Jade Pool Saintess was definitely a holy lady. She could not tolerate to be profaned by others. Besides, it was already considered a sin to be touched by a man even with just a finger. However, she had been completely naked before Ning Fan’s eyes. At this moment, she was even in Ning Fan’s embrace.

Dissatisfied... Even if her memories came back, she was still not Ning Fan’s match so much so that she was unable to break loose from Ning Fan’s embrace.

However, in the next moment, Ning Fan let go of her. He sat on a table at one side of the room, pouring wine from a jade pot before drinking it.

“You better go now before I change my mind...”

He was turning his back towards Si Wuxie, showing her all his flaws. Despite that, Si Wuxie could sense that even though Ning Fan turned his back towards her, he could still kill her easily if she tried to attack him once more.

Actually, she was reluctant to kill Ning Fan, and the idea of harming Ning City had never crossed her mind before. In fact, she was still Sisi. However, she was the Sisi who had gained Si Wuxie’s memories. As such, she would never hurt Zhi He...

Besides, she had not expected that it was so easy to demand a Nascent Formation Pill from Ning Fan. Originally, she prepared a few threats to threaten Ning Fan. Now, it seemed like there was no use to them.

Also, she did not think that Ning Fan, whose actual strength had surpassed her, would allow her to leave. With his current power, he could have easily wiped out her memories, and make her into a new spiritual puppet.

While her hair was still wet, she stepped out the door with disbelief. As expected, Ning Fan did not stop her.

“Why did he not stop or kill me...” she said inwardly. Si Wuxie tipped her feet and soared up to the sky. None of the cultivators in Ning City pursued and attacked her.

Ning Fan had let the lady escape.

...

After Si Wuxie left, Nan Gong came out from the shade outside the door. He walked into the room and looked at Ning Fan who was drinking wine with confusion.

“Young Lord, is it suitable to just let that person go in this manner? She was the sect master of Heaven Separation Sect. She had a blood feud with our Ning City and Seven Apricot City...”

“Blood feud? I don’t think that’s the case. The hatred and grudge that she has on me is merely because I eliminated Heaven Separation Sect and destroyed her plan. I was not aware that she used her clone to come here. I was not sure about her plan, and I do not want to know it. However, I can be sure of one thing. The elimination of Heaven Separation Sect was only a trivial matter to the big shots above the Four Heavens. With the purity of her name as a threat, she would not do anything to harm us. In contrast, she would escape as far away as possible judging by her personality. She was afraid that I would go back on my word and capture her again,” replied Ning Fan while drinking the wine.

“Young Lord, you don’t mean it when you said those words...” said Nan Gong with a frown.

“Haha, I really can’t hide anything from you! I am unwilling to kill her. It’s not that I am unwilling to kill Si Wuxie, but I’m reluctant to kill Sisi... If I erase her memories again, perhaps the memories of Sisi would also be erased. Let’s just forget this. This actually ended in a good way. That lady could not do any harm. My true enemy was far more terrifying than Si Wuxie. Nan Gong, I will leave temporarily. After ten days, I will be back...”

At that moment, Ning Fan put down his cup and went out of the door, vanishing in the dark sky.

It was good that Si Wuxie’s grudges ended like this. Following up, there would be some trivial matters that needed to be handled.

They were unimportant, but they were something hard to give up.

Within the room, Nan Gong let out a deep sigh.

“Young Lord is not cold-blooded enough. However, this could be the reason that Master kept him as an apprentice.”

...

Amidst the snowstorm that landed in Seven Apricot City, a young man came alone treading on the snow.

He wore white clothes with a black cloak. There were dark feathers on the black cloak which made it look a lot like a manteaux. It added a hint of heroism on the thin young man who looked weak and pale.

The moment he reached Seven Apricot City, there were a number of devil cultivators on the gate of the city. All of them seemed to have a formidable enemy before them.

They could not sense the qi of the young man. Even if the young man got closer to the gate, all they could do was look at the young man with their naked eyes. None of them could sense anything.

Who is this man?! Could he be a Gold Core old monster?!

These devil cultivators who were guarding the city were the new recruits of the Four Families of Seven Apricot after the departure of the Three Divine Armies. The aura of the new devil guards was not as good as the Three Divine Armies, not to say their boldness and insights. Amongst the guards, there were cultivators who had never seen a Gold Core old monster.

Therefore, it was only logical that they did not recognize the youngster who was brought back to Seven Apricot City by the Old Devil that day.

“Who are you!” asked a few Vein Opening cultivators boldly.

“I am the Young Lord of Seven Apricot, Ning Fan...” said Ning Fan with a faint smile. He waved his sleeve and a breeze blew away the cultivators’ weapons which were blocking the road. Then, he entered the city by himself.

In the snowstorm, each of the devil cultivators was frozen to the ground after hearing Ning Fan’s name.

“It’s Revered Ning of Sinister Sparrow... No, it’s Young Lord. He has come back! He is the Young Lord of our Seven Apricot. His aura is fierce and swift!

“Aiya, I was almost scared to death. I thought he was one of those righteous cultivators who came riding on a sword. Hmm, those people are just Harmonious Spirit cultivators, but they dared to talk boldly at the City Lord. They really had no manners...”

Although the words spoken unintentionally by the devil cultivators were soft, they still could not escape Ning Fan’s ears.

The next moment, Ning Fan stopped abruptly and a hint of cold light shone through his eyes.

“You said there were people who came to Seven Apricot City and created troubles...”

“Yes there was. Rumours said that those people had powerful connections. It was as though they had enmity with the City Lord back then.”

The devil cultivators had not even finished speaking when the young man before them gave out a frightening killing intent.

Within the killing intent, there was also a trace of worry.

He swept the area covering thousands of li using his spirit sense. Within the Si Fan Palace of the city, there were a number of arbitrary qi detected by Ning Fan in an instant.

Besides, a few people amongst them that had the guts to dig Little Dugu's grave!

"Who are they? They do have the audacity!"

A cold hum came out from Ning Fan's mouth, carrying an indescribable pressure. The next instant, the burly men who were digging the grave turned pale. They spat out blood and fell backwards. They were extremely terrified.

"Is this... a Nascent Soul old monster?!"

Chapter 142 (1): She is now yours!

Si Fan Palace was a restricted area. But today, these Harmonious Spirit cultivators forced their way in to it.

If it weren't for him sensing that Old Devil was not harmed, he would've immediately used sword sense to kill these cultivators!

He had practiced Dao for two years and was rarely infuriated... However this did not mean that he did not have a reverse scale.

Seven Apricot was his reverse scale!

The grave digging cultivators were still in shock. They saw a black light shining above the sky of Si Fan Palace. The next moment, a teenager emerged in mid-air under the snow apricot tree.

This teenager had a cold expression, his glabella had a starshine and his eyes had a raging sword qi.

The teenager seemed to be not human, but a sword! A dominating devil sword that could execute countless Gods and Buddhas!

This was how an average cultivator viewed Ning Fan!

The Harmonious Spirit cultivators with higher cultivation base could better gauge the sword qi of the teenager. These cultivators wore a grey sword robe embroidered with a sword mark, and each of them carried four flying swords in their back.

A pale youngster stood behind the group of the burly grave diggers. He looked like 25 or 26 years old, and he was a late Harmonious Spirit. Those who had such a cultivation in their twenties were considered to have monstrous talent. This teenager looked like the leader of the gang. Instead of having only four flying swords, he had six.

The terrifying qi that Ning Fan emitted had made the pale youngster frown slightly, but he did not falter. He made his way through the crowd towards Ning Fan's front. Then, he lightly clasped his hand and spoke with a hint of arrogance:

"Fellow daoist, we are sword guards from the Sword World and are here on a private business. Please do not interfere and leave immediately."

"Sword World?"

Ning Fan's gaze turned slightly stern. He now recalled that the Old Devil and the Sword World did have some grudges. The old man's Dao Mate seemed to be the beloved daughter of some big shot in the Sword World, and the little Dugu who had been buried here seemed to have the same identity.

Could these grave diggers be little Dugu's family members?

They would not be able to enter the Rain Immortal World if they did not have a strong background... One should know that each of the immortal worlds had a strict control of their borders, restricting the access of outsiders in their respective realms. If this group of cultivators really had a powerful background in the Sword World, then they would be able to get around the restrictions and enter Rain World. Also, the fact that all of them only had Harmonious Spirit cultivation was an act in accordance to the law set by the Rain World, so experts of higher level wouldn't dare to come here.

If that was the case, Ning Fan could understand why... But why didn't the Old Devil stop these people from entering Si Fan Palace or express his anger at them? Given the character of the Old Devil... he would have risked his life to stop these people from entering the palace even though he had lost all of his cultivation. After all, this was the place where he and his Dao companion shared their moments in life.

The pale youngster seemed pleased when Ning Fan became silent after hearing the name of Sword World.

Nascent Soul cultivator, so what? A Nascent Soul were only a country's old ancestor in a deserted place like Yue Country. But in the Sword World, and especially in the clan of this pale youngster, Nascent Cultivators were merely considered average.

"Since you now know that this is a private business of the Sword World, scram!" The youngster spoke as if he had found back his pride. Yet the only reply he received was Ning Fan's cold stare.

"Hmph, so what if you are from the Sword World?!"

Followed by Ning Fan's concentrated gaze, his sword sense swept across silently. The youngster and his group had a sure-death premonition raised within their heart!

The youngster instantly lost all of his arrogance, and his expression was now filled with fear and disbelief!

"Sword... sword consciousness and sword sense... You... You..."

He couldn't help but feel shocked. A Nascent Soul cultivator was only an average joe in the Sword World, but a sword cultivator who had sword consciousness and sword sense was extremely rare and each of them was Sword Emperor of Void Fragmentation realm.

A mere Void Fragmentation Sword Cultivator did not have the qualification to be called a Sword Emperor! The people who were named 'Emperor', like the Ghost Emperor, Demon Emperor, Sword Emperor... were invincible existences!

The Sword World was one of the strongest Immortal Worlds, just below the Devil World, Demon World and the Heaven Immortal World. Every sword emperor ancestor could use the sword qi of their sword sense to easily massacre infinite number of low level cultivators with just a single thought.

The youngster could not believe that Ning Fan was a genius sword cultivator that had the talent to become a Sword Emperor!

Also, the sword qi within Ning Fan's sword sense had a weak yet dominating sword qi that could easily kill all cultivators who were under early Gold Core!

The youngster could not believe it when Ning Fan dared to try attacking them even though Ning Fan knew that he and his group of people came from a large and powerful background... Ning Fan would kill them all, even if it meant offending some Sword Emperor Ancestor of the Sword World!

He must be a madman!

Suddenly, voices could be heard from outside the courtyard and the grave mound when he was about to kill them.

"Ning Fan, abstain from killing!"

"Fan'er, stop!"

Just after the voices were heard, a female ghost gently flew out of the grave mound, and stood below the Apricot tree. Whereas the black robed old man walked limply into the courtyard.

The ghost was a skinny girl and wore a white robe. She had a thick long hair and a slender waist. She had an apricot flower at the temple of her hair. She stood upon the blizzard like a branch of apricot that was graceful and lonely. Her eyes were lonely and had a shred of Sorrowful Sword Sense. Ning Fan who had comprehended the Divine Rain Intent could faintly sense that the fierce Sword Intent within her eyes was unique, just like a Divine Intent... It could be an intent realm that must be comprehended by the Sword World's Spirit Severing sword cultivators.

Could little Dugu be a Spirit Severing cultivator when she was alive?

Looking at the Old Devil, he still wore a black robe. But his gaze that was once wild had now become tranquil and his black hair became gray white. These two years must have not been easy for him.

Ning Fan felt slightly sad and sighed lightly. His hostility towards Emperor Moksha became stronger.

The Old Devil could have been a True Immortal and wandered about leisurely in the Four Heaven Immortal Worlds, if it wasn't because of Emperor Moksha. The Old Devil could've had his cultivation recovered, and stomped freely across the Rain World, if it weren't for Emperor Moksha...

It had been two years and things in Seven Apricot City remained the same except for the people.

Both the Old Devil and Dugu were assessing Ning Fan, while Ning Fan was also observing the both of them.

When Ning Fan had just returned, little Dugu's eyes had a trace of joy that could not easily be detected. Little Dugu was surprised for a while when she sensed that Ning Fan had the qi of a Nascent Soul, and with both the sword consciousness and sword sense. Ning Fan had an unknown sword sense that made Dugu, who had comprehended her own Sword Intent, to feel slightly fearful...

The average cultivators could understand Sword Intent... But that was just the tip of the iceberg of the sword qi, and not the true Sword Intent... The real Sword Intent could only be comprehended by Spirit

Severing cultivators. Little Dugu, who comprehended her own Sword Intent before reaching Spirit Severing, was renowned as one of the "Sword World's Three Brave Ones".

But even she did not have the sword consciousness and sword sense when she was a Nascent Soul. Little Dugu felt for the first time that she could not read Ning Fan... Not just his disposition, but also his cultivation was much harder to read... as if it was hidden inside a great fog.

He had become one of the greatest experts in this generation in less than two years...

Chapter 142 (2): She is now yours!

Little Dugu sighed a little heavier, thinking why did Ning Fan choose devil cultivation with his superior talent... Her family was one of the three royal families in the Sword World, and her father (the emperor) hated devil cultivators. The Old Devil and her older sister were a tragedy. It would have been great if Ning Fan was not a devil cultivator...

Her heart was running wild with imagination. In the end, she recalled something important after she ran through her thoughts!

"Oh no! This Little Devil Ning once said that he'll come and take away my third sword qi after he reached Nascent Soul... If it was any other day, I wouldn't be bothered. He would be in big trouble if he took the sword qi away under the eyes of Sword World's people!"

Little Dugu was much more worried about the safety of Little Devil Ning compared to her marriage with him.

The Old Devil had a silent expression while he was sizing up Ning Fan. But for the first time, he showed a happy expression.

"Little brat, your incarnation is something... I heard that you wanted to go to the Endless Sea. I was quite worried at first, but seeing you with such strength now, this old man could finally relax and leave with ease..."

Immediately, Ning Fan caught the meaning behind the Old Devil's words.

"Where do you want to go?! Your current cultivation base is only..." He stopped his sentence halfway, and his eyes swept towards the people from the Sword World on the side. Some words were not meant to be spoken in front of these people.

"Han Yuanji will naturally have to follow us and return to the Sword World! The emperor had heard about the matter regarding Emperor Moksha. This trip's objective was to escort the two ladies back... Of course, if Han Yuanji is really brazen enough to follow us back, the emperor would slightly protect him for the ladies. With the emperor's presence, even Emperor Moksha would not dare to do anything against Han Yuanji..."

With the support of the Old Devil and after confirming that Ning Fan would not dare to kill him, the youngster's expression regained its arrogance.

Ning Fan heard the words of the pale youngster but he did not bother to debate, instead he closed his eyes lightly.

With the Old Devil's character, he certainly wouldn't beg. If he had decided to stay, these mere Harmonious Spirit sword cultivators wouldn't be able to stop him.

Was he really afraid of Emperor Moksha? Did he fear that his life would be taken by Emperor Moksha after a hundred years?

He wouldn't have stayed in the Rain World if he was scared. He could have had lot of chances to beg towards the Sword World's three emperors...

The Old Devil's decision to return was probably because he was worried about my safety...

If the Old Devil were to go to the Sword World, Emperor Moksha would not come to the Rain World one hundred years later and seek vengeance. Perhaps, he would descend upon the Sword World...

The Old Devil was protecting me...

“Why do you choose to suffer so...” Ning Fan opened his eyes and felt disturbed.

“Haha, this old man is fine. How about you? Always thinking about reaching the Void Fragmentation within a hundred years... That is bad, a cultivator must have perseverance and a little dedication. It will allow you to not lose yourself in the sea of blood. However, if that dedication changes to obsession, and that obsession becomes your heart devil... With your talent, you would certainly reach Void Fragmentation in a thousand years. Do not give yourself so much pressure or it will destroy you.” The Old Devil laughed, and for the first time, tapped Ning Fan’s shoulder.

“Are you worried that I would not be able to stand against Emperor Moksha if he were to come back?”

“Yes, this old man is very afraid... not of death, but something else. You are my only hope in saving her. I can die, but you cannot! This old man had an agenda when I took you in as a disciple back then. You can hate me the moment you know about it...”

“I would have felt weird if you didn’t have an agenda when you took me in, that would not be your character. If not for you, I would not be who I am today. Perhaps I might have died in an unknown place without anyone finding out after I ran away from All Pleasure Sect. No matter what reasons you had when you took me in, your grace has already been sown in me. If you have any request, I will not reject it,” Ning Fan solemnly said.

This pair of master and disciple did not have much affection. The reason they had ties was purely due to profits and gains. The reason the Old Devil took Ning Fan in was the hope that he could save someone someday. Whereas Ning Fan was forced to become the Old Devil’s disciple as he was threatened by death.

But later on, they found out that both of their characteristics are compatible. Thus, slowly, the master-and-disciple relationship began to grow.

It was the Old Devil that had given Ning Fan an objective for his devil cultivation.

Whereas Ning Fan had given the Old Devil hope to finally cure his lover.

He would never reject the Old Devil's request even though he hadn't asked what the Old Devil's real intention was. However, he could see that it was an extremely important matter to his master. It must be related to the woman that he had once loved.

“This old man will go to the Sword World and will not die! You do not have to give yourself so much pressure. The ruins of the Ancient Heavenly Court will be opened after a hundred years, sneak into the ruins, search for your own fortune and do not stand against Emperor Moksha. You may not be able to win against him, but you should be able to protect yourself with your abilities. As for this old man’s request, it is very simple. Do you accept?!”

“Do I have a reason to reject?” Ning Fan smiled faintly and the Old Devil laughed loudly.

On the side, the arrogant youngster felt that he was ignored. This had hurt his pride tremendously.

He would not dare to do anything against Ning Fan. So... he shall punish the Old Devil during their trip back to the Sword World!

“Men! Request the second lady’s soul and first lady to return to the Sword World! As per the oath between the Sword Emperor and the second lady regarding the ‘Bluestone’s Sword Qi’, the second lady could reject her marriage with the grandson of the Divine Emperor, and marry the person who could take away the three sword qi. But it looks like, there’s still one left of the three sword qi. Hence, second lady had lost the bet...”

The pale youngster was exhorted before he came. It was as if the Emperor Ancestor valued the oath with Little Dugu with utmost importance.

Little Dugu’s face immediately paled after she heard those words, and then a face of extreme disgust was plastered on her face. “Even if I lost the bet, I would not marry that person...”

“Hehe, This is not something I could decide. Men! Go and erase the sword qi on the bluestone! This is the secret sword of the Sword Emperor. It must not be leaked to outsiders!”

Several strong Harmonious Spirit cultivators walked out with heavy equipment under the orders of the youngster. They wanted to destroy the bluestone and the sword qi within.

The secret sword of the Sword Emperor was extremely unique, outsiders could not comprehend the secrets using ordinary techniques. Only after a shred of sword qi was obtained, and by utilizing the sword qi to comprehend the secret sword would there be a chance to understand the secret sword qi.

The three sword qi was bestowed on the oath between the Sword Emperor and Little Dugu in the past. However she stayed within Si Fan Palace that did not allow outsiders to enter and did not allow others to touch the sword qi. Hence, it was impossible for others to take away the sword qi. However, contrary to expectation, Ning Fan consecutively took away two sword qi, which had almost completed the oath.

Little Dugu would have no choice but to marry Ning Fan if he took away the third sword qi. The Sword Emperor would not easily allow Little Dugu to leave the Sword Realm, if not for her taking on the Great Oath of Heart Devil. Even if Little Dugu was one of the daughters of the Sword Emperor, she wouldn't certainly be allowed to leave!

Little Dugu felt unwilling when she saw the bluestone about to be destroyed and her oath dissipate. However she also felt slightly relieved.

The reason she was able to learn the secret sword of the Sword Emperor was because it was bestowed by the Sword Emperor. If the Sword World knew that there were outsiders who practiced it, that person would surely be eliminated.

Ning Fan must not take this sword qi in the face of the people of the Sword World. If not... in addition to the matter of Emperor Moksha having been not yet resolved, the Sword Emperor of the Sword World would be offended too...

The Old Devil laughed coldly with a "hehe" while she was deep in thought.

"Little brat, what do you think about the power of the bluestone's sword qi?"

"There is divine sense inside that sword qi. If this sword is mastered, even if it is a Nascent Soul who wield such sword qi, early Nascent Souls would not be able to rival it. Intermediate Nascent Souls would also have difficulty defending it. Once my cultivation base reached Nascent Soul, I could use this sword and be unrivalled below intermediate Nascent Soul..."

“Why are you not taking it! That is a great item!”

“ You are right! I have already decided to take away that sword qi when I came back here!”

Ning Fan's gaze swept towards the Old Devil, Little Dugu and the Sword World's cultivator. Ning Fan could vaguely guess from the words of the pale youngster that the sword qi was an important matter... hence, he did not immediately take it.

However, right now, he could feel that the Old Devil really wanted him to take the sword qi. Even though this act may end up offending a big shot in the Sword World...

Nevertheless, he would still take away the sword qi, the Old Devil was obviously happy and even do Little Dugu a big favor...

“This sword is mine now! ” He shook his sleeve and the Harmonious Spirit cultivators were blown apart. He patted his storage bag and took out an empty scabbard. The third sword qi from the bluestone was suck within the scabbard!

This was a Nascent Soul sword qi—Heart Drawing Sword!

The youngster’s expression changed drastically and roared when the sword qi was taken away.

“You dare to take away the sword qi! Do you not fear offending 70 thousand sword cultivators from my world?!”

“Since I am not going to your world, why would I fear them...” Ning Fan smiled faintly, but his gaze went cold immediately and said.

“If I went to the Sword World, no one would still dare to touch me. Not even the Divine Emperor of the Sword World! I have nothing to fear! ”

The youngster backed off continuously under Ning Fan's murderous intent. His face became pale white, and did not dare to speak another word!

He would certainly bear a serious consequence since he had lost the sword qi; but, he would surely die here if he offended Ning Fan!

Ning Fan was a madman. Although he knew that he would offend some powerful people if he took the sword qi, he still took it...

Perhaps this time, when the pale youngster went back to the Sword World, he could, in a sense, finish the mission that was given by Little Dugu's clan. But he might not be able to complete the mission given by the Sword Palace...

What to do...?

"..."

While the youngster's face changed drastically, Little Dugu who was at the side was both ashamed and angry that she stomped her feet.

Cursed this Old Devil! He knew the oath behind the sword qi, yet he enticed Ning Fan to take the sword qi away!

And that accursed Little Devil Ning really took it... Doesn't that mean...

"By the way, does taking away the sword qi have any special meaning..." Ning Fan asked after he noticed that something was off.

"There is no special meaning... But, she is now your..." The Old Devil pointed at little Dugu light-heartedly.

"Er... Wait a minute, this joke is not funny..."

Ning Fan became confused. It's just like how the Old Devil was in the past.

Immediately, he realized why Little Dugu felt like her life was threatened when he tried to take away the bluestone's sword qi in the past...

Chapter 143: Do you know about White Devil Sect?

It was as though Ning Fan's heart had struck a bottle of five flavors. His facial expression became strange.

He didn't know whether to laugh or cry. If he knew beforehand that taking away the sword qi would need to bear the responsibility of a lady's life, he would absolutely not act rashly. Even if he wished to help Little Dugu, he would surely find other ways.

He was tricked by the Old Devil...

The Old Devil let out an unscrupulous smile while Little Dugu stamped her feet, feeling ashamed and annoyed.

Ning Fan put away his thoughts.

His sight fell upon Little Dugu, and she immediately turned her head angrily. Although she was angry, there was no sign of unwillingness from her.

Ning Fan sighed slightly. It seemed like the lady had some interest in me...

Trouble... However, this trouble was considered impossible to be cast aside. It was because Ning Fan found out that there was an illusory sword qi seal appearing at the back of his hand. At the same time, there was also a seal emerging slowly on Little Dugu's hand.

A strange sense of connection between their minds rose immediately upon the emergence of the seals. It seemed like there was an invisible string tying the both of them.

“This is...” said Ning Fan while looking at the sword seal on the back of his hand. Then, he looked at the Old Devil as though he was asking for an answer. However, the Old Devil burst into laughter at the next moment.

“This is ‘One Heart Sword Seal’. With this seal, this lady can only be your wife for her entire life... Ning brat, you have earned it!”

The words that came out from the Old Devil’s mouth made Little Dugu even more ashamed and annoyed. All the frustration was vented on the icy snow on the ground.

“Han Yuanji, you are not even a thing! Little Devil Ning, you are not a human, not a human!”

As for the group of arrogant sword cultivators, all of them looked distressed as if their parents had passed away.

It’s over, it’s over... The One Heart Sword Seal has emerged. Even if Little Dugu returned to Sword World, she still wouldn’t be able to marry the grandson of the God Sovereign of the Sword World.

“Alright, Commander Qin, please bring your people to have a rest. I have something to speak to my disciple. Also, I don’t want you all to hear it...”

“En...” sighed the fair and clear young man.

...

The Old Devil had decided to go to the Sword World. There were three reasons for this journey.

Firstly, it was for Ning Fan's safety. If the Old Devil returned to Sword World, Emperor Moksha might not attack Ning Fan. After all, Emperor Moksha was an arrogant man. He would certainly not descend just to kill Ning Fan.

Secondly, it was because of Little Dugu.

Little Dugu was a soul, which looked like a female ghost. However, she did not turn into a soul by getting killed by others. It was because when she left her world, she left with her soul. Her body was stored in ice back in Sword World.

Her soul was not an ordinary soul. It was a form of soul that could only be condensed by the minority of cultivators in Sword World, a sword soul. With the soul as her body, it was strange that she could demonstrate all her magical power.

However, there was a time limit for the sword soul to leave the body. Normally, it could not be absent from the body for more than a hundred years. Otherwise, there would be a difficulty for the soul to return to its original body.

In fact, it had been a long time since Little Dugu's sword soul had left Sword World. It was already time for her to return.

Thirdly, it was because of the lady who was stored in the sea of fire.

At the underground sea of fire, below Seven Apricot City. Old Devil, Ning Fan and Little Dugu were standing just outside the sea. Their eyes were fixed on the fire coffin in the centre of the sea.

Within the fire coffin, there was a lady whose appearance looked fairly similar to Little Dugu. She was in a deep slumber.

Ning Fan only dared to look at the lady inside the coffin for a short moment before immediately shifting his gaze away. To him, it was an act of profanity if he continued to look at her any longer.

“She is Xiao Mei. Look at her. Is she alive or dead...?” the Old Devil suddenly asked Ning Fan, carrying a certain meaning.

Ning Fan could guess that the lady was the author of Seven Apricot Notes when the Old Devil specially brought him in the sect. She’s Little Dugu’s sister and also the Old Devil’s lover.

The biggest reason for the Old Devil to accept Ning Fan as his disciple was this lady...

Ning Fan stared at the fire coffin, feeling a little terrified.

Putting aside the divine ability of the fire coffin, it’s grade was not any weaker than the Yin Yang Locket!

Profound Yin’s Treasure, Yin Yang Locket...

Pure Yang’s Treasure, Heavens Evading Coffin!

The coffin released a trace of power that could deceive the heavens. Hence, the body of the lady did not decay. The condition of the lady was extremely strange. She seemed to be a dead person as her life force had almost dissipated. Besides, if she left the fire coffin, she would go into Samsara immediately. However, it was incorrect to say that the lady was dead as there was still a trace of vague life force which remained intact under the heaven deceiving power of the fire coffin!

Inside the body of the lady, there seemed to be a cold ice power which was very difficult to dissolve. Although it was obviously an element of ice, it was burning in the lady’s body.

The power had destroyed all of the Immortal Veins of the lady. If there was not the strange power of ice, Ning Fan actually had a few ways to bring the lady directly back to life.

The power of ice was too difficult to handle. Even Void Fragmentation cultivators would be afraid to touch it. However, there was something hard to comprehend. Ning Fan’s Yin Yang Locket resonated slightly with the power.

Plus, there was a trace of the lady's qi which was very similar to Ning Fan's qi. That similarity made Ning Fan's eyes shine with surprise.

"This is... Yin Yang Devil Veins!"

"Correct, Xiao Mei had the same evil veins as you. You are the only person that could save Xiao Mei in the world..."

The Old Devil's words stopped abruptly. Then, he faltered out a few words,

"Ning brat, I have a way to save Xiao Mei. However, the precondition is that you must break through to the Void Fragmentation realm... Besides that, you will also suffer a serious injury after saving Xiao Mei... You could clearly sense it, the power of ice. It is very dreadful... Even if I regained all of my strength, all I could do was to suppress that kind of power... Are you willing to help me, and save her..."

Ning Fan closed his eyes gently. Little Dugu who was beside them had the feeling of nervousness, struggle and contradictory emotions written on her face.

It seemed like she really wished for her sister to be revived, but at the same time, she was worried that she would get hurt for saving her sister.

When Ning Fan opened his eyes again, a faint smile appeared on his face.

"It is only a trivial matter even if I suffer a serious injury for saving her... After I have broken through to Void Fragmentation, I will definitely save her. However, are you all really going back to Sword World..."

"Yes, we must return. Xiao Mei's father seems to have ways to nourish her body and soul... In that manner, the chances of her revival would be bigger..."

"Master, can I ask a question... How was this lady wounded?"

"You noticed that?"

“En, this power of ice was completely the opposite of the power of my Black Devil Sect. Black Devil takes the element of fire as primacy. However, this power of ice is very much similar to Black Devil, but was the opposite...”

Actually, Ning Fan was hesitating to save a person when he closed his eyes and meditated just now. He was contemplating because he had seen the oddity of the power of ice.

Knowing the cause of the lady’s wound did not stop him from being more curious. Instead, he became more mindful about it.

Who was it that dared to hurt the lady to such a degree, knowing perfectly well that she was the daughter of a big shot from the Sword World? It was impossible to be Emperor Moksha. If it was Emperor Moksha, Old Devil would have turned against him or the father of the lady would have just crossed worlds and fought against Emperor Moksha to death.

As a matter of fact, Emperor Moksha should only be secretly plotting against Old Devil when Old Devil was a True Immortal. At that time, the Old Devil’s strength must be far greater than Emperor Moksha while Emperor Moksha was still not a Void Fragmentation cultivator. He could not even hurt the finger of Old Devil. It would be futile to seriously injure the Old Devil just by solely depending on the Absolute Yin Poison.

Perhaps, the Old Devil was secretly poisoned with the Absolute Yin Poison after his cultivation base was greatly damaged.

Then, could the person who harmed the lady be an enemy that the Old Devil met while he was still a True Immortal?

Therefore, that person was certainly so powerful that the big shots in Sword World acted like they did not bother to care about it?

When Emperor Moksha betrayed the Old Devil, there must be someone inciting behind his back. Could the person be the arch criminal who harmed Old Devil and the lady?

Who exactly was he?!

“Ning Brat, do you know that “Black Devil Sect” was not the original name of my sect... Initially, we belonged to one of the sects of the Four Oceans Sect. Then, the sect was split into two... One of them was Black Devil Sect that took the element of fire as primacy. Another one was called White Devil Sect that took the ice as their deity...”

“Ning brat, remember this... If you had the opportunity to ascend to the Four Heavens Immortal World, never reveal that you are the leader of Black Devil Sect... In the four heavens, there is my arch-enemy, White Devil...”

At that moment, the intention to kill clouded Old Devil’s eyes!

It seemed like the hatred within his eyes wanted to tear the sky apart!

Black Devil, White Devil!

Chapter 144 (1): Affection

The Old Devil had kicked all the sword cultivators out of Si Fan Palace right after they left the underground. He had already promised that he would return to the sword world with Xiao Mei and Little Dugu.

In the end, Little Dugu must leave, her sword soul had already left her body for too long...

The night was filled with thick snow, and in the midst of the raining snowflakes, Ning Fan stood in the courtyard of the palace he had once lived. He was looking at the Apricot tree, the bluestone and the grave.

His heart felt something was amiss and raised his hand. His heart raised an intention and the One Heart Sword Seal appeared at the back of his hand, the seal shone a dim sword light.

The One Heart Sword Seal was a seal of oath for the men and women of the Sword World. Once the seal was sown, their hearts would forever be tied, together forever... Ning Fan had no qualms on being sown by such a seal, since he did not have to swear on his heart devil. However, this would trouble Little Dugu because she could only be married to him in this life... If she were to have sexual intercourse with other men, the seal will be destroyed and death was the only thing that awaited her...

“Lady Dugu... I say... Shouldn’t we have a proper discussion on this matter... It looked like you have just become my wife, now that the One Heart Sword Seal has been sown...”

“Bullsheet! Little Devil Ning! Who is your wife! Also, my name is Dugu, it is not my surname...” Little Dugu’s voice that was both ashamed and angered could be heard from within the grave mound. Her voice suddenly stopped when she talked about her surname...

The women of the Sword World have no surname, they would only have it after inheriting their husband’s surname after they get married.

For example, Dugu’s sister Xiao Mei only had the word “Mei” in her name. Hence, after she privately made a pledge of marriage with the Old Devil (without the approval of her parents), Xiao Mei then called herself ‘Han Mei’ which she liked very much because the name had the meaning of an apricot tree that stood upright and proud even in the winters.

If Little Dugu were to get married to Ning Fan in the future, wouldn’t her name be called Ning Dugu...?

The women of the Sword World had to follow their husband’s surname after marriage. If they never get married, they would never have a surname for their whole life... The Old Ancestor of the Sword World in the past was a woman. She stayed alone her whole life, vowed to never love, and in the end did not have a surname until her death...

There was a saying that described this girl... White bones as tall as a mountain but the surname was forgotten...

The topic at hand mystically diverted towards the surname of Dugu, and Ning Fan surprisingly asked,

“Your surname is not Dugu, so what is your surname...? What is your clan’s surname?”

“It is “Ling” but I do not have the surname “Ling” because my father did not allow it... and it is the tradition of my world...” Dugu said with a dissatisfied tone.

“Then... When you're married to me in the future, you can have whatever surname you want, it could be Ling, Little Pig, and Little Dog too. As long as you like it, isn't that great?” Ning Fan teasingly said.

“Pooh! Why should I marry you?! Little Ning Devil, I am warning you! You better stay away from me as far as possible!”

“Okay... Let's talk about serious business...”

Ning Fan stopped teasing her and became serious. The One Heart Sword Seal was obviously a method for Little Dugu to get away from the wedding arrangement back in her world. Ning Fan would not be shameless as to force Little Dugu to marry to him with just a sword seal.

His teasing was just a way to warm up the awkward atmosphere between them. But most importantly, he had a request that he wanted to ask.

“What serious matter did you want to discuss with me...” Little Dugu felt slightly weird.

“My master will follow you and return to the Sword World... Could you help me take care of him? Do not let him be harmed by others... This is my request. As for compensation, if you have any trouble in the marriage arrangement you once had, please let me know and I shall go to your world and solve the problem for you. However, I could only help you a hundred years later...”

This was perhaps the first time Ning Fan treated a matter so seriously with Little Dugu. His gaze made Little Dugu's heart shook, her face blushed and secretly thought,

It was rare for Ning Fan to ask a favor from me...

When she heard that Ning Fan was willing to assist her in acting as her fiancée and solve her troublesome marriage arrangement, Little Dugu was relieved yet also had a shred of disappointment which she did not realize.

It would've been great if Ning Fan were to marry me because he liked me, and not just for the sake of helping... No... Father would definitely not approve of this.

Her wisp of soul gently fluttered out of the grave and stood below the apricot tree. Her cold eyes showed a faint smiling expression.

"I will help you since you've helped me. Even if I do not like Han Yuanji, but he was passionately devoted to my sister. She wouldn't be willing to see him get hurt if she were to wake up in the future. No small fries would dare to hurt Han Yuanji in my presence. His status as the Deacon of the Four Oceans is enough to keep the Divine Emperor experts at bay... The only thing that we need to be wary of is the assassins from the Demon World. I will request father to pay attention on this matter..."

Little Dugu did not explain what the 'Deacon of Four Ocean' was, but it did not stop Ning Fan in understanding it. It looked like the Old Devil had another status in the Four Heavens. Other than the sect leader of the Black Demon Sect, his other status was enough to make the Rain World's Divine Emperors treat him courteously...

The status of deacon may not be high in the Four Heavens but it was enough for the Old Devil not to be plotted against in the lower realms.

Ning Fan's gaze of gratitude fell upon the face of Little Dugu. He then carefully looked at the cold and lonely girl that stood in front of him.

No matter if it was fake or genuine, or to deceive others, this girl had already become his wife.

She was just like a fairy in a painting, yet this fairy had mingled with a barbaric fellow like him.

But now that he was faced with such a beautiful fairy, he did not blush and panic like he before.

He still remembered when he was still a young boy in Hai Ning. He once accidentally saw a young lady from the main family bathing in the lake. He panicked and shouted because the lady was too beautiful... yet the young lady did not blame him. However, because of what he did, a few young masters from the main family secretly gave him trouble.

Everything had changed... Ning Fan's fate had changed, his heart too had changed. The feelings of an immature youngster had disappeared. The experience of those bloody battles, killings and the fifty-year dream of the Ming Luo fruit had made Ning Fan's heart become mature, calm and collected.

His spying gaze made Little Dugu's cold expression become both ashamed and angered. She then averted her gaze and secretly blamed Ning Fan's gaze to be frivolous.

He clasped his fist and saluted towards Little Dugu.

"Thank you so much. Your sword qi had saved me on many occasions... And now you even promised to protect my master. Hence, I owe you two favors!"

"Is it..." Little Dugu turned her back and lightly pressed her pale lips together as if she was in a dilemma.

She took out an ancient scroll from her clothes then turned around again.

"For you..." she said, but her eyes showed a faint nervousness. Then she immediately added on,

"I am only loaning it to you to have a look. It is not a gift... Do not think too much..."

The ancient scroll had a lingering human warmth and a peck of virgin fragrance when Ning Fan received it.

However, Ning Fan only cared about the content of the scroll and not the fragrance.

He had a shocked expression right after flipping a few pages of the ancient scroll. He then immediately closed the ancient scroll and returned it to Little Dugu.

“I could not accept such an expensive gift!”

Chapter 144 (2): Affection

“I told you that I am only loaning it to you to have a look. You do not need to tell others. I accidentally got this scroll from the Trial of the Sword Ancestor, no one had ever seen this scroll except for me, not even father! I’m just loaning it to you to have a read, you read! Why are you being so long-winded!” It looked like Little Dugu was angered, she did not know why, but when she sensed Ning Fan was being so distant, she became extremely angry without reason.

She stomped her foot and her wisps of soul scattered, it looked like she had returned to the grave.

“Go away! I do not want to see you!” She gave an expulsion order.

Ning Fan sighed while holding onto the scroll, and looked at the grave mound.

He could only stay silent under Little Dugu’s voice of expulsion.

The ancient scroll was an expensive gift...

The ‘Sword Finger’ was said to be one of the Sword Ancestor’s secret sword inheritances. The key to it was to refine the cultivator’s body like how one refined a sword.

This was a lost divine ability, an Ancient Fiendgod Body Refinement Technique! Little Dugu was really fortunate that she unexpectedly obtained such item.

The sword body technique was separated into ‘Sword Finger’, ‘Sword Bone’, ‘Sword Eye’, ‘Sword Heart’ and ten other volumes. The ‘Sword Finger’ volume recorded the divine ability of cultivating the finger into a sword.

Cultivators have ten fingers and if all ten fingers became swords, it could even cut down a fiendgod in a flash. This technique was from an incomplete volume, and the process of refining one's finger into a sword was extremely difficult and painful. The most important thing was to refine the fingers via Earth Spirit Vein.

Ning Fan still remembered the day when the 30,000-meter white bone body of Emperor Moksha descended. A single finger of his had a devastating aura that could destroy both the heavens and earth.

With the Fiendgod Body Refining Technique, as the user's body grew stronger, its power will become increasingly terrifying as well.

Ning Fan who had the body of a First Realm Silver Body only knew the 'Eighteen-Meter Body' body refinement technique. Whereas the 'Colossal Bone Secret Art' was yet to be cultivated, and its divine ability was incomparable to the power of a single finger from the 'Sword Finger'.

One could vaguely understand from the words of Little Dugu, that she obtained the technique from the Trial of the Sword Ancestor.

Ning Fan did not know what was the Trial of the Sword Ancestor, but he could imagine it being one of the grandest trials of the Sword World. There was even a possibility in obtaining the inheritance of the Sword Ancestor, and it was surely extremely sought after by all the old monsters.

The Sword World's old monsters' greed would have been ignited if they knew about the 'Sword Finger' technique's existence.

Little Dugu had given him such an expensive gift so easily... Ning Fan's heart turned chaotic.

This girl had a feeling towards him... he would've lived in vain if he did not notice it.

"I will certainly go to the Sword World a hundred years later, if I am not dead..."

After Ning Fan finished his sentence, an escaping light flashed and he disappeared from the snow.

Little Dugu heard those words within the grave mound, she became silent for a long time then suddenly revealed a joyful voice.

“Hmmph, Little Devil Ning, luckily you still have a conscience... I will hate you forever if you do not come...”

“...”

Three days later, Ning Fan stood under the snow and watched Little Dugu leave with the Sword World cultivators riding on their swords.

The Old Devil left with ease, laughing loudly. However, he was carefully protecting his storage pouch, within the storage pouch stored the Fire Coffin which he deemed to be the most important.

Quite a number of Yue Country’s cultivator heard the news and came to spectate such a rare scene. Some of them recognized the Old Devil, while some of them recognized the cultivators of the Sword World. Whereas some of the old monsters recognized Little Dugu who had single-handedly defeated the cultivators from Yue Country with just a single blade in the past ten years.

Every one of them did not dare to speak and just silently thought, how did Han Yuanji established such a relationship with the big shots of the Sword World.

Those that were observant could faintly see that the cultivation base of the Old Devil was unusual. But with Ning Fan now in the spotlight of Yue Country and being the disciple of the Old Devil, only fools would dig on the details of the Old Devil...

Outside of the snowing Seven Apricot city, Ning Fan and four Harmonious Spirit cultivators watched the Old Devil leave. Each of them sighed when the Old Devil could no longer be seen.

The four clan leaders’ hearts felt empty with the Old Devil gone. Plus Ning Fan would also leave Yue Country soon... Seven Apricot city felt like an empty city without the rowdy Old Devil.

“Young lord, what should Seven Apricot City do from now on...” Mo Rushui saluted and asked respectfully.

“The four clan leaders had followed the Old Devil, and had worked hard half of their lifetime. Isn’t it now the chance to put down official matters and concentrate on cultivating. These medicinal pills, cultivation methods, cultivation records, treasure refining and pill concoction records, were what I’ve been preparing these past three days. It may have been somewhat rushed, but I believed that each one of you would find it helpful.”

Ning Fan passed a storage pouch that was filled to the brim to Mo Rushui, his gaze swept upon Seven Apricot city and left with a faint smile.

The four clan leaders opened the storage pouch after he had left, and each of them showed a shocked expression.

Spirit Raising Pill! Spirit Consolidating Pill! There were even many medicinal pills that could help in breaking through to the Gold Core realm!

The highest grade of pill that was within the pouch was a Fourth Revolution!

There were explanations from Harmonious Spirit towards Nascent Soul within the records, and each process was thoroughly explained. The four of them could make lesser mistakes in their cultivation with these records!

These four people’s talents were not weak, but they had put their effort into treasure refinement, formation setting, cloud refinement, and spirit augmentation. With the help of these cultivation records and medicinal pills, they could easily cultivate towards the realm of peak Harmonious Spirit within ten years!

These records could even assist them towards their gold core formation. If they were lucky... they could even have a chance to become a Nascent Soul!

This storage pouch was just a small gesture from Ning Fan, but to them, it was a big gift!

However, what the four clan leaders really care was how easily Ning Fan prepared such an expensive gift. What was his real cultivation realm? What level was his pill concoction technique?

“Unfathomable!” The four clan leaders sighed. The jade slip shattered into ash after their spirit sense swept through the jade slip.

There was a special formation set in the jade slip. After their spirit sense had swept through it, it would automatically self-destruct.

Ning Fan seemed to be worried that these records would cause some Gold Core old monsters to spy upon it and bring forth unnecessary troubles to Seven Apricot city. Hence, he made it self-destruct after the four of them finished reading.

The four clan leaders sighed once again.

The young lord is really extremely intelligent... Such outstanding talent would certainly create a storm in the Endless Sea that was also dubbed as the ‘Grave of Cultivators’.

“Thank you, young lord! With us here! Seven Apricot city will surely be safe for a long time!”

Their voices were filled with magical force, and it resounded throughout the clouds.

Ning Fan who was already several hundred li away retracted his spirit sense and faintly smiled.

Such is well...

Seven Apricot city could finally be considered safe.

Chapter 145 (1): An Ran

There was a village which was cut off from the outside world on Ping Yun Mountain which was located at the east of Yue Country. It was called Ping An Village.

The spiritual qi of Ping Yun Mountain was very thin. It was not suitable for cultivation. Besides, there was no cultivation family, cultivation city or cultivation sect within the thousands miles of the area.

There were only a few ordinary human cities.

Normally, not a single shadow of a cultivator could be seen in the village. It was not easy to have such a land of happiness for ordinary humans in Yue Country which was a low-ranked Cultivation Country.

A year ago, a young man dressed in black clothing came to the village and lived there.

After a year, that young man who was called Ning Gu has grown into a big guy, leading an ordinary life in the village.

When the sun rose, he would get up to work; when the sun set, he would go back to rest. He hunted for a living with his exceptional hunting technique. In Ping An village, even the hunters who had been hunting for generations could not match his technique. Once, there was a tiger spirit that entered the village by accident. The tiger spirit had actually cultivated a trace of demonic qi by luck which made it have uncommon strength. It was very ferocious as it always entered the village during the day to eat the pigs and cows. It even bit the villagers. Some of the hunters in the village went to hunt the tiger, but all of them met a tragic death. Some of the villagers who had lived there for generations started to consider leaving the village.

However, the lawless tiger spirit was shot dead with an arrow by Ning Gu who had an ordinary appearance.

The skin of the tiger spirit was very thick and it also had the protection from the demonic force. How could an ordinary human with just a bow and arrow which were simple and crude harm the tiger spirit? Nonetheless, Ning Gu delivered a fatal shot to it, piercing it from its forehead to its tail, killing it. The strength of that bow was atrocious!

The villagers were saved while Ning Gu became famous in the small village. Besides, the daughter of the village chief had secretly fell in love with him.

Unfortunately, Ning Gu disliked hunting. He only hunted to obtain necessary food. Taking a life and seeing blood were not something that he liked. There seemed to be a traumatic experience in him. In fact, the thing that he loved the most was growing Camellia. Every plant rooted, germinated and finally bloomed under the bamboo fence. Each of the plants carried his thoughts.

For a year, he was still unable to remember Ning Fan. Therefore, he occupied his thoughts with the Camellia.

In his yard, he looked at each of the Camellia plant, swaying in the wind. His sight which was cold had slowly relaxed.

The Camellia plant was named as sea pomegranate by the villagers. The Camellia that was grown by Ning Gu had a special spiritual qi. There were some kind-hearted villagers that helped him sell the spare Camellia to the large cities outside the mountain. Gradually, Ning Gu had gained some income just by growing the plants and selling them. At last, he did not need to hunt anymore.

It was better to choose not to kill...

When the wind of the autumn rose, the black clothing of Ning Gu had become thin. Outside the fence, a voice of a young lady which carried the local accent of the village was heard.

“Ning Gu, the weather had turned cold. My father asked me to bring this wolf fur coat for you to wear!”

A girl who was dressed simply and plainly in the style of a villager stood outside of the fence. She pushed open the wooden door. There was a thick silver wolf fur coat on her hands.

The fur coat was made purely from wolf fur. It was not blended with any other fur. If it were to be sold to a large city, it could definitely sell at a high price. However, it was gifted by the lady to Ning Gu in the name of her father.

The lady was the daughter of the village chief. Her name was An Ran. Although her appearance was not perfectly beautiful, she looked plain and clean. It was hard to forget her appearance after the first look.

The lady had been liking Ning Gu for a very long time.

For the fur coat, she had risked her life, going into the deep mountain to hunt the wolf. Then, she sewed it stitch by stitch, making it into a coat.

Therefore, the fur coat actually contained the lady's silliness - she only begged for Ning Gu's glance on the coat.

“Why did you come again?”

Ning Gu frowned slightly. His cultivation base had not changed. His cultivation base still remained at the tenth level Vein Opening. With this cultivation base, he was not afraid of the coldness of the weather like any ordinary humans did.

He did not need the fur coat!

“Hmm, such a bad temper at such a young age. I made this coat for you out of kindness and good intentions...” said the lady, feeling wronged.

“I don’t need your kindness!” said Ning Gu in a stubborn manner.

“You! Don’t be arrogant because you have a better skill in shooting arrows. I want to challenge you!” said the lady without holding back. She placed the fur coat on the table in the yard and untied the bow on her back.

“You can’t win over me!” Ning Gu showed his temper and also untied his bow on the wall.

The villagers who passed by their fence began to laugh.

“Aiya, Ning Gu squabbled with An Ran again. Their relationship is really good!”

“However, An Ran will definitely cry with dissatisfaction a while later... Her archery could never match Ning Gu.”

The villagers’ gossip did not disturb Ning Gu’s thoughts. On the other hand, the lady appeared to be ashamed, but she felt sweet in the bottom of her heart.

In the yard, there was a rock. There were countless holes on the surface of the rock.

The lady bent her bow and nocked an arrow on it. After firing the arrow, it hit the tip of the bluestone, penetrating more than half an inch into the stone.

She had excellent mastery in archery as her shot was precise, and her strength was not weak at all.

However, before she could start to feel proud of herself, Ning Gu nocked his arrow apathetically. With a single shot, the arrow spilt the lady’s arrow into two. The arrow itself penetrated entirely into the stone!

A sound of cheering was heard from outside the fence. The lady burst into tears and left.

“Ning Gu, you bullied me again! I will not be good to you anymore!”

Upon hearing that, Ning Gu kept his bow and arrow emotionlessly. He was seen as an analogy of wood as he did not even chase after the lady

...

Amongst the cloud and mist on top of Ping Yun Mountain, there was another young man dressed in white clothing with a black cloak, standing upon the clouds. In the wind, he kept his spirit sense and understood the situation in Ping An village.

Ning Gu had a good life. It seemed like he had recovered a lot after a year of rest.

The thing that excited Ning Fan the most was that Ning Gu actually gained admiration from a girl.

However, there was also one thing that made Ning Fan worried. Ning Gu was a blockhead. Not only did he not know how to coax a girl, but his actions were also frowned upon by other girls. Fortunately, that girl still had her affection for Ning Gu after so long. It was so rare to have this type of girl.

“‘An Ran’ was a good name which is better than ‘Ning Gu’. You need a peaceful life. This kind of life is what you are longing for. The bloodshed in the world of cultivation really does not suit you...”

An inexplicable emotion appeared in Ning Fan’s eyes. With an escaping light, he vanished amongst the top of the mountains.

...

At the house of the village chief, An Ran came back home, crying. Upon arriving at her house, she was reprimanded by her father.

“Bad girl, why did you give the fur coat which was in perfectly good condition to someone else? Do you know how much it could sell for in Ping City? Your mind is always thinking about people outside of this family. You really irritate me! Go and get that fur coat back later!”

“It was all my fault! Since it has already been given, I am not going to get it back. You can’t have control over it!” said An Ran loudly, talking back to his father.

As the chief of the village, all the villagers respected him dearly. No one had dared to talk back to him. Even if it was An Ran, she would never dare to reply defiantly to her father normally.

Perhaps she was in a moment of desperation which made her speak in that manner. Her father was really provoked this time.

Since he was a hot tempered man, he slapped the girl after being provoked.

Regret surfaced in his thoughts almost immediately after he thrust his palm. With the strength of his entire body, the slap that he delivered might even weigh thousands of jin. This was a power that could fight a tiger or a bear. If the slap struck on her daughter’s face, he was afraid that she could not withstand it with her petite body.

However, it was hard to stop at this moment due to the force applied.

At the next second, a cool breeze blew over them. That breeze blocked the powerful slap which could beat a tiger or a leopard.

At the same time, a cold sound was heard outside the house. Immediately, a young man who was wearing white clothing with black cloak came in.

He looked very thin, and his appearance was very pale. It was obvious that he had deficiency of qi and blood. However, when the village chief who was a big man with a height of seven *zhang met his eyes, the village chief had cold sweats dripping all over him!

Of all his hunting experience in his life, countless fierce animals like tigers and leopards had become his preys. He had been accustomed to the coldness of the beasts' eyes. However, he had never once seen a gaze that was even more terrifying than the young man before him!

Under the young man's gaze, the village chief was trembling in fear uncontrollably.

If this young man was an ordinary human, he must be an expert who could fight hundreds of enemies at a time. If he was an immortal, he must be a devil who had killed countless of people.

Although the village chief could not see through this young man, he realized that this young man must never be provoked! This thought surfaced on his mind just from the look of the young man.

That was the instinct which was trained from numerous trials of life and death in his hunting experience.

This feeling had only arisen in the heart of the village chief. In contrast, the girl was not invaded by that feeling at all.

Actually, the girl was not aware about the situation around. When she opened her eyes secretly, she was shocked to discover that her father did not slap her. She let out a sigh of relief. Then, her sight shifted to the young man at the door with curiosity.

Who is this guy who came into my house directly without any permission? Is he unaware that my father extremely hated villagers who were impolite and never greeted before entering the house?

Ning Fan smiled faintly and kept his pressure. Then, something that surprised the girl happened.

Her father did not blame the young man for his lack of politeness. In contrast, her father no longer displayed his cold face. Instead, her father deliberately gave a smile which was really unpleasant in her eyes.

“This master, are you coming here for a rest in our village?” said the village chief apologetically.

The girl noticed his father’s respectful attitude towards the young man. She was filled with astonishment. Is this young man who looked unspectacular an important person? This was the only reason that could make her father, who had little exposure of the outside world, so frightened.

*jin = 0.5 kg

*zhang = 3 metres

Chapter 145 (2): An Ran

No matter how hard An Ran tried to figure things out, she could not get the slightest clue of how special the young man was before her. He seemed to be very weak, and he was even not as fit as herself.

“There is no need to be so polite, village chief... Just now, I have heard everything when you were scolding your daughter. Actually, I am Ning Gu’s brother. Since the fur coat was already gifted to my brother, it’s not right to get it back. Besides, I do not have any money to compensate for that coat...”

Even though the young man spoke those words with a smile on his face, the village chief sweated more profusely. Upon seeing his smile, the village chief’s smile became broader.

So, it turned out that the young man is the brother of Ning Gu. He seemed to be stronger than Ning Gu by a lot.

It was already terrifying that Ning Gu could kill the tiger spirit with just a single arrow. Therefore, Ning Gu’s brother must be a ruthless person who was much stronger and cruel.

Moreover, there was a faint bloody smell on his body. The smell had terrified the village chief even more.

Undoubtedly, this young man must be a devil who killed people like flies. It didn't matter if he was an immortal or an ordinary man, the village chief could not bear to offend him.

If the village chief had known that Ning Gu had such a strong brother, he would have never scolded his daughter. He wouldn't even have the idea of getting the fur coat back.

Although the young man had stopped him from teaching his daughter a lesson, he would never dare to accuse the young man of being a busybody.

As the village chief, he at least know how to be a sleek person. In front of the simple villagers, he could act like a tyrant. However, in front of this young man, he would surely face a big trouble if he dared to act ruthlessly.

"Hehe, so you are Ning Gu's brother. Excellent..." the village chief said with an apologetic smile. He actually did not understand why he said "excellent". That was completely irrelevant.

On the contrary, the lady's eyes brightened. She gave a softer look to the young man.

So, he is the brother of that Ning Gu who is as dull as a wood. Ning Gu had never given me a happy look before no matter how kind I was to him. His brother was the complete opposite. He was quite easygoing.

Since he is Ning Gu's brother, I must be more courteous to him.

“Brother Ning, do you want to rest for a while in our humble house? I am going to make some tea for you...”

The village chief felt that his daughter’s friendliness had gotten him into troubles. However, he could not say it in front of the young man.

The person before us is malefic. It is hard to ask him to leave. Why did you still make him stay?

Such a stupid, foolish and idiotic girl!

The young man gave a wee smile and shook his head. He rejected the girl’s good intention as if he had felt the fear of the village chief.

“It’s fine. I am not thirsty... Is your daughter called An Ran?” the young man said firmly.

“Yes. It was a name given by her mother. It was not a good name as it does not carry any culture...” the village chief said with a bitter smile.

“No, it is a good name.’

“Yes, you are correct. Although this name seemed to be bad, it is good after all...” the chief village said without understanding what he had just spoken. To him, whatever came out from the young man’s mouth was right.

“An Ran and Ning Gu. It’s a good match, isn’t it?” the young man said to himself.

When the village chief heard this, he was stunned speechless as though thunder had clapped above the sky.

It’s over. This young devil had come to conduct a match-making. Is he going to rob my daughter to be the wife of his brother?

It’s bad. If my daughter is to be wed to his brother, she would be in grave danger.

Although he was snobbish and stingy and loved to display his wealth, he was quite concerned for the safety of his daughter. He was not willing to put his daughter in danger.

However, he did not have the guts to speak his mind before the young man.

At that moment, the lady put down the firewood and went into the house with her glittering eyes.

“Brother Ning, do you really think that Ning Gu and I are a good match?” the girl asked after understanding the young man’s implication.

“Yes. Both of you are indeed a good match. Are you willing to be Ning Gu’s wife?” the young man said with a smile.

“Yes, I do!” the girl replied with a huge smile. But almost immediately, she let out a soft sigh and said, “I think he would not agree...”

“No, in fact, Ning Gu likes you too. Based on my understanding of him, he will never glance at something that he does not like at all. He only lacks the knowledge of how to make you happy. From youth, he had never learnt how to speak to girls and he never appeared to be likeable in front of others. He also got himself into troubles,” the young man answered while recalling old memories.

After that, he opened his pouch and took out a crystal hairpin and a bottle of jadeite pill bottle.

The village chief had never seen a storage pouch like this in his entire life. His face was full of astonishment when he saw the young man took those two things just like watching a magic trick.

This young man must be an immortal! Other than that, no one could take out a treasure in that manner without any tricks!

The crystal hairpin was very fine and was glittering. It was something that the village chief had never seen before too.

As for the pill bottle, there was a whiff of fragrance wafting in the air. The village chief smelled it and felt energetic instantly. He could never guess that the bottle contained the Immortal Dan! Moreover, the jade bottle which was used to store the Dan could be sold for thousands of *striped silver in any ordinary human world!

Treasure, all of them were treasures!

“This hairpin is a gift for you. If you wear this all your life, you will be prosperous and safe. These pills are called ‘Good Fortune Pills’. Any ordinary human who consumes this pill, his or her life will be prolonged by ten years without any sickness or calamity... These pills are yours now. It is your choice whoever you favour to consume this pill... You also do not need to worry about others stealing these treasures. Whoever dares to steal those will die.”

The young man’s eyes shone. When his sword qi was stirred, several sword sense submerged into the crystal hairpin.

“These gifts are the rewards for your kind intentions towards Ning Gu... Also, I will be leaving for a period of time. Please take good care of Ning Gu...”

“Don’t worry. I’ll take good care of him even if he doesn’t like me...” the girl said determinedly.

“It’s good then,” the young man replied with a smile. He seemed to be very satisfied with the girl’s answer. At this moment, he gazed outside of the house as though he felt something was coming.

Then, he smiled broadly and looked at the girl, “Look, he is here now. He really cares about you.”

After that, a black light flashed around the young man. With just a wave of Spiritual Energy of the heavens and earth, the young man vanished out of thin air before the village chief and the girl!

After witnessing this, the girl was dumbfounded. Now, she finally understood that Ning Gu's brother was not an ordinary human, but a God.

As for her father, he let out a long and deep breath of relief after the young man had left.

Tiring, it was indeed very tiring! Just staying in front of that young man had made the village chief feel that his life was shortened.

However, when he recalled the treasures, his eyes glowed again and he was as energetic as before.

He was not interested about the crystal hairpin. But, he was interested in the pills because based on the young man's description, one's lifespan could be increased by 10 years just by consuming a single pill.

Lifespan was the most precious thing for mortals! Even if the person was an emperor, he, too, could not escape death!

The pills were really priceless treasures!

After receiving all the gifts, he sighed with a certain feeling. He knew that these gifts were too precious. It was enough to take these gifts as payment for the wolf fur coat. It was enough to accept these gifts as Ning Gu's betrothal gifts for An Ran!

Besides, the way the young man gave these presents did not leave the village chief any choice to refuse, although he did not have the intention to do so...

It looked like he had to stop meddling in the affair between Ning Gu and An Ran. He should let his daughter try it out herself...

...

The girl was in a daze while holding the crystal hairpin and the bottle of pills. While she was staring blankly into the air, a familiar sound was heard outside the door. It was Ning Gu's indifferent voice. This time, however, his voice carried a particular concern for the girl.

In a quick manner, he barged into the house. While entering, he did not even give the chief village a glance. His cold eyes relaxed when he saw An Ran was safe and sound.

"Are you okay?" he said and let out a sigh of relief.

"*Puff*, what could happen to me? Since you are asking about that, are you worried about me?" An Ran smiled while speaking. The happiness in her heart was beyond description. As for Ning Gu, his face turned emotionless again and he almost wanted to leave immediately.

He did not like to see the proud face of the girl. However, deep down in his heart, he was very worried about the girl.

The aura from a cultivator just now was just too strong. What had actually happened?

When he was leaving, his sight fell upon the crystal hairpin and the pill bottle.

To his surprise, it was a high grade magical treasure. Besides, it contained a few streams of strong spirit sense. Every stream of it could kill Gold Core experts with ease!

On the other hand, a whiff of fragrance from the pill emanated from the bottle. This fragrance was even thicker than Second Revolution pills. It was the smell of Third Revolution pills. In fact, the quality of the pills was at peak of Third Revolution!

The most important reason that made Ning Gu stop his footsteps was the familiar aura on the crystal hairpin and the pill bottle.

“This, this is...” Ning Gu muttered to himself. He was very familiar to this aura but he could not recall anything about it. The inability to remember stressed him out.

“These things are given to me by your brother...” said the girl. It was her first time seeing Ning Gu losing his calm. Her pride pushed her to brag about the treasures in her arms.

“Let me see!” Ning Gu said hurriedly.

“No way. Unless, you can catch me!” said the sly girl, blinking her eyes. The moment she closed her mouth, she slipped away from the house. As for Ning Gu, who was usually dumb, chased after her without a second thought.

“Don’t think that I can’t catch you. I will still be able to see it even if you don’t give it to me!”

Both of them started a chase amongst each other in the village.

This scene warmed the hearts of the old folks in the village. Their lips curled upwards, forming beautiful smiles on their faces.

“Hedgehog is the perfect analogy for this kid, Ning Gu. The ‘thorns’ are the means for protecting himself. In contrary to the ‘thorns’, he likes camellia plants. He likes peace. He likes the girl. However, aren’t they too noisy today?”

*Striped silver = a type of currency