

Honoured 491

Chapter 491 A talk between two women!

"Haa.. ahh.."

Qian Shi let out a soft sigh as she stretched her arms above her head, feeling the warmth of the golden sunlight streaming into the long hallway. Her bare feet barely made a sound as she walked, the polished golden floors cool beneath her toes.

Anyone who look at her face would gawk in shock, her face is a flawless blend of delicate features, soft full lips, and eyes that sparkled with an ethereal charm.

But it wasn't just her face that drew attention.

Her body was a masterpiece of feminine perfection, sculpted by the gods themselves.

Her chest rose with a natural, effortless fullness, her ample breasts were round and firm, sitting high with a softness that begged to be touched.

They were the kind of curves that made hearts race and hands itch to explore their every contour.

Her waist tapered in beautifully, slender and firm, before flaring out into voluptuous hips that swayed gently with every step she took. A pair of perfectly rounded ass cheeks, was firm yet supple.

As she walked, Qian Shi glanced down at her reflection in the golden surface beneath her.

Her body, slender and graceful, moved with effortless elegance.

She paused, her gaze lowering to her full breasts and a smile curled at her lips as she raised her hands to hold them gently.

"Mngh..." Her fingers grazed over her soft skin as she gave them a light squeeze, her eyes glinting with playful curiosity.

"Tian.. would like it, right?"

Qian Shi's steps quickened slightly as she neared the end of the hallway, feeling the openness beyond the hallway.

With a soft sigh, she stepped out of the hallway and onto the smooth stone steps and was met with a beautiful scenery of tall bamboo trees surrounding an enchanting small lake.

Her eyes flickered to the gentle splashes on the surface of the lake, catching the ripple of movement as the water stirred softly "She is still here?"

A beautiful woman with purple hair and purple eyes slowly rose up from the lake rippling the water, as she moved the clingy hair from her face, her eyes gleaming in the sunlight.

"Sister Shi."

Qian Shi's lips curled into a small smile as she stepped forward, her bare feet sinking into the soft grass surrounding the lake. "I thought you'd already left, Art." Hearing this, Artoria's eyelashes quivered "No, Sister... I don't have the heart to return to my clan, knowing it's fated to be destroyed." Artoria swam to the edge of the lake, her arms gliding smoothly through the water.

As she reached the shore, her gaze lifted, catching sight of Qian Shi's form silhouetted against the sunlight.

The sight of Qian Shi's perfect, sculpted body took Artoria's breath away.

The light danced on her smooth skin, highlighting every curve, every dip, as though her body had been carved by the gods themselves.

Her breasts, full and firm, moved subtly with her breathing, while her waist narrowed into a flawless hourglass figure.

Qian Shi's hips, round and inviting, exuded an effortless sensuality.

Artoria couldn't help but feel a wave of admiration as her eyes traced over the stunning figure before her.

"Sister Shi," Artoria breathed, her voice filled with awe, "you have such a beautiful body." Hearing this, Qian Shi smirked proudly "Of course, I am the most beautiful woman in the whole universe."

Artoria nodded her head as she knew that it is not an exaggeration to say that she is the most beautiful woman in the universe.

"All thanks to your Heavenly One physique.. right sister?"

Qian Shi gave a nod and slowly immersed herself in the chill water of the lake "That too.. but I also perfected my body for Tian."

As they were bathing, Artoria swam close to Qian Shi, rippling the water and asked "Sister Shi... is there any way to stop my clan from getting destroyed?"

Qian Shi who was floating on the water, kept her gaze on the skies above her, filled with cloud.

Her mind slowly raced to the memories of Zhao Tian and the destinies she saw through all these thousands of years.

Even though she hasn't spent a single second with him, she knows about him very clearly... every detail of him.

She knows Zhao Tian is a possessive, and overprotective man, excessively so; to those he loves, of course.

To Zhao Tian, the world outside his close circle of loved ones held little value.

To him, millions of lives of those unknown to him cannot compare to a single life of a loved one.

If there is no choice left, he'd kill millions to protect the ones he cares about. When it comes to his women, his obsessive feelings only tend to get in his way of not caring about his own life.

His relationships with his women, however, were even more intense.

Zhao Tian wasn't just protective... he is possessive, to an extreme degree.

Once he claimed a woman as his own, he refuses to let go of them.

Even if one of his women expressed a desire to leave, Zhao Tian would not allow it.

In his eyes, they were bound to him for eternity.

In his words, he'd rather kill them than allow them to be with another man unless he felt that he had failed in his responsibilities toward them.

This wasn't just empty talk either. Zhao Tian genuinely believed in this philosophy, and his devotion often crossed the line into dangerous obsession.

And yet, this obsession is not without a twisted sense of honor.

Zhao Tian has certain expectations even in death.

If he were to die someday or somehow, he would wish for his women to remain loyal to him even after he was gone.

The thought of them being with another man was intolerable to him, and he fully expected them to honor his memory by never moving on to someone else.

This extreme level of possessiveness is a manifestation of his love, though some might see it as controlling or suffocating.

Despite these darker tendencies, Zhao Tian was not a cold-hearted tyrant.

He was respectful and often jovial around those he cared for, particularly his women.

He treated them with kindness and genuine affection, always striving to ensure they were happy and content.

It was this softer side that made him so appealing.

Women found themselves drawn to his unwavering loyalty, his strength, and his dedication to their well-being.

To be loved by Zhao Tian was to be loved fiercely, and many found that irresistible. And for his women, he would go to any lengths... ANY LENGTHS.

Even slaughtering her whole clan by himself.

Qian Shi slowly turned her head to Artoria and spoke "You can't protect your clan.. and the future is inevitable."

"Don't forget... your fate changed, because you couldn't control your urges and said that you love him when you went to meet him."

Chapter 492 Alchemy Chamber [3]

Hearing Qian Shi's words, Artoria's gaze trembled as she bit her lip, a soft sigh escaping her. "Is there really no other way, Sister Shi?" Qian Shi stared at her for a moment, her expression blank but her eyes reflecting a deep well of emotions.

With a graceful wave of her hands, she steadied herself in the water, the surface rippling gently around her. "Art, you already know the answer to that. It's impossible. Fate doesn't bend so easily." "If I can change fate just like that... I would have gone and brought Tian when he was born that day in the Astral Realm... when the whole realm welcomed the birth of the Honoured One."

A melancholy sigh escaped her lips, and her gaze seemed to drift far beyond the lake, back to the fateful moment she could never forget "I was there... watching Cessna Maverick giving birth to Vester Maverick." Artoria Evelyne also remembered the day... that day, out of nowhere, the whole Astral Realm was glowing in sparkling golden, the blue sky turned golden, indicating something big is going to happen that is going to change the entire universe.

Everyone knew that day—The Honoured One had descended into the world. Qian Shi's voice softened as she muttered under her breath, "That day... all eyes were fixed on the Stomspire Dynasty, ruled by the Maverick family. The golden light swirled around their palace, condensing there more intensely than anywhere else, signaling the location of his birth. The Honoured One had arrived." Artoria opened her eyes slowly, and she could still see the images in her mind: The golden clouds swirling around the Maverick Palace, the terrifying power that reverberated throughout the realm, and the undeniable fear that spread through the hearts of all who lived under the vast Astral skies. Qian Shi's voice grew colder as she continued. "In the very next moment, every powerhouse, every faction in the realm dashed to the palace. "

"Their goal was the same: to destroy the newborn child before he could rise to his destined power. The Honoured One was feared... and with that fear came cruelty."

Her fists clenched beneath the water, sending soft ripples across the surface. "That day... I stood there, helpless. I could do nothing but watch as the Stomspire Dynasty fell, torn apart by greed, fear, and ambition." "The palace was engulfed in flames, and the dynasty was annihilated. Vester's birth... became the catalyst for their destruction." Her voice cracked slightly, the weight of regret bearing down on her. "I watched as the Maverick family... was slaughtered. The dynasty was reduced to ashes. I couldn't save them..."

Qian Shi's voice dropped to a whisper, "Zhao Ning... she was the only one who escaped. She fled that day with two children, carrying the last remnants of the Maverick bloodline. One of them was Tian... Vester Maverick, the boy who would become Zhao Tian, The Honoured One."

Artoria Evelyne continued "The man who changed the balance of the world..."

With a chuckle, Qian Shi spoke "Yeah... just his birth disrupted the Equilibrium of the world."

"In these past 21 years, many people realized that they could cultivate faster than earlier years after the birth of the Honoured One."

"Hahaha... the universe itself is trying hard to maintain the balance because of this one guy."

"The Deviant..."

"The Honoured One..."

...

As Zhao Tian continued to look through the contents of the tab, Qi Nue and Qi Xue also watched him silently.

Qi Xue was quite surprised "Little brother, the ones you are searching for are ridiculously expensive..."

"You'd have to work for months just to afford one of these. Maybe if you had enough astral stones, you could try finding some of these rare materials outside the Sect." Hearing their suggestions, Zhao Tian gave a nod as an idea appeared in his mind "By the way, tell me more about your Master..."

With a nod, Qi Nue spoke "Master Yao Jing is incredibly passionate about alchemy. She lives and breathes it. Anything related to alchemy fascinates her."

"And this whole Alchemy Chamber is under her."

"She is one of the Elders in the Sect who doesn't have a wing under her."

Qi Xue continued "Yeah, other Elders are called Wing Masters as they have a wing under them, and there are totally thirteen wings in the Sect. She prefers working on her own, fully devoted to her research and alchemy." "Little Brother, when you get promoted as an inner disciple, you would have to choose one of the 13 wings to stay in."

Zhao Tian's eyes condensed upon hearing this 'So passionate about alchemy... then I can strike a deal with her.'

As he was scrolling, he asked "How can I become an inner court disciple easily... Sisters?"

Qi Nue was the first one to reply "Well, there are two main ways. One, you need to reach at least the fifth level of the Stellar Essence Stage."

"Fifth level..." Zhao Tian repeated under his breath, taking a mental note.

Qi Xue interjected "But the other option is participating in the Inner Court Disciple Examination Tournament. That's probably the quickest way for someone like you if you're talented enough."

"Tournament?" Zhao Tian raised an eyebrow in interest.

With a nod, Qi Xue replied "Yeah... for every year they would conduct a tournament for outer disciples... so, in that tournament.. if you catch some Wing Master's eyes, who see you as a talented individual, you can join them as inner court disciple."

"And if you're really impressive, there's a chance you could be selected as a core disciple, which is an even higher honor."

"I see..." Zhao Tian nodded his head as he continued scrolling through the tab, searching for information on the 'Cloud Mist Flower.'

At that moment, a female employee passing by noticed the trio and approached with a professional smile.

"Customers, do you need my help?" she asked in a polite tone, her gaze briefly flickering to the screen. The three of them turned their heads and the woman glanced at the 'Cloud Mist flower' on the tablet.

Keeping her smile, she spoke "Ah, customers... that flower is not available right now. We have put a mission for that on the 1st floor."

Qi Nue glanced at the tab and it indeed was out of stock "Then can we take that mission?"

The woman however shook her head "I'm afraid not. The 'Cloud Mist Flower' is a rare herb that grows deep within the forest, in areas inhabited by high-level astral beasts. These beasts are far too dangerous for outer court disciples to handle." "Only inner court disciples can accept this mission."

Qi Nue and Qi Xue smiled dryly as they kinda expected this and nodded their heads "I see."

Zhao Tian frowned slightly upon hearing this as he has confidence in his strength and if he really went all out he can even fight against an inner court disciple if he used his Darkness element and Space energy along with Time energy.

He also has destructive elementals and powerful weapons along with Elven artifacts in his arsenal.

The woman continued with a smile "There are plenty of missions for more common herbs, and they're well within the capabilities of outer court disciples. You can still earn credits and valuable resources by completing those."

Qi Xue nodded appreciatively. "Thank you, sister. We'll definitely take a look at those missions."

The woman smiled kindly, clasping her hands in front of her. "Of course. If you need any help with the missions or any information about the herbs, feel free to reach out to me. I'll be around to assist you."

With that, she bowed slightly and turned to leave.

Chapter 493 Alchemy Missions [1]

As the employee left, Zhao Tian continued looking through the contents of the tab and searched Spiritthread Root and Windbell herb.

Qi Xue and Qi Nue looked at the prices and these are relatively low compared to the others Zhao Tian was looking at just now.

"1000 credits for both of them... so, 2000 credits." Zhao Tian's gaze condensed as he didn't have the credits to buy them now.

'Guess, I shall just do some missions later and I also need to check in the royal capital.'

As he was thinking, Qi Nue's voice interrupted his thoughts "I can buy this for you.. Little brother."

With a nod, Qi Xue also spoke "Yeah.. I can also buy this for you."

Looking at them, Zhao Tian smiled faintly "You don't have to, I can-"

"No, little brother.. we insist."

With that, Qi Nue called for the Employee and pointed to the tab "We need these two, Spiritthread Root and Windbell herb."

The employee quickly came to them and noted down the two herbs they needed.

With a smile she spoke "Please wait for 5 minutes, I will return with the herbs you have requested."

As she left, Zhao Tian glanced at the two women and smiled wryly "You don't really have to do all of that..."

Qi Nue gently tapped his shoulder, her tone lighthearted but filled with affection. "Nonsense, Little Brother. You treated us on your first day, so it's only fair we repay the favor and help our cute junior." Qi Xue laughed softly and nodded in agreement. "Besides, it's just these herbs. We couldn't afford the costly ones you were eyeing earlier... Sorry about that, Little Brother." Hearing her apologetic tone, Zhao Tian shook his head "No, no.. this is more than enough, Sisters."

"Hehe..."

"Thank you Little brother..."

Soon, the employee came back with the herbs in two pouches and handed them over to Zhao Tian.

She took the scanner-like device from the table and typed 2000 credits on it before extending the device to them.

Qi Nue and Qi Xue stepped forward and paid 2000 credits for Zhao Tian.

As the employee left, Zhao Tian stored the herbs in his storage ring.

Qi Nue turned to look at Zhao Tian and asked "Little brother, do you want to take some missions with us?"

Hearing this, Qi Xue also stepped close to Zhao Tian "Yeah.. we can go together to gather herbs in the forest, it would be surely fun."

Zhao Tian's eyes softened seeing their bright smiles and nodded his head "Okay then..."

The three of them came to the first floor to accept some missions from the Alchemy Chamber.

Looking at the huge billboard, Qi Nue and Qi Xue glanced around searching for suitable missions.

"Nue'er, let us take 3 missions at once this time... we can explore till evening with little brother."

"Okay."

Seeing them being enthusiastic, Zhao Tian smiled fondly... however, at this time, he felt a gaze on him and he turned his head.

A woman was walking towards him and seeing him, he smiled faintly "Sister Xueyan."

Hm? Qi Nue and Qi Xue also turned to look at the woman and glanced at the silver token on her waist 'An inner court disciple?'

Li Xueyan walked close to him "Little Brother.. what are you doing here?" she asked in mild surprise, as mostly women come here to accept missions.

"I came here to look at the shop and earn some credits by accepting missions here."

"Ohh..." Musing under her breath, she turned to look at Qi Nue and Qi Xue who were inspecting the billboard.

After checking three missions, Qi Xue turned to Zhao Tian and spoke "Give me your token little brother, I shall go and apply for three missions in our name."

With a nod, Zhao Tian took his disciple token and handed it over to them.

Looking at them, Li Xueyan smiled "Seems like you are busy... when you have time, we can go for Sect missions together."

Zhao Tian nodded his head and Li Xueyan quickly left the place.

A bit later, Qi Xue returned and nudged his shoulder teasingly "So you have already wooed an inner court disciple with your charm eh?"

Hearing her tease, Zhao Tian brushed it off with a chuckle and at this time, Qi Nue also came to him "I have already applied for the mission. Now let's leave."

"En."

...

As Zhao Tian, Qi Xue, and Qi Nue ventured into the dense forest, a cool breeze swept through the towering trees, carrying the earthy scent of damp foliage. Qi Xue, walking beside them, muttered. "We'll need to keep our guard up. These deeper parts of the forest are known for being home to low-level astral beasts. They might not be much of a threat to us, but we can't let our guard down." After several minutes of walking, Qi Xue's eyes lit up.

She crouched down and pointed to a small cluster of plants growing at the base of a large tree. "Look, here's a patch of Spiritvine Grass. It's not exactly rare, but it's one of the herbs we need for the mission."

Zhao Tian and Qi Nue knelt beside her, examining the silvery leaves of the herb. "Perfect," Qi Nue said, plucking the herb carefully and placing it into her pouch.

"Let's keep moving. We need more than just Spiritvine Grass for this mission."

As they continued their search, the forest began to change. The trees grew thicker and the undergrowth denser, making it harder to move around.

Qi Nue's eyes narrowed as she noticed faint claw marks on the bark of a nearby tree. "Looks like we're getting closer to astral beast territory."

Qi Xue nodded, her expression serious now. "Stay alert, Little Brother."

Just then, Qi Xue spotted something up ahead. "Over there! Red Ginseng Root!" They hurried toward a clearing where a few stalks of the Red Ginseng Root were growing at the edge of a small stream.

Its pale red roots shimmered faintly, and seeing this Qi Nue smiled "Great find!" she said, crouching down to harvest the roots carefully.

Suddenly, a rustling sound echoed from the bushes nearby.

Chapter 494 Alchemy Mission [2]

As Zhao Tian, Qi Xue and Qi Nue were examining the herbs in the clearing... suddenly, a rustling sound echoed from the bushes nearby.

The sound of snapping twigs and low growls echoed around them.

flick A flash of movement from the bushes caught their attention, and out from the dense greenery, a herd of strange creatures burst out.

These astral beasts are standing on four muscular legs, their skin is covered in dark scales that shimmered like glass.

Their faces resembled that of a tiger mixed with a bat, with long fangs protruding from their elongated mouths, their glowing red eyes fixated on the three people.

Thick, jagged spines ran down their backs, and the ground quaked beneath them as the herd charged toward the group.

"Batfang beasts," Qi Nue murmured, her lips curling into a confident smirk.

"We got some company."

Qi Xue's eyes gleamed with excitement. "Let's show Tian what we're made of. Watch us... little brother."

Zhao Tian chuckled upon hearing the excitement in her tone and leaned against a nearby tree, a slight smile playing on his lips. "I'll leave it to you two." That was all the encouragement the twins needed.

Qi Xue and Qi Nue exchanged a quick glance, their competitive spirits flaring up. Both wanted to impress Zhao Tian, to show him what they could do.

woosh Without wasting another second, they leaped into action, their movements in perfect synchronization as they dashed toward the oncoming horde of Batfang beasts.

Qi Nue was the first to strike, her body engulfed in a brilliant orange flame.

She raised her hand, and with a flick of her wrist, a torrent of fire shot forth, forming a massive fiery serpent.

swoosh The serpent coiled through the air, its blazing jaws snapping at the Batfang beasts, consuming them in a vortex of heat.

"GRGGGHHH!" The creatures shrieked in pain as the flames cracked their scaly bodies, turning them to ash in seconds.

Qi Xue wasn't far behind and with a smile on her face, she summoned twin orbs of fire in her hands, spinning them in a mesmerizing pattern before releasing them toward the herd.

woosh* *woosh The orbs exploded on impact, sending shockwaves of flames that tore through the beasts' ranks.

swish A few Batfang Beasts tried to flank her from the side, but Qi Xue anticipated their move.

With a quick gesture, she conjured a wall of fire, trapping them in a searing prison of heat as she released a concentrated blast of energy, obliterating them in an instant. **BOOOMM**

More beasts emerged from the forest, their numbers growing with each passing moment.

"Watch this, Sister," Qi Nue called out with a grin and waved her hands in a wide arc, the flames around her body intensifying.

SWOOOOSHHHH In a split second, the fire morphed into a colossal bird, its wings spreading wide as it soared toward the beasts.

SCREECHHHH The bird let out an ear-splitting screech, diving toward the Batfang beasts with talons made of pure flame.

SWOOOSHH It swept through the herd like a wildfire, leaving nothing but charred remains in its wake.

Qi Xue, not wanting to be outdone, smirked and raised her hand toward the sky.

The air around her shimmered as flames erupted from the ground, spiraling upwards.

She condensed the fire into a massive spear of pure flame, crackling with fiery energy.

With a quick motion, she hurled the spear toward the densest group of Batfang beasts.

THOOOOMMM The spear exploded upon impact, sending shards of fire embers in all directions, each shard striking a beast with deadly precision.

"GWAAARGHH!" The creatures howled in pain as their bodies were reduced to ash.

"That all you've got?" Qi Xue taunted, her eyes gleaming with exhilaration as the battlefield was bathed in her flames.

But the forest wasn't finished with them yet.

From the shadows, more Batfang beasts appeared...larger and more ferocious than the last time.

Their scales glowed a deeper crimson, and their jagged spines crackled with energy.

These were the alphas, the leaders of the pack.

"GUAAARGHHH!" They roared, shaking the ground beneath them as they charged toward the sisters, their claws leaving deep gouges in the earth.

Qi Nue's smirk only widened. "I've got this."

She extended her arms, and in an instant, the flames around her body intensified to an almost blinding brightness.

Her fire serpent transformed and grew larger as it slithered through the air, its eyes glowing with molten heat.

woosh With a powerful thrust of her hand, the serpent lunged toward the alpha Batfang beasts, wrapping itself around their bodies, squeezing with a force that made the air tremble.

The alphas fought back, slashing and biting at the fiery serpent, but they were no match for its sheer power.

swoosh Within moments, they were reduced to nothing more than molten slag.

Not to be outdone, Qi Xue conjured a storm of flames around her, the fire twisting into a cyclone of destructive energy.

The beasts that tried to approach her were caught in the swirling inferno, their bodies torn apart by the relentless flames.

With a final burst of power, she sent the cyclone hurtling toward the remaining alphas, watching with satisfaction as they were consumed by the roaring flames.

A few minutes passed and the battlefield was silent now, crackling with the lingering flames.

Qi Nue and Qi Xue stood side by side, their chests heaving with a hint of exertion, though their faces were filled with smiles.

They glanced over at Zhao Tian, who still leaned casually against the tree, and raised their chests proudly "See, how is our power?"

"Well done, Sisters," Zhao Tian replied with a smile.

"Hehe..." Qi Nue glanced at the black-diamond like stones that were scattered on the ground and muttered "We need to collect all the beast stones..."

"Oh yeah, I forgot about that."

Soon, the three of them collected the beast stones and again ventured into the forest to collect some herbs for the mission.

Chapter 495 Alchemy Missions [3]

It was already evening and the sun cast an orangish golden rays down the forest as the sun rays slithered through the gaps between the leaves reaching the ground.

Qi Nue, Zhao Tian, and Qi Xue were walking through the small pathway in the forest, laughing and chatting with each other.

Looking at his carefree and relaxed smiling face, Qi Nue's eyes softened but then she remembered something and asked "By the way, little brother.. I want to ask something."

Zhao Tian turned from Qi Xue to look at Qi Nue "What is it, sister?"

With a thoughtful look on her face, Qi Nue asked "I heard that.. you bullied people on the Sect Entrance exam using lightning elemental."

"But you told us that you have fire elemental... So..." She trailed off, giving him a playful yet suspicious look. "Were you lying to us?"

Hearing this, Zhao Tian shook his head "Why would I need to lie to you, sister."

Huh? Qi Nue and Qi Xue raised an eyebrow in surprise and looked at each other "If you are not lying then...."

An idea appeared in their mind and their eyes shrank in shock "You have dual elementals?"

Zhao Tian gave a faint nod "Something like that...."

As he spoke, he raised his hand as sparks of lightning along with embers of flame crackled within his palm.

"What the hell?"

Qi Nue and Qi Xue were shocked to the core and hurriedly brought their faces close to his hand looking at the two elementals playing on his hand.

"L-L-Little brother, you really have two elementals..."

"H-How?"

Qi Xue snapped out of her shock and replied "T-Then Little brother, if you show your dual affinities... you can even now become an inner court disciple."

With a nod, Qi Nue spoke "Yes little brother, heck you have lightning and fire... you can directly become a cord disciple with this."

"It is really... really rare to have dual elementals."

Zhao Tian smiled dryly in his heart as he had affinities to all seven elementals and if he showed that everyone would gawk at him.

Looking at them watching his palm, he smiled and condensed them both into one as bolts of red lightning sparkled around his palm.

"L-Little brother... you combined them?"

"You could do that?"

"Amazing...."

Hearing their awe, Zhao Tian let out a faint chuckle and at this time, his palm glowed brightly in yellow color.

Qi Nue and Qi Xue's bodies trembled in utter shock and their pupils shrank in bewilderment feeling the energy.

"L-L-Little brother... you have Light? The rarest elemental too? W-WHAT????!!!"

Qi Xue's jaw was on the floor as she mumbled "If the elders saw this... they would fight against each other to pull you under their wing."

Hearing their remarks, Zhao Tian chuckled faintly and closed his palm."

Qi Nue and Qi Xue looked at Zhao Tian in admiration. "L-Little brother.. why are you keeping this a secret? If you told this to the Elders or the Sect.. they would make you the top disciple in the sect."

"Yeah, you don't have to worry about credits... you can have everything... resources to cultivate quickly."

"The Sect would bend over backward for you," Qi Nue added with a smile.

Zhao Tian let out a soft sigh, glancing at the forest ahead of them.

While the idea of unlimited resources and respect sounded appealing, he knew the price would be steep.

He would become bound to the sect, forced to live up to the expectations of some strangers he had no interest in fulfilling.

The freedom he had now, the ability to move as he pleased and pursue his goals without interference... that was what mattered most to him.

"Being in the spotlight would be more trouble than it's worth," Zhao Tian said with a smile, shaking his head.

The sisters exchanged a look, clearly not understanding his reluctance.

Looking at both of them, Zhao Tian smiled fondly "Keep this a secret..."

Qi Nue and Qi Xue took deep breaths to calm their racing hearts and nodded their heads "if you don't want to..."

"Then, we won't tell.."

"Hehe, our little secret."

"Don't make it sound weird."

Meanwhile there was another woman, who had her jaw dropped in shock who was overhearing their conversation.

"What the-"

Ji Shuang who was flying high up in the air was shocked to the core as she blinked her eyes "M-M-Master Tian has three elementals?"

"Lightning.. Fire and L-Light?"

She just followed him here because he is going into the forest and followed him for protection.

She know that if anything happens to Zhao Tian when he is inside the Sect, she would be instantly killed.

"i need to report this back to Her Grace."

Mumbling under her breath, she hurriedly took a mirror from her storage ring and hastily contacted Qin Shi.

As the mirror glowed faintly, she saw a silhouette of a woman on the mirror "What is it, Shuang?"

Ji Shuang bowed her head and spoke "Your Grace, Matser Tian actually have three elementals, Fire, Lightning and Light."

-_- Qian Shi who was on the other side couldn't help but burst into laughter "Hahaha, you idiot... he has affinity to all seven elementals."

HUH?

Ji Shuang's pupils shrank in astonishment and she unconsciously mumbled "A-A-All seven elementals?"

Qian Shi who was on the other side smiled dryly as she also has an affinity to the seven elementals because of her Heavenly One physique.

With a nod, Qian Shi spoke "So, don't worry about it.. and don't tell anyone about it."

As she canceled the connection, Ji Shuang fell into a daze and mumbled "Even Her Grace is head over heels for him... so of course, he must be so talented and handsome like this..."

Soon, Zhao Tian, Qi Nue and Qi Xue returned to the Alchemy chamber and returned the herbs, completing the missions.

"Then, see you tomorrow.. Little Brother."

"Hm..."

...

smooch Zhao Tian was lying on the bed with Xia Shenyi on top of him who was licking and kissing his neck.

Her fingers were playing on his chest as she continued sucking and nibbling his skin.

Meanwhile, Zhao Tian seemed lost in thought, his hand instinctively patting her head, though his mind was clearly elsewhere. His frown deepened slightly, his eyes staring off toward the ceiling. Noticing his distracted state, Xia Shenyi pouted slightly and moved her face kissing his chest as her gaze turned to his nipple.

Giggling, she placed a kiss on his nipple and kissed it, making him shudder "Shenyi..."

Xia Shenyi let out her tongue and rolled her wet tongue on his nipple teasing him "What are you thinking, Tian?"

With a slight frown, Zhao Tian spoke "I just felt a weird.. yin energy from a woman's body. Yesterday her energy was normal.. but today when I saw her..."

Raising her eyebrow, Xia Shenyi again placed a kiss on his nipple "Is it Li Jia?"

With a shake of his head, Zhao Tian replied "No, her Big Sister.. Li Xueyan."

Chapter 496 Sword Training!

Lying on top of him, Xia Shenyi let out her tongue and rolled her wet tongue on his nipple teasing him "What are you thinking, Tian?"

With a slight frown, Zhao Tian spoke "I've been sensing something strange lately," he murmured.

"A woman's yin energy felt... different. It's been bothering me since yesterday."

Xia Shenyi paused her kisses for a moment, her curiosity piqued as she looked up at him. "Yin energy? From whom?"

With a playful smirk, she leaned down and pressed a kiss to his chest, her lips hovering over his nipple, making him flinch ever so slightly. "Who was it? Li Jia?"

Zhao Tian shook his head, his fingers brushing through her hair. "No, it wasn't her. It was her elder sister, Li Xueyan."

Xia Shenyi raised an eyebrow, her lips still close to his nipple. "Li Xueyan? What was strange about her Yin energy?" Zhao Tian's expression turned serious as he tried to explain. "Her energy was normal before, but today... it felt imbalanced. There was something different, like a sudden surge of yin energy in her body." Xia Shenyi listened closely, her lips gently brushing his skin as she pondered the situation.

She leaned up slightly, resting her chin on his chest as she gazed into his eyes. "And you think something might have happened to her?" she asked softly.

Zhao Tian nodded, his fingers still lightly running through her hair. "I don't know yet. It could be nothing, but it doesn't feel right."

Hmm... With a slight frown, Xia Shenyi replied "Maybe just like Ning Xue.. she also has Pure Yin physique?"

"The physique is rare, but it is possible for two or three people to have the same physique, unlike the Honoured One physique."

However, Zhao Tian shook his head "No... not that Shenyi. Something else... I need to ask her about that sometime. Maybe some kind of disease?"

...

Under the vast expanse of the starry night sky, Zhao Tian stood in the middle of the grassy field, shirtless except for a pair of loose shorts.

His sculpted muscles gleamed with a light sheen of sweat, his body radiating a faint glow.

The night air was cool, but his blood ran hot as he faced off against Shi Yixian.

Shi Yixian stood a few paces away, her long white hair cascading in waves down her back, barely held together by a simple tie.

She wore an exposing t-shirt that clung to her body, the fabric lifting slightly with every breath, paired with shorts that showed off her long luscious legs.

A wooden sword rested in her grip, the moonlight casting a soft glow on her smooth skin.

Her eyes were sharp, but there was a playful gleam in them as she held her stance.

As she felt his gaze on her cleavage, Shi Yixian frowned slightly "My Liege.. you should learn to control your pervertedness... you are getting more perverted lately."

-- Zhao Tian stared at her blankly and replied "What's wrong with admiring my wife? Are you mad?"

With a shake of her head, Shi Yixian replied "I am just worried... some evil woman might seduce you and you will die under her skirt."

"Maybe it's your Yang energy that is making you perverted... even now, you are looking at me with a heated gaze like you want to pound me here and now."

Zhao Tian smiled dryly as what she said is kinda true because Shi Yixian is just so beautiful in modern clothes and coupled with her beautiful face... Zhao Tian has to admit that she is the second most beautiful woman he has ever seen.

Shi Yixian had a thoughtful look on her face and quickly removed her clothes, getting fully naked.

Looking at her seductive body, Zhao Tian smiled as his gaze wandered to her exquisite curves.. no matter how many times he see her, he couldn't help but get horny.

Gripping her wooden sword, Shi Yixian mumbled "From now on, this is not just sword training... it is also training to control your horniness, to make sure you always keep your dragon inside your pants when you see a random beautiful woman, My Liege."

Eh?

woosh With a sudden burst of energy, Shi Yixian darted forward, her wooden blade slicing through the air.

Zhao Tian met her strike with his sword, their swords clashing with a muted thud, neither of them using full strength.

Sparks of sword intent flickered around their weapons, and Zhao Tian's gaze flickered to her boobs which are jiggling like crazy.

"Woah..."

Shi Yixian noticed his perverted gaze on her boobs and with a twist of her wrist, she disarmed him momentarily, forcing his sword down.

She twisted out of his reach and, in a playful revenge, landed a quick, sharp smack on his butt with the flat of her sword. **plah**

Huh? Zhao Tian froze, eyes widening in disbelief as she giggled, her eyes sparkling with mischief.

"You little—!" he started, but before he could finish, she was already gone, darting to his side and delivering another light tap to his ass with the wooden sword.

"That's two for looking at my boobs, My Liege..." she said, her voice sing-songy as she danced just out of his reach.

As she danced away from him, he saw her hips swaying seductively and her ass buns screaming for him to grab them.

But he controlled himself from groping her ass cheeks "She is deliberately doing it..." his lips twitched in exasperation.

Without warning, she charged again, faster this time, her blade swinging with a controlled, fluid motion.

clak Zhao Tian met her strike, but she wasn't done.

She pivoted on her heel, spun behind him, and before he could react, her fingers pinched his waist hard.

"Ow!" Zhao Tian yelped, more from surprise than pain.

His body jerked, and he swiped his sword backward to create distance, but she was already laughing, her playful tone filling the air.

"That is for ogling at my ass, My Liege..." Shi Yixian taunted, her smile mischievous.

Zhao Tian rubbed his waist with a mock grimace. "You're getting bold. When did you start teasing me like this?" he asked, stepping closer with a predatory gleam in his eyes.

Shi Yixian couldn't help but giggle "I am just doing my job for you to control your desires, My Liege."

Seeing her giggle, Zhao Tian's eyes softened as she had changed a lot from her previous emotionless self.

woosh He suddenly threw the sword at her and Shi Yixian was caught off-guard as she deflected the flying sword with hers.

flick Zhao Tian teleported behind her and quickly groped her breasts, squeezing them in his palm.

"M-My Liege?"

"This is foul... Haang~"

...

pakh *pakh* Xia Shenyi who was walking through the living hall of the mansion was confused hearing the sounds.

"This is not how it sounds when two swords clash... this is..."

She stepped out of the door and her jaw dropped looking at Zhao Tian and Shi Yixian fucking in the middle of the field in the broad nightlight like animals.

What the hell? I thought they were having sword training... are they doing sex training?

As she thought, she turned her head to the small pink fox on the door curiously looking at them having sex.

Eh?

Chapter 497 Another Sect Mission [1]

The next day morning, Zhao Tian stepped out of his room and made his way toward the Sect Hall intending to do some missions and gain credits.

"Little brother.."

As he stepped into the Sect Hall, he heard a familiar voice calling him from behind cutting through the noise and he turned his head.

Looking at the blue haired woman, Zhao Tian smiled faintly "Sister Xueyan."

Li Xueyan hurriedly walked to him, with a smile on her face "Little brother.. here to take some missions?"

With a nod, he replied "Yeah, to get some credits and buy some herbs from Alchemy chamber."

Upon hearing this, Li Xueyan smiled "Then come with me, I can help you."

Both of them stepped into the Sect hall which was bustling with outer court and inner court disciples.

Glancing at Zhao Tian, Li Xueyan spoke "The missions set for the inner disciples might be risky.. but the reward is also high... you can't usually take them as an outer court disciple."

"But since I am with you, you can take those missions and gain credits."

Zhao Tian nodded his head upon hearing this and they soon reached the billboard. Looking at the contents of the billboard, Li Xueyan's eyes squinted "maybe we should have gone to the inner court Sect hall... there would have been many missions."

As she was muttering, a mission caught her eyes and point at it "Little brother, how about that? the TM-098."

Looking at the missions, Zhao Tian nodded "Hm... killing some bandits. Ok, we can do that."

Both of them walked to the receptionist and submitted the mission.

Checking the number, the receptionist spoke "Killing the bandit group... In the north of Liyang City, near the Gimmeng Mountains, there is a group of 10 to 12 bandits." "They looted the village, killed many innocent peoples. The leader of the bandit should be around 2nd level of Stellar Essence Stage."

"Kill the group and bring back the head of the leader for proof and get a reward of 7000 credits and 500 High grade Astral stones."

Li Xueyan nodded her head and both of them gave her the tokens as she noted their names on the tablet for the mission.

"Good luck on the mission."

Both of them stepped out of the Sect hall and Li Xueyan spoke "Little Brother, since we can't fly around in the city.. we need to go there by carriage."

"En."

Meanwhile, a woman was glancing at two of them from the distance.

"Seems like he has gotten so close with Big Sister..." Li Jia mumbled under her breath.

...

As Zhao Tian and Li Xueyan made their way through the bustling streets of Liyang City, the atmosphere was lively, with merchants hawking their goods and street performers drawing crowds. They passed by vendors selling everything from silk garments to exotic spices, the vibrant colors of the marketplace creating a dazzling array.

Li Xueyan, deep in thought, broke the silence. "Little Brother," she began, her voice contemplative, "it will be difficult to find the bandits' hiding spot in the mountains. They know the terrain far better than we do." "But the northern gate of the city... merchants pass through there every day. If we join one of the caravans, there's a good chance the bandits will attempt an ambush. What do you think?"

Hearing her suggestion, Zhao Tian nodded his head "Then, let's do that."

They quickly got in a carriage and made their way towards the northern gate of the Sitting inside the carriage, Zhao Tian gazed at Liyang city through the windows of the carriage and Li Xueyan slowly moved sitting close to him.

Zhao Tian glanced at her and she showed a faint smile "Did you speak with Jia after that...?"

With a shake of his head, he replied "Not much..."

A sigh escaped Li Xueyan's lips as she leaned back, her eyes distant. "She still blames me for our father's death," she said softly, her voice tinged with regret.

"We used to be so close, like true sisters. Now, she can barely look at me." Her hands clenched into fists in her lap, the pain of their fractured relationship clearly weighing on her.

Looking at her, Zhao Tian's gaze condensed as he questioned "Forget about Li Jia for now.. I want to ask something else, Sister Xueyan."

Slightly confused, Li Xueyan tilted her head "What is it, Little Brother..."

"I sensed that your Yin energy has been unstable since yesterday.. but today it seems calm..."

Hearing this, Li Xueyan's heart skipped a beat, and she instinctively averted her gaze, her fingers fidgeting in her lap. "L-Little Brother... that's..." she stammered, clearly uncomfortable with the topic. Seeing her hesitation, Zhao Tian's frown deepened. "If you don't want to talk about it, I won't force you," he said gently, though his curiosity was piqued.

With a shake of her head, she looked at him.. her eyes softening in tenderness "No.. I can tell, it is like a disease to me."

"Suddenly, without warning, the Yin energy in my body flares up," she explained, her voice tinged with frustration.

"It causes immense pain, straining my meridians. I have to forcefully suppress it, and after a few minutes, it fades away. But the pain lingers. I don't know why it happens or how to control it."

Hearing her explanation, Zhao Tian raised an eyebrow in surprise 'Sudden burst out of yin energy? Does she have some special physique like Xue'er' Pure Yin physique.'

Li Xueyan placed a hand on his shoulder, her touch light yet reassuring. "Don't worry too much. It's painful, but it only happens for a day before disappearing again," she said with a weak smile. "I've learned to manage it." "But I'm actually surprised," she added, her eyes twinkling with a hint of admiration. "That you could sense it. Not many can see through my Yin energy that easily, especially when I'm suppressing it. Hahaha." Looking at her chuckle, Zhao Tian smiled faintly and they continued their conversation.

The carriage continued its journey toward the northern gate, and Zhao Tian's thoughts wandered back to the mission ahead.

As they neared the city gate, the hustle and bustle of Liyang City gradually faded, replaced by the quieter, more subdued atmosphere of the countryside.

The rolling hills stretched out before them, and in the distance, the shadow of the Gimmeng Mountains loomed.

Soon, both of them got down from the carriage and looked at the number of caravans stationed near the gate to be set out.

Chapter 498 Another Sect Mission [2]

The rolling hills stretched out before them, and in the distance, the shadow of the Gimmeng Mountains loomed.

Soon, Zhao Tian and Li Xueyan got down from the carriage and looked at the number of caravans stationed near the gate to be set out.

A line of caravans stretched along the road, their wooden frames groaning under the weight of goods piled high atop them.

Oxen and horses, sturdy and resilient, were tethered to the caravans, snorting softly as they awaited the long journey ahead.

The caravans are also protected by guards and mercenaries who are appointed by the merchants to guard the caravans on their way.

Looking at the caravans, Zhao Tian frowned slightly "With such protection, do you think the bandits will attack the caravans?"

Li Xueyan gave a nod "Hmm, since the bandits' activities have increased in the past few days... it seems like they have increased protection."

Zhao Tian glanced back at the caravans, his gaze lingering on the heavily armed guards, then back to Li Xueyan. "You think we should join them, then?" Li Xueyan met his gaze and nodded once more. "Yeah. We took on the mission to deal with the bandits, and this caravan's a prime target."

"Even if they don't attack, it's best to stay close and be prepared. Better to be there and not needed than be needed and too far away." They made their way towards one of the caravans.

It was a large one, with wooden panels reinforced with metal, and a tarp covered the goods inside.

Standing near the front, directing his men as they prepared to depart, was a middle-aged man with graying hair and a rugged, sun-beaten face. Looking at the young people walking toward him, the man was surprised, but then looking at the disciple tokens, he smiled.

"Well, now, what do we have here? Two disciples from the Jade Eclipse Sect. What brings you to a humble caravan like mine?"

Even outside the Sect, the jade Eclipse Sect disciples are well treated and respected.

Li Xueyan gave a nod and spoke "We've accepted a mission to eliminate the bandits that have been targeting these caravans and nearby villages. We were wondering if we could accompany you on your journey."

The man's smile widened, and he let out a hearty laugh. "Free protection from the Jade Eclipse Sect? How could I say no to that? If you're here to take care of the bandits, then my caravan is in good hands." Zhao Tian glanced at Li Xueyan, who gave a small nod and both of them climbed into the back of the caravan.

Inside, the caravan was packed with crates of supplies, leaving just enough room for them to settle down near the rear. The caravan master gave a loud shout, and the sound of whips cracked through the air as the oxen and horses began to pull the heavy loads forward.

Slowly, the caravan started to move, and the long line of wagons and carts followed behind. As they began their journey, the rhythmic creak of the caravan's wheels on the road mixed with the low murmur of voices from the guards and mercenaries riding alongside.

The caravan inched forward, the distant Gimmeng Mountains ever so slightly growing larger on the horizon.

Li Xueyan leaned back against one of the crates, her arms crossed over his chest as she kept a watchful eye on the road ahead. "It's better if they do attack," she said quietly. "It'll give us a chance to deal with them directly."

thud Suddenly, the caravan hit a small bump in the road.

The entire wagon jostled violently, causing Zhao Tian to instinctively reach for the side of the cart for balance.

"Ah!" At the same moment, Li Xueyan, who had been sitting near the edge, was thrown forward, her body lurching toward him.

Zhao Tian reacted swiftly, his hand moving to catch her before she could fall.

His hand gripped her arm, pulling her closer to him.

Li Xueyan landed awkwardly against his chest, her soft body pressed up against his.

For a brief moment, her face was so close to his that she could feel the warmth of his breath on her skin.

Her blue eyes widened in surprise, and for a heartbeat, neither of them moved.

Zhao Tian's hands remained on her arms, his hold firm but not rough as if he were unsure whether to let her go or keep her close.

Li Xueyan, her heart pounding in her chest, felt an unfamiliar heat rise in her cheeks as she realized how close they were.

"S-sorry..." she whispered, her voice barely audible.

"It's fine," Zhao Tian muttered with a dry smile, but he didn't let go of her just yet.

Li Xueyan, still leaning against him, felt her heart racing in a way she hadn't expected.

She could feel the strong muscles of his chest beneath her hands, and without fully realizing it, she had unconsciously placed her hands against him for support.

Her fingers, soft and delicate, grazed against the fabric of his robe.

There was something soothing in the solidness of his presence, something that made her hesitate to pull away.

"I didn't mean to fall..." Li Xueyan added softly, her voice slightly breathless, as she glanced up at him.

Her cheeks flushed a soft pink, and Zhao Tian's grip on her arms loosened slightly, but he still kept her close.

Li Xueyan shook her head slowly, still not pulling away from his embrace.

Instead, she allowed herself a moment longer in his arms, the feeling of being close to him, of being held by him, sent an unexpected warmth through her.

She hesitated for just a second, then leaned a little closer, resting her forehead lightly against his chest.

Zhao Tian was quite surprised as she was clearly making moves on him and their relationship was progressing quickly that he expected.

It's not like he hates this...

His hands slowly moved from her arms to her back, gently holding her in place. Li Xueyan could feel the steady rise and fall of his chest as he breathed, the warmth of his body seeping into hers.

Her fingers, still resting on his chest, twitched slightly, and without thinking, she gave a soft squeeze.

Time passed as the caravan continued its steady march forward, the sun climbing higher into the sky. The rolling hills soon gave way to dense forests, the road narrowing as they passed between towering trees.

Chapter 499 Another Sect Mission [3]

It had already been a full day since Zhao Tian and Li Xueyan joined the caravan, and despite the growing tension in the air, the expected bandit attack never came. The sun hung low on the horizon now, casting a warm, golden hue over the rolling hills as dusk began to settle over the landscape.

Zhao Tian, leaning against the side of the cart, watched the sun sink behind the mountains as a soft sigh escaped his lips.

"We've been traveling all day," Li Xueyan's voice broke the silence beside him, her tone low and thoughtful.

She sat cross-legged, with a slight furrow in her brow as she stared at the road ahead. "Still no sign of the bandits."

"They've been raiding caravans for days on this route. It doesn't make sense for them to lie low now."

The two exchanged a brief glance, a silent understanding passing between them.

They both knew that waiting any longer could be a mistake.

The caravan was drawing closer to its destination, and the window for an attack was closing rapidly.

If the bandits hadn't struck by now, they likely weren't going to.

Zhao Tian straightened, pushing himself away from the cart "We should get off here," he suggested, his eyes fixed on the nearby foothills of the Gimmeng Mountains.

The rugged terrain and hidden paths would be the perfect place for bandits to hide. "If the bandits aren't coming to us, we'll go to them."

Li Xueyan nodded in agreement. "We're near the base of the Ginneng Mountains," she said, her gaze following his.

"That's where they're rumored to be hiding."

After briefly informing the caravan master of their plans, the two disembarked, stepping off the beaten path into the wild.

The cool evening breeze ruffled their robes as they ventured into the rocky wilderness, the vast stretch of the mountains spreading out before them.

The air felt crisp, carrying the faint scent of pine and earth, and as they climbed higher, the dense forest began to close in around them. The search was painstakingly slow.

Hours passed as they moved deeper into the foothills, their footsteps nearly soundless on the uneven ground.

But the mountains were vast and full of crevices and caves, too large to search in one night.

Zhao Tian eventually stopped at the top of a ridge, his eyes sweeping over the sprawling landscape below, now bathed in the soft glow of twilight.

"This is getting us nowhere," he muttered as he sat on the ridge.

Li Xueyan sat beside him as she gently placed her head on his shoulder, her gaze fixated on the enormous stretch of forest before them.

"Yeah.. even if we fly over the whole forest, it would be hard to find their hiding spot."

In this one day, they have gotten quite close to the point where these kinds of physical interactions seems normal.

A slight frown creased Zhao Tian's eyebrow as he asked "How about we set up a trap?"

Li Xueyan softly turned her head in his shoulder to look into his eyes "A trap?"

With a nod, Zhao Tian explained "We'll pose as wealthy travelers, Just like the caravans they've been targeting. Bandits are greedy... they won't be able to resist an easy mark."

"It is a very simple plan... but it might work."

Hearing this, Li Xueyan nodded her head "Yeah... it is better than searching through the whole forest."

She stretched her arms above her head and lay back on the cold stone ridge, her blue hair spilling across the rough surface like a shimmering waterfall.

Her eyes sparkled as she gazed up at the stars, their twinkling light reflected in her blue irises. "Then let's sleep here for tonight," Zhao Tian lay beside her as the cool rustle of the wind brushed past his face. "Yeah..."

He extended his arm, placing it casually behind his head, and felt Li Xueyan move closer to him.

Without hesitation, she nestled against him, resting her head on his biceps.

"It's really cold tonight... Tian," Li Xueyan whispered, her voice almost a murmur. "Oh, I have a blanket in my storage ring... we can sleep on that."

Soon, he took a blanket from his storage ring and spread it out over the even part of the stone ridge, smoothing out the fabric before motioning for her to join him.

"Better?" he asked, settling down on the blanket.

Li Xueyan, chuckling softly, followed suit, reclining beside him. "You really do have everything, don't you?" she teased, her tone light but affectionate.

"Ready for a night camp or something?"

Hearing her tease, Zhao Tian smiled dryly and gently clasped her hand pulling her closer "You told me it is cold.. right? Come closer."

Without hesitation, Li Xueyan slid closer, her body instinctively leaning into his.

The space between them disappeared as she pressed against his side, their shared body heat now the only thing standing between them and the biting chill of the night air. A-Ah...

A soft, almost startled breath escaped her lips as his arm wrapped around her waist, pulling her in even tighter.

Her heart began to race, the warmth of his touch sending a faint blush creeping across her cheeks. His fingers gently traced the fabric of her dress as he adjusted the white quilt he had taken from his storage ring, draping it over the both of them. Then, his hand, still resting on her waist, tightened slightly, pulling her even closer until her body was pressed fully against his. Li Xueyan's cheeks flushed deeper at the closeness, but she didn't pull away. Instead, she let herself sink deeper into his embrace, her head resting on his chest now. She snuggled cozily as the quilt covered them and both of them hugged each other to escape the chill of the night with their body heat.

...

The next day...

Morning came as the sun cast its golden rays over the Gimmeng mountain ranges...

Hm? Zhao Tian's eyes flickered open and he glanced down at Li Xueyan who was snuggling on his chest.

His gaze narrowed as he turned his head up looking at a bunch of people wearing black hoods approaching him.

"Oh... we got some company."

Chapter 500 Another Sect Mission [4]

As Zhao Tian raised his head from the sleeping position, he glanced at the bunch of men wearing black hoods walking toward him.

He gently tapped Li Xueyan's arm, trying to wake her up "Xueyan, we got some company..."

"Hm.. let me sleep more, Tian..."

She mumbled, her voice barely audible as she snuggled closer, her head resting against his chest. --
Zhao Tian stared at her blankly and then turned his eyes to the men who are meters away 'Seems like the bandits are on their patrol in the morning and should have sensed our presence within the forest.'

The group drew closer, and one of them, a large man wielding a crude axe, stopped just a few paces away.

His rough voice cut through the air, breaking the peaceful silence of the air. "Stand up! Both of you!" he shouted, his eyes darting between Zhao Tian and the still-sleeping Li Xueyan. Huh? Li Xueyan snapped out of her sleep and instantly jostled from the blankets as she took a fighting posture looking at the small group of bandits.

Seeing her, Zhao Tian smiled dryly and stretched his arms above his head as he slowly pushed himself sitting upright on the blanket.

Li Xueyan's gaze narrowed 'It seems like... I was lost in dreams in Tian's arms.. haa... I didn't notice them.'

The bandits, however, weren't focused on Zhao Tian anymore.

Their eyes locked onto Li Xueyan, their gazes predatory and filled with lust as one of them, a wiry man with a slimy grin, stepped forward confidently. Zhao Tian glanced at the group of men and noticed their gazes fixated on Li Xueyan.

Li Xueyan's eyes squinted, feeling their hungry predatory gazes on her body 'Fuckers...'

One of them smiled "Quite the beauty," he spoke, his eyes raking over her figure. "It's not safe to sleep on a mountain like this all alone, Miss. Why don't you come with us? We'll protect you." Hearing this, Li Xueyan smiled gently "Really? You guys will protect me?"

The bandit's grin widened, mistaking her playful tone for submission and he took another step forward, growing bolder.

"Yeah, sweetheart. We'll take good care of you. You've got nothing to worry about as long as you're with us. This forest is crawling with beasts-" *flick* With a spark of lightning energy, Zhao Tian appeared in front of the bandit and slashed the sword in his hand, as it deftly sliced through his head.

puchi The blood splattered from his body and the bandit's head hit the ground with a loud *thud*, his body collapsing shortly after.

Seeing this, the others also were quickly alerted as they gripped the hilt of their weapons.

These bandits are only in the Nascent Warrior Stage, so it is easy for even Zhao Tian to kill them in one strike.

The problem is...

A dark glint passed through Zhao Tian's eyes and strange patterns appeared on his iris as he looked at the white burning souls in front of him waiting for him to feast upon them.

Why would he waste an easy way to increase his cultivation, but Li Xueyan is here... so he can't openly use Darkness Elemental as it is considered taboo.

Only Eldritchfiends possess darkness elemental and devour souls but since he has Honoured One physique, he can see and devour souls.

And he is not sure if Li Xueyan would see through his illusion if he used it as a feint to devour his soul.

No, fuck it...

His eyes squinted 'If I am fast enough... I can distract her and absorb some souls..'

As the blood splattered, Li Xueyan smirked and hurriedly jumped into action "Seems like you don't like chit chats.. Tian."

"Yeah... we are here to kill them anyway, why waste time?"

"Fair enough..."

As she dashed into the group of bandits, Zhao Tian stretched his palm and a white soul fluttered out of the dead body.

The soul flickered and shattered, its fragments dissolving into the air before flowing seamlessly into his body. Feeling the energy rushing in his body, his gaze narrowed 'Hm.. 8th level of Soul refine Stage.. not bad...'

With a calm yet dangerous glint in her eyes, Li Xueyan's body moved before the bandits could react.

woosh She dashed forward, her steps light but quick as a surge of water elemental energy gathered around her.

Her feet barely touched the ground as she leaped into the group of bandits and water swirled around her hands, forming elegant streams that shimmered under the soft morning light. The first bandit was startled by her sudden movement and swung his sword, but Li Xueyan didn't even bother to dodge.

Instead, with a flick of her wrist, a thin stream of water shot forward from her palm, moving with the speed and precision of a dagger.

sleech The water sliced through the bandit's throat with a sharp **swish**, the cut so clean that for a moment, he stood frozen, his hand still gripping his sword.

puchi

Blood sprayed from the wound, mixing with the moisture in the air as the bandit crumpled to the ground in a lifeless heap.

Seeing this, the other bandits quickly got ready.

One of them, standing off to the side, slammed his hands into the ground.

crack The earth trembled beneath them as jagged rocks erupted from the soil, forming a thick wall of stone between Li Xueyan and the bandits.

Li Xueyan's eyes narrowed at the sight and without missing a beat, she raised her hand, a torrent of water gathering above her palm.

woosh With a swift motion, she sent the water crashing down on the stone wall, the force of it splitting the rocks apart like fragile glass.

thoom The water surged forward, catching the earth elemental user off guard as it wrapped around him, binding his arms and legs before lifting him off the ground.

The bandit struggled, his eyes wide in panic. "What-"

crack

Li Xueyan clenched her palm, and the water constricted violently, snapping his bones with a sickening crunch.

His body dropped lifeless to the ground as the water dissipated, leaving only a pool of blood where he had once stood.

"Inferno Burst!" Another bandit roared, his hands erupting in flames.

swoosh He hurled a massive fireball directly at Li Xueyan, the heat from the flames scorching the surrounding foliage as it barreled toward her.

Li Xueyan barely flinched and her eyes flashed with cold determination as she raised her hand, summoning a massive wave of water.

The water surged forward, meeting the fireball head-on.

THOOOM Steam exploded into the air as the elements collided, the hiss of evaporating water filling the forest.

But the fireball, though powerful, couldn't withstand the sheer volume of Li Xueyan's water.

The flames sputtered and died, leaving only a thin trail of smoke in its wake.

"Pathetic," she muttered, her gaze locked on the fire elemental bandit.

The man's eyes widened in shock as Li Xueyan launched forward, her water tendrils slashing through the air.

With a flick of her wrist, a sharp blade of water formed in her palm, and she sliced it clean through his midsection.

sleesh

"GAAH!" The fire elemental user let out a strangled cry as his body fell to the ground in two bloody halves.

As Li Xueyan launched onto the other bandits, dark energy seeped out of the ground and swirled around the body, plucking the body's soul and bringing it back to Zhao Tian.