

Honoured 561

Chapter 561 Aftermath of the dispute!

561 Aftermath of the dispute!

Zhao Tian glanced at Yao Jing with a wry smile "Cheating? you're thinking too much,"

Li Jia's gaze darted between them, her mind racing in confusion 'Cheating? Master? What is happening here?'

Yao Jing crossed her arms, her sharp eyes narrowing further. "Thinking too much? That vixen practically whispered her intentions into your ear in front of me. If she's not already tangled with you, she's clearly planning to be." Zhao Tian let out a soft chuckle, brushing off the tension. "She likes to tease, that's all. Don't read too deeply into her words." "Mmhm," Yao Jing huffed, unconvinced but unwilling to press the issue further. Meanwhile, Li Jia was surprised to see Sect Elders speaking so casually with Zhao Tian, as if they were equals.

But what truly shocked her was the implication of familiarity, intimacy even.

'Just what is Zhao Tian's relationship with these Sect Elders?' Before she could fully process it, Yao Jing's eyes landed on her, and her lips curled into a smile. "And this must be little Jia you talked about, Hehehe."

Glancing at her bruise, she uttered "Looks like you've been through quite a bit."

Li Jia stiffened under her eyes, her hands instinctively tightening on Zhao Tian's arm. "Y-Yes, Sect Elder," she stammered.

Yao Jing raised an eyebrow, her smile deepening. "Sect Elder? My, Tian'er, she's so proper with her words. How adorable."

Zhao Tian sighed, running a hand through his hair. "Don't tease her. She's been through enough today."

"Hehe..." Yao Jing smiled and reached out, pinching his cheek delicately "After cleaning up your body, come to my chamber."

Zhao Tian nodded lightly. "Mhm." With a casual wave of her hand, Yao Jing turned and left, her flowing robes trailing behind her as she disappeared into the corridor, leaving Zhao Tian and Li Jia alone. "Come in..."

Pushing the door open, Zhao Tian stepped inside, and Li Jia followed close behind. Without a word, Zhao Tian reached out, gently taking her wrist and guiding her toward the bed. He motioned for her to sit.

Smiling softly, he lifted his hand to graze her cheek, his fingertips warm with light energy. A soft glow emanated from his hand as he began to heal the bruise on her face. Li Jia winced slightly as the energy worked its way through her skin, but the pain quickly faded, replaced by a soothing warmth. "Tell me what happened."

Li Jia let out a soft sigh, her shoulders relaxing slightly as she began to speak. "This morning, they came to my room asking about my sister, and I told them I didn't know where she was." She paused, glancing down at her hands before continuing, "They already knew that I was aware of my sister being... an evil cultivator. They pressed further, asking about the man she was following before she disappeared." "I refused to tell them, but they smacked my face and asked me about you."

"Seems like Li Xueyan has already told you about them and asked me to show your room."

"In hopes that you might solve the problem, I bought them for you.. but I didn't expect it to escalate to a life or death match."

Zhao Tian's eyes squinted in thought "Hmm, good.. if you ever have problems in the future, bring them to me."

A soft smile appeared on her lips, and she nodded her head "Mhm..."

With a sigh, he stood up, stretching his arms "Then, I am going to clean myself up.."

Li Jia nodded her head and stood up from the bed "Then I shall take my leave."

Zhao Tian turned to her, his lips curling into a faint smile. "You don't have to leave in such a hurry,"

Li Jia chuckled softly, shaking her head. "I'll come back later. You need some time to rest after today."

...

"Oh my goodness, you scared me there when I saw you drenched in blood."

Fei Lingxi let out a soft sigh as she poured another mug of hot water over Zhao Tian's body, the steam curling up around them in the dimly lit bathing space. Her hands moved with care, the wet cloth gliding over his shoulders, chest, and arms as she cleaned away the blood and grime that clung stubbornly to his skin.

Only a piece of towel was on her chest, covering her body as she went behind him and kneeled on the floor.

She leaned closer, her towel-clad body brushing lightly against his as she worked.

Her damp hair fell over her shoulder, and she blew at it absentmindedly to get it out of the way.

Zhao Tian was sitting there with closed eyes, letting the hot water sink into his body, enjoying the comfort radiating from it.

"Did you get into another fight, or is this some beast blood?"

Zhao Tian shook his head as the damp hair stuck to his face "No.. I was having a life-and-death match with two seniors in sect. The blood stains are from killing them." "I see..." She sighed softly and shook her head, resuming her work.

Her hands moved with a delicate yet firm touch, brushing the cloth along the contours of his back. "Just... be careful, husband," she said, her voice soft but laced with concern.

"I always am," he replied, a faint chuckle escaping his lips.

"Mmhm, says the man who comes back drenched in blood." Fei Lingxi's lips twitched into a small, playful smile.

Her hands wandered over his arms, trailing the cloth along his biceps before moving to his shoulders.

She kneaded the muscles there lightly, her touch soothing yet firm.

Zhao Tian let out a soft sigh, his body leaning into her touch. "You're good at this," he murmured.

With a chuckle, she kissed his nape "Of course, I have to give my husband the utmost care..."

Zhao Tian turned around and gently clasped the towel, pulling it away from her body "From whom are you hiding this?"

"Ah, you naughty Husband..." Fei Lingxi pouted her lips and continued cleaning his body.

After a while, Fei Lingxi leaned back, giving his now-clean body an approving nod. "There," she said, standing up and brushing her damp hands on her towel.

"Your body is spotless. Stand up, husband." As he stood up, Fei Lingxi grabbed a dry towel from a nearby stand, her expression softening as she approached him. "Hold still," she said, placing the towel over his head and beginning to dry his damp hair. Her hands moved gently, the towel brushing through his white hair as she hummed a soft tune under her breath.

Zhao Tian watched her with a small smile, his hands instinctively reaching out to pull her closer.

"ah..." Fei Lingxi let out a soft gasp, her hands pausing for a moment before she chuckled, pulling the towel over her head as well, enveloping them both in its warmth.

Under the makeshift cocoon, Zhao Tian leaned in, his lips brushing against hers in a soft, lingering kiss.

"Hmm..." Fei Lingxi's breath hitched, and her hands slid from his hair to his shoulders, gripping them lightly as she melted into the kiss.

Zhao Tian's lips moved against hers with a gentle insistence, his hands tightening around her waist, pulling her even closer.

Fei Lingxi responded eagerly, her fingers curling into the fabric of his towel as she tilted her head, deepening the kiss.

"Husband..."

...

Meanwhile, in the main hall, Xia Shenyi stood there stunned "Eh? Tian's birthday?"

Chapter 562 Some time with Yao Jing!

562 Some time with Yao Jing!

Xia Shenyi, who was sitting on the couch, blinked her eyes in surprise "Eh? Tian's birthday?"

Fei Ziyu, who was standing, thoughtfully nodded her head "Mhm.. I am not very sure because of the time dilation within the artifact and the outside world, but I think his birthday should be in a week."

Shi Yixian, sitting beside Xia Shenyi, raised an eyebrow "How do you know his birthday?"

Hearing this, a shy smile appeared on fei Ziyu's face. "I, well... I was obsessed with him during my university days, so I was gathering information about him."

Xia Shenyi's gaze narrowed in thought "Even if his birthday comes, we can't do much about it..."

Fei Ziyu's gaze lowered and she spoke "At least I wanted to bake a cake.. but we don't have ingredients here."

"I can go out with Master to buy the ingredients, but it won't be a surprise to him."

Xia Shenyi smiled faintly "I have an idea..."

...

tap Zhao Tian walked to a door and pushed it open, as the strong fragrance of herbs and potions muffled his senses.

On the floor, amidst scattered papers and a few empty bottles, sat Yao Jing, her slender fingers curled around a half-empty bottle of wine.

Her short black hair cascaded over her neck, slightly disheveled, and her cheeks were flushed... whether from the wine or her relaxed posture was unclear.

She turned her head at the sound of the door, her lips curling into a playful smile "Come here, Tian'er..."

Zhao Tian stepped further into the room, carefully walking around the scattered papers, and sat down beside her.

She hurriedly climbed on him and sat on his lap, her back leaning on the warmth of his chest.

With a chuckle, he placed his chin on her shoulder. "You were drinking wine?"

Hm? Yao Jing turned her head to look at him and nodded her head "Yeah, you want some?" She asked, extending it to him.

Zhao Tian took the bottle, looking at it briefly before taking a deep swig.

The wine's rich flavor spread across his tongue, its warmth trickling down his throat and settling comfortably in his chest.

He let out a satisfied sigh as he lowered the bottle. "Oh, it's good." "Hehe..." Smiling, Yao Jing took the wine bottle and took some gulps.

She set the bottle down beside her and tilted her head back to look at him. "By the way, Tian'er, why did you pick a fight with the inner disciples?" Zhao Tian shook his head helplessly "It wasn't

anything big. Jia's sister went missing. When those inner disciples came to ask her about it, she told them she didn't know anything... so they started beating her." Oh? A teasing smile appeared on Yao Jing's lips "HMMMM, getting angry for a woman; do you love her?"

Zhao Tian nodded his head "Well, you could say that."

Yao Jing leaned back further against him, her teasing smile softening into something more contemplative.

"Well, from what I've seen, it looks like she loves you too. Best of luck with that," she added with a light laugh.

As she spoke, she took the papers from the floor; she was reading a while ago "By the way, look at this Tian'er.. I just found this... you're going to love this."

Curiosity flickered in Zhao Tian's eyes as he watched her open it.

The parchment bore a detailed illustration of a plant with jagged leaves and a faint glow depicted around its edges.

Alongside it were intricate annotations and alchemical notes written in her delicate, flowing script.

Yao Jing's eyes sparkled with excitement "This is something I discovered recently while working on a batch of Stellarroot Elixir. You know Stellarroot, right?"

Zhao Tian nodded slowly, though he didn't know what it actually was "Yes, Master."

"Well," she continued, leaning closer as her eyes sparkled with excitement. "Stellarroot is usually refined in its natural state."

"But what if... just what if... we treated it with a preliminary infusion of Starflame Grass before the refinement process? Look at this." She pointed to a section of the paper with intricate diagrams of the two herbs intermingling.

Zhao Tian squinted, tilting his head, with no clue what the symbols even meant... but looking at her excited eyes, his gaze softened.

"If we do this," Yao Jing explained, her voice quickening, "the Stellarroot's inherent energy will stabilize even further, doubling its potency when the elixir is consumed."

"But the trick is to use Starflame Grass that's been exposed to moonlight for at least three nights, which activates its latent properties. Isn't that incredible?"

Zhao Tian hummed thoughtfully, nodding as though he fully grasped the intricacies. "That sounds... very impressive, Master."

Yao Jing's excitement didn't waver despite his lukewarm response.

She was too engrossed in her explanation, gesturing animatedly with her hands. "The reason no one's thought to try this before is because Starflame Grass is notoriously volatile, especially when mixed with other herbs."

"But I've been testing small batches, and I think I've cracked the method."

Zhao Tian smiled indulgently, resting his chin in his palm as he watched her animated expression. "I'm sure you have cracked it, Master. Your knowledge always amazes me."

Yao Jing finally paused, catching her breath as she realized how intently she had been talking.

She looked at him, her cheeks slightly pink... not from the wine, but from her excitement. "Ah, sorry," she said with a sheepish laugh.

"I got carried away. You probably have no idea what I'm talking about."

Zhao Tian chuckled softly, shaking his head. "I may not understand all the details, but I love when you speak excitedly like that..."

Eh?

Yao Jing softly hit his chest "What a flirt you are... bad boy."

"Hahaha..."

creek At this time, the side door opened and two women entered in.

Seeing Zhao Tian, they were surprised and hurriedly rushed to him.

"Little Brother."

Qi Nue and Qi Xue hurriedly sat beside him, looking at him in concern "Why did you pick a fight with seniors?"

"I was scared, Little Brother..."

"Haa, but things ended well..."

"Little Brother, you never told us you were so powerful..."

"And you also cultivated very quickly, which will take us years, how?"

"Did Master give you secret pills or something?"

"Yeah, you did go missing for a month..."

"Master, what is this? Showing favoritism.. just because he is your direct disciple?"

"Even though we are not your direct disciples, we are still your disciple."

--

"Calm down, you two."

...

Meanwhile, a beautiful woman was sitting on a golden throne in the grand empty hall, her silver hair cascading down her shoulders, and a golden glint flickered through her eyes.

"Hmmm, soon it's Darling's birthday.. then, I guess, its time to meet my darling officially. Hehe."

Chapter 563 A Dinner [1]

563 A Dinner [1]

Zhao Tian glanced at Qi Xue and Qi Nue who were refining a pill together with their twin flames.

A smile tugged at Yao Jing's lips, who was sitting on his lap "They have average individual scores, but when they are together, their twin flames react to each other and raise the purity."

Yao Jing leaned back against Zhao Tian, her head lightly resting against his shoulder. "With proper guidance, those two could make quite a name for themselves in the alchemical world. But they're still a bit rough around the edges." Zhao Tian was quite amused as he continued watching them refine the pill.

At this time, he remembered something and asked "By the way, Master, do you know how to refine an Empyrean pill?"

Hm? Yao Jing turned her head to look at him and nodded "Yeah, I know..."

Zhao Tian smiled softly and asked, "Do you have one with you right now?"

With a shake of her head, she replied, "No, I don't usually refine them. They're quite demanding and not something I make casually. But I can refine one if needed."

"It is for people who are stagnating on Half-Empyrean stage and can't breakthrough on their own. Why would you need that?"

Letting out a sigh, he replied "It is for one of my friends."

Yao Jing had a thoughtful face and nodded her head "Hmm, I can refine one, it will take me three days."

"Refining an Emyreal Pill is a meticulous and delicate process. Each ingredient must be refined separately to ensure maximum purity, and the flame control has to be perfect. Even the slightest mistake could render the pill useless or... worse."

Zhao Tian's gaze squinted "I see, then I will trouble you."

Yao Jing leaned back into his chest again, her lips curving into a soft smile. "Don't worry about it. You're my disciple, after all. And besides, I've been meaning to start teaching you alchemy more seriously." "Yes, yes, Master,"

Zhao Tian replied with mock submission, a teasing smile playing on his lips. Yao Jing reached up to flick his forehead lightly. "Don't get cheeky with me. Alchemy is an art, a science, and a philosophy. It requires patience, precision, and discipline. If you're serious about learning, you'll need to dedicate yourself fully." Zhao Tian's smile softened as he met her gaze. "I'm always serious when it comes to you, Master."

Yao Jing's cheeks flushed faintly, and she quickly turned her attention back to Qi Xue and Qi Nue, who were now carefully pouring the molten pill liquid into a mold.

Yao Jing mused under her breath, "Hmm, We'll see how serious you are once you start memorizing the properties of a thousand herbs."

Zhao Tian chuckled. "A thousand? You're going easy on me, Master."

"Hahaha..." Yao Jing turned to him and gently hit his chest, a playful smile appearing on her lips.

"Careful what you wish for, my dear disciple. By the time I'm done with you, you'll be able to recite alchemical formulas in your sleep." ...

It was already night-

With a soft sigh, Zhao Tian climbed up the stairs and raised his gaze, looking at the private quarters of Velnorah.

'What should I do with her...' his mind raced in thoughts as his gaze squinted.

'If she is the Wing master, then she must have known about the large number of Evil cultivators within her wing.'

As he thought, he remembered the vampire he fought that day, 'Is she allied with that vampire and letting the evil cultivators inside the sect? Or.. even she is unaware of the things happening?'

'Should I bring up the topic of the evil cultivators directly with her and ask about it? Or would that alert her if she is involved?'

Lost in thought, he didn't notice the soft sound of footsteps until they were nearly upon him.

"Master Tian," came a gentle voice, breaking through his internal debate.

Zhao Tian's eyes refocused, and he turned his head to see a maid standing before him.

She bowed respectfully, her demeanor calm yet polite "Master Velnorah asked me to escort you to her, should you come." Zhao Tian gave a nod, and the maid moved gracefully, leading him through the residence's well-lit corridors.

As they reached the main hall, the maid stopped and bowed again before excusing herself, leaving him alone in the grand space. The scent of something savory wafted through the air, tickling his senses and pulling his attention toward the kitchen. 'Is she in the kitchen?'

"Velnorah..." Without hesitation, he walked toward the source of the aroma.

Sensing his presence, Velnorah stepped out of the kitchen, wearing apron over her robes., a sweet smile on her lips "Tian. Wait a little, dinner will be ready."

Dinner? Zhao Tian sighed in his heart and went to the dining table.

Moments later, she emerged again, this time carrying an assortment of dishes that made Zhao Tian's brows rise in mild surprise. First, she placed down a platter of roasted lamb shanks, glistening with a rich glaze, aromatic herbs scattered over the surface. Beside it was a bowl of creamy mashed potatoes, whipped to perfection, garnished with a sprig of parsley. Next came a large tray of seared steak medallions, their edges crisp and caramelized, with a red wine reduction drizzled artfully over each piece.

A side dish of roasted vegetables... carrots, asparagus, and bell peppers, added a burst of color to the spread.

She followed this with a warm loaf of freshly baked bread, its crust golden brown, accompanied by a small bowl of herb-infused butter. Finally, she set down a decanter of deep red wine, pouring a glass for each of them before settling into the chair beside him.

"There we go," she said with a satisfied smile, brushing her hands together as if to signify the end of her preparations.

"I hope you're hungry."

She pulled the chair sitting beside him on the table and poured herself a glass of wine.

Zhao Tian's thoughts wandered briefly as he looked at her. Could someone so composed and gracious truly be hiding a darker side?

The image of Li Xueyan flashed in his mind and he shook his head 'No, don't believe in any women so easily.'

As she took a bite of the meat, she glanced at him "Come on, Tian.. why are you hesitating? Eat up."

"Mhm." With a nod of his head, both of them began to eat the dinner.

Eating his food, Zhao Tian glanced at her "I thought you might be angry at me for killing two disciples of your wing."

Hearing this, Velnorah couldn't help but chuckle "I don't really care about my wing... You are going to be the father of my children; of course, I would prioritize you."

Zhao Tian's gaze squinted in thought 'Father of her children.. Ridiculous, why does she even love me? Love at first sight?'

'These women are hard to predict...'

He couldn't shake the uncertainty in his mind after his experience with Li Xueyan.

Velnorah munched the food as her mind raced in thought, 'Just how long do I have to act like this in the Sect?'

'That Theron Voss bastard... because of him, the Sect master is on high vigilance, making our mission even harder.'

'We should soon wrap things up here and return to our High Star.'

As she thought, her gaze flickered over to Zhao Tian, and her eyes softened. 'And I will take my Hubby with me.'

Chapter 564 A Dinner [2]

564 A Dinner [2]

They continued eating in companionable silence, occasionally broken by soft exchanges about mundane topics. As the meal progressed, Velnorah smiled warmly, and with a mischievous glint in her eye, she leaned closer, her gaze locked onto Zhao Tian. She held up the fork, a tender slice of steak speared delicately on its tines.

"Here, try this," she said in a playful tone as she extended the fork toward him.

A faint frown tugged at his lips, but under her expectant gaze, he relented with a sigh and leaned forward slightly. She guided the bite to his lips, and he accepted it reluctantly.

The flavors burst on his tongue... rich, savory, and laced with the faintest hint of something sweet, like honeyed wine.

"Well?" she asked, watching him with the same smile on her face.

"It's good," he replied, munching down the meat.

Velnorah giggled softly, clearly satisfied with his response, and picked up another piece of steak, this time teasingly hovering it in front of him before finally eating it herself.

-- Zhao Tian stared at her blankly, and she laughed even more looking at his facial expression.

With a shake of his head, Zhao Tian continued his food, and Velnorah noticed that he was tense around her presence more than last time.

It's as if he is on guard against her, and he is not smiling at all...

Her gaze drifted to the food on her plate, her thoughts swirling.

She speared another piece of meat absently, then set her fork down, the sound of the metal clinking softly against the porcelain. "Tian," she said, her voice softer now, almost hesitant. He paused mid-motion, his fork hovering once more as he looked up at her.

She hesitated, her fingers fidgeting slightly with the edge of her napkin. "You seem... different tonight. Is something bothering you?"

Her words hung in the air for a moment, and when he didn't immediately reply, she pressed on, her tone a little more hurried now, as though afraid of losing her chance. "I mean... I know I suddenly said that I love you, and I understand why that might seem suspicious."

"But it... hurts to see you so on guard with me."

Her voice wavered slightly, and she looked down at her hands, clasped tightly in her lap. "I just wanted to have a comfortable meal with you. That's all.

"But it seems like you are not enjoying it."

Zhao Tian leaned back slightly, his fingers brushing the edge of his wine glass, and his thoughts churned, torn between suspicion and her genuine warmth.

He wanted to trust her... or at least believe that she wasn't involved in the dark undercurrents in the sect.

But trust was a luxury he could ill afford.

With a shake of his head, he showed a smile "Nothing... it's just that I killed two disciples from your wing. It feels a bit awkward."

Upon hearing this, Velnorha's eyes softened, and she leaned closer "I already told you.. Tian, you don't have to worry about that. I will never be angry at you."

"Just be yourself... while spending time with me."

For a moment, he simply looked at her, his blue eyes searching her face as though trying to discern whether her words were truly genuine.

Her crimson eyes, however, overflowed with warmth and love... made him falter. Finally, Zhao Tian nodded slowly, the tension in his shoulders easing ever so slightly as he reached out, picking up a small piece of meat with his fork.

"Here," he muttered softly, holding the fork out to her. Velnorah blinked in surprise, but her lips curled into a bright, genuine smile as she leaned forward, her eyes never leaving his.

She opened her mouth slightly, taking the offered piece of meat from the fork. She chewed slowly, savoring the flavor, but it wasn't the taste of the food that brought warmth to her heart... it was the simple gesture itself. Looking at him, the man she had fallen for, finally offering her even a small piece of his affection, made her heart swell. "It tastes great, Tian."

Zhao Tian's gaze quivered looking at her bright smile and he closed his eyes 'For the time being.. I will trust her.'

When he opened his eyes again, there was a softness in his expression that hadn't been there before, and a chuckle escaped his lips.

Picking up another piece of meat, he twirled it lightly on the fork before holding it up again.

"Here comes the second plane."

"Ahhhh.. num num."

"Hahaha..."

...

Walking back to his room under the moonlight, Zhao Tian had a smile on her face. 'Just like Zahra... a lot crazy and lots of love.'

With such thoughts, he returned to his room and glanced at Li Jia, who was sitting in the corridor, leaning on his room's door.

"Jia?"

Seeing him, Li Jia hurriedly stood up and smiled gently...

Zhao Tian approached the door, pulling out his disciple token to unlock it with a faint hum. The door creaked open, and he gestured for her to follow. "Come in," he said, stepping inside. Entering the room, Li Jia closed the door, while Zhao Tian began to remove his robes and quickly got into shorts.

Li Jia was not flustered and went to sit on his bed "I thought you would be resting; where did you go?"

Wearing the shorts, Zhao Tian sat on the bed beside her and leaned down on the mattress "I was with Yao Jing for a while, then Velnorah..."

Li Jia shifted her position and lay beside him on the bed "Ohh, I wanted to ask you.. what was your relationship with the two Sect Elders?"

Zhao Tian pulled her closer and his hand went to her shoulder as he slowly began to remove her robes.

A slight blush painted her cheeks as his fingers brushed her skin, but she didn't protest and let him pull down her robe.

As the robes slid down her chest, he pulled the undergarment too, revealing her luscious pair of juicy breasts.

His gaze softened as he traced his fingers around her right breast gently teasing it "Yao Jing has accepted me as her disciple in Alchemy and Velnorah wants me to join her wing."

With that, he leaned forward, burying his face in the silky breasts to enjoy their softness.

Chapter 565 Tournament begins!

565 Tournament begins!

"Yao Jing has accepted me as her disciple in Alchemy and Velnorah wants me to join her wing."
Eh?

Li Jia was surprised to hear this and looked down at Zhao Tian, who was snuggling his face in between her breasts.

She gently hugged his head and asked "Then... you are already an inner court disciple?"

Zhao Tian hugged her waist, his fingers caressing her smooth back "Hm.. not really, since she doesn't have a wing under her, I am still not an inner court disciple."

Feeling his hot breath tickling her chest, Li Jia shuddered as a soft sigh escaped her lips "I see... well, you are talented, so it's understandable for them to court you."

Zhao Tian just chuckled and placed a kiss on her cleavage, letting the warmth of her skin sink into his lips.

Looking at him, Li Jia's eyes condensed, her fingers gently twirling his hair, her other hand resting lightly on his back.

"By the way... you've been staying here every night. What about your wives? You did say you have... eighteen wives, didn't you?" Zhao Tian nodded lazily, his lips brushing against her skin, "Yeah, they're all in seclusion right now. So, I'm here." Li Jia's fingers paused again, her gaze lowering as she absentmindedly twirled a lock of his hair around her finger. "Seclusion, huh..." she murmured, her tone thoughtful. Glancing at her pink nipple, a playful smile appeared on Zhao Tian's face and he opened his lips, devouring her cherry nipple into his mouth.

"Haangh~?"

Li Jia was surprised by the sudden sensation and saw Zhao Tian greedily sucking on her nipple.

"Umnggh~ You perverted bastard..." She grasped his head tightly but didn't push him away, her cheeks flushing in excitement.

"Hmnggh~~ are you getting horny because your wives are not with you?"

Zhao Tian let his teeth sink deep into her soft flesh, and her legs curled up in slight pain and pleasure.

"Ufff... bastard..."

As Zhao Tian retracted his lips, a small bridge of saliva connected his lips and the pink cherry, which was swollen with his bite mark on it.

He raised his head to look at the deep flush in Li Jia's cheeks and chuckled before leaning up, cuddling his face into the crook of her neck.

Li Jia let out a sigh and pinched his cheek, "You bastard.. always trying to assault me."

Smiling, Zhao Tian hugged her tighter "See, one of these days I am going to assault you for real."

Li Jia's eyes narrowed playfully, and she stuck her tongue out at him. "Baah, do you think my hands are just for show? I'll punch your face, you jerk." Zhao Tian laughed, unfazed by her mock threat, and pressed a kiss to her collarbone again, "Yeah, yeah... we'll see. When that day comes, you'll be like a little lamb, too shy to resist. You won't even fight back." Li Jia's blush deepened, but she refused to back down. She pinched his cheek again, harder this time, and huffed. "Dream on, pervert."

Zhao Tian leaned back slightly, propping himself up on one elbow as he looked at her with a lopsided grin. "Oh, it's not a dream, dear. It's just... inevitable."

"Inevitable, my ass!" she shot back, her hand darting out to pinch his nose.

"Keep dreaming, jerk. You'll never get the chance."

With a chuckle, he caught her wrist before she could pinch him again and pressed a quick kiss to her palm.

The unexpected gesture left her momentarily speechless, her lips parting slightly in surprise.

"See? You're already starting to fall for my charm."

Li Jia's jaw dropped, and she immediately smacked his shoulder. "Bastard!" she exclaimed, though the laughter in her voice betrayed her amusement.

"Keep that up, and I'll really punch you, you smug jerk."

Zhao Tian leaned back, laughing as he raised his hands in mock surrender. "Alright, alright, I'll stop... for now."

Li Jia shook her head, a soft smile tugging at her lips despite her best efforts to appear annoyed. "You're such a jerk," she muttered, though her tone was more affectionate than angry. "And yet, here you are, cuddling with me," Zhao Tian quipped, pulling her closer once more.

Li Jia rolled her eyes but didn't pull away, letting herself sink into the warmth of his arms.

Despite his teasing, there was a comfort in his presence she couldn't deny.

As much as he drove her crazy, there was something about him that made her feel at ease... safe, even.

"Fine," she said softly, resting her head against his chest.

"But don't get too full of yourself, bastard. I'm still keeping my hands ready."

Zhao Tian let out a soft laugh, and he kissed the top of her head. "Yeah, yeah.. sleep for now."

"Hm, Good night, Tian."

"Good night."

...

Three days had passed since the preliminary rounds of the Inner Court Entrance Exam began, and the Sect's atmosphere was abuzz with excitement and tension. Disciples from all corners of the sect crowded the various arenas, cheering for their favorites or anxiously waiting for their own turn to compete. The sound of clashing weapons, roaring crowds, and the occasional bursts of energy filled the air, creating an electric ambiance. In one such arena, a loud *THOOM* reverberated as a young man was sent flying through the air, crashing into the wall with enough force to leave a noticeable crack. "Argh!"

With a cough, he fell down sluggishly, and blood dripped from the corner of his lips as he shakily raised his head to glare at a strikingly handsome young man standing tall in the center of the arena. "ZHAO TIAN WINS!"

Hearing the announcer's voice, Zhao Tian who was standing in the arena smiled faintly and walked out of the arena.

Some people who were watching the matches were amused to hear his name "So he is that junior?"

"The one who killed two inner court disciples?"

"Yeah... him."

Right now, the preliminary rounds for the Inner Court Entrance Exam is happening.

There are a lot of arenas around the sect and fights are happening there simultaneously.

During these time periods, sometimes Wing masters may come to take a look, and if they see talented disciples, they can choose them.

But still, in the end, its the disciple's choice to join them.

They can apply to be an inner court disciple when they reach the 5th level of Stellar Essence stage.

But by participating in the tournament, they can show off their skills, and they might catch the eyes of a Wing Master who wants to accept them as core disciples.

Walking out of the small arena, Zhao tian glanced at Li Jia, who stood there with her usual gentle smile, her arms crossed as she leaned casually against a stone pillar.

"Shall we leave?"

"Yeah, let's go." she replied, slipping her arm through his without hesitation. Her grip was light but possessive, a silent declaration to anyone watching.

As they walked side by side through the bustling sect grounds, the noise of the ongoing matches faded into the background. "By the way," Li Jia began, glancing up at him with a playful tilt of her head. "Do you have any more matches scheduled for today?" Zhao Tian shook his head. "No, my next match is tomorrow." A smile bloomed on Li Jia's face "Then shall we go out to eat something?"

"Of course."

"Hehe..."

Chapter 566 A little time with Master!

566 A little time with Master!

"WHAT?!"

Ji Shuang, who was standing in her room, yelled in surprise, her eyes shaking in fear, and her legs gave out as she sat on the bed.

"S-Such.. thing is..."

She muttered in shock and slowly turned her gaze to the silhouette on the mirror.

"Your Grace.. what you are saying is..."

Qian Shi who was on the other side, nodded her head "I know how dangerous it is. This will make Tian the enemy for all High Stars, no... even the Astral Realm may interfere."

"And it will not end there. Zhao Tian's potential has always been exceptional, but this step... this path he is destined to take... it will draw the attention of powers far beyond your comprehension."

"That's why I need your help in that; you need to save him at that time."

Ji Shuang's head spun.

She had known Zhao Tian was no ordinary cultivator, but this? It was unthinkable.

Ji Shuang took a deep breath to digest the news and nodded her head "Yes, Your Grace... I will do my very best."

...

Two more days passed as the preliminary rounds of the tournament proceeded in full swing.

The arenas were alive with energy as disciples battled for recognition, showcasing their skills and determination. Zhao Tian had become a focal point of interest, his matches drawing larger crowds with each victory.

His calm demeanor combined with his overwhelming strength intrigued both his peers and the elders observing from afar.

Rumors of his past feats, including the controversial elimination of two inner court disciples, only fueled the curiosity surrounding him. ...

"Ugh..."

Zhao Tian's eyelashes fluttered open as a groggy groan escaped his lips and he squinted against the dim light.

There was a strange pressure on his abdomen, and as he shifted slightly, he realized something, or rather, someone was sitting on top of him. Hm? Raising his head he looked at Yao Jing who was sitting cross-legged on top, reading some papers in her hand.

Seeing some movement, Yao Jing glanced at him and smiled faintly "Oh, you woke up.. disciple."

Zhao Tian let out a low grumble, rubbing his temple to shake off the remnants of sleep. "Get down, idiot," Yao Jing rolled the papers and smacked him lightly on the forehead. "Who are you calling idiot?" she retorted, her smile widening.

Zhao Tian raised his hand, brushing his fingers through his hair to move his hair from his face "Uhh, my head hurts from all the study sessions yesterday."

He pushed himself up, and Yao Jing who was on his abdomen, lost her balance, her arms flailing slightly as she tipped backward. "Ah!"

But before she could fall, Zhao Tian caught her waist and placed her on his lap, with her facing him, a faint flush coloring her cheeks.

"You are awfully clumsy."

With a soft giggle, she pushed his long hair from his face "Your sleeping face always looks cute, Tian'er." Zhao Tian glanced around at the stacks of papers "Can't believe you made me study all of that... I don't know how long has it been since I studied like this."

Yao Jing giggled and patted his head "This is just the beginning, Tian'er. As my disciple.. you have to learn more about Alchemy."

Zhao Tian groaned again, rubbing his face with both hands. "Yeah, yeah, I get it... but at least let me breathe once in a while, Master Slave Driver," he quipped, earning himself another light smack from the rolled-up papers.

"Stop whining," Yao Jing said, though her tone was affectionate. "Now get down. I will go and freshen up."

Yao Jing got down from his lap and sat on the floor "You can use the restroom in my private room to freshen up. And don't you dare go wandering around the sect looking like that, with your hair all messy and your face half-asleep. You'll embarrass me," Zhao Tian stood, stretching his arms above his head as his toned muscles flexed under his robes and he let out a content sigh. "Thank you, oh generous Master," he said with a dramatic bow, his voice dripping with sarcasm. Yao Jing rolled her eyes but couldn't hide the faint smile that tugged at her lips. "Just go," she said, shooing him toward the door with a wave of her hand. Entering the comfortable space, he glanced around, the faint aroma of herbs and incense lingering in the air

Not looking much, he made his way to the restroom.

"The Wing Masters are requesting new batches of elixirs, and I need to ensure the formulas are perfect."

22:00

He glanced at the papers and frowned slightly, looking at the ingredients and formulas required. "Let me guess, restorative elixirs, astral energy enhancers, and maybe some detoxification pills?" As he splashed water on his face, Zhao Tian let out a relieved sigh, the coolness chasing away the last remnants of sleep.

He stared at his reflection, taking a moment to gather his thoughts. 'Alchemy lessons, tournaments, suspicious gazes from the elders... life hasn't been this busy since I came to the sect.'

After freshening up, he dried his face with a towel hanging nearby and walked back to the main room. Yao Jing was still seated on the floor, her focus entirely on the stack of papers in her hand. Her brow furrowed slightly as she scanned through the documents, muttering under her breath about ratios and formulas.

Zhao Tian smiled as he went and sat beside her, his left arm coiling around her shoulder, pulling her closer.

However, Yao Jing was focused on the documents; she didn't look up at him.

"What's so important that you're ignoring your favorite disciple?"

Yao Jing didn't look up but waved a hand dismissively. "You're always my favorite Tian'er, but these are important too."

"The Wing Masters are requesting new batches of elixirs, and I need to ensure the formulas are perfect."

He glanced at the papers and frowned slightly, looking at the ingredients and formulas required. "Let me guess, restorative elixirs, astral energy enhancers, and maybe some detoxification pills?" Yao Jing turned to him, raising an eyebrow. "Oh? Someone has been paying attention in class." With a smile, he replied, "I pick up a thing or two. But seriously, don't you have assistants for this kind of tedious work?"

Yao Jing chuckled softly. "Well, there are assistants outside to take care of all of that stuff in the Alchemy Chamber; I am just rechecking everything."

"I see..." With a soft sigh, he leaned his head on her shoulder, and her gaze softened as she continued reading through the documents.

"By the way Tian'er, have breakfast with me... We can continue your classes after that."

Zhao Tian's lips twitched "No, you dumb woman. I have two matches today... Don't try to kill me with all this stuff."

Yao Jing shook her head helplessly "I want you to become the best Alchemist in the world, but here you are slacking off."

Zhao Tian closed his eyes "Shut up."

"Hahaha...."

Chapter 567 A matchup [1]

567 A matchup [1]

After having breakfast with Yao Jing, Zhao Tian made his way to his room, and as usual, he saw Li Jia standing outside his room, waiting for him.

Walking to the door, Li Jia smiled softly, "Good morning, Tian."

Zhao Tian didn't reply with words, and instead, his hand reached out, grasping her hand firmly.

In one smooth motion, he pulled her into his room, the door shutting behind them with a resonating *thud*

Before Li Jia could even process what was happening, she found herself pressed against the wall, his arms caging her in place. "Ahn~?" she gasped softly, but there was no real fear in her expression, only surprise, and something she wasn't entirely sure she wanted to admit. Zhao Tian leaned in, his lips brushing against her cheek in a feather-light kiss that made her skin tingle. "A very good morning," he uttered, his lips tracing to her ear.

Li Jia's heart raced, her body momentarily betraying her as heat flooded her cheeks.

Despite this, she tried to maintain her composure. "Bastard, take your hands off me." Zhao Tian only smiled, "Do you really want me to?" he asked, his voice dripping like a devil's whisper as his lips trailed closer to her ear.

Before she could respond, he opened his mouth slightly, gently nibbling on her ear.

"Ah." A soft gasp escaped her lips, her hands instinctively reaching for his shoulders as if to push him away, but instead, they lingered there, gripping his robes tightly. "Mm... idiot," she murmured, her voice faltering as a shiver ran down her spine. Zhao Tian's arms tightened around her waist, pulling her closer, and his lips moved to her neck, grazing her skin with teasing nibbles and kisses that left a trail of warmth. Li Jia's lashes trembled as she tried to regain her composure, and the flush on her face deepened, but she forced herself to focus. "I came here to tell you an important message... idiot," Zhao Tian's lips continued to kiss along her neck, his warm breath sending goosebumps down her skin. "What could that be?" Li Jia inhaled gently, her hands clutching his shoulders tighter as she fought to keep her thoughts from scattering. "In the tournament tomorrow..." she began, her voice faltering as his lips traced her collarbone.

"The match... it's between us." He pulled back slightly, just enough to look Li Jia in the eyes as he mumbled "between us, huh..."

Not being able to withstand his gaze, Li Jia's cheeks flushed, and she quickly averted her gaze, her hands instinctively pressing against his chest as though trying to put some distance between them.

"Don't look at me like that,"

Zhao Tian tilted his head, his smile returning as he leaned closer, the tip of his nose brushing against hers. "Why not? You look so adorable when you're flustered,"

Before she could retort, his lips found her cheek, planting a soft kiss there before trailing slowly down to the corner of her mouth.

Li Jia froze, her breath hitching as his lips inched closer to her lips "Tian,"

"Yes, dear?" he whispered against her skin, the warmth of his breath sending tingles down her neck.

Li Jia tried to maintain her composure, her hands pushing gently against his chest. "I told you... I came here to deliver the message, not to cuddle with you like this."

Zhao Tian retracted his hands from his body "Ok then... Tomorrow was it, the match?"

...

Next day-

woosh Li Jia leaped forward in the arena, her sword gleaming as water began to swirl around her.

fwoosh Her movements were fluid and elegant, her feet barely touching the ground as she dashed toward Zhao Tian.

'Water Blade Slash.'

A crescent-shaped wave of water erupted from her sword, cutting through the air with a sharp hiss as it hurtled toward Zhao Tian. Boom!

The wave collided with the ground, sending up a spray of sand and water, but Zhao Tian was no longer there.

flick He appeared behind her in a blur of speed... as he reached out and tapped her shoulder lightly.

"Too slow..."

Li Jia spun around, her sword slashing through the air, but Zhao Tian caught the blade with his bare hand, his fingers wrapped around it like it was a mere twig.

Before she could react, Zhao Tian twisted her sword away, sending her stumbling back.

He didn't press the attack, and stopped there, looking at her with a faint smile.

Li Jia's lips twitched in exasperation. 'This bastard is really powerful...'

She raised her hand, and streams of water erupted from the ground around her, coiling into serpentine shapes before launching themselves at Zhao Tian.

'Water Serpent Strike.'

The water serpents twisted and writhed, their sharp fangs aiming straight for him.

Zhao Tian tilted his head slightly, dodging the first serpent with ease before grabbing the second one mid-strike.

He clenched his hand, shattering the water serpent into droplets that fell to the ground and walked to her.

Li Jia sighed in her heart, sweat forming on her brow as she summoned even more water, creating a shimmering wall that surrounded her.

'Water Barrier'

The barrier glistened like a solid sheet of crystal, and she glanced at Zhao Tian from behind it. *flick* In an instant, he vanished from her sight.

"Where-"

Before she could finish her thought, Zhao Tian appeared inside her barrier, standing right in front of her.

Her eyes condensed, but he raised a single finger and gently flicked her forehead.

"Augh!" The force sent her stumbling backward, the water barrier shattering like glass around them.

The crowd gasped as Zhao Tian casually closed the distance again, his movements so fast that Li Jia barely had time to react. Desperate, she thrust her sword forward, aiming for his chest, but Zhao Tian sidestepped the attack effortlessly.

Grabbing her wrist, he twisted it just enough to make her drop the sword, which clattered to the ground.

"Oh dear, you should grip your sword tightly."

Chapter 568 A matchup [2]

568 A matchup [2]

Grabbing Li Jia's wrist, Zhao Tian twisted it just enough to make her drop the sword, which clattered to the ground.

"Oh dear, you should grip your sword tightly." Li Jia gritted her teeth, her cheeks flushing red with both anger and embarrassment as Zhao Tian's mocking words echoed in her ears.

She quickly flipped backward, putting some distance between them.

whiish With a flick of her wrist, she summoned twin streams of water that coiled around her hands.

"I'm not done yet..." she uttered, her gaze narrowing.

Zhao Tian chuckled and looked into her eyes "Oh, I hope not. I'd hate for this to be over too soon."

She darted toward him again, her water streams striking like whips, lashing out with incredible speed and precision.

Crack! Crack!

Each strike hit the air, missing its mark by mere inches as Zhao Tian sidestepped with at the last second.

His movements were almost lazy, yet perfectly calculated, and every dodge only seemed to infuriate her further. "Careful now," he said, leaning to the side as one of the water streams narrowly missed his cheek.

"You're going to tire yourself out at this rate."

"Shut up." she muttered as she leaped into the air and the water around her gathered into a massive sphere above her head.

"Waterfall Crush."

With a smile, she brought the sphere crashing down toward him like a tidal wave, the sheer force causing the ground beneath to crack and tremble. *WOOOSH* The crowd held their breath as the wave swallowed Zhao Tian and the arena was momentarily silent, save for the roar of cascading water.

But when the water cleared, Zhao Tian stood completely unharmed, his clothes barely damp. Before she could react, he vanished again, reappearing right behind her.

"You're too focused on offense," he said, his breath warmly hitting against her ear.

Startled, she spun around to attack, but Zhao Tian effortlessly caught her wrist.

With a playful smile, he pulled her forward, causing her to lose balance and stumble into his chest.

"Oops. Careful, don't fall now," he teased, steadying her with one arm before stepping back.

Li Jia's face burned with humiliation, her lips parting in a mixture of frustration and disbelief.

"You..." her eyelashes trembled as she pulled herself away from him.

Zhao Tian shrugged with a teasing smile. "What? I'm just helping."

swoosh She raised her hand and launched another attack, summoning sharp water blades that swirled around her like a storm.

But Zhao Tian moved with ease, dodging each strike, and when the last blade came close, he caught it in his hand, the water dispersing harmlessly at his touch.

"Alright," he said, stepping forward so quickly that Li Jia didn't have time to retreat. "I think it's time we wrapped this up."

Before she could respond, Zhao Tian bent down and, in one swift motion, hoisted her over his shoulder like a sack of grain.

"What are you—!?" Li Jia shrieked, her hands instinctively pushing against his back as her legs kicked in protest.

"Hahaha..." The crowd erupted into laughter and cheers; to see Li Jia being carried off so effortlessly was too amusing to ignore.

"Put me down, you brute!" she yelled, her fists pounding weakly against his back.

Zhao Tian just smiled, his voice light and teasing as he began walking toward the edge of the arena. "Oh, don't be so dramatic. I'm just giving you a better view of the crowd. Look how much they adore you!"

Her face burned even brighter, and she growled in frustration. "Tian, I swear—"

The crowd's cheers only grew louder, with whispers and chuckles spreading like wildfire. "Did you see how easily he caught her attacks?" "Not just that—did you see the way he looked at her? There's no way they're just friends." "I bet he's doing this on purpose to rile her up. Classic lover's quarrel." The announcer was surprised and glanced at them in confusion "The match isn't over yet."

Hm? Zhao Tian turned to look at him and spoke "Oh, Li Jia accepted her defeat."

Li Jia, who was hanging on her shoulder, bit her lips in shame and slowly nodded her head, "I-I accept defeat." The announcer, still holding the enchanted microphone, coughed awkwardly as he addressed the crowd. "Ladies and gentlemen... Zhao Tian has been declared the winner of this round!" The arena erupted into thunderous applause, but the announcer's gaze lingered on the pair, a wry smile tugging at his lips. 'Young love, huh?.' Zhao Tian gave her a knowing look, his smile widening "The crowd seems to have some guesses. They're practically shipping us as we speak."

Li Jia was startled and looked around, to glance at the audience.

Sure enough, the whispers and giggles had intensified.

"They're so cute together!"

"She looks like she wants to murder him, but that's part of their charm." "Zhao Tian is such a show-off, but you can't deny he's got style." Her embarrassment only deepened as she heard someone shout from the stands, "Kiss her already!"

Zhao Tian chuckled, his eyes gleaming with playfulness. "Hear that, Jia? They're giving us suggestions."

"You wouldn't dare," she said through gritted teeth, though her tone wavered slightly.

"Hmm..." He pretended to consider it.

"You're right. I wouldn't dare... not in front of all these people, anyway. I'm a gentleman, after all."

"A gentleman wouldn't have done this in the first place!" she snapped, kicking her legs again in a futile attempt to free herself.

"Don't struggle idiot, you can do all of that in bed."

A sigh escaped Li Jia's lips "I am going to kill you bastard..."

With a chuckle, he replied "In bed? I am all for it..." The crowd continued to cheer as Zhao Tian gave a lazy wave and walked away, carrying Li Jia while she was torn between punching him and crawling into a hole to hide. "This infuriating bastard..." she muttered under her breath, clenching her fists. But deep down, she couldn't help the small, reluctant smile that tugged at her lips. Meanwhile, among the disciples, a young man was standing there, his red eyes narrowing in contemplation. "So, he is that Zhao Tian."

Ren Wian had a thoughtful look on his face "Finally, I found a great stepping stone to give my debut within this sect."

Chapter 569 It begins!

569 It begins!

Rei Wian walked through the winding pathways of the sect, the wind tugging at his robes as he soon reached the gates of the sect and stepped into a waiting carriage, its driver bowing respectfully

before setting off toward the city. The bustling streets of the city greeted him with a flurry of noise and activity, but Rei Wian paid little attention to the vibrant scene.

The carriage pulled up in front of a well-maintained inn and he stepped down, entering the inn without a word.

Inside, the innkeeper gave him a polite nod, and Rei Wian ascended the wooden stairs, reaching a room at the far end of the corridor.

Once there, he knocked on the door and soon he heard an grumpy old man's voice from inside "Enter."

Rei Wian pushed the door open and stepped inside.

The room was modest yet elegant, with a faint aroma of tea lingering in the air.

Sitting at a small table was a middle-aged man, his hair streaked with silver, wearing robes that bore the insignia of the Jade Eclipse sect. He sipped his tea leisurely, his eyes lifting to meet Rei Wian's. "So, you're here," the man said, his tone laced with familiarity as he gestured to the pot of tea in front of him. "Tea?" Rei Wian shook his head as he moved to a chair across from the man. "No." The man chuckled, setting his cup down. "Suit yourself." Rei Wian sat down, leaning back slightly, "I was watching Zhao Tian's match earlier."

The man raised an eyebrow, interest flickering in his eyes. "And?"

"He is indeed strong,"

The man's lips curled into a smile, though his eyes narrowed. "Do you think you can defeat him?"

Rei Wian gaze condensed "Not very sure.. since I heard he killed two inner court disciples,.."

The man nodded his head, tapping a finger against the table thoughtfully. "Indeed. And from what I have seen, he's at the same cultivation level as you... the Eighth Stage of Stellar Essence."

He leaned forward slightly, his voice dropping. "If you lack confidence in defeating him, it might be wise to wait until next year's tournament." Rei Wian's fists clenched momentarily before relaxing. "I didn't come here to wait. You know that as well as I do." The man chuckled softly. "Fair enough. But understand this, Wian... if you want to make a name for yourself, to stand out in front of the sect and the Wing Masters, you must win. Anything less will render you invisible in their eyes." Rei Wian looked at him "That's why you are training me.. you shitty Master."

"So you can parade me in front of the other Wing Masters and show off your so-called talented disciple."

The man leaned back in his chair, a sly grin spreading across his face. "And why shouldn't I? You should be grateful. I found you, saw your potential, and nurtured it." The man's grin widened, unbothered by the accusation. "Exactly. Among the thirteen Wing Masters, my wing is a joke to the others." "That's why I secretly trained you... so I could stand proudly in front of those bastards."

"When you step into that arena and show them what you're capable of, they'll be forced to acknowledge me." "They would fight each other to get you.. but in the end, you would choose me..."

Rei Wian sighed heavily, his voice dropping. "I don't care about your petty rivalries or recognition. All I want is my revenge." The man waved a dismissive hand. "Yes, yes, I know. You've been saying that ever since I found you. But trust me, boy, your revenge will be all the sweeter if you're standing at the top." "Though I am sure, it will take years to get your revenge."

...

Three more days passed-

woosh In his artifact, Zhao Tian is sitting under the blue array, cultivating as the astral energy condenses around him.

Streams of silver and blue light swirled in the air, coalescing into his body as he cultivated, his breathing steady and rhythmic. His white eyelashes fluttered open as a blue glint passed through his eyes "Haa.. quite close to the breakthrough."

Xia Shenyi, who was standing in front of the array to look over him smiled faintly "Your pace is great..."

"Using the Honoured One's cultivation technique, your cultivation speed has improved."

"I can see you are quite close to a breakthrough, so you cultivate that too and you can leave."

"You know how crucial the next stage is Tian, and now you are on the 9th level of the Stellar Essence Stage."

Zhao Tian let out a faint sigh "But today I got finals, so I have to go there first."

Xia Shenyi frowned slightly, "You're choosing the arena over a potential breakthrough?" Zhao Tian shrugged, "I'll finish the fight quickly. Don't worry, it won't take long."

Her gaze softened, though a trace of exasperation lingered. "You have always been confident... sometimes too confident for your own good. Just remember, every opponent is a potential lesson, even the ones you think are beneath you."

"Yes, yes," Zhao Tian stood up, rolling his shoulders to ease the tension in his body and the astral energy dispersed from his body like a gentle breeze, blending back into the array. He stepped closer to her, and his expression softened as he leaned forward, his lips brushing hers in a tender kiss.

Xia Shenyi reciprocated the kiss, softly sucking on his lips, her hands moving up and coming around his neck.

Pulling back her lips a little, she muttered "Don't get carried away. The finals may seem trivial to you, but they're important for your reputation in the sect. Finish it cleanly and come back to cultivate as you are in an important stage right now."

Zhao Tian nodded his head "Mhm, I am leaving, dear..."

Chapter 570 The Finals [1]

570 The Finals [1]

The Jade Eclipse sect's grand arena was abuzz with anticipation, its towering stone walls humming with the energy of thousands of disciples, and elders, who had gathered for the finals of the Outer disciple tournament. Banners adorned with the sect's emblem—a coiled jade dragon encircling a

glowing crescent moon, danced in the crisp, midday breeze, and the golden glow of the sun bathed the arena in a warm radiance. The circular platform in the center gleamed as it was surrounded by formations that were designed to protect the spectators from stray bursts of energy.

Surrounding the platform were rows upon rows of seats, filled with outer and inner court disciples, their excited chatter blending into a steady roar of anticipation.

At the highest vantage point sat the Wing Masters, each representing one of the 13 wings of the sect. Clad in unique robes signifying their respective wings, they sat on their chairs, their expressions varying from calm observation to keen interest. The Sect Master herself sat at the center, her gaze sweeping through the crowd and a faint sigh escaped Ji Shuang's lips.

Her eyes flickered in nervousness and she closed her eyes to control her increasing heartbeat 'Calm down...'

Yao Jing, who was sitting beside her was confused to see her "Sister Shuang, what happened? You look nervous."

Hm? Ji Shuang turned to her and shook her head "Nothing, Jing'er... who do you think will win the match?"

With a proud smile, Yao Jing confidently replied "Of course, my disciple, who else?"

Eldric Grey who was sitting there, spoke with a little frown "That disciple, Rei Wian also had a fantastic match in the Semi Finals."

Another Wing master, an old man nodded his head "Yeah, he also seemed promising."

"I also agree."

Hearing this, Yao Jing's lips twitched "No matter who, my disciple would win..."

--? Velnorah is also there as she sits there silently, her gaze flickering through the arena waiting for Zhao Tian.

"It's a shame there are no female disciples in the top order."

Hearing an enchanting voice, Ji Shuang turned her gaze to the woman sitting beside her, her long white hair cascading down her shoulders, a white veil hiding her facial features, leaving only her heterochromia eyes to be visible.

One of her eyes is blue, while the other is green.

She is the Wing master of Celestial Star wing, Yan Zijin.

Ji Shuang glanced at her and gave a faint nod "Hm, for a wing that only accepts female disciples, that's truly a shame."

A burly man with a beard streaked with gray, the Wing master of the Sable Earth Wing, Rong Shan replied "Well, men are actually stronger than women.. so it is expected."

"Yeah, I agree too."

"Hahaha..."

Yan Zijin's heterochromatic eyes narrowed slightly, a spark of amusement glinting behind her veil. "Stronger, you say?"

Her voice, though soft, carried a sharp edge that silenced the murmurs around her. "Strength comes in many forms. Physical power isn't the only measure; wouldn't you agree?" Rong Shan cleared his throat awkwardly. "I didn't mean to offend, Master Yan. Merely pointing out the natural... disparities." He avoided her gaze, shifting uncomfortably in his chair.

The murmurs of the crowd softened as Ji Shuang raised a hand and signaled the announcer to begin the match.

The crowd hushed as a booming voice echoed across the arena, amplified by the microphone.

The announcer, a tall man in ceremonial robes, stepped to the edge of the arena platform, "Welcome, disciples and honored elders, to the final match of the Outer Disciple Tournament!"

His voice reverberated through the grand arena, stirring a fresh wave of excitement among the spectators. "Today, two exceptional disciples will face off in a battle that will test their strength, skill, and resolve!"

Qi Nue and Qi Xue were standing in the crowd with excited smiles on their faces.

With a big smile on her face, Qi Nue spoke "I hope Little Brother wins the tournament."

Qi Xue nodded her head, her eyes softening "I sure hope too..."

As she turned her head a little, she saw another woman standing among the disciples 'Li Jia... the rumors about her and little brother being lovers.'

Her gaze condensed and Qi Nue who was beside her, noticed Qi Xue looking in a different direction and followed her gaze.

"It's that woman.. Xue'er."

Hearing her voice, Qi Nue nodded her head "Yeah, I heard they were acting lovey-dovey during the match."

"Hmm.."

At this time, the announcer's voice boomed again "Now let us welcome the first competitor for the finals... Rei Wian."

From the tunnel, Rei Wian stepped out, and reaching the edge of the platform, he paused and his gaze condensed as he met the eyes of the Wing Masters seated above.

The announcer raised his voice again, drawing attention back to the arena. "And his opponent!"

"Zhao Tian!"

Zhao Tian stepped out of the tunnel, a faint smile tugging at the corner of his lips 'Well, that was such a grand welcome.'

Yao Jing stood up from her seat and waved her hand at Zhao Tian, who was entering the arena.

Noticing her, Zhao Tian waved his hand back at her, his eyes softening.

Meanwhile, Ji Shuang shook her head helplessly, seeing her antics.

Yan Zijin's eyes narrowed slightly looking at Zhao Tian, as she remembers seeing him when Yun Xi caused wreckage in the forest that day. (chap 487)

'I didn't expect that he was the one they were talking about... Zhao Tian.'

Zhao Tian stepped into the arena and glanced at Rei Wian, who was standing opposite to him.

Hm? Zhao Tian raised an eyebrow in surprise as he realized the man standing opposite him is actually more powerful than he expected.

'Well, I am not the only one talented in this world... there surely are many talented geniuses.'

'Rei Wian was his name? I should remember it.'

The announcer stepped back, his voice cutting through the tension. "Contenders, take your positions! This match will determine the strongest among the outer disciples!"

The arena's formations activated, a shimmering dome of protective light forming around the platform.

The audience leaned forward in anticipation, the energy in the air crackling with expectation.