Chapter 51 : Chapter 51

Chapter 51 : Treasure Map

The Young Palace Head of the Potala Palace, Cheon Deung-jin, was a woman.

As I treated Cheon Deung-jin in my mind, the memories of holding hands and naturally putting my arm around her shoulder just a moment ago began to flash by.

"Was it... cross-dressing?"

"Yes, I am sorry for deceiving you."

"No, there is nothing for the Young Palace Head to be sorry about, but."

The problem was me, Hyeokryeon Yeom, who didn't recognize it.

Even though I checked the pulse.

Was it because my father-in-law clearly told me the Young Palace Head was a man?

I took it for granted that she was a man.

Rather than that, I wanted to ask why she was cross-dressing.

I took my eyes off Cheon Deung-jin and looked straight at the Palace Lord of the Potala Palace, Cheon Jeok-pa, who seemed to hold the key to all the truth.

"I have many things I want to ask the Palace Lord."

"Speak."

"First, can I hear the reason why you disguised the Young Palace Head as a man?"

"If you saw that guy downstairs, you would have guessed. The Demonic Cult has a record of visiting the Potala Palace once before."

The story unraveling through the Palace Lord of the Potala Palace, Cheon Jeok-pa, was a story I had never heard before.

"Who was it?"

"It was the first son of the Heavenly Demon Cult Leader, the Eldest Young Master."

It is Hyeokryeon Geuk.

"The Demonic Cult already knew about the existence of the Fire Spirit Jade."

There was one thing they demanded.

It had the full support of the Potala Palace.

And for that, they proposed a blood alliance relationship.

They said it didn't matter who it was, just send a woman and they would solidify the blood alliance relationship through marriage with her.

They said it like that, but the moment they sent a woman.

It seemed clear that the woman would become a hostage.

"Even at that time, the Young Palace Head was known as a boy."

"That is right. This Palace Lord foresaw in advance that a situation like this might occur."

Cheon Jeok-pa quietly closed his eyes and let out a long sigh.

The Guardian Monk Arhat still had a wary look, but he did not dare to intervene.

"Probably, you were also sent to form a blood alliance relationship with the Ice Palace, right?"

Cheon Jeok-pa was already anticipating my situation.

"Well, half is right. And half is wrong."

It was true that the Cult Leader told me to go, but there was also a choice not to go.

Choosing to go to the Ice Palace was entirely my will.

"Is that so? Anyway, in order to protect Jin, I had no choice but to keep her cross-dressing. At least until Jin got sick."

Once Cheon Deung-jin became sick through the Fire Spirit Qi, Cheon Jeok-pa seemed to be in a situation where he couldn't afford to be picky, just like Seol Baek-ho.

Considering he even asked for help from the Ice Palace, which is an archenemy.

"Then the Jiangshi that was guarding the front of the Fire Spirit Jade..."

"The Eldest Young Master probably left it behind."

Cheon Jeok-pa probably didn't expect that he would still possess a relic of the Maoshan Sect.

"When you heard that I was coming from the Ice Palace. I think you must have had many thoughts."

"That is right. It was also a situation where I didn't know how helpful you, who possess the Extreme Yang Body, would be to Jin."

On top of that, I was the younger brother of the Eldest Young Master.

The thought that I was a person of the Demonic Cult must have definitely caused discomfort.

Even so.

"It was a bit too much to throw me at the Jiangshi without a single word."

"I feel sorry about that."

Seeing him apologize despite being the head of an organization, I nodded.

All doubts were resolved.

"Good, the doubts have been resolved, but there is still one more thing I want to ask."

"What is it?"

"What do you intend to do next?"

The Jiangshi left by Hyeokryeon Geuk was destroyed.

Then there was a high possibility that Hyeokryeon Geuk would target the Young Palace Head of the Potala Palace, Cheon Deung-jin.

"I have actually thought about that part."

Cheon Jeok-pa looked at Cheon Deung-jin standing next to me.

"Even if it is for the sake of treatment as well, I would like you to take the Young Palace Head to the Ice Palace. If the third son of the Demonic Cult Leader took the Young Palace Head, it wouldn't mean that the bond with the Demonic Cult is broken."

Cheon Jeok-pa's words were correct.

I also thought that method was actually the best method.

Because I was able to gain the power of the Potala Palace.

There was only one thing to worry about.

'I wonder what Seol Ye-rin will think of this.'

***

Achoo-

"Are you okay?"

Seol Ye-rin rubbed her nose.

For her, who didn't feel the cold, to sneeze.

"I guess someone is talking about me."

"Is that so? I will find them."

"...Vice Captain, please distinguish jokes."

"I am sorry."

Seol Ye-rin gazed at the blue sky of the Ice Palace from the training ground.

Fifteen days had already passed since Hyeokryeon Yeom left.

Time is really fast.

Seol Ye-rin was also training through the Ice Crystal for growth.

And,

"Young Palace Head, it is time to go prepare now."

"Already?"

"It is an event that only happens once besides the wedding ceremony. It is necessary to practice in advance."

It was the instruction of the Ice King, Seol Baek-ho.

Through Hyeokryeon Mu, the news was conveyed that one of the Clan Heads of the Five Great Clans of the Demonic Cult would visit as an envoy on the day of the engagement ceremony.

I heard that the protocol had to be perfect because of that.

They said it was necessary to clearly let the Demonic Cult know who would become Hyeokryeon Yeom's wife in the future.

So what started was,

"It is really boring."

History of the Demonic Cult, history of the Ice Palace, history of the Central Plains Murim, etc.

Just in case she made a slip of the tongue, Seol Ye-rin started receiving etiquette education again, including history studies.

It is a kind of bride training.

It might seem like making a fuss over just an engagement, but as a father with a daughter, it seemed he wanted to showcase the prettiest and most intelligent daughter.

"Young Palace Head, I heard that news about the engagement ceremony is spreading to quite a few places. They say the Moyong Clan will also visit. Since martial artists of the Central Plains will definitely be interested, we need to prepare thoroughly."

"Martial artists of the Central Plains might come too?"

At the words of Han So-yeong, the wife of General Manager Seol Su-hyeok who was in charge of education, Seol Ye-rin's eyes sparkled.

"Oh my, your interest in the Central Plains is still the same."

Seol Ye-rin had a lot of interest in the Central Plains since long ago.

It was inevitable because she had never been outside the Ice Palace until Hyeokryeon Yeom treated her.

The Ice Palace is always a cold place.

She heard the Central Plains is always warm.

She was still thinking that she wanted to visit the Central Plains someday.

"Since I can go outside now, I am curious."

"Is there perhaps a place you want to go to the most?"

"Dongting Lake."

"Oh my, it's perfect for a honeymoon destination!"

"W-What."

At the word honeymoon, Seol Ye-rin began to stutter.

It was because she unwittingly imagined a newlywed life with Hyeokryeon Yeom.

"Hmph, I guess it's not that you have no interest at all?"

"Just continue the e-education!"

"Yes, in the Central Plains, there are also ten absolute masters called the Ten Venerables under the Heavens. Comparing them is something you must absolutely never..."

Han So-yeong started to enthusiastically preach about the masters of the Central Plains, but nothing was coming into Seol Ye-rin's ears anymore.

'I wish he would come back quickly.'

It was because she started thinking of Hyeokryeon Yeom.

'He isn't flirting with another woman while I'm not looking, right?'

Since he moved with the Small Snow Squad, there shouldn't be time to play.

If he played around with another woman.

'I will freeze him.'

If Seol Ye-rin harbored a grudge, it wasn't that frost would fall in June, but an ice age that would stop the heart might come.

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"Then I will be going, Palace Lord."

"...Keep in mind that if something happens to Jin, a war might unfold."

"Father!"

At Cheon Jeok-pa's threat, Cheon Deung-jin called Cheon Jeok-pa.

"Haha, do not worry. I also promised the Ice King of the Ice Palace. To take Miss Cheon to the Ice Palace. I will take Miss Cheon to the Ice Palace, surely help her recover, and then send her back."

"Come back together when sending her back."

"It seems difficult to give a definite answer on that, but if time and circumstances allow, I will return together."

"That answer is enough."

Hyeokryeon Yeom and the Small Snow Squad left the Potala Palace behind with Cheon Deung-jin.

It was a slightly tight schedule to return in time for the engagement ceremony schedule.

Fortunately, Cheon Deung-jin had also learned martial arts to some extent, so there was no great difficulty in unfolding lightness art.

"Then I will be back, Father."

"Yes, have a safe trip."

Cheon Jeok-pa was a little worried at the thought of sending Cheon Deung-jin out of the Potala Palace without a single escort, but he decided to trust me.

From the perspective of the Potala Palace, I was a very grateful existence who survived even after seeing the Fire Spirit Jade and even took care of the Demonic Cult's Jiangshi.

Paat-!

As I started to unfold lightness art at the lead first, the Small Snow Squad and Cheon Deung-jin began to follow.

"Will it be okay, Palace Lord?"

The Guardian Monk, Arhat, asked while looking at Cheon Jeok-pa.

"I have to trust. And."

-I want to try following Young Master Hyeokryeon.

Cheon Jeok-pa just granted what Cheon Deung-jin wanted.

To be precise, he was trusting the Young Palace Head, Cheon Deung-jin, not Hyeokryeon Yeom.

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Huu, huu.

Cheon Deung-jin kept glancing at others while unfolding lightness art.

'Running this continuously?'

She couldn't believe it.

Since they said they were returning to the Ice Palace by unfolding lightness art, she thought they would run after resting a little, and run after resting a little.

She didn't know they would run like crazy without distinguishing day and night from the Western Regions to Qinghai.

Except for eating, we really only repeated running.

Thanks to that, we arrived at Qinghai quickly.

"From here, we will move a little slowly."

"Are you okay, Young Palace Head?"

Wi Ji-yeong asked, looking at Cheon Deung-jin.

It was because Cheon Deung-jin followed the lightness art better than expected.

"I think I am okay because the Captain boosted my energy."

Whenever Cheon Deung-jin had a hard time, I infused warm warmth into Cheon Deung-jin.

Since Extreme Yang Qi and Fire Spirit Qi were the same type of energy, Cheon Deung-jin was able to receive great help.

"If such a thing was possible, I wish you would do it for us too."

"Do you mean to accept Extreme Yang Qi while learning martial arts based on cold energy? If you want to become bald like Vice Captain Eun, I will infuse it for you."

"...I am sorry."

Baek Mu-yong, who had witnessed Eun Bin burning in fire, shuddered.

"Bald head?"

"Usually, if they accept my energy, they end up burning."

Cheon Deung-jin tilted her head.

'Burning? I received such warm energy?'

It was such an expression.

"I will show you one later."

"Captain, it seems martial artists are gathered ahead."

At that moment, Tae Un-seo pointed to the front with his eyes sparkling.

Several martial artists were whispering near the bushes.

"They don't seem to be Kunlun?"

"Indeed."

I thought they were still looking for the Ice Palace person from the Demonic Cult.

The gathered people didn't look like orthodox practitioners no matter how I looked at them.

The reason why I thought so was.

-...The guy who ran away with the Treasure Map didn't go to Kunlun, right?

-If he surrenders to Kunlun, what should we do?

-Is Kunlun the problem! If we can just have the Treasure Map of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens, we can become absolute masters!

It was because they were talking about a 'Treasure Map', not about the Ice Palace person from the Demonic Cult.

Chapter 52 : Chapter 52

Chapter 052 : Iron Venerable

'A treasure map of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens?'

It was information that made my ears perk up.

Ten Venerables under the Heavens.

It refers to the ten strongest people in the entire Murim.

-Ten Venerables under the Heavens, that is an alias I have not heard in a long time. They left behind a treasure map even though they selected the members excluding the Outer Region Murim?

-Still, they were all guys who made a name for themselves. It means that if you get your hands on that treasure map, you can reach their level.

I shook my head at the words of the Sword Venerable and the Demon Queen, who were taking the Ten Venerables under the Heavens lightly.

'It is strange.'

If it is a treasure map of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens, it is information that would turn the Central Plains Murim upside down.

However,

'Why have I never heard of it?'

Even though I only trained in martial arts with the Elders in the Demonic Cult in my previous life.

I was reacting sensitively to outside information.

Because I had to survive in Murim, I was the type who wanted to acquire all information, whatever it was.

The fact that my desire for martial arts was high was actually due to that reason as well.

'A struggle to survive.'

As such, I remember clearly.

There was no such thing as a treasure map.

"What shall we do?"

It was a question asking me to choose whether to approach or not.

And if the treasure map actually existed,

'We must not leave anyone who knows this and any information about us.'

Having hardened my resolve, I opened my mouth with a stiff expression.

"We do not have time, but I think we need to verify that."

"Yes, understood."

Tae Un-seo moved first.

He seemed to have confirmed my intention.

Slice-

He abruptly pulled out a kitchen knife and started slicing the martial artists gathered in the bushes.

"Ah, again!"

Wi Ji-yeong urgently chased after Tae Un-seo.

"You must not kill them all!"

Baek Mu-yong followed Wi Ji-yeong.

"...Is there anything I can help with?"

"I hope the Young Palace Head focuses on recovery."

We might have to run a bit faster to make up for the time spent here.

"Ah, yes."

Cheon Deung-jin seemed to have understood my words as well.

Tremble tremble tremble.

When I approached the men hiding in the bushes, the men were already kneeling on the ground.

"P, please just spare our lives."

"Tell me everything you know."

"We do not know w, who you are, but we know nothing....."

Slice-

Thud.

The arm of the man who had a long tongue fell with a thud.

"Aaaack!"

"If you do not answer properly, you will all end up like this guy."

"T, they say a treasure map containing the legacy of the former Saphaeryeon Leader, the Iron Venerable, is circulating!"

"Hearing the rumor that it is the treasure map of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens, we were chasing the person known to possess it right now!"

At the words saying there was a person possessing the treasure map, I asked.

"Who is that?"

"It is a person called the Book Hiding Guest!"

It is an alias I am hearing for the first time.

"Where are they?"

"We lost them near here, they must be nearby for sure."

At the words that they would be nearby, Tae Un-seo, Wi Ji-yeong, and Baek Mu-yong immediately moved to search the surroundings.

Then, Cheon Deung-jin quietly approached me.

The martial artists who were in pain sparked their eyes at the appearance of Cheon Deung-jin, who looked delicate.

If it is now when the guys who beat them down are gone!

"Hiya-"

"Ah. Sorry."

Crack-

"You rushed at me first."

Cheon Deung-jin split the head of the man who rushed in without being flustered at all by the sudden attack.

"...You are quite skilled?"

"Ah, I have suffered so many sneak attacks since I was young that I am used to it now."

It seemed the Flame Demon did not aim for the Young Palace Head's body for no reason.

His nature appeared extremely calm, but Cheon Deung-jin's hand in action was extremely fiery.

"Are you going to keep the rest alive?"

"No way."

I had already hardened my resolve.

If the movement of the Ice Palace and the Potala Palace and the information regarding the treasure map were true, it was important not to leave a trace.

Furthermore, if it becomes known that the two are involved, it is truly the worst.

Because if the treasure map of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens is real, it is that dangerous of a matter.

"Ah. It was like this."

Soaring flames took away the lives of the men.

"Captain!"

At that moment, Baek Mu-yong's voice was heard.

"I think we found them!"

***

The Book Hiding Guest, Sim Myo-yeon, was holding the treasure map and running like crazy.

'I absolutely must not be caught like this.'

The special order the Book Hiding Guest received.

That was to not have this treasure map taken away by anyone.

She knows that countless martial artists chased the Book Hiding Guest and came to Qinghai.

'If I just arrive at the Kunlun Sect, which is an Orthodox Sect.'

They will protect her.

It is a treasure map the Book Hiding Guest obtained by using her strength with difficulty.

Since the Kunlun side would also want to analyze the treasure map and claim those treasures, she did not doubt in the slightest that they would protect the Book Hiding Guest and be with her.

"Now there really is not much left."

It is the entrance to Kunlun Mountain.

The guys who followed behind were not visible, perhaps having disappeared somewhere.

If she just climbs the mountain like this, she arrives at Kunlun.

If she puts strength into her legs and unfolds her lightness art, something like this Kunlun Mountain is.

Halt-

She thought she could climb it.

But.

Ping-

She sees glittering threads installed between the trees.

'Gulp-'

If she had run as she was, her whole body would probably have been cut into pieces.

"That is a shame."

Thud thud.

A woman who was hiding in the bushes revealed herself.

"You are....."

"Wi Ji-yeong. I am a member of the Small Snow Squad of the North Sea Ice Palace."

"What does that....."

A martial artist of the Ice Palace popped out of nowhere.

"I heard it while passing by chance. I am sorry, but I think you have to hand over that treasure map you possess to us."

Just one step now.

If she went just one step further forward, she could have survived.

"You have already surrounded me."

A strange gleam appeared in Wi Ji-yeong's two eyes.

"Are you not giving up even while knowing that?"

"I absolutely cannot give up."

"Then it cannot be helped."

Boom!

The ground the Book Hiding Guest was stepping on exploded.

Swoosh!

Just as the Book Hiding Guest jumped into the sky fearing there might be a sneak attack from below,

"You were fooled?"

The Book Hiding Guest accurately fell into the arms of me, who was already floating in the air.

Wham!

I, who was already holding Extreme Yang Qi in both hands, hit the Book Hiding Guest.

"Cough-"

The Book Hiding Guest collapsed to the floor just like that.

Thud, thud-thud.

The front of her clothes burst open and the treasure map fell from the Book Hiding Guest's body.

I did not kill her immediately this time.

Because there was something I wanted to ask.

"Name."

"...Why should I tell you?"

"Name."

"...Ptooey."

The spit the Book Hiding Guest spat out turned into steam and evaporated before it touched my face.

"What....."

I slowly bent my waist and lifted the Book Hiding Guest's chin.

Sizzle-

The feeling of something incredibly hot touching was felt at the tip of her chin.

"Aaaack!"

The Book Hiding Guest's scream rang out.

"Name."

"......Book Hiding Guest."

"Affiliation."

"...Saphaeryeon."

"The reason you brought the treasure map all the way to Qinghai?"

"Such a reason is....."

The Book Hiding Guest, who was about to tell a lie, stopped speaking after seeing my attire.

"The reason?"

"Are you by any chance the son of the Cult Leader of the Demonic Cult who is getting engaged to the Young Palace Head of the North Sea Ice Palace?"

The question filled my eyes.

An expression asking how the Book Hiding Guest knows that.

"...If I am?"

"...Beware of Saphaeryeon. Right now all of this is....."

Pow-!

The Book Hiding Guest's head burst open.

Splatter.

Blood poured down and the headless body of the Book Hiding Guest collapsed to the floor with a flop.

"Captain!"

"Young Master!"

"Are you alright?"

"Yeah."

-She was hit by a restriction.

-What a vicious thing, they placed a restriction so she could not say something.

Listening to the opinions of the Sword Venerable and the Demon Queen, I felt I knew why the Book Hiding Guest reached death.

"Beware of Saphaeryeon....."

I picked up the treasure map and opened it.

The place the treasure map indicated was... a place not that far from here.

"It seems to be... nearby."

"The treasure map is not what is important right now."

I examined the Book Hiding Guest's corpse.

[Guest]

A nameplate symbolizing a Guest of Saphaeryeon came out of the Book Hiding Guest's bosom.

Picking this up, I recalled the Book Hiding Guest's words and frowned.

"Why has the news of my engagement reached the ears of Saphaeryeon?"

If it becomes like this, it becomes very troublesome.

The Central Plains Murim and the Outer Region Murim have not been on good terms since ancient times.

Although they are not as hostile as the time when the Ice Palace and the Central Plains Murim clashed or the chaotic period when the Demonic Cult and the Central Plains confronted each other.

The current Murim is one where they mutually watch each other and do not cross each other's lines.

However, a marriage engagement is being formed between two forces that confronted the Central Plains Murim.

The impact this marriage will have on Murim will not be a simple matter.

Therefore, I did not want the forces of the Central Plains to know about this before the engagement took place.

But, the fact that Saphaeryeon knows means that the Murim Alliance will also come to know, and if they are martial artists of the Central Plains, they will not think too fondly of the Demonic Cult and the North Sea Ice Palace joining forces.

'There might be those who try to obstruct it.'

If that happens, the most dangerous thing is,

'Seol Ye-rin.'

The Young Palace Head was in danger.

"I need to speed up a little more."

"What will you do about the location of the treasure map?"

I contemplated for a moment.

The treasure map had a high possibility of being a trap.

The Book Hiding Guest, a Guest of Saphaeryeon, carried this and was active in Murim and gathered people to Kunlun.

The reason is probably because whether it is Xinjiang or the North Sea, the closest place is Qinghai.

The martial artists gathered in Kunlun will enter the Iron Venerable's tomb because of the treasure map, and if that tomb is a trap,

'It is the same trick again.'

It is the same method.

Like the Ice Palace person from the Demonic Cult who killed the martial artists of Kunlun.

It seems they intend to point out the Demonic Cult and the Ice Palace as the culprits who distributed the treasure map this time.

The engagement ceremony of the Young Palace Head and the Third Young Master, asserting the blood alliance of the Ice Palace and the Demonic Cult that broke out in the midst of such a situation.

The Central Plains Murim will not just watch the Ice Palace and the Demonic Cult holding hands.

The problem is,

'Who on earth set up this board?'

It is not something that can be prepared and moved in a day or two.

While I left for the Ice Palace, saved Seol Ye-rin at the Ice Palace, and seized the Ice Palace.

Someone heard that news and was planning and executing this.

'Is this whole thing something that only Hyeokryeon Geuk can be suspected of?'

I felt the scope of the matter I was wary of growing larger.

I clearly thought I could survive safely if I could just escape from Hyeokryeon Geuk's hands.

'If it becomes like this, the story changes.'

Even if I have the Ice Palace and the Potala Palace on my back and confront Hyeokryeon Geuk and snatch victory.

After that, if a Great War of Righteousness and Demonic.

No, if a Great War of Ice, Demonic, and Righteousness breaks out with the intention of the Central Plains Murim joining hearts to erase the Ice Palace and the Demonic Cult, the Ice Palace and the Demonic Cult might disappear from the map.

I judged that there is a need to address this matter.

"I think I have to check it and go."

"We will move."

"No, let's split up."

"Pardon?"

I am worried about Seol Ye-rin.

"I will move with Cheon Deung-jin, just the two of us. You guys go back first and protect Seol Ye-rin."

"What does that....."

Wi Ji-yeong looked at me with eyes saying she could not understand.

"You are saying only the two of you will go to the location engraved on the treasure map where we do not know what kind of trap might be installed?"

"We cannot do that."

"I agree. If I go, who will cook for you while the Captain returns to the Ice Palace?"

The atmosphere is as if the Captain's order is not even regarded as an order.

"The Small Snow Squad is a unit to protect the Young Palace Head of the Ice Palace, not a unit to protect the Small Snow Squad Captain."

At my single remark.

"If you are going to go, step on me and go."

Wi Ji-yeong lay down on the floor.

"We just have to all go together, check together, and return quickly. Even if we depart first anyway, there will not be a difference of a few hours. Isn't it that you, Captain, will also just quickly check and follow us?"

"I'll tell you again, but you must not skip meals....."

I blocked Tae Un-seo's mouth.

Tae Un-seo's cooking skills were developing day by day, but the fact that it tasted terribly bad was still the same.

"Everyone is really stubborn."

"Captain... you were a Captain with deep thoughts."

"...Why is the Young Palace Head making that face again?"

Cheon Deung-jin, who saw the reactions of the Small Snow Squad members, looked at me with a touched expression.

"Such a hierarchical relationship. It is the best!"

Judging by the hand skill of martial arts, it seems Cheon Deung-jin has lived a life of being thoroughly alone.

"It is not a common case but... I would be grateful if you adapt."

"Captain, somehow since last time, I feel like a sense of distance is being felt little by little....."

"It is a misunderstanding."

After I dismissed Cheon Deung-jin's words with a single remark.

I spoke as if it couldn't be helped.

"We move to the location engraved on the treasure map."

"Yes!"

A short while later.

Arriving at the location engraved on the treasure map, we all had no choice but to frown.

Kunlun Mountain, Jade Void Peak.

Because the highest peak in Kunlun Mountain was the very place shown on the treasure map.

"In a place like this... there is no way the legacy of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens would remain."

-Heh heh, it has been a while since Jade Void Peak.

-It reminds me of old times.

-The energy was good so I used to come and go often.

The Sword Venerable and the Demon Queen opened their mouths as we climbed Jade Void Peak.

'Did you perhaps have an incident related to Saphaeryeon?'

-Hmm? I do not remember well either, but I think I fought a bout with the Saphaeryeon Leader when I was young.

.....When young?

I cannot know the time period.

However,

'Who won?'

-Oh my, I am the Cold Snow Demon Queen, you know? Of course I won.

'Then did the Saphaeryeon Leader die?'

-Well. I do not think I killed him?

At that moment.

"Captain, I feel a wicked energy from over there?"

Cheon Deung-jin looked at me and spoke quietly.

Cheon Deung-jin, whose body had been drained of Fire Spirit Qi, became a constitution extremely sensitive to energy.

Truly a human detector.

Such as Cheon Deung-jin says she feels a wicked energy.

-Heh heh, do you think the treasure map is real?

'I will have to check that from now on.'

If it is a trap, we run away, and if it is real.

'It is a jackpot.'

Former Saphaeryeon Leader.

We arrived at the place where the legacy of one of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens, the Iron Venerable, might be left behind.

Chapter 53 : Chapter 53

Chapter 53 : Secret Manual

Iron Venerable, Yong Bi-cheong.

A former Saphaeryeon Leader, who was only cursed at by people during his time as the Saphaeryeon Leader, but after passing the seat to his son, he is a legendary figure who ascended to the Ten Venerables under the Heavens.

-Isn't it funny? To be called one of the Ten Venerables just because he exchanged moves with me and survived, geez.

Cold Snow Demon Queen, Jang So-ryeong grumbled.

It seemed the prestige of the North Sea Martial Gods was immense even back then.

"This is the place."

As I approached the place Potala Palace's Young Palace Head, Cheon Deung-jin pointed to,

A massive rock erected on the ridge came into view.

Wicked energy was leaking out from between it.

It was funny.

To think evil qi was leaking from the highest peak of Mount Kunlun, called the pinnacle of purity.

"Are there usually not many people climbing Jade Void Peak?"

"I think they believe it is not a situation to climb right now."

Certainly.

I didn't feel much human presence in Kunlun.

It seemed they had deployed manpower to find the Ice Palace person from the Demonic Cult.

"What will you do?"

At Baek Mu-yong's question, I smirked.

"We came all this way, we can't just go back, can we? We are entering."

To enter the place where wicked evil qi was leaking.

"Move."

Whoosh-!

Flames rose from the drawn sword.

'Fire Art Sword-'

Slash!

The massive rock was cut just like that.

Rumble.

The rock collapsed, revealing a massive cave.

The scenery changed as soon as we entered the cave.

"Is it an illusion?"

"Well, I think it is a type of that. It would be best to be careful for now."

Since the possibility of it being a trap was very high.

"By the way, what are we supposed to find here?"

"Since rumors about the treasure map have spread, martial artists aiming for the treasure map might be swarming below Mount Kunlun. First, we need to check if the Iron Venerable's legacy really exists."

The inside of the cave was truly wide.

If the location of the treasure map became known to everyone and countless martial artists flocked here.

'It might have collapsed.'

Thinking it was fortunate that such a thing didn't happen, I continued to walk inside.

The foundation of the martial arts practiced by the Iron Venerable was Iron Sand Palm.

In fact, even if I obtained the legacy, it wasn't a martial art worth learning for me.

Nevertheless, people are curious about what might be there.

Even if I didn't learn it, since it was the martial art of one of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens, it would be useful.

'I am walking like this but nothing is happening?'

It wasn't anything else but a treasure map hiding the martial arts of one of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens, so some kind of trap should have popped out.

"Is being cautious also a problem?"

Just as I was getting bored by the fact that nothing was happening.

"Captain Hyeokryeon."

Cheon Deung-jin called me.

"What is it?"

"Something is coming from over there!"

Hiss-

It was snakes.

"So it was this."

If this treasure map was a trap, it had to be able to deal with the absolute majority of martial artists at once.

I wondered what method they used, and it was releasing poisonous snakes.

"Kyaak!"

"What's wrong?!"

"It's snakes!"

Wi Ji-yeong made a fuss.

"You startled me."

"I'm sorry. But....."

"I will cut them all."

"I will make snake wine."

"Then I will join too!"

Probably, if they were ordinary martial artists.

They would have been flushed by seeing that immense offensive of snakes.

"Captain!"

"Young Master!"

"Please!"

But the Small Snow Squad members were,

"Is that how you ask a Captain for a favor!"

Those who witnessed the Great Grasslands burning fiercely.

Flutter- flutter-

Butterflies bearing flames flew towards the swarm of snakes.

***

"You saw the Book Hiding Guest who took the treasure map climbing Mount Kunlun?"

The warriors of Saphaeryeon reached near Mount Kunlun.

The rumor about Iron Venerable's treasure map had only spread to the warriors of Saphaeryeon.

As it is, compared to the Orthodox Murim, the number of Ten Venerables under the Heavens belonging to Saphaeryeon is significantly lacking.

In such a situation, having Iron Venerable's martial arts cross over as well would inevitably be troublesome.

Because of that, the Saphaeryeon warriors had been tracking it while keeping the news about the treasure map a secret until the end.

Mount Kunlun, which they reached like that.

"Let's go up."

Even if the Book Hiding Guest had found out the location of the treasure map and found the legacy left by Iron Venerable first.

'We just have to steal it.'

With that mindset, the Saphaeryeon warriors started climbing Mount Kunlun.

But,

"Who are you!"

There was something they overlooked.

"...Of all times, now."

The Kunlun Sect, one of the Nine Great Sects, was situated in Mount Kunlun.

"We wish to climb the mountain as we have business, so we would appreciate it if the Taoists of Kunlun would understand."

The bladesman leading the group spoke politely.

It was a more polite expression than expected, but,

"You are guests who have rudely entered Kunlun's inner chamber. We do not accept guests here. Go back."

"That is troubling. We also have unavoidable circumstances. Can't you allow it?"

"I refuse."

When the conversation between the two forces ended, the one that reacted first was Kunlun.

The Taoists of Kunlun grasped their sword hilts.

"Damn it! Draw your swords!"

Eventually, a fierce battle broke out.

One group was the side that had to go up Mount Kunlun.

Because the other group was the side that had to stop them from climbing Mount Kunlun.

"These guys, they are from Saphaeryeon!"

"Damn it! We are already having a headache because of the Ice Palace person from the Demonic Cult!"

"Ice Palace person... from the Demonic Cult?"

"None of your business! You guys die here today!"

Saphaeryeon and Kunlun began to clash.

***

While the two forces were fighting, an old Taoist found his spot.

Kunlun's Taoist Azure Void.

He was someone who had stepped back from the front lines and was devoting himself to self-cultivation, but he came hurriedly because killing intent was felt even in the pavilion where he was.

Taoist Azure Void observed the current situation and thought.

Why is Saphaeryeon trying to climb the rugged mountain of Kunlun?

He judged there must be a clear reason why they were trying to climb Mount Kunlun.

"I will have to... go up."

Taoist Azure Void started climbing the mountain without choosing to help against Saphaeryeon.

Swoosh! Swoosh!

The scenery started changing rapidly.

There seemed to be no strong ones among the Saphaeryeon side's warriors.

They were all mediocre guys.

Meaning they were bait.

The real one would be higher up.

Taoist Azure Void trusted the other Taoists of Kunlun.

As he climbed Jade Void Peak faster than anyone else,

Rumble-

He saw a massive rock collapsing on the ridge.

"There was something like that on Jade Void Peak?"

He clearly felt brutal wicked energy flowing out from inside the cave.

Looking around, he started to see men in black approaching the cave.

Taoist Azure Void was enraged by the fact that he hadn't noticed despite so many people having climbed Kunlun.

"Gal!"

It was a problem that something he didn't know about was happening in Kunlun, but,

'To think it reached this state, just what is the Sect Leader doing!'

Currently, Kunlun is in a chaotic situation.

In addition to the story that an Ice Palace person from the Demonic Cult caused trouble coincidentally in this situation, Kunlun's major martial artists are at the forefront of the search to catch him.

Even so, it is appalling that such a thing is happening in the center of Kunlun, which is no different from their inner chamber.

The Sect Leader and the Elders, among others, should have been watching the situation with vigilance in Kunlun.

He simply could not believe the fact that someone called a Taoist did not sense this level of wicked energy.

"All martial artists of Kunlun, listen! Climb Jade Void Peak right now! Intruders are plotting something on Jade Void Peak!!"

Taoist Azure Void's Lion's Roar covered Mount Kunlun.

***

Flare-

The smell of something grilling started to spread inside the cave.

"It burns very well!"

Wi Ji-yeong shouted while watching the snakes become grilled snakes.

"I will look for an escape route."

Baek Mu-yong started looking for an exit pushing away the heat and smoke using Ice Art.

"I will check if there are snakes good for my health!"

In the meantime, Tae Un-seo started looking for ones worth eating after removing poison among the grilling snakes.

"I will look too!"

Cheon Deung-jin also started looking for an exit, perhaps not wanting to be a burden.

Unlike the other squad members, Cheon Deung-jin was moving quite freely inside the flames.

'Now that level of fire energy doesn't affect Cheon Deung-jin at all.'

It probably wasn't just fire energy.

Cheon Deung-jin, who had harbored the Fire Spirit Qi in her body and expelled it all, would be able to harbor and expel any energy existing in the world regardless of what it is.

I felt like I knew why the Flame Demon tried to use Cheon Deung-jin as a vessel.

'More importantly.'

When everyone else was looking for an exit.

I started looking for Iron Venerable's legacy.

Judging by the fact that they released poisonous snakes, there was a high probability it was a trap, but I couldn't rule out the possibility that this was truly the Iron Venerable's tomb yet.

Step, step.

This level of fire was ticklish to me, so I started walking through the flames.

'Mm?'

Between the poisonous snakes turning into snake meat.

Slither-

A massive snake flashing red eyes was visible.

-It looks like a Blood Eye Snake.

-Huh? I think it's the cute snake Iron Venerable used to carry around? It grew huge.

'Is that true?'

-I think so, since there won't be many of those Blood Eye Snakes with red eyes in existence.

If the Demon Queen's words are true, that means that Blood Eye Snake is a snake that has lived for two hundred years.

Furthermore.

'It might not be a trap.'

Since the Blood Eye Snake might be guarding the Iron Venerable's tomb.

I approached the Blood Eye Snake slowly.

Even though the snakes thought to be its subordinates were burning to death, the Blood Eye Snake was glaring at me without being flustered at all.

-What do you think about making a jar of snake wine?

The Sword Venerable smacked his lips.

Even though he couldn't eat because he was a ghost, hearing about wine seemed to make his mouth water.

"I think that is a good idea."

I thought my father-in-law would be disappointed if I returned empty-handed after coming all the way to Potala Palace.

It seemed like snake wine aged two hundred years would be a good gift.

If possible.

'It would be very good if I grab the Ten Venerables under the Heavens' legacy as well.'

Come to think of it.

Strangely, after returning to Murim, I was getting involved with ghosts a lot.

Sword Venerable and Demon Queen, Spear Saint, followed by the Seven Severing Elder who became a jiangshi and the Flame Demon.

Fortunately, it seemed there was no ghost of Iron Venerable here, which was expected to be Iron Venerable's tomb.

Indeed, no matter if he was one of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens, leaving his own spirit behind would not be an easy task.

-Hiss.

While I was walking thinking about the Iron Venerable like that.

I arrived right in front of the Blood Eye Snake.

And yet.

'This guy isn't attacking?'

Why?

Slither-

Rather, it was giving me a signal to follow it upon seeing me.

"Captain?"

It seemed the other squad members also witnessed me facing the Blood Eye Snake.

"Did you find the exit?"

"Not yet!"

"I think it would be better to follow this guy to get out?"

I said I would make snake wine out of it or whatever, but.

If it helps in escaping this cave, I intended to receive as much help as possible.

'I am also curious why it isn't wary of me.'

Slither-

As I followed the Blood Eye Snake crawling somewhere.

A massive pillar appeared.

Characters were carved on the pillar.

(Rather be a shattered jewel than a whole tile. Of seven words people say, one cannot trust three. Suppress all things with power, and reign with iron blood.

-Saphaeryeon Leader politely offers)

"Was it really... Iron Venerable's tomb?"

In the center of the pillar where the phrase was carved.

A single secret manual was placed.

Chapter 54 : Chapter 54

Chapter 54 : Alias

Iron Blood Divine Art.

The name of the divine art technique practiced by the former Saphaeryeon Leader, Iron Venerable, was written in the book.

"It's a name befitting the Saphaeryeon Leader's martial arts."

"It's suspicious that they just left that smack in the middle like that."

"Should we take it?"

"It is coveted."

Since we came all the way here through the flames, we had to take at least that book.

After all, if our group didn't take it, it was obvious someone else would end up with that book.

The problem was.

'Why did this guy guide us to this pillar so obediently?'

I stared at the Blood Eye Snake.

Then,

Grrr-

The Blood Eye Snake's mouth opened.

-Mm? This guy, perhaps because it's a snake that lived for two hundred years, seems to have become an imugi capable of conveying its will.

'What is wrong?'

-It says it wants you to take this book?

It seemed the Sword Venerable and the Demon Queen could communicate with the Blood Eye Snake.

'I would be grateful if you could ask the reason.'

-It says there are guys who entered here first?

'Who was it?'

-It says they were guys wearing red cloaks. Does this give me a bad feeling? It says it had a hard time chasing them out.

Those wearing red cloaks.

They are the guys who leaked the treasure map to the Saphaeryeon warriors and gathered martial artists at Jade Void Peak.

-Huh? It seems it heard from its master to deliver this book to a possessor of Extreme Yang Qi.

Ah.

The Blood Eye Snake flashed its red eyes.

That was why the Blood Eye Snake stayed still even while other poisonous snakes were being grilled and boiled.

The fact that I possess Extreme Yang Qi was something anyone could easily notice, not just the Blood Eye Snake.

'But why Extreme Yang Qi?'

-That is.....

"Cough- cough- What fire is this!"

At that moment, commotion was felt from outside.

Since we entered the cave by cutting the rock, it seemed smoke was escaping outside.

"Captain, what do we do with this snake?"

We couldn't possibly make snake wine out of a snake that is friendly to our group.

-...Yeom-a.

'Yes?'

-Burn it.

'What do you mean.....'

-Look at that.

At the Demon Queen's pointing, I looked at the Blood Eye Snake.

I saw a red palm print stamped on its chest.

'Blood Seal.'

My brow furrowed.

That was because I had seen that Blood Seal in the past.

'Why is the martial art used by the guy who killed the Dokgo Demon Clan Head, the Ten Thousand Red Sword Demon, here.....'

Before Hyeokryeon Geuk killed Hyeokryeon Mu and me.

Meaning, before officially invading the Central Plains, he dispatched experts from the Five Great Demon Clans to the Central Plains in advance.

The problem was that there was someone who met a mysterious sudden death at that time.

'The Sword Demon's death.'

It was a shocking incident in the Demonic Cult at the time.

He hadn't even fought one of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens, yet the Sword Demon, who was a core manpower of the Demonic Cult, died in an instant.

Only later did we find out that the cause of death was because of that Blood Seal.

What makes the Blood Seal scary is that it remains like a brand and eats away at the prenatal qi.

In other words, a living being stamped with that blood palm print had no choice but to live a terminally ill life.

And the fact that that brand is stamped on the Blood Eye Snake.

'Means it is fated to die soon.'

The Blood Eye Snake probably knows that fact too, which is why it is asking to be burned.

I approached the Blood Eye Snake slowly.

There is still an unsolved question.

'Could you ask why the Iron Venerable asked to deliver the Iron Blood Divine Art to a possessor of Extreme Yang Qi?'

At my question, the Demon Queen seemed to converse with the Blood Eye Snake.

-What?

The Demon Queen's flustered voice was heard.

-Kuhahaha! That man called Iron Venerable, what a simple reason!

'What is wrong?'

Laugh with me.

-I told you before that the Demon Queen and Iron Venerable had a brawl here on Jade Void Peak. It says he was resentful about losing to the Demon Queen back then. Iron Venerable, who wanted to challenge again but couldn't due to unavoidable circumstances, seemingly thought it would be good if someone with Extreme Yang Qi inherited his martial arts to defeat the Demon Queen who possessed Extreme Yin Qi.

Competitive spirit?

It probably isn't that.

Enough for the Saphaeryeon Leader, Iron Venerable, to make his tomb in Mount Kunlun.

It means he remembered the memories at Jade Void Peak.

'It's affection.'

I placed my hand on the Blood Eye Snake's scales.

"So you have been guarding this place until someone with Extreme Yang Qi appeared after that."

How much effort the Blood Eye Snake must have made not to be discovered by the Taoists of Kunlun.

"Rest in peace now."

Flare-

Flames started engulfing the Blood Eye Snake.

-Thank you, human.

At the last moment, I think I heard the Blood Eye Snake's voice.

Hearing that voice, I immediately took out the book located in the center of the pillar.

Then,

Rumble.

"I knew this would happen."

The cave started to vibrate.

The guy who left the Blood Seal on the Blood Eye Snake seemed intent on killing everyone who struggled to take this book.

***

"Rocks are rolling on the ground!"

"I saw Taoist Azure Void entering inside there!"

"It's the Saphaeryeon Leader's tomb!"

Rumble-

While fighting with the Taoists of Kunlun, the Saphaeryeon warriors also discovered smoke flowing out from Mount Kunlun.

Because they thought it must be related to the treasure map.

Both groups stopped the fierce battle and climbed Jade Void Peak.

The warriors who discovered the cave started using movement arts like crazy towards the cave, regardless of who was first.

It is the tomb of none other than the former Saphaeryeon Leader.

Just obtaining the Saphaeryeon Leader's martial arts or legacy could make one a peerless master.

Therefore, the warriors wanted to enter the cave as soon as possible.

And.

"Aaaack!"

"It, it's p-p-poison!"

"Poison is mixed in the smoke, hold your breath everyone!"

"Kuhaha! If only I can seize Iron Venerable's stolen goods, I can endure this level of poison for a moment....."

At first, people died from being poisoned by the poison smoke.

What those who broke through the poison smoke faced was a massive fire demon.

Even the martial artists who were blocking the poisonous qi couldn't block the fire demon sweeping over them.

To make matters worse,

Rumble.

"The, the cave is collapsing!"

Now even the cave started collapsing.

Those who entered the cave had to experience the crisis of death three times in a row.

Especially.

"Cloud Dragon Eight Forms!"

Whirl!

Even Taoist Azure Void, who twisted his body in mid-air and created wind to blow away the poison smoke along with the fire demon, couldn't block the collapsing rocks.

Thud-

Although he drew his sword and cut the rocks, advancing in this situation was unreasonable.

"Just who committed such an act on the sacred Mount Kunlun!"

Only the sight of a single towering snake being completely incinerated was visible.

Taoist Azure Void was watching the appearance of the Blood Eye Snake burning to the tip of its head.

So he didn't see the pillar rising next to it.

Woosh!

At that moment, a massive flame storm pushed the fire demon inside the cave to the outside.

"Kuaaack!"

"S, save m-"

Taoist Azure Void quickly wrapped himself in body-protecting energy and stared at the epicenter of the flame storm.

He saw five figures escaping outside the cave, seemingly unaffected by the fire demon as they pierced through the flames with fire.

Clearly, they were the culprits who caused this situation.

"You bastardsss!!"

The moment Taoist Azure Void's roar was about to burst out again,

Boom!

The cave collapsed completely.

***

We almost died.

Coming outside, I discovered there were an incredibly large number of corpses fallen and rolling on the ground.

'This isn't good.'

I didn't know about other things, but one thing seemed certain.

That the situation was flowing as some unknown force desired.

'So it's the Kunlun Secret History.'

In my past life, I heard stories that demonic practitioners of the Demonic Cult killed numerous martial artists at Mount Kunlun.

I remember that the era of peace came to an end as the warriors of the Kunlun Sect suffered mass death at this time.

I remember clearly because it was when Hyeokryeon Geuk was preparing for the Great Demonic War in earnest.

However,

Thinking about it now, an uneasiness remains.

The Blood Seal stamped on the Blood Eye Snake's body.

And the framing regarding the Ice Palace person from the Demonic Cult, and even the treasure map incident that happened here.

Could Hyeokryeon Geuk alone cause things to happen to this extent?

'To argue that Hyeokryeon Geuk hasn't even become the Young Cult Leader yet, would he have caused things to this extent?'

In the world, this Kunlun Secret History was known as the Demonic Cult's invasion.

Therefore, declaring that the era of peace had ended, the Murim Alliance and Saphaeryeon prepared for the invasion of the Demonic Cult and the Outer Region Murim in earnest.

'If this act is the act of a third party.'

Perhaps the Great Demonic War that would have occurred after I died might not have flowed in the direction Hyeokryeon Geuk wanted.

'For now.'

That was a problem to think about later.

"Everyone run with all your might!"

"Yes, Captain!"

Escaping Mount Kunlun safely was the urgent priority.

Furthermore, to not be late for the engagement ceremony, the group had to use movement arts like crazy.

-How about checking the book first even if it takes some time?

At that moment, the Demon Queen suggested.

'I think that is a good idea.'

Iron Blood Divine Art.

A name attached because it is said to make a person into an iron man.

Like the name, Iron Venerable was an outstanding figure who mastered this Iron Blood Divine Art and united Saphaeryeon with just his fists, ascending to the seat of Saphaeryeon Leader.

'If only I can improve it a bit.'

I could become an iron man who can travel fine even after running for several days and nights.

Thinking such thoughts, I opened Iron Venerable's book while descending Mount Kunlun rapidly.

[Successor.

First, there is one thing this Leader wants to tell the successor. I came to be called one of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens with this single martial art. The name of the divine art is Iron Blood Divine Art. But you see. Would the successor believe it if there were nine more of such martial arts?]

From the first page, a bunch of novel nonsense was written.

"What is written?"

Perhaps curious about me reading the book, Cheon Deung-jin approached and asked.

"I think the book was swapped."

I couldn't believe the fact that ten martial arts worthy of being called one of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens with just one existed.

[If you continue reading with interest without closing it, the successor will also be able to believe. That this Leader did not speak lies.]

I felt like I knew why the expert who left the Blood Seal and managed to enter inside the cave didn't take this book.

'Do I have to keep reading this?'

The moment I was pondering that,

[I learned it while conversing with other Ten Venerables under the Heavens. The fact that all the martial arts capable of making one one of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens just by learning one, including this Leader's Iron Blood Divine Art, were created by one person.]

A name I had heard of appeared in the book.

[I will tell you the alias of the one who created this Leader's martial arts. Clearly, the Ten Venerables under the Heavens referred to him as the Ice Emperor.]

The alias of the First North Sea Martial God appeared in the book.

Chapter 55 : Chapter 55

Chapter 55 : Anger

Ice Emperor, Seol Cheon-u.

It is the alias of the First North Sea Martial God.

'Why is that appearing here?'

Suddenly, a crazy amount of interest welled up.

"Young Master?"

At that moment, Wi Ji-yeong called me.

"Why?"

"Is there some good news?"

"Why?"

"A smile is on your lips....."

'It seems the corners of my mouth went up without me realizing.'

I hurriedly composed my expression.

Perhaps curious, Cheon Deung-jin showed even more interest.

'I can't show this right now either.....'

In fact, asking about another person's martial arts is a very rude action in Murim.

However, since it wasn't my martial art and it was obtained as a secret manual, I thought it was understandable to be curious.

"Miss Cheon. May I read it first and let you know?"

"Ah, yes? Will you let me know?"

"Yes. Since I didn't obtain it alone, I will learn it first and share it."

"No, it was just curiosity. You don't have to....."

"I have to check to be sure, but since it is a divine art, I will first figure out if it can be learned overlapping with other divine arts. Just knowing the mnemonics will probably help the existing martial arts you have learned; I don't think it will be harmful."

"Are you going to teach us too?"

Tae Un-seo's eyes sparkled.

"Because I think it is a martial art that might be helpful when cooking."

"I will continue to give my loyalty to you, Captain!"

"To be able to learn the martial art of one of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens....."

Baek Mu-yong also looked at me with an unbelievable expression.

"Squad Leader Baek, your mouth is going to rip."

"Ahem."

Seeing that appearance, I wondered if martial artists were indeed martial artists.

It seemed they had quite a lot of thirst for martial arts.

'Maybe even more so because they are Ice Palace warriors.'

To survive in the North Sea, they are bodies that have no choice but to learn martial arts based on Ice Arts fundamentally.

Naturally, they are bound to want to learn other martial arts rather than Ice Arts.

Because learning a martial art one doesn't want and learning a martial art one wants to learn are different things.

'In that sense, Iron Blood Divine Art is.'

[I hope the successor knows first that the Iron Blood Divine Art, created by the Ice Emperor and developed by this Leader, is a martial art for making the body sturdy.]

It was a martial art for health (?).

Examining the mnemonics simply.

(O-sin-jeuk-cheol Gi-gwan-baek-hae)

'My body is soon steel, let qi penetrate through a hundred bones.'

To think it's a martial art that injects true qi into the bones, not the acupoints.

(Man-mul-gae-heo Yu-a-sil-jon)

'All things in the world are vain, only I truly exist.'

It is a story emphasizing that one should not rely on external environments or material things, but focus only on one's body and essential power.

In other words.

'Since Iron Blood Divine Art itself is just a divine art that makes the body sturdy.'

It would be possible to graft it onto all martial arts.

I started to read the book avidly while running.

***

At that time when Hyeokryeon Yeom was returning to the Ice Palace with the Small Snow Squad group and Cheon Deung-jin.

A message arrived at the Murim Alliance.

"Strategist, a message has arrived from Kunlun."

The Strategist of the Murim Alliance, Zhuge Myeong, who was overseeing numerous tasks of the Alliance, received the message at his subordinate's report.

"From Kunlun?"

Being adjacent to the Outer Regions, the Kunlun Sect of Qinghai Province was evaluated as a strategic point of Murim, but.

In a peaceful era, it was merely regarded as a weak sect on the frontier even among the Nine Great Sects.

Still, since they sent a message, it needed to be checked, so Zhuge Myeong opened the message.

[Tragedy occurred at Mount Kunlun's Jade Void Peak. Requesting investigation.]

-Respectfully, Kunlun Sect Leader, Cheong Pung.

Checking it, it was a message sent by none other than the Sect Leader of the Kunlun Sect.

A tragedy?

"It says a tragedy occurred in Kunlun, is there any information that came in?"

"...I will check."

Seeing as such, it seemed they didn't know.

"Call the Pavilion Master of the Pavilion of Ten Thousand Phenomena immediately, and put in a request to the Beggar's Gang."

A tragedy occurring in Kunlun is dangerous.

Zhuge Myeong knew well the fact that through the history of Jianghu, the starting point of all wars was Kunlun.

As the Strategist of the Murim Alliance, his instinct was ringing an alarm that this part should not be missed.

"What about information reported regarding the Demonic Cult and Outer Region Murim?"

"Ah, there was a report received some time ago that an Ice Palace person from the Demonic Cult caused a disturbance in Kunlun."

"Why didn't you report it!"

"I apologize, it seemed necessary to verify the authenticity of the information first."

At the subordinate's report, Zhuge Myeong's expression hardened.

"Grasp the movements of the Demonic Cult and the Ice Palace."

"Regarding the Ice Palace, a report came in through an anonymous carrier pigeon a while ago."

"I know that."

It was content that the son of the Demonic Cult Leader and the Young Palace Head of the Ice Palace would get engaged.

It was content that could solidify the relationship between the two groups, but it was also a part that most sects and clans did not care much about.

Indeed, the Murim sects and clans were not idle enough to care about affairs of the Outer Regions.

However,

'The timing of the tragedy occurring and the information coming in is too exquisite.'

The cause of the tragedy in Kunlun was also the work committed by that Ice Palace person from the Demonic Cult.

Perhaps taking this engagement ceremony as an opportunity, the Demonic Cult and the Ice Palace might collaborate to attempt an invasion of the Central Plains.

'I have no choice but to report to the Alliance Leader.....'

Currently, the Alliance Leader of the Murim Alliance, one of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens.

The Buddhist Venerable, Grandmaster Hye-gwang, was in a state of closed-door training for cultivation.

If it were normal times, he would absolutely not have contacted him, but this situation seemed to be a matter requiring urgency.

"Information regarding Saphaeryeon seems necessary too."

"Regarding that matter, I think you can ask the Pavilion Master of the Pavilion of Ten Thousand Phenomena."

"Strategist, the Pavilion Master has arrived."

Rattle-

The door opened and the Pavilion Master of the Pavilion of Ten Thousand Phenomena, the intelligence agency of the Murim Alliance that collects all information of all things in the world.

Mok Gyeong-un entered the office.

"You called."

"Pavilion Master, I would like you to tell me the latest information regarding Saphaeryeon."

Mok Gyeong-un marveled at the Strategist's words demanding Saphaeryeon's information as soon as he entered.

"I was going to report just that, but it seems the Strategist knew in advance."

"Mm?"

"It is news that the former Saphaeryeon Leader's treasure map has appeared. We have obtained information that currently, a person with the alias Book Hiding Guest has fled to Qinghai Province holding the treasure map."

"...The former Saphaeryeon Leader's treasure map?"

Zhuge Myeong looked alternately at Mok Gyeong-un's information and the message flew in from Kunlun, then crumpled the message.

Because he roughly realized what the situation of the current Murim Alliance was.

"...Pavilion Master Mok. Request the latest information regarding the Demonic Cult, Ice Palace, and Saphaeryeon from the Beggar's Gang Boss right now, and summon all members of the Pavilion of Ten Thousand Phenomena."

"Yes? What is the matter?"

At that stupid counter-question, Zhuge Myeong slammed the desk with his fist.

Bang!

"The Pavilion Master is the most unaware of how slow the Murim Alliance's information is right now! It says a tragedy has already occurred in Kunlun, so why are you reporting about the treasure map only now!"

"I, I apologize."

"Send carrier pigeons to Kunlun immediately to tell them to keep this matter quiet, and block information through the informants of the Beggar's Gang! The matter of Kunlun must absolutely not leak out!"

Like that, what happened in Kunlun began to be transformed into a secret history.

However,

Due to the Kunlun Secret History, a wind of change blew into the Murim Alliance.

***

One month.

Calculating by dates, thirty days.

She waited with her neck stretched out for thirty days.

"Young Palace Head. Are you okay?"

Eun Bin asked the Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin.

"I, I'm okay."

"There are only a few days left now. Didn't you decide to hold the engagement ceremony as soon as the Small Snow Squad Captain returns!"

Seol Ye-rin was assuming the horse stance.

Han So-yeong's explanation was that blood, sweat, and tears were needed to show the prettiest appearance at the engagement ceremony.

Drip- drip-

Already for one hour, Seol Ye-rin was proceeding with the horse stance while sweating profusely.

"...He is coming within a few days, right?"

"He will. Isn't that right, Vice Captain?"

"Of course."

Eun Bin stroked his bald head and recalled Hyeokryeon Yeom.

He was a man who kept the words he spat out without fail.

"Arriving, he will arrive on time. But bigger than that is....."

"Is there something big?"

"Most preparations are finished, but the most important thing is not prepared."

At the words 'most important thing', Seol Ye-rin's eyes sparkled.

"What is that?"

"Nuptial Wine."

"Ah."

Although not holding a wedding, holding an engagement ceremony itself is promising a future.

From ancient times, between those promising marriages, there was a custom of the couple sharing and drinking wine contained in the same cup.

"There is no decent wine. Usually, something like this is for the groom's side to procure."

"He will procure it."

Eun Bin started packaging the Small Snow Squad Captain while breaking into a cold sweat.

Because he saw Seol Ye-rin's eyes sparkling.

'Will he... really prepare it?'

This needed to be conveyed somehow.

"First, I just wish he would come quickly. Making a person wait like this."

"The news of return was conveyed through Squad Leader Baek a while ago. It is said he is coming to the Ice Palace with the Young Palace Head of Potala Palace. Probably, it must be tiring for him to come using movement arts diligently."

The moment they were talking like that,

Bang!

Someone ran into the Young Palace Head's Hall.

"Young Palace Head! The Small Snow Squad Captain has arrived!"

At the guard's one word, the Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin's legs gave out and she flopped down.

"Get up, Young Palace Head. You have to go out and see."

Han So-yeong extended her hand gently towards Seol Ye-rin.

Nodding her head, Seol Ye-rin tried to raise her body quickly.

However, her trembling legs did not move according to her will.

"I will help you up."

Receiving support from Eun Bin and Han So-yeong, Seol Ye-rin moved toward the main gate of the Ice Palace.

-Grrr.

Tamya peeked its head out from Seol Ye-rin's collar.

It seemed to have reacted to the fact that its master had returned.

'Hyeokryeon Yeom.'

At the fact that she could see him if she went just a little further, Seol Ye-rin's heart started pounding.

Thump- thump-

"I see them over there."

"Even Wi Ji-yeong, Baek Mu-yong, and Tae Un-seo, seeing them all sitting down, it seems their legs aren't moving because they used movement arts for a long time."

"What about the Third Young Master?"

"He is standing."

As they got a little closer, the figures of three people were visible.

One person was General Manager Seol Su-hyeok.

Another person was the Small Snow Squad Captain, Hyeokryeon Yeom, whom she had waited for a month,

And another person was.

"Are you okay?"

She saw snow splashing on Hyeokryeon Yeom's hair.

The person brushing off the snow splashed on his hair,

That person must be the Young Palace Head of Potala Palace, Cheon Deung-jin.

She clearly heard he was a man.

Snap-

'Why, am I getting angry?'

Chapter 56 : Chapter 56

Chapter 56 : Ring

We returned to the North Sea Ice Palace.

It's been almost a month.

Perhaps because we used movement arts for too long, everyone except Cheon Deung-jin, to whom I infused Extreme Yang Qi, collapsed as soon as we arrived at the Ice Palace.

At the news that the Small Snow Squad had arrived, General Manager Seol Su-hyeok welcomed them.

"This must be the Young Palace Head of Potala Palace. I am the General Manager of the North Sea Ice Palace, Seol Su-hyeok."

"Ah, yes. I am the Young Palace Head of Potala Palace, Cheon Deung-jin."

Seol Su-hyeok tilted his head upon seeing Cheon Deung-jin.

Seol Su-hyeok also heard from the Palace Lord that Potala Palace's Young Palace Head was a man.

However, the Young Palace Head of Potala Palace he actually met possessed a very slender physique that would be believable even if thought of as a woman.

"Everyone was exhausted from running until our feet were sweating. We would like to take some rest."

"I will guide you to rooms where you can rest."

Phat-

Snow that had piled up splashed onto my head as Seol Su-hyeok turned around.

It wasn't particularly threatening, and since I wanted to feel the coolness, I left it as is.

Patter-

"Are you okay?"

Seeing that, Cheon Deung-jin brushed off my hair.

A strange feeling tickled the back of my neck.

Turning back at the chilling and cold frostiness.

"...Young Palace Head."

There, Young Palace Head Seol Ye-rin was standing.

"Thank you."

After brushing off all the snow, I discovered Seol Ye-rin and hardened my expression.

"Lady Seol."

-Grrr!

Tamya jumped towards me from Seol Ye-rin's embrace.

It seemed to be absorbing Extreme Yang Qi while pretending to rub its head.

"You arrived not too late."

"Yes, but... are you sick somewhere?"

"No, I am just tired from training. You can let go now."

Eun Bin and a woman I saw for the first time let go of Seol Ye-rin's arms.

"You didn't say you would bring her out all the way here?"

"I only brought her out because the Young Palace Head said she wanted to go."

I saw Seol Su-hyeok approaching and talking with the woman holding Seol Ye-rin's arm.

"This person is?"

"She is Elder Han."

"She is also General Manager Seol's wife."

Eun Bin added.

"Anyway, please introduce this person too."

Seol Ye-rin pointed at Cheon Deung-jin.

"Ah, this is Potala Palace's Young Palace Head, Cheon Deung-jin."

"I am the North Sea Ice Palace's Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin."

Goosebumps started rising along my spine.

-Kukuku, I think she noticed?

-A woman's intuition is scary and accurate beyond thought.

The Sword Venerable and Demon Queen started adding a word each.

Frankly speaking, I committed no wrong.

My father-in-law said she was a man.

Thinking so, I treated the Young Palace Head.

That process was very different from Seol Ye-rin.

But the problem was,

'Seol Ye-rin doesn't know that.'

So, two choices exist here.

Gritting my teeth and pretending not to know.

Or confessing first.

Since she will find out eventually anyway.

"Lady Seol. Can I talk to you for a moment....."

"I should take a rest too. Since tomorrow is the engagement ceremony, Small Snow Squad Captain, please rest as well."

Seol Ye-rin turned around.

-See, I told you she noticed?

-She's sulking.

The Sword Venerable and Demon Queen added another word again.

"...I will escort you."

Han So-yeong took Seol Ye-rin away, and Seol Su-hyeok started taking us.

I... couldn't follow Seol Ye-rin immediately.

"The Palace Lord is waiting."

Because my father-in-law interrupted the conversation with Seol Ye-rin.

***

North Sea Ice Palace Lord, Seol Baek-ho stared at the returned Hyeokryeon Yeom and Potala Palace's Young Palace Head, Cheon Deung-jin standing next to him.

"...So you mean the treatment was almost successful?"

He heard the whole story about what happened at Potala Palace from Hyeokryeon Yeom.

"Yes. However, because too much Fire Spirit Qi entered the body, my judgment is that she will be almost completely cured if Extreme Yin Qi can be circulated once."

"I see."

In other words, it meant Cheon Deung-jin's treatment was needed through Seol Ye-rin.

But there was an important problem here.

"I can't tell the Young Palace Head to treat a strange man."

"Ah, if it's that, I think it will be fine."

The answer came from Cheon Deung-jin.

When Seol Baek-ho asked what that meant,

"...The Young Palace Head was not a man, Palace Lord."

"......?"

At Hyeokryeon Yeom's answer, Seol Baek-ho looked back at Cheon Deung-jin.

It was impossible to verify with just appearance and physique alone.

But focusing his energy closely.

'To think she was a woman.'

The Potala Palace Lord hadn't raised a son, but a daughter.

"...The reason for telling me this?"

"The Palace Lord had a message to convey to you, asking for the future solidarity of the Ice Palace and Potala Palace."

In a way, sending Cheon Deung-jin alone like this right now was a big gamble for the Potala Palace Lord.

Seol Baek-ho had absolutely no confidence to send Seol Ye-rin alone to Potala Palace.

"...Tell him I was moved by his action, embracing a great will."

"Thank you."

Then it seemed the problem of Seol Ye-rin treating Cheon Deung-jin was solved.

Pause.

Seol Baek-ho, who was staring at Cheon Deung-jin, looked back at Hyeokryeon Yeom.

Talking about 'treatment', the method Hyeokryeon Yeom used to treat Seol Ye-rin came to mind.

"You bastard... surely....."

-Such thing that Father-in-law is worried about did not happen.

An assertive tone.

The thought that it was a relief crossed his mind.

'Relief?'

Looking back at himself feeling relieved, Seol Baek-ho looked back at Hyeokryeon Yeom anew.

-However... There is a problem, Father-in-law.

Telepathy flew in again.

-What problem?

-I think Lady Seol has noticed.

-.....

Seol Baek-ho started feigning ignorance.

-Father-in-law?

-Ahem, I think you should figure it out and solve it on your own.

-This is all because Father-in-law.....

"You must have suffered a lot. Go back quickly and take a rest."

Seol Baek-ho issued an eviction order.

***

Bang.

"Umm, did I perhaps do something wrong?"

At Cheon Deung-jin's question after coming out the door, I shook my head.

I say this repeatedly, but Cheon Deung-jin had no fault.

"First, I hope you rest well. Since the engagement ceremony is scheduled for tomorrow, I don't think you can meet the Young Palace Head, so I will arrange an opportunity to meet the Young Palace Head while you stay at the Ice Palace."

"...Engagement ceremony? Who is the Young Palace Head getting engaged to?"

At Cheon Deung-jin's question, I answered.

"It's me."

At my answer, Cheon Deung-jin's eyes grew as big as lanterns.

"I will also prepare and take a rest, so I will take my leave first. I hope Miss Cheon rests well too."

"Ah, yes."

Leaving Cheon Deung-jin behind, I was about to head to the accommodation but turned my steps.

I decided to head to the Young Palace Head's Hall.

The engagement ceremony is tomorrow, so if the relationship with Seol Ye-rin goes awry, it would be troubling for me and rude to the people who prepared the engagement ceremony.

-Kukuku, are you going empty-handed to soothe her heart?

-Did you prepare the Nuptial Wine?

At the word Nuptial Wine, my expression hardened.

-You didn't prepare for it.

-Talk to the chef who cooks tasteless food and ask him to at least make wine brewed with the Blood Eye Snake.

At the Demon Queen's point, I nodded.

'I didn't prepare a ring either.'

My preparedness was too lacking.

Even knowing we would have the engagement ceremony, I only thought about arriving on time and didn't think at all about preparing a gift.

I turned my steps heading to the Young Palace Head's Hall back again.

This time it was the Small Snow Squad Captain's accommodation where I stayed.

-What are you looking for?

-I think it's gold bars?

She saw correctly.

I took out a few gold bars from the safe I found in the Cold Snow Demon Queen's treasury and stocked up.

Flare-

As I poured in Extreme Yang Qi, soon.

The gold bars started melting.

"Mm?"

-Whine.

Inner qi is emitted from the qi center.

Through the Iron Blood Divine Art, I start controlling the melted gold minutely.

What I am making is,

'A gold ring.'

Sharing Nuptial Wine is important too, but from my position, I wanted to give a symbolic item.

'Was it about this much?'

I calmly recalled the hand I held when sharing Extreme Yang Qi and Extreme Yin Qi.

And recalling the length and thickness of the ring finger, I started focusing on the shape of the gold ring.

This is an important task on which my lifelong reputation depends.

More carefully and delicately than any divine art.

-Kyaoong.

When handing over Extreme Yang Qi to Tamya.

I received the Extreme Yin Qi Tamya possessed.

Sizzle-

As I started cooling the heated gold ring with the Extreme Yin Qi received from Tamya,

Soon two pairs of gold rings took shape.

"Success."

Hoping this could melt Seol Ye-rin's heart, I started heading to the Young Palace Head's Hall again.

***

North Sea Ice Palace, Young Palace Head's Hall.

Seol Ye-rin was lying on the bed looking at the ceiling.

-Are you okay?

In her head, the scene of Cheon Deung-jin brushing Hyeokryeon Yeom's hair kept surfacing.

'Wasn't... a man.'

Potala Palace's Young Palace Head, Cheon Deung-jin was not a man, contrary to what she heard.

Just as Hyeokryeon Yeom went to Potala Palace for Cheon Deung-jin's treatment.

The thought that Hyeokryeon Yeom might have used the treatment art he performed with Seol Ye-rin on Cheon Deung-jin too hovered in her mind.

"...The Third Young Master might not know the Young Palace Head is a woman."

Really?

Did he really not know?

Endless questioning repeats.

"If only he told me something happened at Potala Palace."

Even knowing he was tired from running day and night using movement arts, for some reason Seol Ye-rin couldn't help but show her disappointed feelings.

"It's because she dressed as a man, but I think she would be pretty if she dressed up."

Haa.

A sigh leaked out automatically.

"The engagement ceremony is right tomorrow."

She felt she couldn't properly hold the engagement ceremony with a heart like this.

"Right, let's ask."

It might be a rude thing.

It might disturb his rest.

Let's ask.

What happened to Cheon Deung-jin at Potala Palace.

Just as she was about to kick off the blanket and go outside,

Knock knock knock.

Someone knocked on Seol Ye-rin's door.

"Lady Seol, it's Hyeokryeon Yeom."

Thud thud.

Seol Ye-rin, who quickly returned to the bed, spoke in a voice as if she just woke up.

"...What is the matter at this hour?"

"I came because there is something I want to tell you."

"Come in."

Rattle.

Hyeokryeon Yeom opened the door and entered.

Seol Ye-rin, sitting on the edge of the bed, stared at Hyeokryeon Yeom.

"Weren't you resting?"

"I am on my way out after reporting to the Palace Lord. I stopped by because I thought I should report to the Young Palace Head as well."

For a moment, Seol Ye-rin's eyes sparkled.

"What report?"

"I went to Potala Palace. Aren't you curious about what happened to me during the month, Lady Seol?"

Flinch-

Curious, crazy curious.

But, she couldn't ask.

She just couldn't bring herself to speak.

"...What happened?"

"I stopped by to tell you that. Before that."

Hyeokryeon Yeom extended his hand.

"Could you give me your hand for a moment?"

"Are you saying such words in this situation right now?"

"There is something I need to check."

"……Here."

Seol Ye-rin gave her hand as if she couldn't win, and.

Felt something warm on her left ring finger.

"Huh?"

"What a relief, it fits perfectly."

"This is……."

"It is an engagement gift. I hope you like it."

A gold ring sparkling golden was fitted perfectly on Seol Ye-rin's left ring finger.

Chapter 57 : Chapter 57

Chapter 57 : Engagement Ceremony

Twinkle!

The gold ring sparkled brilliantly.

"An engagement gift... is it?"

Seol Ye-rin's expression stiffened.

It was because Seol Ye-rin had not prepared anything.

"I said I would return within a month, but it felt like I was too late and I also wanted to talk about the things I couldn't say earlier."

I heard she had brought the ring on the way here.

"...Thank you. But what should I do, I haven't prepared anything."

"It's okay. More than that, you seemed concerned about the Young Palace Head of the Potala Palace earlier."

Flinch-

As if her feelings had been caught, Seol Ye-rin feigned ignorance.

"Me? I think you are mistaken?"

Regardless of what Seol Ye-rin said, I began to say what I had to say.

"It seems the Palace Head delivered the information incorrectly. The Young Palace Head of the Potala Palace was not a man, but a woman."

They say a woman's intuition is accurate.

Cheon Deung-jin was indeed a woman.

"That's....."

Wondering if her imagination had truly become reality, she looked at me,

"She said that due to unavoidable circumstances, she is publicly living as a man, not a woman."

"How... Did you proceed with the treatment?"

"...Nothing happened. I came because I had to talk about this as well."

I explained that Cheon Deung-jin had accepted Fire Spirit Qi into her body through the Fire Spirit Jade, then expelled it through Extreme Yang Qi, and as an aftereffect, her acupoints were damaged, so I asked if Seol Ye-rin could cool down the damaged acupoints through her Extreme Yin Qi.

Smirk-

Listening to that story, a laugh leaked out for no reason.

A man who prepares a ring and explains the story of what happened at the Potala Palace in such detail, just in case Seol Ye-rin misunderstands his relationship with Cheon Deung-jin.

"Can you help with the treatment?"

"Of course. Hmmm, then regarding the method of putting Extreme Yin Qi into Miss Cheon, should I do it like this?"

Smooch-

"....."

Whoosh-

Cold Extreme Yin Qi began to enter my body through my cheek.

For a moment, I felt as if the world had stopped.

"M, Miss Seol."

"I, It was practice!"

With a face red as a beet, Seol Ye-rin waved her two hands.

"I've heard everything, so please go and rest quickly! I will accept the gold ring with great gratitude! Since we have the engagement ceremony scheduled tomorrow, I think it would be best to sleep early now!"

Thud thud thud, pouring out words, Seol Ye-rin chased me out of the room.

Rumble!

Bang!

The door to the Young Palace Head’s Hall closed noisily.

"...Did something happen?"

Eun Bin, who was guarding the Young Palace Head’s Hall, approached me.

"No... nothing happened."

After saying that to Eun Bin, I slowly.

Very slowly began to move my steps.

***

Flop.

Returning to my room, I touched my cheek.

'Is it just a return gift for the ring?'

Although we are in a relationship promising betrothal.

Although we both know that we will become husband and wife in the future.

'This is the first time she has expressed it through action like this.'

I thought the change in honorifics was largely due to external reasons.

'Practice my ass.'

There is absolutely no reason to transmit Extreme Yin Qi to Cheon Deung-jin via a kiss on the cheek.

Then it was clearly a return gift.

It was clear she responded with a kiss because she couldn't prepare a gift.

As I lay on the bed staring at the ceiling, the image of Seol Ye-rin blushing came to mind vividly.

"This... is dangerous."

When I first visited the Ice Palace.

The reason I thought I should become the live-in son-in-law of the Ice Palace was to stand against Hyeokryeon Geuk.

Coincidentally, my constitutional characteristics matched, so I treated the Young Palace Head and obtained the position of Small Snow Squad Captain.

After that, the reason I focused on rallying the forces of the Ice Palace and building power was also solely to survive.

If it was to survive, I could have given up the Ice Palace.

Until just a short while ago, that was certainly the case.

'But.....'

Now, I have become unable to give up the Ice Palace.

The North Sea Ice Palace was no different from another home to me.

Especially.

'I must protect the Young Palace Head no matter what happens.'

Because what connected the Ice Palace and me was effectively the Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin.

Perhaps with this engagement ceremony as a turning point, the Ice Palace will be able to leap one step further.

The problem is,

-Captain.

Baek Mu-yong's telepathy was conveyed into the room.

-Did you check?

-Yes, it seems the envoys of the Demonic Cult will arrive around the time dawn breaks and Young Master Moyong Geum had already arrived and was resting.

-What about the external troops in charge of the Ice Palace's security?

-Since the focus is on the engagement ceremony, it does seem that the defense has weakened slightly.

-Tell the Snow Tiger Squad or the Ice Wolf Squad right now to prepare for any intrusion occurring from the outside and figure out who is coming as an envoy from the Demonic Cult.

-Understood.

Whish-

At Baek Mu-yong's movement, I let out a sigh.

It is an engagement ceremony that confirms the blood alliance between the Ice Palace and the Demonic Cult.

I already knew that this information had flowed into the Murim.

Naturally, I couldn't help but worry.

Because the Central Plains would be most wary of the Demonic Cult and the Ice Palace joining forces.

"I hope nothing happens."

The night of the North Sea was deepening.

***

At that time-

The outskirts of the North Sea Ice Palace.

Rumble.

Several carriages were moving.

"I can see the Ice Palace outer wall, it seems we have arrived. Clan Head."

A man in black reported from the coachman's seat.

Inside the carriage.

The person who was lying down with gold and silver treasures opened his eyes.

"It's shaking a lot."

"I apologize."

"I lack sleep."

The yawning Clan Head of the Yayul Demon Clan, the Hell Poison Demon, Yayul Cheon-ung rubbed his eyes.

"To tell me to pack gifts extensively and take them to the Third Young Master's engagement ceremony."

How far is the distance from Xinjiang to the North Sea?

To send me to go there and come back.

"It would have been fine if I came alone."

Yayul Jin, the Young Clan Head of the Yayul Demon Clan who was sitting in the next seat, spoke.

"Since it's an event no different from a blood alliance ceremony, actually all the Clan Heads should have come."

They just sent Yayul Cheon-ung alone.

"To think it's an engagement with that scoundrel, the Ice Palace's Young Palace Head is also pitiable."

At Yayul Jin's words, a smile hovered over Yayul Cheon-ung's lips.

Because Yayul Cheon-ung knew that Hyeokryeon Yeom was different from the rumors after meeting Hyeokryeon Mu.

Actually, that was why he brought Yayul Jin.

Yayul Jin is very afraid of the First Young Master, Hyeokryeon Geuk.

If Hyeokryeon Geuk wasn't the son of the Heavenly Demon, in reality, the two should be considered to be on the same level.

Because the Young Clan Heads of the Five Great Demon Clans were all of equal status.

But just for the sole reason that he is the son of the Heavenly Demon, Yayul Jin ended up lying completely flat even though Hyeokryeon Geuk hadn't even become the Young Cult Leader yet.

'Although the other guys are similar.'

He thought it shouldn't be like that.

Because Yayul Cheon-ung was thinking that he couldn't hand down the position of the Cult Leader to the Hyeokryeon Demon Clan fellows forever.

'The second one, Hyeokryeon Mu, is also quite a decent guy though.'

Compared to the First Young Master's acumen, there were many regrettable points for him to become the Cult Leader.

The Third Young Master, Hyeokryeon Yeom, went without saying.

So, they probably sent him away to the Ice Palace.

However,

-If you go to the Ice Palace, you might perhaps be surprised.

-Why is that?

-Because you will be able to clearly see the changed appearance of that guy Yeom.

If Hyeokryeon Mu, who is stingy with people, says that much, there must certainly have been a change.

'I am curious.'

If Hyeokryeon Yeom had truly changed, Yayul Cheon-ung wanted to find out why he changed and how he could change.

Only then would he be able to make his own child change as well.

Flash-.

"Dawn is breaking."

The Heavenly Demon Divine Cult's Hyeokryeon Yeom.

The North Sea Ice Palace's Seol Ye-rin.

The day of the two people's engagement ceremony began to dawn.

***

The Moyong Clan Merchant Guild's Guild Leader, Moyong Jae visited the Demonic Cult together with Moyong Geum.

"Geum-ah, is this really the right choice?"

"Yes, Father. We must aim for the space between the Orthodox and Unorthodox to earn a lot of money."

Although they are from the Moyong Clan, which is an Orthodox faction among Orthodox factions.

Moyong Geum argued that to earn money, one must know how to sweep in black money regardless of whether it is Unorthodox factions, Demonic Cult, or Outer Region Murim.

"Is there ever a time when the Murim was more peaceful than now? This period is exactly when we, as merchants, must mediate without leaning to any side and conduct commerce to rake in money. That is the Righteous Path of the commercial world."

As he listened, Moyong Jae, who had been persuaded, came to his senses and realized he was in the North Sea.

"We originally had ties with the Ice Palace Lord anyway. But you didn't say the party involved in this engagement ceremony was the youngest son of the Demonic Cult Leader!"

"Because if I told you that, Father wouldn't have come."

"Groan."

"Since we're already here, what can we do? The one who helped me last time was Young Master Hyeokryeon. The fact that we were able to reap enormous profits with Cold Iron was all because of Young Master Hyeokryeon."

"Okay, okay. I got it. Since this father doesn't want to catch the eye of the Demonic Cult, I will stay in the back."

He heard an earful from the Moyong Clan last time too.

He would probably hear another earful from the Moyong Clan because of this matter, but.

'Money is the best.'

Ultimately, Moyong Jae knew very well that there is no business for martial artists in front of money either.

"It seems they are slowly coming."

Since they, the guests, were out at the engagement ceremony hall first, when the time came, figures from the Ice Palace and the Demonic Cult began to enter the hall.

Starting with the Clan Heads of the Five Families of the North Sea Ice Palace, the Palace Lord Seol Baek-ho and General Manager Seol Su-hyeok.

The personnel of the Snow Tiger Squad and the Ice Wolf Squad.

Even the Elders of the Ice Council mobilized in full force.

'On the Demonic Cult side.....'

"The Clan Head of the Yayul Demon Clan, Clan Head Yayul Cheon-ung and Young Clan Head Yayul Jin have arrived."

At the appearance of the Hell Poison Demon Yayul Cheon-ung, Moyong Geum swallowed dry saliva.

"By the way, the protagonists of the engagement ceremony are not visible yet."

Thinking that since it had come to this, he should definitely check what kind of people were gathering at this engagement ceremony, Moyong Jae looked for the protagonists.

"Huh?"

Who said the protagonist appears at the last moment?

No matter how much he looked, Hyeokryeon Yeom and Seol Ye-rin were nowhere to be seen.

At that moment, a person with copper-colored skin revealed their appearance in the venue.

"The Young Palace Head of the Poison Palace of the Southern Barbarians has arrived!"

***

The day of the engagement ceremony.

I couldn't take my eyes off Seol Ye-rin, who had started dressing up since dawn.

A Palace Robe made of Heavenly Silkworm Thread that emitted a faint ice-blue hue, on snow-white silk that seemed to have woven the eternal snow of the North Sea as it was.

Because snowflake patterns were intricately embroidered with silver thread on the collar and the ends of the sleeves, it evoked the illusion that snow powder was scattering every time she moved.

"How is it?"

"You look noble like eternal snow, and transparent like an ice crystal."

"You mean I'm beautiful, right?"

"Yeah."

"Third Young Master, you also seem cool."

Seol Ye-rin looked at me.

I was wearing a long robe made of black satin, the highest grade ink-colored silk that carried a sense of weight, revealing an overwhelming presence without being light.

"They prepared it well."

I really liked this outfit.

On the black fabric, a Red Butterfly pattern, symbolizing a burning flame or a rising red butterfly, was embroidered splendidly in harmony with gold thread.

"It seems the preparations are complete, so shall we go now?"

It was time for the protagonists who would decorate the grand finale of the engagement ceremony to appear.

The moment the two of us began to walk towards the Great Hall of the North Sea Ice Palace where the engagement ceremony would be held,

Boom!

A tremendous explosion burst out from the Great Hall.

Chapter 58 : Chapter 58

Chapter 058 : Hell Poison Demon

Cheon Deung-jin's expression hadn't been good since she woke up.

"Are you awake, Young Palace Head?"

After arriving at the North Sea Ice Palace, the one who took charge of Cheon Deung-jin was Wi Ji-yeong, who used to be Hyeokryeon Yeom's maid.

Thanks to that, Cheon Deung-jin was able to find out a bit more information about Hyeokryeon Yeom.

'The Young Master and the Young Palace Head are in a relationship promising marriage. Although it was decided regardless of their will.'

So to speak, it was a political marriage.

However.

'It didn't seem like that kind of atmosphere.'

As proof, Cheon Deung-jin became a forgotten person to Hyeokryeon Yeom as soon as she arrived at the North Sea Ice Palace.

Of course, she had to circulate Extreme Yin Qi within her body.

He said he was busy because he had to ask the Ice Palace's Young Palace Head to infuse Extreme Yin Qi into Cheon Deung-jin.

'Why do I feel bad?'

She kept imagining Seol Ye-rin and Hyeokryeon Yeom together.

So today, on the day of the engagement ceremony, she was a little late to the ceremony.

Because for some reason, she didn't want to see the Ice Palace's Young Palace Head and Hyeokryeon Yeom holding their engagement ceremony.

But then,

Boom!

It seemed there were people who wanted that besides Cheon Deung-jin.

Cheon Deung-jin, who witnessed the engagement ceremony hall exploding firsthand, shouted.

"Miss Wi Ji, find Young Master Hyeokryeon quickly!"

"Yes, Young Palace Head! Thank you for your understanding!"

Following behind Wi Ji-yeong who quickly unfolded her movement arts, Cheon Deung-jin grasped the situation.

As the Young Palace Head of the Potala Palace, being attacked like this was practically a daily routine, so Cheon Deung-jin knew all too well how to move during an attack.

"Evacua....."

Cheon Deung-jin, who was about to shout at people to evacuate, stopped her slow run.

Because she realized that the people gathered here were people who had absolutely no need to evacuate.

Rather,

'Who on earth attacked?'

Cheon Deung-jin felt pity for the attackers who raided the Ice Palace.

***

"It seems there are plenty of people congratulating us on our engagement day?"

"Indeed. I didn't know they would congratulate us to this extent."

Even before we entered the engagement ceremony hall, martial artists with their faces covered in masks stormed towards Seol Ye-rin and me.

'To think they broke through despite the order to strengthen the outer perimeter security.'

Stupid bastards.

I fully realized how much of a dragon's pool and tiger's den the current Ice Palace was.

A situation where the Clan Heads of the Demonic Cult's Five Great Demon Clans and the strongest forces of the Ice Palace were gathered in one place.

They might have expected to deal with the key figures of the Ice Palace all at once,

'It won't be easy.'

Of course, it was clear they had a separate objective.

"Miss Seol, please come behind me."

"Pardon?"

Crack crackle-

Seol Ye-rin, who instantly froze the masked man who approached right in front of her into an ice statue, asked back.

"No, I think it will be fine if we each take care of the people in front of us."

It seemed Seol Ye-rin could survive well on her own even without my protection.

Whoosh-

While burning the masked man, I tried to figure out where the attackers came from.

'Since rumors have spread in the Jianghu that the Ice Palace and the Demonic Cult are trying to form a blood alliance through an engagement ceremony.'

It had to be considered highly likely to be the Saphaeryeon or the Murim Alliance.

"Kill the Young Palace Head!"

Swish swish!

The masked men began to throw daggers.

They were targeting Seol Ye-rin rather than me.

Whoosh-

Creating a wall of fire by making flames soar, I asked Seol Ye-rin.

"It seems what the enemies are targeting is undoubtedly Miss Seol."

"So?"

"Aren't you afraid?"

"What is there to be afraid of when the Small Snow Squad Captain is here?"

"Young Palace Head! Captain!"

Just in time, the Small Snow Squad returned.

***

The leader of the masked men covering their faces.

Namgung Ho, affiliated with the Murim Alliance's Exorcism Sword Squad, stared at Hyeokryeon Yeom and Seol Ye-rin, then looked to the side.

At first glance, it looks like only masked men from the Exorcism Sword Squad are gathered together.

'Are those guys... guys from the Saphaeryeon?'

Masked men harboring killing intent were also visible.

It seemed the Saphaeryeon also made a move on the information that the Ice Palace and the Demonic Cult were joining forces.

Just as Namgung Ho predicted.

Jin Sa-wol, affiliated with the Saphaeryeon's Iron Sand Squad, was also examining the other masked men out of the corner of her eye.

'They are Murim Alliance guys?'

Although they are wearing masks, the energy they harbor is very pure.

It seemed the Murim Alliance guys also found it troublesome for the Ice Palace and the Demonic Cult to form a blood alliance.

Usually, the Murim Alliance and Saphaeryeon bare their teeth at each other.

But because they have a common goal and even covered their faces, the two groups could join forces.

Because from the perspective of those occupying the Central Plains, the unification of the Outer Region Murim forces could be considered a crisis for themselves.

'The target is.'

'The North Sea Ice Palace's.'

'Young Palace Head.'

The moment Namgung Ho and Jin Sa-wol, who exchanged opinions only with their eyes, rushed towards Seol Ye-rin again,

"How dare you ruin the Young Master's engagement ceremony!"

"To threaten the Young Palace Head!"

"To delay meal time!"

"Small Snow Squad, arrived!"

Wi Ji-yeong, Eun Bin, Tae Un-seo, and Baek Mu-yong revealed themselves in front of Seol Ye-rin and Hyeokryeon Yeom, blowing away the masked men.

"Strike!"

A chaotic battle began.

Although both groups were targeting Seol Ye-rin, it was a difficult situation to break through the flame wall I raised and the ice wall Seol Ye-rin created.

In between, as Eun Bin and Tae Un-seo began to slice the arms and legs of the masked men while wielding their swords.

Namgung Ho, unable to watch any longer, shouted.

"Unfold the sword formation!"

Chwa-ruruk-

The masked men who gathered in an instant began to unfold a sword formation.

"Support the rear!"

Jin Sa-wol kept pace.

With the sword formation in front and daggers flying from behind, it was quite annoying.

Furthermore.

Whish-

Boom!

As the flying daggers exploded, they even generated a sandstorm.

A situation where it was problematic no matter where the sword flew from as vision was also obscured.

However,

"Hah!"

Baek Mu-yong slammed his heavy sword onto the ground.

Rumble.

The ground shook, and an opening appeared between the masked men.

Flutter-

A pair of butterflies flew into that opening.

"Flame Butterfly."

"Danger!"

Namgung Ho, who saw the red butterflies, quickly raised his sword and tried to cut the butterflies.

Clang-

'What?'

Even though he struck down the butterflies, it felt like hitting iron.

"That, its hardness has increased now."

Having learned the Iron Blood Divine Art of the Iron Venerable, one of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens, I developed the Flame Butterfly even further.

"Iron Flame Butterfly Blood."

The moment the flame butterflies wrapped in iron flapped their wings.

Slash!

"Aaaagh!"

Blood spurted like a fountain.

Whoosh!

Following that, a huge flame soared.

"With this, it would have been fine even if we didn't come to help, right?"

Wi Ji-yeong said while throwing a flying dagger.

Clang- Clang-

The masked men swung their daggers intending to deflect the flying dagger flying towards them, but.

"Why! Cough-"

They also couldn't deflect the dagger as if it was wrapped in iron armor.

While returning to the Ice Palace, I passed down the Iron Blood Divine Art to everyone.

The Small Snow Squad, having become able to graft the Iron Venerable's martial art that makes the body sturdy.

"You've become strong."

"A month has passed, hasn't it?"

Strength in martial arts is proportional to time.

Especially through the secret manual of one of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens, the Small Snow Squad had grown one level further.

"Me too."

Boom.

As Seol Ye-rin stomped her foot,

Vibration wrapped around the masked men.

"Words are....."

Without even being able to bring up the story that it's impossible.

Crack crackle-

The masked men into whom Extreme Yin Qi was injected through the ground turned into ice statues just like that.

"The Extreme Yin Qi....."

"I didn't just play around for a month either."

Thinking I should not offend Seol Ye-rin, I stared at the only two people who hadn't fallen.

"You guys are the leaders."

Namgung Ho and Jin Sa-wol muttered seeing the guys who knocked down dozens of members with just six people.

"As expected, the blood alliance between the North Sea and the Demonic Cult... seems dangerous."

"Here....."

"It seems we agree."

Dash-

The two people turned around and started running.

As soon as the judgment stood that the outcome was too clearly decided, they executed the Thirty-Six Stratagems.

"We can't let them go!"

"Wait."

I stopped Wi Ji-yeong who was about to chase.

"You're not chasing?"

"I think it will be fine."

I looked at the person standing firm behind the two fleeing masked men.

It might have been a more excellent choice not to run away.

"Who is... that person?"

"Hell Poison Demon. Yayul Cheon-ung. The Clan Head of the Yayul Demon Clan."

Splosh!

The two people who appeared to be the leaders of the masked men melted into a handful of bloody water in an instant.

"Bug-like bastards are being bothersome."

Too easily, the raid incident was tidied up.

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The Hell Poison Demon, Yayul Cheon-ung looked at the two people in splendid attire.

First, Seol Ye-rin's beauty was beautiful enough to say a fairy had descended.

What caught Yayul Cheon-ung's eye more than such beauty was,

'Third Young Master.'

The scoundrel, Third Young Master had completely changed.

Just as the Second Young Master, Hyeokryeon Mu said, he was surprised.

He knew he had an Extreme Yang Body, but he didn't know he would be handling it freely.

Not stepping forward until dealing with the masked men was also all to confirm Hyeokryeon Yeom's martial prowess.

He looked to the side.

The gaze of the Yayul Demon Clan's Young Clan Head, Yayul Jin, who was standing with his mouth wide open, was directed towards the Ice Palace's Young Palace Head rather than Hyeokryeon Yeom.

'Stupid guy.'

Even knowing that comparing one's child with others is the most heartbreaking thing, Yayul Cheon-ung couldn't help but compare Yayul Jin and Hyeokryeon Yeom.

Because the Cult Leader's sons are all outstanding guys without exception, but his only child was far lacking compared to those guys.

'By the way... if the First Young Master sees this appearance, it will be an uproar.'

The First Young Master is a figure with immense ambition.

He was a man who possessed the desire not only to become the Young Cult Leader of the Divine Cult but also to command the Five Great Demon Clans when he becomes the next Cult Leader.

Especially, he is a figure who must stand out the most in all aspects.

Therefore, he remembers him always keeping the Second Young Master and Third Young Master in check.

Thanks to that, Hyeokryeon Mu only trained in martial arts without engaging in external activities.

And the Third Young Master grew up as a fool who only did scoundrel-like things.

'...Was what I was thinking until just a moment ago.'

It wasn't.

Hyeokryeon Yeom was deceiving all the Divine Cult members.

'Did the Cult Leader know this?'

Then the story changes.

Hyeokryeon Yeom, who is scheduled to become the live-in son-in-law of the North Sea Ice Palace.

And Hyeokryeon Geuk, who is scheduled to become the Young Cult Leader of the Divine Cult.

Naturally, it is correct for the Yayul Demon Clan to support Hyeokryeon Geuk.

However,

'Isn't it regrettable.'

Yayul Cheon-ung, who witnessed the martial arts Hyeokryeon Yeom unfolded just now, could discover the appearance of the Heavenly Demon, Hyeokryeon Hwi, who swept through the Murim with him in the past, from Hyeokryeon Yeom.

His ruthless hand against enemies, and how he protects what he wants to protect by any means.

Hyeokryeon Yeom's appearance of protecting those who came into his embrace was exactly to Yayul Cheon-ung's liking.

Enough to think for a moment that it would be good if the Young Cult Leader of the Divine Cult became Hyeokryeon Yeom, not Hyeokryeon Geuk.

'No.'

It's not too late yet.

If the Yayul Demon Clan can entice Hyeokryeon Yeom well.

This engagement.

Couldn't it be something that can be undone?

If that happens, he might be able to reorganize the hegemony of the Divine Cult.

'What should I do?'

But in the current situation, postponing the engagement ceremony is also not possible... wait?

Naturally, Yayul Cheon-ung's gaze directed towards Seol Ye-rin.

'Hrmmm.'

There was still exactly one way left to postpone the engagement ceremony.

Chapter 59 : Chapter 59

Chapter 59 : Rope of Hope

The masked men's raid was dismissed as a small disturbance before the start of the engagement ceremony.

"The situation?"

"It has been concluded."

At the North Sea Ice Palace Lord Seol Baek-ho's question, General Manager Seol Su-hyeok answered.

"This is already the second time."

"I apologize, I will strengthen the security."

"How do you think they sneaked in?"

"Since there was a month until the engagement ceremony, it seems they gradually infiltrated the Ice Palace one by one over the month."

"To think no one knew while they crossed the Outer Palace and permeated up to here, it is a shameful matter to the Demonic Cult and the Central Plains people."

"I apologize."

Once can be understood.

Since there was someone colluding within the Council of Elders last time, even if I try to understand.

'This time I'll have to wring out the Five Families a bit.'

There is no vigilance.

Seeing this, it seems rumors that the Ice Palace and the Demonic Cult are joining hands have spread throughout the Central Plains.

The moment the conclusion of the blood alliance becomes definitive through the engagement ceremony,

'The time will come to preach to the entire Jianghu that the Ice Palace is no longer the Ice Palace of the past.'

To do that.

"Hm?"

"Where did the Clan Head of the Yayul Demon Clan go?"

"It seems he went to the side where the Small Snow Squad Captain and the Young Palace Head are."

Because the engagement ceremony hall became a chaotic scene, the engagement ceremony was delayed a bit.

Since Hyeokryeon Yeom would be guarding his daughter's safety, Seol Baek-ho thought he might as well chat with various figures of the Murim.

"If you are conversing with the Moyong Guild Leader, I will go and bring him."

"The Young Palace Head of the Potala Palace is also not visible."

"It seems they all moved."

It seemed Seol Baek-ho and Seol Su-hyeok were the only ones who properly guarded their positions.

"...Should we have moved too?"

"Because the Palace Lord was here, the ceremony hall could avoid being further ruined."

"It seems children are always trouble."

There was someone who approached Seol Baek-ho.

"Indeed."

It was the Moyong Clan Merchant Guild's Guild Leader, Moyong Jae.

"Where is Young Master Moyong?"

"You have taken in a good live-in son-in-law. Saying he has to protect the Young Palace Head and Young Master Hyeokryeon, he left his father here alone."

"Is that so? Since Young Master Moyong has also reached the marriageable age, shouldn't he hold a ceremony too?"

"There is no suitable marriage partner. He says work is still better than women."

"You must worry a lot."

"Well, I think he will do well on his own."

Moyong Jae was showing infinite trust and faith in Moyong Geum.

Seol Baek-ho nodded upon hearing those words.

Seol Baek-ho also possessed firm faith that Seol Ye-rin would also do well on her own.

"By the way... why are they taking so long to come? I heard all the masked men were repelled?"

"I will find out immediately."

Seol Su-hyeok began to figure out through his subordinates why they couldn't come here from a place far away after leaving the engagement ceremony hall.

A short while later,

"Pa, Palace Lord!"

Startled, Seol Su-hyeok called Seol Baek-ho.

"Why are you acting like that!"

"The Y, Young Palace Head!"

At that one word, Seol Baek-ho's figure instantly vanished from the engagement ceremony hall.

***

The incident happened in an instant.

It was a blunder to judge that there were no more elements that could be dangerous after completely dealing with the masked men.

Thud.

Seol Ye-rin, who was about to move her steps towards the engagement ceremony hall, collapsed.

"Young Mistress-!"

What happened?

I quickly looked around.

Masked men turned into ice statues.

Corpses that could no longer revive.

Among them, the person who could be a threat is,

Whiip-!

I turned my head and stared at the Hell Poison Demon.

No, to be precise,

"Huff, huff!"

I looked at the Yayul Demon Clan's Young Clan Head, Yayul Jin, who was spreading his palm wide open next to the Hell Poison Demon, Yayul Cheon-ung.

"What is... this behavior right now?"

"That is what I want to ask as well."

Yayul Cheon-ung also looked at Yayul Jin.

It seemed Yayul Cheon-ung also hadn't expected that Yayul Jin, who was intoxicated by Seol Ye-rin's beauty, would suddenly use poison.

"I asked... what this behavior is!"

-It seems he was controlled.

As I shouted at Yayul Jin.

The Sword Venerable examined Yayul Jin's condition and spoke.

-His pupils turned red and then returned. It seems he fell for it?

By whom?

Before I could even have such a question,

Whish!

"I asked what you did just a moment ago."

Yayul Cheon-ung grabbed Yayul Jin by the collar and lifted him up.

"Cough- Fa, Father... why are you suddenly acting like th....."

Yayul Jin was making a fearful expression with a look of not knowing the reason.

Seeing that expression, I bit my lip.

I knew information about the Yayul Demon Clan's Young Clan Head through my past life.

A half-wit with a timid personality who takes a long time even to administer poison.

There was no way such a guy would have the guts to ambush Seol Ye-rin.

In other words, he was really controlled.

Whooo.

I took a deep breath.

Let's calm down.

First, what's important now is Seol Ye-rin's safety.

I approached Seol Ye-rin and checked her pulse.

'Although it's slow, the poison is spreading throughout her whole body.'

I turned my head.

"Clan Head, would detoxification be possible?"

"I'll have to figure out what poison he had, but....."

Perhaps Yayul Cheon-ung also judged that Yayul Jin was controlled, as he put Yayul Jin down and began to examine Seol Ye-rin's condition in detail.

"No....."

"What is wrong?"

"It's the worst. I'm sorry, but this poison..... cannot be detoxified right now."

"Why is that?"

To think it's a poison that Yayul Cheon-ung, called the Hell Poison Demon, cannot detoxify.

"I'm sorry, I don't know when he packed it but... it seems he used the Seven Steps Soul Severing Poison."

Seven Steps Soul Severing Poison.

An extreme poison that causes death before walking seven steps.

Above all, this is one of the worst poisons for people in the Ice Palace.

If hit by this poison, from that moment, the Yin Qi a person possesses begins to freeze one by one starting from small bone joints.

Furthermore, from the perspective of the Young Palace Head who learned sound arts and is an Extreme Yin Body, it could be called one of the most conflicting poisons.

"Then her life should be in imminent danger....."

Flinch-

I realized why Seol Ye-rin's condition wasn't as severe as expected.

The Extreme Yang Qi I had put in.

'It burned the poison, albeit a small amount.'

It's a relief at least.

The Extreme Yang Qi that I shared and permeated throughout her body occupied every joint of the poison's flow, making the movement of the poison very slow, and some even burned and disappeared.

However, the sight of Seol Ye-rin trembling while pale blue caught my eye.

I asked with a hardened expression.

"What is the method to detoxify it?"

"To detoxify the Seven Steps Soul Severing Poison... several ingredients are needed but....."

"Wait... may this old man check the pulse for a moment?"

At that time, an old man with a long pure white beard contrasting with his copper-colored skin appeared.

Flinch-

'When.....'

I didn't notice him approaching at all.

If this old man had intended to assassinate Seol Ye-rin and me, we might have lost our lives in an instant.

-Ho, he is an old man using mysterious footwork.

-Unlike his skin color, his eyes are full of vitality. I think it might be okay to entrust it to him once?

Listening to the Sword Venerable and Demon Queen, he didn't feel like someone with malice.

Still,

"Who are you?"

I had to find out his identity.

Because I couldn't let just anyone check Seol Ye-rin's pulse.

"Just a passing physician."

'Physician?'

A copper-skinned physician.

Something, it felt like I could almost remember but not quite.

"Ugh-"

Seol Ye-rin groaned.

"Young Master, what shall we do?"

"I will allow it."

"Thank you."

As soon as my permission fell.

The old man's figure disappeared from before my eyes.

Puk- Puk- Puk-

The old man, who instantly grabbed Seol Ye-rin's wrist and began checking the pulse, took out needles and started piercing Seol Ye-rin's acupoints.

"....."

If he had pierced fatal acupoints, I would have stopped him from piercing with needles by doing whatever it took, but.

The old man was piercing acupoints that were not fatal acupoints with needles.

"...It's tremendous hand movement."

Enough for the Hell Poison Demon to burst out in admiration.

"Hm, that acupuncture technique is....."

The Hell Poison Demon, who was continuously watching the old man's acupuncture, burst out an exclamation.

"Why... are you at the Ice Palace?"

"Ah, was I caught? Long time no see. Cheon-ung."

Calling the Hell Poison Demon by name?

"Clan Head, if it is not rude, could you tell me who he is?"

"He is the Holy Hand Divine Physician."

At Yayul Cheon-ung's words, my two eyes widened as big as lantern lights.

***

Holy Hand Divine Physician Seong I-han.

He is the best Divine Physician in the Central Plains who treats all patients regardless of Orthodox, Unorthodox, or Demonic factions.

"...What happened to that skin color?"

I couldn't believe at all that the old man with sparkling copper skin was a physician with god-like medical skills.

"Seeing it, it seems he has been to the Southern Barbarians."

"You saw correctly. While touring the Outer Regions because I was sick of the Jianghu, I stopped by the Southern Barbarians and ended up like this."

"What brings you all the way to the North Sea?"

"It was really too hot, so I came up to avoid the heat. The North Sea is cool so I like it."

To the appearance of the Divine Physician raising his body while holding his waist, I asked.

"What did you do with the acupuncture just now?"

"I delayed the poison from spreading. It was fortunate that a small amount of fire energy remained in the body."

"Couldn't you induce the poison completely outside and expel it?"

"I don't know if it was another poison, but for the Seven Steps Soul Severing Poison, that is difficult. If done wrong, it's straight to the netherworld."

It seemed the only way to treat it was to obtain medicinal ingredients that could detoxify the Seven Steps Soul Severing Poison.

"……Please tell me what medicinal ingredients need to be obtained."

"Hmmm, as for herbs that can be obtained in the North Sea……."

Just when he was about to talk about herbs,

"Ye-rin-ah!"

My father-in-law revealed his appearance.

Whish-!

Without even talking, my father-in-law tried to reach out to Seol Ye-rin.

"Tsk."

Pish-

"Ugh."

A fine needle embedded itself into the father-in-law's back of the hand.

"She is a patient. Calm down for now."

Seol Baek-ho's expression hardened after confirming the fine needle stuck in the back of his hand.

"You are……."

"Long time no see, Ice Palace Lord."

"...Quack!"

Whoosh!

Seol Baek-ho's fist flew towards the Divine Physician.

Boom!

However, that fist could not reach the Divine Physician.

"...Small Snow Squad Captain?"

"To call him a quack, are you acquaintances, Father-in-law?"

Fist fighting would only consume time.

I, who wanted to recover Seol Ye-rin even a moment sooner, blocked Seol Baek-ho's fist despite the rudeness.

"Do not block me! Do you know how much that quack doctor ripped off using Ye-rin as an excuse in the past?!"

It seemed the Divine Physician had checked Seol Ye-rin's pulse in the past.

And without showing much improvement, it seemed he only ripped off money.

As I turned my head and looked at the Divine Physician.

"Ahem, that is in the past! It is a miracle that the Extreme Yin Body is still alive!"

"So, is what you said just now true, or is it a lie?"

My expression distorted like a ferocious god.

"Haha, if I said it was a lie, you look ready to clear away a corpse. Didn't the Poison Demon say so, that medicinal ingredients are needed to treat the Seven Steps Soul Severing Poison. Not a penny of falsehood was mixed. This poison grows by eating Yin Qi, but rather, through the passage of time, it gets swept away by extremely pure Yin Qi and must be circulated within the body. If done so, it could rather become a spiritual elixir that strengthens the inside of the body. One problem is that to do so, medicinal ingredient fellows that have harbored pure Yin Qi for a long time are needed."

"What are those medicinal ingredients?"

"Black Yin Ten Thousand Year Herb, and Clear Dark Marrow."

Both were medicinal ingredients I was hearing for the first time.

"Where can they be obtained?"

"That is....."

"They are medicinal ingredients handed down like legends even in the North Sea. If they could be obtained, I would have obtained them long ago and fed them to Ye-rin!"

Father-in-law poured out his sorrow.

The past was not important to me.

The present was more important to me.

"So you mean you don't know where to obtain them?"

Then what about Seol Ye-rin?

Let her die just like that?

Absolutely, that could not happen.

At that time,

-Ahem.

The Sword Venerable cleared his throat.

Whiip-!

My head turned rapidly.

-Elder?

-...You quick-witted fellow. Those two medicinal ingredients. It seems you can obtain them.

A rope of hope named Snow Wind Sword Venerable came down to me.

Chapter 60 : Chapter 60

Chapter 60 : Eureka

Snow Wind Sword Venerable, Baek Un-han, feigned ignorance.

-Master, I didn't see you that way..... You had slush funds you didn't tell me about!

Cold Snow Demon Queen, Jang So-ryeong, began to pour out nagging words like rapid fire.

"Didn't he say he doesn't know if it's still remaining?"

-Y, Yeah. It's been such a regret that I couldn't sell that off and use it!

-Then you should have at least given me a hint!

"Ahem, who are you talking to?"

"You don't need to know."

Currently, I, Hyeokryeon Yeom, was walking westward from the Ice Palace together with the Holy Hand Divine Physician, Seong I-han.

"Groan, if it was a spiritual elixir that could be found just by blindly searching like this, it would have been found long ago!"

"I suppose so."

I can't tell the Divine Physician, but I didn't come out thinking of finding a needle in a haystack.

Sword Venerable's Secret Cave.

It was uncertain whether the secret cave created three hundred years ago would still exist.

But, if only I could find it.

'It's definitely there, right?'

-Yes. I didn't know it would become a legendary spiritual elixir, but it was a medicinal ingredient I used to eat often in my prime.

To think something he often ate three hundred years ago has become a legendary medicinal ingredient now.

Time was heartless.

"Know that you are alive thanks to me, Elder Divine Physician."

My father-in-law looked ready to kill him for real.

Just how much did he rip off for father-in-law to show such a reaction?

"Ahem. I thought I could return after some time had passed."

"Why did you return to the North Sea despite receiving such treatment, Elder?"

"The Southern Barbarians were too hot. Now I'm sick of the heat."

"Did you treat people and receive money there too?"

"I don't just receive money. Others think of me as some saint or hermit, but I have never treated anyone for free."

If he is a physician of the Divine Physician's level, he must have treated countless people and gained a lot.

"Why did you, Elder, who likes money so much, step up to even check Miss Seol's pulse for free?"

"Because the Young Palace Head is the first patient I couldn't cure in my life. But rumors reached even the Southern Barbarians. Stories that the North Sea Ice Palace's Young Palace Head showed improvement."

Ah.

Only then could I realize why the Divine Physician returned to the North Sea.

It must have been due to pure curiosity as a physician that a patient he couldn't cure had been cured.

"Also, I wanted to feel the cool breeze of the North Sea while I was at it."

"Thanks to that, I bought time."

This is true.

If not for the Divine Physician, I wouldn't have even been able to come out to find the medicinal ingredients like this.

"There's no need to be too grateful. I intend to demand something from you too."

"I haven't received treatment from you, Elder."

"Didn't I treat the person who will become your wife?"

"For a quack who can't even treat people without medicinal ingredients."

"What?!"

By the way.

'Is it still far?'

-Well. Since it's been so long, the surrounding scenery all looks the same.

It seemed finding the secret cave just by eye measurement would be difficult after all.

-Wasn't there anything memorable nearby?

-There was.....

'What was it?'

-Looking at the state, it seems everything has disappeared.

'Tell me what it was.'

-It was next to a hot spring water. I used to enjoy the hot spring and rest in the secret cave.

At those words, I stopped walking.

Because it felt like I heard something strange just now.

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At the time Hyeokryeon Yeom's party was looking for hot spring water.

"I apologize with my head bowed like this."

The Hell Poison Demon bowed his head to the Ice Palace Lord, Seol Baek-ho.

Seol Baek-ho shook his head.

"I know it wasn't the Poison Demon's child's fault."

"However, I think I have no choice but to admit that my child was bewitched due to his weak martial prowess."

Furthermore.

If Yayul Jin hadn't packed the Seven Steps Soul Severing Poison, this wouldn't have happened.

Although it was natural for a demonic practitioner who learned poison arts to carry poison around.

It was clearly wrong to bring such a hideous poison on a good day.

"It is done. I believe the Third Young Master will save the Young Palace Head again."

"You seem to trust the Third Young Master very much."

"I do. To the point I'm grateful to the Heavenly Demon."

Yayul Cheon-ung couldn't help but find Seol Baek-ho's reaction fascinating.

Perhaps because even though he saw Hyeokryeon Yeom's changed appearance, he showed an appearance that was worlds apart from when he was in the Demonic Cult.

It still didn't feel real at all.

"Rather than that."

Seol Baek-ho's eyes began to twinkle.

"Is there anyone who comes to mind regarding who committed such an act?"

Seol Ye-rin thought that since Hyeokryeon Yeom would come up with a method together with the Divine Physician, Seol Baek-ho should do what only Seol Baek-ho could do.

And that thing he had to do was.

'Catching the culprit.'

Poisoning his daughter whom he wouldn't find painful even if he put her in his eye, and making it look like the Demonic Cult's doing.

A group or organization trying to alienate the two forces.

"I judged the masked men to be martial artists of the Murim Alliance and Saphaeryeon."

"I also received a report on that."

"If it's not the Murim Alliance and Saphaeryeon, there is a need to find out where on earth the guys appeared from."

What controlled Yayul Jin was clearly an evil art.

Or a type of illusion art.

Sects that could use such things were limited.

"A sect that wants to kill the Young Palace Head while being reluctant about us joining forces."

"According to Hyeokryeon Yeom, when Yayul Jin unfolded the poison art towards the Young Palace Head. Yayul Jin's pupils turned red."

At the story that the eye color turned red, the Hell Poison Demon, Yayul Cheon-ung stroked his chin.

"It couldn't be that they are becoming active again, right?"

"By 'they', you mean....."

"The Blood Cult."

At Yayul Cheon-ung's words, Seol Baek-ho shook his head.

"It has already been over a hundred years since the Blood Cult disappeared."

"It seems a hundred years have passed since the North Sea Martial God hasn't appeared either though."

At the Poison Demon's words mentioning the Martial God, Seol Baek-ho's expression hardened.

"Since ancient times, it was said that heroes appear in turbulent times."

History proves it.

A hundred years ago, two hundred years ago, even three hundred years ago.

Whenever a Martial God appeared in the North Sea.

A Heavenly Demon existed in the Demonic Cult, and,

'The Blood Cult also became active.'

Both Yayul Cheon-ung and Seol Baek-ho knew that fact.

"Such a thing... must not happen."

Yayul Cheon-ung knew the reason Seol Baek-ho spoke like this.

"Do not turn away. Doesn't the Palace Lord know best that both of them might have been seen as favorite prey of the Blood Cult?"

Whenever the Blood Cult became active in the Jianghu, there were people they targeted.

Martial artists with special constitutions.

Heavenly Martial Body, Heavenly Killing Body, Extreme Yang Body, Extreme Yin Body, etc.

The fact is that the Blood Cult has always targeted martial artists with special constitutions.

"There is only one way. If the Third Young Master or the Young Palace Head don't want to become targets, there is no choice but to cure those special constitutions."

The furrows between Yayul Cheon-ung and Seol Baek-ho's brows began to deepen gradually.

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Hot springs?

Hot spring.

A spring where groundwater heated by geothermal heat comes out to the surface.

It usually means water with a higher temperature than the average temperature of groundwater.

Such hot spring water exists in the North Sea?

-There were many in the past. If you soaked your body in the faintly rising hot spring water, it was truly paradise.

It seems plausible if it was three hundred years ago.

'Then.....'

Instead of searching around like this, digging the ground to see if groundwater pops out might be faster.

Wait.

'You said water soared up?'

If the Sword Venerable's words are true, it means there is a possibility that geysers, etc., existed in this area among hot springs.

Then it means there must be a vein where hot spring water flows leading to a geyser below the ground of the freezing North Sea, and that means.....

'If I find the hot spring vein flowing as groundwater, it could lead to where the secret cave is.'

I quickly began to put my face on the ground.

"....."

Nothing can be felt.

"Is there anything we can help with?"

"Hm?"

While I was demonstrating tremendous concentration and sticking my head in the ground.

"When did you come?"

"Protecting the Young Palace Head's safety is our job. If there is anything we can do, please order us!"

Before I knew it, the Small Snow Squad had chased after us, who had departed first.

"I came too."

The Potala Palace's Young Palace Head, Cheon Deung-jin, was also visible.

"Miss Cheon was also together."

"What are you looking for that you have your face against the ground?"

I debated whether I should tell them this or not, and after consideration, I brought up the story.

"I am looking for a hot spring."

"Suddenly a hot spring?"

"You were looking for something preposterous."

The Divine Physician listened to my story, then sighed deeply.

"Did you turn your direction to a hot spring because you don't think you can find the medicinal ingredients?"

"I didn't turn. I cannot tell you the details, but the whereabouts of the medicinal ingredients are related to the hot spring."

Although I can't explain the whole story, at the words that finding the hot spring would lead to finding the medicinal ingredients, the personnel of the Small Snow Squad also began to stick their heads in the ground.

A bizarre situation where the entire Small Snow Squad stuck their heads in the ground looking for a hot spring began to unfold.

"Everyone... is crazy."

The most flustered one was the Divine Physician, Seong I-han.

Even in the Southern Barbarians, they didn't look for something in such an ignorant way.

In the first place, the saying itself that finding a hot spring would lead to finding medicinal ingredients was nonsense.

The problem is,

'Those guys who believe that straight away are also strange guys.'

Even if North Sea people are ignorant, there is a limit.

'Is it because he's a Demonic Cult guy?'

Conversation didn't work at all.

Since they were the action faction who acted first, their propensity didn't match with the Divine Physician.

'Hm?'

But the amazing thing was that for some reason, he harbored expectations.

It was clearly visible in the eyes of the Divine Physician, Seong I-han.

'Extreme Yang Qi is permeating into the ground.'

To find the hot groundwater underground, he is probing below the ground through Extreme Yang Qi.

'Maybe.....'

He harbors the expectation that they might really discover a hot spring.

'Ay, there's no way.'

This is the North Sea.

The Divine Physician had never heard a story that a hot spring burst out in the North Sea in his entire life.

Pause.

At that time, Cheon Deung-jin raised her body and spoke.

"Captain!"

"Uh, I think I got a feeling too."

Simultaneously as Cheon Deung-jin raised her body, I also raised my body.

Vroom-

Soon, Extreme Yang Qi began to boil up throughout my entire body.

'Gasp.'

It's hot.

Heat hotter than the sunlight felt in the Southern Barbarians was spewing out from Hyeokryeon Yeom.

The Divine Physician took a few steps backward.

'What is he planning to do?'

Soon, Extreme Yang Qi gathers in my fist.

"Surely....."

Boom!

As soon as he said sure, my fist struck the ground.

Thud-

The ground was dug out just like that.

The power of the fist wrapped in tremendous heat was enormous.

"A little more!"

Boom!

"Your fist will be ruined first!"

The Divine Physician tried to dissuade urgently, but.

"It's okay!"

Vroom-

Inner Qi wrapping the fist, and Yang Hard Qi surrounding that Inner Qi.

"Ha."

It was the first time in his life seeing someone handling Extreme Yang Qi that well.

The speed at which the ground was being dug was truly marvelous.

"Once more!"

Boom!

As I pounded and pounded again like that,

Splosh!

"Crazy."

Hot hot-spring water began to soar.

"Eureka (I found it)!"

The Divine Physician, Seong I-han, gained a realization watching the cheering Hyeokryeon Yeom.

That the one defining human limits was himself.