# Chapter 61 : Chapter 61

Chapter 61 : Spiritual Medicine

"I found it."

Whoosh!

The hot spring water that began to spout soon formed a hot spring.

Digging the tunnel diligently had hit the mark.

I poured Extreme Yang Qi into the ground to grasp the structure beneath the surface.

Furthermore, the underground hot spring water would also possess Yang energy.

As long as the two energies resonated, finding the hot spring water was an easy task for me.

"I didn't think you would really find it."

"As expected of the Young Master!"

"Ah, hot."

"Warrior Tae, be careful!"

"To think such a hot spring existed in the North Sea....."

The Small Snow Squad members began to explore the hot spring in their own ways.

On the other hand, I,

'First, it seems this is where the vein of the hot spring was. Where should I go now.'

-Ahem, just because the hot spring water came out doesn't mean the secret cave is near it.....

I was pestering the Sword Venerable.

Clearly, I went around looking for the hot spring because the Sword Venerable said the Sword Venerable Secret Cave was next to the hot spring.

-Master, you didn't even leave a mark?

The Demon Queen scolded the Sword Venerable, who was tilting his head because a whopping three hundred years had passed.

'It is a secret cave, a secret cave. I hid it with the intention of hiding it determinedly, so how could it be found? Furthermore, if hundreds of years have flowed.....'

It was natural that it would be even harder to find.

The Sword Venerable sighed and approached the hot spring.

It was because he thought he had planted vain expectations.

The moment he confirmed the Sword Venerable's face reflected in the hot spring water,

-Ah!

-What is it?

'Did you figure something out?'

-I remembered. I remembered!

A smile formed on the Sword Venerable's lips.

-It is inside this!

'Yes?'

-I just remembered that to make it so no one could find the secret cave, I made the secret cave inside the hot spring!

-Really, are you sure you just remembered? It wasn't that you didn't want to tell him?

As the Demon Queen took a stance to nag again,

-I really just remembered! I made the secret cave inside the hot spring on purpose, thinking who else but us possessing the Extreme Yin Body could enter deep into the hot spring.

I stared at the hot spring after hearing the Sword Venerable's words.

'So... you are saying I have to dive into that hot spring right now, right?'

-That is correct.

I let out a sigh.

"It is practically the same as digging up a gold mine, so why is your expression like that?"

Cheon Deung-jin noticed that my expression was getting progressively worse.

"Ah, I think I have roughly figured out where the medicinal ingredients to treat the Young Palace Head are."

"Really? Then search for them right now....."

"Well, it is not certain yet, so give me a moment."

I left Cheon Deung-jin behind and looked back at the Divine Physician.

It was because I saw the Divine Physician's expression changing constantly since earlier.

-It seems you gave him some kind of enlightenment.

'Yes?'

-Let us leave him alone for now.

I, who was about to approach the Divine Physician, stopped my steps at the story that he seemed to have gained enlightenment.

In a situation where I couldn't do this or that,

'It looks warm.'

Seol Ye-rin must be feeling the cold.

"What should we do now, Captain?"

If the Sword Venerable's words were correct, I had to jump into the hot spring right now.

'Are you really sure?'

-I said so?!

At the Sword Venerable's story, I made a decision.

"Let's bring her."

I turned my steps back toward the Ice Palace.

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'Where, is this?'

The world is completely dark.

It is strange.

This feeling was a first.

Shiver-

'Cold?'

Her body trembles.

For the first time in her life, she felt the cold.

Even while unable to believe the fact that she felt cold.

'Cold.....'

Seol Ye-rin began to realize that the cold was something biting.

'I want to become warm.'

It was sudden, but she missed Hyeokryeon Yeom's warmth.

'I miss it?'

It feels like she is alone again.

When she was trapped in the ice wall and experienced the hell where everyone she touched turned into an ice statue.

Seol Ye-rin trapped herself.

The one who 'saved' Seol Ye-rin was a man from the Demonic Cult.

'Why again.....'

‘Did I end up like this?’

‘Clearly, we were supposed to hold the engagement ceremony with that man now.’

Once the engagement ceremony was held, she wanted to talk about going on a trip to Dongting Lake.

The ring was given as a gift.

She wanted to say that it was so pretty, that it was beautiful.

'Am I dying like this?'

In the pitch-black darkness.

‘Have I been left alone again?’

'I don't want to.'

Save me.

‘I wish someone would save me.’

And if possible.

‘I wish that person was Hyeokryeon Yeom.’

Seol Ye-rin thought within the darkness.

Splash-

'Splash?'

Splash-

'Uh?'

It is warm.

'Why is it warm?'

Her eyes opened on their own.

Flash-!

A brightness dazzling enough to blind pushed away the darkness.

"Uh?"

When she regained her senses,

"Are you feeling a bit better?"

Hyeokryeon Yeom was in front of her eyes.

And,

"It's warm. Where... is this?"

Steam is rising up.

"It's a hot spring."

"Yes?"

A hot spring in the freezing North Sea?

"A gift prepared for Lady Seol."

"What does that....."

"I'm glad you seem to like it."

At Hyeokryeon Yeom's words, Seol Ye-rin looked around.

She sees the snow piled up pure white.

There really was a hot spring in the middle of the North Sea.

"To think it's a hot spring."

"Your body hasn't fully recovered yet, so melt your weary body for a bit."

Hyeokryeon Yeom took a deep breath with those words.

"What are you trying to do....."

"There is something I need to find, so I will go down below this for a bit."

Below?

It means inside the hot spring.

At those words, Seol Ye-rin looked inside the hot spring water.

Because her clothes were completely wet from the water, the curves of her body were being revealed.

Flash-

Her face turned red like a carrot in an instant.

If he enters the water in this situation, won't he see everything?

"No!"

It was already late.

Splash-

Hyeokryeon Yeom entered the water.

Deep and deeply enough for the hot spring water to splash up.

'Ah?'

Watching Hyeokryeon Yeom going down even further than she thought, Seol Ye-rin dipped her body into the hot spring water up to her upper body.

It was because she didn't like that her lower body was warm and her upper body was cold.

'So feeling hot and cold was something like this.'

Observing her body after entering the hot spring, she understood.

A foreign energy was being felt inside her body.

It was poison.

'I was poisoned.'

Due to that shock, the Extreme Yin Qi was not moving properly.

And she had even lost consciousness.

If the Extreme Yang Qi that had coiled inside her body hadn't burned the poison, it would have been truly dangerous.

'I need to build up resistance to poison.'

If things went wrong, she almost became a virgin ghost who couldn't even get married.

Thinking such thoughts, Seol Ye-rin continued to watch inside the water.

It was because she had to cover her body in time for when Hyeokryeon Yeom came out of the hot spring.

'.....'

Hyeokryeon Yeom did not come out of the hot spring for half an hour after that.

'Just what are you doing under the hot spring?'

Seol Ye-rin began to wait for Hyeokryeon Yeom.

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'Are you sure it is inside this?'

-I said it is!

-Let's look for it together!

I, having returned to the Ice Palace to recover Seol Ye-rin and carried her on my back to return to the hot spring again, descended to the bottom of the hot spring and examined the surroundings.

It was because I could only find the Black Yin Ten Thousand Year Herb and Clear Dark Marrow if I found the secret cave the Sword Venerable left behind.

The Sword Venerable and the Demon Queen also began to stir around inside the hot spring.

Conversely, I closed my eyes.

Occupying space to find something was my specialty gained from my past lives.

Whoosh-

The space inside the hot spring unfolds inside my head.

Threads of Extreme Yang made sense rushed out from my whole body.

Just like when I sensed the underground water.

'The Black Yin Ten Thousand Year Herb and Clear Dark Marrow are elixirs that are a whopping three hundred years old.'

If it was such an elixir, it was clear it would possess a mysterious energy.

Then I just have to find it.

The 'space' where the mysterious energy is positioned.

What I had felt while going through three lives was always craving.

Just like how I craved outstanding results to become a top-class baseball player during my days as a baseball player.

Just like how I read the martial arts of the Demonic Cult's Elders like a madman to survive in Murim after reincarnating in Murim.

Just like how I desperately wished to use magic as a servant of the Magic Tower Master who couldn't use magic.

'I crave.'

That energy is different from general energy, which only an elixir would possess!

Flash-!

I opened my eyes.

Swoosh—!

The Extreme Yang Qi became a single point and shot out somewhere.

Past the Sword Venerable and the Demon Queen, to the place the Extreme Yang Qi touched.

Sword Venerable Secret Cave.

Red writing bloomed up.

To think he didn't tell me while leaving a mark this openly.

-See that! Did I not say it was there!

-Sigh, it's not like you found it, Master!

I walked in front of the Sword Venerable Secret Cave.

'How do I open it?'

-It is easy. Inject your true qi.

'It didn't matter if it wasn't the Sword Venerable Elder's true qi?'

-In the hope that a descendant of later generations would take it when I die, I made it so it could be opened just by finding it.

It must be an act he committed knowing that finding it was harder than dying.

I placed my hand on the writing.

Then, whoosh, the Extreme Yang Qi was sucked in.

Rumble-

Along with a vibration, the Sword Venerable Secret Cave began to open.

'Huh?'

The amazing thing is that the hot spring water does not enter the secret cave.

-Kuhahaha! It seems my Extreme Yin Qi still remains even though three hundred years have passed!

It means he coated the secret cave with Extreme Yin Qi enough to block the hot spring water.

-Master, you were sincere about creating a slush fund.

-Ahem.

Watching the Sword Venerable and Demon Queen chatting, I entered the secret cave.

Perhaps because I was the one who injected the true qi, entering the secret cave wasn't difficult.

"Hu-ah!"

As I entered the secret cave, I was able to breathe again.

"To think the air still remains. It is truly amazing."

At the fact that I entered a secret cave that was three hundred years old, I began to examine the secret cave.

Twinkle- Twinkle-

Gold, silver, and treasures were scattered here and there.

"You didn't prepare a secret manual separately?"

-Is the place where I sleep not located elsewhere? This was simply my hideout.

Is that why? There were mostly items that would be worth money.

Also, perhaps intending to prepare mainly things to eat, several jars were visible.

In modern terms, it is a kind of hideout.

A smirk formed as I thought of the Sword Venerable, who would have created the secret cave by entering the hot spring water and rolled around alone here.

'Where are the herbs?'

-Over there.

I approached the jar the Sword Venerable pointed at.

When I opened the lid of the closed jar,

Whoosh-

Miraculousness began to waft out.

When I checked inside the jar.

I saw frost flowers blooming on small indigo leaves about a span in length.

And,

At the end of the stem, a dark blue fruit was shining brilliantly.

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Chapter 62 : Ugh

It is the Black Yin Ten Thousand Year Herb.

The Extreme Yin Qi felt from within the fruit is enormous.

"Can I feed something like this to Lady Seol?"

-Keul keul, when the body has become weak, medicinal ingredients that can replenish energy are the best. To an Extreme Yin Body, Extreme Yin Qi is practically the same as restorative medicine.

"Is that why you hoarded them like this?"

It is not just one.

There were several Black Yin Ten Thousand Year Herbs inside the jar.

-Master, it seems your greed was excessive.

-Hahaha, it is a matter of the past!

Perhaps deciding to be brazen-faced now, a smile was prevalent on the Sword Venerable's lips.

"I will take everything."

-Haha, do as you please!

Perhaps because he returned to a place of memories after a long time, the Sword Venerable seemed excited.

And next to it,

Slosh-

"Is this... Clear Dark Marrow?"

-That is correct. It is a mysterious elixir that can wash away all evil energy and impurities if drunk. In the old days, it was drunk a lot for the purpose of Body Reformation.

To think it was an elixir for Body Reformation.

Really, there were a lot of good things in the old days.

"The Martial God wasn't called a Martial God for no reason."

I hoarded the Clear Dark Marrow too.

There were also several bottles of Clear Dark Marrow contained in bottles.

"The Small Snow Squad members can become stronger."

-Are you thinking of sharing it?

"Yes."

I cannot eat these.

I can absorb Extreme Yin Qi, but having energy that is the opposite of the Extreme Yang Body enter my body seemed like it would affect the martial arts I am currently handling.

-Just let your future wife nourish her body.

"They said too much is as bad as too little for everything."

If I make Extreme Yin Qi overflow even more in a person overflowing with Extreme Yin Qi, surely, trouble will arise.

-It will be effective for beauty too!

"Well, I guess I should keep at least one for emergency use."

It also seems like it would be good to be able to eat it later when we hold the wedding.

'Hmm.'

Suddenly, I was surprised to see myself thinking about holding a wedding with Seol Ye-rin.

'I should go up quickly.'

As I was packing the elixirs, I didn't realize time was passing.

"By any chance, is there anything else I need to take?"

Now that it has become usable as a hot spring, I can come anytime, but going back and forth seems quite bothersome.

-Well.

The Sword Venerable and the Demon Queen began to look all around the secret cave.

Since I took everything that would make money, there didn't seem to be anything big left to take.

-It seems there isn't really anything more.

"It seems just appropriate as an engagement gift."

Thinking that I hoped Seol Ye-rin would like the glittering treasures, I left the secret cave.

Splash!

Unlike coming down, going up was quick.

Whoosh!

As I was riding the hot spring water up and looking upwards.

"Where are you looking!"

Swoosh!

A pillar made of ice pounced upon me.

Whish- Whish-

Avoiding the pillar, I came up and soared into the sky.

"Pu-ha-"

I was surprised.

Come to think of it, I forgot I was below the water surface.

"I didn't see anything!"

No, but I already saw everything there was to see.....

Swoosh—!

This time, a spear made of ice flew in.

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Leaving the brief commotion behind, I landed in front of Seol Ye-rin.

While shaking the Black Yin Ten Thousand Year Herb I brought along with the gold, silver, and treasures.

"This is....."

"It's an elixir. If you eat this, you will get a bit better."

"If, if you were going to gloss over it with something like this."

"Here, eat it first."

After handing the Black Yin Ten Thousand Year Herb to Seol Ye-rin, I went behind Seol Ye-rin's back.

"Why did you go behind me?"

"I have to guide the flow of true qi."

To do that, this method was best.

My palm touched Seol Ye-rin's back.

"...It's warm."

"Is it?"

"I will eat it."

Seol Ye-rin put the Black Yin Ten Thousand Year Herb into her mouth.

As it touched the tip of her tongue, the Black Yin Ten Thousand Year Herb, melting softly, went down her esophagus.

Then,

Hum-

Enormous cold energy began to rush toward Seol Ye-rin's qi center.

"Start circulating qi!"

This energy is energy that must not go to the qi center.

To drive out the poison accumulated in the acupoints at once, it had to circulate once through the acupoints.

Seol Ye-rin began to circulate qi.

The Extreme Yang Qi coming from my fingertips began to guide the Extreme Yin Qi.

Extreme Yang and Extreme Yin are opposites.

If energy enters the body, naturally, one has to chase it out to expel that energy.

But,

'Huh?'

Whoosh-

The Extreme Yin Qi began to pull the Extreme Yang Qi.

'How did this happen?'

The situation has changed from the last time during Yin-Yang Unification.

'Does it regard it as prey because it has absorbed the energy once?'

Of course, for Seol Ye-rin, the Extreme Yin Qi will be the main attraction.

It knows that Extreme Yang Qi is merely a byproduct that keeps Seol Ye-rin from freezing.

But that doesn't mean it is energy she can consume whenever she feels like it.

I needed to teach it that.

Thud-

So I flicked it once.

Seol Ye-rin's body rang.

"Continue circulating qi."

The energy spewing out from the qi center and the Black Yin Ten Thousand Year Herb's Extreme Yin Qi began to harmonize with each other.

And they begin to flow between the poisons weakened by the Extreme Yang Qi.

At first, the poisonous energy rushed as if to eat the Yin energy, but soon it was swept away, and following that energy, it pushed out even the remaining waste accumulated in the blood vessels, and I can feel Seol Ye-rin's energy vessels becoming progressively harder.

The path is gradually widening so as not to be damaged by the Extreme Yin Qi, and enough so that there is no problem even if it travels together with the Extreme Yang Qi.

Before there was even time to think that with this degree of flow, it would become difficult to harm Seol Ye-rin with ordinary poison,

Whoosh-

Simultaneously, the Extreme Yin Qi fills up that path.

Then,

"Uh?"

She began to instantly feel the sensation of the inside of her body becoming refreshed.

-This old man knows well what that feeling is. Do you not feel a sense of coolness?

The Extreme Snow Sword began to shake.

The Sword Venerable was chattering as if he was the one who had eaten the Black Yin Ten Thousand Year Herb.

-Master, please be quiet for a bit!

This was the first time for a person, no, a ghost, to be this annoying while circulating qi.

Although there was interference from the surroundings, I guided Seol Ye-rin's true qi continuously without being shaken.

Before long, after circling the whole body's eight meridians once,

Flash-!

Extreme Yang and Extreme Yin settled together in Seol Ye-rin's qi center.

Poison could no longer be found.

Just a lake of inner qi calm like a calm mirror surface was there.

"Sob."

"Are you okay?"

"……Yes. My body has become refreshed."

"That's a relief."

"It's a little regrettable."

"What is?"

Seol Ye-rin dipped her hand into the hot spring water.

"Because it is not hot anymore."

It seemed she no longer felt the warmth of the hot spring.

"Ah, is that so?"

Well, both I and Seol Ye-rin have constitutions that barely feel heat and cold.

"Next time, I should look into a method to block it so you can feel the heat and cold."

"To enjoy a half-body bath?"

"Something like that."

Slap-

I took off the hand I had placed on Seol Ye-rin's back.

It was because Seol Ye-rin leaned against my chest as she was.

"It's nice. Half-body bath."

Seol Ye-rin turned her head to the right and looked at me.

The moment she approached to a distance where our noses almost touched,

Snap-

My patience snapped.

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The Divine Physician, Seong I-han, tilted his head seeing Seol Ye-rin return to the Ice Palace alone with a flushed face.

"Hmm, to recover enough to unfold lightness arts in just two hours?"

It is a recovery ability that is utterly unbelievable.

"But why did she come alone?"

He remembers clearly that Hyeokryeon Yeom carried her on his back when going out.

He asked where he was taking a sick person, but he didn't even give an answer.

"That's a relief!"

"It seems she has recovered."

"Then let us just continue preparing for the engagement ceremony."

"We will set up the banquet."

Did they say Small Snow Squad?

Seeing the unit escorting the Young Palace Head also preparing for the engagement ceremony carefree without escorting the Young Palace Head, the Divine Physician became curious.

"Did she eat something good for the body or something?"

"Well, we wouldn't know that either~"

"If you are curious, ask directly when the Captain returns."

"He seems to be returning just in time."

Rumble-

Stopping what they were doing and flocking together, it is clear they were curious too.

"Captain!"

"Young Master!"

"How did it go?"

The Divine Physician raised his senses.

"It was a success."

He was crazy curious about what was successful.

"Oh, congratulations!"

"What about Lady Seol?"

"She went inside first."

"Young Master, you should prepare quickly too!"

"Are we deciding to proceed with the engagement ceremony right away?"

"Yes! Since the Young Palace Head has recovered too, although it has become evening, I think you just need to proceed right away and enjoy the banquet!"

"Okay, then let's prepare."

"Yes!"

If Hyeokryeon Yeom went inside here, it seemed he wouldn't be able to resolve this curiosity until the engagement ceremony ended.

The Divine Physician approached stealthily and asked.

"Young Master, how did you do it?"

"Divine Physician Elder? What are you talking about?"

"Looking at it, it seems you detoxified her....."

"Ah, I obtained the Black Yin Ten Thousand Year Herb."

"What? You obtained that precious thing?!"

"It was a precious thing."

"It... was a precious thing?"

"Shall I give you one root?"

One root... shall I give you?

Hyeokryeon Yeom took out something that looked like a medicinal herb and shook it as if it was nothing special.

He knew as soon as he saw it.

"Re, really... Black Yin Ten Thousand Year Herb?"

It is a precious spiritual object that even he, as a Divine Physician, has never seen before.

A precious thing that might have a great influence on his medical skills.

Above all... something needed more than life for the Divine Physician was in front of his eyes.

Whish-

The Divine Physician reached out his hand, but nothing touched his hand.

"Ah, since all the Divine Physician did to treat the Young Palace Head was perform a diagnosis, this seems a bit excessive. Let's talk again later."

Having said that, Hyeokryeon Yeom went inside with the Small Snow Squad.

"...Impudent fellow."

To tease an elder!

Gulp-

Greed began to dwell in the Divine Physician's eyes.

"If I just have that....."

He might be able to save the Divine Physician's granddaughter.

The Divine Physician did not return and followed Hyeokryeon Yeom into the engagement ceremony hall.

A reason had arisen why he couldn't return until he obtained the Black Yin Ten Thousand Year Herb.

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After having time for reorganization.

The engagement ceremony started again.

Perhaps because they decided to talk about the discussion regarding the Murim Alliance and Saphaeryeon's raid after the engagement ceremony ended, everyone was waiting in the engagement ceremony hall.

"Guests, hello. I am the General Manager of the North Sea Ice Palace, Seol Su-hyeok, who has taken on the role of master of ceremonies for today's engagement ceremony. I did not think so many people would visit for an engagement ceremony, not even a wedding ceremony, between the North Sea Ice Palace's Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin, and the Heavenly Demon Divine Cult's Hyeokryeon Yeom. I had the thought that we should proceed with the event more grandly for the wedding ceremony. Ah, it seems my words were a bit long. Then we will start the engagement ceremony right away! First, I will introduce the two people who will be holding the engagement ceremony today!"

Flash!

Everyone's gazes headed to the platform.

On the platform stood the Palace Head of the North Sea Ice Palace, Seol Baek-ho.

And in front of him.

Hyeokryeon Yeom, dressed up nicely, and Seol Ye-rin, showcasing a fluttering palace robe, were standing.

They were truly a handsome man and a beautiful woman.

"Hmm?"

"The Young Palace Head's face seems a bit red."

The Clan Heads of the Ice Palace's Five Families were also sitting in the seats of honor watching the engagement ceremony.

"She must be nervous."

"Is she nervous?"

"Well, since it must be her first time standing in front of this many people."

"Then there will be a congratulatory speech from the Palace Head of the North Sea Ice Palace, Palace Head Seol Baek-ho!"

Everyone's attention was focused on Seol Baek-ho.

"Ahem, on this good day, I want to apologize first regarding the point that a problem arose with security. Along with a greeting of gratitude for visiting from afar. Since this engagement ceremony today is a place proving the harmony of the North Sea Ice Palace and the Heavenly Demon Divine Cult, I will offer a short congratulatory speech."

With those words, Seol Baek-ho's gaze headed toward Hyeokryeon Yeom and Seol Ye-rin.

"I congratulate you on the engagement."

"Thank you."

"Thank you."

"Then we will proceed with the engagement ceremony by pouring and drinking the Nuptial Wine with each other!"

At the words that they would share the Nuptial Wine, the Moyong Clan Merchant Guild's Guild Leader, Moyong Jae, asked Moyong Geum.

"Are they doing what is done during a wedding ceremony beforehand as a simplified form?"

"I prepared the liquor for the Nuptial Wine. I told them that even though it is an engagement ceremony, they should at least drink good liquor."

"You did well. As expected of my son."

Moyong Jae, having praised Moyong Geum, looked at Seol Ye-rin and Hyeokryeon Yeom again.

Trickle-

The liquor cup filled up enough for the liquor to ripple.

"Oh, it seems to be a famous liquor."

The fragrant scent of the Nuptial Wine could be felt even from afar.

At that moment,

"Ugh-"

Seol Ye-rin retched.

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Chapter 63 : Duel

The engagement ceremony ended.

It felt like it ended a bit quickly.

The moment the liquor was poured to drink the Nuptial Wine, Seol Ye-rin smelled the liquor scent and retched.

The Ice Palace was in absolute chaos.

"Divine Physician! Divine Physician! Diviiiine Physician!"

Fortunately, the Divine Physician was in the Ice Palace just in time.

The North Sea Ice Palace Head, Seol Baek-ho, summoned the Divine Physician, and the Divine Physician Seong I-han quickly answered the summons.

"I will examine her pulse."

The expression of the Divine Physician, Seong I-han, who quickly checked Seol Ye-rin's pulse, hardened.

"Why, what is wrong!"

"Her pulse is incredibly fast! I think she needs to rest immediately!"

Seol Ye-rin's pulse was high enough for the Divine Physician to make a fuss.

"Are you okay?"

As Hyeokryeon Yeom approached Seol Ye-rin with a worried look,

"Ah-"

Seol Ye-rin's face turned red like a carrot and she closed her eyes.

"Ye-rin! What are you all doing!"

The Ice Palace's maids quickly popped out and helped Seol Ye-rin inside.

"So, sorry. We will end the engagement ceremony with this!"

Seol Su-hyeok also hurriedly ended his emceeing and went inside with Seol Baek-ho to examine Seol Ye-rin's condition.

"What is it?"

"It could be that they pushed ahead with the engagement ceremony even though her condition was bad."

"But the retching just now....."

"Don't tell me....."

The gazes of those gathered at the engagement ceremony headed toward Hyeokryeon Yeom.

"....?"

"Amazing."

"Usually, it is hard to succeed at once."

"If it is 'that', since she was poisoned....."

At that moment.

The Hell Poison Demon, Yayul Cheon-ung, who slowly stood up from his seat, approached.

"Clan Head."

"This... I don't know what to say."

Yayul Cheon-ung approached Hyeokryeon Yeom with a troubled expression.

"What is the matter?"

"When we return to Our Cult, I will definitely punish my child."

"Yes?"

"Congratulations on the engagement. Let's see each other again at the wedding."

"Ah, wait a moment, Clan Head."

Hyeokryeon Yeom sent a telepathic message to the Hell Poison Demon, who was about to turn his back after spitting out only what he wanted to say.

-I would like you to... keep it a secret from the Cult Leader and Hyeokryeon Geuk.

Flinch.

"Really, is that okay?"

"Yes, please."

"......Alright. Let's go."

"Yes... that... Although it wasn't voluntary, I am sorry. And congratulations on the engagement."

Hyeokryeon Yeom nodded at the sight of even Yayul Jin apologizing with a very sorrowful expression.

It seemed he was very sorry for poisoning Seol Ye-rin.

"Young Master Hyeokryeon, I am sorry!"

But following that, even Moyong Geum offered an apology to Hyeokryeon Yeom.

"That... Why are you apologizing?"

"If I knew Lady Seol was pregnant, I wouldn't have prepared something like Nuptial Wine!"

At the word pregnancy, Hyeokryeon Yeom's expression hardened.

The Nuptial Wine Moyong Geum said he delivered.

Seol Ye-rin's retching just a moment ago.

The Hell Poison Demon's apology.

The moment everything began to intertwine into one,

"You came a long way, but I am sorry."

Dash-

Hyeokryeon Yeom also began to follow Seol Ye-rin.

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Young Palace Head's Hall.

Seol Ye-rin was lying down.

The Divine Physician, Seong I-han, was taking her pulse once again.

"How does it look?"

"She seems to have calmed down a bit."

"No, not that!"

"What are you asking?"

"This quack, really! You saw Ye-rin retching too, didn't you! I am asking if she is pregnant!"

At the word pregnancy, the Divine Physician tilted his head.

"Even if she is pregnant, if she is at the stage of morning sickness now, it is not a stage that can be confirmed with medical skills. Above all, isn't it something the heavens grant. If there is something to congratulate us on, we will know soon."

"This... this!"

"Palace Head, please calm down! You are in front of the Young Palace Head!"

Flinch.

He saw Seol Ye-rin fast asleep with her eyes closed.

"What is certain is that not much time has passed since treating the poisoning, so it is indeed a period where she must rest."

"...Alright."

Knock knock knock.

At that moment, the sound of knocking on the door was heard.

"Who is it?"

"It is the Small Snow Squad Captain, Palace Head."

"Come in."

Hyeokryeon Yeom came inside.

"The guests?"

"I sent them back."

"Then you, talk with me for a moment."

"Is it okay if I go after talking with Lady Seol for a moment?"

"...Come to the Palace Lord's Hall."

Hyeokryeon Yeom clasped his hands.

As Seol Baek-ho went outside, the General Manager, Seol Su-hyeok, took the Divine Physician outside and spoke.

"Did you not know either?"

"...Yes."

"Groan, understood for now. Let's see each other later."

Thud.

Everyone left the room.

Hyeokryeon Yeom approached Seol Ye-rin.

"I know you are awake."

"...Please leave."

"No. I need to hear the story."

"I am also in a situation where things aren't sorted out yet, so I would like you to give me some time to organize my thoughts."

"......."

Hyeokryeon Yeom, who pondered for a moment, nodded and came outside.

Then he looked at the night sky and thought.

'...Was Murim a world where pregnancy was possible just by kissing?'

...There was no way.

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'Ah.'

Seol Ye-rin, lying in the room and looking at the ceiling, felt like kicking the blanket she was covering herself with.

"What do I do now, really?"

She wants to die.

Ever since she ran out as if fleeing from the hot spring, her heart began to thump.

Perhaps because she had circulated her qi once, her blood circulated well too.

The blood rushing to her head dyed her face red.

And the fact itself that her face turned red was embarrassing again.

In such a situation, the fact itself that she had to face Hyeokryeon Yeom was torture for Seol Ye-rin.

Even so.

Even if just for the people who came from afar, she wanted to hold the engagement ceremony quickly.

But why was her uncle so talkative?

Right before her father gave the congratulatory speech and poured the Nuptial Wine, she really felt like fainting.

To the point her stomach felt nauseous.

In such a situation, smelling the Nuptial Wine, retching came up.

The problem is,

'It is clear they misunderstood properly.'

Just a moment ago, she heard the word pregnancy.

Since they are in a relationship to hold an engagement ceremony.

They seemed to think it was something that could sufficiently happen between a fully grown adult man and woman.

'Pregnancy.'

It was a preposterous remark.

Above all,

'We haven't gone that far yet.'

She was surprised even when they kissed just a moment ago.

The first kiss she tried in her entire life.

Many thoughts crossed her mind to the point of thinking, so the experience of kissing someone is like this.

In contrast to that,

'It was the skill of someone who has done it a lot.'

Somehow, she was resentful.

The moment she recognized that, blood rushed to her head and she quickly ran away.

It was because she thought she didn't know what would happen if she rode the atmosphere more here.

"Umm."

What do I do now?

If she talks with Hyeokryeon Yeom, she has to bring up what happened a moment ago.

But if she makes an excuse to her father.

It is a situation where she has to talk about her current relationship with Hyeokryeon Yeom again.

'I don't know.....'

Perhaps because she kept her body dipped in the hot spring water.

Her body was very weary.

Drowsiness poured in gently.

'.....'

Zzz zzz.

The silent Young Palace Head's Hall began to fill up with Seol Ye-rin's breathing sounds.

***

At that time, Palace Lord's Hall.

The training hall for the Palace Lord's Hall.

Bang!

"I would like you to explain how it happened, Small Snow Squad Captain."

The North Sea Ice Palace Head, Seol Baek-ho, stood holding a sword in front of Hyeokryeon Yeom.

"...I don't know well where to start and what to explain."

I really don't know.

Hyeokryeon Yeom stood in front of Seol Baek-ho with a troubled expression.

"You're going to feign ignorance....."

There were only the two of them inside the training hall.

It is because Seol Baek-ho sent everyone out saying he had something to talk about urgently with Hyeokryeon Yeom.

Although he sent them outside,

Prick!

Including the Small Snow Squad in front of the training hall door, General Manager Seol Su-hyeok, and the General Manager's wife, Han Su-yeong.

The presence of everyone gathered could be felt clearly by Hyeokryeon Yeom.

"Raise your sword."

"Yes?"

"You got engaged too, didn't you proclaim to everyone that you are now scheduled to formally become the Ice Palace's son-in-law?"

We haven't held the wedding yet.

In modern times, since there were many people who said you don't know until you enter the wedding hall, Hyeokryeon Yeom's view on marriage was indeed 'don't know yet'.

'Of course, it's not like I don't have thoughts of not marrying either.'

"So I should confirm if the son-in-law can protect my daughter properly."

Glare-

Enormous killing intent encroaches upon Hyeokryeon Yeom.

"Like this incident, if you let Ye-rin be attacked again....."

Whoosh!

The giant saber Seol Baek-ho was holding brushed past Hyeokryeon Yeom's side.

"You are serious."

Hyeokryeon Yeom also grasped the Extreme Snow.

-Keul keul, a duel between son-in-law and father-in-law. Anyone wins.

-Master! You should cheer for Yeom!

-But the Ice Palace Head is my descendant?

While listening to the Sword Venerable and the Demon Queen chatting, Hyeokryeon Yeom pulled up the Extreme Yang Qi.

"It is certainly my mistake that Lady Seol was poisoned."

It is something that happened in an instant.

Even so, Hyeokryeon Yeom also agrees that it is something that should never happen again.

"Again only words are slick!"

Swoosh!

This time it is not the side.

A sword strike falling exactly on top of the head.

Flare!

The Fire Art Sword wrapped around the Extreme Snow Sword.

Clang!

Sparks flew.

"You block well!"

Flutter-

Hyeokryeon Yeom had no intention of just being on the receiving end either.

"Flame Butterfly."

Butterflies wrapped in flames fly toward Seol Baek-ho.

"Slow."

Whoosh!

Every time the giant saber was swung once, a butterfly crashed.

Furthermore.

Crackle!

The path the giant saber passed began to freeze.

'This is the Ice King's Ice White Divine Art.'

He was making everything freeze even before the flames touched.

I thought it would be difficult with just the Fire Art Sword.

"Is this all, merely?"

Seol Baek-ho's eyes began to dye with disappointment.

"Could that be possible?"

Flare-

Hyeokryeon Yeom's sword began to burn again.

"Because I wanted to take off the tag of being from the Demonic Cult, I haven't used it until now in the Ice Palace."

But seeing the Seven Severing Elder Hyeokryeon faced at the Potala Palace, my thoughts changed.

"Hoh?"

Hyeokryeon Yeom pulled up demonic qi with his whole body.

The demonic art Hyeokryeon Yeom had learned began to operate again.

Heaven Breaking Demonic Art.

Among them, the Seven Severing Demon Sword learned from the Seven Severing Elder unfolded from Hyeokryeon Yeom's hand.

Seven Severing Demon Sword First Form Seeming Real Returning to Void.

Hyeokryeon Yeom, mixed with demonic qi and fire energy, multiplied into dozens.

"Right, now you are like the Heavenly Demon's son!"

Ice White Divine Sword Ultimate Technique Extreme Ice Reclining Dragon.

Kwa-a-ang!

'Yes?'

A reclining dragon made of ice that soared through the training hall floor pounced upon Hyeokryeon Yeom.

-Kuhahaha! You got hit properly with one shot! As expected, for men, striking first is winning!

-Oh my, this will be difficult.

The voices of the Sword Venerable and the Demon Queen clicking their tongues were heard.

# Chapter 64 : Chapter 64

Chapter 64 : Homecoming

"Huff, huff."

I lay spread-eagled on the floor of the training hall.

"You're quite something. To dodge and block all of that."

"I realized through you, Father-in-law, that the North Sea didn't produce Martial Gods for no reason."

The Ice King, Seol Baek-ho, was strong.

If I were going to fight properly, I should have gone full power from the start.

Trying to use petty tricks for no reason, I ended up handing over the flow.

From then on, I used all my strength just dodging and blocking.

From the middle of the duel, Father-in-law also seemed excited and swung his sword tremendously.

I could have stabbed him once by seeing an opening, but I gave up.

Because this wasn't a life-or-death battle.

A conversation of the body that only men can understand.

We swung swords until we were both exhausted.

"You are still far from enough."

"Yes, it is fortunate that you are truly hale and hearty."

"Do well."

That single phrase 'do well' contained numerous comprehensive meanings.

"So, what do you plan to name the baby?"

"....."

It seemed it was time to tell him the truth now.

"That... actually."

Bang!

At that moment, the training hall door opened and the Small Snow Squad and General Manager Seol Su-hyeok entered the training hall.

"Ahem, I clearly told no one to enter."

"Did something happen?"

"That... Palace Head."

"Young Master. Please listen carefully."

Wi Ji-yeong and Seol Su-hyeok spoke simultaneously.

"The Ice Queen... has returned."

"The person who will become your mother-in-law is looking for you."

At the two people's words, Seol Baek-ho and I looked at each other.

***

At that time.

A guest appeared at the Young Palace Head's Hall.

"Young Palace Head."

The maid guarding the Young Palace Head's Hall recognized Cheon Deung-jin and bowed her head.

"What brings you here?"

"I came to meet the Young Palace Head."

"Was there an appointment?"

"No. But I really want to meet her."

Cheon Deung-jin requested the maid.

Cheon Deung-jin was also sitting at the engagement ceremony hall.

Because of that, she knew the fact that the Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin, seemed to be pregnant.

Cheon Deung-jin accidentally found out the fact that while people were making a fuss, the Young Palace Head herself was actually alone.

'To be alone at a time like that.....'

Cheon Deung-jin had experienced through her family that if a woman is left alone when pregnant, all sorts of thoughts come to mind.

That is why she came despite the discourtesy.

Since it was also a situation where she had to obtain Extreme Yin Qi.

"......I will send word inside."

Cheon Deung-jin, who nodded at those words, waited in front of the Young Palace Head's Hall.

"She says you may enter."

Fortunately, permission was granted.

Entering the Young Palace Head's Hall and arriving at the Young Palace Head's room, she discovered a disheveled Seol Ye-rin.

Even the appearance of rubbing her eyes as if she had just woken up was beautiful even when seen by Cheon Deung-jin, who was a woman.

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

"Ah, hello. I'm sorry. Since I just woke up from sleep... I'm a bit out of it."

Slap!

Seol Ye-rin, who slapped her cheeks with her hands once, fixed her posture as if she had come to her senses.

"So, what brings you here?"

"Ah, yes. I came to tell you congratulations first."

"Yes? Ah, congratulations on the engagement?"

"Congratulations on the engagement too... and since everyone said it seems you are pregnant....."

Trickle... splash.

"Ah, I spilled it."

Because there was nothing to offer, Seol Ye-rin, who was pouring even a glass of water, ended up spilling all the water.

"Are, are you okay?"

"Ah, yes and that is not true."

"Yes?"

"I'm probably not pregnant. I think I was just dizzy for a moment."

"Ah....."

Cheon Deung-jin made a flustered expression at the story that it wasn't pregnancy.

"Then, the people outside right now....."

"So it's a huge problem right now. Is there any good method?"

"...Young Palace Head is a good person."

"Yes?"

"I think the fact that you can tell me this, who is practically a stranger, is really amazing."

At those words, Seol Ye-rin waved her hand and spoke.

"No, it's not. Thank you. Ah, come to think of it, Gaga said that you need Extreme Yin Qi?"

At the word Gaga, Cheon Deung-jin's gaze wavered.

"Ah, yes. That's correct. Since Fire Spirit Qi swept through my body. Young Master Hyeokryeon said I need Extreme Yin Qi to recover."

"It worked out well just in time. Shall I transfer it now?"

"Will it be okay?"

"Yes."

Seol Ye-rin, who was about to reach out her hand, hesitated.

"Why is that?"

"Come to think of it..... it is the first time."

"Yes?"

"I mean Lady Cheon is the first person who hasn't frozen while talking with me this closely."

Flinch-

Lady Cheon, she says.

Since Cheon Deung-jin had never told Seol Ye-rin that she was a woman.

There was a high possibility she heard this story from Hyeokryeon Yeom.

'He told her... everything.'

Somehow feeling defeated.

"Lady Cheon."

"Yes, yes?"

"Our statuses are similar and although the paths we lived are different, we. How about being friends? Actually, I don't have friends."

Seol Ye-rin reached out her hand to Cheon Deung-jin.

Cheon Deung-jin unwittingly grasped Seol Ye-rin's hand at the kindness of Seol Ye-rin, who had seemed like a cold-blooded person.

Shiver-

Extreme Yin Qi flowed in through the grasped hands.

***

"It's been a while."

The wife of the North Sea Ice Palace Head, Seol Baek-ho, who returned to the Ice Palace.

The Ice Queen, Hong Ye-hwa, examined the surroundings.

"So, you're saying the engagement ceremony was held yesterday?"

"Yes, that is correct."

Maids were following Hong Ye-hwa.

"It is truly a relief that it wasn't a wedding ceremony."

"We wanted to convey the news but....."

"I know."

There was absolutely no way to contact her.

Because leaving the Ice Palace was a decision she made herself.

"If I knew Ye-rin was cured, I would have returned long ago."

She received the news too late.

"Where is that child?"

"...She is at the training hall."

"Her husband?"

"They are together."

"Really? It seems they became close already."

The Ice Palace's maids looked at each other's faces.

Are the two close?

If they are close, can they fight while staying up all night?

Because they knew that could be possible if they were martial artists of the North Sea, the maids couldn't help but be confused.

"Where should we guide you?"

"Didn't you say Ye-rin is sleeping?"

Gulp-

The maids couldn't bring themselves to report what happened at the engagement ceremony to the Ice Queen.

It was because they received instructions to keep their mouths shut since it was something not even certain yet.

"...Yes, that is correct."

"Hmm, the answer is slow? You are hiding something, aren't you?"

Flinch-

"Well, whatever. Since I just need to hear directly from the person herself."

Talking like that, Hong Ye-hwa moved her steps to the training hall.

Although she had been away from the Ice Palace for a long time, there wasn't anything that changed significantly.

Around the time Hong Ye-hwa almost reached the training hall like that.

"Wi, Wife. If you had even given notice, I would have gone out to meet you in advance."

"Nice to meet you, I am called Hyeokryeon Yeom."

Seol Baek-ho and I revealed ourselves in front of Hong Ye-hwa.

"Oh my, you're handsome!"

Hong Ye-hwa, who didn't even give attention to Seol Baek-ho, made me stand and observed me while circling around.

"Pass!"

"Thank you."

She also liked that I answered without being flustered.

"Where did they say they brought such son-in-law material from?"

"……It is the Demonic Cult."

"Ah."

At the word Demonic Cult, Hong Ye-hwa looked back at me.

"Hwi's... son?"

At that remark, I began to sweat cold sweat.

I wasn't stupid enough not to notice the fact that the existence of 'Hwi' Hong Ye-hwa mentioned was my father, Hyeokryeon Hwi.

***

Come to think of it, I have never heard about Seol Ye-rin's mother.

Since Seol Ye-rin's mother didn't exist from the time I first arrived at the Ice Palace.

Since I couldn't even ask if her mother passed away, I didn't bring up even a single word about Seol Ye-rin's mother all this time.

But seeing her appear in front of my eyes like this.

'I wondered who Lady Seol resembled, turns out she resembled her mother.'

It seemed that when Seol Ye-rin ages, she would age gracefully exactly like that.

The problem is.

"Do you know... the Cult Leader?"

"Of course I know."

"He is an existence one cannot not know."

Father-in-law blocked Mother-in-law's words.

'It seems there aren't many people who can call Father's name that easily.'

Are they perhaps love rivals?

Turns out, in their childhood, Father and Father-in-law competed with each other over Mother-in-law, I hoped it wasn't just that kind of soap opera-like development.

"Rather than that, how did you return?"

"I heard the story that Ye-rin is holding an engagement ceremony with a son-in-law, so I returned urgently. Shouldn't I prevent her from having misunderstandings like she doesn't have a mom?"

Although she was talking while laughing, Mother-in-law's words seemed to have bones.

"Well, anyway, since the wedding hasn't been held yet. Then shall we go meet our daughter together now?"

"That... right now she must absolutely rest....."

"Let's go, I will guide you."

I, who blocked it at the source lest he say something strange for no reason, took Mother-in-law and began to walk toward the Young Palace Head's Hall.

"Oh my, thank you."

I don't know well yet what kind of person she is.

However, although I saw for a very short moment, I could see Father-in-law finding her difficult.

If the King of the Ice Palace found her difficult to handle, I roughly got a sense of what the feeling was like.

'Father-in-law doesn't seem to take care of her much. She is an acquaintance close enough to call Father by name. Furthermore, a person who wandered around leaving behind a daughter who didn't know when she would die and returned.'

This is all the information I currently know.

Now the most curious part is what Seol Ye-rin thinks of Mother-in-law.

Depending on that direction, my attitude toward my Mother-in-law will be determined.

In front of the Young Palace Head's Hall.

"We came to meet our daughter."

"Ah, right now the Young Palace Head is sharing a chat with the Young Palace Head of the Potala Palace so... I will send word inside."

"Young Palace Head of the Potala Palace?"

It seemed Cheon Deung-jin was meeting Seol Ye-rin while I didn't know.

Rather than that.

At the word Potala Palace, Mother-in-law's eyes seemed to twinkle.

"Then I should go in and see them together even more."

"Ca, calm down. Wife. First, once Ye-rin's permission is granted....."

"Permission... it seems you still overprotect Ye-rin."

Huu-eup.

Mother-in-law took a deep breath.

Soon.

"Ye-rin, this mother has returned!"

Rumble.

A ringing Lion's Roar loud enough to shake the Young Palace Head's Hall resonated.

# Chapter 65 : Chapter 65

Chapter 65 : Request

"Ye-rin, this mother has returned!"

Rumble.

The Young Palace Head's Hall shook.

"....."

Seol Ye-rin was startled by the sound coming from outside.

It was a situation where she was transferring Extreme Yin Qi to Cheon Deung-jin through their clasped hands.

She worried that Cheon Deung-jin's true qi might have been shaken.

'It was a groundless fear.'

She did not freeze.

Although she seemed to be feeling a bit of a cold sensation, Cheon Deung-jin looked fine.

"This... what sound is this?"

Perhaps having already finished circulating qi, Cheon Deung-jin opened her mouth.

"This voice... it seems my mother has returned."

"If it is your mother... would it be the Ice Queen?"

"Yes, that's right. But weren't we supposed to be friends now? You should speak comfortably too!"

"...Will that really be okay?"

"Of course."

"Ye-riiiiiin!"

Woong-

The Lion's Roar rang through the Young Palace Head's Hall again.

"...She really hasn't changed one bit. I think we need to go out quickly."

"I agree."

Seol Ye-rin took Cheon Deung-jin and came out of the Young Palace Head's Hall.

Halt-

When she came out, it wasn't just her mother Hong Ye-hwa who was there.

Including her father, General Manager Seol Su-hyeok.

Furthermore, Hyeokryeon Yeom and the Small Snow Squad.

Everyone related to Seol Ye-rin was gathered.

"Oh my, it's been a while. Ye-rin. Is it because you exactly resemble this mother that you are dazzling?"

"...Mother yourself, it feels as if aging has stopped. Did you perhaps rejuvenate?"

There were bones in her words.

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

Cheon Deung-jin, who was hurriedly bowing, was startled upon seeing Seol Ye-rin's mom, the Ice Queen, Hong Ye-hwa.

"...No, Elder Hong? The Elder was the Ice Queen?"

"It's been a while, Young Palace Head Cheon."

Seol Ye-rin looked alternately at Cheon Deung-jin and Hong Ye-hwa.

"...While your daughter was hovering between life and death, it seems you were acting as an Elder at the Potala Palace."

"Are you angry?"

"...Me? No way."

It was an appearance that looked angry to anyone.

"...How did you come back suddenly?"

"I came after hearing the news. My daughter is getting engaged, so her mom can't just stay still, can she?"

"...Since when were you that interested in me?"

"Seol Ye-rin."

Flinch-

When her name was called, Seol Ye-rin flinched.

"You've been talking back a lot since earlier?"

The moment a chilly energy began to flow out from the Ice Queen's whole body,

Slide-

Hyeokryeon Yeom stood between the two people.

"I am also curious about the relationship between the Young Palace Head Cheon and the Ice Queen."

At that appearance, a strange light flowed in Hong Ye-hwa's eyes.

Seol Ye-rin was looking exactly at Hyeokryeon Yeom's back.

The cold energy flowing out from Hong Ye-hwa was completely blocked.

"No, Wife. I'm telling you that you shouldn't do that to Ye-rin right now....."

"Darling, why do you keep saying I shouldn't since earlier? A child who hasn't even held a wedding ceremony couldn't have conceived a child. What is the problem?"

At Hong Ye-hwa's single remark, silence flowed in the surroundings.

"......What? Is it true?"

Hyeokryeon Yeom carefully looked back.

Seol Ye-rin sighed and opened her mouth.

"No."

"What?"

"What?"

"I said I'm not pregnant."

"T, then the retching was....."

"I think it was because not much time had passed since eating the elixir."

"Then that quack doctor really....."

Watching her father grab the back of his neck, Seol Ye-rin shook her head from side to side.

It was then.

"Son-in-law."

"Yes. Mother-in-law."

"Oh, I really like that title. You must have at least two children, okay?"

"……I will try."

"Why are you trying that, Gaga?!"

"Gaga?"

Once again, the title Gaga popped out of Seol Ye-rin's mouth.

***

"……."

Eventually, everyone entered the Young Palace Head's Hall amicably together.

Seol Ye-rin and Hyeokryeon Yeom sat side by side.

In front of them, Seol Baek-ho and Hong Ye-hwa sat, and in the seats of honor, Cheon Deung-jin and Seol Su-hyeok sat separately.

'This is the first time for something like this.'

A somehow uncomfortable feeling began to creep up.

There are one or two things to pay attention to.

First, Seol Ye-rin.

Not only has it not been long since the engagement ceremony was held, but due to people misunderstanding that she was pregnant because of one retch, she had holed up in her room and just came out.

Looking at the atmosphere, her mood seems to have improved a lot.

'How did she become close with Lady Cheon?'

"Jin, what do you want to eat?"

She was calling Cheon Deung-jin, who was sitting on Seol Ye-rin's right, intimately.

Anyway, it is fortunate that the two became close.

Looking at it, perhaps she had already put Extreme Yin Qi into Cheon Deung-jin, Cheon Deung-jin's face was overflowing with vitality.

Therefore, it seemed I could pay less attention to Cheon Deung-jin.

Next.

Father-in-law.

He is reading Mother-in-law's countenance consistently.

Just looking at this, I could confirm who was higher in rank among these family members.

An appearance completely different from Father-in-law's usual appearance.

Anyway, since Father-in-law is also busy reading the room, it seemed I didn't really need to pay attention to him either.

Next is naturally Mother-in-law.

Since today is the first meeting, I am thinking it would be comfortable in the future if I leave a good impression.

"What does Son-in-law want to eat?"

"...I eat anything well."

"Really? Then how about ordering anything quickly?"

"...I can't ask for just anything."

"Can you eat spicy things well?"

"Yes."

"Then let's go with Sichuan cuisine."

"I think that's good. Chef!"

After deciding what to eat, I called the chef.

"Hmm?"

Tae Un-seo popped out.

I forgot this was the Young Palace Head's Hall.

"Whatever dish it is, I will do my best....."

"Just for today! Just for today, leave it to Wi Ji-yeong."

"Yes, Captain. I will assist."

Anyway, Tae Un-seo, who received orders for the food each person wanted to eat, went back.

I was about to turn my gaze toward Mother-in-law again,

"Whew."

"You are going through a lot of trouble, Prospective Son-in-law."

Seol Su-hyeok referred to me as a prospective Son-in-law.

"...Why are you suddenly doing this, General Manager?"

"Since the engagement ceremony has ended, you may now call me Uncle."

"I will call you that after the wedding."

In a way, it sounded like he meant for us to get along like family.

But I didn't want to pay attention to anyone else here.

After defending against Seol Su-hyeok sharply, I observed Mother-in-law again,

"So it happened like that."

"Ah....."

"So it was a relationship formed like that."

"It makes sense that Jin followed Mother."

It seemed they had already finished talking about what relationship Cheon Deung-jin and Mother-in-law had.

...I felt like going crazy out of curiosity.

***

'He is an interesting son-in-law.'

Just as each person has someone they pay attention to.

The Ice Queen, Hong Ye-hwa, was paying the most attention to Hyeokryeon Yeom.

There was only one reason.

'A woman's fate unfolds comfortably only if she meets a man well.'

She heard the whole story.

As Hyeokryeon Yeom, who was an Extreme Yang Body, entered as a live-in son-in-law, he connected with Seol Ye-rin.

And thanks to that, the story is that he cured the Extreme Yin Body as well.

The possibility that the two would develop into a relationship that complements each other while being opposites seemed very large.

'It seems she met a man well.'

Appearance: Pass.

Origin: Demonic Cult, Confirmed.

Strength: Looks strong, Confirmed.

Money: Doesn't matter if it's a lot or little, why? Because I have a lot.

Now what remains is,

'The person's character.'

In other words, personality and nature.

This part needed to be checked once more.

As she thought repeatedly, her throat felt dry.

"Here it is."

But,

"How did you know I was looking for water?"

"You looked thirsty."

He is quick-witted too.

"Food is served!"

While the elements she liked were increasing, the dishes came out.

It was a dish called Twice Cooked Pork, a specialty of Sichuan.

Slice- Slice-

Isn't he slicing it piece by piece and placing it on Seol Ye-rin and Hong Ye-hwa's plates?

Eventually, Hong Ye-hwa had no choice but to judge Hyeokryeon Yeom as the best groom material.

The moment she thought she had to set the wedding date before losing him,

Knock knock knock.

"Come on in."

The Divine Physician, Seong I-han, came inside.

"Excuse me."

Flinch, Seong I-han was surprised to see the faces gathered in the room.

It is because he didn't know Hong Ye-hwa would be there.

"Your face skin is thick too, how much more are you here to extract from the Ice Palace?"

"Wife. Have the Divine Physician take her pulse again. I need to check again if his medical skills are really correct."

"Yes."

The unhelpful husband brought the Divine Physician in.

"You are saying you will have him take her pulse while eating?"

"Wouldn't it be accurate if he takes the pulse when she is healthiest?"

The Divine Physician held Seol Ye-rin's pulse and began the diagnosis.

She looked at the Divine Physician without any expectation or worry.

"My mind and body seem stable. It seems the effect of the elixir was certainly good."

Hong Ye-hwa reacted to the word elixir.

"Elixir? What did you feed her?"

"I fed her the Black Yin Ten Thousand Year Herb."

"She nourished her body well. But that must have been hard to obtain."

"Here it is. They say the effect is good for beauty too."

Hyeokryeon Yeom took out a Black Yin Ten Thousand Year Herb from his bosom and handed it to Hong Ye-hwa.

He casually takes out an elixir that cannot be bought even with ten thousand gold.

There was nothing more to judge.

"Son-in-law, have a drink too!"

Along with the Sichuan cuisine, liquor called Jade Pot Spring was brought out.

Hyeokryeon Yeom wondered where such liquor came from frequently, but they said they received it as an engagement ceremony gift.

It was unexpected that the Palace Head was running the Ice Palace well, more than thought.

As the day Seol Ye-rin would die approached day by day, Seol Baek-ho, who fell into despair, tried to devise methods in various ways but only failed repeatedly.

Taking advantage of that gap, pressure came in from the Council of Elders.

Thinking she would lose both her husband and daughter at this rate, she left the Ice Palace.

For Hong Ye-hwa herself to save her daughter and save her husband.

It wasn't easy.

Although she wandered around the Outer Regions here and there and was anxious, the results were not good.

She couldn't return to the North Sea Ice Palace because she felt sorry for her daughter and didn't have the face to see the Palace Head.

She heard the news.

Seol Ye-rin recovered and is scheduled to hold an engagement ceremony.

So she returned.

'It was all because of the Son-in-law.'

Saving Ye-rin.

And being able to sit together and eat as a family like this.

"Is there something on my face?"

As she stared at Hyeokryeon Yeom piercingly, Hyeokryeon Yeom asked carefully.

"No, I mean the more I see you, the more I like you."

Seol Ye-rin reacted to that single remark.

"Mother. Let's eat."

"Then, I will take my leave....."

As the Divine Physician, who was standing awkwardly, tried to take the opportunity to go outside,

"Does the granddaughter in Namman also know that you are here?"

Flinch.

At the word granddaughter, everyone's gazes headed toward the Divine Physician.

The Divine Physician, who was conflicted for a moment, clasped his hands toward Hyeokryeon Yeom.

"Young Hero, it is shameless, but I ask this of you. By any chance, could you... stop by Namman once?"

At the Divine Physician's sudden request, everyone's gazes headed toward Hyeokryeon Yeom.

"...Namman is quite a distance away."

"Why, you held the engagement ceremony too. How about going on a trip with Ye-rin once?"

At Hong Ye-hwa's suggestion, Hyeokryeon Yeom made a troubled expression.

# Chapter 66 : Chapter 66

Chapter 66 : Trip

A trip.

It is something I had never even thought about once.

‘Have I ever been on a trip?’

From my first life until the present.

I only tried moving forward to achieve my goals.

I never thought about resting.

‘To go on a trip.’

And it is not just any trip.

‘An engagement celebration trip.’

If compared to modern times, it feels similar to a honeymoon.

They are telling us to go from the cold North Sea to the warm Namman.

“...But isn't Namman from one end to the other?”

It is too long a distance to do that for a honeymoon.

Until now, when moving due to missions, I moved using movement arts replacing training.

If I do that this time as well.....

‘It would be perfect to be treated as a person with no romance. It is not anything else, but a honeymoon.’

Putting aside the thought of moving with movement arts for a moment, I made up my mind to use a carriage.

“That is right.”

“It is not that far.”

“If you walk, you arrive quickly.”

The Divine Physician and mother-in-law spoke at the same time.

“However.....”

“Go and come back.”

For some reason, my father-in-law gave permission.

“Father-in-law?”

“Didn't you say you are not fully healed yet anyway? He is a child who could not even dream of travel. I hope you take him around a lot.”

“For some reason, you are saying all the right things?”

I,Hyeokryeon Yeom, looked back at Seol Ye-rin.

“What do you think, Miss Seol?”

“Travel... I do want to try going.”

“It is decided.”

“I trust the Divine Physician will guide us well to Namman.”

“A-Are you really going to Namman together with us!”

“...It is an engagement trip, but you aren't sending the two of them alone?”

“There must be someone to guide them. We cannot just send children into Murim.”

When my mother-in-law and father-in-law were about to argue again.

It seemed Seol Ye-rin looked back at Cheon Deung-jin.

I, who was constantly paying attention to Seol Ye-rin, saw that gaze and looked back at Cheon Deung-jin.

The Young Palace Head of Potala Palace, Cheon Deung-jin, achieved her goal.

It was because it looked like she received the injection of Extreme Yin Qi through Seol Ye-rin.

But the problem is.

‘Do I have to send her back alone?’

If I did that.

-How dare you send my daughter back alone?

It seemed the Palace Lord of Potala Palace would not leave me alone.

‘Then... what do I do?’

Ask her to wait until we return from the Namman trip?

I will take you back to Potala Palace again.

……As if she would wait.

A situation where I cannot do this or that.

“Let's go together, Miss Cheon.”

“...Huh?”

“Looking at it, it seems the Divine Physician elder is following too. If the Small Snow Squad Captain is coming, it means the Small Snow Squad escorting me is following too. I think it would be more fun to travel all together rather than alone. And... didn't Miss Cheon not get to travel much either?”

Seol Ye-rin reached out her hand to Cheon Deung-jin first.

“That is not.....”

“Leave them be. Doesn't it seem like looking at us in the old days?”

It seemed mother-in-law was saying something to father-in-law, but I did not hear it.

It was because going to Namman seemed to be confirmed amidst the confusion.

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“Going is going. I should hear clearly about the reason for going.”

Thanks to mother-in-law, the Namman trip was decided, but the one who brought this story up first was the Divine Physician.

After finishing the meal, Hyeokryeon Yeom called the Divine Physician out separately.

It was because I remembered the Divine Physician was aiming for the Black Yin Ten Thousand Year Herb.

Seol Ye-rin was also together.

“Elder, earlier mother mentioned your granddaughter, is something wrong with your granddaughter?”

“That is.....”

“Since we decided to help, please speak.”

The Divine Physician, Seong I-han, sighed and began to tell the story about his granddaughter to everyone.

It was because he thought I would help only if he confessed everything now.

“She was poisoned by a supreme poison. To treat the poison, a spiritual medicine was needed, and I was in the middle of wandering here and there to find the spiritual medicine that could cure my granddaughter.”

As he wandered wherever his steps took him, he said he was in the North Sea before he knew it.

“It is fascinating that you thought finding a spiritual medicine was faster than making an antidote.”

“Do you think I have not tried?”

“The antidote did not work.”

“.....I felt the insufficiency of my medical skills.”

“How was your granddaughter poisoned?”

I focused on how the Divine Physician’s granddaughter came to be poisoned.

“She was... done in by the Poison Palace.”

From the moment I heard she was poisoned in Namman, I was thinking of the Poison Palace of the Southern Barbarians.

Unlike Potala Palace or the North Sea Ice Palace among the Outer Region Murim, there was a place Hyeokryeon Geuk insisted must be recruited unconditionally.

‘Poison Palace of the Southern Barbarians…….’

Even in the second regression life, before I died, Hyeokryeon Geuk had already made the Poison Palace of the Southern Barbarians a servant of the Demonic Cult.

“What kind of connection did you have with the Poison Palace?”

“There is nothing to even call a connection.”

The Divine Physician said he was traveling around the Central Plains and the Outer Regions to let his granddaughter experience various things.

He only told the fact that his granddaughter was poisoned by a certain poison man they met in Namman.

“After that, I tried every possible way to treat my granddaughter, but she did not show signs of recovery.”

“What was the reason you demanded the Black Yin Ten Thousand Year Herb?”

“To detoxify the Poison Palace’s poison, there was a time I fed her a spiritual medicine full of yang energy during the detoxification process, but that became more of a poison.”

The imbalance of Yin and Yang began to grow.

‘If so, it seems the Black Yin Ten Thousand Year Herb will be helpful.’

Then the next thing to check is.

“Then who is looking after your granddaughter right now?”

“My disciple is keeping her.”

“…If it is a disciple, a physician?”

“That is right.”

“It must not be urgent.”

“There is some time.”

“Good. Then I will ask just one more thing.”

“What is it?”

“If I treat your granddaughter, what can you do for me?”

“……!”

Mother-in-law told us to go on a trip to Namman, she did not instruct to treat the Divine Physician’s granddaughter.

It means, while we are at it.

Therefore, I could confidently demand from the Divine Physician.

What he would do if I treat his granddaughter.

“…Is there something you want?”

“I am asking you, elder.”

“You know well that there is nothing free in the world.”

Clatter.

The Divine Physician poured out the tablets he was carrying in his bosom.

“These are the tablets of those I treated that I have collected all my life. They agreed to grant any request if I present this.”

My expression hardened as I looked at the aliases engraved on the tablets.

“Sword Queen, Divine Beggar, Divine Thief, …even Poison Venerable?”

Even the aliases of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens were engraved on the tablets.

“Why did you not ask to treat your granddaughter while possessing the Poison Venerable's tablet?”

“I have to be able to meet him to do so.”

He has a pile of tablets, but a situation where he does not know when or who he will meet.

That is why it seems he could not even meet the Poison Venerable.

“Then this means it could actually be helpful, or it might not be.”

“That is right. However, I think the most precious thing I can give, next to my granddaughter, are these tablets. If you just treat my granddaughter, I will give you all of this.”

“Knowing my origin... will you really be okay?”

“To an Ice Palace person or a Demonic Cult person, it is the same from a martial artist’s perspective.”

Indeed, that would be so.

“Good.”

Among those numerous tablets, a few tablets Hyeokryeon Yeom wanted were mixed in.

Especially,

‘I had to find the Ten Venerables under the Heavens somehow anyway, so this turned out well.’

-To find the Ice Emperor’s legacy, that method seems certainly the fastest.

-You are thinking the Ice Emperor’s tomb exists outside the Ice Palace, right?

Hyeokryeon Yeom nodded at the words of the Sword Venerable and the Demon Queen.

The singularity I came to know after seeing the Iron Venerable’s secret manual.

The Ice Emperor is at the root of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens’ martial arts.

Therefore, there was a need to encounter the Ten Venerables under the Heavens without fail.

‘Yes. So this time, I plan to move to Namman via Murim.’

If by chance I meet the Ten Venerables under the Heavens, I definitely wanted to ask him.

‘If he knows the martial arts of the Ice Emperor, Seol Cheon-u.’

Perhaps if I speak like this, a reaction will come out.

‘The Ten Venerables under the Heavens from the Nine Sects One Gang and Five Great Clans might not be applicable though.’

First, I had to gather as much information as possible.

Clearly, the Spear Saint said guarding the Ice Crystal is difficult.

Therefore, perhaps there might not be much time left.

“Thank you for giving them willingly.”

“Please take care of the guide.”

“Is there any place you want to go by chance?”

At the Divine Physician’s question, I looked back at Seol Ye-rin.

Seol Ye-rin, who was agonizing for a moment, answered.

“I... want to see Dongting Lake.”

Dongting Lake.

A pond located in the northeast of Hunan Province.

It is a place that boasts the scenery of the highest peak.

At Seol Ye-rin’s words, the first destination was decided.

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“Did you pack everything?”

We started preparing for a long-term trip with the final destination being Namman.

“Another long-distance movement.”

“They say we are going sightseeing slowly, not by movement arts this time.”

“It is what the Young Palace Head wishes. The Small Snow Squad is the Young Palace Head’s escort. Wherever she goes, following is what must be done unconditionally.”

Wi Ji-yeong accepted Baek Mu-yong’s complaint and Eun Bin scolded him.

“About how many tablewares should I pack?”

Seeing Tae Un-seo who was already thinking about sleeping outdoors, the three people shouted at the same time.

“You don't have to pack them!”

“Everyone looks very excited.”

“Captain.”

“It is a trip, not a mission! Even if a big problem occurs during the trip, it would be less than a mission!”

At Wi Ji-yeong’s words, I shook my head.

“You must not forget the fact that we are not returning until Namman this time. Strictly speaking, we are going forth into the Jianghu.”

At the words going forth into the Jianghu, the expressions of the Small Snow Squad hardened.

“The guys who raided the engagement ceremony hall last time are presumed to be martial artists of the Saphaeryeon and the Murim Alliance. And as if to show off, the bastards failed. Can you guarantee there won't be another raid?”

“...I think we were thoughtless.”

“We are sorry.”

Seeing the Small Snow Squad members hurriedly bowing their heads, I smirked.

“It was a story to maintain tension. Separately, since it is correct that it is a trip, if there is something you want to go or do, speak up.”

“Is there a place you want to go, Young Master?”

Flinch-

At Wi Ji-yeong’s question, I flinched.

“Well.”

It would be strange for someone from the Demonic Cult to go around saying such things.

‘Maybe the Five Great Mountains.’

Mount Heng, Mount Hua, Mount Song, Mount Tai, Mount Heng.

Places chosen as famous spots one must visit when traveling China.

However,

‘Mount Hua and Mount Song would be difficult.’

In the case of Mount Hua in Shaanxi Province, the Mount Hua Sect is located there, and in the case of Mount Song in Henan Province, the Shaolin Temple , the big shot of the Nine Sects One Gang, is located there.

Probably if I say I am climbing the Five Great Mountains, it will be a huge chaos.

Prick up-

“Please tell us if the Third Young Master has a place he wants to go too.”

Seol Ye-rin pricked up her ears, perhaps having heard the story shared with the Small Snow Squad members.

“Uh, I will.”

“Miss Cheon too.”

“If you are going to see Yueyang Tower of Dongting Lake ... how about going to Prince Teng's Pavilion in Jiangxi Province and Yellow Crane Tower in Hubei Province as well?”

“You mean let's view the Three Great Towers?”

A feeling that places to stop by are being added one by one.

Hyeokryeon Yeom looked back at the Divine Physician.

“Please tell us the places we can go.”

“I think transiting through Jiangxi on the way to Namman will be difficult. However, stopping by Yellow Crane Tower in Hubei first and then going to Yueyang Tower seems possible.”

“Then let's move like that.”

“Yes, I think we can go down through Shaanxi to Hubei, Hunan, and Guangxi.”

I had thought that it would be a longer journey than expected.

Watching Seol Ye-rin planning the travel schedule with Cheon Deung-jin and the Divine Physician, Hyeokryeon Yeom came outside.

Now, in a few hours, we leave the Ice Palace and officially go forth into the Jianghu.

For Seol Ye-rin and for Hyeokryeon Yeom, the meaning of this trip was exceptional.

‘When we return to the Ice Palace again.’

I will have become someone who does not fall behind Hyeokryeon Geuk, who will become the Young Cult Leader of the Demonic Cult.

# Chapter 67 : Chapter 67

Chapter 67 : Shaanxi

The next day.

-Kulkul, you woke up early.

-Where are you going?

The Sword Venerable and the Demon Queen asked upon seeing me moving from the early morning.

“I have something left to check before leaving.”

If I leave on the trip, it would take quite a long time to return to the Ice Palace.

If so, I might not be able to resolve my curiosity.

North Sea Ice Palace. The Palace Lord's private training hall.

“May I come in?”

“Yes.”

As I entered the training hall, my mother-in-law, Ice Queen Hong Ye-hwa, welcomed me.

Yesterday evening.

It was because after the trip to Namman was decided and the meal was finished, Hong Ye-hwa secretly sent a telepathic message to me.

Let's meet at the training hall early tomorrow morning.

“I came as instructed.”

“Oh, you didn't forget.”

The center of the training hall.

Ice Queen Hong Ye-hwa was wrapping her whole body with a blizzard.

“Are you... training?”

“No, not really. It just reminded me of the old days after a long time.”

“If it is about the old days..... may I ask if it is related to the Palace Lord and the Cult Leader?”

“As expected, my prospective son-in-law is quick-witted.”

It means I guessed correctly.

It means Hong Ye-hwa really spent her childhood with Hyeokryeon Hwi and Seol Baek-ho.

“Did you call me to talk about that?”

“No, it's not just because of that. It's because it seems the prospective son-in-law is the only one who can clear up the misunderstanding.”

I tilted my head at the word misunderstanding.

“It's about Ye-rin.”

Ah.

Come to think of it, Seol Ye-rin hardly conversed with Hong Ye-hwa during dinner yesterday.

“You would know since you heard the story shared with the Divine Physician yesterday, but I am a sinful mother.”

The Ice Palace Lord, Seol Baek-ho, did his best to treat Seol Ye-rin by her side.

On the other hand, Hong Ye-hwa left the Ice Palace, wandering through Murim and the Outer Regions trying for her daughter.

However, she was in a situation where she did not produce the desired results at all.

In other words, from Seol Ye-rin's perspective, she would be perceived as an existence who was not there when she needed her the most.

“Was she resenting you?”

“I don't know. She avoided conversation.”

I, who was agonizing for a moment, opened my mouth.

“The Young Palace Head probably understands mother-in-law.”

“Huh?”

The Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin, whom I saw, was not a woman so inconsiderate as to not understand Hong Ye-hwa's situation.

She just probably could not approach easily.

“I do not know who my mother is. However, I know just one thing, that a mother is great.”

“.....”

I have never met my birth mother here in Murim throughout my past lives and present life.

However, through the experiences of my past lives, I was fully aware of how great an existence parents are.

“Do you think, mother-in-law, that Miss Seol was able to recover like now because of me?”

“Then, is it not?”

Not at all.

Of course, because I was there, Extreme Yang Qi could be injected into the Extreme Yin Body.

It is true that I revived Seol Ye-rin who was gradually freezing.

However,

“The Palace Lord's efforts to improve the relationship between Our Cult and the Ice Palace, which were no different from enemies, and the numerous spiritual medicines, and the acquisition of information through physicians were all connected to being able to call me to the Ice Palace.”

And would there really have been no role for Hong Ye-hwa in that process?

I thought not.

She is a mother who ran out of the Ice Palace to find a way to recover Seol Ye-rin.

She is a mother who ran back to the Ice Palace in a single bound as soon as she heard the news of the recovery.

There was no way she did not know these facts.

However,

“So, you do not have to worry too much, mother-in-law.”

She wanted to hear it directly from someone.

That the past life where you were anxious existed for today.

‘Even if you produce results, if no one recognizes it, it is all useless results.’

First life, high school baseball days.

Even though I was called a super rookie, I could not be satisfied with that.

It was because I never made it to the first string in the team I belonged to.

Naturally, I became impatient, and while overworking, I got injured.

If, at that time, someone by my side had just said ‘You are doing well’.

No, if only there was a family I could rely on.

He in that life would not have been injured, and there would have been no incident of dying by being hit by a ball.

‘Scoundrel, Hyeokryeon Yeom.’

Second life.

Living as a scoundrel might have been a natural thing in a way.

And third life.

Living as a servant of a Great Mage, enduring day by day, I thought.

‘If there is a next life, then…….’

Let's try living a proper life.

“Those are eyes that have experienced a lot. You possess eyes not befitting your age.”

Grin.

“I think that is my charm.”

“Even sly. You resemble Hwi quite a lot.”

Again.

“By any chance, what kind of relationship did you have with the Cult Leader?”

If Seol Ye-rin and I get married, Hong Ye-hwa and Hyeokryeon Hwi become in-laws.

It was unknown whether father-in-law brought me as a live-in son-in-law with this part coordinated with mother-in-law.

“You should see it as a relationship that will become in-laws now.”

“Is it correct that there are no problems?”

“Why, you must be worried?”

“To be honest, yes I am.”

“It is all in the past. Since my husband is okay with it, he must have decided to take you in as a son-in-law.”

“Will you continue to stay in the Ice Palace from now on, mother-in-law?”

“Well. Since I am a person who has committed many sins.”

“Who dares to say my wife committed sins?”

Thud, thud.

One more person entered the training hall.

“Father-in-law.”

It was the North Sea Ice Palace Lord, Seol Baek-ho.

“How come you are here, husband……?”

Hong Ye-hwa's gaze headed towards me.

I shrugged my shoulders.

“Please stay in the Ice Palace.”

“Yes?”

“Ahem, since that guy says he is taking our only daughter on a trip, I am letting her go unavoidably, but I need a talent to handle things instead since there are many things messed up.”

“Are you calling me a talent right now?”

“Correct. My side felt very cold in the meantime.”

At Seol Baek-ho's words, Hong Ye-hwa made a dumbfounded expression.

“What wind blew... it seems you returned to the husband of the old days?”

“It seems it is because there is a guy burning very hot by my side.”

I smiled.

Roughly before leaving, it seemed everything that needed to be resolved was resolved.

“Father-in-law, mother-in-law. Now the North Sea is my home ground. Since I will take Miss Seol and go on the trip safely, I hope the two of you also protect the North Sea safely until I return.”

You never know.

I did not know what tricks Hyeokryeon Geuk, who received the report from the Yayul Demon Clan Head, might play in the North Sea.

At my words, Seol Baek-ho and Hong Ye-hwa looked at each other and said.

“Just take our daughter well so she doesn't get hurt and come back!”

They were truly a well-matched couple.

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“Then, we will be back.”

“We will be back.”

The main gate of the North Sea Ice Palace.

Those who came out to see off the Young Palace Head's party stood in a line.

“Ye-rin.”

“……Yes?”

Hong Ye-hwa approached Seol Ye-rin first and hugged her.

“Ah?”

“Have a safe trip. This mother will wait for you at the Ice Palace now. It is really fortunate that you recovered.”

Hong Ye-hwa approached Seol Ye-rin first.

“Mother…….”

“Even if you return as a three, this mother doesn't mind at all.”

“Yes?”

Seol Ye-rin, who was mulling over Hong Ye-hwa's words for a moment, blushed.

“Mother!”

“Huhu.”

As Hong Ye-hwa, who smiled playfully with a swish, stepped back.

“Then go safely.”

“I hope you have a safe trip.”

“You packed everything regarding luggage without missing anything?”

Ice Palace Lord, Seol Baek-ho.

General Manager, Seol Su-hyeok.

Even the General Manager's wife, Han So-yeong.

Seol Ye-rin's family members began to make a fuss.

“I packed everything, and I will be back safely. Don't worry too much. Right?”

“Of course.”

“Thank you for everything in the meantime.”

The Young Palace Head of Potala Palace, Cheon Deung-jin, also offered a greeting.

“Give my regards to the Potala Palace Lord too.”

“Yes, if you need Potala Palace's help in the future, please let us know anytime. I will persuade father well.”

“I am thankful for that.”

“Let's see each other again next time.”

“Yes, Elder... no. Ice Queen!”

The farewell took longer than expected.

Now is the time to really depart.

“Let's go.”

To Dongting Lake, Hunan Province!

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Northern Hunan Province. Yueyang City.

Two men were sitting at Yueyang Tower where Dongting Lake could be seen in front.

“General Manager, what happened to the matter of the Iron Venerable's Treasure Map?”

The current Saphaeryeon Leader, Yong Il-gang, asked with a calm but overwhelming pressure while staring at the ripples of Dongting Lake.

“I am sorry, I confirmed that the Book Hiding Guest who snatched the Treasure Map and other martial artists climbed Mount Kunlun but.....”

“.....But?”

“They all disappeared.”

“Disappeared?”

Yong Il-gang's eyebrows twitched.

“What about the Iron Venerable's martial arts?”

“We could not secure it.”

“Hmm, is that so?”

“I am sorry.”

Trickle.

Yong Il-gang quietly poured tea.

“What happened to the Ice Palace and Demonic Cult matter?”

“I am sorry. They intruded into the engagement ceremony hall as planned, but due to the intervention of the Hell Poison Demon Yayul Cheon-ung, it seems everyone was annihilated. It seems the Murim Alliance also dispatched people, but it was confirmed that they were all annihilated.”

Failure in snatching the Treasure Map, failure in separating the Ice Palace and the Demonic Cult as well.

“What on earth succeeded?”

“I am sorry.”

“Well, since the Murim Alliance also failed, I will let this matter pass for now. However, we must never sit by and watch the Demonic Cult and the Ice Palace joining hands.”

“Yes, regarding the former Alliance Leader's martial arts... what shall we do?”

“It is fine.”

Saphaeryeon Leader, Yong Il-gang, showed his hand.

Woong-

Iron Blood energy wrapped around Yong Il-gang's right arm.

And,

Woong!

This time, the bracelet Yong Il-gang was wearing on his left side began to resonate.

“That is.....”

“It is the Twin Venerable's bracelet.”

“Did the Twin Venerable leave the bracelet in your care?”

“He said the bracelet would react if anything happens to him by chance.”

“...My goodness, how many people in the world can do anything to the Twin Venerable.”

“The world is surprisingly small. He said while searching for the Divine Physician, he might encounter another one of the Ten Venerables under the Heavens aiming for the Divine Physician.”

The General Manager of Saphaeryeon, Sa Ma-yun, asked with an expression that he could not understand at all.

“Why are the Ten Venerables under the Heavens chasing the Divine Physician like that?”

“The Divine Physician's tablets. Because with that bundle of tablets, one can shake the Jianghu.”

How many people in the Central Plains can move the Orthodox, Unorthodox, and Demonic factions simultaneously?

Saphaeryeon Leader, Yong Il-gang, drank the grain tea in one go while looking at Dongting Lake.

“I hope the Twin Venerable definitely succeeds.”

The ruler of Hunan Province, the Saphaeryeon Leader, wanted to expand his territory beyond Hunan Province to Hubei Province.

***

Shaanxi Province, Yulin City.

Yulin Inn.

The waiter Yu So-dong began to diligently wipe the inn where only flies were flying today as well.

Located in the northernmost part of Shaanxi Province, this place is a pathway leading out of Murim to the Outer Regions, and a barren place where a desert awaits if you go northwest, and a plateau awaits if you head straight north.

Therefore, an inn located on the outskirts even in this place where visitors are extremely rare, that is exactly Yulin Inn.

There was a reason Yu So-dong came to run an inn in this place where business is not good.

But for business to be this bad.....

“Still, I wish I could make at least the first sale of the day today.....”

If seeing a deficit like this, one might close the business and move to another place, but Yu So-dong could not do that.

If there is a fortunate thing, it is that those who tasted Yu So-dong's food admired it and came back, so regulars are increasing one by one.

But even that had a limit, so worries about making a living lingered every day.

Just at the moment Yu So-dong thought so.

Creak-

The inn door that had been stiff from not being opened for a while opened, and a group stepped inside.

At the thought of customers, Yu So-dong moved quickly.

“Welcome!”

Dash, he welcomed the customers, but,

“Phew-”

“We lived.”

“I am starving to death.”

“We are eight people, please prepare whatever is fastest.”

It is a large group.

The problem is,

‘.....Martial artists.’

Instantly, Yu So-dong's gaze changed slightly and then returned to normal.

“Eldest Senior Brother! Senior Sister! I saved seats! Come in quickly!”

At the woman's words, an old man entered the inn together with two people.

‘Hmm?’

Leaving aside the incredibly good-looking man and woman,

‘Divine Physician elder?’

No way, he did not know he would encounter the Divine Physician elder here.

In the past, Yu So-dong had a small connection with the Divine Physician elder.

Probably the elder would not remember him, but he clearly remembered the elder.

To be exact, Yu So-dong could not forget the Divine Physician elder.

Yu So-dong quickly bowed his head and began to deduce the identity of the group.

A good-looking man and woman together with the Divine Physician elder.

Yu So-dong became extremely curious about the group's identity.

And there was a man watching him closely.

It was Hyeokryeon Yeom.

# Chapter 68 : Chapter 68

Chapter 68 : Street Thugs

A short while ago.

A few days since we left the Ice Palace by carriage.

My party had already arrived in Yulin City, Shaanxi Province before we knew it.

Having been to Potala Palace once, crossing into the Central Plains was not very difficult now.

Furthermore,

“We should have taken a carriage earlier.”

“Are we in the coachman's seat again?”

“Escort Baek, you always ride in the coachman's seat.”

“Look over there. Isn't the Vice Captain setting an example by training Tae Un-seo!”

I smirked while listening to the conversation between Baek Mu-yong and Wi Ji-yeong.

Currently, inside the carriage were the Divine Physician, Seol Ye-rin, and Cheon Deung-jin.

“Since we have entered Shaanxi, shouldn't you go inside too, Captain?”

“No. Let's quickly get to an inn and rest.”

In the current Central Plains, the perception of martial artists regarding the Ice Palace and the Demonic Cult was not good.

Wherever we go, if we reveal our identity, it is certain that a quarrel will break out.

Therefore, we disguised ourselves as the Seol Clan with the help of Moyong Geum.

“We must faithfully perform the role of escort warriors of the Seol Clan.”

We did not know who might be watching us from where.

Plus.

‘Since there might be those who recognize the Divine Physician.’

From here on, it was better for everyone to really act.

-It reminds me of old times, Master.

-Kulkul, first time going forth into the Jianghu. Are you feeling restless?

‘I am not feeling restless.’

Since I am not going out with the intention of sweeping through Murim, no great emotion was felt.

‘There is no fight right away, is there?’

The first destination of the journey is Dongting Lake.

Unless we reveal our identities as people of the Ice Palace and the Demonic Cult, there is no way a fight would break out while sightseeing at Dongting Lake.

-That is true, but I thought maybe the feeling would be different if you cross into the warm Murim after being in the snowy fields.

-Would there really be no fights?

Just as I was about to answer the Demon Queen’s story.

“Captain, I see an inn over there.”

[Yulin Inn]

“Let's go there.”

Although the party came riding a carriage, it was no different from a forced march.

Since we ate food made by Tae Un-seo while even sleeping outdoors in between, everyone was inevitably exhausted.

We need to eat our fill quickly and relieve our fatigue in a warm place.

Although the Small Snow Squad is trained to some extent.

It must be the first time Seol Ye-rin has done such a forced march.

Since the Divine Physician elder is also old, it was visible that he was having a hard time.

“We will head straight to the inn, Young Clan Head.”

“Yes, please do so.”

From the moment we entered Shaanxi, we decided to perform our assigned roles.

Seol Ye-rin became the Young Clan Head of the Seol Clan and the Small Snow Squad as escorts.

Cheon Deung-jin as a martial artist coincidentally going the same way.

And the Divine Physician too.

If counting Wi Ji-yeong and Tae Un-seo, and Baek Mu-yong and Eun Bin, a large group of eight people including me was moving.

‘It looks plausible enough.’

However, if we meet a master, it will all likely be revealed.

Since most masters can estimate the opponent's martial prowess, there was a high probability they would notice where we came from.

-It won't happen, but just in case, if you encounter the Ten Venerables under the Heavens, everyone runs away. Do you understand?

-The Jianghu is so vast, there is no way we will meet the Ten Venerables under the Heavens.

-Well, there is a one in a ten thousand chance, so we are deciding in advance. I trust you understood.

We even decided in advance just in case.

Until now, fortunately, it was a smooth journey where no big incidents occurred.

Creak-

As we entered Yulin Inn.

“Welcome!”

A waiter welcomed us.

“Huh?”

...It seemed the waiter learned martial arts.

***

The waiter who learned martial arts, Yu So-dong, quickly told the warriors in the coachman's seat where to park the carriage.

He led the guests to a table.

“How should I take the order?”

Glance, glance.

Even while taking the order, Yu So-dong's gaze inevitably kept scattering.

At first, he recognized the Divine Physician elder and his gaze was stolen, but then his gaze went to the woman wearing a face veil who entered after him.

Even to the handsome man next to her.

‘The escort standing behind also has incredible visuals. Who on earth are they.....’

Where are they from?

“We would like you to serve the best food in this inn matching the number of people.”

“Ah, yes. Understood.”

If it were any other time, he would have asked exactly what food they wanted to eat, but not now.

They did not look like they had no money.

Since there was a person big enough to eat everything even if he brought out a lot, Yu So-dong thought he should show off his cooking skills after a long time.

Soon, Yu So-dong went into the kitchen to cook.

“He learned martial arts.”

“It seems the waiter cooks personally too?”

“Does that waiter run this inn alone?”

“I am very curious what kind of dish he will make.”

Tae Un-seo and the Small Snow Squad sat at another table.

The Divine Physician, Cheon Deung-jin, and Seol Ye-rin were at the same table, and I stood behind Seol Ye-rin until the food came out.

“Why don't you sit too, Captain?”

We decided to unify the title calling me Captain.

“Please let me be like this at least until the food comes out.”

“...Yes, okay.”

I watched Yu So-dong who was making food.

The qi he possessed was quite pure, so it seemed he learned Taoist martial arts.

It also seems to be above a certain level.

What kind of story does he have to start running an inn alone?

I wanted to ask.

“It would be appreciated if you talk to the waiter a bit when the food comes out.”

“You mean ask why he happens to be running an inn in a place like this, right?”

Seol Ye-rin was seeing through my heart without me speaking.

Bubble bubble, sizzle sizzle.

The sound of food being made can be heard up to here.

They say even Diamond Mountain is better after eating.

It seemed better to talk to the waiter after eating first.

Just as I was expecting the dish to come out thinking so.

Cling~

The inn door opened and a group entered.

“What, there are guests?”

The group that entered the inn was wearing martial arts uniforms with red plum blossoms embroidered on black clothes.

There was no martial artist here who did not know which sect that uniform belonged to.

-The number is five in total.

-They are Mount Hua martial artists.

-What do we do?

-Act as usual.

It was rather good.

Being recognized as the Seol Clan in front of Mount Hua martial artists might be more helpful in traveling around Shaanxi Province in the future.

“Where are you from?”

Those wearing Mount Hua uniforms approached our side.

Young-looking faces appeared to be prodigies.

As the guys approached, I placed my hand on my sword hilt and blocked Seol Ye-rin's front, fitting my assigned role.

“Oh? You put your hand on your sword even after seeing this symbol now?”

“Eldest Senior Brother, look there.”

At that time, the guy behind pointed at Seol Ye-rin who was wearing a face veil.

“She seems to be a huge beauty.”

“Ho-oh?”

The guy smiling lecherously upon seeing Seol Ye-rin.

“...It is doubtful if they are truly Mount Hua martial artists.”

Seeing the Mount Hua prodigies, Cheon Deung-jin made a pathetic expression.

“Doubtful?”

Perhaps Cheon Deung-jin's words were bothersome, one of the martial artists raised his eyebrows and retorted.

One martial artist standing behind him with hands behind his back took over the words.

“I rather suspect you guys. Conspiring in an inn like this where there are no guests?”

That guy talking with his hands behind his back.

I remembered the guy behind calling him Eldest Senior Brother a moment ago.

“Un-gang, let's start by dealing with that guy who put his hand on the sword hilt just now. It is very suspicious that you are using an inn run by an expelled disciple of Mount Hua.”

“Expelled disciple?”

I muttered at the words of the guy called Eldest Senior Brother.

My party turned their gaze and looked at the kitchen at that moment.

The sound of cooking had stopped before we knew it.

The waiter knew the Mount Hua prodigies had entered the inn, but he was not coming out.

“Owner. There are people persecuting guests, aren't you going to come out?”

When the Divine Physician, unable to watch anymore, opened his mouth.

Flinch.

The Mount Hua prodigies were startled.

“...There was an old monster?”

It seemed they did not even notice the Divine Physician was there.

No matter if the Divine Physician was deliberately reducing his presence as much as possible.

‘To think these immature simpletons without a shred of discretion are acting arrogantly. Mount Hua also has many problems.’

Those like noble red plum blossoms blooming alone in winter.

They would have been called Mount Hua.

Who called the current Murim an era of peace?

Stagnant water is bound to rot.

If it is the Mount Hua Sect, people said they are those who believe in righteousness and chivalry like a mirror-like calm water, are noble, and walk the Orthodox path.

Judging by the current behavior, I wonder if only the shell and rags remain.

“Young Clan Head, what shall we do?”

I asked Seol Ye-rin for instructions as an escort of the Seol Clan Young Clan Head.

“...They seem to be young masters of the Mount Hua Sect, let's listen to their story a bit more.”

“Yes.”

As I took my hand off the sword hilt, the guys muttered.

“Young Clan Head?”

“Reveal the name of which clan you are from.”

“If you are disciples of the Great Mount Hua Sect, shouldn't revealing your names first be the priority?”

Cheon Deung-jin found fault.

-...Eldest Senior Brother, what shall we do?

-Even if it is not a famous clan, if she is a Young Clan Head of a clan.....

-It is better not to touch.....

-Then shall we bring that Un-so guy out first?

-Let's do that.

Everything they conversed via telepathy was visible.

“Un-so! What are you doing not coming out quickly!”

At the shout of the Mount Hua martial artist, everyone looked at the kitchen.

Now everyone in my party figured out the fact that the waiter who came to take the order a while ago was actually an expelled disciple of the Mount Hua Sect.

Whether they did or not, the waiter was slowly coming out from the kitchen holding a tray full of food.

“...The food is served.”

“Huh?”

Tae Un-seo quickly approached, received the food, and started carrying it.

There was a reason why he did not come out even while knowing the disciples of the Mount Hua Sect entered the inn.

It seemed clear he focused more on my party's order whom he welcomed as guests.

Watching such behavior of the waiter, I understood the situation.

‘It seems clear this is not the first or second time the Mount Hua immature ones are doing this.’

If he was a person who belonged to the sect, even if he is an expelled person, his body would have reacted to the sect people first.

However, dealing with them after focusing more on my party's order means he has already experienced such things to the point of being fed up or knows well how it is better to handle it.

‘If he responds to guests after dealing with the Mount Hua Sect’s immature ones, everything would become a mess. He is not a foolish friend.’

I felt a favorable impression at the waiter's response.

Furthermore.

At the feast pouring out in an instant.

“Un-so, did you ignore our words just now?”

As if feeling offended, the prodigies raised their eyes fiercely.

The waiter also did not stay still this time.

Only after setting all the food, the waiter called Un-so clasped his hands towards the Mount Hua prodigies and opened his mouth.

“Aren't there guests here?”

“Ha, that quiet personality is still the same even after being expelled.”

“I am sorry, I will go outside and deal with them, so I would appreciate it if you enjoy your meal.”

“Are you saying mere guests are more precious than your Senior Brothers?”

It was too vivid what would happen to that waiter if he went out like that.

Although I knew that fact, I was looking only at Seol Ye-rin without saying anything.

The current me was just a mere escort of the Seol Clan.

“Captain, where is the famous spot in Shaanxi Province?”

Seol Ye-rin opened her mouth, and I answered immediately.

“The Central Plains Five Great Mountains. I know Mount Hua as the most famous spot.”

“Then it seems there is no need to visit Mount Hua. It reeks.”

“What?”

“Since it is disturbing the meal, please remove them from my sight now.”

Grin.

The Small Snow Squad rose from their seats.

It looked like everyone was just waiting for Seol Ye-rin's order.

“Ha, what, you want to have a go now?”

“Young Master, please calm down. If you touch Mount Hua in Shaanxi... you might get into big trouble.”

As it seemed a fight would eventually spread,

The waiter started to dissuade us.

I asked while looking at such a waiter.

“So, in this situation where we are insulted as mere guests and even our meal is disturbed, are you telling us to endure?”

I asked while looking down at the waiter who was bowing his head and clasping his hands towards me.

At this, the waiter raised his head and,

“I apologize for offending your feelings with their words. Since I will receive that punishment, please calm your anger now.”

‘Look at this.’

The gaze of the waiter speaking to me was clear and unyielding.

Why on earth did they expel such a person, the current Mount Hua.

And,

“Un-so, after dealing with these guys, you are next.”

“The Young Clan Head needs to eat, so let's go outside.”

“Ha, saying a mere clan's escort can be our opponent.....”

Pa-at-!

Because their continuous chattering was annoying, I punched the empty air.

An Empty Space Palm was emitted and hit the chest of the guy called Eldest Senior Brother.

Kwang!

The guy flew outside breaking the door as it is, without even being able to respond properly.

“Didn't I say you are disturbing the meal.”

Towards these things whose heads haven't even dried of blood yet, who are full of vibes like street thugs rather than martial artists of the Mount Hua Sect, my party drew their swords.

# Chapter 69 : Chapter 69

Chapter 69 : Expelled Disciple

“Eldest Senior Brother!!”

The Mount Hua prodigies rushed out of the inn.

Yu So-dong, the waiter of Yulin Inn, had an expression that he could not understand the current situation at all.

“...Will it be alright? They are disciples of the Mount Hua Sect. Please appease your anger now.”

It is the Mount Hua Sect belonging to the Nine Sects One Gang.

We beat up the disciples of the Mount Hua Sect.

It was a statement implying whether we could handle the aftermath.

“Don't worry. It won't be a big problem.”

Not a problem?

The answer came from the veiled woman.

Yu So-dong could not understand even more.

“...I am Yu So-dong, the waiter of Yulin Inn and the owner of this inn. I apologize, but if it is not rude, may I ask which clan you belong to?”

“It is a fringe clan called the Seol Clan.”

“.....”

He had never heard of it.

Meaning it is a powerless clan.

He wondered if they were too ignorant of the world.

But it was clearly not such a simple problem.

‘He misjudged for a moment. Being accompanied by the Divine Physician elder might mean they are a clan with power he doesn't know. Furthermore…….’

Pause.

‘To say that, they blew away Eldest Senior Brother Un-sang at once.’

It was not a martial prowess that a mere small or medium clan could show.

If so, he must mediate and smooth things over even more before things get bigger.

Whether for Mount Hua or for the guests' clan.

“If you are so worried, go outside and take a look.”

It is fascinating.

‘Can they really not worry to this extent?’

It is not just anywhere else, but Mount Hua.

Even if the current Mount Hua is not as great as its past glory, it is Shaanxi's Mount Hua.

Yet they are this confident.

To be this confident while touching a figure of a huge force in the Central Plains leads to one conclusion.

Martial prowess.

Just how strong is that escort's martial prowess?

The veiled woman, the handsome man, and the old man really started eating without worrying about the escort at all.

So Yu So-dong went outside.

“You bastard! What sorcery did you use on Eldest Senior Brother!”

He saw those who were once fellow disciples shouting at the Seol Clan's escort.

‘He was hit by an Empty Space Palm, but failing to notice that and dismissing it as sorcery.’

Since when did Mount Hua's integrity change like this?

‘Tsk.’

Actually, didn't he know it long ago?

Mount Hua was losing vitality and dying.

At some point, the money dried up, creating situations where they had no choice but to abandon their beliefs.

They did things they wouldn't have done before.

Receiving money from disciples entering the sect.

As a result, there are inevitably those who jump in thinking only of the name value of Mount Hua rather than its will and spirit.

And immature fellow disciples increased just as much.

It meant the will and meaning Mount Hua held were being diluted.

The problem was the fact that more and more people were entering the sect like that.

“Sorcery, you say. Are you talking about this?”

Pang!

Again, an Empty Space Palm struck another Senior Brother.

“Keoheok!”

Yu So-dong, who was looking at Senior Brother Un-gang rolling on the floor, looked at the other two Senior Brothers.

“You, you bastard. If M-Mount Hua knows this fact, the aftermath……?”

“I just have to handle it.”

Puck!

“Kkeoeuk!”

As if they were not even worth drawing a sword against, the clan escort began to beat the Senior Brothers with bare hands.

Thwack!

“Kkeuak!”

It was truly ruthless violence.

“You guy... with Un-so... what relationship.....”

“A relationship seeing for the first time.”

Thwack!

Un-gang's head turned once more.

Thud thud-

“Ouch.”

“...Guest. I think you can stop now, please.”

Seeing teeth falling out in droves, Yu So-dong approached.

At those words, my gaze headed towards another Mount Hua prodigy who was pretending to have collapsed.

“I know you are awake.”

At my single remark,

Scramble.

Un-sang, the leader of the Mount Hua thugs (?) who hurriedly raised his body, bowed his head.

“I, I have committed a sin worthy of death.”

“Owner.”

Yu So-dong looked back at me as I suddenly called him.

“I happened to hear the situation. I think you did well.”

“Yes?”

“I mean leaving Mount Hua.”

Yu So-dong had a bitter taste in his mouth.

Officially speaking, Yu So-dong was ‘expelled’.

I was talking as if Yu So-dong left Mount Hua on his own accord.

“...It was an unavoidable matter.”

“But you managed to get out unscathed.”

“My master was a scholar Taoist. I was under him too. And... since I didn't have the money they demanded, I was thrown out.”

At Yu So-dong's words, my expression became serious.

***

It meant that Mount Hua demanded money and expelled a disciple for not giving that money.

‘Mount Hua has fallen to that extent?’

Following the Northern Shaolin and Southern Wudang, Mount Hua's prestige was enough to be recognized even in the Orthodox Faction, enough to be called one of the Five Great Sword Sects.

Since when did the noble red plum blossom turn into a place that smells terrible like under a ginkgo tree in autumn?

However,

‘To think Mount Hua is in this state.’

Of course, money is needed to run a sect.

It is true that there are cases of receiving donations from donors or lay disciples.

But to receive money while accepting formal disciples where martial arts and talent are important, and to expel a disciple because he has no money.

The current Mount Hua seemed very wrong somewhere.

‘Perhaps it might not be just Mount Hua.’

Come to think of it, the Murim Alliance might be much more corrupted than the Saphaeryeon.

“Then, the reason for expulsion? Is that really the reason?”

“Yes.”

I was lost for words.

Suddenly seeing his figure running the inn alone, I asked.

“The reason you opened an inn too.....”

“Ah, that is not it. I came to run this place with someone's help.”

“To be kicked out of the renowned Mount Hua and become the owner of a shabby inn, it is truly arduous.”

“Still, isn't it fortunate that I, who was driven out with no money, can make a living like this.”

I nodded.

“Then the reason these people came?”

“That is also... because of money.”

Yu So-dong is someone who was expelled and will no longer be involved with Mount Hua.

For those who are Senior Brothers by hierarchy to come to such a person, act violently, and extort money.

They were truly close to trash.

They say whenever they lacked money, they came from Mount Hua to Yulin City and extorted money under the pretext of protection fees.

“Truly dumbfounding.”

I wondered why Mount Hua martial artists were wandering around even in a place like this.

“Do you not feel it is unfair?”

“If you ask if it is unfair, I guess I can say it is unfair. But what can I do? I am just weaker, and although I am a powerless expelled disciple, wasn't I eventually a leaf of Mount Hua. I just endure.”

Yu So-dong sighed as if venting his grievances.

In my eyes, that appearance of Yu So-dong was quite pleasing.

I asked immediately.

“Do you want to become strong?”

“Yes. That is so.”

“Then you will have to earn money diligently.”

I looked at the Mount Hua thugs who were bowing their heads as if dead.

It was because it was a matter of thinking a little about how to deal with these guys.

“Are you not finished yet? Come in quickly and eat.”

Perhaps it took longer than expected, Cheon Deung-jin came outside.

“I will go in soon.”

“P-Please forgive us just once.....”

Taking advantage of that gap, a Mount Hua thug begged for forgiveness.

“Aren't you thinking of grinding your teeth after returning to Mount Hua anyway?”

“N-Never!”

The Mount Hua thug said while begging earnestly enough to wear out his hands and feet.

It was obvious without looking.

The cleanest way to handle it is to burn them.

‘If I did that, they would definitely swarm in.’

It is a precarious situation even now, I cannot make things bigger than this.

Turning Mount Hua into an enemy right now carries too big a risk.

It would be very troublesome if I get branded as a public enemy of Murim and get chased while having to travel the Central Plains.

“These guys, what would be good to do?”

At that time, Tae Un-seo raised his hand.

“I have a good idea.”

.....

....

.

Slurp!

I started eating the wheat noodles deliciously.

“Water here!”

“Yes! Coming!”

“The waiter's started moving.”

“It seems we are out of dishes!”

“Please give us additional dishes!”

“Additional dish here!”

“Additional here!”

Whoosh!

As orders came in, fire started to ignite in the stove.

Inn owner, Yu So-dong started bringing out food like crazy.

The Small Snow Squad was sitting at the table waiting for the food being served.

It was because Baek Mu-yong and Tae Un-seo started ordering with the intention of emptying the inn's food.

I put down my chopsticks.

“Would it be okay not to eat more?”

“Yes, rather than that, how do the three of you think we should have dealt with them?”

“If we leave like this, the harassment will start again. They were extorting money usually, but this time they will do more.”

Clearly, Yu So-dong is a guy unrelated to us.

But for some reason, I felt pity.

‘Is it because he is an expelled disciple?’

-That guy cannot use magic, so shouldn't he be expelled from our school?!

Memories of the past life flashed through my mind.

Hyeokryeon Yeom of the past life, who faced the crisis of being expelled even from the school as a servant of a Great Mage, tried to remain in the school somehow.

Thinking about it now, I shouldn't have been afraid of going outside.

So,

‘Rather, I should see that it turned out well for Yu So-dong now.’

A really fortunate point is that it takes quite some time from Yulin City to Mount Hua.

By the time the Mount Hua thugs arrive at Mount Hua, we would have already left Shaanxi.

Making them experience inn work once was on the level of letting them know a little about how hard-earned the money they looted was.

Yu So-dong, who found the Senior Brothers difficult at first, started to work the Senior Brothers like crazy after some time passed.

‘Maybe it is not something to worry about greatly as I thought.’

Yu So-dong's knack and talent for working with the Senior Brothers was extraordinary.

If he had stayed in Mount Hua, he showed enough acumen that he might have taken charge of a small unit and moved.

With that level of acumen, I had a thought that he would live well enough here.

“You seem a bit satisfied now.”

“Yes?”

“You know you had a very serious expression until just a while ago?”

Seol Ye-rin spoke to me.

“It is the first time I saw someone who not only bestows kindness on others in times like these days but even worries about the future.”

“Because he looks like me.”

“Yes? You... Captain?”

“Yes. I also had a time when I struggled alone like that once. But it was very hard. To the extent that I thought it would be good if someone was by my side.”

“Hmm, you had such times too. Still, you have me now.”

At Seol Ye-rin's words, I smiled.

Correct. Now I have Seol Ye-rin.

It is good because we are together, because there are many things we can do together.

‘Maybe through that expelled disciple, we might influence Mount Hua.’

Since I knew that the Mount Hua Sect has become rotten water, I thought I could do this much.

Even if Yu So-dong is of no help to us.

Thanks to that.

‘We earned time to rest fully enough and move.’

That was enough.

We spent two whole days at Yulin Inn.

Thinking that the fatigue of the journey seemed to be fully relieved, I gave instructions to the Small Snow Squad to slowly prepare for departure again.

***

At that time.

Near Yulin Inn.

The Zhongnan Sect Elder, Byeok Ra-jung, found Yulin Inn with Zhongnan Sect disciples.

“Surely... you mean over there?”

“Yes, that is right.”

“I didn't know Mount Hua Sect bastards would do business here.”

“Isn't it that Mount Hua is also at its end? An inn that won't even do business in such a remote place.”

A young disciple of the Zhongnan Sect said while looking around the inn at Byeok Ra-jung's words.

The relationship between the current Mount Hua Sect and Zhongnan Sect was not good.

In the period when the previous Demonic Cult emerged or the War of Orthodox and Unorthodox occurred, the Mount Hua Sect and Zhongnan Sect were the sword and shield protecting Shaanxi.

But too long a time has passed since Murim became stable and peaceful.

The seniors of the old Murim have long disappeared, and those who occupy the high seats of the current Murim forces had no choice but to be busy fattening themselves in peace.

Boredom and excessive peace invite enemies from within.

It was exactly because of this that the forces of the Mount Hua Sect and Zhongnan Sect, who were absolute allies, started to split from each other.

Therefore, the Zhongnan Sect tried to thoroughly protect their force and territory, and Mount Hua was the same.

Just, the Zhongnan Sect was severe in degree, and they found out the fact that there is an inn set up by an expelled disciple of the Mount Hua Sect not far from their territory.

Even if it is not a direct territory, the Zhongnan Sect could not leave this alone.

“We must never hand this place over to Mount Hua. It must be a place of the Zhongnan Sect.”

The eyes of the Zhongnan Sect disciples twinkled.

“What is the reason!”

“What is the reason Kunlun is considered important?”

“It would be the first gateway to deal with the Demonic Cult.”

“It is the same story. This Shaanxi is also the region that first touches when the Ice Palace, which is further above Inner Mongolia where horse bandits swarm, invades.”

“Ice Palace... Actually, rumors were heard that the Ice Palace Young Palace Head and the Demonic Cult Young Cult Leader got engaged.”

The Ice Palace and the Demonic Cult joined forces.

Then what would be the thing they do next.

“They will come down.”

The era of peace is gone, and now perhaps the War of Orthodox and Demonic or War of Orthodox and Ice will break out again.

This atmosphere was spreading throughout Murim.

“Shaanxi must be Zhongnan's. That means the sword protecting Shaanxi must be Zhongnan, and to stop the invasion of the Ice Palace, it means we must step forward and raise honor in the Orthodox Jianghu.”

Byeok Ra-jung said while looking around the inn.

“Coincidentally, this place looks just right as that strategic point. Do you understand what I mean?”

“Yes!”

“In that sense.....”

Rustle.

“I will erase that shabby inn and erect Zhongnan's shield.”

The martial artists of the Zhongnan Sect began to approach Yulin Inn.

# Chapter 70 : Chapter 70

Chapter 70 : Master

The North Sea Ice Palace Lord, Seol Baek-ho, looked back at the General Manager, Seol Su-hyeok.

“Do you think the kids are traveling well?”

“They would be doing well, right?”

“Why are you curious about that?”

Hong Ye-hwa entered the Palace Lord's Hall.

“Why? Do you miss your daughter already?”

“That is true but.....”

“It hasn't even been a fortnight since they left.”

“I just mean it would be nice if they sent even a carrier pigeon.”

“I hope you didn't make strange demands to the kids by any chance.”

Strange demands?

He never had the thought of making demands.

Come to think of it, there was no need to make demands necessarily to Hyeokryeon Yeom and Seol Ye-rin.

“Hehe.”

“That expression... it seems you are thinking of doing something again.”

Hong Ye-hwa could notice immediately.

“Husband. If you find something by chance, you must share it with me, okay?”

Flinch.

“O-Of course.”

Although he said that to the Ice Queen, Hong Ye-hwa.

He was already sending a telepathic message to Seol Su-hyeok on the other side.

-Dispatch a master of concealment who can chase Hyeokryeon Yeom and Seol Ye-rin.

-...Are you serious?

-I am serious.

General Manager, Seol Su-hyeok, sighed.

If this news enters the Young Palace Head's ears.....

‘I don't know.’

If told to do it, he has to do it.

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At that time, Demonic Cult.

“It is a rumor spreading in the Central Plains recently.”

-The North Sea Ice Palace Young Palace Head and the Demonic Cult Young Cult Leader are scheduled to marry.

“What does that mean?”

At the report of the Thunderbolt Demon Clan Young Clan Head, Byeok Tae-san, the Demonic Cult Leader's first son.

The Eldest Young Master, Hyeokryeon Geuk, frowned.

“It seems the rumor is being exaggerated.”

“So, you mean... there are many who think Hyeokryeon Yeom will become the Young Cult Leader of the Demonic Cult now?”

“No, rather than that, it seems there are many who mistake the Third Young Master for the Young Cult Leader.”

“.....Didn't you say the Yayul Clan Head returned after seeing the engagement ceremony?”

“Yes, that is correct.”

“Did he not have any separate words?”

“Yes, there are none. It seems he only conveyed that he is doing well.”

Hyeokryeon Geuk tilted his head.

He could not believe at all that Yayul Cheon-ung met the Third Young Master and returned without saying anything.

“Can that be?”

The Clan Heads of the Five Great Demon Clans were those who did their best to pull down the Cult Leader's son somehow.

Only then can the Hyeokryeon Demon Clan be suppressed and a Cult Leader be born from another Demon Clan.

“I have no choice but to think Hyeokryeon Yeom did something with the Hell Poison Demon.”

“I will have to meet Yayul Jin.”

He was wondering how the scoundrel Hyeokryeon Yeom was living indeed.

“Hyeokryeon Mu too. Yayul Cheon-ung too.”

Those who met Hyeokryeon Yeom and returned were changing a little bit somehow.

“Is his wedding date set?”

“Not yet.”

“I will have to deal with him starting from that day. What about Hyeokryeon Mu?”

“That is... they say he went out to the Central Plains.”

“What?”

“They said Hyeokryeon Yeom and the North Sea Ice Palace Young Palace Head set out on a sightseeing tour of the Central Plains now.”

“Is that so?”

Then there is no need to wait.

“Send some kids to the Central Plains.”

“...Would it be okay to send them from the Thunderbolt Demon Clan?”

“Yeah. Blow them all up.”

“...How will we handle the aftermath?”

“I will ascend to the position of Young Cult Leader sooner or later. Then it's fine, right?”

“Yes, Young Cult Leader.”

The Thunderbolt Demon Clan Young Clan Head, Byeok Tae-san, took a clasped hands posture.

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Hyeokryeon Yeom, who became a target of many people without even realizing it, was currently finishing preparations to leave Yulin Inn.

“Let's go now.”

The owner of Yulin Inn, Yu So-dong, issued an eviction order to the Mount Hua thugs.

“...Really?”

“Yes, I didn't think Senior Brothers would help me like this.”

Thanks to that, Yulin Inn was filled to capacity for the first time since it was established.

It was because they promoted the inn together with the people of the Seol Clan.

The Mount Hua thugs spoke their sincerity after hearing Yu So-dong's words.

“We are sorry.”

The Mount Hua thugs were apologizing for harassing Yu So-dong in the meantime.

“...Are you serious?”

The Mount Hua thugs, who had never done anything like an apology until being expelled, apologized.

Yu So-dong could not believe it at all.

“Working together, we could know how hard the work you do is.”

“...I also know how hard it was for the Senior Brothers in the meantime. That was why I gave money as requested without saying much.”

Although Yu So-dong did not say it in the meantime, he knew well that Mount Hua was in a difficult situation.

Like any prestigious Orthodox sect, since it is a place where people live, the Mount Hua Sect also needs money.

That money is tightly managed by donations and receiving a little offering while protecting shops in the surrounding area.

However, from a certain moment, shops relying on Mount Hua decreased, and even offerings were decreasing.

In the midst of that.....

‘Since he had his own matters too.’

Yu So-dong recalled the time he was expelled.

Because of his action, Mount Hua inevitably faced difficulties for a while, and the grudges and resentment of the Senior Brothers who would have suffered that damage intact were understandable.

Un-sang hesitated for a moment at Yu So-dong's words and spoke.

“I hope you know that the reason we came all the way here was not simply because of money.”

“When we return to Mount Hua, I will talk about your reinstatement once.”

Yu So-dong shook his head.

“It is fine.”

The current life was not bad either.

The reason Yu So-dong was expelled leads to one conclusion if looking only at the result.

Although there are various reasons and circumstances, eventually it was because of money.

Because he had no money to pay back to Mount Hua, because he didn't even have a chance to lead a daily life.

A really grateful point is that his qi center and limb meridians were not cut even while being expelled.

“It is enough if I live my life, and Senior Brothers live Senior Brothers' lives.”

“Oh my. They are completely beating the drum and playing the hourglass drum among themselves.”

Wi Ji-yeong sighed while watching the Mount Hua thugs conversing with each other with her chin resting on her hand.

Watching their appearance, I smirked at Wi Ji-yeong's words and said.

“Well, wouldn't everyone have their own circumstances? Let's leave slowly now too.”

Other people were in a state of having boarded the carriage.

A situation where we just need to depart now.

-Kulkul, come to think of it, I think you said there would be no fights a few days ago.

-You should call it a raid, Master!

Raid?

Shook-

Martial artists shot into Yulin Inn.

Masked men drawing swords and swinging them with the intention of killing everyone in sight.

Even at the sudden raid, I was not flustered.

“Flame Butterfly.”

First of all, I burned the masks of the masked men.

“Kuaaak!”

At the scream, those who boarded the carriage got off.

“We will handle the enemies nearby!”

Along with the faces revealed as the masks and the front of the black clothes burned, the hem of the uniform worn inside the black clothes entered my sight.

If it is that attire.....

“Zhongnan?”

Zhongnan Sect?

I made a puzzled expression.

Why would the Zhongnan Sect attack here?

At that time, the voices of the Mount Hua thugs were heard.

“S-Stop it!”

When I looked back at the place where the sound came from, the inn was being destroyed.

I looked around the surroundings and started to grasp the situation quickly.

First, the martial artists of the Zhongnan Sect were destroying the inn while fighting with the Mount Hua thugs.

Second, I looked in the direction of Seol Ye-rin, Cheon Deung-jin, and the Divine Physician were.

If they were targeting us, they would have definitely targeted one of the three.

No one rushed at them.

If so.

‘Is the purpose really destroying the inn?’

What is this inn?

-Kulkul, isn't it an easy problem? A problem solved if we look back at the path we came.

At the Sword Venerable's words, I looked back at the direction we came.

Ah, I understood.

The site of this inn was occupying the only passage leading to the north.

It was truly an auspicious site that could be called a natural fortress.

The two sects dominating Shaanxi are the Zhongnan Sect and the Mount Hua Sect.

There was all this reason for Zhongnan attacking Mount Hua.

“Senior Brother Un-sang!”

Slice-

Zhongnan's sword attacks Mount Hua.

I called in the Small Snow Squad.

“Help them.”

“Yes, Captain.”

I wonder if it is right to save Mount Hua from Zhongnan's raiding party but.

Regardless of anything else, I had to repay Yu So-dong.

Because it was the owner of Yulin Inn who helped us rest fully for two days.

Whoosh-

Flames burn.

The shot flames started burning the martial artists of Zhongnan.

I told Seol Ye-rin not to use Ice Art.

It was because it seemed many troublesome things would occur if people knew a martial artist of the Ice Palace entered the Central Plains.

“The flames.....”

Flames rise.

Those wearing black masks suffer burning.

“Change the target! Unfold the sword formation!”

The problem is,

Slice-

When Tae Un-seo holding a kitchen knife swung his arm, the limbs of the masked men were cut off.

Shushuk!

The dagger shot by Wi Ji-yeong pierced the necks of the masked men.

Kwang!

The giant sword blows away the masked men.

“.....”

Yu So-dong's expression gradually hardened.

It was because Yulin Inn was being destroyed as if almost half-destroyed.

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Zhongnan's Elder Byeok Ra-jung could not understand the current situation at all.

He just intended to occupy a mere inn.

‘He only knew that Mount Hua's third-generation disciples visited.’

He really didn't even think about the story that there are martial artists among the guests.

Furthermore,

‘Every single one is a master!’

Plus, whether there is a guy who learned sorcery, guys whose bodies caught fire and collapsed existed here and there.

“Damn it!”

Realizing that they would be annihilated at this rate, he unfolded the Heavenly River Thirty-Six Swords.

Those three cut down Zhongnan's disciples.

He swung his sword towards the man swinging a giant sword.

Heavenly River Surging Waves!

The surging sword strikes began to hit the giant sword multiple times.

“Keuheup!”

Baek Mu-yong, surprised by that momentum, retreated.

“Escort Baek!”

Wi Ji-yeong saw that and threw daggers in succession, but,

Whoosh!

Byeok Ra-jung, who blew away all the daggers with sword wind, approached Wi Ji-yeong.

Speed befitting a Zhongnan Elder.

In a situation where Wi Ji-yeong's neck is in danger at this rate.

Clang!

Grating-

‘Kitchen knife?’

Byeok Ra-jung's sword was blocked by a kitchen knife.

The kitchen knife of the man whose Ghost Eyes were shimmering,

Woong-

Could not handle the enhanced qi rising from the sword.

Crack!

As the kitchen knife crumbled down as it was, Tae Un-seo made a futile expression.

“Die-”

At that time,

Flutter-

A butterfly sat on the sword.

‘What-’

Kwang!

Instantly, the sword exploded, and Byeok Ra-jung quickly retreated backward.

It was because a man wearing black martial arts uniform stepped in front of the three people.

It is the man who unfolded sorcery creating flames.

“...It doesn't seem like martial arts a mere guest would unfold though.”

“You guys doing that don't seem like people who would cover their faces with masks and raid an inn like this?”

Byeok Ra-jung examined the venue.

The inn was already in a mess, and the Mount Hua Sect martial artists were retreating while bleeding.

Zhongnan's martial artists were also confronting behind Byeok Ra-jung.

‘The purpose is achieved.’

The inn collapsed, but there are too many eyewitnesses who witnessed this situation.

Even since he used Zhongnan's sword.

‘He must silence the witnesses.’

Otherwise, this news will be conveyed not only to Mount Hua but to the entire Murim.

Above all, it is a matter Mount Hua must not know.

He did not know if a fight might occur again between Zhongnan and Mount Hua, whose relationship is not good anyway.

“That look, it is a look that says you have to kill us all but things seem to have gone wrong.”

“Mount Hua... will not take this lightly!”

Un-sang, the leader of the Mount Hua thugs who was struggling to survive, shouted seeing the masked men.

“...You are hastening your death.”

The battle that was in a lull restarts with one word from Byeok Ra-jung.

A situation still numerically superior.

If only he handled the man using sorcery, Byeok Ra-jung judged he could win this battle.

At that time,

Crackle-

“Keueok!”

“C-Cold.”

“I-It is freezing!”

The disciples started screaming from behind.

“Are you... not finished yet?”

In an instant, over dozens of people all turned into ice statues.

“A master... using Ice Art?”

Seol Ye-rin, tired of waiting in the carriage, intruded into the inn.