

Indulgence 391

Chapter 391: The Struggle for Status

This night, Yun Jinnian slept rather peacefully, but Chu Yu had it rough.

He foolishly made his way back, freshened himself up, changed into clean clothes, and almost stuffed his food into his nostrils during his meal.

This prompted frequent glances from Yuwen Ya.

"It's nothing, nothing!" Chu Yu feigned calmness.

But in his dreams, the enchanting visions made his body tense, and waking up to see his wet underpants, Chu Yu's mouth twitched as he hastily got out of bed to look for trousers to change into.

He couldn't remember how many times it had happened, but that captivating dream remained vividly clear, and he was more than willing to have such dreams.

"If only it wasn't a dream!" Chu Yu muttered, unable to fall back asleep in bed.

With nine days until the New Year, Chu Yu thought he might as well celebrate it in Licheng.

But Yun Jinnian needed to recover from her injuries, and the Commandery Prince's body was probably not fit for long journeys; it would be best to detoxify in Nanjiang and recuperate for some time before heading back to the capital.

Now without the Blood Lotus, this detoxification...

Dawn had already broken, and Yun Jinnian was still asleep, so Nanny Qian, after getting the news, also came back with her people. They had arrived just before the break of day and, not wanting to disturb Yun Jinnian, went back to freshen up and eat something.

Only when the day was well advanced did Yun Jinnian weakly open her eyes.

After waiting for quite a while without anyone attending to her, Yun Jinnian's brow furrowed slightly.

At this moment, outside the courtyard, three groups of people were glaring at each other, refusing to back down.

Hemei, Henuan, and Shi Jiayu were the old servants and naturally thought they should be the ones attending to her.

Nanny Qian and her group felt that they had failed in their duties before and caused Yun Jinnian harm, and now wanted to perform well.

The four from Telan believed that since they were ordered to serve the Saintess, the care of her food and daily life should fall to them by right.

After Han Tianci had freshened up, he prepared to join Yun Jinnian for breakfast, and upon seeing them blocking the doorway, he barked, "What are you all doing?"

Noticing the basins and towels in their hands, he exhaled sharply, "Hemei, Henuan, go in and help sister dress and wash!"

Delighted by the command, Hemei and Henuan entered the courtyard quickly, with Shi Jiayu hurrying after them.

It was then that Han Tianci turned to Nanny Qian's group and the four from Telan, "If you've come to serve my sister, you should do your duty. Each of you reeks of pettiness. You're not even worthy of carrying her shoes, let alone attending to her closely!"

Without waiting to see their reactions, he turned and walked toward the courtyard. After a few steps, he stopped and continued, "Why are you still standing there? Go back, the lot of you, you were never close to my sister, and she's not used to you anyway!"

Han Tianci was truly not mincing his words.

Though Nanny Qian and the others were angered, they dared not confront Han Tianci and turned to leave.

Telan and the three others from Liuka exchanged glances, faces flushed with embarrassment.

Originally candidates for Saintess, they were used to being doted upon, but now they were deemed unworthy even to carry Yun Jinnian's shoes, which stirred anger in their hearts.

"Let's go. We should leave. It's not that we refuse to serve, it's that they outright disdain our service!" having said this, Liuka turned and walked away.

Telan looked at Liuka, then glanced back at the courtyard.

Not hearing Yun Jinnian beckoning them inside, she left with furrowed brows.

Inside the house, Han Tianci was talking with Yun Jinnian.

He brought up the earlier incident.

After hearing about it, Yun Jinnian fell silent for a moment, "You did the right thing. They were bound to leave eventually; it's better to have everything out in the open!"

They didn't want to serve her; they were compelled by circumstances. There was no real sincerity.

None of them could compare to the attentiveness of Hemei and Henuan.

"As long as you're not upset with me, sister!"

Chapter 392: Bold Conjecture

After all, his favoritism was quite obvious.

"Why would I blame you? It's just that you're a boy, and you should stay out of the inner court affairs in the future. Sister knows what to do!"

"Hehe!" Han Tianci chuckled, waiting for Shi Jiayu to serve breakfast.

"Sister, the Commandery Prince's hearing seems to have gotten worse recently," Han Tianci said softly.

Yun Jinnian paused, "After breakfast, I'll take the Commandery Prince's pulse!"

She had a bold idea in her mind, but it might be a bit risky and required discussion with everyone.

Without the Blood Lotus, they had to try whatever methods they could!

Han Tianci hurriedly shook his head, "Sister, you are injured. You should walk less. It's better for the Commandery Prince to come to us!"

Seeing her brother's concern for her, Yun Jinnian felt warmed, "Alright, I'll listen to you!"

The siblings exchanged a smile and then focused on their breakfast.

After breakfast, Han Tianci went to invite Prince Yanjun and Yuwen Ya. After the two arrived, Chu Yu came belatedly.

When he saw Yun Jinnian, Chu Yu's face turned red and when he saw that Yun Jinnian didn't even glance at him, he felt a hint of resentment, pursed his lips, "Jinnian, what do you command us for?"

He tried to appear calm, but his heart was anxious.

After all, he had been rash last night.

But he did not regret it.

Yun Jinnian saw Chu Yu's pretense and was amused. She spoke indifferently, "Regarding the poison in the Commandery Prince's body, I have an idea!"

"What idea?" Yuwen Ya asked.

Prince Yanjun also looked at Yun Jinnian, waiting for her answer.

However, indifferent as he usually was, his celestial demeanor meant that even a scrutinizing inquiry was captivating.

"I have acquired a Spiritual Poisonous Insect, which is full of poison but feeds on the Snow Lotus of Tian Mountain. Accumulated over many years, whatever the insect spits out is surely valuable!" Yun Jinnian said, recalling the time she was bitten by the insect at the bottom of the cliff, making her fluctuate between hot and cold, nearly dying. But when it expelled something, she gradually felt better.

Her whole being even became more perceptive and alert.

Therefore, Yun Jinnian boldly guessed that the substance the Spiritual Poisonous Insect expelled was beneficial.

"..."

Silence.

Minutes later, Chu Yu finally said, "It's worth a try!"

Prince Yanjun nodded his head in agreement.

Yuwen Ya tacitly accepted the idea.

Yun Jinnian exhaled in relief, "Commandery Prince, let me take your pulse first!"

Prince Yanjun nodded slightly, and Yuwen Ya immediately pulled over a small table to place Prince Yanjun's hand upon.

Tongge rolled up Prince Yanjun's sleeve, revealing his wrist on the small table.

Yun Jinnian raised her hand to take Prince Yanjun's pulse, frowning slightly.

Indeed, Prince Yanjun's condition had worsened.

After losing the ability to speak and see, his ears were also problematic, often hearing sounds indistinctly.

They could delay no further.

"Commandery Prince, I will first let your blood and apply acupuncture, then prescribe some medicine mixed with Tian Mountain Snow Lotus for you to take first. I will do my best to research the antidote as quickly as possible!"

Yun Jinnian's voice was clear and calm, yet particularly convincing.

Prince Yan still nodded his head, his expression revealing no trace of perturbation.

Although Chu Yu and Yuwen Ya were anxious inside, they dared not speak much, fearing that talking too much might unsettle Prince Yanjun himself.

Yun Jinnian prescribed the medicine and instructed Tongge to go prepare it, with Jiayu assisting.

With an injured leg bone that made walking difficult, she sat in a chair, carried by Chu Yu and Yuwen Ya, while Hemei, Henuan, and Han Tianci handed things to her at the side.

This round of acupuncture had to be executed with utmost precision, so the room remained eerily silent, even breathing was kept soft, lest they disturb Yun Jinnian.

But Yun Jinnian was already sweating profusely, with sweat soaking her hair and dampening her clothes.

Chapter 393: Inquiring about the Blood Lotus

Yuwen Ya was fine, he had nothing but gratitude for Yun Jinnian, without sparing Yun Jinnian a glance.

But Chu Yu couldn't help it.

He harbored many thoughts and stole glances at Yun Jinnian, feeling his throat go dry and his tongue parched at the sight, he uncontrollably licked his lips.

Without understanding, Han Tianci cast a puzzled look at Chu Yu but did not vocalize his curiosity.

Blood was drained from Prince Yanjun.

This time, the blood that flowed out from Prince Yanjun's body was pitch-black and emitted a foul stench, instantly filling the room with an odor so noxious it made people nauseous.

Yun Jinnian withdrew the needle as Tongge had already prepared the medicine and attended to Prince Yanjun to ensure he drank it.

"Tongge, take Commandery Prince down to rest!"

Tongge nodded, hoisting Prince Yanjun and carrying him away.

"..."

After a while, Yun Jinnian said blandly, "Tongge is quite strong!"

The room was too foul for anyone to stay in, so they all scattered outside, allowing the room to be cleaned anew, incense to be burned, and the foul odor dispelled.

After changing clothes in a different room, Yun Jinnian arrived at the hall where Chu Yu hesitantly offered, "Shall I get you another room?"

"No need, that room was quite good, and by now the stench should be gone!" Yun Jinnian replied. She took out the Spiritual Poisonous Insect, which was still deep in slumber.

It seemed to be very, very tired.

"Has it awakened?" Chu Yu asked.

"No, it's still asleep!" Yun Jinnian replied, poking the Spiritual Poisonous Insect which didn't move at all.

"Jinnian, do you think the Blood Lotus could be found within our Moon Gazing Sect?" asked Chu Yu.

Yuwen Ya too looked towards Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian remained silent.

If they had the Blood Lotus, curing Prince Yanjun's poison would be much easier.

Because she had already found a way to detoxify it!

"I'll ask Elder Mu!"

Yun Jinnian sent a message to Elder Mu through Telan, and in merely the time it took to burn a joss stick, all five elders had arrived together.

"We pay our respects to the Saintess!"

The five elder men bowed respectfully to Yun Jinnian, which made her feel somewhat embarrassed, "Please have a seat, elders, and have some tea first!"

"Thank you, Saintess!"

The five elders sat down in succession and sipped their tea.

Yun Jinnian hesitated for a moment before speaking, "Elders, I have summoned you here today as there's something I need to ask!"

"Whatever instructions the Saintess has, we shall do our utmost to fulfill them!" Elder Mu spoke with reverence.

He looked into Yun Jinnian's eyes, which were wise and gentle.

"The matter is, we've come to Nanjiang to rid Prince Yanjun of a poison affecting him, and the only antidote that works requires the Blood Lotus. While I know how to cultivate the Blood Lotus, we don't have the luxury of waiting for Prince Yanjun's condition!"

This was Yun Jinnian's greatest concern.

If Prince Yanjun's condition deteriorated to a certain point, not even a Great Luo Immortal could save him.

"The cultivation method the Saintess mentioned, is it that which requires nurturing with human blood for a long period, exactly eighty-one days, to produce the Blood Lotus?" Elder Tu asked.

"That's right!" Yun Jinnian answered immediately, looking at Elder Tu.

And Elder Tu understood Yun Jinnian's implication.

Years ago, when the Saintess left the sect, the Sacred Relic also went missing. The Moon Gazing Sect was suddenly without its Sacred Relic and lost countless Poisonous Insects.

Even the Spiritual Poisonous Insects stopped eating and drinking, and several died. To date, there is only one such insect left in the entire sect. If it weren't for Yun Jinnian's arrival, this lone insect would likely not survive much longer.

Thus, the Moon Gazing Sect created the worldly branch that would spread poisons far and wide, firstly to collect Silver, and secondly to find the successors of the Saintess.

If indeed they were the Saintess's descendants, her soul would carry the tradition of poison neutralization.

If they were to decipher the poison or if the poison could not be solved, they would come to Nanjiang.

"Currently, there are a few Blood Lotuses in the sect!" Elder Jin declared.

Upon hearing this, Yun Jinnian was immensely pleased, "Is that truth?"

Chapter 394: Agreed

"Of course it's true, but the Blood Lotus is cultivated within our sect, and only upon the Saintess' command can it be picked!"

Upon hearing this, Yun Jinnian understood Elder Jin's implication.

They still wanted to keep her!

"Elder Jin, I don't understand, why must you insist on keeping me? While I possess medical skills, compared with you, there's still a gap. You all keep calling me Saintess, for what reason?" Yun Jinnian asked.

Her mind couldn't fathom the reason.

"Since the Saintess has asked, this subordinate will tell you everything, but when the time comes for the Saintess to stay or leave, I hope the Saintess will think it over thrice!" Elder Jin said, bowing with a fist toward Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian watched, saying nothing.

Elder Jin then said, "The Watchmoon Sect has been established for over a thousand years, and each generation's Saintess is of the predecessor's bloodline. The Saintess may marry and bear children, and the Saintess wields supreme power!"

"However, sixty years ago, the Saintess and several elders had a big quarrel and left the Watchmoon Sect. Subsequently, the sacred relic also went missing, and several Spiritual Poisonous Insects died as well. Now, only a single Spiritual Poisonous Insect remains!"

Yun Jinnian was taken aback, then took out a purse, opened it, and handed it to Elder Jin, "Is this the Sacred Relic?"

Elder Jin received it with trembling hands, turning it over for a closer look before speaking, "This is indeed the Sacred Relic. Back then, when the Saintess encountered the Sacred Relic, she must have been pricked by it and bled onto it. That's why when the Spiritual Poisonous Insect encountered the Saintess, it followed her. And the Saintess, you are the spitting image of your predecessor. That day I was too hasty, I should have spoken to the Saintess more carefully!"

Yun Jinnian took a deep breath, "There are countless people in the world who look alike. Just because I resemble your previous Saintess doesn't mean I am indeed your Saintess!"

"What the Saintess said does make some sense, but the Sacred Relic has always only recognized the Saintess' blood. Even those related by blood to the Saintess, even her direct brothers, are not eligible. It is only the Sacred Relic that has consumed the blood of the Saintess that can attract the Spiritual Poisonous Insect and aid it in producing offspring!"

Indeed, the little tripod had consumed her blood, and the Spiritual Poisonous Insect now truly obeyed her commands.

Yun Jinnian fell silent.

Elder Jin continued, "The Saintess might not know this, but the Spiritual Poisonous Insect has another function – it uses its own vital blood to save its master's life. When the possessed servant couple saw the Saintess back then, the Saintess was barely hanging on to life, and it was the Spiritual Poisonous Insect that used all its vital blood to extend the Saintess' life!"

Yun Jinnian was utterly astonished.

She knew that the insect was intelligent, but she had never thought it would be her lifesaver.

"I...,"

Yun Jinnian pursed her lips and after a long time, she finally said, "But even so, I cannot stay in Nanjiang as the Saintess!"

"There's always a dual solution in the world. As long as the Saintess is in Nanjiang, she is the Saintess of the Watchmoon Sect. The New Year is soon upon us, would the Saintess consider returning to the Watchmoon Sect to celebrate it? By then, Yeye can pick the Blood Lotus to detoxify the Commandery Prince. Moreover, there are countless unique Medical Books in the Watchmoon Sect, which the Saintess could peruse during her period of recuperation!"

Yun Jinnian had to admit, Elder Jin was very skilled at reading people and assessing the situation,

he had grasped her heart in an instant, putting her in a tricky position. Now, if she decided to go to the Watchmoon Sect and later refused again, it would be utterly embarrassing.

But if she refused today, it wasn't clear whether the Spiritual Poisonous Insect could cure Prince Yanjun's poison.

To agree or not to agree?

Yun Jinnian hesitated for a moment!

"Elder Jin, give me some time to consider!"

Elder Jin smiled, "Good, good, take your time to consider, Saintess!"

With the Blood Lotus in hand, Elder Jin was not afraid that Yun Jinnian would refuse!

Of course, he also hoped that this matter would end satisfactorily, with Yun Jinnian willingly becoming the Saintess of the Watchmoon Sect!

Chapter 395: Let's Make It Clear

Only the willing heart can plan for the future of the Cult of the Watching Moon.

After the five elders had left, Yun Jinnian invited Chu Yu over and recounted her situation.

Chu Yu pondered for a moment before saying, "According to them, there must be a Saintess from Nanjiang in the Yun Family, whether it's on your family's side or the Han Family's, it calls for an investigation!"

"It shouldn't be someone from the Yun Family side; my ancestors were not known for their medical skills. On the other hand, my maternal grandfather and great-grandfather both had medical skills!"

"Then it must be either your maternal grandmother or your great-grandmother!"

Yun Jinnian fell silent.

No matter who it was, she now had to make a decision.

"I've decided to go to the Cult of the Watching Moon. I believe there will always be a way to solve this!"

Chu Yu looked at Yun Jinnian, his heart aching slightly, "You don't have to sacrifice yourself like this, we all understand!"

"Who said I'm sacrificing myself? Look, not only did I save the Commandery Prince, but I also have unique Medical Books to look through. It's the best of both worlds. I can also negotiate with the five elders to be the Saintess of the Cult, but I won't be in charge, I must return to the Capital City!" Yun Jinnian paused, "I don't think they are particularly interested in the Sacred Relic and the Spiritual Poisonous Insect; they seem to want something from me instead?"

It was just that Yun Jinnian didn't know what that something was for the moment.

Chu Yu looked at Yun Jinnian, the girl was still the same girl, but now she showed more determination than before.

After so many experiences, her eyes no longer held only fear and caution; they had gained a hint of carefreeness and warmth.

This made her already stunning face even softer and more beautiful.

Chu Yu took a deep breath, "You had thought it through already, hadn't you?"

Yun Jinnian didn't speak but her silence was her response.

Chu Yu stepped forward and embraced Yun Jinnian in his arms.

Yun Jinnian's eyes widened in shock, but after a while, she slowly closed her eyes and gently curved her lips.

"Thank you, Jinnian, thank you!" Chu Yu murmured softly.

Chu Yu was somewhat excited, his hands trembling.

From the moment he kissed Yun Jinnian and she acknowledged him, Chu Yu had become bolder.

But he was still nervous.

There he was, holding Yun Jinnian, completely overwrought, his palms sweaty.

Yun Jinnian hesitated for a long time before gently pushing Chu Yu away with her hand and speaking softly with a blush, "You are my Big Brother Chu; there's no need for formalities with me!"

Chu Yu chuckled foolishly in response.

His eyes shone brightly as he looked at Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian gave Chu Yu a brief glance before speaking seriously, "From now on, you can't lay a hand on me or kiss me or hug me again!"

Chu Yu nodded vigorously.

"If you do such things again, I won't bother with you anymore!" Yun Jinnian sternly warned.

Upon hearing this, Chu Yu was immediately startled, "No, no, I won't do it again!"

It was just that he couldn't help himself.

"Do you mean what you say?" Yun Jinnian pressed sternly.

"A gentleman's word is his bond; you can rest assured, I won't do it anymore!"

Seeing Chu Yu's promise, Yun Jinnian let the matter rest, "Good, go make arrangements then. I still need to talk things over carefully with the five elders, and you'll help me out with some ideas!"

"Alright!"

Chu Yu sent someone to invite the five elders over, and Yun Jinnian got straight to the point, "I am willing to be your Saintess for the Cult of the Watching Moon, but I must also return to the Capital City. I am willing to leave the Sacred Relic and the Spiritual Poisonous Insect with you all!"

Upon hearing this, the five elders looked at each other in silence.

A Spiritual Poisonous Insect that has consumed the blood of a Saintess will not consume another's blood, and without the Saintess's blood to sustain it, the insect cannot lay eggs inside the Sacred Relic.

What they truly wanted was not the Sacred Relic or the Spiritual Poisonous Insect, but the Saintess herself!

Chapter 396: To the Looking Moon Sect

Yun Jinnian noticed the way the five great elders behaved and understood that what they were seeking must be on her person.

Is it blood?

"Elder Jin, if you agree to my going to the Capital City, you may state your demands, and as long as they are not too excessive, I will agree!"

She had obtained the Blood Lotus from them; should she not offer something in return?

Upon hearing this, the five great elders fell silent once more.

Yun Jinnian also remained quiet, gently sipping her tea. It was the Snow Lotus Dew specially prepared by Telan.

Yun Jinnian looked at Chu Yu and saw several chilblains and wounds on his hands and face, deciding to use the Snow Lotus to make a medicinal ointment to apply on Chu Yu's hands and face.

Elder Jin stood up and knelt before Yun Jinnian, respectfully kowtowing before he spoke, "Thank you, Saintess!"

"Elder Jin, please stand up and take your time speaking!"

Elder Jin stood up, "Since the Saintess has spoken thus, then I will speak candidly. The Saintess may return to the Capital City, but she must bring along Elder Tu and Elder Mu, and must return to Nanjiang once every three years!"

Yun Jinnian glanced at Chu Yu, who nodded in agreement.

Yun Jinnian said, "I can bring the two elders with me, but on one condition: the two elders must not harm anyone, nor do anything that would damage my interests or my family. Should there be any such actions, I will show no mercy. Our agreement will be void, and no one will be to blame!"

The five great elders were slightly shocked.

True to her heritage as a descendant of the Saintess, despite her young age, she demonstrated determination.

"Of course, if there is anything you need help with, explain the situation. If it is within my power, I will certainly help without demur!"

With these words from Yun Jinnian, the five great elders felt much reassured.

"One more thing, I have no need for Telan and the others by my side. If one must stay, then let it be Telan; I like her!"

Telan was gentle and meticulous.

"Yes!"

Elder Jin agreed without hesitation.

Having decided to celebrate the New Year at the Moonwatching Sect, Chu Yu instructed preparations to be made, and then they left for the sect.

Luoyi and Luo'er hurried back just before departure.

Seeing them travel-worn, Chu Yu had them freshen up, eat something, and then rest properly.

He even arranged for them to sleep in the carriage on the way to the Moonwatching Sect.

The party set off for the Moonwatching Sect in a grand procession.

Inside the Moonwatching Sect, the Saintess's Zizhu Academy had already been cleaned thoroughly, and Yun Jinnian was brought there.

Chu Yu and the others were also settled into their own accommodations.

Han Tianci wanted to stay with Yun Jinnian, and Elder Jin agreed with a smile.

Zizhu Academy was vast with purple bamboo growing all around; each stalk was tall and sturdy, creating a serene environment.

"Sister, this place is lovely!"

"When we return to the Capital City, I'll buy a residence too. I'll dedicate a courtyard to growing bamboo so you can live there, would you like that?"

"Yes!"

"Stalk by stalk, leaf by leaf, a forest of bamboo tall and sheaf. No blossoms shall I permit, lest bees and butterflies I admit," murmured Yun Jinnian softly.

She tenderly led Han Tianci into the hall.

The hall was large, likely where the former Saintess met with her followers.

Elder Jin personally guided them around and finally took Yun Jinnian to the bedroom.

"Elder Jin, you've worked hard!"

Elder Jin smiled, the wrinkles around his eyes and brows deepening, yet he appeared much kinder and gentle, a stark contrast to his earlier harsh demeanor on the snow-capped mountains. "Not at all, not at all. Rest for now, Saintess, maids will soon come to attend to you. In the evening, we ask the Saintess to meet with the followers and say a few words of encouragement before returning here to wash and rest. Tomorrow morning, I will lead the Saintess to harvest the Blood Lotus!"

Upon hearing this, Yun Jinnian readily agreed, "Very well!"

Chapter 397: The Followers of the Looking Moon Sect

Elder Jin was overjoyed and held even greater respect for Yun Jinnian, the Saintess.

The dinner prepared was still very sumptuous, but it featured the characteristic spiciness of Nanjiang.

However, it was only mildly spicy, which whetted the appetites of Chu Yu and Yuwen Ya. Prince Yanjun, however, never ate spicy food, so special dishes were prepared for him. No one else noticed, but Yun Jinnian observed that those dishes were particularly unusual; upon closer inspection, she understood that they were beneficial for Prince Yanjun's health.

Han Tianci ate bite by bite, sticking out his little tongue and fanning himself non-stop with his hand due to the spiciness. Yun Jinnian scooped up some mild chicken soup and fed him a few spoonfuls.

Chu Yu was green with envy.

"Sister, it's so spicy!"

"Just eat slowly with small bites and you'll be fine," Yun Jinnian said gently.

Han Tianci thought it made sense and followed Yun Jinnian's advice, eating slowly.

Yun Jinnian didn't eat much because she was firstly not very hungry, and secondly, eating too much while injured would make her uncomfortable.

Additionally, the dishes were not to her taste.

After dinner, Elder Jin came to call for Yun Jinnian.

Chu Yu and Han Tianci wanted to follow, but Elder Jin refused, allowing only Telan and some others to dress up Yun Jinnian properly.

Adorned in a flowing white dress, she appeared ethereal, with heavy silver ornaments in her hair, a complex and delicate necklace around her neck, and intricately designed wide bracelets on her wrists.

The bracelets, with their filigree and wirework, were absolutely stunning.

"Saintess, please!"

Telan and Liuka carefully supported Yun Jinnian into the palanquin, which was upheld by four pillars at the top, with white gauze draping down, concealing the palanquin.

Chu Yu and Han Tianci stood in place, their eyes wide open.

"Was that celestial being just now my sister?" Han Tianci quietly asked Chu Yu.

Chu Yu was also somewhat stunned.

He had always known that Yun Jinnian was beautiful, but under such dressing and makeup, she was breathtakingly gorgeous, to the extent that even after the palanquin left for a while, his heart was still beating fiercely.

"Hmm, she's your sister!" Chu Yu said softly.

His thoughts still lingered on Yun Jinnian's fairy-like figure.

Han Tianci glanced at Chu Yu before speaking seriously, "Big Brother Chu, do you like my sister?"

"Yes!" Chu Yu answered, then suddenly came to his senses, "You little rascal, tricking me into saying that!"

Han Tianci giggled, "Big Brother Chu, I won't tell anyone; you can relax!"

"Just like that?" Chu Yu spoke as he took Han Tianci's hand and headed back to their room.

The two had already privately agreed to diligently practice martial arts in order to protect Yun Jinnian in the future.

Therefore, they must achieve great martial arts prowess, if not unrivaled in the world, at least among the top.

Yun Jinnian sat upright inside the palanquin, her hands clasped together and placed on her knees.

The things she wore were very heavy, almost making it difficult for her to breathe, but since she had promised Elder Jin, she would persevere.

After a while, the grand hall appeared in sight.

The palanquin was carried into the great hall.

A sea of people filled the space.

"We welcome the Saintess!"

"We welcome the Saintess!"

As the palanquin passed by, groups of people kneeled down.

Their voices rose and fell, all tinged with excitement.

Yun Jinnian, sitting in the palanquin, couldn't clearly see their expressions, but she could tell that there were many people—men and women, young and old, at least a few thousand—packed so densely together, shoulder to shoulder.

Almost reaching the front, there was an intricately carved grand chair covered with white fur. Telan lifted her out of the palanquin and placed her onto the chair.

As Yun Jinnian sat down, lamps around the great hall were suddenly lit, brightening the entire space as if it were daylight.

Chapter 398: The Opposition

She couldn't see the people below clearly, but the people below could see her.

Especially when they saw her face, they were all immensely excited.

"The Saintess is back, the Saintess is back!"

The Saintess of the Moon-Worshipping Sect was no longer just a portrait, as it had been in the past.

"All of you, rise!" Yun Jinnian said faintly.

"Thank you, Saintess!"

The five great elders stood up first, followed by the others, all in strict observance of the rules laid out.

There was a moment of silence in the great hall.

Everyone was waiting for Yun Jinnian to speak; though she had been the Empress, she was still somewhat nervous facing so many people.

After glancing at Elder Jin, she unfastened the pouch from her waist and took out the small cauldron.

"The Sacred Relic, it's the Sacred Relic!"

People below whispered among themselves again, but quickly fell silent.

"Yes, this is the Sacred Relic, and I am your Saintess. Within the Sacred Relic resides a Spiritual Poisonous Insect. I will do my utmost to bring prosperity to the Moon-Worshipping Sect and to provide a peaceful home for all of you!"

As Yun Jinnian finished speaking, someone asked, "Does this mean the Saintess will not leave us again?"

Were they picking a fight?

Yun Jinnian looked towards Elder Jin.

Elder Jin's face immediately turned quite unpleasant.

"No, although I am your Saintess, I am still young. I have my own family, and I need to be with them. Therefore, I will not stay in Nanjiang in the future!"

"What kind of Saintess are you then? If you are the Saintess of the Moon-Worshipping Sect, you should stay with the sect in Nanjiang. Otherwise... Ah..."

The person didn't finish speaking before a scream was heard.

They were beaten up by those around them, a fierce beating at that.

Yun Jinnian held her forehead; what kind of people were these?

Soon the person went silent, and Elder Jin stood up and walked to Yun Jinnian's side, "The four other great elders and I have discussed and agreed that the Saintess will stay in the Capital City in the future and return to Nanjiang once every three years. During this period, Elder Mu and Elder Tu will accompany the Saintess in the Capital City."

Upon hearing this, the people of the Moon-Worshipping Sect understood the significance of the three-year agreement.

As long as the Saintess would return, everything else was negotiable.

After all, they had managed for so many years without a Saintess. Now that they had both a Saintess and a Sacred Relic, the sect's future was sure to be even better. Thus, there were not as many demanding individuals.

Especially since the five great elders, the four Hall Masters, and the four Saint Emissaries had not spoken, those below them, the small fries, had even less to say.

"From now on, the matters of Nanjiang will be managed by the elders, Hall Masters, and Saint Emissaries after deliberation!" Yun Jinnian spoke again.

After all, there was no difference between the Moon-Worshipping Sect now and before, the only difference being the addition of a Saintess.

That was only Yun Jinnian's thought; in truth, the people of the Moon-Worshipping Sect desired her presence most, otherwise the five great elders would not have compromised!

After saying a few more encouraging words, Yun Jinnian left.

Back at Zizhu Academy, Yun Jinnian had Hemei and Henuan quickly remove the heavy items from her body, "They are too heavy!"

"These ornaments are really beautiful!" Shi Jiayu said.

Yun Jinnian then remembered the origin of the Sacred Relic and quickly asked, "Jiayu, this Sacred Relic belonged to your grandmother, but why doesn't it absorb your blood?"

Shi Jiayu shook her head.

She didn't care about these things at all.

She had been naive in the past, but she wasn't foolish.

Moreover, she owed her life to Yun Jinnian, so she cared even less for worldly possessions.

"Should we invite the five great elders to come and ask?" Yun Jinnian suggested.

It was always important to clarify things.

No matter the situation, having a clear understanding would eliminate any lingering grievances in the heart.

Shi Jiayu thought for a moment and agreed, "Alright!"

Chapter 399: Past Events

The five major Elders were quickly summoned, and Shi Jiayu also went to carry the chest over.

When the five major Elders arrived, they saw that Yun Jinnian had already removed her cumbersome adornments and, smiling, they performed a respectful greeting, "We have seen the Saintess!"

"There's no need for formalities, please sit down!"

Hemei brought in tea.

The five major Elders sipped their tea slowly, and Shi Jiayu placed several books in front of them.

"This..."

The five major Elders were immediately filled with astonishment, as well as immense joy.

Hastily setting down their teacups, they picked up a book and confirmed with utmost certainty that it was the treasured Poison Scripture of the Moon-Watching Sect.

And only the Saintess possessed the Poison Scripture. The Elders could study it if the Saintess was gracious, and even the four Hall Masters and four Saint Envoys could only learn a few techniques, not the entirety.

"Saintess, this is the Poison Scripture of the Moon-Watching Sect!" Elder Jin said, carefully storing the book away and respectfully handing it over to Yun Jinnian.

"This is inherently the property of the Moon-Watching Sect, you may keep it, there's no need to give it to me!" Yun Jinnian said, abstaining from accepting it.

Elder Jin, looking at the beautiful and gentle Yun Jinnian, smiled, "Rules must not be carelessly broken, if the Saintess thinks we have performed adequately, being granted a few poisoning techniques would be an immense blessing!"

Yun Jinnian let out a sigh.

These stubborn old men must be plotting something.

After taking the Poison Scripture and placing it aside, she finally said, "These books belong to Jiayu!"

Elder Jin looked at Shi Jiayu, "Back when the Saintess left the Moon-Watching Sect in a fit of anger, her personal maidservant also left with her. Sixty years have passed, to think we would still have the chance to meet, this must be the workings of fate!"

"..."

Yun Jinnian was startled, Shi Jiayu also greatly surprised.

Was there really such a story?

"Saintess, you should rest early. Tomorrow morning, take the Poison Scripture and meet with the Law Honor. By then, everything will become clear!" Elder Jin said, bowing to Yun Jinnian and leaving with the other four major Elders.

Yun Jinnian and Shi Jiayu looked at each other.

"This is what's known as destiny. These things were never mine, nor did they belong to my grandmother; that's why, for so many years, she never dared to open and look at it, nor allowed us to do so—now I understand the reason!" Shi Jiayu said.

It was because of loyalty that it had been passed down from generation to generation.

Her grandmother must have told her father, but her father didn't have the chance to tell her before he died.

Yun Jinnian clasped Shi Jiayu's hand, "I don't know what to say, because I am also uncertain for the moment!"

"Miss, there is no need for you to say anything. You are and will always be my Miss, and that won't change because of anything. You might think that my sudden appearance is too coincidental, perhaps a trap set by someone else. I won't explain anything, but I believe, time will prove everything!" After speaking, Shi Jiayu curtsied to Yun Jinnian, then walked out.

"This..."

Yun Jinnian sighed.

She had never doubted Jiayu, who was thinking too much.

Hemei and Henuan brought in hot water for Yun Jinnian to wash her face and soak her feet.

"Miss, will you meet with the young master later?"

"Call him over in a while, since we are going to pick Blood Lotus tomorrow, I wish to take him along to broaden his horizons!"

The Blood Lotus was something that could only be found by chance, not sought.

If there was one, Yun Jinnian indeed wanted to take a plant back for her grandfather, so he could refine some life-saving elixirs.

Yun Jinnian massaged her temples and took a deep breath.

What kind of sect was the Moon-Watching Sect, after all...

Chapter 400: Tianci Shows Off

When Han Tianci came in, he saw Yun Jinnian rubbing her forehead and quickly walked over to her, "Sister, does your head hurt?"

"Not at all!" Yun Jinnian beckoned Han Tianci to sit down, "Tomorrow, we are going to pick Blood Lotus, and I'll take you with me, okay?"

Han Tianci nodded vigorously.

He knew that his sister loved him the most and cared for him the most.

It was different from the affection of his mother and maternal grandfather; his sister's kindness was sincere.

And she never spoiled him.

She was the best sister!!

Hugging Yun Jinnian's arm, "I'll listen to everything Sister says!"

"Then sleep early; after breakfast tomorrow, we'll head out!!"

"Okay!"

Yun Jinnian had Henuan fetch water for him, and personally washed Han Tianci's feet, "Sister, I can wash them myself!"

"Let Sister wash them for you for another two years. When you're ten, you'll be a young man, and then Sister won't be able to wash your feet anymore!"

Once a boy and girl reach the age of ten, they should not sit together anymore. When Han Tianci turned ten, even if she still wanted to dote on him, she would have to consider propriety.

"Sister, can I wash your feet too?"

Yun Jinnian smiled tenderly, "Sister has already washed them!"

Grabbing a towel to dry Han Tianci's feet, she put on his socks and shoes for him, then stood up to wash her hands and applied moisturizing cream, "Go to sleep, get up early tomorrow!"

Han Tianci nodded, and as he was leaving, he called out, "Sister!"

"Hmm?" Yun Jinnian looked at him with a puzzled smile.

Han Tianci kissed Yun Jinnian on the cheek, "Goodnight, Sister!"

And with that, he ran off quickly.

Yun Jinnian sat on a small stool, stunned for a while, "Naughty!"

But she let Hemei and Henuan help her to bed to rest, walking slowly because of a bone injury; it was really uncomfortable if she didn't move. Taking these gentle steps made her feel much better.

"Miss, you spoil the young master too much!" Hemei said.

Yun Jinnian smiled tenderly, "He is my only brother, who else should I spoil if not him!"

Hemei thought about it and realized it made sense, so she didn't say anything more.

"It's getting late, you should also rest!"

"Yes!"

Once Hemei and Henuan left and closed the door, Yun Jinnian lay in bed thinking for a while before she fell into a deep sleep.

Han Tianci joyfully returned to his own room, and as soon as he entered, he saw Chu Yu with a dark expression, "Big Brother Chu, why are you here?"

"What were you doing out and about at this ungodly hour??" Chu Yu asked.

Seeing that Han Tianci's feet were already washed, he was even more baffled!

"Sister called me over to talk about something!" Han Tianci said as he sat on the bed, and earnestly added, "Sister even washed my feet for me. These socks are new too; Sister must have made them for me, they fit perfectly!"

Chu Yu's face grew even darker as he listened.

This bratty kid.

He had actually let Jinnian wash his feet...

Chu Yu wanted to give him a good thrashing.

But he knew that if he laid a hand on Han Tianci, Yun Jinnian would never forgive him!

"Sleep, sleep!" Chu Yu said, pushing Han Tianci into bed, then gloomily lay down beside him.

Han Tianci chuckled to himself.

He felt extremely smug inside!

Hum, he had heard that Big Brother Chu fancied his sister and wanted to marry her as his wife.

Wishful thinking!

They could be friends, even brothers, but marrying his sister was out of the question.

His sister was so good; no one was worthy of her!

Chu Yu felt heavy in his chest, unaware of Han Tianci's little scheme. Had he known, it would've made him spit blood.

He had been truly good to Han Tianci, having no idea that Han Tianci would play such a trick on him!!

Han Tianci was already deep asleep; only then did Chu Yu carefully get up and quietly leave the room, sneaking into Yun Jinnian's room.