

Indulgence 591

Chapter 591: Venturing into the Palace

"Mm!"

The Emperor responded with a faint sound, which was taken as consent.

In truth, an Emperor, nearly perishing from exhaustion, he too found it embarrassing.

Naturally, he hoped Yun Jinnian would heal him sooner rather than later, especially since the Crown Prince of Great Zhou Kingdom and his entourage were about to visit Tianchu Country. If they knew of his predicament, they would surely laugh him, the Emperor, to scorn.

After drawing blood, Yun Jinnian was in a side hall of Yangxin Hall studying the sample. He tried various substances, feeding them one by one, but there was no change, the worm was as lively as ever.

He thought about adding a drop of his own blood, but this was Yangxin Hall, with countless eyes watching.

After some thought, he eventually gave up on the idea.

Nevertheless, he changed the Emperor's prescription again, then returned to Weiyang Palace for lunch, followed by going back to the side hall to read and rest.

Upon entering the side hall, Yun Jinnian immediately felt something was amiss.

A faint smell of blood, along with Chu Yu's scent.

Her sense of smell was very sharp after some experiences.

Thinking that Chu Yu might be injured, she was frantic with worry.

"Sister Shaoyao, I would like some honey water, could you please prepare it for me?"

Although Shaoyao did not understand why Yun Jinnian wanted to send her away, she nodded her head and went to prepare it.

Watching Shaoyao leave, Yun Jinnian swiftly called out, "Hemei, Henuan, keep watch at the door, without my order, no one is allowed to come in!"

"Yes!"

Yun Jinnian hurried into the bedroom and saw Chu Yu sitting perfectly fine at the dressing table, smiling at her, which made her breathe a sigh of relief.

"Worried about me?" Chu Yu asked with a smile.

Yun Jinnian glanced at Chu Yu and went to pour herself a glass of cold water to drink down.

Without a hint of grace.

Chu Yu, watching her, felt a mix of joy and heartache. He stepped forward and took Yun Jinnian's hand, "It's not me who's injured. My coming to the palace is for a matter of urgency!"

"Then who is injured? Worthy of you risking coming into the palace?" Yun Jinnian asked coldly.

Having drunk a glass of cold water, she felt much better.

She was still a bit angry, but also relieved.

"It's Xin Chuntang of the loyal prince's house, on the brink of death. I have quietly sent him to the Han Residence, but Elder Mu and Elder Tu can't do anything. So, Jinnian, you must find a way to leave the palace!"

"Now?"

"Yes, now!"

Yun Jinnian knew that being in the palace, with the Emperor's poison unresolved, leaving would be difficult.

But it wasn't without a solution.

"You should leave the palace first. I will go and tell the Empress Mother that I think I have found a way, but I need to return to the Han Residence. I'll say there may be medical books about this in the study of the Han Family. I remember seeing them before, but I'm not certain, so I must go back and search!"

Though the excuse was clumsy, the Empress Mother would believe it.

Chu Yu nodded, "I'll leave the palace now, but you must hurry. Xin Chuntang's life hangs by the Snow Lotus Pill right now!"

"Mm!"

There was no time to delay.

Yun Jinnian quickly got ready, instructed Shi Jiayu and Ru Yue to stay in the palace, and set off with Hemei and Huanan, carrying a medicine chest to the main hall.

Shaoyao came with the honey water, puzzled, "Fourth Miss, what's happening?"

"I just thought of a method, but I'm not entirely sure, so I want to leave the palace and return to my maternal grandfather's to check the medical books!"

That's what Yun Jinnian said when she arrived at Weiyang Palace.

The Empress did not obstruct her.

Yun Jinnian also went to Yangxin Hall.

The same explanation, and the Emperor utterly believed her.

"Mm, go ahead. Take this token. Whenever you think of a solution, you may enter the palace, and no one at the palace gate dare stop you!" He said to Eunuch Hai, "Go and prepare a carriage to send the Fourth Miss back to the Han Residence!"

"Yes!"

Yun Jinnian, with Hemei and Henuan, smoothly left the Imperial Palace, boarded the carriage, and then ordered, "Drive the carriage quickly!"

Chapter 592: Seriously Injured

Although the carriage driver was puzzled, he was aware that Yun Jinnian was returning to the Han Residence on behalf of the Emperor, so he dared not be negligent and immediately urged the carriage to gallop.

Along the way, it seemed as if the road had been cleared for them, without any obstruction.

Yun Jinnian realized that Chu Yu must have prepared everything well in advance, even the route to the Han Residence.

She thought of the Princely Heir, Chu Xinchun.

Yun Jinnian racked her brains to recall his past life.

It seemed he died young, and years later, there was an uproar claiming that the Princess Consort had a hand in his death, and that the former Princess Consort was also killed by her; however, she knew nothing of what happened afterward.

The carriage stopped in front of the Han Residence, and Yun Jinnian alighted. The doorkeeper's boy promptly came to greet her, "This servant pays respects to Miss Jinnian!"

"Hmm!"

Yun Jinnian acknowledged with a sound and immediately entered the Han Residence.

Hemei and Henuan followed behind, and the palace attendant who had escorted her home would take care of the carriage.

"Sister!"

An anxious voice called out.

Yun Jinnian recognized it as Han Tianci's.

Seeing Han Tianci looked the same as before, she felt relieved and asked, "How is the person?"

"Not good, his vitals were injured, and his Achilles tendons have been severed!"

Hearing Han Tianci say this, Yun Jinnian also became anxious, "Is it that serious?"

"Yes, sister, please come and see with me quickly!"

Yun Jinnian did not dare to delay and immediately followed Han Tianci.

Chu Xinchun was arranged to be in Han Tianci's courtyard. From afar, Yun Jinnian could smell the scent of blood mingled with the stench of decay.

"Looks like he's been injured for quite some time?"

"Elder Mu said it's been several days; if it weren't for the elixir sustaining his heart, he would have died a long time ago!" Han Tianci said with a sigh.

Upon reaching the courtyard door, two men dressed in black looked sternly at Yun Jinnian.

"What are you looking at? This is my sister. She risked her life to come back to save your master. Remember my sister's great kindness and be more respectful when you see her in the future!"

The two men looked at each other, then quickly clasped their hands and bowed, "Shuofeng and Shuoyun greet Miss Jinnian!"

Yun Jinnian heard this.

She paused slightly.

Shuofeng, as if he understood, bid her not to worry.

Without asking more questions or giving it further thought, she gave a "hmm" and entered the courtyard.

Han Tianci hurriedly followed.

"Sister, it's in the side room!" Han Tianci quickly reminded.

He led Yun Jinnian to the side room.

Elders Mu and Tu immediately came forward to greet her, "Saintess!"

Yun Jinnian nodded slightly, and asked softly, "How is the person?"

"Not good, Saintess. Please go in and see for yourself!" Elder Mu said as he took the medicine box from Hemei's hands.

Hemei and Huan knew they were not allowed to enter, so they waited in the courtyard.

Yun Jinnian entered the room, and Elders Mu and Tu, knowing her habits, had already prepared a cloth for her to wipe her hands before taking a pulse.

After wiping her hands, Yun Jinnian was about to take Chu Xinchun's pulse when she noticed a man in black standing at the foot of the bed.

She glanced at him only briefly before focusing intently on taking Chu Xinchun's pulse.

The pulse was faint and thready, indicating extreme weakness. If not for the Tian Mountain Snow Lotus sustaining his breath, he would have died long ago.

She then examined his wound.

Seeing an arrowhead still stuck in his chest, surrounded by pus and blood, clearly inflamed, she asked in confusion, "The arrow has pierced the chest, why hasn't it been removed?"

"Saintess, it's not that we didn't want to remove it, but we dare not act recklessly. Please look closely at this arrow. The arrowhead has barbs, and the tail end is made of iron also with barbs. Regardless of whether we pull the arrow from the front or the back, one careless move could take his life!"

Chapter 593: Saving a Life

After Elder of the Wood finished speaking, the man in black immediately stepped forward and gently helped Chu Xinchun up.

The meticulous care, cautiousness, and tenderness he displayed didn't seem characteristic of a man.

Yun Jinnian stepped forward to check and indeed, there was a barb on the back as well.

He touched the barb before asking, "What kind of metal is this, and why don't you just cut it off?"

"Saintess, if you look closely at this barb, it has already pierced into the body!"

Yun Jinnian followed Elder of the Wood's pointing finger and saw the tiny threads that had penetrated the skin.

After thinking for a moment, he said, "Then we'll dig out the flesh and saw it off. We will still extract the arrow from the front."

Upon hearing this, Elder of the Wood felt a surge of emotion.

"How confident are you, Saintess?"

"Thirty percent!"

Yun Jinnian took a deep breath.

"I can only guarantee extracting the arrowhead. As for the chances of saving him, that's hard to say," Yun Jinnian spoke, then looked toward the man in black, "I will do my utmost. Are you willing to let me try?"

The man was silent for a long time, "Try!"

"Good!"

Medicinal ingredients didn't need to be prepared; Elder of the Soil and Elder of the Wood had already prepared them, and they had also prepared a lot of hemostatic powder, fearing there wouldn't be enough.

Yun Jinnian first discussed the prescription and the procedure with Elder of the Wood and Elder of the Soil, then placed the knife from the medicine box on a small stove to boil.

Once everything was ready, Yun Jinnian had people lift Chu Xinchun onto a door plank beside the window.

He then tied up all his hair and even bound his sleeves.

Extracting an arrow with barbs on both ends was not easy. Yun Jinnian knew, and so did Elder of the Wood and Elder of the Soil, hence their very serious expressions.

"Begin!"

Yun Jinnian called out steadily.

First step, cut away the necrotic flesh on the back.

Yun Jinnian cut with extreme caution and seriousness. Each cut released pus and blood, carrying a foul smell.

Then the second cut, the third cut.

With each incision, Yun Jinnian's hands were covered in pus and blood, his forehead slick with sweat, his clothes already drenched, until all the necrotic flesh was removed, carefully avoiding the barb.

Elder of the Wood took a deep breath at the sight.

Such skillful knife work; he, who had lived for decades, couldn't achieve such finesse.

"Elder of the Wood, take this blade now. Cut across with your internal energy, quickly and accurately!"

"Yes!"

Elder of the Wood took the blade and, as directed by Yun Jinnian, held it between his fingers and chopped down swiftly.

There was a 'click' as the arrowhead broke and the blade lodged itself into the green stone slab of the ground.

Yun Jinnian immediately took a pair of small tweezers, found those thin threads in the wound, and pulled them out one by one, each end with flesh attached.

Since one was near the heart, Yun Jinnian did not dare to be careless, being very careful and cautious.

One by one, he pulled out a total of twelve threads.

"Stop the bleeding!"

At Yun Jinnian's command, Elder of the Wood immediately handed over the hemostatic powder, which Yun Jinnian took to stop Chu Xinchun's bleeding.

The bleeding stopped.

Next was the arrow extraction.

But this arrow was not so easy to pull out; they needed to dig a hole at the chest entrance, then carefully remove the broken arrow.

After laying Chu Xinchun flat, Yun Jinnian approached to cut away the necrotic flesh.

So young, with a face of absolute beauty.

Calm and composed, dazzling in beauty, commanding respect and reverence from all who beheld her.

In that moment, Mo Li committed the scene to memory, never to be forgotten for a lifetime.

Cutting away the necrotic flesh was followed by Elder of the Wood extracting the arrow.

After the arrow was extracted, there was a 'puff' sound as a gush of blood sprayed out.

Elder of the Soil hastened up with the hemostatic medicine, but Yun Jinnian quickly said, "Wait, first check whether a vessel inside the body has been severed?"

If a blood vessel was broken, it needed reconnecting.

If not, they simply needed to stop the bleeding.

Chapter 594: Tianci's Thoughts

Yun Jinnian hoped it was not so.

Reconnecting blood vessels was delicate work that she had never done before.

The Elder of Wood and the Elder of Earth were getting on in years, and their eyesight was not as good as Yun Jinnian's, so she watched carefully,

The blood flowed copiously; as she continued to look closely, her hands, her clothes, her face were all covered in blood. Despite the filth, she appeared exceptionally pure.

Chu Yu arrived and just stood at a distance, quietly watching.

A Yun Jinnian so earnest, to a man, was deeply respectable.

If two people were together, even without love, that alone would command a lifetime of admiration, daring not to act frivolously before her.

"The blood vessels are not broken!"

After speaking, Yun Jinnian took a silver needle to stop the bleeding on Chu Xinchun, while the Elder of Wood sprinkled the wound-healing medicine on Chu Xinchun's wound.

The rest, like bandaging, was something Yun Jinnian could largely leave alone, hoping that the Elder of Wood and the Elder of Earth would manage the deep bone wound on Chu Xinchun's face and the snapped tendons in his foot.

Once the bleeding stopped and the needle was withdrawn,

Mo Li walked up to Yun Jinnian, knelt on one knee, but said not a word.

Yun Jinnian glanced at him but said nothing, sighed, and left the room, only to see an exuberant Chu Yu, looking at her with a silly, admiring smile.

"You came!"

"Yes, I've been here a while. How is cousin Xinchun now?" Chu Yu asked softly, seeing Yun Jinnian covered in blood, his heart ached terribly.

"He should pull through. I will give him another acupuncture session soon; whether he survives depends on his luck now!"

"You've worked hard!"

"It's nothing!"

When had the two of them become so courteous to each other?

Meeting each other's gaze, they both laughed.

"I'll go bathe and change first. You go in and see him!" Yun Jinnian said.

"Alright!"

Yun Jinnian went to bathe and change with Hemei and Henuan, while Chu Yu entered the house. Chu Xinchun had been bandaged and laid in bed, his face pale and his condition seeming very poor.

He ultimately didn't voice his concerns about whether Chu Xinchun could survive.

Seeing Chu Xinchun's Hidden Guard standing aside, silent, he patted his shoulder, "He'll get better. He is, after all, Tianchu Country's youngest god of war!"

Mo Li remained silent.

Chu Yu exhaled and turned to a silent Han Tianci, "What are you standing there for?"

Upon hearing this, Han Tianci raised his eyes, "Big Brother Chu?"

"Hmm?"

"Am I very useless? I couldn't help my sister at all before!" Han Tianci said, sounding very defeated.

Especially after seeing his sister so calmly cut away the necrotic flesh, then extract those tiny barbs, getting herself covered in blood.

He thought she would feel revulsion, would frown, but unexpectedly, she didn't even furrow her brow, seemingly indifferent.

Chu Yu chuckled, ruffling Han Tianci's hair, and drawing him along to walk outside, "Your sister is what she is today because she has suffered immeasurable hardships, endured countless tribulations to build herself up; it has not been easy for her!"

Han Tianci stopped in his tracks, looking at Chu Yu, "Big Brother Chu, do you know about the hard times my sister went through in the past?"

"Yes, I know a bit!"

"Then will you tell me about it?"

Chu Yu did not expect Han Tianci to ask at this time, but after thinking a bit, he answered, "Sure, let's find a nice place to talk properly!"

"Alright!"

Han Tianci led Chu Yu to pull weeds and check for bugs in the medicinal garden.

When he first came to the Capital City, he didn't particularly like the city, nor the Han Residence. Later, he grew fond of the Capital City, only because there was a young lady who would watch him with gentle and smiling eyes, who didn't constrain or chide him, but would show him, through her actions, what he could and couldn't do. Even if he made mistakes, she wouldn't mock him, only firmly support him while he started all over again...

Chapter 595: Immensely Heartbroken

He knew little of his sister's past, only that it had not been easy, it was filled with hardship.

But he did not know just how much suffering she had endured.

This time, having returned, he learned a bit more, so he very earnestly followed his master in learning Martial Arts and medical skills, all because he hoped that in the future, with him there, no one would dare to bully his sister.

"Tianci..."

Chu Yu called out with concern in a low voice.

He honestly recounted everything he knew about Yun Jinnian's past without exaggeration, yet Han Tianci fell silent.

After a long while, Han Tianci finally lifted his gaze to Chu Yu, "Chu Big Brother, I want to enter the court as an official, the kind who is second only to one but above ten thousand, to ensure that no one dares to bully my sister ever again. Those who wronged her, I will not let them off!"

As he spoke, Han Tianci closed his eyes.

Thinking of his birth mother.

She had abandoned his sister, then abandoned him, claiming that neither owed the other, yet she failed to realize that aside from her own peace of mind, she owed everyone.

Chu Yu patted Han Tianci on the shoulder, "Your sister's life has now turned from bitter to sweet. Tianci, don't feel too much pressure and don't think too much. Your sister hopes that you will grow up happy and carefree, not altering your true intentions because of her!"

"Is that so?" Han Tianci asked Chu Yu in a low voice, but also questioning himself.

"Yes, Tianci, I hope that you grow up happy, not because of me, not because of external factors, so that your childhood, which should be filled with joy, does not become dull. When you look back in the future, having nothing memorable would be such a pity!" Yun Jinnian said, slowly approaching Han Tianci, "You only have one childhood, and if thinking back on it means recalling only days shrouded in darkness, how drab that would be!"

Yun Jinnian spoke gently, straightening Han Tianci's clothes, "Sister hopes you are happy. All those unhappy memories, I've almost forgotten them. In the days to come, growing up with you is enough to compensate for all the past unhappiness, the suffering, and the difficulties!"

"Sister!" Han Tianci yelled out once and embraced Yun Jinnian, his face streaming with tears.

No matter how sensible, how clever he was, he was still only an eight-year-old child after all.

Yun Jinnian's eyes reddened as well.

Her foolish little brother.

Foolish in the past life, even more so in this one.

So foolish that it aches the heart, wishing to lay the very best at his feet, yet forgetting that she herself was still just a child.

Seeing this, Chu Yu could not help but sigh.

In the past, he had been envious of Yun Jinnian's treatment of Han Tianci, as compared to him. Now he understood that Han Tianci's affection for Yun Jinnian was pure, his dedication selfless, never expecting anything in return.

Unlike him, in love, he gives but also hopes to receive an equal measure of love from Yun Jinnian.

Yun Jinnian took a while to console him before slowly walking along with Han Tianci, who was taller than her, in silence. Han Tianci, sobbing and sniffling, stopped crying after a while, feeling embarrassed for having cried in front of his sister—it was so shameful for a man.

Blushing, he spoke in a rough voice, "I, I have things to do, I can't keep my sister company, I..."

Before he could finish, he ran off like a shot.

Watching him, Yun Jinnian gave a light smile with pursed lips. Chu Yu approached her and commented, "Tianci is such a sensible child!"

Yun Jinnian looked up at Chu Yu, "What did you tell him?"

"Nothing much, just told him a bit about your past!" Chu Yu said, sneaking a glance at Yun Jinnian to see if she was angry.

"Don't tell him again in the future!" Yun Jinnian said, pausing before continuing, "Children without parents by their side are extremely sensitive. If he does something in the future that embarrasses you, can you, for my sake, be lenient with him?"

Chapter 596: The Envoy from Great Zhou

Chu Yu listened to the words and looked carefully at Yun Jinnian.

He knew that Yun Jinnian had him in her heart, but the way she felt about him was not the same as how he felt about her.

Perhaps it was just a little less.

"Why do you say that? In the future, Tianci will be my brother-in-law, and right now, he is a charming little brother, we're still friends! Between brothers and friends, there's nothing to be 'unaccommodating' about!"

"Ayu..."

Yun Jinnian called out softly.

There was a mix of conflict and regret, but it was also full of emotion.

Chu Yu laughed, "Don't overthink it. I'm not that petty. I won't hold a grudge against you for these things. Let's not talk about these upsetting matters. Have you found a way to cure the Emperor's Poisonous Insect venom?"

"I have some leads. I plan to try using my blood!"

Yun Jinnian knew that Chu Yu didn't want to talk more about their issues, so she didn't bring it up again.

"Your blood?"

"Yes, I've consumed so much Snow Lotus from Tian Mountain, and the Spiritual Poisonous Insect only recognizes me as its master. My blood must be somewhat useful!"

"You want to try using your blood, will there be any danger?" Chu Yu asked.

"No, it's just a few drops of blood!" Yun Jinnian said, suddenly remembering that there was also her blood in the Snow Lotus Pills.

Chu Yu remained silent.

If possible, he truly did not wish for the Emperor to be cured of the poison.

With the Emperor's health impaired, he wouldn't be able to cause trouble. Once he recovered, surely many problems would arise.

"Then you need to be cautious and careful. Don't trust anyone in the Imperial Palace too readily. Also, the Crown Prince from Great Zhou Kingdom is about to come to Tianchu Country, and he is bringing a Princess with him. It seems they wish to form a marriage alliance, and soon Tianchu Country will also have a Princess marrying over there!" Chu Yu cautioned once again.

He was afraid that Yun Jinnian would suffer losses in the Imperial Palace.

And he was concerned about Zhou Yunshen's visit, suspecting that his intentions were not pure.

Zhou Yunshen's thoughts were definitely not simply about seeking Yun Jinnian for treatment and marriage alliance.

Marrying off a Princess is not important, what's important is whom he intends to take back as his bride.

If this person were someone he designated...

If he designated Yun Jinnian, what then?

If the Emperor agreed and Yun Jinnian did not, the Emperor would certainly find ways to threaten her.

"How many Princesses are of age now?"

"Three!"

Yun Jinnian laughed, "Once I've cured the Emperor's poison, during the reward ceremony, I will ask for a favor!"

"?"

Chu Yu did not understand and kept silent.

"I will ask the Emperor to allow me to decide on my marriage affairs. Apart from myself, no one else can make this decision for me!"

She originally wanted to ask for this favor at the start, but now with the Crown Prince from Great Zhou coming, Yun Jinnian was also afraid that Zhou Yunshen would come up with the idea of using her for a political marriage. If the Emperor agreed and she did not, it would be seen as disloyal and unrighteous.

But with the favor granted, the Emperor, before agreeing, would have to consider her wishes, and she would have the opportunity to refuse!

Chu Yu started to smile, "That would be very good!"

After examining Chu Xinchun's injury and administering acupuncture,

Yun Jinnian pursed her lips as she looked at his severed tendons, "Elder Mu, Elder Tu, do you have any method?"

Elder Mu hesitated for a long time before quietly saying, "If the Spiritual Poisonous Insect is willing to spit out some of its essence and apply it on the severed tendon, maybe it can be connected. However, even if it is joined together, it will take several years for him to walk steadily!"

The Spiritual Poisonous Insect's favorite food is Snow Lotus from Tian Mountain and her blood, and she has consumed a good amount of Snow Lotus along with Ginseng and Lingzhi. If the Spiritual Poisonous Insect is willing to spit out its essence, perhaps there's hope for Chu Xinchun's leg.

"Then I'll give it a try!

The Spiritual Poisonous Insect, although just an insect, is extremely intelligent. Moreover, it had just laid a few eggs and its body might be weak.

I wonder if it is willing...

Chapter 597: Wonders of the World

If it had been before, Yun Jinnian would definitely not believe that an insect could be so clever, but having encountered one, she now understood that in this vast world, there is no end to wonders.

Just as when she fell down the snowy mountain, she thought she was surely doomed to die, yet now she was well and alive.

Thinking of this, Yun Jinnian took the Spiritual Poisonous Insect to the main house.

It was the first time she had entered Han Tianci's main house. She just sat in the small hall and did not go to the bedroom.

She took off the pouch from her waist and opened it to reveal a small cauldron; the Spiritual Poisonous Insect was lying inside, asleep. Beneath its abdomen were several snow-white insect eggs, each a tiny speck.

Elder Mu and Elder Tu followed her inside and peered into the small cauldron without a word, their faces filled with joy.

"Saintess, please drip a few drops of blood onto this small cauldron," Elder Mu suggested.

Yun Jinnian thought for a moment and nodded her head. She took a silver needle and pricked her left thumb, dripping blood onto the cauldron, which was absorbed instantly without leaving a trace.

The Spiritual Poisonous Insect stretched and yawned, opening its eyes to look at Yun Jinnian with longing.

"Little thing, you're awake!"

The Spiritual Poisonous Insect blinked its eyes.

Yun Jinnian smiled and fed it with her blood, and after consuming four or five drops, the insect stopped eating and prepared to close its eyes to continue sleeping.

Yun Jinnian hurriedly said, "Little thing, can you spit out a bit of essence for me? There's someone here whose life is hanging by a thread and urgently needs to be saved!"

The Spiritual Poisonous Insect didn't really understand, but seeing Yun Jinnian mimic a vomiting gesture, it tilted its head, thought for a moment, and reluctantly spat out a tiny amount.

Yun Jinnian quickly caught it with the silver needle, tenderly stroked the insect's head, and the insect rubbed its head against Yun Jinnian's fingers before closing its eyes to sleep.

Yun Jinnian handed the silver needle to Elder Mu, "Despite being just an insect, it is so endearing. Elder Mu, bring me a piece of Blood Lotus Flower later, I will take it to the palace to feed it!"

"Yes!"

Elder Mu and Elder Tu's medical skills were also not bad; they were capable of rejoining tendons. Yun Jinnian had learned some of the Ghost Gate Thirteen Needles too, but no matter how hard they tried, they couldn't grasp its essence, so it still took Yun Jinnian herself to do it personally.

After sorting out the Spiritual Poisonous Insect, Yun Jinnian washed her hands and the silver needle with strong alcohol. Then she cut into the flesh that was almost healed, found the severed tendon, placed the essence spat out by the insect in the middle, and took extreme care stitching it together with a fine needle threaded with Heavenly Silkworm Thread.

Sweating profusely, Hemei moved forward to wipe Yun Jinnian's brow but Han Tianci was quicker, using a handkerchief to do it.

At that moment, Yun Jinnian couldn't be distracted at all and was completely focused on the task at hand.

The room was silent, fearing any noise might disturb Yun Jinnian.

After a long time.

Yun Jinnian finished the task, cut off the Heavenly Silkworm Thread with small scissors, and stood up. To Rourou, she said, "Let's leave it at that for now. This Heavenly Silkworm Thread is so fine and soft, I don't know if it will become embedded in the tendon. In a few days, I'll cut it open to check. If it has integrated, there's no need to remove it, but if not, it still needs to come out!"

Yun Jinnian finished speaking, feeling her mouth dry and her stomach growling with hunger.

"Hemei, I'm hungry, prepare lunch!"

Everyone paused, then covered their lips and chuckled lightly, yet also with admiration and reverence.

After all, Yun Jinnian was just a thirteen-year-old child.

Han Tianci said with a smile, "I'm hungry too, let's set it up in my courtyard!"

Hemei and Henuan went to help Yun Jinnian freshen up, and someone prepared the meal. By the time Yun Jinnian was done washing up and had changed clothes, a sumptuous meal had already been laid out on the table.

Chapter 598: Clever and Astute

Han Xuzi was not at home, so Han Tianci was the only master in the house, and the servants dared not commit any acts of deceit against their master.

The dishes were delicious and abundant, and Yun Jinnian was not one to fuss over propriety. Han Tianci was also easygoing, so Mo Li, Shuofeng, and Shuoyun were invited to join the meal. Together with Elder Mu, Elder Tu, and Chu Yu, eight people sat around one table, with Yun Jinnian being the only woman.

Shuofeng and Shuoyun had no other intentions and focused on eating their meal.

Although Mo Li's head was bowed, he kept a watchful eye on Yun Jinnian as she picked up the dishes. He thought he was being inconspicuous, but Chu Yu still noticed something.

Inside, he was very displeased.

After the meal, Yun Jinnian discussed the matter of the Emperor's Poisonous Insect with Elder Mu and Elder Tu.

"If this Poisonous Insect truly comes from the Moon Worshiping Sect, then having the blood of the Saintess could indeed cure it without the need for medicine!"

Yun Jinnian was intrigued, but she did not say much.

After taking out the blood of the Emperor and sprinkling some medicine powder on it, the red insect indeed faded a lot in color.

Elder Mu watched, stroking his beard with a worried expression, "Saintess, remember the saying 'The innocent must suffer the consequences of being in possession of precious gems.' Now that your blood has become an elixir, you must not let word of this spread!"

Within the Moon Worshiping Sect, not many knew about this. Only the five Great Elders and the Law Honored One were privy to it. The four Hall Masters knew some, but not necessarily everything.

During the days Yun Jinnian spent in the Moon Worshiping Sect, she consumed the Blood Lotus daily and her body contained the essence of the Spiritual Poisonous Insect. Over the years, without the blood of the Saintess, the insect fed only on the Blood Lotus, making its essence incredibly precious.

At this moment, Yun Jinnian was a walking elixir, her blood being the catalyzing agent for concocting all kinds of antidotes.

She would need even better protection in the future.

It was imperative that Yun Jinnian never be allowed to be alone and become the target of thieves.

Thinking this, Elder Mu planned to consult with Elder Tu and the Law Honored One about intensifying their training during the Twenty-Four Solar Terms to better protect the Saintess!

Yun Jinnian nodded slightly.

After adding a drop of her own blood, the Poisonous Insect in the porcelain cup really did slowly turn white and then, after a few rolls, became water.

"This..." Yun Jinnian exclaimed in surprise.

"The reason why it is a Spiritual Poisonous Insect is that it and all other Poisonous Insects of the Moon Worshiping Sect are born from mutual restraint and support. When they are young, the Poisonous Insects can thrive by drawing from the Spiritual Poisonous Insect, but once the Poisonous Insect enters a human body, if it encounters the Spiritual Poisonous Insect, there is only death. Every Snow Lotus Elixir contains the blood of the Saintess, so it can restrain these Poisonous Insects. Now with the direct addition of the Saintess's blood, the Poisonous Insect cannot survive," Elder Mu explained.

Yun Jinnian let out a breath, "Suddenly, I feel such a great responsibility on my shoulders!"

Elder Mu chuckled, "Saintess, please don't speak like that. You just need to take good care of yourself, and ask for anything you need. Your subordinates will take care of everything for the Saintess. Moreover, everything in the Moon Worshiping Sect belongs to the Saintess, and the Saintess has the right to make any decision!"

Yun Jinnian fell silent for a moment.

She didn't give much thought to whether Elder Mu and the others were good to her just because she was herself, or because of the blood in her body, or perhaps because the Spiritual Poisonous Insect chose her as its master.

The question was complex, and Yun Jinnian decided not to dwell on it.

She was a person who understood gratitude and contentment very well. Having experienced a situation where calling out to heaven brought no help and calling out to earth brought no response, and where, aside from her wet nurse, no one was genuinely kind to her, she would return true feelings with true feelings, as long as the people around her were sincere, no matter what they wanted from her.

A person, if they no longer have any value to be used, is truly useless.

"Yes, I understand," Yun Jinnian said, then remembered something about Han Tianci, "Where is the Law Honored One?"

"The Law Honored One is getting on in years and is not in good health," Elder Mu said, then hesitated.

Yun Jinnian immediately sensed something, "How much longer does the Law Honored One have?"

Chapter 599: Sensible and Obedient

These days Tianci has been working so hard, could it be because the Venerable is not well, hence he's eager to teach Tianci everything he knows?

With this thought, Yun Jinnian suddenly stood up, "I'll go see him!"

Elder Mu and Elder Tu's eyes turned red, "Please, Saintess!"

If the Venerable was in Nanjiang, usually calming his mind and conserving his energy, living another decade or two really wouldn't be a problem, but following us to the Capital City, with the change of environment and the additional worries, it's been difficult for him.

He's quite old now and indeed can't withstand much, which is why he fell ill.

When Yun Jinnian arrived, the Venerable had already taken his medicine and gone to sleep.

Yun Jinnian watched him by the bedside.

When in Nanjiang, despite his age, he had an immortal aura, a ruddy complexion, which made him seem especially kind and harmonious.

The Venerable now looked much thinner, and his complexion was poor.

Yun Jinnian tucked him in and after leaving the room, she said to Elder Mu, "Send the Venerable back to Nanjiang. If he refuses to go, then let Tianci take him back. From now on, Tianci can stay by his side in Nanjiang. Tell him that since I promised to be the Saintess of the Moon-Watching Sect, I will do it wholeheartedly. I, Yun Jinnian, may be a woman, but I know the promise of a gentleman is not to be taken lightly. I hope he will live well, for when I have children in the future, they will still need his guidance!"

After Yun Jinnian finished, her eyes reddened, she raised her hand to wipe the corner of her eyes, but there were no tears.

She quickly left.

Elder Mu and Elder Tu looked at each other and sighed, yet they were sincerely touched.

Yun Jinnian, though young, had a good heart.

She knew gratitude and how to repay it.

Many in the sect were against the Venerable coming to the Capital City, but considering Yun Jinnian was a Saintess who joined halfway and fearing she would neglect the Moon-Watching Sect upon returning to the Capital City, they had to let the Venerable accompany her.

Now that Yun Jinnian had asked for the Venerable to go back and had spoken such words, the sect members would likely be even more devoted in the future.

There were several reasons Yun Jinnian had for sending Tianci to Nanjiang.

First, she hoped Tianci could truly become accomplished. She knew how formidable the Venerable's skills were.

Despite his age, Chu Yu could not last more than a few moves against him, which showed the deep foundation of his martial arts.

If Tianci were to receive his attentive instruction, becoming renowned far and wide would just be a matter of time.

Moreover, the best Blood Lotus was in Nanjiang, and being there, Tianci could consume it every day, which would be extremely good for his health.

The only difficulty was letting go.

Letting go of not being able to see him for a year or even several years.

Yun Jinnian thought about how to talk to Tianci, how to speak to her mother, how to explain to her maternal grandfather.

Han Tianci came running over with a beaming smile, "Sister!"

Seeing that Yun Jinnian's eyes were somewhat reddened, he quickly asked, "Sister, what's wrong? Have you been crying? Who has bullied you? I'll take care of them for you!"

Yun Jinnian smiled and shook her head, "No one has bullied me. Tianci, come here, I have something to tell you!"

Yun Jinnian led Han Tianci to a nearby pavilion and sat down, with Han Tianci looking at her seriously.

So well-behaved and obedient.

"Tianci, do you know the Venerable is not in good health?"

"I know, that's why these days I have been very diligent in my training, and I haven't slacked off!"

Otherwise, he would have already run off to play with his sister.

"Tianci is really good!" Yun Jinnian rubbed Han Tianci's head.

Han Tianci smiled and squinted his eyes, then asked, "Sister, is there something you want me to do?"

"Yes!"

Yun Jinnian did not intend to hide anything from Han Tianci.

"Tell me, sister, I promise to complete the task!" Han Tianci said as he hugged Yun Jinnian's arm and leaned on her shoulder. "Whatever sister wants me to do, I will do it well!"

In fact, he had already guessed some of it.

The Venerable was his master, and naturally, he hoped the old man would live a long life.

After thinking for a while, he said, "Sister, do you want me to escort the master back to Nanjiang and then take care of him in Nanjiang, continue to train in martial arts under him?"

Chapter 600: Tianci is Sensible

Yun Jinnian was taken aback for a moment, then nodded slightly, and spoke softly, "Tianci, your sister can't bear to part with you!"

Just hearing her say she couldn't bear to part with him filled Han Tianci with contentment.

He also knew that going to Nanjiang would be greatly beneficial to him, where he could learn more and make faster progress.

"Hehe, I can't bear to part with sister either!"

It was true, he couldn't bear to part with her. Once he left this time, who knew when he would return, and whether his sister would still remember him when they met again!

Yun Jinnian really couldn't bear it and thought for a moment before saying, "Then I won't go!"

Han Tianci was startled and suddenly burst into laughter, "Sister, how can you also go back on your word!"

He hadn't really wanted to go, but now he was actually eager to leave.

Without parting, there would be no reunion.

Only by parting could they cherish their reunion all the more.

"Sister just can't bear to let you go. This trip back and forth will take half a year, and I don't know when I will see you next. Even if I want to visit you, I might not be able to leave!" Yun Jinnian said while tousling Han Tianci's hair.

"Sister, jade must be carved to become a fine piece. I will become someone great in the future, so I have to work hard and carve myself. Sister, believe in me, I will be your pride in the future. When others talk to you, they will say you have a good brother, the best brother in the world!"

At that time, he would be his sister's pride.

Yun Jinnian was profoundly moved, and she could no longer voice her desire to keep him, "Sister believes in you!"

Believing that he would become the best brother in the world, her pride.

Her support!

"Then I will return to Nanjiang with my master the day after tomorrow. Sister, you must take care of yourself in the Capital City, and whatever happens, make sure to protect yourself first!"

Yun Jinnian nodded.

"And don't marry so quickly, wait for me to come back first!" Han Tianci emphasized once again.

Yun Jinnian couldn't help but laugh and cry, "All right!"

The siblings talked about some other things, all of which were Han Tianci instructing Yun Jinnian to be careful in everything, to take good care of herself, and not to rush into marriage – mainly to guard against Chu Yu.

Now that the Emperor had found a way to detoxify Yun Jinnian, there was no need for her to stay outside the Imperial Palace for long. Before leaving, she visited Chu Xinchun one more time, instructed Mo Li a few words, had a conversation with Chu Yu, and then returned to the palace with Hemei and Henuan.

Han Tianci accompanied Yun Jinnian to the gates of the Han Residence, watching as she got into the carriage, and smilingly waved at her.

Yun Jinnian lifted the carriage curtain and waved back at Han Tianci.

Once Yun Jinnian was far away, Han Tianci turned and went back to his own yard with reddened eyes, lying on his bed, sighing deeply.

Chu Yu entered the bedroom, leaned against the bedpost, and looked at Han Tianci, "What's wrong with you?"

"I'm leaving for Nanjiang the day after tomorrow, and I don't know when I'll return. I'm feeling blocked up inside, and I can't let sister know I don't want to go, sigh..."

"If you don't want to go, then don't go!"

Han Tianci sat up, and said earnestly, "But I don't want to disappoint my sister!"

"Your sister will never be disappointed in you, no matter what you do or what mistakes you make. She is always the sister who loves you the most!"

"So I can't let my sister be disappointed!" Han Tianci said, suddenly feeling reinvigorated.

It's just a trip to Nanjiang, after all. When he came back, he would be a little man of honor.

Chu Yu snickered to himself.

This kid was very clever, fortunate his mind worked so fast.

If he were any slower, and had really kept him from leaving, the one who would suffer would still be himself.

But he had completely failed to realize that Han Tianci had already arranged everything with Yun Jinnian in advance. No matter how Chu Yu flaunted himself, he was just happy for nothing!

Imperial Palace

Weiyang Palace.

When Yun Jinnian returned, the Empress was not there, so she first returned to her side palace.