

King Hall 311

Chapter 311: Then try and play it!

After Mei Yinxue returned the rented truck to the rental company, she and Mu Jinyu went back to the hotel they stayed in when they first arrived in Capital City.

As Mei Yinxue entered the room, she suddenly thought of something and asked, "Hey, didn't you say you'd bring me to hold the fort? Why was there no role for me at all just now?"

Mu Jinyu was stunned for a moment, then replied, "The situation changed. I didn't expect it to be like this tonight; who knew it would be resolved so easily? Aren't you happy that you didn't have to hold the fort?"

"It's okay, I guess."

Mei Yinxue responded nonchalantly.

She thought to herself that she actually wanted to meet Su Zijin since both Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou had met her.

She was the only one who hadn't.

Then, Mei Yinxue asked again, "By the way, it seems like you didn't kill that man. Did you spare his life?"

Mei Yinxue used to be a soft-hearted person, but after going through so much, she had become ruthless. In her view, Shen Cangsheng dared to covet Su Zijin, so he should die; there was absolutely no reason to spare him.

Besides, that guy had a very powerful backing; if he sought revenge, it would probably be even more troublesome than dealing with Huang Qihua and the others.

Mu Jinyu shook her head and said, "I didn't kill him. Although today is an auspicious day for funerals and burials, killing someone in public is still not appropriate. Besides, he's from Dragon King Hall. If I were to

kill him outright, wouldn't it mean my junior brother would have one less general when he takes over Dragon King Hall? It could affect many things in the future."

"Alright," Mei Yinxue conceded reluctantly, then finally advised, "But I still think it's better to kill him to avoid nurturing a threat that could lead to disaster later on."

Mu Jinyu didn't take it seriously and said, "With Ah-Xiang's abilities, she'll definitely keep him subdued. He won't dare to be disobedient, so there's no need to worry."

Seeing this, Mei Yinxue didn't urge further. Thinking of Xiang Mantang, who appeared at Yu Linglong's birthday party, although she had only met her once, she too sensed an intense evil Qi and the smell of blood on Xiang Mantang!

With her capabilities, perhaps she can indeed suppress Shen Cangsheng and prevent him from harboring any ill intentions?

Mei Yinxue murmured to herself.

Then, shaking her head lightly, Mei Yinxue stopped dwelling on these thoughts and said to Mu Jinyu, "Let's go, time to shower and rest."

"Mm," Mu Jinyu responded.

Soon after, both of them bathed, finished their business, and fell asleep in each other's embrace.

...

The next day.

Mu Jinyu got up, finished her morning routine, and had breakfast with Mei Yinxue on the first floor of the hotel. They checked out, ready to leave Capital City and return to River City.

Just as Mu Jinyu and Mei Yinxue stepped out of the hotel and hailed a taxi by the roadside, Mu Jinyu sensed that someone nearby was watching her.

"Someone's tailing us? Heh..."

Mu Jinyu sneered inside, not caring whether it was Shen Cangsheng or someone else, and not bothering to guess.

"Driver, head to the suburbs where there aren't many people," Mu Jinyu casually called out to the taxi driver.

"Alright!"

The taxi driver complied, started the car, and drove towards the suburbs.

Mei Yinxue, sitting beside Mu Jinyu, had a slight frown on her face but didn't ask why Mu Jinyu suddenly changed directions.

She guessed that Mu Jinyu was not heading to the airport but to an uninhabited suburb because someone had their sights on them.

So Mu Jinyu was planning to deal with the pursuer in the suburbs.

Whoever it was shadowing them—Gu Youlan? Zhu Yeqing? Shen Cangsheng? Or someone from Withered Tree Quest for Spring—

Mu Jinyu would not spare them again. She wouldn't generously allow them to keep acting recklessly over and over!

One hour later.

The taxi driver dropped Mu Jinyu and Mei Yinxue off at a deserted area.

"Here we are, young man."

The driver stopped the car and called out to Mu Jinyu.

"Mm."

Mu Jinyu paid the fare, then he and Mei Yinxue got out of the car.

The taxi driver happily counted the money, preparing to drive away, when something occurred to him, and he poked his head out to ask Mu Jinyu, "Young man, do you have some business to take care of here? If it won't be long, I can wait for you. It's pretty hard to find a ride in this place."

Hearing this, a smile spread across Mu Jinyu's face; he thought this uncle was quite kind. He then said, "I'm not sure how long it will take. How about this, you leave me your number, and I'll call you when I'm done. I'll pay for the round trip."

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The driver was happy to hear this and left his number with Mu Jinyu before slowly driving away.

After the taxi had vanished from sight,

the smile on Mu Jinyu's face gradually faded to a cold expression. He turned his head to stare at the silent thicket not far away and said,

"Come out, you've followed me all the way here; it must have been tiring."

"Hehehe, such courage. No wonder that old nun died by your hand!"

Accompanied by a flirtatious laugh, a beautiful Taoist nun holding a dust whisk and wearing a Taoist robe emerged from behind an old tree.

Listening to the beautiful Taoist nun's words, Mu Jinyu instantly understood that she was from Withered Tree Quest for Spring; like the old nun, she had come to snatch the Beauty Pill recipe from his hands!

Mu Jinyu took a close look at the beautiful Taoist nun and noticed quite a few crow's feet around her eyes—she was an old woman, a haggard wife.

If she hadn't taken his Beauty Pills, she likely would be even uglier and wouldn't have had the face to come and see him!

"From Withered Tree Quest for Spring? You want me to hand over the Beauty Pill recipe?"

Mu Jinyu crossed his hands behind his back and looked at the beautiful Taoist nun, speaking softly.

"Oh, you even know about my Withered Tree Quest for Spring. You've got some capability."

The beautiful Taoist nun was slightly surprised to hear what Mu Jinyu said, but then, like ripples returning to calm, she regained her composure and watched him indifferently, saying,

"Since you know about Withered Tree Quest for Spring, then stop struggling. Hand over the Beauty Pill and any other formulas you have that are similar to it. If they are all genuinely effective, my Withered Tree Quest for Spring will not pursue revenge for the one you killed. We will grant you endless glory and wealth!"

Mu Jinyu heard the Taoist nun's words and was momentarily stunned, then he looked at her as one might look at a mentally challenged child, without saying a word.

"What's with that look? You think I don't have the power? You think I'm as useless as that old nun?"

The beautiful Taoist nun was immediately angered by Mu Jinyu's look and shouted at him, her voice becoming quite sharp.

Mu Jinyu shook his head and said, "No, I think you are capable, but... do you think I need the glory and wealth you're offering? I'm living quite comfortably on the Beauty Pills alone; why would I need to seek refuge with you?!"

"Because if you don't, you will die!"

The Taoist nun's voice was sharp as she said, "Anyone who has killed our members has only two paths to choose from."

Mu Jinyu knew that those two paths must surely be life or death. To choose life would mean to submit to them and give them everything they wanted.

Seeing that Mu Jinyu fell silent, the Taoist nun sneered, "So, which path will you take now?"

Mu Jinyu said, "I would like to take a third path!"

"There is no third path!" the Taoist nun angrily declared, "Let me tell you, Mr. Mu, killing you would take but a flick of my finger. Don't delude yourself!"

Mu Jinyu sighed softly and said, "Then give it a flick and see!"

Chapter 312: The Tough Charming Daoist Nun

"Refusing the toast only to be forced to drink the forfeit!"

The Taoist nun, seeing Mu Jinyu's brazen attitude, was instantly furious.

Did this fellow really think that, just because he used a gun to ambush and kill the Old Nun, he could look down on their Withered Tree Quest for Spring?

Now, in the middle of nowhere, even if he still had a gun on him, what could he possibly do to her?

Thus, the Taoist nun cursed angrily and, with a tap of her straw sandals on the ground, she launched herself toward Mu Jinyu like a cannonball bursting from its casing.

Mei Yinxue, who had been standing silently to one side, saw this and sparks of murderous intent shot from her beautiful eyes. She immediately prepared to strike against the Taoist nun!

Mu Jinyu, with hands clasped behind his back, raised one to stop her.

Then, as he watched the Taoist nun charging closer, he gently shook his head and sighed, "Treating diseases costs millions," "saving lives, tens of millions."

As he spoke, the Taoist nun had already lunged forward, her arms, white and tender as lotus roots, fluttering directly toward Mu Jinyu's chest!

Mu Jinyu struck out at the same time, his palms colliding with hers.

"Boom!"

It was like thunder from a clear sky, wind sweeping across, sand and stones dancing wildly, dust filling the air!

"Puh!"

The Taoist nun, midair in the clash of palms with Mu Jinyu, realized her grave mistake.

Although the autopsy of the Old Nun showed she died from a chaotic barrage of bullets, it didn't mean Mu Jinyu lacked the ability to deal with her!

Too late for regrets, with only dismay and reluctance in her eyes, the Taoist nun's ruddy face suddenly turned ashen like gold paper and she spat out a mouthful of blood, before flying backwards.

She knocked down several large trees before finally crashing heavily to the ground.

"Healing is costly, dying comes free!"

It was only then that Mu Jinyu's last words slowly emerged.

"You... you..."

The Taoist nun lay on the ground, her body in severe pain, staring wide-eyed at Mu Jinyu, her eyes filled with reluctance and disbelief.

Mu Jinyu slightly frowned, then shook his arms, complaining to Mei Yinxue at his side: "Ouch, my arm's numb..."

"Puh!"

Hearing Mu Jinyu's words, the Taoist nun, infuriated, spat out another mouthful of blood.

Damn it, she was struck to near incapacitation by his palm, unable to move, and there he was, actually having the nerve to fuss about his numbed arm!

"I'll massage it for you!"

Not sure whether Mu Jinyu was really injured, but seeing him in apparent discomfort, Mei Yinxue quickly started massaging his arm.

"Feeling better? Are you okay?"

As Mei Yinxue massaged Mu Jinyu's arm, she asked with concern.

"Much better, keep going for a bit longer."

Mu Jinyu relaxed and smiled at Mei Yinxue.

Mei Yinxue was not normally tender, and she wouldn't usually be so attentive to him, which made this rare moment something Mu Jinyu, even if his arm wasn't numb anymore, wanted to enjoy Mei Yinxue's caring treatment a bit longer.

The beautiful Taoist nun watched their unabashed public display of affection, trembling with anger, nearly spitting out another mouthful of old blood.

"Damn it, I'm almost paralyzed here, and I haven't even said anything yet. You're just complaining about your numb hand, as if you're some delicate fresh meat, but that's not enough, you still have the nerve to flaunt your love!"

If I could move now, I would jump up and skin and debone you alive!

After Mei Yinxue massaged Mu Jinyu's arms a few times, she realized he seemed completely fine, even enjoying the expression, and she couldn't help but smack him lightly.

"Stop it, get on with serious business and stop teasing me!"

Mu Jinyu, realizing he had been seen through by Mei Yinxue, just laughed, not feeling embarrassed since they were an old couple anyway, then he walked toward the Charming Daoist Nun lying nearby.

The Charming Daoist Nun, seeing Mu Jinyu finally stop flaunting his love, glared at him with full resentment!

But she was too severely injured, her internal organs damaged, and the intense stabbing pain prevented her from cursing him out!

Mu Jinyu approached her, squatted down, and, ignoring the poison in her eyes, frivolously hooked her chin with his hand, asking, "Okay, now can you tell me where the main base of your Withered Tree Quest for Spring is, and how the research on the 'Fountain of Youth' is going?"

If the Taoist nun could speak, she would certainly spit out a thick glob of phlegm onto Mu Jinyu's face, telling him to stop dreaming!

Seeing her stubborn silence, Mu Jinyu frowned, his expression cooling as he spoke, "What, not talking? Are you trying to inflate your own worth or do you think I'll be lenient because I'm tender-hearted towards women?"

Seeing the Charming Daoist Nun still refusing to utter a word, Mu Jinyu's patience completely wore thin, prompting him to swiftly press several of her pressure points.

"Mmh... Ah... Hiss..."

The Charming Daoist Nun initially thought Mu Jinyu was acting out of lust when he reached out to her.

After all, she might be aging, but her skin had become exceptionally charming after taking the Beauty Pill, so it was normal for Mu Jinyu to be tempted.

But she was indifferent about such matters.

She even felt a bit hopeful.

Since her body was old and worn anyway, and Mu Jinyu was handsome, she figured it wouldn't be a loss for her, after all, the young men she often dabbled with were not as handsome or charismatic as he was.

However, when Mu Jinyu withdrew his hand, his gaze icy as a sudden itching and piercing pain exploded inside her like ants biting everywhere, her expression drastically changed.

Her face was as pale as paper, large beads of sweat like peanuts kept emerging and sliding down her forehead, the pain making her unable to resist moaning aloud!

"Hiss... Ah... Mmh... Woo..."

The Charming Daoist Nun felt worse than death itself. Without any strength left in her body originally, she now started rolling on the ground, mustering every bit of energy she could.

Mu Jinyu squatted beside her, watching her agony, his lips curling into a cold smirk as he whispered, "I thought you were tough, remaining silent all this while. I was even ready to subject you to eighteen types of torture, yet you submitted just like that, what a disappointment!"

Hearing Mu Jinyu's words, the Charming Daoist Nun felt like crying but had no tears, furious enough to curse.

God damn it, who was pretending to be tough? Who wanted to stay quiet? If I had had any strength to speak earlier, I would have spat you to death!

"Hiss, hiss, hiss... Ah, ah, ah... I'll talk, I'll talk... Just stop..."

The Charming Daoist Nun used the very last of her strength to say these words.

"You could have confessed earlier instead of forcing me to take action!"

Seeing her finally give in, Mu Jinyu pressed a few more points on the Charming Daoist Nun's body.

Instantly, she felt the excruciating pain that felt like ants devouring her flesh disappear. She collapsed on the muddy ground, her eyes vacant, gasping for air, feeling a certain pleasure from surviving a calamity.

Mu Jinyu watched the Charming Daoist Nun in this state, remembering how stubborn she had been before, thought of some organizations' agents who, when pressed for information during interrogation,

couldn't take it anymore and bit the Poison Capsule hidden in their molar to commit suicide without revealing any secrets.

Mu Jinyu, fearing the Charming Daoist Nun might do the same, promptly ignored the dirty surroundings, pried open her mouth, and began to remove her teeth one by one!

Chapter 313: News of the Spring of Life

After Mu Jinyu had broken all of the Charming Daoist Nun's teeth one by one and inspected them carefully, he didn't find any Poison Capsules hidden, which left him feeling quite frustrated.

"Ah, I dirtied my hands for nothing!"

Mu Jinyu sighed in frustration.

At that moment, the Charming Daoist Nun finally snapped out of her daze!

As soon as she regained her senses, she realized that all her teeth had been broken off by Mu Jinyu, which infuriated her so much that even her nose seemed crooked.

"You... why?!"

The Charming Daoist Nun glared at Mu Jinyu, angrily questioning him.

She felt so wronged; after all, she had already agreed to tell Mu Jinyu everything he wanted to know about the Withered Tree Quest for Spring. Why did he still have to torment her?

Mu Jinyu rubbed his hands on the muddy ground, getting them covered in dirt, to clean off the saliva since there was no water nearby.

Hearing the Charming Daoist Nun's pitiful question, Mu Jinyu didn't feel any embarrassment, and casually said, "Oh, I just thought you were about to preserve the organization's secrets by biting down on a Poison Capsule and committing suicide. To save your life, I had no choice but to break off all your teeth!"

"But... you didn't have... to break... all of them, did you?"

The Charming Daoist Nun spoke haltingly, with blood foam spilling from the corners of her mouth. Even though she was a master who had reached the Completion Stage of Dark Energy, having her teeth broken off still hurt!

Mu Jinyu shrugged and said, "Sorry, I didn't know where you hid the Poison Capsule, and I feared I would be too late if you came to your senses. So, I just pulled them all out. Really sorry, how about..."

As he spoke, Mu Jinyu looked down at the twenty-eight teeth of various sizes on the ground and continued, "I put them back in for you?!"

The Charming Daoist Nun was so angry she spat blood.

She really spat blood.

I can't believe I've ended up dealing with such a jerk.

Regret filled the Charming Daoist Nun's heart. Had she known Mu Jinyu would be this troublesome, she never would have accepted the task in the first place!

Mu Jinyu, seeing his hands were already dirty, shrugged it off and began to pick up a tooth from the ground. With his hands dirty and caked in mud, he was ready to extend them toward the Charming Daoist Nun's mouth!

"Don't! Don't you come over here!!!"

Seeing this, the Charming Daoist Nun's face filled with horror, and she screamed hysterically, filled with fear. Because she spoke too quickly, blood foam splattered everywhere!

Mu Jinyu stopped in his tracks, unwilling to get sprayed with her spit.

He muttered under his breath, "I was just being nice, forget it then. Besides, I have never treated anyone's teeth before; I was actually looking forward to trying!"

Even though the Charming Daoist Nun heard Mu Jinyu muttering, she chose to ignore him. Otherwise, she really would be infuriated to death by him!

Mei Yinxue stood to the side, secretly snickering at the sight, her gaze towards the Charming Daoist Nun full of amusement and mockery.

But there was no sympathy from her, after all, it was all self-inflicted.

Had the Charming Daoist Nun not set her sights on Mu Jinyu, had she not initiated an attack on Mu Jinyu, would he have treated her like this?

If Mu Jinyu and she had no ability to fight back, their fate might have been even more miserable than hers at this moment!

The Charming Daoist Nun was genuinely scared of Mu Jinyu at that moment. She just wanted to tell him everything she knew, but her mouth was in so much pain that she really couldn't speak.

She could only point to her mouth with her hand and make whimpering sounds, indicating that she couldn't talk and asking Mu Jinyu to get her a pen and paper so she could write it down for him.

Mu Jinyu, misinterpreting her gesture as wanting medical treatment, sighed softly, "You're getting off easy."

Then he raised his hand and slapped her mouth twice.

"Smack smack!"

The sound of the slap was crisp and pleasing to the ear.

"Why did you hit me again?"

The Charming Daoist Nun asked, pitifully.

After asking, she suddenly paused.

Hey, my mouth doesn't hurt anymore, and though I'm still drooling blood, my mouth honestly doesn't hurt at all.

The Charming Daoist Nun immediately realized the truth.

Mu Jinyu was able to press a few acupoints on his own body, making life worse than death for himself, and then slap his own face twice to make his mouth stop hurting—it wasn't something he couldn't accept.

"Speak, reveal the location of your Withered Tree Quest for Spring's headquarters, and how far your organization has progressed with the Fountain of Youth..." Mu Jinyu casually asked.

At this moment, the Charming Daoist Nun was terrified of Mu Jinyu, and upon hearing his question, she hurriedly opened her mouth and told Mu Jinyu everything she knew about Withered Tree Quest for Spring.

"On a deserted island overseas, eh? That far? Never mind, I'll find time to wipe out that broken organization some other day!"

Mu Jinyu listened to the Charming Daoist Nun's somewhat leaking words while commenting.

"Ah? Really found the Fountain of Youth? Where is it?"

When Mu Jinyu heard the Charming Daoist Nun mention their progress in searching for the Fountain of Youth in Divine Huaxia Land, he raised an eyebrow and asked eagerly.

If they really found the Fountain of Youth, and he went to get some, then...

Wouldn't the Old Dragon King be saved?

He could extend his life for a while longer!

Mu Jinyu was somewhat excited.

Mm, he wasn't trying to save the Old Dragon King; it was just that the Old Dragon King was too important for Divine Huaxia Land to die. He was saving a life for the expansive land of Shenzhou!

The Charming Daoist Nun was not surprised to see the excited expression on Mu Jinyu's face.

Anyone hearing news of the Fountain of Youth would show such an expression.

In this world, who could live forever without aging? Regardless of your peerless grace, regardless of your wealth rivaling nations, regardless of your overwhelming power, in the end, you can't escape decay and death, ending up as a mere handful of yellow dirt!

That was also the reason for the establishment of the Withered Tree Quest for Spring.

The entire organization was excited for countless days when they first learned of the news about the Fountain of Youth.

And now, to save her own life, the Charming Daoist Nun had no choice but to betray the organization and reveal this priceless information to Mu Jinyu.

"To be precise... It's not quite the Fountain of Youth, it should rather be called... the Spring of Life!"

The Charming Daoist Nun, having lost her teeth, spoke with great difficulty and stuttered out the words.

"The Spring of Life?"

Mu Jinyu heard this and his brows furrowed slightly, feeling a bit disappointed.

But he thought about it and it wasn't too bad. Using the Spring of Life, in conjunction with his Seven-Star Life-continuation Needle, should also allow the Old Dragon King to cling to life for a little longer.

Not daring to say for a decade or more, but at least four or five years, it should be quite certain.

"Where is the Spring of Life?"

Mu Jinyu snapped back to reality and stared into the eyes of the Charming Daoist Nun, speaking in a measured tone.

"In a mountain within Miao Zombie, the precise location is..."

The Charming Daoist Nun, desperate to survive, dared not conceal anything from Mu Jinyu and hurriedly divulged every secret she knew to him.

After listening, Mu Jinyu nodded slightly, his eyes thoughtful, and murmured, "A snake transforming into a flood dragon, the Spring of Life, interesting..."

"I've told you everything I know, you can let me go now, right?"

The Charming Daoist Nun listened to Mu Jinyu's murmur, her heart filled with unease, and whispered to Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu turned his head and glanced at her, saying, "When did I ever say that if you told me everything, I would spare your life?!"

Upon hearing this, the Charming Daoist Nun felt as if she had fallen into an ice cellar.

Mu Jinyu indeed had never said he would spare her life; it was just that she thought, being so obedient, Mu Jinyu would surely let her go.

But it turned out she was wrong.

Mu Jinyu spoke softly, "Had you not given me a choice between two paths, had you not taken the initiative to strike at me, but merely followed me, I might have spared your life. However, you're no match for me, and yet you dared to speak tough and made me move against you again. Why should I spare your life now?"

The Charming Daoist Nun heard the words and was just about to protest that she wasn't being tough.

But Mu Jinyu sent a palm strike her way!

Chapter 314: Wrap Up, Roast Pigeon Tonight!

"Senior Brother, we must seek revenge!"

"I agree, I can't swallow this insult!"

"Senior Brother, you were attacked on your engagement day, beaten like a dead dog, and thrown into a coffin — how can you swallow this insult?!"

"..."

In a room, Shen Cangsheng's two junior brothers, limping and bruised, approached Shen Cangsheng, crying out their plight desperately.

They had been brutally beaten by Mu Jinyu last night, knocked unconscious immediately; after regaining consciousness, they learned the whole story, and felt choked with indignation.

But knowing even Shen Cangsheng was toyed and thrown into a coffin by Mu Jinyu, they realized Mu Jinyu was not someone they could easily retaliate against, so they came to incite Shen Cangsheng.

They urged him to use a messenger pigeon to report this matter to their Sect behind them, to have their martial uncle come from Divine Huaxia Land to kill Mu Jinyu to vent their anger!

After all, they were beaten this badly, and Shen Cangsheng had his face completely lost on the day of his engagement by Mu Jinyu, which truly disgraced their Sect. Once their martial uncles would hear of this, they would definitely step in to handle Mu Jinyu.

Why they didn't use a messenger pigeon to contact the Sect themselves was not because they were unwilling but because they didn't own one!

The messenger pigeons that travel between Kunlun and the Kunlun Ruins are truly exotic spirit birds; ordinary disciples simply cannot possess them, and Shen Cangsheng wouldn't have one either if he were not holding a high position in the Dragon King Hall.

Thus, if they wanted their Sect behind to teach Mu Jinyu a lesson, only Shen Cangsheng could help.

Listening to their complaints, Shen Cangsheng also felt very irritated.

He initially really did not want to tell their Sect behind, as it was too embarrassing.

However, after repeated persuasion by his two junior brothers, Shen Cangsheng's mindset also began to waver.

He knew that with his skills alone, he probably couldn't take care of Mu Jinyu; if he wanted revenge, he could only rely on the Sect.

But...

If he were to inform their Sect of this incident, making a joke of himself, he probably would no longer have a chance at high positions within the Sect.

"Senior Brother, are you afraid that if the Sect knows, they will think you mishandled things and be disappointed in you, leaving you no role in the Inner Gate in the future?"

"Actually, you needn't worry too much. With your cultivation, no matter how hard you try, you really can't reach the core circle of the Sect..."

Hearing what one of his junior brothers said, Shen Cangsheng felt a dull pain in his chest.

That hits home, old iron, although I know it's quite difficult to get a chance in the Inner Gate, you didn't have to be so cruel, right?

"Yes, like us disciples, we can pretty much only ever serve as stewards of the Outer Gate; the Inner Gate is irrelevant to us. Senior Brother, you're luckier; at least you managed to get into Dragon King Hall, where you are a dignified person in the Outer Gate..."

"Senior Brother..."

"..."

Shen Cangsheng, unable to bear it any longer, waved his hand and said, "Alright, alright, stop talking. I will send a message to the Sect now. As for whether the martial uncles will come out to avenge us after knowing, I'm not sure."

Hearing this, his two junior brothers were overjoyed and eagerly said, "Senior Brother, it's good that you're willing to step forward. Whether or not the martial uncles will come out to avenge us afterward is up to fate."

"Yes, senior brother, this is a token of my appreciation, please make sure to accept it..."

The other junior brother said as he took out a handful of crystalline Jade Sand from his pocket, which was clear and emitted a comfortable warm air.

"This, this..." Seeing this, Shen Cangsheng showed a hint of surprise, then feigned difficulty and declined, "This Spirit Sand is too precious, I should probably not..."

"Senior Brother, please take it. If it weren't for your willingness to help, we would probably have no hope of taking revenge. This bit of Spirit Sand is just a small token, not enough as a sign of respect; please accept it!"

Seeing this, the other junior brother also took out his share of Spirit Sand, a trace of pain crossing his eyes, then he too handed it to Shen Cangsheng.

After some refusal, Shen Cangsheng eventually showed a difficult expression and accepted it.

The previously suppressed feeling in his heart from having to inform the Sect about his embarrassing engagement day had now turned around, and his heart was rejoicing.

This Spirit Sand was a wonderful item for cultivation, containing small amounts of Spiritual Energy; it could save martial artists a vast amount of time, allowing them to transition from martial practice to the Embracing Elixir Soul Realm.

Although not comparable to complete Spirit Stones, Spirit Crystals, or Spirit Jade, it was sufficient enough for Martial Artists below the Nascent Soul Realm.

In his sect, Shen Cangsheng couldn't obtain much Spirit Sand in a year, and now the two junior brothers had given him what amounted to their supplies for half a year, how could he not be surprised?

The two junior brothers watched as Shen Cangsheng put the large handful of Spirit Sand into his pouch, a trace of reluctance and pain flashing in their eyes.

But there was no other choice, who could blame them for not being able to notify their sect behind them and find an excuse to have their sect seek revenge on their behalf?

And to have Shen Cangsheng help, they couldn't afford to let him lose face in his sect a second time, could they? If they didn't offer compensation, would he help them again?

If they didn't manage such basic human relations, they would have wasted over a decade in the Outer Gate.

Thinking this way, their eyes began to gleam with a resentful light as they muttered in their hearts, "Mu Jinyu, Su Zijin, you despicable ones, making us embarrass ourselves and get hurt, we will not let you off!"

Afterward, Shen Cangsheng stored the Spirit Sand and whistled.

After a short time.

A white figure like Silver Lightning streaked through the air and then flew into the room they were in.

It landed on the table in Shen Cangsheng's room.

They looked intently and saw it was a pigeon, the size of a hawk or falcon, except its claws and sharp beak were too keen, gleaming with a cold light, making it clear at a glance that this was no ordinary pigeon.

This was a Messenger pigeon used by their sect, an Exotic Spirit Bird with innate Divine Power, capable of fighting hawks and tearing pythons apart.

Otherwise, it wouldn't be able to traverse the Kunlun Ruins and deliver letters to the various sects!

"Bring me paper and pen, I am writing a letter!"

Shen Cangsheng's face was bruised and swollen, having been smashed against the ground several times with Mu Jinyu handling him like a mallet yesterday, rendered unconscious before finally being thrown

into a coffin, he was extremely weak at the moment, so even a simple act of getting paper and pen required him to instruct his two junior brothers.

The two junior brothers quickly brought paper and pen to Shen Cangsheng, who lifted his arm to receive them but trembled slightly, then he began to write on the paper.

Soon, after writing about the previous day's events and how Mu Jinyu threatened his position in Dragon King Hall, he rolled up the paper and stuffed it into the message cylinder tied to the pigeon's leg.

"Go, return quickly to Kunlun Ruins!"

Shen Cangsheng closed the message cylinder and then gently patted the pigeon's feathers, whispering softly.

"Coo!"

The pigeon cried out once, then flapped its wings, transformed into Silver Lightning, and flew out of the room in an instant, soaring into the sky and vanishing from their sight in the blink of an eye.

"Alright, you can leave now, I need to rest," Shen Cangsheng said as he watched the pigeon leave, then turned back to the two junior brothers.

"Yes, senior brother."

"Senior brother, rest well."

Seeing the task was accomplished, the two junior brothers didn't disturb Shen Cangsheng any further and respectfully left.

The pigeon was very fast, soon flying out of Capital City, toward the direction of Kunlun.

At that moment.

"Bang!"

A gunshot sounded.

The pigeon was pierced through by a bullet, spraying blood as it fell lifeless.

After it hit the ground, it twitched slightly for a few moments before lying still.

Shortly after, Xiang Mantang arrived carrying a sniper rifle, picked up the enormous white pigeon, and turned back to his men with a smile, "Pack up; we're having roast pigeon tonight!"

Chapter 315: Coquettish Women Have the Best Lives

Shen Cangsheng's schemes and Xiang Mantang's hunting were completely unknown to Mu Jinyu at this time.

After he killed the Charming Daoist Nun with one palm strike, he took a small porcelain bottle containing medicine powder out of his pocket.

Then, removing the stopper, he gently poured its contents onto the bloodstain at the corner of the Daoist nun's mouth.

Soon, the medicine powder contacting the bloodstain at the nun's mouth sizzled audibly.

Subsequently, the nun's mortal shell dissolved into a puddle of yellow fluid at a visible rate, melting away before him and Mei Yinxue.

"This..."

Mei Yinxue, seeing this scene, involuntarily narrowed her pupils slightly before turning to Mu Jinyu to ask, "Is this, by any chance, the legendary Corpse-Dissolving Powder?"

"Yes," Mu Jinyu nodded with a touch of pride in his voice. "This is something I concocted myself out of boredom on Yinlong Mountain. It's made from various snake venoms, insect poisons, and medicinal herbs. It does not harm intact skin, but upon contact with blood, it will corrode the body into blood-stained yellow fluid."

"It could be said to be an essential medicine for home travel and getting rid of bodies."

Of course, Mu Jinyu's last remark was a joke; normally, he wouldn't carry such medicine around when out for fun. This trip to the Capital City was an exception, specifically brought in case Shen Cangsheng became troublesome, intending to send him off with it.

However, Shen Cangsheng had been quite obedient yesterday, and after lying down in the coffin, he did not cause any more trouble, so Mu Jinyu did not need to poison him after all.

"This thing is really not bad; can you give me some?" Mei Yinxue, hearing Mu Jinyu's explanation, brightened up and then tentatively asked.

Mu Jinyu hesitated, saying, "If you don't use it for unforgivable, conscience-violating deeds ... giving you some wouldn't be a problem... but you must promise!"

Mei Yinxue, upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, gave him a severe glare and complained, "You mean to say you began avoiding me like a viper from the moment we first met, thinking I was a black widow?"

Speaking this, Mei Yinxue's tone grew heavier as she said solemnly, "Although I, Mei Yinxue, have killed people, they all deserved it. I always act in good conscience and never have innocent blood on my hands!"

"Hmm, I believe you, don't snap at me."

Mu Jinyu, seeing Mei Yinxue like this, gave a wry smile and hurriedly stuffed the porcelain bottle into her hands, embraced her slender waist reassuringly, and said.

"I wasn't snapping!" Mei Yinxue's tone softened considerably, albeit still a bit stiff, "I'm just a little hurt. After being with you for so long, you still treat me as if I were a thief."

"I wasn't guarding against you, just reminding you to be careful. Don't think too much about it." Mu Jinyu felt somewhat headache-prone.

Even a mature and composed woman like Mei Yinxue, who wouldn't fight or compete with others in everyday situations, could sometimes become somewhat quarrelsome and irrational.

It wasn't without reason though; sometimes she felt slighted, other times she might use it as an opportunity to seek affection, as her usual demeanor seldom permitted such chances. This was the time to make the most of the situation to side with her.

Mu Jinyu gently coaxed Mei Yinxue for a long time until she finally ceased her petulant mood.

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu breathed a sigh of relief and wiped off his sweat.

He felt that Mei Yinxue, who was usually calm and quiet, was much fiercer when she did throw a tantrum than Gu Xiyan, who frequently quarreled with him.

"Alright, let's go back."

Mu Jinyu glanced at the still slightly damp yellow soil on the ground and smiled at Mei Yinxue.

"Okay." Mei Yinxue nodded lightly, then handed the small porcelain bottle back to Mu Jinyu and said, "Here, take it back."

Mu Jinyu made a bitter face and asked, "What's wrong now?"

Mei Yinxue said indifferently, "I just wanted to play with it at first, but since you're so worried about me, I'll give it back to you."

Mu Jinyu sighed deeply and raised his hand to his forehead.

He truly regretted it.

If he had known that a single word could make Mei Yinxue so distressed, he wouldn't have said it just now, no, he should never have taken out the corpse-dissolving powder in the first place!

Mei Yinxue's tone remained calm as she spoke, "Don't worry, I'm not being petty, and I'm not the type who likes to hold grudges. To be honest, I did feel quite upset just now and might have lost my composure, but you shouldn't take it to heart."

"I've thought it over again and I really have no use for this corpse-dissolving powder. There's no need to make a fuss over it and let it upset our relationship, so please take it back."

Mei Yinxue's tone remained calm and candid, she chose not to keep it bottled up, avoiding planting a thorn in both of their hearts.

She certainly wasn't going to act like a little girl, constantly fussing and using it as an opportunity to extensively exploit her boyfriend by striking various unequal deals. An occasional incident like this was innocuous, but continuously acting this way would tire anyone out.

She had no intention of leaving Mu Jinyu, naturally, she wouldn't do such a foolish thing.

Today, Mu Jinyu came to realize that she too could lose her temper; having discussed it openly was enough.

Mu Jinyu stared at the calm expression on Mei Yinxue's face, extremely worried that she might be testing him. He carefully asked, "Really?"

"Really," Mei Yinxue nodded.

"You're not lying to me?" Mu Jinyu asked with a wary look, tentatively reaching for the little porcelain bottle of corpse-dissolving powder in Mei Yinxue's hand.

Seeing Mu Jinyu's cautious facial expression and actions, Mei Yinxue felt somewhat caught between laughter and tears. The calm expression on her face finally disappeared with a slight rise of her lips, like the thawing of winter plum blossoms.

"I'm not lying to you."

Mu Jinyu touched Mei Yinxue's delicate hand and obtained the small porcelain bottle from her. Seeing her smile, the weight in his heart also lifted. He did not let go of her hand and smilingly said, "Pinky promise?"

Mei Yinxue glanced at the gesture of Mu Jinyu's hand, rolling her eyes with a bit of irritation, initially wanting to say something like Are you being childish?

But then she reconsidered, realizing that Mu Jinyu was only eighteen years old after all. How could she expect him to be more mature?

She relented with a smile and said, "Promise."

The two made a pinky promise that if Mei Yinxue were to lose her temper again, she couldn't use this incident to blame him.

Listening to Mu Jinyu's words, Mei Yinxue felt somewhat amused inside.

If she hadn't been upset over this minor matter today with Mu Jinyu, perhaps his attitude would never have changed, and he wouldn't have realized that she, too, was a little woman with a temper.

Thus treating her merely as a convenience, coming and going as he pleased.

Perhaps when Mei Yinxue initially decided to be with Mu Jinyu, it was merely out of utilitarian motives, but as they spent more time together and got to know each other better, feelings developed beyond utilitarian purposes, and she naturally got a bit greedy.

Not willing to remain invisible and be constantly marginalized by Mu Jinyu, letting him devote most of his time to Gu Xiyan and the others.

After all, Wen Rou and Gu Xiyan got along very well. Why couldn't she?

It seems, being a coquettish woman... really is the best life.

Chapter 316: The Small Porcelain Bottle

Seeing that Mei Yinxue's previous words really contained no hidden malice, Mu Jinyu's heart finally returned to its original place.

Afterward, Mu Jinyu thought of Gu Xiyan, who often got into a huff with him over trivial matters.

Of course, on major issues, Gu Xiyan always knew what was important and didn't get into arguments with him.

But when it came to some petty matters, Mu Jinyu couldn't even count how many times he had quarreled with her. Sometimes, he truly felt quite exhausted.

Compared to that, well, it highlighted the empathetic nature of the mature older sister, Mei Yinxue.

Of course, that didn't mean he would give up on Gu Xiyan and break up with her to spend his days only with Mei Yinxue and Wen Rou.

In his life, he would probably never forget the day Su Zijin suddenly appeared, disrupting the peace of his life and stirring the calm waters of his heart, and the lowest point of his mood was when Gu Xiyan was silently by his side.

Therefore, unless Gu Xiyan herself wanted to leave him, he would not let go.

The simple life still had to go on; the bickering and squabbling added flavor to the calmness of life.

As Mu Jinyu thought this, he shook his head gently and said to Mei Yinxue, "Alright, let's get ready to go back."

"Hmm," Mei Yinxue nodded.

Mu Jinyu then took out his phone and called the taxi driver from earlier.

After waiting a while, the taxi turned around and came back.

It had only been about ten or so minutes since he had left this place.

Mu Jinyu had defeated the Charming Daoist Nun in just a few minutes, but it took him quite a bit of time to break off her teeth.

"You're done so quickly? I was still making rounds nearby, thinking of picking up another fare in the meantime," the taxi driver commented as he rolled down the window, giving Mu Jinyu a wink and a weird smile.

He then glanced at the puddle of yellow fluid beside them, which had soaked the ground with moisture from the death of the Charming Daoist Nun.

Mu Jinyu, who wasn't very active online and was somewhat naive, didn't understand the strangeness of the old driver's smile; he just felt it was a bit weird, without giving it much thought.

Mei Yinxue, however, was different since she was a 25-year-old woman and naturally understood what the old driver was thinking. She couldn't help but cast a disgusted glance at him.

But she didn't bother to explain.

What could she explain?

Tell the old driver that, actually, it was left by a dead person?

That would scare him to death.

Therefore, Mei Yinxue felt that they could only take the blame for being "young people who played quite wildly."

The rest of the journey was silent.

After the old driver dropped them off at the airport, he watched Mu Jinyu and his companion leave, and exclaimed, "Youth is great, eh? Came to the Capital City to travel, and even though they are leaving, they will still leave marks on this yellow soil here."

...

Taking the airplane took more than six hours.

Mu Jinyu and Mei Yinxue finally returned to River City.

Initially, upon learning the whereabouts of the "Spring of Life," Mu Jinyu was somewhat excited and planned to change his route and head directly to the Miao Zombie region.

But after calming down, he thought it was still quite dangerous there; otherwise, the Withered Tree Quest for Spring people wouldn't have taken more than a week to seize it after discovering the Spring of Life.

So it is still better for me to return to River City first and make more preparations.

After all, Mei Yinxue may be strong, but it's too dangerous for her to go with me.

Mu Jinyu didn't want to risk her safety.

After leaving the airport, he got into the car driven by one of Mei Yinxue's subordinates. Mei Yinxue asked, "When do you plan to go to Miao Zombie?"

Although Mu Jinyu hadn't mentioned seeking the Spring of Life, Mei Yinxue could understand his thoughts; he was definitely tempted and would set out for it.

And because he didn't want to risk her safety, he restrained himself and returned to River City first.

Of course, it was also good to have more time for preparation, to bring tools, weapons, and such, so that when the time came to confront the thousand-year-old Great Python that was nearly a Flood Dragon, there would be a better chance of success.

That's why Mei Yinxue didn't persuade Mu Jinyu to head directly to Miao Zombie.

Seeing he couldn't keep it a secret from Mei Yinxue, Mu Jinyu said, "Let's go tomorrow, but you don't need to come."

"What, you look down on me? Think I'll hold you back?" Mei Yinxue frowned upon hearing this, her willowy eyebrows inverted, showing signs of an impending outburst.

Mu Jinyu shook his head; no matter how much Mei Yinxue made a fuss, he couldn't let her come with him, and said, "It's not that I look down on you, but there's no need. If you were to get hurt, I would regret it to death."

Although she knew Mu Jinyu was making excuses, she also knew that he truly cared for her, which made Mei Yinxue feel appreciated.

However, she was also worried about letting Mu Jinyu go alone, so after a moment's thought, she said, "If you're worried about me going with you, then I can send a few brothers to go with you. Wouldn't that be alright?"

Mu Jinyu thought about it and guessed that Mei Yinxue would be uneasy if he went alone, so he nodded and said, "Okay, then bring a few people along."

After that, Mu Jinyu had dinner with Mei Yinxue and then had her take him to Donghui Mansion.

As he watched Mei Yinxue leave, Mu Jinyu turned around and headed into Donghui Mansion.

He intended to ask Xiang Mantang to arrange for him to bring a few handy weapons to Miao Zombie when he attempted to seize the Spring of Life.

After all, it's not easy to transport controlled blades, and though Mei Yinxue could send them to Miao Zombie, it would take some time.

And he couldn't afford to waste much time in seizing the Spring of Life; going today without preparation would mean fewer chances to fight the thousand-year python.

If he delayed a few more days, the people from Withered Tree Quest for Spring might succeed.

And since Mei Yinxue couldn't immediately send weapons to Miao Zombie, the identity of Xiang Mantang was different; it would be easy for them to deliver weapons directly to Miao Zombie.

So he came to seek help from Xiang Mantang.

...

Mei Yinxue had her subordinate drive her back. Sitting in the back seat, her brows were slightly furrowed, worried about Mu Jinyu's journey to Miao Zombie.

After all, if such a large organization as Withered Tree Quest for Spring couldn't subdue the Flood Dragon in a short time, it showed how ferocious it was.

Mu Jinyu wouldn't let her accompany him, and she couldn't argue with him, so she could only think to arrange for a few of her best brothers from Snow Hidden Association, such as Wang Zhengbiao, to accompany Mu Jinyu.

Then, Mei Yinxue made a call, instructing Wang Zhengbiao and the other Four Heavenly Kings to hand over their current duties to others and to come over tomorrow.

After the call, Mei Yinxue felt slightly relieved and then put her phone back in her pocket.

At that moment, she felt something in her pocket.

Frowning slightly, she pulled it out and saw a very familiar small porcelain bottle.

It was the bottle with Corpse-dissolving Powder that belonged to Mu Jinyu.

Mei Yinxue's expression froze for a moment, then her brows smoothed out, and a faint smile curved at the corners of her mouth.

Chapter 317: Snatching Meat to Eat

Mu Jinyu arrived at Number One Villa in Donghui Mansion and followed Liu Mei into the back garden, where he saw Xiang Mantang roasting some chickens skewered on iron sticks.

"Is this roast chicken? Why does it look a bit odd?"

Mu Jinyu walked over, his nostrils quivered lightly a few times, sniffing the fragrant aroma that made his mouth water.

"It's not roast chicken, it's roast dove," Xiang Mantang said as he gently rotated the iron skewers, dabbing a seasoning-laden brush on the roast dove to give it a glossy golden brown appearance.

"Roast dove? This big? What kind of dove is this?"

Upon hearing this, Mu Jinyu took a closer look at the roast dove on the grill, noticing from its beak, claws, and wings that it was indeed not a chicken.

However, it didn't look like a hen either, more like a bird of prey such as a hawk or a falcon.

"This is a Spirit Bird, naturally larger. You probably haven't tasted it on Yinlong Mountain. I've only had it once or twice myself. Today, you can give it a try. I guarantee you'll want to swallow your fingers along with it," Xiang Mantang said without specifically telling Mu Jinyu that the Spirit Dove belonged to Shen Cangsheng, pretending it was just naturally hunted.

"Alright, then I must give it a try."

At his words, Mu Jinyu licked his lips, feeling hungry again.

Although he had just eaten with Mei Yinxue, he felt that he could still eat more.

Mu Jinyu wasn't in a hurry to discuss serious matters with Xiang Mantang. Instead, he sat beside him, helping to roast the dove, applying more sauce to cook it.

Suddenly, after about ten minutes.

"There, give it a try."

Xiang Mantang took the roast dove off the grill. Unconcerned about the heat, he tore off a juicy, tender leg and a wing from the dove and handed them to Mu Jinyu.

Another leg and wing were handed to Liu Mei, who was standing beside them.

Then, he held up the rest of the roast dove and began to savor it hungrily.

"Wow, aren't you stingy, giving me just a leg and a wing?"

As Mu Jinyu took the roast dove leg, he saw Xiang Mantang's actions, widened his eyes, and exclaimed exaggeratedly.

"It's too delicious to resist," Xiang Mantang replied, stopping his biting, looking up at Mu Jinyu with his mouth still smeared with plenty of grease and sauce, and spoke while chewing.

"I was actually planning to give the roast legs and wings to Liu Mei. Seeing you come by, I just split half with you. Be content with just a taste," Xiang Mantang added.

Mu Jinyu immediately retorted, "So, the roast leg and wing in my hands were snatched from Sister Mei? Ah-Xiang, you're really shameless! You don't part with your own portion but diverge someone else's to me."

With that, Mu Jinyu shook his head in disappointment, then passed the roast dove leg and wing to a chuckling Liu Mei, saying, "Here, Sister Mei, back to you."

Although Mu Jinyu found the roast dove extremely tempting, making him drool, he thought better of it if it was snatched from someone else. He had just eaten, after all, and wasn't starving.

"Young Master Mu, please don't be polite. Commander Xiang is just joking with you. I can't eat too much of the Spirit Dove's meat anyway. I was only going to eat this little bit," Liu Mei hurriedly said with a smile.

"Oh, is that so? Then I'll try it as well."

Mu Jinyu knew that some Spirit Beasts' meat shouldn't be consumed too much by ordinary people as they couldn't handle the potency, similar to the Hundred-year-old ginseng and Thousand-year Ginseng. A small piece could be nourishing and even save lives in critical times, but eating an entire Thousand-year Ginseng like a radish might . . . well, likely lead to bursting on the spot!

So, hearing Liu Mei say this, Mu Jinyu couldn't very well stuff the roast dove leg into her mouth forcefully, could he?

I could only taste it myself then, to see just how nourishing the Spirit Dove is.

While Mu Jinyu and Liu Mei were chatting, Xiang Mantang had already devoured the whole roast dove, discarded the skeleton, and was now staring greedily at the roast dove leg in Mu Jinyu's hand, his eyes shimmering.

Upon noticing this, Mu Jinyu glared at him, hurriedly took several savage bites from the dove leg—are you still thinking about it?

Hmm? The taste was really quite good, the meat was fresh, tender, and smooth, seasoned with Xiang Mantang's special spices and sauce. As soon as it entered his mouth, the rich and fragrant aroma of the roasted meat exploded on his taste buds, filling his entire mouth.

Of course, what was more important was that after swallowing the roast dove meat, Mu Jinyu immediately felt traces of spiritual energy flowing within his body.

The effect was surprisingly not inferior to the Thousand-year Ginseng he had once received from Mei Yinxue, only slightly less potent, equivalent to about eight hundred years of Wild mountain ginseng.

Mu Jinyu's eyes lit up, and he immediately began to relish the leg and wing in his hands.

It was gone in no time.

Afterward, he discarded the bones in his hand, licked the oil and sauce at the corners of his mouth, his expression somewhat reluctant to end.

"Tsk tsk, no wonder you, Ah-Xiang, are so stingy!"

Mu Jinyu pulled out a few tissues to wipe his hands, and complained to Xiang Mantang.

"Sigh, if it were a bit less delicious, like the taste of that internal Healing Medicine you give me, of course I wouldn't mind being more generous, giving it all to you wouldn't be impossible."

Xiang Mantang said languidly.

Mu Jinyu had given Xiang Mantang many Healing Medicines, among them, the ones applied externally naturally made him suffer excruciating pain, while the ones taken orally were both bitter and numbing, worse than any traditional Chinese medicine broth.

Every time it was unavoidable to take this Healing Medicine, Xiang Mantang felt utterly desperate, having nearly vomited after ingesting it.

"Haha..." Mu Jinyu responded with a laugh, shifting the conversation, "Where can I buy this roast dove? I'd like to buy a few."

Xiang Mantang shook his head, "You can't buy it, this kind of Spirit Bird is only available in Kunlun Ruins, not in the outside world. This roasted dove was sent by a fool, probably won't be so lucky to taste this wild flavor again."

Luckily, Shen Cangsheng wasn't present at the scene; otherwise, hearing Xiang Mantang's words, he might have died of rage.

Damn it, roasting his Spirit Dove, hindering him from contacting his sect in Kunlun Ruins, and still calling him a fool, this is truly unreasonable!

However, at this moment, Shen Cangsheng was unaware that his Spirit Dove had nobly sacrificed itself, now sitting inside the digestive temple of Jinyu Mansion. He was still naively waiting for his sect's uncle to receive the message and come to avenge him.

It would probably take some time before he realized the Spirit Dove had been sacrificed.

"I see? Looks like I'll need to visit Kunlun Ruins when I have the chance, see if I can hunt some birds to taste."

Upon hearing this, Mu Jinyu felt slightly disappointed.

"By the way, elder brother, did you come to find me for something?"

At this point, Xiang Mantang, who initially intended to cook selectively, recalled his original purpose. Curious because Mu Jinyu had suddenly come over, sharing his leg and wing, he asked.

"Well, there is something I need your help with, it's like this..."

Remembering the serious matter, Mu Jinyu straightened his face, no longer joking around, and began explaining to Xiang Mantang with gestures.

After listening to Mu Jinyu's words, Xiang Mantang raised an eyebrow and said, "The Spring of Life, Thousand-year-old flood dragon? Interesting, do you want your junior brother to go with you?"

"No need, I guess you're quite busy, it's a small matter so I won't trouble you," Mu Jinyu shook his head.

Xiang Mantang gave Mu Jinyu a skeptical look, "Are you afraid I'll compete with you for the snake meat?"

Chapter 318 - Capital City Affairs

He stayed at Xiang Mantang for the afternoon.

Mu Jinyu politely declined Xiang Mantang's dinner invitation at around five o'clock, and made his way straight home.

As for the weapons and tools he requested, Xiang Mantang had already agreed to deliver them tomorrow to a village outside the Miao Zombie Hundred Thousand Great Mountains.

By the time Mu Jinyu got home, both Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou had also arrived.

Wen Rou was preparing dinner, and Gu Xiyan was helping out.

Gu Xiyan, who once had never soiled her ten fingers with mundane chores, began to attempt doing some household tasks after living with them for a while. After cooking a meal for Mu Jinyu that moved him to tears, her interest in cooking grew even more intense.

Of course, her culinary skills still left much to be desired. Out of ten dishes, usually only two or three were edible. Mu Jinyu complained about her wasting ingredients, so for the time being, she assisted Wen Rou instead.

"You're back? Did you have fun in the Capital City with Sister Mei these past few days? What did you do?"

Upon seeing Mu Jinyu return, and noticing that Wen Rou's dishes were almost ready, Gu Xiyan washed her hands and after drying them, she walked out of the kitchen and asked Mu Jinyu in a casual manner.

"We didn't play. I was taking care of business." Mu Jinyu felt a bit of a headache but what he did in the Capital City, although indeed business, was not something he felt comfortable sharing with Gu Xiyan and the others.

It made him look like he was sneaking around with Mei Yinxue on a secret honeymoon.

Seeing Mu Jinyu like this, Gu Xiyan gave him a sideways glance, choosing to accept that he had legitimate business, then said, "Dinner's ready. Go wash your hands and come eat."

"Mm." Mu Jinyu washed his hands and then went to the dining room to eat.

After finishing the meal, Mu Jinyu said to Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou, "I'm planning to make a trip to Miao Zombie tomorrow."

"Going out again?" Upon hearing this, Gu Xiyan frowned slightly, her tone tinged with dissatisfaction.

Lately, they had seen each other only sporadically. Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou had been away on business, and afterwards, it was often Mu Jinyu going off with Mei Yinxue for unknown reasons.

Gu Xiyan naturally felt discontent upon learning that Mu Jinyu had just returned home and was about to leave again.

She felt like one of those foolish women who work hard to earn money, only to have their husbands spend it on a mistress.

Mu Jinyu understood the complaints in Gu Xiyan's heart and said apologetically, "I'm sorry, I've indeed spent little time with you lately, but it's not a holiday for me, there's something important I must do."

"What important thing? Making money? But haven't we already made enough? Isn't this unnecessary?" Gu Xiyan's brows relaxed slightly as she asked with a slight furrow.

Jinyu Company was now on the right track and not as busy as before. Gu Xiyan herself even considered stepping back from the company and handing over the reins to Yu Linglong, Xu Qingya, and Lin Qiaoxia.

Then she could travel with Mu Jinyu to enjoy the great sceneries. Once they had their fill of adventure, they could return to River City, get married, have children, and she would take care of the family.

Therefore, Gu Xiyan felt there was no need for Mu Jinyu to live such a tiresome life, always on the go, just for the sake of money.

"It's not about making money. Money, to me, has long ceased to be that important," Mu Jinyu said, shaking his head gently, "There are many things in this world that are far more precious than money."

Indeed, there were many things money couldn't buy, a sentiment Xu Tianzheng probably understood well.

The Old Dragon King felt the same way now.

"Is that so?" Gu Xiyan's eyes softened with a touch of resignation upon hearing what Mu Jinyu said.

She then suddenly had a thought, analyzing the situation based on Mu Jinyu's words.

If Mu Jinyu's trip to the Capital City with Mei Yinxue wasn't for a honeymoon, and it wasn't for money, then what could it be for?

Who did he know in the Capital City?

It seems...

It was Su Zijin, right!

It must be that Su Zijin had some issues, which is why Mu Jinyu took Mei Yinxue there.

And thinking back to Yu Linglong's birthday, when Mu Jinyu suddenly had a bit of a tiff with Xiang Mantang...

It must be because Xiang Mantang brought back some news about Su Zijin from the Capital City, which caused the disagreement between them.

Gu Xiyan thought of this and immediately wanted to blame Mu Jinyu. If something had happened to Su Zijin, why keep it a secret from her and Wen Rou, but favor Mei Yinxue instead?

But then, she remembered that Mu Jinyu had mentioned on that day that he took Mei Yinxue to 'hold the fort', as bringing them along wouldn't be suitable for the energy of the place...

Thinking this way, Gu Xiyan figured there probably was no life-threatening danger to Su Zijin and she breathed a sigh of relief.

Later she speculated that it might be possible that mother and son could recognize each other, but hadn't yet, and Mu Jinyu, being thin-skinned, just kept hemming and hawing when faced with her questions, reluctant to elaborate.

She had been harboring a bit of jealousy towards Mei Yinxue, thinking that they had gone on a honeymoon, but hadn't considered this possibility.

And what is he going to do in Miao Zombie tomorrow, all by himself?

Without more clues, Gu Xiyan couldn't figure it out, and she guessed that even if she asked Mu Jinyu, he probably wouldn't say much.

However, knowing that Mu Jinyu was indeed going to handle important matters, not just to have fun, Gu Xiyan couldn't be bothered to think too much about it.

After all, things would certainly become clear in time.

Having come to a realization, Gu Xiyan completely relaxed her frown and her tone softened a lot, "Alright, since you are going to Miao Zombie tomorrow, I will sleep with Wen Rou tonight and not accompany you."

Gu Xiyan hadn't had intimate times with Mu Jinyu for a while, and she actually quite wanted to be with him, but was afraid it would delay him, so she thought he should rest up and gather strength.

Upon hearing this, Mu Jinyu, "???"

He hadn't even gone to explain to Mei Yinxue after coming back today because he felt that he hadn't spent much time with Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou lately. He was planning to have a good time with them tonight before he needed to leave for a brief trip to Miao Zombie tomorrow.

But now Gu Xiyan wasn't coming?

"No, don't do that," Mu Jinyu rushed to say, "Even if you are worried it'll tire you, and you don't want to do it, I'd still be happy just holding you in sleep! I can't fall asleep on my own now."

Gu Xiyan glanced at Mu Jinyu, unimpressed by his words.

She wanted to retort, who was afraid of getting tired?

But then she remembered the day she challenged Mu Jinyu, declaring to see who would teach whom a lesson, and how she herself ended up exhausted...

She felt guilty again.

Noticing Mu Jinyu's whiny, hopeful look, Gu Xiyan glanced at Wen Rou, who was sitting aside with slightly reddened cheeks, yet seemed not to mind, and she nodded slightly.

"Heh heh..." Seeing their approval, Mu Jinyu immediately smiled.

He had always wanted to sleep with both of them in his arms, not to do anything naughty, just to hold them in sleep. But they had always been shy about it and had been unwilling until now.

Finally, they were willing, which really made him happy!

...

The next day.

Mu Jinyu got up, had the breakfast prepared by Wen Rou, and then headed to the airport.

As for the few people arranged by Mei Yinxue, including Wang Zhengbiao, they had already been waiting at the airport.

Mu Jinyu was off to Miao Zombie to search for the Spring of Life.

Meanwhile, in the old Dragon King's courtyard in the Capital City, some developments were unfolding.

Chapter 319 The Elder

"Whoosh!"

A streak of light flashed by, swift as lightning.

Then, a bat much larger than the ordinary ones fell from the sky in response.

"It's a Vampire Bat."

The Old Dragon King, looking at the bat still twitching slightly on the ground, furrowed his brows and murmured, before he said to Uncle Fu by his side, "Send the order down, have Beidou Yuheng come over."

"Yes." Uncle Fu took the order and left.

The Dragon King Hall's various sub-halls were in charge of different duties, such as intelligence, finance, execution, foreign affairs, and so on...

Yuheng Hall was responsible for intelligence.

Before long, Mu Hongchen received the order and rushed over.

"Dragon Master."

Adorned in a red dress, Mu Hongchen appeared in the courtyard like a blaze of fire, greeting the Old Dragon King with a lowered gaze and submissive eyes.

"Have there been any unusual activities with Fallen Splendor lately?" the Old Dragon King asked, his brow slightly furrowed.

Upon hearing this, Mu Hongchen thought carefully before responding, "It seems there hasn't been anything unusual, they are still locked in battle with Brilliant Divine Authority..."

Dragon King Hall was not the world's only organization; what it represented was nothing but Divine Huaxia Land.

Organizations like Withered Tree Quest for Spring were numerous, yet there were barely a handful capable of posing a threat to Dragon King Hall.

Among them, Fallen Splendor and Brilliant Divine Authority were superpower organizations that posed a significant threat to the Old Dragon King.

Fallen Splendor was an organization that lurked in the shadows, just as Dragon King Hall was popularly known as "Dragon Group" among the common folk.

Fallen Splendor also had its popular name, known as "Black Council."

In contrast, the popular name for Brilliant Divine Authority was naturally "Holy See of Light."

The members of the Black Council were not Martial Artists or cultivators like those in Dragon King Hall, nor were they Psychics or Genetically modified people like in Withered Tree Quest for Spring.

Instead, they were Werewolves, Vampires, Witch-ghouls...

Therefore, when the Old Dragon King saw a Vampire Bat flying above his home, he knew it was sent by Fallen Splendor.

"Is that so..." Hearing Mu Hongchen's words, the Old Dragon King fell into deep thought, before he let out a slight sigh, "As I thought, the news of my impending end could not be concealed."

From Mu Hongchen's words, the Old Dragon King had already figured out that this was Fallen Splendor and Brilliant Divine Authority coming together, testing his strength.

If they had stopped their conflicts, or perhaps the battles weren't as intense, the Old Dragon King might have believed that they weren't making a move.

When Mu Hongchen heard the Old Dragon King's sigh of resignation, her eyes reddened slightly as she said, "Dragon Master, you are still young and won't be incapacitated. We are all waiting for you to recover and lead us at Dragon King Hall to great victories across the land, sweeping through the wastes..."

Most of the sub-hall masters of Dragon King Hall, such as Shen Cangsheng, Qin Qiaochu, and Di Yin, did not harbor much affection for the Dragon King Hall, treating it merely as a stepping stone.

But there were those like Xiang Mantang, Jian Ruyan, Mu Hongchen, and Wu Shisan who held deep feelings for Dragon King Hall.

Among them, Wu Shisan and Mu Hongchen harbored the deepest feelings for Dragon King Hall and had a special affection for the Old Dragon King.

Because they had been picked up and raised by the Old Dragon King when they were children.

Although the Old Dragon King did not treat them as his foster son or daughter, they regarded Dragon King Hall as their father.

That's why the Old Dragon King entrusted the intelligence-responsible Yuheng Hall to Mu Hongchen.

That's also why Mu Hongchen felt so deeply distressed about the Old Dragon King's retirement.

When the Old Dragon King heard Mu Hongchen's words laced with a sobbing tone, he sighed slightly without offering any comfort, instead, he simply said, "I am well aware of my own situation, you may leave now."

"Yes." Mu Hongchen nodded her head and took her leave afterwards.

The Old Dragon King stood with his hands clasped behind his back, his body slightly stooped in his Zhongshan suit, and his head full of silver hair made him look no different from an ordinary old man.

He gazed at the azure sky, contemplating the internal and external crises currently besetting the Dragon King Hall.

He thought to himself that he must urgently have Mu Jinyu return to succeed the position of Tiance True Dragon.

With the presence of Xiang Mantang, his junior brother, and the support of Wu Shisan, Mu Hongchen, and Jian Ruyan, those three who might harbor ulterior motives would certainly become much more compliant.

"Ah..." The Old Dragon King came back to his senses after a while, let out a deep sigh, and murmured, "I hope I can hear Jinyu call me grandpa before I go."

...

Mu Jinyu was unaware of the situation in the Capital City.

He only knew that the Old Dragon King's condition was dire and that he could only hold on for half a month to a month at most, so he had to rush to the Hundred Thousand Great Mountains in Miao Zombie to find the Spring of Life.

When the time came, he would be able to use the Seven-Star Life-continuation Needle in conjunction with the spring water to extend the Old Dragon King's life by a few years.

Moreover, the Spring of Life was not something he had discovered on his own, but rather information extracted from those associated with Withered Tree Quest for Spring.

If he didn't get there soon, once those from Withered Tree Quest for Spring got their hands on it, he would have cause for regret.

Arriving at the airport.

Mu Jinyu didn't waste too much time. After nodding slightly to Wang Zhengbiao and the Four Heavenly Kings, subordinates of Mei Yinxue, he boarded the plane and then headed to Gui Province Fangcheng.

After leaving the airport, Mu Jinyu got into the car arranged by Xiang Mantang and headed straight for Si County, which is under Fangcheng.

Upon arriving at a remote small village within the jurisdiction of Si County, Mu Jinyu and his companions got out of the car.

"You guys start preparing. After lunch, we'll head into the mountains and meanwhile, ask the local villagers if they know the exact route," he said.

Since the Charming Daoist Nun also did not know the exact location of the Spring of Life, Mu Jinyu had no choice but to search slowly.

He hoped to find it within half a month.

That's why he told Gu Xiyan and the others yesterday that he might not return for a short time.

And he wanted to make it up to them properly.

"Mhm." Wang Zhengbiao responded with a nod, then opened the rear compartment of the car, glanced at the fully stocked items and the faint smell of gunpowder, and closed the car door.

All the tools and weapons stored there had been prepared for Mu Jinyu by Xiang Mantang.

Upon knowing this, Wang Zhengbiao felt quite astonished that Mu Jinyu could arrange everything in Gui Province within a day, which seemed almost supernaturally efficient.

Even though the Snow Hidden Association was dominant in River City, they were incapable of transporting weapons to nearby cities.

After a brief inspection, they accompanied Mu Jinyu towards the small village.

They also had prepared numerous backpacks in the car, filled with food such as frozen chicken and duck, meant to be consumed in the mountains. Since they had the opportunity to pay for a meal at someone else's house, there was no need to use their supplies just yet.

After Mu Jinyu led them into the village, he noticed there were very few young people. After asking around, he learned that most of the village youth had gone out to work, and after earning money, they mostly bought houses elsewhere and didn't return.

Those who stayed behind were mostly elderly people with limited mobility and some children left in the care of the village.

Mu Jinyu found a very humble little house and entered. He gave the old person inside several thousand yuan to prepare their afternoon meal.

Of course, waiting for the old person to slowly cook might take a while, so Mu Jinyu also had Wang Zhengbiao and others help in the kitchen, which meant the meal was ready quite quickly.

During the meal, Mu Jinyu asked, "Old man, do you know of a place in the Hundred Thousand Great Mountains where there is a large pool with a big snake in it, according to the legends?"

The old man paused his eating upon hearing this and then looked up at Mu Jinyu with eyes filled with fear and caution, asking, "What do you want with that?"

Mu Jinyu could tell from the old man's reaction that he might know something. Delighted, he didn't bother explaining and simply flashed some cash.

Unable to resist the temptation of money, the old man finally divulged what he knew to Mu Jinyu.

Chapter 320 Departure

It turned out that the old man did not used to live in the small village where he resides now.

Instead, he lived in the Hundred Thousand Great Mountains, next to the village was a clear and sweet water pond, from which they used to draw their drinking water, cook, and so forth.

But whether it was due to the water pond or not, the old villagers who lived there were all very long-lived, with the shortest-lived ones reaching up to one hundred and twenty years old, while those who lived longer could reach between one hundred and eighty to two hundred years old.

Moreover, they were all strong and healthy, with their teeth intact; while they couldn't engage in strenuous activities, they weren't bedridden and needing their children and grandchildren to take care of them either.

If there had been journalists able to contact their village back then, it surely would have caused a sensation throughout the country.

Unfortunately, one day, when the villagers went to fetch water from the pond to cook, a great python suddenly burst out, unleashing its ferocity and swallowing many people.

The villagers were terrified, completely unprepared for the presence of such a terrifying great python lurking in the water pond, each desperately trying to flee.

The old who couldn't run fast, they had no choice but to leave them behind and escape with the children only.

In the end, out of those who fled, less than a third survived.

From a village with over a hundred people, only about twenty managed to escape.

Many people actually didn't die from the great python's mouth, but during the escape, they were killed by other fierce animals and poisonous insects.

Such is the danger of the Hundred Thousand Great Mountains.

And for the old man before Mu Jinyu, he was just a six or seven-year-old child at that time, so the memory of the catastrophic disaster has always remained vivid in his mind.

Now he is one hundred and twenty years old, and his peers, and even those several generations younger than him, have long passed away.

A one hundred and twenty-year-old, under normal circumstances, being able to live to such an age, would generally be lying in bed waiting for death.

But like the old man before him, with teeth intact, still able to move like an eighty-year-old, it was indeed rare.

Therefore, the old man has always believed that his longevity and being free from illness were definitely related to the water pond from back then.

He always regretted not being able to drink the water from the pond again; otherwise, he reckoned he could have lived even longer, possibly reaching one hundred and fifty years old!

"So that's how it was."

After listening to the old man's sighs of reminiscence, Mu Jinyu couldn't help but feel fortunate. If he hadn't decided to have a meal in this old man's house, it would have been virtually impossible to uncover any clues by asking others.

After all, the old man's peers, and even those several generations younger, had long since died, and once the old man passed away, who else would remember the events of that time?

"Then old gentleman, do you know the specific route to get there?"

Mu Jinyu asked with hopeful anticipation.

The old man smiled and said, "If you were to ask someone else, surely you'd get nowhere. But because I have always wanted to return and drink water from the pond again, I spent a long time figuring it out and have already drawn the specific route to return. The general direction should be correct; it's just that I've been too scared to go back because of the great python that might still be there."

Mu Jinyu's eyes lit up, and he quickly asked, "Then old gentleman, could you sell me that Route Observation Map?"

He was prepared to continue spending money, as having this map could save him half a month's worth of time, which was definitely worth it.

"I won't sell it to you, but I can give it to you."

The old man's first words almost left Mu Jinyu disappointed, but as soon as he heard the rest, he knew the old man was willing to help him, yet there was some condition or request.

Indeed, the old man continued, "I do not know where you heard about that magical pool, but it's none of my business. You must be quite confident, right? Otherwise, you wouldn't dare to come here. If you can bring back water from the pool alive, just give me one bottle... "

Originally, the old man had planned to persuade Mu Jinyu and his team not to seek death. However, realizing they already knew about the Great Python in the pond and still dared to come, he figured they must be somewhat confident. He estimated that even if he tried to dissuade them, it would be to no avail.

So, he thought if they really succeeded, then sharing a bottle of the water with him, considering he'd shown them the route, wasn't too much to ask, right?

That way, he reckoned he could live a few more years.

"That is naturally no problem," Mu Jinyu said, relieved at the old man's request, and agreed without hesitation.

"Good, then wait here. I originally thought the Route Observation Map I drew back in the day would be buried with me."

As the old man said this, he got up and went back into his house, fumbled around, and eventually handed over a yellowed piece of paper to Mu Jinyu.

This paper had seen many years; it was not only yellowed but also riddled with holes from insects, yet still readable.

The old man probably drew this Route Observation Map because he feared that, when he got old and his memory faded, he'd completely forget the way in, which is why he made a point of preserving this particular map.

At first, Mu Jinyu was somewhat puzzled by the map as the old man was not a professional cartographer and had drawn it based entirely on his own ideas, which naturally made it difficult for others to understand.

But with the old man's guidance, Mu Jinyu also roughly learned how to read and navigate it.

"Old sir, thank you very much."

After studying the Route Observation Map, Mu Jinyu carefully pocketed it, cautious not to damage it inadvertently.

Although he had an excellent memory and remembered what he saw, since the map wasn't drawn by a professional, he worried he might misinterpret it by accident, which would be problematic. Having the map at hand also allowed him to discuss the route with Wang Zhengbiao and his team.

Who knows, there might be further insights.

Then, Mu Jinyu bid farewell to the old man and left behind another ten thousand yuan.

With this ten thousand yuan, he had now left the old man more than fifty thousand yuan in total. It wasn't that he was stingy and didn't want to give more, but in the old man's circumstances, more money might be detrimental.

Even just fifty thousand yuan was enough to worry Mu Jinyu about attracting thieves; he cautioned the old man not to be extravagant before leaving.

Stepping outside the village to the car they had parked earlier, Wang Zhengbiao and the others opened the trunk and took out various items kept inside.

Among them were tents, food, change of clothes, machetes, firearms, and other supplies.

Wang Zhengbiao and the others each shouldered several backpacks, then closed the trunk and said to Mu Jinyu, "Young Master Mu, we are prepared and ready to set off."

"Mm, take these pills first," Mu Jinyu replied.

Mu Jinyu pulled out a small medicine bottle from his pocket, poured out several black pills tinged with yellow, and handed them to Wang Zhengbiao and the others.

Seeing this, Wang Zhengbiao and the others didn't ask what the pills were for; they just swallowed them down without questioning.

Mu Jinyu also took one himself and then explained:

"There are many insects and bugs in the Hundred Thousand Great Mountains of Miao Zombie, and some of these insects are Gu insects released by Gu Masters. This pill is a specially made Insect Repellent Pill. No matter what kind of venomous insect, once it smells our scent, it wouldn't dare to approach."