

King Hall 431

Chapter 431: Let's get married

On one side, Xiang Mantang set out towards Kunlun Mountain to seek her younger sister.

On the other side, after finishing dinner, Mu Jinyu casually followed Sister Mei and the other two women into the house with his hands behind his back.

"Why are you following us in?"

Seeing Mu Jinyu trailing behind them, Gu Xiyan seemed to think of something, her face flushed, and she turned back and glared at him annoyedly.

"I have something to discuss with you, don't overthink it," Mu Jinyu said.

Wen Rou also thought that Mu Jinyu was following them into the room with certain intentions, and her face too turned slightly red. Hearing what he said, she realized that she and the other ladies might have misunderstood, but the blush on her face didn't fade away.

Sister Mei, however, acted as if nothing unusual was going on. If her two sisters could accept the idea, then naturally she wouldn't mind it either.

Yet seeing their embarrassed looks, it seemed that such a thing was unlikely to happen at the moment.

After Mu Jinyu entered the room, he dragged over a chair and sat down, then glanced over at the three women sitting on the edge of the bed.

The three sisters, Sister Mei, Gu Xiyan, and Wen Rou, each boasted exquisite beauty, extraordinary temperament, skin fairer than snow, like celestial maidens descended from heaven.

Having any one of them as his wife would signify fortune accrued by his ancestors.

But Mu Jinyu needed all three of them to marry him...

Looking at them, Mu Jinyu's lips quivered, words wanting to come out, then halting, a cycle of hesitation and impulse.

In his mind, he was continuously organizing his thoughts.

'Marry me!'

No, that's no good. There's no lead-up, it's too abrupt.

'I love you, marry me...'

No, that's no good. It's too cheesy, he couldn't say it.

...

Sitting on the edge of the bed, the three women watched as Mu Jinyu kept staring at them without speaking. After waiting for a while, they grew somewhat uneasy, then frowned and asked, "What on earth do you want to say?"

"Hm?"

Mu Jinyu blinked and snapped back to reality.

Looking at the eager, plaintive eyes of the three women, he took a deep breath, as if resolving himself to commit, and with his eyes closed he blurted out, "I... I... Let's... get married..."

"..."

Gu Xiyan, Wen Rou, and Sister Mei, upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, were all stunned into silence.

Their eyes blinked in disbelief, wondering if they had heard wrong.

But on their pretty faces, a flush of red was involuntarily emerging.

Mu Jinyu had actually proposed to them...

Hold on?

Something is not right...

Did he just say, let's get married? Who exactly was that directed at?

Or rather, was it meant for all of them together?

Isn't that a bit too greedy?

However, they had already been with Mu Jinyu for so long. If Mu Jinyu were to marry only one of them, wouldn't that be excessively cruel to the other two?

Gu Xiyan had long considered Wen Rou like a sister, and although she didn't get along well with Mei Yinxue, they managed to live amicably. She felt that, whether Mu Jinyu married her or one of the other two women, someone was bound to become a lover with no official status, a secret affair of sorts... she found that somewhat unacceptable...

But to just agree to Mu Jinyu's proposal like this, wouldn't that be letting him off too easily?

Wen Rou was visibly excited, barely able to resist agreeing on the spot.

Mei Yinxue was not as excited as Wen Rou, but her slightly rapid breathing and her nervous expression revealed how much she had been looking forward to this day.

Gu Xiyuan quickly covered Wen Rou's mouth to stop her from speaking, then shot Mei Yinxue a look before saying to Mu Jinyu, "Who are you saying this to?"

Mu Jinyu had been anxiously waiting for a response, unsure of their thoughts.

Hearing Gu Xiyuan's words, although they were somewhat accusing, Mu Jinyu still heard a glimmer of hope and opened his eyes, saying rather sheepishly, "I'm saying it to all of you!"

At his response, Gu Xiyuan couldn't help but give him a coquettish look and said irritably, "You wish."

Though deep down she wanted to accept Mu Jinyu's proposal, he had asked all three of them at once without offering a ring or any promises. Gu Xiyuan felt that she couldn't simply agree to him directly.

Women need to maintain some dignity. If they were to agree to Mu Jinyu's proposal as soon as he asked, that eagerness might lead him to not treasure them in the future.

Mu Jinyu scratched his head, feeling embarrassed, but since the words were out, he had nothing else to hide. "I have no choice, who would give up any of you? You're all so wonderful, I can't bear to lose any of you, so I must have you all!"

Gu Xiyuan immediately glared at Mu Jinyu and called out testily, "What about Qiaoxia and Linglong? Are they good or not? Do you want them all, too?"

"No, no..." Mu Jinyu shook his head. "Having you all is enough, I'm not that greedy."

Seeing his response, Mei Yinxue chuckled and said, "Alright, Xiyuan, stop teasing him. I accept your proposal!"

Her first part was directed at Gu Xiyuan, but the last part was said to Mu Jinyu.

She knew Gu Xiyan was also touched by the proposal, but out of a girlish pride, she felt embarrassed for all three to marry Mu Jinyu together. She wanted to make Mu Jinyu work for it, to learn to cherish them.

But as a woman of her age, Mei Yinxue knew too well that playing too hard to get could backfire. If Mu Jinyu left in a huff to marry Yu Linglong or Lin Qiaoxia, could they really bear to part with him?

They had long been like an old married couple; there was no need for pretense. If willing, then a straightforward acceptance was best. There was no need for games.

Wen Rou had wanted to accept from the start, but out of consideration for Gu Xiyan, she hadn't spoken up. Seeing Mei Yinxue agree, she too couldn't help but blurt out, "I agree as well."

Gu Xiyan looked at the two little traitors who had so readily agreed and puffed out her cheeks sulkily before also giving her assent.

Then, she started to make her demands that Mu Jinyu should not mistreat them, that the wedding should be grand, the kind of engagement ring, where to go for the honeymoon...

An excited Mu Jinyu agreed to all of Gu Xiyan's requests.

Then, Mu Jinyu said to them, "Okay, I'm going to tell Mom about this, and Ah-Xiang!"

"Mhm."

Seeing their heads nod, Mu Jinyu, with an excited expression, hurriedly left the room.

At that point, Gu Xiyan turned to Mei Yinxue with displeasure and said, "Sister Mei, why did you agree to him so hastily? Won't that make him think we're desperate to marry him, and afterwards..."

Mei Yinxue shook her head, interrupting her, "Xiao Yan, let me say this to you, 'Pick the flowers when they are blooming, for waiting may mean picking just branches without blooms'. Do you think with his

current status as the Hall Master of Dragon King Hall, he won't meet more women who are just as good as us, or even better?"

Gu Xiyan thought about it, first thinking of Lin Qiaoxia and Yu Linglong, and then Xu Qingya and Shen Shuyao, and then the women stronger than them... she thought of Jian Ruyan and Mu Hongchen.

It seemed... although they were with Mu Jinyu first, it wasn't guaranteed that they would have the last laugh.

Seeing Gu Xiyan's half-understanding look, Mei Yinxue continued, "See? With his status, he'll never lack for women. If today we refuse him, wanting to play hard to get, perhaps in the future, it won't be just the three of us marrying him!"

Chapter 432 Chen Qianqian!

Gu Xiyan listened to Mei Yinxue's words and thought it was indeed possible.

If it were any later, he couldn't vouch for other women, but Yu Linglong and Lin Qiaoxia, among others, were very likely to become sisters-in-law.

"Forget it..." Gu Xiyan shook his head, feeling helpless. Who made him unassertively fall in love with Mu Jinyu?

On the other side, after Mu Jinyu left the courtyard and finished talking to Su Zijin.

He took out his phone and called Xiang Mantang.

He thought to himself, "Hehe, I'm getting married. When the time comes, I'll take my wife on a honeymoon. It would be a good opportunity to let Xiang Mantang manage Dragon King Hall again."

Although he had just reassured Xiang Mantang yesterday that he would take on the responsibility of managing Dragon King Hall, allowing him to rest easy while controlling Slaughter Redemption, it was, after all, an extraordinary time, so he would have to ask him to take on additional burdens for a while longer.

Junior brothers are there to be teased, right?

"Dudu dudu..."

The call connected.

"Hello? Senior brother, what's up?"

Xiang Mantang's voice carried a mix of excitement and fatigue, sounding somewhat hoarse.

Mu Jinyu noticed something was off, but without thinking too much, assumed Xiang Mantang was just tired from managing Slaughter Redemption and laughed, "I have some good news to tell you, get ready."

"You know about it too?" Xiang Mantang paused and then sighed softly.

Mu Jinyu: "???"

What was Xiang Mantang talking about? What did he know?

"Alright, I won't hide it from you anymore. Um, I just found out about my sister's news, but I'm not sure if she is Ah-Xiu. I'm currently on my way to Kunlun Mountain. If it turns out to be her, I'll tell you then. I didn't want to say anything initially; didn't want everyone to get their hopes up for nothing..."

Xiang Mantang was uncharacteristically chatty, explaining to Mu Jinyu why he hadn't informed him immediately after finding out about his sister.

"Ah? Your sister found a clue?" Mu Jinyu exclaimed in surprise.

He then caught on, overwhelmed with joy, "That's indeed a double blessing."

Xiang Mantang paused, then said solemnly, "The good news you were about to tell me wasn't about Ah-Xiu's clue? And you still can't confirm it's her, so it's not exactly a double blessing."

Mu Jinyu chuckled sheepishly, feeling a bit embarrassed, "No, I didn't know anything about our sister's news at first. I was just about to tell you that I'm planning to get married."

When Xiang Mantang heard this news, he fell silent, then spoke with a mix of joy and passive aggressiveness.

"That is indeed something to celebrate, but are you here to press me for a debt? And after the wedding, you plan to go on a honeymoon and continue to be a hands-off manager?"

Xiang Mantang said this because Mu Jinyu, who cured people for a living, always charged everyone, including him, and he owed Mu Jinyu over ten billion.

He had previously promised Mu Jinyu that he would settle the debt when he got married, offering the ten billion as a wedding gift.

Mu Jinyu had mocked him, stating that it was just his consultation fee, and he had even waived the interest, yet he had the nerve to treat it as a wedding gift!

So, upon hearing Mu Jinyu's early plans to get married, Xiang Mantang naturally recalled yesterday's event, where he did not want to hold two positions, leaving Mu Jinyu to manage Dragon King Hall alone.

Therefore, after Mu Jinyu returned home, he decided to take his revenge, demanding repayment of the money for his marriage, and planning to go on a honeymoon while continuing to be a hands-off manager, leaving Xiang Mantang helpless!

"Ah? Oh, right, you didn't remind me, I had forgotten about the more than ten billion in consultation fees you owe me. Make sure to bring it along when the time comes!" Mu Jinyu said appreciatively upon hearing Xiang Mantang's words, after a brief pause and a sudden realization.

"Get lost!" Xiang Mantang was speechless for a long while, finally managing to spit out a single word!

Damn it, had he just reminded Mu Jinyu to press him for money?

Laughter shook his head as Xiang Mantang said, "Forget it, forget it, after all, it's a joyful occasion. I won't quibble with you this time. I'm going to find Ah-Xiu now, no more chatting."

"Mm-hmm," Mu Jinyu responded and then hung up the phone.

Xiang Mantang hung up the phone with an annoyed smile on his face.

The brothers naturally wouldn't fall out over such a trivial matter, especially since he didn't lack that ten billion yuan. The reason he didn't take the initiative to repay wasn't that he lacked the money but rather to spitefully get back at Mu Jinyu for the double agony he inflicted every time he treated him.

Now that Mu Jinyu was getting married, he would surely offer the ten billion yuan as a wedding gift, not a yuan less. If he continued to helm the Dragon King Hall, he would just have to endure a little longer. Hopefully, Mu Jinyu wouldn't be too capricious and decide on a year-long honeymoon!

Laughter shook his head. While speechless, Xiang Mantang also felt happy for Mu Jinyu.

Of course, he was happy for himself too, since he was about to find the girl suspected to be Xiang Yinxui. After all, all sorrows seemed trivial to him now.

"Spread out, we must find her."

Xiang Mantang's joyful smile faded as he turned and instructed his subordinates.

His subordinates included those who had followed him in the Dragon King Hall when he was at the Big Dipper Nexus, as well as assassins who had been subdued by him in Slaughter Redemption.

After all, while the members of the Dragon King Hall were excellent and professional in tracking people, they inevitably might be too rigid, not as crafty as these assassins.

"Yes!"

Upon hearing Xiang Mantang's instructions, the assassins and Dragon King Hall members immediately dispersed, searching the vast Kunlun Mountain.

Xiang Mantang himself was no exception. He found a secluded spot and sped off!

"Beep beep beep!"

Half an hour later.

Xiang Mantang hadn't found the girl who entered the mountain to play. Instead, the previously silent phone began to ring with an alert.

Xiang Mantang took out his phone and saw that it was one of the assassins he brought from Slaughter Redemption who had found the girl.

"Great!"

Xiang Mantang couldn't help but exclaim and, following the location sent in the message, hurried over!

In his eagerness to see his sister sooner, he urged on his inner qi, and his feet moved as if they were on wheels of wind and fire, covering over ten meters in a second. In just about fifteen minutes, he arrived at a forest and saw the assassin and the girl, who was suspected to be his own sister.

"Ah-Xiu! Ah-Xiu!"

Xiang Mantang rushed up close to the pair, almost unable to restrain himself from embracing the girl as he gazed at her familiar yet strange features, tears nearly spilling from his eyes.

But he knew that it was yet uncertain if she was indeed Xiang Yinxui, moreover, they had been separated for decades. Even if the girl was Xiang Yinxui, would she still have any recollection of her brother?

Therefore, Xiang Mantang suppressed the excitement in his heart, his arms awkwardly hanging by his sides, with a clueless smile on his face, he asked the girl, "Ah-Xiu, do you remember me?"

"Who are you?" the girl asked, frowning at the visibly overwhelmed Xiang Mantang.

Hearing this question, Xiang Mantang's heart chilled considerably, knowing that even if she was his true sister, she had lost all memory of him.

After all, they were separated when she was too young.

But Xiang Mantang didn't give up. He said, "I... my name is Xiang Mantang. You look very much like my sister, whom I lost many years ago. I was thinking..."

His speech was somewhat disjointed, unsure of how to persuade the girl to cooperate with him and undergo a DNA test to confirm if they were siblings.

Upon hearing Xiang Mantang's words, the girl couldn't help but snicker and said, "Big brother, your method of courting girls is really old-fashioned, bringing up how I look a lot like your long-lost sister. Are you going to ask me my name next?"

Chapter 433: Killing with a Flower!

"I'm not trying to hit on you!"

Xiang Mantang, who was not good with words, couldn't help feeling anxious when he heard the girl's sarcastic remark. He hurriedly said, "You really look a lot like my sister. I'm not joking. Can you tell me your name? Let's go to the hospital to get tested. Don't worry, I won't make you come for nothing. Whether it turns out you are or aren't, I will give you one million yuan."

The girl looked at Xiang Mantang's excited expression and listened to his promise, seeming to believe he wasn't just kidding. The smile on her face then faded.

Afterward, she took a careful look at Xiang Mantang and said in a low voice, "My name is Chen Qianqian. I have my own family, and my last name is not Xiang. You must have mistaken me for someone else. As for the one million yuan, I'm not interested in such a small amount of money, so forget about it!"

Chen Qianqian didn't doubt Xiang Mantang's words, as it seemed unlikely that someone who appeared to be powerful and significant would stop her and prevent her from leaving if he were a pauper.

It was quite normal for him to offer one million yuan.

But she didn't want to go with him to get tested and waste her time.

"What about ten million yuan... no, one hundred million yuan?!"

Xiang Mantang hesitated upon hearing Chen Qianqian's response, then said as much.

It wasn't that he was stingy. He had money and was willing to spend it. It's just that he didn't have that much money; in total, he had a bit over ten billion yuan, almost all of which was set aside as a betrothal gift for Mu Jinyu. The only cash he had left to offer was one hundred million yuan.

In other words, to confirm whether the girl in front of him was his sister, he was ready to spend his entire fortune.

After speaking, Xiang Mantang, afraid Chen Qianqian would refuse, pleaded again with a beseeching tone, "Please help me. I'm desperate to know what has become of my sister!"

Xiang Mantang knew he shouldn't be so impatient, as it might scare Chen Qianqian. He should have taken his time to get to know her and then, once they were acquainted, obtain a few strands of her hair for testing. If he had discovered that she truly was his sister, he could have considered revealing the truth to her gradually.

Such impatience might frighten her. Even if Chen Qianqian were willing to help, if it turned out she was indeed his sister, suddenly learning about her different heritage—that she wasn't the biological child of her family—it could cause her to collapse.

But having endured decades of torment, Xiang Mantang, at the moment he found Chen Qianqian, could no longer bear it. He urgently needed to know whether the girl before him was indeed his sister Xiang Yinxui!

If she wasn't, then losing one hundred million yuan wouldn't matter.

If she were, he would spend time with her to ease her anxiety and fear, helping her gradually return to normal and understand that with a brother by her side, if her adoptive parents rejected her, he could give her the whole world!

Even if it meant relinquishing his position as the Big Dipper Tianshu at Dragon King Hall or giving up the title of Slaughter Redemption Slayer Lord, he would not hesitate!

Looking at Xiang Mantang's pleading eyes, Chen Qianqian's expression softened a bit.

After a moment of hesitation, she shook her head and said, "Forget the money. I can help you with this, although I don't think I'm your sister. But this will have to wait until after I've taken care of some urgent business I have right now..."

"What urgent matter? Are you in some kind of trouble? Tell me, maybe I can help you!"

Xiang Mantang, upon hearing Chen Qianqian's words, immediately asked anxiously.

"A few days ago, when I came here to have fun, I lost an earring. It was a gift from my mother on my eighteenth birthday, so I need to find it," Chen Qianqian explained.

Xiang Mantang said, "Then I'll call someone to help you look for it. Can you come with me to get tested first?"

"No, I want to find it myself," Chen Qianqian frowned, her tone a bit willful and stubborn.

Xiang Mantang gave a wry smile and ultimately had to tamp down his impatience, nodding and saying, "Alright, I'll help you look for it then."

After speaking, he seemed to remember something and added, "By the way, describe what your earring looks like, and I'll let my people know so they can split up and search for it."

"Okay," Chen Qianqian nodded, and immediately described the design of her earring to Xiang Mantang.

After listening, Xiang Mantang typed up the details and sent it off to the subordinates who had come with him.

The subordinates, who were originally planning to report to Xiang Mantang, received the message and dispersed to various places to search for Chen Qianqian's earring instead.

"I remember going to this area, though I'm not sure. I might have lost it over there. Let's go and take a look,"

Chen Qianqian pointed out a direction to Xiang Mantang after he finished sending the message, asking him to accompany her there.

Xiang Mantang naturally agreed.

Afterward, Xiang Mantang, Chen Qianqian, and an assassin they brought from the "Desolation" Guild, walked onwards.

After half an hour had passed.

Xiang Mantang, while scanning the surroundings, continuously searched for the lost earring as he moved forward.

Soon, they came across a narrow valley entrance. The valley was lush and blooming with countless flowers, stunningly beautiful.

Upon seeing the valley, Chen Qianqian's eyes lit up, and she excitedly said, "Yes, yes, yes, this is the valley. I had fun in there before, and my earlobe even got scratched by a tree. It's very possible that I lost my earring in here."

"Then let's go in and take a look,"

Xiang Mantang replied, hiding his impatience.

"Hmm."

Chen Qianqian immediately took the lead and hurried into the valley!

Xiang Mantang followed close behind, of course, without neglecting to inspect the surroundings; Chen Qianqian's earring could have been dropped nearby.

The two of them walked through the valley, one after the other, with Xiang Mantang beginning to search for the earring among the flowers.

As Chen Qianqian had Xiang Mantang helping her search, she felt too lazy to look herself, her eyes dazzled to exhaustion and pain, choosing rather to enjoy the flowers and let Xiang Mantang seek for her.

"Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh!"

Just then, a group of people rushed into the valley from the narrow entrance!

"Beidou Tianshu, we have finally caught you alone!"

A stern-faced young man stood at the forefront, his cold gaze fixed on Xiang Mantang who was searching for the earring amidst the flowers like searching for a needle in the ocean.

Upon hearing the commotion, Xiang Mantang turned to look at them.

The newcomers were several hundred strong, each one emanating a fierce aura, exuding a savage qi—a clear sign they were bloodstained warriors.

"Hmm? Who are you?"

Xiang Mantang, unaware of their background and not taking them seriously, directly asked about their origins.

He speculated that they must be from Withered Tree Quest for Spring or a group of enemies he had offended in the past.

"Enough talk, kill!"

"Kill him!"

The crowd immediately grasped their long knives and charged toward Xiang Mantang!

"Ah-Xiu, get behind me!"

Seeing the crowd rushing over, Chen Qianqian, already terrified and trembling, immediately hid behind him upon hearing Xiang Mantang's words.

"Kill!"

By now, some had already approached, raising their long knives and sneering as they aimed for Xiang Mantang's neck!

Xiang Mantang pinched the flowers and leaves around him, flicked his wrist, and the petals instantly hardened like metal slices.

"Whiz, whiz, whiz!"

With a flick of his hand, Xiang Mantang shot the petals towards them!

The petals sliced through their throats, felling them dead on the spot!

Chapter 434: Ominous Signs!

Mu Jinyu was about to discuss the wedding details with Su Zijin.

"Whether it's in Capital City or River City, let's see what their opinions are, I..."

Just as Mu Jinyu was speaking about which city to have the wedding in, he suddenly furrowed his brows, feeling his heart contract sharply.

"What's wrong? Why has your complexion turned so poor?"

Su Zijin saw that Mu Jinyu's face had suddenly become as pale as paper, and beads of sweat the size of beans appeared on his forehead, and she couldn't help but ask anxiously.

Mu Jinyu clutched his chest, feeling as if his heart was about to explode, breathing rapidly and almost running out of breath.

Hearing Su Zijin's words, he quickly waved his hand and said, "It's nothing, Mom, don't worry, I just suddenly felt a bit uncomfortable."

With that, he added, "Let's stop here for today, I will go back to rest, and I should be better by tomorrow."

Having said that, Mu Jinyu stood up, his body swaying, and he staggered towards the door.

Su Zijin also stood up, went to the doorway, and with a worried look, she reminded him, "Hmm, be sure to get plenty of rest, don't overexert yourself."

Leaving Su Zijin's courtyard, Mu Jinyu returned to his own room and closed the door behind him.

He leaned against the door, his body slowly sliding down until he was half-crouched at the entrance.

"No, something is about to happen..."

Mu Jinyu's lips were pale and dry, his mind a messy tangle.

He had experienced this kind of heart palpitation once before.

It was on the day his father passed away.

On the day the Old Dragon King died, his body also felt a bit uncomfortable, but because it wasn't as intense, he didn't take it seriously.

But upon arriving at Capital City later, he found out that the Old Dragon King had passed away.

Therefore, Mu Jinyu speculated that this time, it might be someone close to him who was in trouble.

But that's not right; the threat from Nameless has already been eliminated. Now Mei Yinxue, Gu Xiyan, and Wen Rou are all still living in another courtyard, and Xu Qingya and her group haven't returned to River City tonight either. If something had happened to them, there would surely be a subordinate to report the situation to him.

So from where does this indescribable feeling of heart palpitation come?

Xiang Mantang?!

A flash of alarm crossed Mu Jinyu's mind.

Thinking back to the call he had just had with Xiang Mantang, who said he was going to Kunlun to pick up his sister...

There's a problem!

That girl who was suspected to be Xiang Yinxui, there was a big problem with her!

Suddenly, Mu Jinyu suppressed the feeling of weakness and palpitations, immediately took out his mobile phone from his pocket, and called Xiang Mantang.

"Doo-doo-doo..."

No one answered until he hung up himself.

Mu Jinyu hung up the phone, his expression incredibly grim.

He didn't go on with the futile effort of calling Xiang Mantang again but called Mu Hongchen instead.

"Hello, Dragon Master?"

Mu Hongchen answered the phone, her tone carrying a hint of confusion as she spoke.

"Beidou Yuheng, can you try to contact those people who my junior brother took with him?" Mu Jinyu asked urgently.

"Also, prepare a private jet for me, I need to go to Kunlun Ruins!"

"Yes, I'll arrange it now," Mu Hongchen replied promptly, sensing the extreme severity and urgency in Mu Jinyu's voice.

She hung up the phone and immediately called Dragon King Hall's members who were taken by Xiang Mantang, but none of their phones were answered.

Mu Hongchen's complexion changed drastically, and she knew something had gone terribly wrong.

While arranging for a chartered plane, she began to investigate the GPS on their phones, only to find out she couldn't track them; all of them had been damaged.

Mu Hongchen understood that this must be the deed of an enemy who was very familiar with the internal operations of Dragon King Hall!

Even more alarming, it could be a sign of a traitor within!

Without daring to delay, Mu Hongchen immediately called Mu Jinyu to share her findings.

After listening, Mu Jinyu said he understood, then hung up the phone, changed clothes, and prepared to head to the airport to take a chartered flight to Kunlun.

While changing, his eyes blazed with a ferocious flame, "A traitor? Shen Cangsheng? Qin Qiaochu? Di Yin?! No matter who it is, if anything happens to Ah-Xiang, I will massacre your entire family!!!"

The first person Mu Jinyu suspected was Shen Cangsheng. After all, he had been missing for some time, reportedly visiting his sect in the Kunlun Ruins, and with Xiang Mantang running into trouble in Kunlun, plus Shen Cangsheng's great grudge against him, the likelihood of him seeking revenge on Xiang Mantang was incredibly high!

Of course, he did not rule out the possibility of Qin Qiaochu and Di Yin being jealous of Xiang Mantang and him leading Dragon King Hall, and thus designing to ambush Xiang Mantang.

But no matter who it was, once he rescued Xiang Mantang, he would definitely settle scores with them one by one!

At this moment, Mu Jinyu was no longer the usual laid-back person, thinking of letting Xiang Mantang handle everything while he slacked off.

"Ah-Xiang, please don't let anything be wrong!!"

After getting dressed, Mu Jinyu was about to leave.

"Jinyu, look at this, how about I wear this wedding gown when we get married?"

Just then, Wen Rou, holding a set of photos, ran into Mu Jinyu's room and said excitedly and with longing.

Mu Jinyu paused, then reluctantly smiled at Wen Rou and said, "I'll look at it when I come back; I need to make a trip out of town now."

The smile on Wen Rou's face unconsciously fell into a frown upon hearing this.

But seeing that something was off with Mu Jinyu's complexion, which was very pale, she realized something was wrong and quickly asked, "Is something the matter?"

"Yeah!" Mu Jinyu rushed out of the room without looking back, "My junior brother is in danger alone in a foreign place, and I need to go help him!"

Wen Rou watched Mu Jinyu's receding back, mumbling to herself, "Junior brother? Xiang Mantang? Is he in danger? I hope all goes well for you."

...

Meanwhile, Mu Jinyu had already boarded the chartered flight bound for Kunlun.

On the other side, Xiang Mantang was battling over a hundred people alone while protecting Chen Qianqian.

As for the assassin who had arrived with him, upon seeing the unfavorable situation, he didn't think of helping Xiang Mantang fight off all these people but instead turned on him.

In the end, the assassin was naturally killed by Xiang Mantang, but not before Xiang Mantang was ambushed with a cut to his arm from the assassin's dagger.

Then, Xiang Mantang discovered there was poison on the assassin's dagger, and now, surrounded by over a hundred enemies, he had no chance to retrieve the antidote to counteract the poison, causing his arm to start going stiff and making his movements somewhat inconvenient.

Moreover, he had to protect Chen Qianqian.

This greatly increased the difficulty of breaking out of the encirclement.

"Brother... what should we do? I'm so scared!!"

Chen Qianqian's face turned pale, her small hands clutching tightly to Xiang Mantang's garment, speaking timidly.

On hearing her words, Xiang Mantang's heart couldn't help but tremble.

Her tone, her actions, they were all identical to the memory of his sister, who would grab the hem of his shirt, seeking help when she feared being scolded by their parents after doing something wrong!

How could it not move Xiang Mantang?

Truth be told, at first, Xiang Mantang also suspected that the appearance of this group might have been due to Chen Qianqian.

But her words erased all his doubts.

She must be his sister!

Once before, he failed to protect her, allowing her to be taken away by evildoers.

Today, he was determined to rescue her at the risk of his life!

Chapter 435 Silly Brother!

Xiang Mantang protected Chen Qianqian behind him, holding a gleaming long sword he had snatched, cleaved with a slash, and instantaneously, the sword Qi rampaged, severing the arms and ears of several brawny men in front by half.

And for the unlucky ones who failed to dodge in time, they were cleaved into two, dying a tragic death!

"Shhhhh!"

Surrounded and attacked, Xiang Mantang also had to protect the utterly defenseless Chen Qianqian. He killed a few men, but then a dozen more rushed at him, an endless onslaught!

"Brother! Save me!!"

At that moment, Chen Qianqian's panicked and helpless shriek sounded from behind him.

Turning his head, Xiang Mantang saw a lean man who had somehow circled behind him; he was currently grabbing Chen Qianqian's long hair with one hand and was about to chop at her neck with a long sword in his other hand!

Xiang Mantang's eyes nearly burst with fury.

"Ha!!"

With an angry shout, he didn't bother suppressing the poison inside his body, swung his sword, and the sword Qi surged wildly, instantly cleaving the lean man in two.

Afterward, his black hair flailing wildly, he fought a bloody battle in all directions, slaughtering anyone who dared to approach for a sneak attack.

However, as he sought to extricate himself from the situation as quickly as possible, completely ignoring the tricky attacks from his opponents, although he was ferociously unparalleled, slaying about twenty men in one breath, his body also accumulated numerous injuries!

"Die!!"

Dragons have a reverse scale, touch it and you die! Xiang Mantang, because of Chen Qianqian, was completely disregarding his own injuries and the acting poison in his body due to the lack of True Yuan suppression, and began to furiously slaughter in all directions!

Although Xiang Mantang was a Martial Arts Grandmaster, originally the attack of over a hundred Dark Energy Warriors could not harm him.

But he had previously, in Slaughter Redemption, slain the Realm Master by using a Forbidden Secret Technique, leading to an incomplete recovery of his Elemental Qi. Now he had also been sneak attacked by an underling assassin, poisoned with a sinister toxin, and just now he had traded wound for life, which led to injuries piled upon injuries, and he began to falter! Content originally comes from NOvelFire.net

This was like a wounded male lion, once mighty and unparalleled, but now being pounced on, ripped, and torn by a pack of hyenas, and very possibly dying at their hands!

Xiang Mantang was aware of how perilous his situation was, but to protect Chen Qianqian, he thought to himself that he could only look for Mu Jinyu later to treat his wounds.

"Ha!"

Xiang Mantang gave a furious shout, and with a slash of his sword, the sword Qi roared like a dragon, slaying four or five people.

Subsequently, he urged his True Yuan with all his might and executed the Blood Phoenix Slaughter Art once again!

It hadn't even been two days.

Xiang Mantang was deploying this Forbidden Secret Technique once again, which placed an enormous burden on his body, but at this moment, he simply couldn't care about that.

His eyes turned a deep red in an instant, and Xiang Mantang's aura surged like a tidal wave, as if he had transformed into the War God Lu Bu brandishing his sword, with sword Qi erupting like the tides, cutting down a dozen people who had charged at him!

"Ugh..."

"Ahhhh!!"

One by one, those who charged at him also fell down.

The ones behind who wanted to follow suit began to waver.

Of the more than a hundred people, only about thirty remained.

They believed that with only them left, they couldn't possibly kill Xiang Mantang, and charging him would just be adding to the pile.

"Let's go! Let's go!"

"Run!!"

Their hearts in disarray, they immediately turned and ran toward the narrow valley entrance.

"Where do you think you're going?!"

Xiang Mantang would by no means let them leave.

If he let them go now, and if they came back after he could no longer suppress his injuries, then he would be reduced to waiting for slaughter.

Therefore, since he had already executed the Forbidden Secret Technique, he had to keep them all here!

"You've all come already, why leave now!"

Xiang Mantang swung his sword to slay several more, speaking coldly, his voice chilling to the bone like a demonic sound from the Nine Serenities.

Hearing this, the group of martial artists who were stuck at the valley exit and couldn't break free felt their souls threatened, and they started shoving and pushing each other.

"Shick! Shick!"

Xiang Mantang took big strides and dashed behind them, swinging his sword like rain, each strike decapitating a head, sending up a crimson spray of blood!

"Heh!"

In the end, only the original leader was left, having run over a hundred meters outside the valley mouth!

But such a distance, for Xiang Mantang, was essentially nothing.

He was a Martial Arts Grandmaster who could kill with a breath, a mere hundred meters, he wouldn't dream of letting anyone escape from his grasp!

Xiang Mantang bellowed furiously, his long sword emitting a tremor, and then he threw it with a mighty force!

The long sword shot straight out like an arrow launched from a fully drawn bow, catching up to the leader in three seconds and pinning him against a tree!

"Clang!"

The sword nailed the man to the tree, blood oozing from his mouth and nose, dying with his eyes wide open, while the handle of the sword, driven in with too much force, still quivered wildly after sticking in the trunk!

"Heh... heh..."

The killing intent in Xiang Mantang's heart surged madly, the side effects of "Blood Phoenix Slaughter Art" began to show. He wanted to kill more, to slaughter without end, but now, there was no one left to kill but Chen Qianqian!

But she was his sister, how could he possibly strike her down?

So, he repressed the murderous rage in his heart, without the purifying Qi of Mu Jinyu's "True Dragon Art" to aid him, it was excruciating.

But after a minute.

His love for his sister eventually helped him suppress this killing desire successfully.

"Puh!"

The consequence, of course, was that his internal injuries worsened, causing him to spit out another mouthful of fresh blood.

"Big brother!!"

At this moment, Chen Qianqian finally snapped out of her panicked helplessness.

She held a long sword with trembling hands, the sight of the corpses all around turning her face ghostly pale. Seeing Xiang Mantang standing alone with his sword, unable to hold back a mouthful of fresh blood, she cried out in shock.

Then, Chen Qianqian carefully stepped over the corpses on the ground as she made her way toward Xiang Mantang.

Looking at Xiang Mantang with an expression of fear and emotion on his fierce face, she hurriedly took out a tissue from her bag to wipe the blood from the corner of his mouth.

"Big brother, are... are you okay?" she asked with concern.

Xiang Mantang slowly shook his head, saying, "I'm fine!"

His voice was as hoarse as if he hadn't drunk water for many days.

Chen Qianqian's eyes welled up, she said, "Brother, why are you so good to me, risking your life to save me?"

Xiang Mantang's voice trembled with a laugh, hoarsely saying, "Whether you are my sister or not, just because of your face, I must protect you no matter what. I didn't have the ability to protect you before, but now I have to protect you no matter what!"

"Brother!"

Chen Qianqian, moved and happy at Xiang Mantang's words, could no longer hold back and threw herself into Xiang Mantang's arms.

She didn't care about his blood-soaked body at all.

Xiang Mantang gently patted Chen Qianqian's back, telling her not to be afraid.

His heart was filled with contentment, whether Chen Qianqian was Xiang Yinxui or not, he had accepted this sister.

"Silly brother, you really don't have to be so nice to me..."

Huddled in Xiang Mantang's embrace, Chen Qianqian's tone was wistful as she spoke.

"If not you, who else should your brother be good to..."

Xiang Mantang's words were cut off mid-sentence, his expression suddenly stiffened!

"Shick!"

The sound of a stabbing knife abruptly rang out from his embrace.

Chen Qianqian pushed Xiang Mantang away, her expression cold, and the corners of her mouth slightly raised with a sneer:

"Silly brother, I was deceiving you..."

Chapter 436 Sincere Blessings!

An unexpected blow, an indescribable heartache.

Xiang Mantang stared blankly at Chen Qianqian, who wore a mocking smile, then looked down at the long sword hilt protruding from her own chest, her complexion turning ashen.

"Hehehe... Hehehe... Hahaha..."

Afterward, Xiang Mantang let out a long, desolate and helpless laugh.

Indeed, the greater the hope, the greater the disappointment!

In her heart, she had always harbored doubts. Why, as soon as she had entered the valley, had a group of people come in to encircle and attack her?

The root cause of all this, of course, was that Chen Qianqian had lured her into an ambush!

Yet she never wanted to think in that direction.

However, in the end, she had bet on the wrong horse.

This ambush was indeed a trap Chen Qianqian set for her!

The dream of a happy family reunion she had been pursuing had finally been shattered.

"Tch!"

Xiang Mantang forcefully pulled out the long sword from her chest, triggering a spray of blood.

Fortunately, her heart was naturally positioned somewhat to the side, and Chen Qianqian's strike hadn't actually pierced her heart.

Otherwise, even as a Martial Arts Grandmaster, had her heart been pierced, Xiang Mantang would not have survived!

Though Chen Qianqian's sword did not pierce her heart, it had utterly shattered it!

"You?! You, you, you?!"

Chen Qianqian watched as Xiang Mantang pulled the long sword from her chest, her pupils contracting, never expecting that having been stabbed in the chest, she would not die.

After that, Chen Qianqian came to understand that Xiang Mantang must have a misplaced heart, and that she had not really stabbed her heart.

Having realized this,

Chen Qianqian, worried that Xiang Mantang might lash out in a dying counterattack, hurriedly picked up another long sword from the blood-stained ground and, with a vicious intent in her eyes, chopped at her!

"Clang, clang, clang!"

Xiang Mantang knelt on one knee, one hand pressing the ground, while the other hand wielded the long sword she had pulled from her chest, crossing blades with Chen Qianqian.

With Chen Qianqian's fierce attacks, Xiang Mantang came to realize that she knew martial arts and had reached the peak of Dark Energy.

It turned out that her previous timidity and fear, hiding behind him and screaming "Brother, save me," were all an act!

"Agh!"

Xiang Mantang let out a roar of pain.

She almost lost control over the surging killing intent that wanted to cleave Chen Qianqian in two!

Even though she was seriously injured now, she was still a Martial Arts Grandmaster; a mere Peak Dark Energy was something she could easily handle.

But looking at Chen Qianqian's face—the one she had daydreamed and nightmared about—she couldn't bring herself to strike!

Xiang Mantang could not be sure whether Chen Qianqian was indeed the enemy who had schemed from behind, deliberately giving her surgery to look this way, or was she truly her own younger sister, just brainwashed by the enemy when she was young?

If it were the latter, leading to fratricide, and if she had indeed killed her only to examine the body later and find out they were truly siblings...

Could she still carry on living?!

"Hehehe..."

Xiang Mantang parried Chen Qianqian's killing moves while letting out a laugh filled with both despair and sorrow.

After several intense exchanges,

"Shick!"

Xiang Mantang's injury acted up, the side effects of the Forbidden Secret Technique surfaced once more, and the poison from the Assassin's Poison Blade began to erupt; she could no longer hold on and Chen Qianqian's strike opened a foot-long gash across her chest, nearly gutting her.

"Clink!"

Chen Qianqian's next sword swing knocked the long sword from Xiang Mantang's weakened grip to the ground.

"Swoosh!"

Chen Qianqian held her sword at Xiang Mantang's throat, her gaze ice-cold and merciless, and said, "Beidou Tianshu is nothing special after all."

Xiang Mantang lay powerlessly in a pool of blood, breathing faintly, his pupils dilated, unable to utter a word.

In the recent fight with Chen Qianqian,

he actually had countless opportunities to strike a deadly blow, but he always missed those chances in hesitation.

After all, the person he was fighting against was likely his own blood-related younger sister, one of the few remaining relatives he had in this world.

Even if she didn't recognize their kinship and wanted to kill him, he simply couldn't bring himself to deal the fatal strike.

After struggling several times, Xiang Mantang ultimately couldn't bring himself to kill her, instead giving Chen Qianqian the opportunity to knock his long-sword away, completely defeating him.

At this moment, Xiang Mantang had severe internal injuries and the poison had erupted; even without Chen Qianqian finishing him off, he would not last much longer.

Chen Qianqian understood this as well, and not worried about Xiang Mantang fighting back at death's door, she sneered holding the knife to his neck, crouching down, and mockingly said, "Do you have any last words?"

Xiang Mantang's pupils were dilated, and his lips moved slightly. Chen Qianqian couldn't hear him, so she leaned her ear closer, wanting to hear how he would curse her before dying.

After this, she could torment him even more! And she wouldn't feel guilty in the slightest.

Leaning close to Xiang Mantang's mouth, Chen Qianqian heard his barely audible voice.

"Sister, you must... live on... well..."

His last words held no resentment, no unwillingness...

They contained only a sincere blessing, and from the bottom of his heart, regret...

Chen Qianqian's expression stiffened; she hadn't expected that even at this point, Xiang Mantang bore no grudge against her!

A strange feeling suddenly rose in her heart.

She touched her own cheek with her hand.

Her face, of course, wasn't modified by cosmetic surgery, nor was it changed through any disguise, but was truly hers.

Could it be...

Could she really be his sister...

Chen Qianqian abruptly shook her head, not daring to continue such thoughts!

No, no, no!

She had a happy family, countless senior brothers who treated her well, sisters, how could she possibly be his sister!

Chen Qianqian forced herself to stop thinking about it.

Mostly because she couldn't bear to consider the consequences—what if Xiang Mantang really was her brother?

The consequence was too much for her to bear; it would cause her to break down.

Looking down at the dying Xiang Mantang, Chen Qianqian's original determination to behead him wavered.

Thinking that Xiang Mantang was about to die, and this place being so remote, who could save him?

After hesitating for a moment, Chen Qianqian threw away the long-sword and ran towards the valley entrance, her mind in chaos!

Listening to the sound of Chen Qianqian leaving, Xiang Mantang's consciousness was no longer clear, hanging on to just a few final thoughts.

'Senior Brother, I'm sorry, I might not be able to attend your wedding...'

'Senior Brother, the billions in gift money, I hope Liu Mei will give it to you on my behalf...'

'Ah-Xiu, whether you are Ah-Xiu or not, I hope you can forget the unpleasantness of today and live a good life...'

'...'

Xiang Mantang's vision gradually darkened, and his consciousness fell into confusion.

He didn't know how much time had passed.

"Ah-Xiang! Ah-Xiang!! Hang in there!!!"

Heart-wrenching cries echoed in his ears, sounding so familiar to Xiang Mantang... It was...

Mu Jinyu's voice.

Senior Brother?!

As this thought emerged, Xiang Mantang with great effort, strained to open his eyelids.

Finally, his eyelids slowly parted a crack, and Xiang Mantang saw the panicked face of Mu Jinyu.

Chapter 437: Saving and Killing Each Other!

In a small forest five miles from that valley.

At this moment, Chen Qianqian walked slowly to this place and said to the man standing under a tree with his hands behind his back, "Senior Brother Shen, as per your instructions, Beidou Tianshu has died under my blade."

"Is that so?"

Upon hearing Chen Qianqian's words, the man turned around abruptly, his eyes filled with an irrepressible delight.

Then, he saw that Chen Qianqian's hand did not hold the head of Xiang Mantang, and his face suddenly changed.

"Senior Brother, can you give me the Xuanyin Crystal Stone now?" Chen Qianqian lowered her eyelids, speaking with an unidentifiable emotion in her voice.

Senior Brother Shen's face darkened as he said, "You still have the nerve to ask for things? I told you to bring back the head of Beidou Tianshu, where did you take it?"

If Mu Jinyu and Xiang Mantang were here, they would recognize that the Senior Brother Shen conversing with Chen Qianqian was none other than Shen Cangsheng!

He was very cautious and dared not personally go to encircle and kill Xiang Mantang.

Lest there be any accidents, in case the assassination of Xiang Mantang was unsuccessful and exposed himself, causing this land to no longer have a place for him.

Chen Qianqian responded somberly, "He took a knife in his chest from me, and with the Xuanming Snake's Poison in him as well, he has stopped breathing; there's simply no way he can reverse life and death. Why bother to mutilate his corpse then?"

"You don't understand!" Shen Cangsheng's voice was cold and filled with boundless hatred, as if a chilly wind was blowing from the Nine Serenities, "He and I share a hatred deeper than the sky. It's impossible to leave his body intact. Moreover, his Senior Brother, Mu Jinyu, is a divine healer, capable of bringing back the dead and mending broken bones. If we leave his body intact, who knows if he could be brought back to life!"

Shen Cangsheng's eyes shone with endless venom as he spoke.

Initially, there wasn't much enmity between him and Xiang Mantang.

However, from the day he got engaged to Su Zijin and Xiang Mantang ruined it by calling out to Mu Jinyu, and later when he released messenger pigeons to call for help from his sect at the Kunlun Ruins to annihilate both of them, his pigeons were intercepted by Xiang Mantang right in the middle of their journey!

All these made him eager to kill Xiang Mantang to satiate his fury!

Of course, the person Shen Cangsheng hated the most was still Mu Jinyu, but as a matter of principle in killing, he would never simply kill Mu Jinyu. Instead, he wanted to slowly kill those close to Mu Jinyu, to make Mu Jinyu live in pain and regret before grinding his bones to dust!

Therefore, acquiring Xiang Mantang's head was a must, not only to ensure Xiang Mantang would never rise again, but also to send it express to Mu Jinyu!

He wanted to watch Mu Jinyu receive Xiang Mantang's head and fall into an agonizing breakdown, so that he could vent the hatred in his heart!

Shen Cangsheng's eyes, carrying the color of frenzied resentment, spoke again, "Go, bring back the head of Beidou Tianshu, and I will give you what you want!"

Chen Qianqian's lips moved slightly, her eyes reflecting hesitation and struggle. In the end, thinking of the Xuanyin Crystal Stone she desired, she let out a resigned sigh, and said, "Yes!"

Having said that, she turned and walked back toward the direction of the Secluded Valley.

As for Shen Cangsheng, he stood with his hands behind his back, watching Chen Qianqian leave.

He was very cautious. Even though he knew that Xiang Mantang was probably hanging by a thread, if not already dead, he was reluctant to take the risk himself. It was safer to have Chen Qian, the sister of Xiang Mantang, take Xiang Mantang's head.

...

Xiang Mantang opened his eyes faintly, looking despairingly and helplessly at Mu Jinyu who was pressing his hands over his own chest, where a greenish glow flickered continuously, making his body feel refreshed, healing his extremely serious injuries.

Even the poison that gnawed at him like maggots in his bones was being completely purged.

"Ah-Xiang, Ah-Xiang you've finally awakened."

Mu Jinyu was exerting all his power on the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core, healing Xiang Mantang's terrifying injuries. He didn't know how long it took, but he finally pulled him back from the brink of the Underworld.

By now, his forehead was covered with large beads of sweat, some of which had even dropped onto his eyelashes, misting his vision. Yet, he couldn't afford to be distracted to wipe them off.

Seeing Xiang Mantang's eyelashes twitch and his eyes crack open as if waking from his coma, Mu Jinyu immediately breathed a long sigh of relief.

However, Mu Jinyu didn't dare to let his guard down, because Xiang Mantang's injuries were just too severe. At the moment, he could only be considered barely rescued but had not yet stabilized.

"Don't move yet, let your senior brother save you!"

As Xiang Mantang's lips quivered, as if he was about to say something, Mu Jinyu quickly spoke up to remind him.

"Sssss!"

Just then, a faint sound of footsteps suddenly rang out from behind.

Mu Jinyu heard the noise and felt a surge of panic, drenched in sweat from the urgency, but it was a critical moment for treating Xiang Mantang. He couldn't afford to stop; otherwise, all his efforts would be wasted, and he would lose the chance to save Xiang Mantang.

Xiang Mantang was weak and his vision was blurry. It took immense effort for him to finally pry his eyelids open and see who the newcomer was!

His whole body shuddered, his eyes filled with despair, agony, sorrow, and madness...

The person was indeed Chen Qianqian, who'd returned!

That was most likely his sister, the person who had hurt him time and again!

Xiang Mantang's heart felt like it was about to explode, his eyes conveying an unspeakable despair and pain.

He shook his body, wanting to tell Mu Jinyu to stop saving him and to leave quickly, and also to not harm Chen Qianqian.

But he was pressed down by Mu Jinyu and couldn't move.

Mu Jinyu continued to treat Xiang Mantang without looking back, knowing well that the situation was still dangerous, but he could not possibly give up the only chance to save Xiang Mantang.

"Ssss!"

Chen Qianqian, with a complex look in her eyes, stepped over the flowers and approached. At this moment, she still couldn't bring herself to decisively behead Xiang Mantang.

To her, it was indeed too cruel.

And at that moment, she saw, in the midst of that field of corpses and sea of blood, Xiang Mantang being propped up by someone, his chest radiating a green ghostly light. From a distance, one could feel

an extremely rich essence of life, making the whole body feel comfortable, as if small ailments could be healed without medicine.

That must be Mu Jinyu's doing, right?

She shuddered demurely.

Indeed, Shen Cangsheng was right; Mu Jinyu truly possessed the ability to bring the dead back to life and mend white bones. She had been too careless. Without his warning, wouldn't she have today released the tiger back to its mountain, leaving behind a serious threat?!

"Haah!"

Chen Qianqian's face turned cold instantly. She kicked up a longsword from the ground, grasped it in her hand, and charged toward Mu Jinyu!

Xiang Mantang was frantic at the sight and struggled desperately.

"Clang!"

Mu Jinyu heard the commotion but remained indifferent, letting Chen Qianqian's blade come down on him.

After all, he was a Master of Energy Transformation, having reached the pinnacle of martial arts. He could emit his True Qi outward to form a Protective Gang Qi, and he wasn't someone that a Peak Dark Energy Martial Artist like Chen Qianqian could easily ambush.

However, without making any move, how long could his Protective Gang Qi shield him?

"Clang, clang, clang!"

Chen Qianqian naturally knew this as well. She had relied on disguise and ambush to succeed against Xiang Mantang, but Mu Jinyu wouldn't be as foolish as Xiang Mantang, repeatedly holding back against her.

And once Mu Jinyu was able to free his hands, how could she, a mere Peak Dark Energy Martial Artist, be his match?

So she had to take this opportunity to break Mu Jinyu's Protective Gang Qi, kill him, and then kill Xiang Mantang!

Only by taking the heads of both men could she be absolutely safe!

Chapter 438: There's Still a Chance!

"Clang clang clang!"

Chen Qianqian swung her long saber like a shrew, crazily slashing at Mu Jinyu.

Finally, after she had hacked dozens of times, Mu Jinyu's Protective Gang Qi hadn't been broken, but her saber in hand had simply shattered.

It didn't matter, though, there were many more precious sabers left on the ground. Chen Qianqian picked up another and continued to chop at Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu ultimately had to divert some of his True Yuan to heal Xiang Mantang, leaving him unable to fully block Chen Qianqian's attacks.

Otherwise, with his strength at the Peak of the Energy Transformation, Chen Qianqian could hack at him all day and still hardly harm him!

Such a pity.

"Bang!"

Accompanied by a sound like a balloon bursting, Mu Jinyu's Protective Gang Qi was finally shattered by Chen Qianqian.

Xiang Mantang, greatly alarmed, kept making wailing noises.

His wounds had largely healed by this time, but due to excessive blood loss and the secret technique applied by Mu Jinyu, he could hardly move and was unable to free himself from Mu Jinyu to block Chen Qianqian's attacks!

"Hiss!"

"Hiss!"

Chen Qianqian was so frenzied in her chopping that she failed to notice Mu Jinyu's Protective Gang Qi had been broken; she could have stabbed directly into his heart or chopped off his head with one blow.

Fear filled her heart, fearing that Mu Jinyu would stop healing Xiang Mantang and turn to deal with her, so she kept swinging her saber, fiercely chopping at Mu Jinyu's back!

Blood sprayed wildly, mixed with bits of flesh and debris.

In just a few moments, Mu Jinyu's back was punctured by Chen Qianqian's slashes, and his originally smooth back no longer had a single spot of intact skin!

Blood flowed like a fountain, and the pain of a thousand cuts continuously assaulted him, turning Mu Jinyu's face pale as paper. Yet he bore the intense pain, relying on his firm will, and he continued to channel the Life Force of the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core, healing Xiang Mantang.

'No!!'

"Stop!!!"

'Don't save me anymore, stop your hand!'

'Stop, please, do not harm him!!!'

Xiang Mantang watched this scene, his eyes filled with utter despair and pain, screaming internally.

Sadly, whether Mu Jinyu or Chen Qianqian, neither could hear his voice.

"Die! Die! Die!"

Chen Qianqian had fallen into a state of dire frenzy, continuously slashing her saber at Mu Jinyu.

At that moment, Xiang Mantang finally felt his weakly beating heart start to beat strongly again.

Originally, Chen Qianqian had stabbed him near the heart, and although the heart wasn't injured, the heart channels were.

Without a doctor's emergency intervention within twenty-four hours to connect the heart channels, he might have lasted a few hours, but he would still die.

Now, his severed heart channels had finally been connected back together by Mu Jinyu using the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core.

His fatal injury had finally healed!

A faint smile finally appeared on Mu Jinyu's deathly pale and completely bloodless face.

He had finally saved Xiang Mantang.

"Ahh!!!"

Xiang Mantang finally could move; seeing Chen Qianqian still slashing at Mu Jinyu, he let out an intensely pained roar!

On one side was his blood-related sister, and on the other, a brother who was his life's support; one fighting to the death with him, the other risking his life to save him. How was he to choose? Did he even have a choice?

"Hiss!"

Xiang Mantang raised a finger, and a terrifying Finger Force immediately pierced through Chen Qianqian's throat!

"Uh..."

Chen Qianqian weakly waved her long saber, unable to continue chopping. She widened her eyes in disbelief and despair, her lips twitching, emitting a series of sounds.

"Clang!"

The long sword fell to the ground.

Chen Qianqian staggered backwards, covering her throat with her hand.

Her heart was full of despair and pain!

Why had this happened, why had Xiang Mantang tried to kill her?

It shouldn't be!

She had fought with him before, but he had never tried to kill her, so why? Why was he doing this to her now?

Chen Qianqian was filled with despair and regret.

She began to regret coming to attack Xiang Mantang for a few Xuanyin Crystal Stones and eventually paying with her own life!

"Ugh..."

"Thump!"

After struggling a few times, Chen Qianqian finally fell backward and breathed her last.

Until her death, her eyes were wide open, unable to rest in peace, unable to understand why Xiang Mantang had suddenly turned against her.

"My dearest sister, why must you hurt me so!"

Xiang Mantang looked at Chen Qianqian's body, at her fallen form, and her bewildered gaze, much like the frustrated expression she had when he had easily found her during their childhood games of hide and seek.

"Crack, crack, crack..."

Xiang Mantang clenched his fists tightly, his eyes revealing endless grief and despair.

Then, no longer contemplating that he had finally killed the sister he had searched for many years, he hurriedly reached out to support Mu Jinyu, whose body was also falling backward.

"Don't die, Senior Brother, don't die!!!"

In a flurry, Xiang Mantang picked up the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core, which had numerous cracks, supported Mu Jinyu, recalled some Cultivation Methods his master had taught him, and began to draw out the scarce Life Source Energy from the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core, then gently placed it on Mu Jinyu's mangled back.

"This..."

Xiang Mantang, looking at Mu Jinyu's wounds, felt a heart full of panic and fear, didn't dare to think, and forcefully activated the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core, which immediately emitted a brilliant, soft green light from his hand.

Endless vitality once again surged out from the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core.

Mu Jinyu's mangled back, under this vibrant vitality, began to develop new flesh rapidly, and the wounds swiftly healed.

"Crack!"

Xiang Mantang, seeing Mu Jinyu's injuries rapidly recovering, felt a surge of excitement, knowing that Mu Jinyu might be saved, but just then, the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core in his hand suddenly shattered!!

Mu Jinyu, in trying to save Xiang Mantang, who had almost fully entered Yama's Palace, had basically exhausted the horrifying Life Source Energy of the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core.

Xiang Mantang had killed Chen Qianqian, grabbed the heavily cracked Ten Thousand Year Wood Core, and started treating Mu Jinyu. Naturally, the Life Source Energy of the nearly depleted Ten Thousand Year Wood Core was forcefully drawn out and destroyed!

"No!!!!"

Xiang Mantang, seeing the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core collapse, felt extreme panic and let out a powerless and desperate roar!

"Ah-Xiang, there's no need... to waste energy..."

At that moment, Mu Jinyu, whose injuries had slightly improved, his eyelashes trembling, opened his eyes with a look of relief as he gazed at the revived Xiang Mantang and whispered faintly.

Regarding the situation of the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core, although he had been slashed by Chen Qianqian into a blurry consciousness, he still remembered that there wasn't much left.

Knowing his condition after regaining some consciousness from the stimulation of the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core, he knew his chances of living were almost impossible.

Unless Xiang Mantang could produce a Heavenly Material and Earthly Treasure with Life Source Energy equal to the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core.

But that was impossible.

And he couldn't hold on until they reached a nearby city for rescue!

"No!! There's still a chance!!!"

Xiang Mantang's eyes were full of fear and urgency. Then, as if something occurred to him, his eyes brightened, and without hesitation, he picked up a knife from the ground, cut his own wrist, and fed his blood to Mu Jinyu.

His body, filled with boundless vitality from the Life Source Energy of the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core, meant his blood still contained quite a bit of Life Source Energy. Feeding it to Mu Jinyu might give him a chance to hold on until they reached a nearby city for treatment!

Chapter 439: The Only Brother!

After drinking several mouthfuls of blood from Xiang Mantang's wrist, Mu Jinyu's pale complexion gained a hint of color.

Seeing it was effective and noticing that the wound on his own wrist was scabbing, Xiang Mantang hurriedly slashed it again, immediately causing blood to spurt out violently; he pressed it to Mu Jinyu's mouth.

Mu Jinyu was again forced to swallow a few mouthfuls of blood. When Xiang Mantang's wound began to scab over once more, and he was about to slash his wrist again, Mu Jinyu finally raised a hand to grab his arm.

"No need... it's a waste... my condition... I know... even if you... give me all your blood... it's useless..."

Mu Jinyu was extremely weak, his voice coming in stutters.

Xiang Mantang understood him, and immediately felt the hope that had just risen plunge back into the abyss.

"No, let's try again!"

Xiang Mantang refused to sit still and wait for death; he couldn't just watch Mu Jinyu wait to die, and prepared to continue slashing his wrist.

But Mu Jinyu, holding his wrist, shook it with a pleading look on his face.

Xiang Mantang could shake off his palm in a flash, but how could he bear to harm Mu Jinyu further?

He was suddenly caught between a rock and a hard place!

Mu Jinyu gasped for a few breaths and spoke with difficulty, "Don't be like this... don't waste... my efforts..."

Xiang Mantang understood his meaning; if he persisted alone, the likely outcome would be that not only would he fail to save Mu Jinyu, but also the life he had been saved would be thrown away again!

It would mean both of them dying, failing to honor his efforts!

"Hehehe... Hahaha..."

Xiang Mantang was extremely distressed and suddenly burst out laughing, tears streaming down his face, laughing even uglier than crying.

"Why are you doing this to me!!"

After howling to the heavens, Xiang Mantang dared not delay any longer; he bent down to lift Mu Jinyu onto his back and then rushed towards the mouth of the valley.

He needed to quickly take Mu Jinyu away from Kunlun Mountain to the nearest city hospital for emergency treatment; there might still be a chance to save him!

However.

Just as Xiang Mantang had lifted Mu Jinyu on his back and walked out of the valley mouth.

A group of men clad in black suddenly appeared, blocking their path.

"Get lost!"

Xiang Mantang, recognizing their attire as the same as the group who had just attacked him, had no patience to deal with them as he was desperate to save Mu Jinyu and bellowed angrily.

"Kill!"

The several hundred men wielding battle swords were less powerful than the hundreds who had previously surrounded Xiang Mantang, only having minor to great achievements in dark energy.

They obeyed Shen Cangsheng's orders; when Shen Cangsheng realized that Chen Qianqian hadn't returned for a long time, he sent them to assassinate Xiang Mantang.

At that moment, seeing that Xiang Mantang was indeed resurrected, they all rushed toward him with malicious grins, intent on killing him.

Shen Cangsheng had promised them that whoever took Xiang Mantang's head would get ample resources in return.

"Get out of my way! Those who obstruct me die!!"

Seeing them come to entangle him, Xiang Mantang roared angrily, his voice exuding fierce force energy, directly causing the few people in the lead to bleed from their mouths and noses, dying on the spot!

Afterward, he kicked the ground, sending gravel flying everywhere, instantly killing another dozen people!

"Kill!!!"

A group of people clad in black were not daunted, charging at Mu Jinyu one after another with unyielding tenacity!

Xiang Mantang grabbed a battle saber with one swift motion, his eyes brimming with a murderous aura. He vigorously summoned his inner strength, unleashing a powerful surge of sword qi that erupted with fury, and in an instant, he took down more than twenty people!

"Shhh shhh shhh!"

Blood rained down as severed limbs and dismembered arms dropped to the ground.

Xiang Mantang was somewhat stunned himself.

After his encounter with death at Ghost Gate, his power had broken through once again!

He was almost reaching a Half-Step Holding Dan, a near step into the Innate Realm!

"Go!"

"Quick, let's go; he's not injured!"

Seeing Xiang Mantang's unstoppable might, where did the others find the courage to engage in a futile death march? They instantly turned and scattered, fleeing through the woods.

Xiang Mantang had no time to spare on them; he needed to get Mu Jinyu out of there quickly.

"Senior brother, you must hang in there. You must hang on; don't fall asleep!"

While carrying Mu Jinyu on his back and sprinting forward, Xiang Mantang spoke to him, trying to keep him conscious.

Mu Jinyu, teetering on the brink of death, was more lucid than ever. Resting on Xiang Mantang's back, he whispered weakly, "I'll try my best. I've made so much money, and I've courted several wives without even marrying them yet. How could I possibly die?!"

Despite his words, Mu Jinyu knew all too well that the chances of him surviving were slim.

Nevertheless, he did not regret saving Xiang Mantang in the least.

The regret was, he feared he would break the promise to marry Gu Xiyan and the others once they returned.

And then there was Su Zijin, who had been eager for him and Gu Xiyan to have a healthy baby boy soon, so she could hold her grandson early. That dream too, it seemed, would be dashed.

"Hmm..." Xiang Mantang's voice choked up, "You being such a miser, how could you die before me? You definitely won't have any trouble!"

"Who's a miser?!" Mu Jinyu protested in a frail and dissatisfied tone.

Xiang Mantang, with a choked-up voice, said, "Senior brother, all these years, I've always freeloaded off you. You would often complain, saying that even biological brothers should settle accounts clearly. We're only martial brothers, without any blood ties. Yet, I've swindled over a hundred billion yuan from you. It's nothing short of banditry. You've always asked me to repay the debt. Once we get back, you cooperate with the doctor, get treated, get better, and I'll pay back every penny!"

"No need for that; I'm not short on money anymore, let's just say I've been doing my part to help the world..." Mu Jinyu, feeling his life force slipping away, chuckled softly.

Xiang Mantang's heart quivered as he murmured, "How can you say that, senior brother? I remember you telling me when we were little, your father was a skilled doctor, helping the world with his medical skills. Yet often, because the sick patients were too poor to afford the consultation fee, he never charged them a penny, even going as far as to give away medicine for free, saving countless lives. But when he fell ill in the prime of his life, despite spending all his wealth, he couldn't find a cure. And those he had once helped, few were willing to offer financial aid. He died with such regret... You've lived with this regret your entire life and swore never to be like your father. You pledged to demand payment for saving lives and treating the sick. How can you possibly refuse to take my money? I didn't give you any money just now, why did you save me? You shouldn't have saved me!!"

Mu Jinyu laughed softly, his breathing growing fainter, yet his gaze was clear and filled with a tender smile as he struggled to speak, "I don't regret it, Ah-Xiang!"

"Do you remember when we were kids? In the orphanage, because I didn't want to interact with others, with my extreme personality, I was often bullied. It was you who defended me, who used the few yuan you earned from collecting scraps to treat me to a bowl of beef noodles..."

"From that moment on, I decided that you were my only brother..."

Hearing Mu Jinyu's words, tears uncontrollably streamed down Xiang Mantang's face, and as he ran too fast, they immediately flew backward off his cheeks.

Listening to Xiang Mantang's sobbing, and feeling the tears hit his face, Mu Jinyu expressed his annoyance, "Really, you're such a nuisance. Whenever we talk about food, you start drooling. Never mind, you just recovered from an injury, so I won't scold you. I'm a bit tired, I want to sleep..."

Chapter 440:

Xiang Mantang, hearing Mu Jinyu's increasingly weak and powerless words, felt extreme pain in his heart. He was just about to shout at him not to fall asleep, to hold on a little longer...

when he felt Mu Jinyu's head gently lean against his shoulder, and in a low, feeble voice he said, "I'm really sorry, because of me, your sister who you finally found..."

"Don't say another word!" Xiang Mantang's tone suddenly intensified, filled with pain as he said, "She's not my sister, you're my only brother, my only family member!"

Seeing that Mu Jinyu didn't speak, as if he was about to fall asleep, Xiang Mantang quickened his pace while feeling a great urgency in his heart, and hurriedly tried to engage him in several other topics.

But Mu Jinyu didn't seem to have any interest in responding, and in the end, Xiang Mantang shouted, "Big brother, don't sleep yet; how about we sing a song?"

Hearing Xiang Mantang's words, Mu Jinyu mustered up some energy and said, "Alright, I'll start."

After speaking, without waiting for Xiang Mantang to respond, he began to hum softly:

"Lowering my eyes to turn off the light, looking back on this stretch of life.

Seeing that through all the changes of today and that day, you still accompany me on my journey with the same determination;

There were times of despair when I wondered why I even exist;

But you inspired me, to carry the gloom, to bravely face life...

If I could, live once more, I hope to encounter you again on the road...

And to write the sentences of a lifetime together, if I could live once more, a thousand times...

I hope that before me, it is still you...

I want to have, in every life, the warmth of this life..."

Xiang Mantang, listening to Mu Jinyu's singing, crumbled in an instant, tears flowing down as he sobbed, taking up the song:

"I have nothing to give you, but through this verse, I ask;

Thank you for being there in stormy weather, never withdrawing, willing to accompany me..."

Mu Jinyu continued to hum:

"Temporary farewell to you today, but through the fire of my love,

May I live in your heart, and even when apart, it feels as if we've spent the time together..."

As Mu Jinyu hummed to the end, his voice grew weaker and weaker, and finally, his head drooped onto Xiang Mantang's shoulder as he murmured, "No more singing, my throat hurts a bit, I'm so tired; let me, your big brother, take a little nap, okay? Don't be like when you were little, sneaking under the covers at night and crying about missing mom and dad, always waking me up. Now we're both grown up, you can't cry and wake me up anymore. Let me have a peaceful sleep."

"Big brother! Big brother..."

Xiang Mantang felt the vital signs of Mu Jinyu on his back rapidly declining and cried out with all his might.

But Mu Jinyu didn't respond to him again.

Xiang Mantang hastily put him down, once again cut his wrist, and fed him his blood.

After receiving his blood, the heartbeat that was meant to stop in Mu Jinyu suddenly began to beat again, albeit still weakly.

Xiang Mantang dared not delay any longer and hurriedly rushed towards the outside of Kunlun Mountain!

A few minutes later.

Xiang Mantang just happened to encounter some of the Dragon King Hall members who Mu Jinyu had dispersed to find him. He quickly stopped them and used the communicator to call for the helicopter.

Xiang Mantang watched as a dozen people gathered around him and, after a brief discussion, learned that Mu Jinyu, eager to find him sooner, had dispersed the dozen or so Hall officials he brought with him in search of him.

Upon hearing this, Xiang Mantang felt a wave of regret!

If Mu Jinyu hadn't made such a decision and had instead taken a few people with him, he wouldn't have been completely defenseless when saving him just now, and he wouldn't have been haplessly cut down by Chen Qianqian!

Suddenly, the helicopter flew in and landed in the clearing. After feeding Mu Jinyu his blood again, Xiang Mantang hurriedly carried him onto it.

...

Meanwhile.

Hidden in a mountain cave, Shen Cangsheng, upon hearing the report from his subordinates, was so enraged that he shattered a boulder with one kick and cursed, "They are just lucky!"

Shen Cangsheng deeply resented Chen Qianqian for being good for nothing and only causing failures.

Not only did she fail to kill Xiang Mantang, but she also caused the death of so many of his men brought from the Kunlun Ruins!

At this moment, he was still unaware of the dire situation that Mu Jinyu was in.

He merely thought that Mu Jinyu had arrived in time to rescue Xiang Mantang, causing him heavy losses!

Shen Cangsheng's eyes flickered with a sinister light, knowing that although he hadn't exposed his tracks yet, since Jinyu Mantang had not died, they would eventually trace the matter back to him.

"It seems I can no longer stay at Dragon King Hall!"

Frustrated, Shen Cangsheng thought to himself, then put on a mask, exited the mountain cave, and sped off towards the direction of the Kunlun Ruins.

...

Outside the hospital's emergency room.

Xiang Mantang sat in a chair in the corridor, looking anxiously at the continuously lit red light outside the emergency room, his whole body tense and a sheen of cold sweat on his forehead.

More than three hours had passed without the light turning green, and he had no idea of Mu Jinyu's condition inside.

Xiang Mantang regretted thinking that if he, like his senior brother, had divine medical skills, he wouldn't have had to wait helplessly outside and could have offered assistance.

Regrettably, consumed by hatred back then, and upon learning from his master that his talent for medical skills was not high, he chose to follow the path of slaughter, thinking that with his senior brother backing him, there was nothing to fear!

'Senior brother, you must be alright! What will I do if something happens to you?!' Xiang Mantang kept repeating to himself.

"Tap tap tap..."

Just then, the door to the corridor was pushed open, and a sharp, hurried set of footsteps approached.

Xiang Mantang had no heart to look.

But the voice that followed caused his heart to tighten, and he dared not meet their eyes!

"Tianshu, how is Jinyu?!"

"What exactly happened? Why did he suddenly have an accident?"

"You're not joking with us, are you? Please don't scare us, okay?"

"..."

The newcomers were Mu Jinyu's family members, Su Zijin, Gu Xiyan, Mei Yinxue, Wen Rou, whom Xiang Mantang had earlier sent someone to inform.

They stood outside the emergency room, their pretty faces pale, skin devoid of any color, eyes filled with panic and helplessness as they stared at the glaring red light, then shifted their gaze to the equally pallid Xiang Mantang, pleading for answers.

They hoped that the late-night call Xiang Mantang had made was just a joke he and Mu Jinyu had made after losing a bet to them.

Even if that joke was not funny at all...

Xiang Mantang couldn't bear to look them in the eyes, feeling extremely guilty. Hearing their cries, he finally gently shook his head, his voice hoarse, "I'm sorry..."

"Ding!"

At that moment, the red light outside the emergency room stopped flashing.

The door to the ward opened, and a doctor wearing a white coat and face mask came out.

Seeing the doctor emerge made Su Zijin feel her heart sinking.

Xiang Mantang's call hadn't revealed how serious Mu Jinyu's condition was, but seeing that Mu Jinyu couldn't heal himself and needed an ordinary doctor's rescue, she knew the situation was dire.

Gu Xiyan, seeing the doctor come out, couldn't continue questioning Xiang Mantang and hurried over to ask, "Doctor, how is my husband doing?"

The doctor, with a masked face, was expressionless, but his slight head shake sent everyone's hearts sinking.