

Little Girl 671

Chapter 671: The Pride Corpse's Heartbeat

The more she worried, the quicker the trouble came.

Xin Lin felt her soul body becoming unstable, as if it could drift away at any moment.

This was a sign of insufficient Spiritual Power, an early return to the physical body.

As Xin Lin was worrying, she felt a gaze sweep over.

Monk Fengxi, wearing a bamboo hat, looked up.

Uh!

Beneath the bamboo hat, those eyes seemed to penetrate everything.

"Don't make a sound."

The next moment, Xin Lin felt a chill beside her, as something enveloped her whole body, and she was embraced by Gui Hu.

A refreshing coolness hit her face, like eating a scoop of ice cream in summer.

Her drifting soul body suddenly stabilized, like a ship wavering on the sea suddenly sailing into a calm harbor.

Xin Lin's petite body nestled in Gui Hu's embrace.

This wasn't Xin Lin's first close contact with the Pride Corpse.

Last time, in a coffin, they even had more intimate actions... but it felt somewhat different now.

She heard a thumping heartbeat.

A heartbeat?

Xin Lin raised an eyebrow and looked up at Gui Hu.

She could be sure it wasn't her own heartbeat.

One after another, firm and strong.

Xin Lin looked up, but being only as tall as her physical form, even looking up, she only saw Gui Hu's chin.

The almost perfectly curved chin, with the masculine angles of determination.

How could the Pride Corpse have a heartbeat?

There wasn't one last time.

In her mind, she inadvertently remembered the scene when they first met.

In the coffin, what she touched was clearly a body with no warmth, no heartbeat.

Could it be?

Has the corpse transformed?

But still, the body was ice-cold, undoubtedly still a corpse.

Xin Lin was puzzled, when a voice nearby drew her attention.

"Waiter, arrange two quiet seats."

The man who came with Fengxi said.

That voice... Xin Lin shivered, no longer pondering the heartbeat issue of the Pride Corpse.

Monk Fengxi's gaze returned from the direction where Xin Lin was.

Behind him stood a man in a yellow shirt, in his forties, handsome and upright, though dressed ordinarily, his aura of nobility was undeniable.

Emperor Longteng.

Good heavens, what fortune tonight.

Not only Monk Fengxi, but Emperor Longteng too in a clandestine visit?

Xin Lin obviously didn't know it was because of her White Jade Steamed Bun.

Emperor Longteng was also decisive. Proposing a clandestine visit, he invited Monk Fengxi that very night to De Yue Building to empathize with the commoners.

Perhaps fearing being recognized, Emperor Longteng had disguised himself, adding a mustache to his face. With the dim lights in De Yue Building, passersby couldn't recognize Emperor Longteng for a while.

"Please come inside, sirs. What would the two guests like to eat?"

The waiter saw one dressed strangely, like a beggar monk, and the other dressed ordinarily, his eyes filled with disdain.

De Yue Building was frequented by the rich or noble; these two did not look like wealthy clients, unable to afford expensive Spiritual Food.

The waiter glanced upstairs and downstairs, at this time of day, De Yue Building was at its busiest, no tables were available.

"There's an empty table over there, please follow me."

The waiter pointed to a corner table, usually piled with wine jars, but now cleared due to good business, exactly suitable for less important guests.

Chapter 672: Neglect

The dismissive attendant casually pointed to a seat without showing the way, then turned to serve a table of customers who ordered over a dozen Spiritual Delicacies.

Emperor Longteng glimpsed at the seat and slightly frowned.

Recently, Master Ji from Taoyao Pavilion has been healing from an injury, unable to prepare Spiritual Food.

Those with picky tastes have thus turned to De Yue Building.

Even though they have coffin planks for tables, it seems like De Yue Building's business looks even more bustling than usual.

"It's been a few years, and De Yue Building seems to have lost all sense of decorum," he commented.

Monk Fengxi, however, paid no attention to the seating; he raised his head and eyed the Phoebe Wood Sign.

This sign...Monk Fengxi's brows furrowed ever so slightly.

When he entered earlier, he felt a certain presence.

But by the time he was ready to look for it, the presence had disappeared.

Now thinking about it, it was because of this sign.

"Without rules, there is no square or circle," he muttered, shaking his head.

Who would have thought that someone would use a coffin board as a sign.

The two had just seated themselves when Emperor Longteng felt his seat wobble and realized one leg of his stool was half its length.

Emperor Longteng's eyebrows knitted even tighter.

"Attendant, bring a basket of cabbage buns, a pot of clean water, and a plate of plain oil tofu."

Emperor Longteng, accompanied by Monk Fengxi, had to abstain from meat and greasy food, so he followed Monk Fengxi's lead and ordered some simple pastries and vegetarian dishes.

Though these dishes seemed ordinary, in fact, they are not so simple.

Everyone knows that the simplest dishes are often the hardest to prepare.

The attendant rolled his eyes upon hearing the order.

The poor always stay poor, and they come to De Yue Building to eat such things?

"Sir, at this time, who would eat buns? If you want to eat buns, come early to queue up, ten taels will cover your fill."

Emperor Longteng's face darkened upon hearing this.

"What do you mean by that? I am... a customer, and your sign also lists cabbage buns, so how do you not have them?"

"Hey, are you trying to cause trouble? This is De Yue Building, you come to eat a few buns, some tofu, and drink clean water without ordering any Spiritual Delicacy, I think you're the one causing trouble," sneered the attendant.

"You! Call your shopkeeper over... no, call for Master Chen."

Emperor Longteng was so angry his chest was heaving.

"My lord, please don't be angry,"

Monk Fengxi spoke in a soothing tone.

His voice seemed to have a calming magic, and Emperor Longteng's expression softened considerably.

"If there's no cabbage buns, then bring a few pieces of mung bean cake, and also two bowls of Ice Pond Lotus jelly," Monk Fengxi asked again.

That Ice Pond Lotus jelly referred to lotus root starch jelly.

De Yue Building's Ice Pond Lotus jelly is quite delicious and a specialty here, as it uses a medicinal ingredient called Ice Pond Lotus, making it a One-Star Spiritual Delicacy.

The attendant's face softened a bit upon hearing this and he went to the kitchen to place the order.

That morning, Monk Fengxi had a bowl of lotus root starch jelly made by Xin Lin and found it very tasty.

But with only two bowls of the jelly, and Monk Fengxi having one, it would be impolite to ask for a second bowl.

Having this jelly in the evening was somewhat of a consolation for the monk.

So it seems that Emperor Longteng and Monk Fengxi are acquainted.

From the looks of it, Emperor Longteng has quite a respect for Monk Fengxi.

Quite an impressive little monk.

Xin Lin watched from the side, somewhat puzzled.

A mere Taichang Temple's sweeping monk, one who struggles even for meals, how could he be acquainted with Emperor Longteng?

She was solely focused on Emperor Longteng and Monk Fengxi, unaware that Gui Hu behind her, seeing the two bowls of lotus starch jelly and the mung bean cakes being served, smirked slightly.

Chapter 673: Enraged!

How is the Taichang Holy Institute? They can only consume such street-stall goods from De Yue Building.

Pride Corpse inexplicably felt delighted, previously irked by Xin Lin incessantly watching Monk Fengxi, and just wanting to seize her and take her back immediately.

Emperor Longteng took a bite of the green bean cake, frowning slightly.

Not enough green beans, too much flour, overly sweet, the texture was not good.

He then took a sip of lotus root powder.

This lotus... Emperor Longteng's tongue, after all, has tasted countless delicacies from the Imperial Chef.

This was not the Ice Pond Lotus at all, but the most common river lotus.

"How outrageous! It turns out that Empress Mother wasn't slandering De Yue Building. This pack of dog servants, relying on their reputation, have started such outrageous acts of deception."

Emperor Longteng said displeasedly, on the verge of erupting.

Monk Fengxi was even more straightforward, not bothering to taste, only observing the color and smell, without touching his spoon.

He further regarded the Phoebe Wood Sign, musing aloud.

"There is no need for Your Majesty to be angry. De Yue Building is a century-old establishment. If their pastries are not up to par, just replace them with someone else for the upcoming birthday banquet preparations," Monk Fengxi suggested.

Upon hearing this, Emperor Longteng also pondered for a moment.

The birthday banquet is, after all, Empress Feng's responsibility, and she has always held De Yue Building in high regard. Everything has already been prepared properly for the banquet, so replacing De Yue Building at this time would indeed be inappropriate.

However, replacing just the pastries might be feasible.

"For the matter of the pastries, let Concubine Shi handle it. The pastries and sweet soup she presented to Empress Mother this morning were quite delicious," Emperor Longteng thought.

He considered letting Concubine Shi help out, taking some load off Empress Feng, so she would not be overburdened. However, given Empress Feng's character, she might not be pleased.

Emperor Longteng did not wish to damage their marital harmony over such a trifle.

"Tsck, the monk is dragging his feet. It would be better if Emperor Dad got angry, the bigger the anger, the better."

Xin Lin watched on the side, feeling excited and yet regretful.

Gui Hu was quite interested, scrutinizing Xin Lin's face, which alternately shone with excitement and puckered with regret.

His claw was feeling a bit itchy, really wanting to pinch a handful.

Alas, Xin Lin's body wasn't here.

Gui Hu felt somewhat regretful.

He listened to Xin Lin muttering.

His ghost claw opened, the claw tips gleaming coldly and twitched.

From that Phoebe Wood Sign, a wisp of black qi emanated from the "德" character in "De Yue Building."

With a "crack" sound,

The short leg of the stool Emperor Longteng was sitting on split abruptly.

Emperor Longteng's behind plummeted down sharply.

"Be careful."

Monk Fengxi swiftly supported Emperor Longteng.

Under his bamboo hat, his usually calm gaze quickly swept around but noticed nothing.

The patrons around, due to this disturbance, looked over more or less.

Under the public gaze, Emperor Longteng's face darkened.

He looked at the broken stool beneath him that had now split into several pieces.

The fury that was initially calmed by Monk Fengxi abruptly flared up again.

"Summon Chen He!"

Emperor Longteng shouted furiously.

Monk Fengxi wanted to stop him, but it was already too late.

"What's the meaning of this? You brat have broken our building's stool and still have the nerve to shout. Daring to call Master Chen by name, who do you think you are? Now I see clear, you're just here to cause trouble," the waiter said with a brazen face.

"Who's shouting over there? Didn't you see that there are honored guests present?"

Just then, several guests descended from upstairs, and Master Chen, whom Emperor Longteng sought, also came down with a smile on his face.

Chapter 674: Five-star Spiritual Food

Master Chen heard the commotion upstairs and looked up, spotting two unfamiliar guests about to cause trouble.

Just at that moment, Emperor Longteng coldly huffed.

A dark light flashed about him.

The arrogant waiter, with a bang, was sent flying.

His body hit the ground, immediately making a large crater.

Looking into the crater, the person was already a mess of flesh, his face beyond recognition.

Monk Fengxi's eyes deepened, glancing at Emperor Longteng, and his Buddha Beads clicked.

"Murder!"

The guests who were initially spectating reacted and cried out in fear, scattering in all directions.

"How audacious! How dare you commit a violent act in De Yue Building? Do you have no respect for the law?"

Fury painted Master Chen's face.

Today marked the first day the Phoebe Wood Sign was hung up.

Thanks to the sign, it was an exceptionally busy day with guests filling De Yue Building.

He had even invited Grandmaster Jin and several high-ranking officials to taste new dishes in preparation for the upcoming birthday banquet.

Who would have expected such a reckless interruption?

"The Emperor himself is the law."

Chillingly, the perpetrator responded.

"Your Majesty! Your servant didn't realize Your Majesty was present, please forgive my lack of a proper welcome."

Through this, Grandmaster Jin hastily descended the stairs, bowing down before him.

The whole assembly of court officials followed suit, bowing their respects.

Emperor Longteng!

Master Chen staggered, tumbling down the stairs with a thud.

"Please, Your Majesty, spare my life. This humble one did not know of Your Majesty's visit. I deserve to die."

Master Chen, seeing the twisted stools on the floor and facing Emperor Longteng's grim expression, wished he could bash his head in.

What sins had he committed, having just offended the Empress Dowager and now Emperor Longteng?

"I've heard that De Yue Building deceives its patrons, even daring to fool the Royal. I initially did not believe it, but it appears to be true. Chen He, as the head chef of De Yue Building, you have failed in your management, allowing inferior dishes to pass as premium. Do you truly deserve to be the head of Zixiao Number One Building?"

Emperor Longteng rebuked.

"Your Majesty, your servant... your servant is guilty."

Master Chen nodded his head like a pounding garlic.

"Someone take down the sign board of De Yue Building!"

At Emperor Longteng's wave, several guards jumped into action.

Upon hearing this, Master Chen's heart sank.

"Your Majesty, please restrain your anger. De Yue Building is the Taishan Beidou of the Purple Cloud Spiritual Food Restaurant. If you abolish it, it will definitely harm the reputation and influence of Dragon Ascending Spirit Gourmet Masters. Moreover, Master Chen planned to use this upcoming birthday banquet to promote our Dragon Ascending spiritual delicacies and elevate it into a Five-Star Spiritual Delicacy Restaurant. He has recently developed several five-star spiritual delicacy dishes, hoping to break our nation's embarrassing lack of five-star spiritual food."

Seeing this, Grandmaster Jin stepped forward to plead.

Upon hearing this, Emperor Longteng's expression softened, clearly moved by Grandmaster Jin's words.

Breaking the absence of five-star spiritual food in Longteng?

Xin Lin, observing the commotion, perked up her ears, equally astonished.

Longteng lacks five-star spiritual food?

It seemed true: when she was working odd jobs in Taoyao Pavilion, the highest she had seen was four-star spiritual cuisine.

And the spiritual food Xin Lin could cook now was only two-star.

In Spiritual Delicacies, the highest she had seen was also four-star spiritual cuisine.

From Grandmaster Jin's words, achieving the status of five-star spiritual food in the Spirit Food World, or even in a country, was a highly challenging feat.

Could it be that five-star spiritual food serves some special purpose?

Chapter 675: Dual Personality

Unfortunately, these questions remain unasked for now.

Xin Lin had not inquired about these matters with Master Ji before. It seems that the next time she sees Master Ji, she has some serious questioning to do.

Xin Lin pondered.

On the other side, Emperor Longteng's anger was slightly assuaged by Grandmaster Jin's words.

"Is what you said true, Grandmaster?" the Emperor asked.

Emperor Longteng eyed Master Chen, who lay prostrate on the ground, motionless.

"My liege, I dare not deceive you—Chen He, isn't that right?" said Grandmaster Jin with a cold voice.

Master Chen dared not utter a single word of objection.

"The death penalty can be spared, but punishment is inevitable. For the upcoming birthday banquet, I will find another Spiritual Delicacy Master to work alongside you, responsible for pastries and drinks. De Yue Building must reform, or else, not only will I shut it down, I will also take your head."

Emperor Longteng said this and then swept away with Monk Fengxi.

As Monk Fengxi left De Yue Building, he glanced once more at the Phoebe Wood Sign.

Well, De Yue Building got what it deserved.

Hmm... It's all because Master Chen shut down Chu's Restaurant, and now he can't have his buns.

Monk Fengxi said no more, chanted "Amitabha" silently to himself, and left.

"Close the doors and clean up the scene. Chen He, you heard what the Emperor said, didn't you?"

Grandmaster Jin shook his head; the Emperor rarely showed his anger—what happened today?

"Thanks to the Grandmaster for saving my life, but what about the Five-star Spiritual Food?"

Master Chen showed a distressed face.

"What, didn't you just say that you've created a new Five-star Spiritual Food?"

Grandmaster Jin's expression changed, as he had saved the man himself. Words spoken were like water spilled.

In one month's time, De Yue Building must produce the Five-star Spiritual Food to satisfy the obligation.

"The recipe for the Five-star Spiritual Food I created is indeed ready, but I haven't gathered all the ingredients yet. The Nine-Headed Pearl Abalone required is a Four-star Sea Beast, extremely rare."

Master Chen had boasted in front of Grandmaster Jin and others, but he never said that he would definitely be able to craft the Five-star Spiritual Food.

"Preposterous, missing one ingredient and still you promised. Don't you know the Emperor has long wished to use the Five-star Spiritual Food to lure out... Ah! It's not my concern, if you cannot present the Five-star Spiritual Food after a month, you had better prepare for your execution!"

Grandmaster Jin also left with a face full of anger, flinging his sleeves as he departed.

"Grandmaster! Grandmaster!"

Master Chen paced anxiously.

"What bad luck, have I been cursed today? Wasn't it said that this sign would bring good fortune, why all this bad luck?"

Master Chen looked at the blood on the ground, then at the broken stool with a damaged leg, and the more he thought about it, the more things didn't seem right.

He wanted to ask Master Jiu for advice, but then remembered Master Jiu had said that he will be busy absorbing Qi Stones and preparing for a breakthrough these few days, and not to disturb him.

"Back then, my master had left behind a Nine-star Pearl Abalone. Alas, that old man was partial and secretly gifted it to Master Ji. I tried to buy it from Old Man Ji several times, but he refused to sell it. It looks like I'll have to wait until Master Jiu finishes his seclusion and then..."

A ruthless flash crossed Master Chen's eyes.

In the corner of De Yue Building, a wisp of black qi streaked by, blending into the night.

Gui Hu, with Xin Lin, returned to Qingtian Academy.

Xin Lin was in high spirits witnessing Emperor Longteng's fury and Master Chen's humiliation, and cheerfully returned to her wooden cabin.

"However... Emperor Longteng's temper seems somewhat different from the affable demeanor I saw earlier."

Xin Lin recalled, but it wasn't important. What mattered was that she needed to figure out what special purpose the Five-star Spiritual Food actually served.

Chapter 676: Sky-reaching Water

The next morning, Xin Lin still went to the School Clinic.

In the past few days, the School Clinic continuously had some people coming in for consultations, and Xin Lin's Four Examination Method was becoming increasingly skilled.

Inside the School Clinic, it was rare not to see Master Mo's figure, and even her silly father was nowhere to be seen.

Xin Lin was puzzled.

Then she saw her silly father pushing a tattered flatbed cart, followed by Master Mo.

"Beibei, be careful, don't damage my treasures."

Master Mo shouted loudly.

When the cart was pushed up front, Xin Lin saw that there was a large wooden box on the cart, and the alley was filled with porcelain bottles lying chaotically.

"Master Mo, are you planning to sell medicine?"

Among all the doctors Xin Lin had seen, Master Mo was the least doctor-like.

No matter the illness, detoxification was always done with mung bean soup, qi replenishment with ginseng soup, bumps and bruises with golden sore medicine, and there weren't any decent elixir pills in the School Clinic.

No wonder, previously Governor Huang had always doubted her medical skills.

It was only after Xin Lin arrived that Master Mo's School Clinic started getting some clients and a bit of a small reputation.

However, the daily number of patients was still only two or three cats big, and the consultation fee was something Master Mo didn't even care about.

Every day, she pondered how to, well, increase the revenue of the School Clinic.

After thinking it over, she did come up with some ideas.

"Hehe, Xiao Xin, we don't have the capability to compete with the Alchemy Hall, and moreover, you have classes every day and need to make Spiritual Food in your spare time. Where would we find the time to make elixir pills, and we don't have the money to buy medicinal materials."

Master Mo waved her hand with a disinterested look.

She asked the silly father to move the porcelain bottles down and clean them one by one.

"These bottles are for storing pond water. You did say that the water can cure illnesses."

Master Mo chuckled.

How had she not discovered that the School Clinic was such a geomantic treasure spot before!

Now that she had discovered it, it couldn't be wasted.

"Master Mo, do you really believe that pond water can cure illnesses?"

Xin Lin was speechless.

Yesterday, she had simply made a casual excuse.

To cultivate lotuses and fish, Xin Lin had indeed added

"Of course, I believe. In fact, I drank a bowl last night. Don't say, the pond water is quite tasty, sweet and much more delicious than any famous well water. Moreover, after drinking it, I found that my body felt much more refreshed, and I didn't even feel like taking a nap."

With this, Master Mo was even more convinced that it was a Spiritual Spring.

The pond where Xin Lin had poured a bottle of Jade Pure Spring just the other day; after being absorbed by the lotus roots and fish fry, how much was left?

"The pond water might be effective, but for our students, unless it's for severe injuries and physical weakness, it might not be of much effect."

Xin Lin coughed lightly.

"Who said I was going to sell it to our academy's students. I plan to sell it to people outside. I even thought of a name, to be called Sky-reaching Water! It's not expensive, ten silver taels a bottle. After drinking, one can attract the Spiritual Energy of Qingtian Academy, the elderly can strengthen their bodies, and the young can pass the Imperial Examination in one go and join the Qingtian Academy."

Master Mo spoke animatedly.

In terms of treating patients, she wasn't much use, but when it came to making money unethically, perhaps she was even better than Jiang Qing of Purple Cloud Alchemy Hall!

Xin Lin thought that this diluted Qingtian Water, which had been watered down countless times, might not be very useful for Spirit and Martial Artists, but for ordinary people, it might really have some effects.

As soon as Master Mo said they should do it, she started personally, filling a hundred bottles of Sky-reaching Water together with the silly father.

Chapter 677: Another Attack Incident

Xin Lin saw the two full of energy and couldn't help but chuckle as she shook her head.

After all, Master Mo had already made it clear that the income from the School Clinic would be shared with her at a ratio of three to seven.

This Sky-reaching Water was first discovered by her, and Master Mo hadn't treated her unfairly. For every bottle sold for ten taels of silver, an additional three taels would be given to Xin Lin.

After breakfast, Master Mo happily took a few hot buns and ran outside the school to sell Sky-reaching Water.

After breakfast, Xin Lin went to class.

Before class, Xin Lin, worried that her silly father would get bored, left the Overlord Egg to keep her silly father company, and repeatedly instructed that it must not leave the School Clinic.

Although the incident of the Martial Arts Institute student being attacked had subsided, Governor Huang still kept a watchful eye on the Overlord Egg.

Xin Lin was also concerned that the Overlord Egg might cause some sort of trouble.

Just as she arrived at the Cultivation Center, she saw a group of students gathered together, discussing something enthusiastically.

"Have you heard? Yesterday, another student was attacked, and it's said that this time the student suffered fractures all over the body, very similar to the incident when Tuoba Liang was injured."

"No way, it's said to be a student from the Martial Arts Academy again. People from the Martial Arts Academy are blaming Xin Lin's egg for it."

"You've heard too? I've heard that several students from the Martial Arts Academy are threatening to teach Xin Lin and her egg a lesson."

"Ah, with the Academy Head and Master Mo protecting her, it's still us from the Spirit Institute who will suffer."

The students from the Shaking Light Class all looked worried.

Their relationship with Xin Lin had just begun to improve.

But now, Xin Lin's egg had become a suspect again, and they all feared they'd be caught in the crossfire, avoiding any closeness with Xin Lin.

Xin Lin cleared her throat softly.

The moment those students saw Xin Lin, their faces showed embarrassment and they quickly dispersed.

Another student was injured, and it was not long after Governor Huang's interrogation.

Moreover, the symptoms of the injury were suspicious, causing Xin Lin to ponder whether there was someone else behind the scenes targeting her and the Overlord Egg.

Who could it be?

Was it the Third Prince and Jin Chen, who had been quiet for a while, or someone else?

As Xin Lin was contemplating this, Master Mu entered the room.

"What are you all discussing? I have an announcement: these days, when you go out, whether inside or outside the Academy, you must be careful, and it's best to go in groups. After the time of the Pig, no one is allowed to leave their residence. If anyone is discovered violating this, the punishment will range from docking personal merit points to expulsion from the Academy. In addition, the Academy will establish a Disciplinary Team responsible for regular and evening patrols, and our class has two old students selected."

Master Mu's expression was more solemn than usual.

It seemed that Qingtian Academy was taking the matter of student injuries very seriously.

Two students had been attacked within the Academy premises in succession, and the perpetrator had yet to be found, something that had never happened before in the Academy's history.

"Master Mu, has the culprit not been found yet? I thought they suspected that it was..."

One student hinted suggestively.

"How many times have I told you to trust your fellow classmates? You believe all sorts of nonsensical rumors from outside. As students of the Shaking Light Class, you should be united and not turn against one another. Even if Xin Lin and her summoning creature did it—which they didn't—you would still have to stand by them. Besides, you overestimate that egg; it isn't capable of injuring people, only killing them. Without the strength of someone like Tuoba Liang, anyone who encounters it is on a one-way path to death."

Master Mu was deeply impressed by Xin Lin's egg and gave the students a harsh scolding before starting the class.

Chapter 678: A Special Lesson

Mu Chen's words calmed the students of Shaking Light Class down.

They looked at Xin Lin with eyes full of apology, and many apologized to Xin Lin after class.

This surprised Xin Lin, not regarding the students, but Mu Chen.

Because of Ziyue, Xin Lin did not have a favorable impression of Mu Chen.

Not to mention, Mu Chen had frequently lingered outside Xin Lin's cabin, harboring improper intentions towards the Pride Corpse and the Fu Tian Pill she possessed.

However, after spending more time together, it had to be said that Mu Chen, despite his irritating chatter and tendency to act lowly, was a very responsible supervisor most of the time, especially during classes.

Under his leadership for just a few days, the Shaking Light Class had developed a different kind of spirit, much more unified than when Master Guo was in charge.

He made the foundational classes for Spiritual Practitioners clear and comprehensible.

For instance, in today's lesson, Mu Chen talked about the Five Meridians in the body of a Spiritual Practitioner.

"You all know that for a Spiritual Practitioner, the Spirit Root is very important, but not everyone possesses a Spirit Root. In such cases, the Five Meridians inside the body, the five meridians of the Spiritual Practitioner, become extremely crucial. Normally, when you gather spiritual energy, you are gathering it into your Five Meridians, continuously strengthening them. Once they are sufficiently fortified, you can break through from a Spiritual Practitioner to a Spirit Master. The stronger the Five Meridians, the faster the absorption of spiritual energy and its conversion into Spiritual Power will be. Although you do not possess Spirit Roots like students in the other two classes, having and strenuously training your Five Meridians can still allow you to become formidable Spirit Masters."

While speaking, Mu Chen looked at his students with an encouraging gaze.

Many students, upon hearing this, had their eyes blazing with even more intensity.

They did not have Spirit Roots, but they had Spirit Veins.

As long as they could break through from Spiritual Practitioner to Spirit Master, they would be able to establish themselves in Longteng Country.

"If the Five Meridians are strong, then more spiritual energy can be absorbed. I have been gathering spirit up to a certain level, but can't gather anymore; could it be because of the Spirit Veins?"

Not only did Xin Lin lack a Spirit Root, but she also had no Five Meridians.

The only thing she had was that bean sprout.

Thus, it was because the bean sprout could not absorb more Fire Spirit that her spirit gathering couldn't further increase.

Xin Lin felt a sinking feeling in her heart.

"Here is a High-level Qi Stone. For today's class, you all need to learn to strengthen your Spirit Veins. Each of you come up and try to absorb as much spiritual energy from this Qi Stone as possible. Only let go when you feel your body can barely take any more."

After finishing the basic lesson, Mu Chen pulled out a stone about half the size of a palm from his sleeves.

This stone, unlike the Qi Stone Xin Lin had seen previously manufactured by the Xuantian Sect, had a smoother surface and was smaller, but upon close inspection, Xin Lin could see the rich spiritual energy flowing within the shiny stone.

Upon hearing about the High-level Qi Stone, all the students present showed excitement.

The students of Shaking Light Class mostly came from modest circumstances, having become Spiritual Practitioners merely because they could sense spiritual energy and were thus selected by Qingtian Academy.

They had not even seen the lowest quality of Primary Qi Stones, let alone High-Level Qi Stones.

It was really fortunate that Master Mu was willing to spend his own money to provide a High-level Qi Stone for their class.

The Murong Family was indeed extraordinary, but was Mu Chen really that generous?

Xin Lin glanced at the High-level Qi Stone, feeling dubious deep inside. Could Mu Chen truly be that generous?

Chapter 679: The Trap

Using Master Mu's Qi Stone to train one's Spirit Vein, what an opportunity that no student could miss.

Several students, one by one, eagerly came forward.

The first student approached Mu Chen, took a deep breath, and placed his palm on the high-level Qi Stone.

As soon as he touched the Qi Stone, he felt a warm current flowing out from it.

Such pure Spiritual Energy, truly worthy of being a high-level Qi Stone.

The student was ecstatic, exerting all his strength, trying to absorb more Spiritual Energy.

However, after just a few breaths, the student became disheartened.

The Spiritual Energy within his body was saturated and couldn't absorb any more.

"Your Five Meridians still need much Cultivation, and pay attention to physical training in daily life as well. Although you are a Spiritual Practitioner, both the strength of the Five Meridians and the physique are closely related," Mu Chen said.

Mu Chen looked at that slender student and encouraged him.

Qingtian Academy is the largest Academy in Longteng, but after all, it's only a small country; compared to a Cultivation powerhouse like Fengdong, there is still a significant gap.

Many of Mu Chen's Cultivation concepts, compared to other supervisors at Qingtian Academy, are much more profound; the things he teaches are of lifelong benefit to the students.

That student repeatedly agreed.

"Next."

Mu Chen signaled for the next student to come forward.

Students took their turns, and yet the Spiritual Energy in the high-level Qi Stone barely diminished; the dozen or so students absorbed less than half of it.

These students from the Shaking Light Class had too weak a foundation.

Their Spirit Veins were very weak and couldn't gather much Spiritual Energy; for them, the high-level Qi Stone was undoubtedly too daunting.

Finally, it was Xin Lin's turn.

"Xiao Xin, it's your turn."

Mu Chen saw Xin Lin and grinned, showing his white teeth.

No matter how Xin Lin looked at it, she felt Mu Chen's smile was cunning, similar to the wolf in grandma's clothing.

"Master Mu, to be honest, my Five Meridians are all useless; I'm afraid I can't Cultivate with this high-level item."

Xin Lin spread her hands, her face full of regret.

"Don't know unless you try. I've seen that your Gathering Spirit hasn't improved much lately, you must be at a bottleneck. The more at this time, the more you should try, perhaps you'll break through."

Mu Chen had always been attentive to Xin Lin's Cultivation.

He had also heard about Xin Lin being inoperative in all Five Meridians.

However, Mu Chen didn't quite believe it.

The reason being, to be able to use the Fire Explosion Technique to explode eight times consecutively during the first Spiritual Technique Class, that doesn't seem like something a person with inoperative Five Meridians could do.

Xin Lin hesitated, seeing Mu Chen's posture; if she didn't try today, Mu Chen probably wouldn't let her off.

At worst, she just won't Gather Spirit.

Muttering to herself, Xin Lin placed her hand on the high-level Qi Stone.

As soon as her hand touched the Qi Stone, Xin Lin felt a warm flow swiftly entering her body.

This isn't Spiritual Energy... Xin Lin was shocked and wanted to withdraw her hand.

But her hand seemed glued to the Qi Stone and she couldn't pull it back.

She suddenly looked up at Mu Chen.

Mu Chen's lips curled into a smile, his eyes gleaming cunningly.

Little thing, you've finally fallen for it.

Let's see how long you can hide.

Corpse King, what exactly is your relationship with it!

Mu Chen had been watching Xin Lin for several days, never finding any leverage against her, let alone her connection with the Corpse King.

This high-level Qi Stone, it wasn't storing any Spiritual Energy but was in fact filled with Mu Chen's own Spiritual Power.

The earlier students hadn't noticed anything unusual.

But as soon as Xin Lin touched the Qi Stone, Mu Chen activated the Spiritual Power within it.

Chapter 680: The Ghost Vein Strikes Back

Mu Chen appeared gentle on the outside, but his Spiritual Power was extremely fierce. As soon as it entered Xin Lin's body, it was like a fierce beast breaking free from its cage, rampaging and striking directly at Xin Lin's viscera, blood, and meridians.

Investigating, probing, Mu Chen was forcibly searching for the secrets within Xin Lin's body in a very crude manner.

Every night, Mu Chen would surveil the Corpse King; during the day, he would watch over Xin Lin.

However, he discovered nothing in both cases.

Still, Mu Chen refused to give up, convinced that Xin Lin must be related to the Corpse King somehow.

The Corpse King that disappeared during the day must be hiding somewhere.

If he could control Xin Lin, perhaps he could force the Corpse King out.

After the search, Mu Chen found nothing abnormal inside Xin Lin's body.

Just as she had said, her Five Meridians were all destroyed, lacking the normal Five Meridians, so how could she cultivate?

As for anything related to the Corpse King, like Ghost Power or the Fu Tian Pill, he found absolutely nothing.

Could it be that he was mistaken?

Never mind, if he couldn't find anything, then so be it.

Seeing Xin Lin's pale face, Mu Chen knew that his power was too domineering for Xin Lin, who was still a Spiritual Practitioner.

If the search continued, it might cause long-term damage to the young girl's body.

Though stubborn at times, this little girl has potential in Medical Skill and Spiritual Food.

Mu Chen couldn't help but feel a sense of cherishing talent, ready to withdraw his Spiritual Power.

Deciding to search on a whim and to retreat just as quickly—do you really think I am that easy to bully?

Mu Chen's search was indeed unbearable for Xin Lin.

Her viscera had been turned inside out.

She was not worried about Mu Chen finding that "bean sprouts." That thing, unless she activates Fu Xi's Energy, usually does not appear and even Xin Lin herself cannot detect it.

Just as Mu Chen was about to stop, a flash of cold light crossed the depths of Xin Lin's eyes.

A surge of anger rose inside her body.

At a certain place within Xin Lin's body, the long-dormant Unrivaled Ghost Vein trembled at that moment.

Buzz—

Like a bee flapping its wings, the "bean sprouts" Ghost Vein suddenly lifted its head.

Like an invisible hand, it abruptly reached out and grabbed hold of the Spiritual Power that Mu Chen was withdrawing.

A smug smile was still on Mu Chen's face, thinking his plans had succeeded.

At that moment, however, he felt a twitch between his eyebrows.

His gaze darkened and turned towards Xin Lin.

"Master Mu, I haven't even started absorbing the Spiritual Energy yet."

Xin Lin stared at Mu Chen, speaking word by word.

She clenched her five fingers tightly, grasping the Qi Stone.

Inside her body, the Ghost Vein acted like a whale gulping down water, and with a strong suction,

Mu Chen's Spiritual Power was unexpectedly absorbed back into the Qi Stone.

More precisely, it flowed from the Qi Stone into Xin Lin's body.

The Ghost Vein was growing.

When Mu Chen's Spiritual Power entered Xin Lin's body, she was initially panicked.

But she realized that even though she tried hard in her Cultivation, the Ghost Vein showed no signs of growth—yet as soon as the Ghost Vein was startled by Mu Chen's Spiritual Power, it started to become active.

Mu Chen was shocked.

He felt the fluctuation of the Spirit Vein within Xin Lin's body.

But he had just confirmed that there were no Spirit Veins within Xin Lin.

And now, at the position of her Heart Meridian, appeared a Spirit Vein.

That Spirit Vein was absorbing Mu Chen's Spiritual Power, growing bit by bit, like parched earth savoring a timely rain. The Spirit Vein first sucked up Mu Chen's Spiritual Power from the High-level Qi Stone and then even began absorbing the Spiritual Power from within Mu Chen's body.

Holy fuck!

A million curses ran through Mu Chen's mind.

This is shaking off a rogue!

It's one thing to absorb the Spiritual Power from the Qi Stone, but you actually dare to suck away my Spiritual Power!