

Rebirth Of The Urban Immortal Cultivator

Chapter 61: All The Way To The West.

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Along the outskirts of the Zhong Zhou Province, on a luxury bus, two men and a woman were conversing. The older man looked spirited and energetic despite his old age while the other younger man's expression suggested he possessed a sharp mind and sound judgment. The girl beside them was young; she watched the two men with a pair of witty eyes.

They were Chen Fan and his entourage.

Chen Fan had politely refused Zhou Tianhao's offer for a ride. He was not in a hurry, and therefore, he had decided to take a bus so that he could enjoy the view on the way. The bus was slow, it had been three days, and they had just crossed the border into Zhong Zhou Province.

The girl next to him was A'Xiu.

A'Xiu sat quietly with determination written all over her face. Regardless of how many times Chen Fan had asked her to leave, she just stared back with a pair of watery eyes, begging to stay with him.

Master Wu took pity on the girl and braved a request for her to travel with them. Chen Fan kept his silence, which Master Wu took as permission.

However, the girl quickly proved to be quite a helper.

Both Chen Fan and Master Wu were used to having everything done for them. Therefore, they asked the girl to handle most of the chores, such as buying train tickets, booking a hotel, and asking for directions.

Chen Fan looked at Master Wu with a half smile.

Master Wu's real name was Wu Shanhe.

The smile on his face frozen in place when he noticed Chen Fan was studying his face intensely.

"Why are you looking at me like this? I have already told you everything I know. "

“Really?” Chen Fan fished out the grey crystal from his pocket and asked, “What really is going on at the Yin Dragon Pond? Don’t try to fool me again. I know more than you about this Yin Dragon Pond.”

Yin Crystals only formed around areas where Yin Qi conglomerated.

Such a place was practically a heaven for sentient beings that cultivated the Yin Qi. Calling it a sacred ground was not overstating it, particularly on earth where most of the Qi had already dried up. It was like a lush oasis that would attract all kinds of animals, big and small.

Not all sentient beings cultivated the Spirit Qi. Some felt a closer affinity for the Malice Qi, Yin Qi, and even Fiend Qi.

If Master Wu and his sect were really in charge of such a sacred ground for cultivation, he would have at least reached the Ethereal Enlightenment level. However, Chen Fan knew that that was far from reality.

Master Wu’s smile evaporated from his face; his body quivered as he stammered...
“Master Chen, you already knew about that place?”

“Know what?” Chen Fan’s face was placid and calm.

The old man no longer dared lie to Chen Fan, so he shared it all. “Actually... this pond indeed belongs to my sect.

“My sect is called the Yin Ghost Sect, and our founder was an infamous Captain of the Tomb Raiders—Yes, it was a thing ever since back in the Han Dynasty. Our founder lived during the Qin Dynasty, and he stumbled upon an ancient tomb of the Tang period, and it turned out to be a treasure trove. From the tomb, he had gained a secret art of the ancient Tang dynasty family, and he started cultivating following the method outlined in the art. After a while, he started up his own sect. ”

“I am the third-generation disciple of our founder. I have two more sect brothers. Their powers were both on par with mine. My teacher had passed away many years ago, and the three of us had been managing the sect since.

“The Yin Dragon Pond was a sacred ground discovered by our founder. My grandmaster realized that the area was filled to the brim with Yin Qi, and therefore would be beneficial for cultivation. He went into the pond for a long period of cultivation before the tragedy struck suddenly.”

Master Wu’s eyes suddenly lost focus as fear surfaced on his face.

“What kind of tragedy?” Curiosity spurred A’Xiu to ask.

“Unknown to our founder, there was a... monster living inside the pond.” Master Wu gathered himself and then said, “It was a half snake and half water dragon with a mouth that breathed deadly Yin and Malic Qi. Our founder fought with the monster but was wounded and defeated. Those wounds eventually took his life a few years later.”

“Luckily, the monster still lived deep inside the pond and didn’t seem to want to wreak havoc in the world.

“My teacher led my two sect brothers and me to the pond to investigate a few years ago. The monster came right at us. We didn’t even think of fighting back, so we snatched a few crystals from the pond and ran away.”

After Wu Shanhe had finished his story, he looked at Chen Fan fearfully.

“Master Chen, I really didn’t mean to lie to you. I didn’t tell you the truth because I was afraid that you wouldn’t believe me.

“That monster looked like a water dragon, and therefore, our founder had named the place the ‘Yin Dragon Pond.’ My grandmaster was the only person who saw it with his own eyes. That monster had outlived two generations of disciples and should be over a hundred years old by now.”

“Really?” A’Xiu gasped incredulously.

Chen Fan and Lin Hu both possessed incredible abilities, but their power was still comprehensible to a normal human. However, a hundred-year-old water dragon sounded straight from mythical tales.

“Well, it’s not a water dragon, just a Yin Snake.” Chen Fan said lightly. “The real water dragon could summon wind and rain on a whim, and controlling the flow of air with ease. That little snake would need at least five hundred years to achieve such power.”

“Master Chen, you seem to know such a monster?” Wu Shanhe was taken aback.

“Of course.” Chen Fan replied lightly, “It’s just a snake.”

If Wu Shanhe was right, the Yin Snake had grown to a dozen meters long and was able to breathe out Yin and Malic Qi; it must have reached Ethereal Enlightenment level in its cultivation.

However, the power of such cryptids were no match against a cultivator even though they were at the same level.

A cultivator had the help of various Dharma Treasures and was aided by immortal arts, while the animals had no such advantages.

“Nonetheless, I have reached only the mid-stage of the Foundation Establishment level. It might be challenging for me to take on the snake right now.”

So thinking, Chen Fan furrowed his brows.

“I should wait until I reach the late-stage of the Foundation Establishment level and try to use the Immortal Enlightenment level spells. Either that or I should further refine the Jade Marrow Talisman and increase its damage.”

Chen Fan had named the talisman the Talisman of Thunder ever since he had used the Arcane Bulwark of Thunder to defeat Master Wu. This was the first Dharma Artifact he had owned on earth.

Finally, Chen Fan decided that they would halt their travel to Dong Du City, to start focusing on refining his talisman for now.

He asked Wu Shanhe, “Is there anywhere suitable for cultivation? I also need some herbs to aid in my progress.”

“Herbs for cultivation?” Wu Shanhe mulled on the question for a while. Suddenly, he slapped his head and said, “Yes! there is one of the largest medicinal herb markets in the Jiu Ding City.”

“Oh?” Chen Fan’s eyes lit up with interest.

He had heard of the Jiu Ding City before; it was a famous distribution and warehouse center for traditional Chinese medicine.

Chen Fan had searched hard for precious herbs to help him with his cultivation; however, Chu Zhou was a small city and therefore had a very limited supply of herbs. Even thirty-years-old ginseng would cost a fortune.

Chen Fan was confident that once he could find enough high-grade herbs, he would be able to improve his cultivation further.

He could also leverage other unique Dharmic Formulations to improve the power of the Talisman of Thunder further.

Chapter 62: Herbal Auction

As soon as the party reached Jiu Ding City, they smelled the pungent scent of Chinese medicine.

“Master Chen, What kind of medicine are you planning on purchasing? Ginseng, Astragalus, Lingzhi mushroom, Saussurea, Dong Quai or Solomon’s-seal? They have everything.”

“It doesn’t matter what kind of herbs they are, as long as they are old, preferably ancient.” Chen Fan said lightly.

He was not going to use the herbs themselves, but to extract the Spirit Qi that was absorbed in the herbs.

Wu Shanhe was taken aback by Chen Fan’s words. The key to using Chinese medicine was a good combination of different herbs. A thousand-year-old Ginseng was useless without the aid of some of the most common ingredients. That, however, was the conventional way of using herbs. Considering Chen Fan’s otherworldly power, Wu Shanhe decided to keep his doubts unspoken.

“I think we will have the best luck finding old herbs at those older shops.” Wu Shanhe pondered for a second and then said, “Master Chen, follow me.”

He led the way since he was familiar with the city. Soon, they arrived at a shop with a grand storefront.

The store’s name was the Hall of a Hundred Medicines.

“Although merchants from all over China flocked to the Jiu Ding City, the business was dominated by a few families. The Hall of a Hundred Medicines was owned by one of those hegemony families. It had over three hundred years of history, one of the oldest in China.”

The three walked into the store, and they were greeted by the salesperson.

A sales representative was necessary for the Hall of a Hundred Medicines since their customers were not herb wholesalers, but people coming to seek precious herbal ingredients.

“I want to see your chief apothecary.”

Master Wu announced proudly. He sounded like a different person when he was speaking to Chen Fan.

“May I know who am I speaking to?”

The sales person was caught off guard by Master Wu’s request.

At places like the Hall of a Hundred Medicines, the one who called the shots were not the managers, it was the Chief Apothecary. Most of these apothecaries were renowned Chinese medicine doctors and were invaluable to the store.

“My name is Wu Shanhe.” Master Wu brushed his long beard and said proudly.

“Ok, please wait for a second.”

Despite his confusion, the salesperson went to the back of the store to find the chief apothecary.

Chen Fan and Master Wu sat down at the waiting area, and an employee of the store served them two cups of high-grade tea. They didn't have to wait long before they heard quick footsteps coming from the back of the store. An old man in his sixties with a snowy beard walked into the waiting area.

“Ah-ha! Master Wu! Why didn't you give us a heads up before you came so that we could serve you better.” The old man walked over to Master Wu and said respectfully.

Seeing the surprise in the eyes of A'Xiu and the salesperson, Master Wu hung a smug smile on his face.

He might be a nobody in the Jiang Bei region; however, he was considered a grand master here in the Zhong Zhou Province and was a frequent guest of honor at the houses of the rich and powerful.

Chen Fan gave Master Wu a glance, which quickly brought things into perspective for Master Wu. The smug smile on his face disappeared, and he hurried to ask about the medicine.

“My... young friend wants to buy some old herbs. I wonder if you have any?”

“Um...” The chief Apothecary paused a second and then said hesitantly, “I am sorry, but a young lady has just bought up all the precious herbs from the entire city. I don't even have a fifty-year-old ginseng, not to mention ones that are over a hundred-year-old.”

“Really? She's got some deep pockets.” Master Wu was shocked.

Ginseng that was over a hundred years old was sold by the gram. It could fetch as much as a few tens of thousands of yuan per gram, as such, one single ginseng would cost over a few million. If the buyer had purchased all the ancient ginseng in the city, she must have spent an unimaginable amount of money.

“Rumor has it that she was from a prominent family in Hong Kong. But that's just the rumor.” The old man shook his head.

Master Wu paused a second and gave Chen Fan a helpless look.

Chen Fan furrowed his brows and then said, "There is nowhere else I can find old herbs in the city?"

"Well, yes, and no..." The old man hesitated and then shot Master Wu a glance. "Have you heard of the auction?"

"The auction for precious herbs? I thought that was just fake news." Master Wu asked.

"It's real. It is held every few months, and the bidder buys the herbs directly from local herbalists. If you are lucky, you might be able to find something really rare there. You would never see those herbs on the market since they were auctioned off to the rich people before they reached the store counter. The auction is invite based, and cash only."

Most auctions like this were held in secrecy, and therefore no a lot of people had heard of it.

"When does it start." Chen Fan didn't care if it was a private auction or not. His goal was to get precious herbs, and he would do anything to get it.

"The next one is in three days, seven o'clock at the Clear Lake Manor." Chief apothecary announced under his breath.

"Very well." Chen Fan stood up, and so did Master Wu, and they both left the store after waving the old man a farewell.

After they were out of the Hall of a Hundred Medicines, they found a hotel and settled in.

Three days later...

Chen Fan and his entourage took a taxi and arrived at the Clear Lake Manor. The manor was heavily guarded, and a group of security stood guard at the entrance.

"I am sorry, this is private property. Please turn back if you don't have an invitation." A security guard walked over the Chen Fan and said annoyedly.

"We don't have an invitation." Master Wu said lightly. "Please let your boss know that Wu Shanhe from the Dong Du City came to visit him."

The security noticed the unusual calmness in Master Wu and started to think that he was an influential person.

Suddenly, a black Mercedes pulled over to the entrance, and a plump middle age man waddled over to Master Wu.

“Master Wu! What brings you here? I thought you went to Jiang Bei.”

“Haha, it’s you, Boss Hu!” Master Wu said. The memory of what happened in Jiang Bei made Master Wu blush a little.

He had planned to make a fortune in the Jiang Bei region; however, he was brought down by a young boy. It was an embarrassing matter; as such, he quickly changed the topic.

“Are you here to join the auction? Very well then, we need a ticket to get in.”

“Oh-why, follow me. But please help me judge the quality of the herbs when we are in there.” Boss Hu reply.

Since the items for sale in the auction were from private owners, it was not uncommon to encounter scammers during the sales event. The host of the auction assumed no responsibility for the quality of the product; it was all “Caveat emptor” inside the auction house. Although Master Wu was not a skilled Traditional Chinese doctor, no one in the Zhong Zhou Province would dare sell any fake herbs to him.

The security let them pass without any protest.

As they filed through the gate, they found the manner was huge inside. A hostess had guided them through many lobbies until they arrived at a quiet courtyard.

The small courtyard was already packed with well-dressed men and women. From their accents, it was easy to tell that these buyers were from all over China.

“Nice to see you here, Master Wu.”

“Hi, Master Wu.”

“How are you doing Master Wu?”

As soon as Chen Fan and Master Wu walked into the courtyard, many greeted the latter like an old friend.

Some started to introduce Master Wu to those who were not familiar with him. He was the jewel of the Dong Du City and was able to summon the ghost and command the spirits.

Chen Fan was amused by the popularity of Master Wu. He found it hard to imagine that someone who kneeled in front of him, begging for his life was revered so much here.

Suddenly, he heard a cold snort.

“Master Wu? More like Swindle Wu.”

Wu Shanhe’s face hardened, and then he looked toward the speaker.

It was a woman of tall stature and a face harder than rock with chiseled features, making her look like a mix of Asian and White. She glared at the old man contemptuously.

“That is Miss Zheng From Hong Kong.” Boss Hu explained under his breath. “She has bought all the rare herbs in the city. Rumor has it that her father was dying and needed as many rare herbs as possible to extend his life.”

“The Zheng Family of Hong Kong?” Master Wu gasped.

Chapter 63: Lesser Spirit Herb

Although they shared a common last name, the Zheng family of Hong Kong was not the same as that of the Chu Zhou City.

During the heydays of the Zheng Family of Hong Kong, they were on the top ten of the Forbes list. Even now, they were around twentieth to thirtieth. Not even the richest person in Zhong Zhou Province could compare with the might of the Zheng Family.

During the eighties and the nineties, such prominent families were able to talk directly to the Federal Political Bureau. As such, if the head of the family came to visit Zhong Zhou Province, the provincial government would greet him with someone in the government with equal political clout.

Although Wu Shanhe had some influence in the Zhong Zhou Province, he was no match against heavyweight such as the Zheng Family.

Master Wu looked at Chen Fan for help. Seeing Chen Fan was indifferent to his embarrassment, Master Wu stepped back and out of the women’s way.

The half Asian, half white girl snorted at Master Wu and walked into the courtyard.

None of the bosses and tycoons from Zhong Zhou city dared to stand up for Master Wu. They knew that even their combined might could not reach a fraction of the Zheng Family’s influence.

“The Zheng Family from Hong Kong?” Chen Fan mulled on the name for a while.

The old man of the family was a household name among the Chinese community in China and abroad. He was in his eighties; the same age as Superman Li. Chen Fan scrapped the memory of his past life and remembered that he had seen on the news that the old man passed away this year.

"No wonder they are buying up all the precious herbs." Chen Fan shook his head.

In his eighties, the Old Man Zhen had reached the end of his life, as he suffered multiple organ failures. There was no cure for him. Even these rare herbal medicine could only temporarily boost his vitality but would not be able to halt the unrelenting beckoning of death.

As a cultivator, Chen Fann knew that the best medicine for prolonging life was the Essence Enhancing Pill. Too bad that Chen Fan couldn't gather enough material to make more, otherwise, he could sell them to the Zheng Family for a hefty price.

"Master Chen, let's go in." Wu Shanhe spoke under his breath.

"Very well." Chen Fan nodded.

This was an underground auction and as such, committing to a transaction here was risky business. Neither the host nor the seller offered a guarantee that the items were authentic.

The first item of the auction was a one-hundred-and-thirty years old Mountain Ginseng.

It weighed 127 grams and started at three million. The half-white girl eventually bought the ginseng with a whopping seven million.

"Deep pockets!" A lot of people exclaimed.

Ever since the start of the auction, the half-blood girl had bought off nearly all the items with skyrocket offers. In the end, most people scarcely dared to bid against her. Most of the bidders were here to purchase their business inventory; therefore, it was not absolutely necessary for them to compete against the girl.

Chen Fan was only able to get a ninety-year-old Black Hair Herb. Most of the other herbs were snatched up by the half white girl.

"The next one requires some judgment; you have been warned: buyers beware."

The host brought out a platter; he removed the black cloth that covered it and revealed a gnarly bough.

"What is going on?"

“I have no clue, is it also herbal medicine?”

“It looks familiar.”

The bidders narrowed their eyes, trying to get a better view of the item.

“Uh?” Chen Fan gasped lightly.

“Master Chen, have you recognized what it is?” Wu Shanhe asked.

“Not really.” Chen Fan shook his head and then continued, “I don’t think this is an herbal medicine, but I can sense a strong presence of Spirit Qi inside. It was ten times stronger than what was in the hundred-year-old ginseng.”

“A herb like this is close to Spirit Medicine; as such, it can be called Lesser Spirit Medicine.”

“Lesser Spirit Medicine?” Master Wu was at a loss.

“Indeed.” Chen Fan nodded. Since he was in the mood to talk, he continued to fill Master Wu in. “The so-called Spirit Herbs are anything that contained enough Spirit Qi, let it be rare herbs or just a blade of grass. Only Spirit Herbs could be used to make real Spirit Pills.”

“However, the Spirit Herbs were extremely picky in terms of their growing environment. On the earth, right now, there are probably less than half a dozen such herbs, and most of them were hidden deep in the mountains.”

“It would take a regular herb over a thousand years to harness enough Spirit Qi to become a Spirit Herb. However, this bough had lived over half a millennia and therefore was halfway to become a real Spirit Medicine, hence the prefix in its name, ‘lesser.’”

Master Wu listened attentively and wished that he had a pen and paper so that he could write the knowledge down.

He had never heard of Spirit Herbs. All he knew about Chinese Medicine was that the older they were, the more potent their effect were.

“Although it possessed only half the effect of a real Spirit Medicine, I should be able to use it and create some lesser version of the Spirit Pills.”

Master Wu was elated by Chen Fan’s words. He asked, “Should we bid on it?”

“Of course.” Chen Fan nodded.

This seemingly ordinary tree bough possessed the highest concentration of Spirit Qi he had ever seen since he was reborn. If he didn't get it this time around, he might have to wait for another decade to lay eyes on its equal. He could not pass up this opportunity.

"Great!"

Master Wu's face was lit up with excitement.

If they were successful in their bidding, he could watch and learn while Master Chen made the Spirit Pills.

The skill of Elixir Brewing so far had only been a legend to Master Wu, and he could not wait to witness it with his own eyes.

Some ancient schools had recorded the art of Elixir Brewing; however, the art had long since been lost. The modern technology of extracting the medicinal components of the natural herbs couldn't compare.

"This unknown herb starts at five million."

The host announced, and then there was a pin drop silence in the courtyard.

Five million was not a small amount to be spent on something that they couldn't even recognize.

"Five million and five hundred thousand."

Master Wu raised the stake.

Seeing it was Master Wu who had first spoken up, the rest of the bidders wagered that this bough did not have any medicinal use but could only be used to enhance Dharma Spells.

With this in mind, even fewer people were willing to join the bidding.

Even as the host hesitated if he should strike a deal with the only bidder, a clear voice came up.

"Ten million!"

Everyone was taken aback by the development. They looked to the speaker, and it was the half white girl.

"How dare you!"

Master Wu was riled up by the turn of events. He has been angry with the girl ever since the beginning of the event when she slandered his name; this last provocation was the last straw.

“Eleven million!”

Master Wu shouted.

“Twenty million!”

The half white girl said lightly.

Most bidders were stunned by the rate at which the price was increasing. Master Wu had raised his offer by a million, yet the girl had followed up with ten million.

The sudden surge in the offer had also quelled Master Wu’s enthusiasm.

He had worked hard all his life and had accumulated a few hundred million worth of the assets. Twenty million was all the cash he could afford. So thinking, Master Wu looked to Chen Fan for help.

Chen Fan furrowed his brows and pondered.

Although he had over six hundred thousand cash in his bank account, he had used more than half of those on purchasing supreme-grade jade to construct the Misty Mountain Array. By then, he had less than fifteen million yuan left on his account.

After a while, Chen Fan said, “All I could afford is thirty million.”

“Oh well.” Master Wu gritted his teeth and gid in for a bidding war.

“Twenty-one million!”

“Thirty million.” The half-blood girl raised her offer by another then million. She gave Master Wu a sidelong glance after she had put in her offer.

Everyone was speechless by how quickly the situation and escalated.

Such was the financial clout of the Zheng Family that the girl didn’t even hesitate when she raised her offer by the tens of millions. To her, money was nothing but a string of numbers.

Having reached his budget, Master Wu sat down into his chair slowly and begrudgingly.

“Master Chen, this mix-blood lass is a jerk! Why don’t we...” As he spoke, he glided a finger across his neck.

“There is no need.” Chen Fan said calmly.

Although Chen Fan was pissed off by losing the precious Spirit Medicine, he was curious as to why would the Zheng Family even need the seemingly useless tree branch.

He believed that the Zhengs were not idiots, and they would not dump thirty million yuan into something that had no return.

“Unless someone in the Zheng Family had also recognized that this bough as a Less Spirit Herb.”

Chen Fan thought as his eyes glinted.

Chapter 64: The Mysterious Mr. Shi

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“Hmph! Some country hillbillies living under a rock dare to compete with me?”

The half white girl lifted her chin and shot Master Wu a contemptuous look.

By then, the worker at the auction house had carried the item to the girl. The girl lifted the cover and asked the middle age man beside him with a frown. “Mr. Shi, is this the miracle cure you were talking about?”

The man opened his half-closed eyes as green light lit up in his eyes.

After he had examined the tree branch, he shut his eyes and bemoaned.

“What a shame, this Essence of Thousand Pinewood is so close to being the miracle cure. But it was harvested a few hundred years too early.”

“Essence of Thousand Pinewood?”

The half white girl asked in confusion. She had never heard of such herb before.

“The Essence of Thousand Pinewood was a sentient organism that lived off of the essence of pine wood. It looks just like an old tree bough.” Mr. Shi said.

“It was a well-kept knowledge in our sect, and therefore not a lot of people know about it.”

“Since it was not what we were looking for, what should we do now?” The furrow on the girl’s face deepened.

Before she arrived at Jiu Ding City, she had already been to the other three centers of Chinese medicine and failed to obtain anything useful for her grandfather’s ailment. Jiu Ding City was her last stop, and if not for Mr. Shi’s advice, she would never have thought of buying a shriveled useless tree branch with thirty million yuan.

“My grandpa can last at most three more months.

“The other households had already been eyeing our assets. Jiu Ding City is my last stop if I can’t find anything here, I don’t know what I should do next. I am on my last leg here.”

So thinking, fear glinted in the girl’s eyes.

“Don’t worry; there is another place where I can guarantee to find something useful.” Mr. Shi said confidently.

“Where is that?” The girl’s face was lit up with hope.

“Based on the chronicles of my sect, the founder of my sect had found a would-be miracle herb somewhere near the Dong Du City a few hundred years ago. Our founder had marked the location but left the herb untouched.” Mr. Shi said lightly. “However, our founder later fled to Hong Kong and was never able to retrieve that herb.”

“Really? Why don’t we go there now!” The girl asked excitedly.

“It had been a hundred years; many things have changed. I am afraid that finding it wouldn’t be that easy.” Mr. Shi shook his head. “Twenty years ago, I went back and attempted to locate the herb. I was only able to spot a few likely spots, but wasn’t able to continue my search.”

“What should we do now?” Miss Zheng was at a loss again.

If they couldn’t find it, the miracle cure might as well not exist.

Mr. Shi smiled confidently and then said: “Was that old man we met earlier from Dong Du City?”

“Him?” Miss Zheng paused a second and hurried to dispatch an employee to ask.

Master Wu was a household name in Zhong Zhou Province, and therefore, the servant came back very quickly with confirmation.

Miss Zheng nodded and then said, "Indeed, he is from Dong Du City. He is quite popular there too; people call him Master Wu and he was able to Reine Ghost and Bend Blood."

She said with a contemptuous tone. "I think those are just high tales he wanted others to believe."

"Not necessary." Mr. Shi stood up and said, "Come, let's go meet this Master Wu."

Miss Zheng was taken aback at first, but she quickly followed Mr. Shi.

After seeing that there was nothing to purchase at the auction, Chen Fan and Master Wu left the auction before it was over.

Thanks to the Zheng Family, Chen Fan was only able to get a hold of three-hundred-year-old herbs. Also, he had missed the opportunity of obtaining a Spirit Medicine. Despite his calm expression, a knot of fire was burning slowly inside of his belly.

He could have taken the bough for himself by force; however, as a Celestial Lord, he had a reputation to keep.

After all, the bough was only a lesser Spirit Medicine and therefore had a very questionable effect. Should the bough be the real deal, he could do whatever it took to obtain the Spirit Medicine.

"The Zheng Family is a bunch of fools! They are lucky that you are so tolerable." Master Wu was not very pleased by the run-ins with the Zheng Family either.

He was humiliated by a girl in front of his acquaintances.

So saying, he sneaked a peek at Chen Fan's face, hoping anger would spur Chen Fan to stand up for him. However, he was disappointed by Chen Fan's impenetrable and stoic expression.

"Who are you talking about?"

A sharp voice came from behind them.

Chen Fan and his companions turned around the saw the girl coming toward them.

"You again?"

Master Wu said with a massive frown."What do you want? We have other business to tend to."

Miss Zheng's face was hard, and she said in a cold voice, "Are you Wu Shanhe from the Dong Du City?"

"Yes, so what?" Master Wu narrowed his eyes and asked.

His scalp prickled as he registered hostility. They had dug into his background, but what for?

Master Wu pulled a taut face and then shouted:

"What do you want? Spit it out; I am busy!"

Anger flashed across Miss Zheng's face, but she was able to hold it back. "I want to hire you to locate something for me; it's near the Dong Du City."

"What are you looking for? A tomb?" Master Wu's knee jerk reaction was that the girl was going to hire him as a grave robber. After all, the founder of his sect used to be the captain of tomb raiders. In addition, Dong Du city was well known for the countless and nameless mounds that scattered its suburbs such as the famous Beimang Mound.

"It's none of your business what we are looking for, Mr. Shi will fill you in later. " Miss Zheng pointed at the middle age man beside him and said.

The man was holding a paper fan, and wearing a pair of thin copper rimmed glasses, making him look like a scholar.

"Master Shi? Are you that Feng Shui in Hong Kong?" Master Wu exclaimed. "I have only heard of Zhou Daoji, Master Zhou who resided in Hong Kong, how do you compare to him?"

Miss Zheng's face turned red.

Zhou Daoji was the most famous master in Hong Kong, and Mr. Shi simply couldn't compare.

Even as she was about to say something, Mr. Shi took a step forward and said: "You will find out soon about how I compare to Master Zhou."

Before he finished his sentence, he shot a wave of energy at Master Wu.

"Excellent!"

Master Wu reacted quickly and started his Dharmic powers.

"Kaboom!"

As the two energy collided, a huge explosion erupted in the Void Dimension.

After one brief exchange of fire, they had a taste of each other's power. Mr. Shi's body was shaken at first, but he quickly gathered himself. Wu Shanhe, on the other hand, stumbled a few feet back and his face blushed out of embarrassment.

"Do you still question my power?" Mr. Shi asked slowly.

Master Wu's face paled, but he had to concede defeat.

"What are you looking for? Spit it out!" Master Wu granted.

"I am looking for a hidden pond. It was somewhere inside the mountain or near the Dong Du City. The water in the pond was icy to the touch regardless of the season, and it was about a few dozen meters wide and ... "

As Mr. Shi described the pond, Master Wu's face turned dark.

"Isn't that the Yin Dragon Pond?"

Mr. Shi's eyes were lit up with glee. "I knew it; you know where it is!"

Wu Shanhe's face was contorted by anger. The pond was the sacred ground of his sect, not a shared public park.

Even as he was about to refuse the task, Chen Fan put in abruptly.

"Why are you looking for Yin Dragon Pond?"

"You can leave that concern to me. I just need you to find it. Once you have finished your job, we won't short you on your payment." Miss Zheng said impatiently.

To her surprise, Chen Fan shook his head and said, "We don't need money."

"You can pay us with that tree branch you have gotten from the auction."

"How dare you!"

Miss Zheng glared at Chen Fan.

Although the Essence of Thousand Pinewood was not as effective as she had hoped for, she had spared no expense at acquiring this herb; she couldn't just let it go so easily.

"Fine, I agree to your terms."

To Miss Zheng's surprise, Mr. Shi readily accepted the term.

Seeing Miss Zheng's confused stare, Mr. Shi waved the paper fan confidently, willing her to agree.

Although the Essence of Thousand Pinewood had incredible healing ability, for those who didn't know how to use it, it was as useless as a dead tree branch.

"Very well, I will lead you to the Yin Dragon Pond in a week."

Chen Fan nodded.

Mr. Shi smiled, and without raising any questions as to why he had to wait for a week, he turned around and sauntered off.

Miss Zheng gave Chen Fan and Master Wu a vehement glare and left with Mr. Shi.

After they were both gone, Wu Shanhe asked Chen Fan perplexedly: "Why are we helping them?"

"That Mr. Shi is a powerful cultivator, well, at least more powerful than me. You are not afraid that they are up to something more sinister?"

"Don't worry; I have a plan." Chen Fan said lightly.

Seeing how confident Chen Fan was, Master Wu decided to keep the doubt to himself.

- Chapter 65: Dao Never Come Easily.

Chapter 65: Dao Never Come Easily.

Chapter 65: Dao Never Come Easily.

Afterward, Chen Fan rented a house and settled in with his companions. Although Mr. Shi was not worried that Chen Fan would run away by himself after he had obtained the

Spirit Medicine, Miss Zheng had assigned bodyguards standing guard outside of Chen Fan's house, monitoring his every move.

Chen Fan didn't mind the surveillance. As soon as he got the Essence of Thousand Pinewood, he started to brew an elixir called the Essence Gathering Pill.

Like the Essence Enhancing Pill, The Essence Gathering Pill was one of the most common pills used by cultivators to enhancing their Qi.

Without reaching the Connate Spirit level, Chen Fan would still have to rely on earthly food for survival. The earthly elements in the day to day food posed a hindrance to his progress of cultivation.

Therefore, instead of feeding on earthly food, most cultivation sects used the Spirit Pills and Spirit Dew to supplement their diet. These pills and elixirs could provide not only daily sustenance but also improve their cultivation.

After consuming one Spirit Pill, one would not need to eat anything, other than drinking water for ten days. In addition, these pills could also quickly replenish the cultivator's body and balance the elements in the system after an exhaustive battle.

Thanks to the abundant supply of herbs in the Jiu Ding City, Chen Fan had finished creating the pills very quickly.

He was able to create over a hundred Essence Gathering Pill using the Essence of Thousand Pinewood. It should be enough to last for two years.

"With these Essence Gathering Pills, I have more confidence in reaching the fifth stage of the Void Mortal Refinement Art." Chen Fan was very satisfied with the outcome.

He was convinced that with the aid of the Essence Gathering Pills, he would be able to materialize plans that were previously impossible.

Time flew by, and in the last seven days, Chen Fan did not leave his house as he was focusing on creating the elixirs.

On the seventh night, Chen Fan had finally finished his work.

He walked out of his room for the first time in a week and sat in a patio chair in the backyard. He made himself a cup of tea and started drinking.

He had used the leftover elixir in the tea, and therefore the fragrance of the tea was strong and wholesome. Master Wu stood behind Chen Fan while gawking at the cup of tea.

As a beginner in cultivation and being deprived of Qi, the cup contained more Qi than Master Wu could ever imagine.

Master Wu would have to work years in order to harness just a fraction of the Qi in the cup, yet Chen Fan wasted all that leftover elixir in making this cup of tea as if they were useless scraps.

“A’Xiu, come out, stopping hiding.” Chen Fan said lightly.

From behind the back door of the house, a small figure emerged.

A’Xiu plodded toward Chen Fan. She gave Chen Fan a guilty look and then lowered her head in silence.

“We are about to go on a dangerous trip. You have heard from Master Wu yourself that there is a snake demon living under the pond and the demon was capable of injuring Master Wu’s master. I suggest you go home and not to come with us. I can not guarantee your safety.

“I will make arrangements when I am back so that you can either work in Xu Ao’s office or go to University in the city. It’s up to you.

“I want you to live a happy life, find someone you love and make a family in the city. That is your dream, isn’t it?”

“No!”

A’Xiu’s eyes lit up with indignation after hearing Chen Fan’s words.

She looked up and at Chen Fan, softened her face a little and pleaded.

“I have missed one chance; I don’t want to make the same mistake again. Don’t send me away, please.”

She sneaked a glance at Chen Fan’s face; however, she saw nothing but indifference.

Suddenly, A’Xiu felt a chill down her spine.

She felt that the person in front of her was no longer the caring and loving Brother Chen, but someone, or something that was beyond human’s sentiments and emotions.

For the first time, she was scared.

Then, out of nowhere, she heard Chen Fan’s voice coming down at her from above.

"I know what you are thinking, you have been warned, the journey you are about to embark on will be tortuous. Without a heart of gold and a will of iron, you will never reach enlightenment.

"And remember this: "Dao never comes easily."

Chen Fan spoke the last few words with every ounce of the seriousness of a Celestial Lord, and he pressed them into the young girl's mind.

"Dao never comes easily?" A'Xiu repeated after Chen Fan. She knew that Chen Fan had already seen through her mind.

She was more than just fascinated after seeing Chen Fan's incredible power at the tournament; she wanted it for herself. If she had that power, she would no longer be dependent on other people like she always had been.

"Excellent."

Chen Fan sat under the moonlight; his skin reflected the cold moonlight as he peered into the mind of the girl with a pair of deep and thoughtful eyes.

"In addition to resolution, you also need a bit of luck to become a competent cultivator.

"If anyone anywhere is able to access the power of Dao, the world would have already fallen into disarray and chaos. Just ask Master Wu."

Hearing Chen Fan's words, A'Xiu looked to Master Wu.

Master Wu straightened his back and nodded. He spoke in a serious tone as if he was speaking to his own disciple. "Your teacher was the only person who was able to teach you the method of cultivation.

"For the first two years of a martial arts disciple's life, all he or she does is sweeping the floor, the next two years is serving tea, and in the two years that followed, he or she will have to look after the daily life of his master personally. Then and only then, the master would start to teach the disciple the basics of cultivation. However, even that came with a time limit; if one didn't show signs of enlightenment, the disciple would be kicked out from the sect. Only the most diligent and the brightest disciples are chosen by the teacher as the 'Inner Circle Disciples' who would one day inherit the master's real power, most often beside the master's dying bed side.

"When I was a disciple, my teacher had tested my determination and resolution for ten years before he started to trust me fully.

"Mind you that my sect has abysmal power compare to that of Master Chen. If you can obtain just a fraction of his power, you would be revered by the world as an immortal.

With power as deadly as his, Master Chen must have even more stringent requirements for his disciples.”

A’Xiu gritted her teeth and kneeled in front of Chen Fan. She kowtowed deeply and then said: “Master, take me, please. I don’t mind hard work; even if I have to work as a slave for ten or twenty years, I still want to learn from you.”

“Rise, now.” Chen Fan said calmly.

“I can take you in and be your teacher. However, I need to make it clear to you that as soon as you become my disciple, your life belongs to me. If you ever think of betraying me, I will hunt you down even if you hide in the deepest cave of the underworld.”

Chen Fan’s voice was calm, but every word he spoke had the chilling intent to kill.

A’Xiu’s body trembled slightly and then she spoke under her breath.

“Yes, master. ”

“Don’t call me master. You are not my real disciple yet.” Chen Fan refuted.

A’Xiu’s face hardened and then she said: “Maybe I am not worthy just yet, but I will improve myself through hard work. ”

As soon as the girl stood up, Master Wu bowed to Chen Fan and congratulated him: “Congratulations, Master Chen. You have snatched up a good one.”

“Hehe.” Chen Fan shook his head.

A’Xiu was not his disciple, not yet.

No one could imagine what he had gone through as the disciple of Cangqin.

Every few thousand years, Cangqin would tour the universe and look for young people with a great aptitude for cultivation. After he had picked his candidates, he would toss them into the dimension he had created and let them fight with each other in a battle royale.

After Chen Fan was chosen by Cangqin, he had fought for his life in the Changmin Immortal Dimension for ten years. After several near escapes, he had finally become the seventh official disciple of Cangqin.

No pain no gain, such as the way of cultivation.

Cangqin had chosen well over billions of candidates, but only a handful could succeed and was worthy of learning from him.

“Dao never comes easily; those that do are not real Dao.”

As such, even though A’Xiu had kowtowed to him and showed him the respect as a master, Chen Fan would not teach her the method of cultivation right away. He would start with the basics such as the Foundation Establishment methods. After that, he would teach her the first three forms of the True Martial Thirty-Six Forms.

Even that material should be enough to take A’Xiu into the level of Ethereal Enlightenment. By then she would be nearly invincible in the mortal world.

If she was talented, she might be able to reach the level of Divine Sea, then and only then, Chen Fan would consider her as an official disciple.

“Let’s rest after I am done this cup of tea together; we have a hard journey ahead of us.”

Chen Fan poured a cup of tea and handed it over to A’Xiu.

Without thinking too much, A’Xiu poured the content down her throat. Suddenly, she felt a coldness from her throat all the way to her stomach. The chill quickly turned into a burning sensation; soon, steam rose from her skin as if she was on fire.

“BOM! Kaboom!”

A wave of popping sounds erupted from her skin. In a blink, her body was covered with a layer of black substance that oozed out from her skin.

Suddenly, A’Xiu felt much lighter and more energetic.

“This is Marrow Washing!”

Master Wu exclaimed.

Master Wu had spent years to reach this stage while A’Xiu had done it after just one cup of tea.

Once she had cleansed herself from inside, her enlightenment would not be too far.

Feeling the incredible change inside of her, A’Xiu dropped her knees and kowtowed to Chen Fan respectfully.

Chen Fan accepted her gratitude readily. This cup of tea might have changed A’Xiu’s life. Now she was no longer a weak little girl. Instead, her physic rivaled that of the top athletes.

A strong and resilient body was the prerequisite for their task ahead.

Seeing Master Wu's envious look, Chen Fan remarked: "After we are done at the Yin Dragon Pond. You will have your cup of tea as well."

Master Wu hurried to kneel in front of Chen Fan and announced: "Thank you, Master Chen. I will not disappoint you."

Chen Fan cracked a smile and kept his silence.

Chapter 66: Heading To Yin Dragon Pond

The next day morning, Chen Fan and the half white girl regrouped.

During the meeting, Chen Fan learned that the girl's name was Zheng Anqi, and her English name was Anna.

Her father was Zheng Haochang, the second son of the famous magnet Zheng Zhongming of Hong Kong. Zheng Anqi was the daughter of Zheng Haochang and a western aristocrat mother. Zheng Anqi was not only the heir apparent of the Zheng dynasty but also the titles from her mother's side.

As of now, Zheng Anqi was a famous model and fashion designer. Although not a lot of people had ever heard of her name in mainland China, she was the idol of many teenagers from rich and powerful families.

Zheng Anqi and her entourage joined Chen Fan and his company, and they drove five SUV's toward their destination.

Zheng Anqi looked at Chen Fan and A'Xiu incredulously and then asked Master Wu: "Wu, are you planning to bring these two kids with us?"

She had spent a few days and investigated the background of Master Wu. She had learned that Master Wu did possess Dharmic powers. However, his abilities were a far cry from that of Mr. Shi.

On the other hand, she knew nothing about A'Xiu and Chen Fan. They both looked like they were sixteen, and both seemed anything but extraordinary. She even consulted Mr. Shi who had confirmed her suspicion. Therefore, she was convinced that these two useless teenagers would be a hindrance rather than a help.

However, Master Wu refuted hotly: "Master... Mr. Chen lives near the Yin Dragon Pond, and therefore he knows the land better than anyone. I am not going without him."

"Really?" Zheng Anqi flicked a suspicious look at Chen Fan.

Although she was not from the mainland and was not familiar with the people of mainland China, she was not convinced that Chen Fan lived a secluded life deep inside a mountain.

“That’s fine, just two more people, it’s not a big deal. Let’s move already.” Mr. Shi announced impatiently.

As he spoke, he cast a suspicious glance at A’Xiu.

The girl looked meek and fragile last week, but now she suddenly gained a deft and resilient bearing. Had she consumed that Essence of Thousand Pinewood?

“What a waste!”

Mr. Shi shook his head and lamented. However, the promise of obtaining a real Spirit Pill made him quickly forget about the Essence of Thousand Pinewood.

The fleet drove out and toward the Dong Du City.

After a few hours, the fleet of SUVs arrived at a toll station, and the cars pulled over to the side of the road.

On the other side of the toll station was a group of rich teenagers driving expensive vehicles.

As soon as Zheng Anqi got out of the car, some of those teenagers hurried to greet them.

“Who are they?”

“Some rich brats from Dong Du City.” Master Wu replied. “They must be here for Zheng Anqi.”

Lo and behold, they scuttled past Chen Fan toward Zheng Anqi and surrounded her like a group of flies to a fruit-cake.

Zheng Anqi crossed her arms and didn’t seem to be impressed by any of the teenagers.

All the while, she held a cold countenance and offered scanty replies to the boys’ greetings. However, she could shoulder didn’t quell the boy’s enthusiasm.

In their eyes, the lady of the Zheng Family was a drop-dead gorgeous. Half Asian and half white, she was as exotic as a girl could get. Even her breath which she scarcely wasted, smelled aristocratic and western like.

Zheng Anqi was already used to the attention of boys.

In her eyes, these teenagers are nothing but uncouth hillbillies. They were her pawns, cheap and expendable.

After having exchanged a few words with the boys, she turned around and spoke to Chen Fan.

“We are in Dong Du City now, can you show me where the Yin Dragon Pond is now?”

Seeing Anna’s cold face, Chen Fan said unenthusiastically.

“It’s in Double Dragon Village in Qishan County”

Chen Fan’s cold attitude didn’t sit well with Zheng Anqi. She snorted hotly and grunted under her breath.

“Humph! We will see who the last one smiling is.”

As soon as she turned her head around, a few teenage boys shouted: “You are going to Qishan County? I know that place very well!”

“I am from Qishan County myself, Miss Anna, let me show you the way.”

Without waiting for consent, the boys rushed to their cars and started toward the Qishan County with Zheng Family’s fleet in tow.

As soon as the fleet was off the toll road, the teenage boys called in two jeeps to drive ahead of them and clear the way. Seeing the impressive fleet that comprised solely of expensive vehicles, most drivers swerved to the side of the road to make way for the fleet.

In less than three hours, they finally arrived at Qishan County.

It was late in the day when they arrived, and therefore they had decided to stay in Qishan County for the night. The son of the richest man in the country was called “Sir Jiang Junior,” and he had booked the best hotel and ordered a banquet to be set up.

Hearing about the arrival of Zheng Anqi, even the adults flocked to the restaurant to pay their respects and lobby for closer business ties.

The desire for investments at the small counties was beyond anyone’s expectations.

Zheng Anqi sat at the main seat with Sir Jiang Junior and the other magnates from Qishan County on her sides. Her blond hair and tall stature attracted the attention of all that were present at the table.

Chen Fan and his company sat quietly in a corner and watched as the show unfold.

“That’s the Zheng Family for you. Hoity-toity!”

Master Wu said bitterly.

Although he was a respected person in the Dong Du City, his prestige couldn’t compare with that of the Zheng Family.

“Just eat your food.” Chen Fan said. He didn’t even lift his chopsticks once, as he only drank tea and ate nothing else.

One of the Essence Gathering Pills would provide him enough sustenance to go for ten days.

Suddenly, they saw that Zheng Anqi walked over toward them with a wine cup in her hand.

A smile broke over her delicate face as she said in a musical voice: “Mr. Chen played a critical role in our mission. You have contributed directly to our success in establishing a bottle water plant here. And for that, I toast to your health!”

After that, she poured the contents of the cup down her throat.

Suddenly, everyone started to notice Chen Fan who had been sitting quietly in the corner so far.

The princess of the Zheng family had barely smiled at any one of them, much less raising a cup in their names. Why would she suddenly cozy up to someone who was so insignificant?

Chen Fan was amused by the development.

The Zheng Family had masked their real intention by claiming that they were looking for a spring that was suitable for establishing a bottled water plant.

Little did she know that there was so much Yin Qi inside of the water of the Yin Dragon Pond, an ordinary person would have got ill from the coldness once so much as a droplet touched their mortal lips.

Seeing Zheng Anqi had initiated the toast, the rest of the businessmen hurried to follow suit.

Drinking was an old tradition in the Zhong Zhou Province, and almost everyone could hold their liquor well. Therefore, they quickly ran out of liquor.

Chen Fan gave Zheng Anqi a look and then shook his head: “I don’t drink.”

Everyone was shocked, more so because who he had said it to than the fact that he didn't drink.

After a few awkward moments, Sir Jiang Junior walked over to Chen Fan and announced with a broad smile. "That's ok; I can drink it for you. "

Sir Jiang Junior's voice was laced with contempt thinking he was doing a no account a favor.

However, Chen Fan sat still and announced calmly: "I said, no drinking."

The silence fell into the room again; this time it was more awkward than the last.

The smile froze over on Sir Jiang Junior's face; his eyes twitched with anger.

Seeing that the boy had refused Sir Jiang Junior's help, the rest of the guests shook their heads disapprovingly.

This kid was too arrogant! Did he really think that the Zheng Family cared about him? He was just a pawn, a very expendable one while at it!

Seeing the anger in Sir Jiang Junior's eyes, a businessman called Liang hurried to break the silence.

"Come on, Let's toast for Sir Jiang Junior's health! I will drink up first!"

The businessman emptied his cup and willed Sir Jiang Junior to do the same.

After Sir Jiang Junior had finished his drink, he slammed the cup on the table and stormed out of the room, leaving a gust of angry wind.

Everyone looked toward Chen Fan sympathetically; they knew that Sir Jiang Junior wouldn't let him off the hook easily.

Even Zheng Anqi was taken aback by Chen Fan's audacity. She wondered what had given the boy such unwavering confidence.

"Maybe it's the valor of ignorance." She shook her head and decided to let the matter rest.

She lived in a different world than Chen Fan, and therefore there was no need for her to waste her time thinking about Chen Fan's trouble. After this mission, she would never see Chen Fan again.

Once Sir Jiang Junior left the room, Master Wu said gravely: "Are you sure we need to do that?"

Master Wu was from Dong Du City, and he knew at first hand the power of Jiang Family. If the Jiang Family wanted to, they could have kicked him out of the city there and then.

"It's fine. Don't worry." Chen Fan didn't seem to be bothered at all.

As a Celestial Lord who was regaining his power, he could not fear a mortal family, however powerful they were.

After the banquet was over, they went to bed. The next day, they started toward Double Dragon Village, with Sir Jiang Junior in tow.

Chapter 67: Gathering Of The Three Families

Chapter 67: Gathering Of The Three Families

The mountain range extended out for miles and was connected to the foothill of another enormous mountain.

The Double Dragon Village was situated at the foothills of the Qi Mountain. The villagers collect and sell herbs and furs and whatever they could find in the mountain forests. The local people had received the news of the guest's arrival ahead of time and therefore, when the fleet got there, the village elder had been waiting for them.

After knowing that they were about to set out on an expedition into the mountain, looking for a spring well, the elder ordered the best huntsman in the village to guide them through the woods.

"You are going to the Yin Dragon Pond?" The old hunter's face paled after hearing where the guests were heading.

"Yes, do you know of that place?" Zheng Anqi's eyes lit up with hope.

"Yes, but It was a forbidden zone" The old hunter shriveled a little and continued. "That area was closed off ever since my grandfather's generation. Nothing grows around that pond, and the water is poisonous.

"But that was not the worst part, did you know there is a monster in the pond?"

"Monster?" Sir Jiang Junior snorted. Even the local elder refuted the hunter, "We live in the 21st century, not two hundred years ago. You need to make money for your son's apartment's down payment, don't you? If you change your mind, many other people are willing to take the money."

The old hunter named Zhu looked down hesitantly and was embarrassed.

After a few awkward moments, Mr. Shi finally broke the silence, "Your description is similar to that in my sect's record. I think that is the place."

Hearing Mr. Shi had confirmed the location of the pond, Zheng Anqi decided to move out right away.

Under the lure of the reward, Hunter Zhu finally gave in. He heaved a sigh and then followed the guests.

After lunch, the expedition team started their journey. The team comprised of Zheng Anqi, Sir Jiang Junior and his friends, Hunter Zhu and two of his sons, and Chen Fan and his companions.

As they walked deeper into the mountain, Master Wu furrowed his brows and said: "Master Chen, something is not right. Why do they still need us even after they have found a guide?"

Both Master Wu and A'Xiu had been initiated as Chen Fan's disciples, and therefore, they started to call Chen Fan, Master Chen.

Chen Fan linked his hands behind his back and walked nimbly on the treacherous mountain path. He said: "She never believed me. My accent is from Jiang Bei, but I had told her that I am from the mountains. She is not stupid."

Master Wu's face flushed red for having grossly underestimated the ability of Miss Zheng.

"They wanted us to travel with them because they don't want us to spread the news of their mission." Chen Fan said readily.

"However, I am still not sure what they are looking for in the Yin Dragon Pond. Mr. Shi was the only cultivator in their group, but he clearly had an affinity with the wood element. Are they going to kill the Yin Snake and use its flesh as medicine for her dying grandfather? No, that doesn't make sense."

He pondered on. Suddenly, he asked as he rubbed his chin: "Could it be that there is some kind of Numinous treasures inside the pond that I am not aware of?"

"That does make sense. In places with so much concentration of Qi, more often than not there is a Spirit Medicine or numinous treasures guarded by cryptids. I think that is what Mr. Shi after."

Chen Fan's eyes flashed as realization finally dawned upon him.

He was able to make over a hundred Spirit Pills from one lesser grade Spirit Herb; the sky was the limit as to what he could do with a real Spirit herb.

So thinking, Chen Fan picked up his speed.

The old hunter estimated that they are looking at two to three days of hiking in the mountain. Therefore, before sunset, the group pitched tents and prepare for the night.

Zheng Anqi and Mr. Shi had brought over a dozen bodyguards with them, and therefore they didn't have to do anything.

The bodyguards pitched half a dozen tents and started a fire. They brought out some dry ham and jerky and started preparing supper.

Soon the fragrance of meat spread out through the entire campsite. Some of the bodyguards were experts in wilderness survival and were exceptionally talented in making camping food.

Soon, Zheng Anqi called out to Sir Jiang Junior and Hunter Zhu to join her for dinner.

However, she had intentionally ignored Chen Fan and his companions.

"Master Chen, what an asshole!"

Master Wu's belly growled as he hungrily inhaled the delightful smell of meat in the air.

A'Xiu was starving as well. However, she didn't even glance toward the food.

Chen Fan sat cross-legged on a large flat rock. He slowly opened his eyes and looked toward Zheng Anqi. Although he didn't seem to pay any attention to him, Sir Jiang Junior's shifty eyes glanced at him as he gloated over his hunger.

He had been waiting for this moment for the entire day.

Chen Fan and two of his companions didn't bring any food with them, so they brought it onto themselves.

Chen Fan shook his head.

He had come prepared.

Unlike in the city where food was abundant, one would have to either bring their own food or hunt for it in the wilderness. In the eyes of Zheng Anqi, Chen Fan and his company were city dwellers and had no survival abilities in the wilderness. She wagered that it was only a matter of time before Chen Fan came begging for food.

“Luckily, I came prepared.”

Chen Fan said as he produced two pills from a bottle and gave it to Master Wu and A’Xiu.

As soon as A’Xiu and Master Wu swallowed the pills, they felt a gush of fresh energy surge inside of them, charging up every cell in their body. Soon, the pores on their skin opened up as steam rose from them. The sensation was as comfortable as it was satisfying.

One Essence Gathering Pill could provide enough energy for a human body for ten days.

In addition, it has the marrow washing effect that quickly expelled the nefarious elements in one’s system. It was particularly beneficial for cultivators since these pills were able to help them to recharge their True Essence rapidly.

“Master Chen, is this the so-called Spirit Pills?” Master Wu slowly opened his eyes and held a significant improvement in his power.

“Yes, and stop talking. Just sit down and do as I say.”

Chen Fan closed his eyes and delivered cultivation instructions to his disciples using his arcane energy.

As soon as A’Xiu and Master Wu heard Chen Fan’s voice in their minds, they quickly sat down and closed their eyes as instructed.

“What are they up to?”

Zheng Anqi asked as she noticed the strange behavior of the three sitting on the rock.

“They are resting, trying to conserve their energy. I have to say that this kids got a backbone.” Sir Jiang Junior shook his head as he said.

“Well, let’s see over the next few days. They will have to come and beg our lady sooner or later.”

The leader of Zheng Anqi’s bodyguards grunted.

Afterward, the group switched topics and quickly forgot about Chen Fan.

However, Mr. Shi remained suspicious of the three’s strange behavior: it was as if they were cultivating. According to Dao Sect’s theory, there was no better time to cultivate than when one was in starvation. It was easier to gather energy in one’s system and form the Internal Energy.

After a couple of hours, the fire went out, and everyone went back to their own tent to sleep.

The next morning, the group found Chen Fan and his companions were still sitting cross-legged on the rock. However, they didn't attract too much attention as everyone was busy taking down the tents.

Chen Fan didn't open his eyes until the group was about to set off again.

A'Xiu felt a rush of exhilaration like she had never experienced before.

After one night's cultivation, she had finally reached the entry level the same level as Wei Ziqin. The internal energy flowed inside of her lent her resolution in continuing her cultivation.

"I must follow Master Chen closely, and one day, I will prove myself worthy of becoming his official disciple."

Despite the calm and lighthearted look on Master Wu's face, his heart was filled with emotions.

After one night of cultivation under the correct guidance, he had made more progress than three years of hard work.

"Incredible! Master Chen is a human yet his skill is on par with an immortal!"

Suddenly, he felt lucky for the run-in with Chen Fan. His defeat by Chen Fan turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

With the help of the old hunter, the group pressed on without many difficulties. The lack of challenge brought out contentment, soon, Zheng Anqi and Sir Jiang Junior even started to treat the expedition as a leisure field trip. They were supposed to finish the journey in two days, but it had taken them three.

All the while, Sir Jiang Junior was perplexed by the fact that Chen Fan and his companions had survived seemingly without eating anything.

He was convinced that Chen Fan had picked fruits and wild berries when the group was not paying attention. Otherwise, he could not have survived.

On the third day, they finally reached the edge of Yin Dragon Pond. Something had spooked Hunter Zhu, and he refused to go any further.

However, no one listened to him.

As Zheng Anqi and Mr. Shi rushed toward the Yin Dragon Pond with excitement, Chen Fan stood on a small hill and looked toward the pond. He noticed a heavy mist of Yin Energy that loomed above the pond which confirmed his suspicion that this pond was a sacred land of cultivation for Yin Element cultivators.

Suddenly, a wave of loud and distressed clamors rose from the direction of the pond.

“Let’s go and take a look.”

Chen Fan furrowed his brows and hurried to the pond.

Chapter 68: Mighty Mr. Shi

The Yin Dragon Pond was inside a valley surrounded by mountain peaks. Only a small section of the valley was visible from the outside.

Once Chen Fan entered the valley, he saw two groups of people fighting against each other beside a pond.

On one side of the pond was Zheng Anqi and her bodyguards and the other group was lead by an old man. As soon as the old man saw Master Wu, he shouted out: “Asshole Wu! How dare you lead these outsiders to our sacred land?”

Everyone looked toward Master Wu; Zheng Anqi’s glare was laced with displeasure. Embarrassed, Master Wu’s face flushed red and explained: “Master Chen, they are my sect brothers.

“The tall one is called Mu Hongshen, and the short fat one is called Yan Zhengze. I didn’t expect to see them here at all.”

Chen Fan looked around at the two old men and noticed an unmistakable cast of Malic Qi about their countenance. It was apparent that they followed the same cultivation method as Master Wu and both of them had reached the mid-stage of the Foundation Establishment.

Master Wu refuted, “Old-Bone Mu, I didn’t bring them here; they come by themselves.”

The tall man burst out laughing.

“Asshole Wu! Stop lying to me. My disciples had spotted you conspiring with this same group of people at the Double Dragon Village. My accusation didn’t come out of thin air.”

Chen Fan was taken aback for a second, and suddenly realization dawned upon him: Zheng Anqi and her entourage's conspicuous action shouldn't have escaped the ears of the Yin Ghost Sect.

Suddenly, a sharp female voice put in: "I don't care what's between you two. Move away!"

She said as he gave Chen Fan an accusatory glare.

Mu Hongshen and Yan Zhengze studied the half white and half Asian girl for a while and then furrowed their brows and asked: "Who are you? How do you know Asshole Wu?"

The aviator sunglasses covered half of Zheng Anqi's attractive yet distant face. She stood with pride and didn't care to answer the question as if she was a superstar and the old man a paparazzi. After a few seconds, a rich young man accompanying Miss Zheng hurried to answer for her, "This is Zheng Anqi from the Zheng Family of Hong Kong. She is here on a business trip in Dong Du City."

"Zheng Anqi of Hong Kong?" The two old men snorted and then smirked.

"I don't care who you are; this is the traditional land of our sect. You are trespassing!"

Zheng Anqi's eyes lit up with anger.

As the heir of the prestigious Zheng Family, she could not stomach the humiliation of two old fool from the countryside.

A group of rich teenagers stood up for her.

"Miss Zheng said to move away. Didn't you hear her?"

Sir Jiang Junior also remarked lightly, "Miss Zheng is here for important matters. If her business plan is spoiled, someone will have to be responsible!"

"My father is Jiang Jialiang of the Dong Du City. I wager you both know of him?"

The two old men's face paled slightly; everyone knew Jiang Jialiang and his influence around this neck of the woods.

After a few cautious moments, they gathered themselves and said: "I don't care who your father is. I never heard of Jiang Jialiang anyways."

"How dare you!"

Sir Jiang Junior shouted, facing flushing red.

“Miss Zheng is going to invest in our local economy; It’s an important matter for everyone who lives here. You two are stupid for not seeing this! Get out of the way, old fools!” Another rich teen shouted.

“Yin Ghost Sect? Sacred Land? Haha. Do they live in a Wuxia Novel? What a wack job!” A young man shouted.

No one had taken the two old men seriously.

All these rich teenagers were from reputable families of the Dong Du City. They didn’t think that two old fools would be able to stop their actions.

However, Zheng Anqi felt something was amiss.

Everything had gone well before this point, almost too well. She wondered if it was by chance or by design that they happened to meet a capable guide in the Yin Dragon Pond. If it was a setup, the culprit could only be Master Wu and that teenage boy called Chen Fan.

So thinking, she scanned around her, and the sight of confident and well-armed bodyguards quelled her nerves.

As one of the richest families in Hong Kong, the Zheng Family went above and beyond to ensure their personal safety. All of her bodyguards carried firearms.

The two old men laughed out loud in response to the teenagers. They said with a smirk: “Rich men of the Dong Du City, so what?”

“Your power is limited in the city, but out here in the wilderness, the natural elements could not be bought by money and your worldly power.”

Sir Jiang Junior and his friends were threatened by the old man’s words. Their faces turned pale.

Zheng Anqi shouted at Chen Fan hotly: “Did you set it up? Are you trying to screw me?”

“I have already promised to pay you for your labor. My family owns over tens of billions of assets; I won’t short your reward.”

Chen Fan shook his head slowly, rendering Zheng Anqi at a lose.

The old men were right; they were in a very tight spot. Unlike in the city where she could readily summon help, they were on their own in the unforgiving wilderness.

Suddenly, Mu Hongshen shouted out in a booming voice: “Stop wasting time. Since you are here, you should stay and repent for your sins!”

After he said that, he produced a Talisman from his pocket and pointed a finger in the air.

Suddenly, a cloud of dark smoke rose from the talisman as the temperature dropped rapidly. The naturally chilly air around the pond was exacerbated by the effect of the spell. In a blink of an eye, the city folk felt they were in the middle of winter.

“What is going on?”

Sir Jiang Junior and his friends stared at the old men, frightened.

The bodyguards were also taken by surprise, and none of them knew what to do.

“Could it be that the old man really knows Dharma Spells?” A rich teen stammered.

Everyone’s heart sank after hearing the teen’s remark.

Many teenagers were shaken by the development. They thought they were on a field trip but never had they expected to encounter such a dangerous situation.

Even Sir Jiang Junior started to tremble. He was still young, and he didn’t want to live the rest of his life in the middle of nowhere.

Zheng Anqi’s face paled at the sudden turn of events.

She knew of the Dharma Spells, Mr. Shi, for example, was well known for his Dharma Spells. However, she had always thought that the spells were nothing but a visual trick instead of the terrifying abilities on full display before her.

She turned around and looked to Mr. Shi for help.

“That’s enough!”

Mr. Shi shouted and took a step forward. A green shimmer appeared in his eyes.

He spoke in a stately voice, “Disciples of the Yin Ghost Sect, move away; otherwise I will rain death upon ye!”

Old-bone Mu smirked and then put in, “My, my... one of our own kind.”

Before he finished his words, he started the Dharmatic Art and spurred the dark smoke to plunge at Mr. Shi.

“AHRR!”

Zheng Anqi shouted in fear. The teenagers around her were stunned by the frightening scene and froze in place.

Mr. Shi shook his head and said calmly: "I have heard of your sect while I was in Hong Kong. I was told that your sect knew only some small tricks that can frighten ordinary people. After today's encounter, it appears that the rumor was true. The small amount of Yin Qi you possess is laughable."

Even as he spoke, a green shimmer appeared around his body. Right before the dark smoke came into contact with its target, the green glow brightened tenfold and smothered the dark smoke. Mr. Shi immediately followed with more Dharmatic spells and shot a ray of pale green light at the old man.

The ray of light traveling at incredible speed, and in the blink of an eye, it was right in front of Old-Bone Mu.

Before Old-Bone Mu could react, he was hit with a deadly blow which paralyzed him instantly.

It wasn't until a few seconds later, the onlookers noticed that it wasn't a green light at all, but a green vine. The vine had wrapped around the old man, restricting his movements.

Yan Zhengze's face hardened at the sudden turn of events. It was evident that Mr. Shi was a much more powerful cultivator than him; the thought of retreat crept into his mind.

Mr. Shi walked past the crowd and came over to Chen Fan and Master Wu. He said calmly: "Master Wu, I had figured out your background a while ago. Since you are also from the Yin Ghost Sect, I wager you already knew quite a bit about the pond.

"To be frank, the reason we are here is to retrieve an herb for the old man of the Zheng Family.

"We will leave this place as soon as we obtained the herb. I promise! I hope you and your sect brothers could cooperate with us. It's easier for both of us if you do."

Mr. Shi linked his arms behind his back and letting his stately announcement set in. No one dared to speak a word while Master Wu contemplated his options.

Yan Zhengze looked to his senior Master Wu and saw the latter wore a wry smile as he looked to Chen Fan.

Chen Fan kept his silence while gazing at the placid surface of the pond. No one knew what he was thinking while waiting for his decision.

After a while, Mr. Shi's patience was wearing thin. He asked hotly, "So, what's the word?"

Zheng Anqi gathered herself and shouted: "Mr. Shi, don't let them off the hook so easily."

"They are all in this to set us up! Make them pay!"

Both Old-Bone Mu and Yan Zhengze's face darkened after hearing the girl's words. Even as Mr. Shi was about to speak out again, a gush of water shot out from the pond as a dark shadow jumped out from the center of the waterspout.

Chapter 69: Yin Dragon

Zheng Anqi was stunned by the sudden development and the smile on her face froze over.

She saw a large dark shadow emerge out from the pond, and something in its strange configuration told her that much of its mass was still hidden under water. That being said, the exposed part of the creature's body was over a dozen meters in length, as tall as a three-story building.

Suddenly, Zheng Anqi felt very small in front of the gigantic being. Fear quickly shot through her system, paralyzing her and preventing her from shouting out to warn anyone.

She was not alone in her fear. The scene had paralyzed all the people around her, paralyzing whoever laid eyes upon it as the ancient gorgons would.

"What is going on?"

Mr. Shi's back was facing the pond, and therefore he didn't see the creature right away. However, he was perplexed by everyone else's state of stupor.

Even as he wondered what could have gone wrong, he felt a cold air flowing down his neck.

The Yin Dragon Pond was filled to the brim with Yin Qi hence the barren condition of the soil around it. Mr. Shi felt the temperature around him drop significantly; it was as if time had fast forwarded to the middle of winter. Mr. Shi's heart sank as he registered something was in the lake behind him.

He turned back slowly and what he saw next would stay with him for the rest of his life.

A large snake half emerged out from the placid surface of the pond. More than half of the snake's body was still in the water. The snake's body was as thick as a wine barrel, and it was covered with palm-sized green scales. On its triangular head was a pair of sharp black slits set in the fields of gold. The two lifeless slits were gazing down at Mr. Shi as a predator to its prey.

Mr. Shi was an achieved cultivator with over ten years of hard work behind him, and therefore, he was able to gather himself before such a terrifying sight and act.

He rolled onto his side away from the creature and threw a handful of sand towards the eyes of the creature. The creature was fast and dodged the attack. Before Mr. Shi could gather himself, the snake plugged forward at Mr. Shi like an arrow. It's enormous mouth closed tightly at where Mr. Shi was standing.

"Ha!"

Having missed its first attack, the giant snake turned it's long neck around and rammed its head into a bodyguard who had stood too close for his own good.

"AHRR!"

Zheng Anqi screamed.

Her scream had awakened and alerted the people around her from their stupor. The leader of the bodyguards named Li Yu hurried to push Zheng Anqi to the side and shouted, "Your ladyship, move! Get out of here."

"Everyone else, ready your arm and follow me!"

After shouting the orders, Li Yu pulled out the weapon that was strapped to his back and darted toward the green snake.

The rest of the bodyguards managed to gather themselves and follow Li Yu. Although they hadn't completely overcome their fears, bound by duty, they had to press onward and face the terrifying monster.

By then, members of the Yin Ghost Sect were so frightened by the snake, none of them were able to move.

Of all the people there, only the sect members knew how powerful this monster was. If the bodyguards wagered that they could subdue this monster using tasers or clubs, they would pay dearly for their oversight. Even the founder of the Yin Ghost Set could not overcome this monster, much less these bodyguards.

Yan Zhengze asked in a trembling voice, "Isn't the Yin Dragon sleeping? I thought it only wakes up once every three years. What is happening?"

If they knew that the giant snake was awake, they would never even think of getting near to the pond, much less confronting Miss Zheng so conspicuously.

Chen Fan shook his head and lamented, "Bunch of idiots."

Little did they know that the Yin Snake never slept as it was continuously internalizing the Yin Qi it had absorbed over the years since it had no other way of transforming the raw Yin Qi into Dharmic powers. They raised such a ruckus and disturbed its peaceful cultivation. The disturbance was infuriating to snakes. It was as if a man was trying to take a nap while constantly being pestered.

Color drained from Master Wu's face. He asked under his breath.

"Master Chen, what should we do then? Should we pull back?"

The last time he stood face to face before the Yin Snake was a few decades ago with his teacher and sect brothers. In addition to the utter defeat, he remembered that the snake was about twenty meters in length. However, it had grown to over thirty meters.

A'Xiu was still paralyzed by fear as she stood on the side in silence.

After all, she was only a sixteen year old girl. However tough she sounded, and resolute she was inside; fear had overwritten reason once she stood before such an overwhelming sight. The evolutionary force that was hard-wired in the human's brain kicked in immediately.

Chen Fan was the only person who kept calm. He regarded the giant snake, not like a monster, but more like a pet.

"Pull back? Why? This snake is exactly why we are here."

Chen Fan cracked a smile.

"It. it's terrifying!" Master Wu lamented. He looked to the commotion and noticed that the snake was practically immune to the bodyguards' weapons.

"Shit! If I had a better weapon, I would have already carved this big worm into pieces."

Li Yu lamented. After a few minutes of repetitive strikes with a wooden club to no avail, Li Yu threw the club to the ground and produced a sharp combat knife from his pocket. He immediately threw himself at the snake with the knife.

He was a brave warrior hired by the Second Lord of Zheng to protect his daughter. As an experienced veteran, Li Yu did not disappoint.

Li Yu had been practicing martial arts for over twenty years, and by then he had achieved initial success in his Internal Force cultivation. In his mind, the snake monster only had an advantage in its size and physical defense, but it was not nearly as deadly as poisonous vipers in the African jungle.

Holding the knife in a reverse grip, he launched himself toward the snake and yanked his arm, cutting the belly of the snake with the sharp edge of the knife.

“Clank!”

Infused with Internal Force, the dagger cut through the scale and the thick skin of the snake, into its flesh.

“Shit!”

Life suddenly drained from Li Yu’s face as he noticed that he was only able to plunge the dagger three inches into the snake’s body. It was stopped by the iron-like muscles and was stuck in between scales as hard as steel.

“Impossible! My attack should have pierced through an iron plate much less a snake.”

The thought distracted him for a split second and from the corner of his eye, he caught a glimpse of the monster’s tail sweeping at him. Li Yu quickly pulled back, but he was not fast enough. The tail hammered into Li Yu with lightning speed.

The tail weighed at least a ton and being hit by it at such speed was equivalent of being hit by a semi truck at full throttle. Li Yu’s body gave out a cringing worthy crunch as his bones were shattered into pieces.

Li Yu was thrown to the ground like a lifeless rag doll. He collapsed to the ground in near death.

“Eamon!” Zheng Anqi gasped.

Eamon was Li Yu’s English name.

Li Yu was born outside of China and knew Zheng Anqi while the latter lived in England. Although he was an employee of the girl, they both shared many common interests and he was one of Zheng Anqi’s confidants.

“Miss, let’s get out of here.” A female bodyguard tugged Zheng Anqi’s elbow as she urged her to leave.

In two minutes, half of the bodyguards were laid low by the snake. Even the captain of the bodyguards was in a coma. The rest of the bodyguards quickly lost moral particularly after they had realized how ineffective their weapons were.

They were bodyguards, not expendable.

Yan Zhengze and other members of the Yin Ghost Sect had already retreated to outside of the valley. They hid in the bushes cautiously, waiting for the commotion to die down.

“Yes, Miss Zheng! Let’s get out of here!”

The rich teenagers huddled around Zheng Anqi and begged the girl to leave with them.

These spoiled city kids had an overdose of reality in the most unthinkable fashion. They were first surprised by Old Bone Mu’s otherworldly power, and the snake had out right rendered them speechless.

If not for fear of Zheng Anqi’s retribution for deserting her at first sight of terror, they would have run as fast as could to get out of this accursed valley.

After a while, Sir Jiang Junior managed to gather himself.

He spoke in a serious voice, “Anqi, Let’s go, don’t let Brother Li’s sacrifice be for nothing.”

Hearing the words, the girl suddenly jerked her head to the side towards the lake.

She saw all the bodyguards, but Mr. Shi were dead.

“Oh my god!”

Seeing so many men brutally slaughtered, Mr. Shi was overtaken by anger. His arms trembled as a fire burned in his belly.

Spurred by anger, he bit into the tip of his tongue, and let blood fill his mouth. Suddenly, he spat out his blood while initiated the Dharmatic Art at the same time. A green glow appeared around Mr. Shi. Overcharged by the power in his blood, the glow formed a ray of light and shot at the monster like a thousand needles.

The green ray of light landed on the snake and took effect as the snake let out painful shriek.

At the area where the green light hit, the snake scales disappeared and exposed a swath of rotting flesh.

The brief victory heightened everyone’s spirits. It was the first time ever since the battle started they were able to harm the snake.

Mr. Shi had shown them that this giant monster was not invincible.

“Kill him, Mr. Shi!”

Zheng Anqi’s eyes lit up, and she cheered for Mr. Shi’s success.

Mr. Shi didn’t share the other’s optimism. He had used all of his energy in the last attack. However, he was only able to cause some surface wound to the snake. He wagered he simply didn’t have enough blood in his veins to waste away such an enormous monster.

Nonetheless, Mr. Shi channeled the remaining energy inside of him and attacked again.

However, this time the snake was prepared as it, too, had shot out a grey mist from its mouth.

The temperature suddenly dropped down to below zero, and Mr. Shi knew he had to dodge. The two injured bodyguards beside him were not able to get out of harm’s way and were struck by the mist. In a blink, they collapsed to the ground lifelessly.

The valley suddenly became pin-drop quiet.

Zheng Anqi was frozen in action as her last hope had vanished into thin air.

“Let’s go, Miss Zheng!” Sir Jiang Junior pulled her toward the exit before it was too late.

Zheng Anqi let out a peal of wry laughter.

If she deserts her men right now, how would she explain everything to the families of those who were killed?

Her mission had led to their death, and therefore, she couldn’t give up so easily.

But what could she do? Li Yu was unconscious, and most of the bodyguards were dead. Who else could she turn to?

Suddenly, someone walked past Zheng Anqi to join the battle.

“Chen Fan?”

Zheng Anqi was taken aback and asked curiously: “What are you going to do there?”

“Kill him.” Chen Fan answered calmly without even gracing the girl a glance.

“You are nuts!” Sir Jiang Junior shouted at him.

The other teenagers and bodyguards glared at Chen Fan as if he was crazy.

Even the combined might of Mr. Shi and Li Yu couldn't subdue this monster, much less a sixteen-year-old boy.

Chen Fan cracked a smile.

"I have been waiting for it for a long time."

And then, he sauntered toward the giant monster, leaving everyone else gapping at him incredulously.

Chapter 70: Kill The Snake

Chapter 70: Kill The Snake

"What is he going to do?"

Old Bone Mu and his fellow sect members were taken aback by Chen Fan's actions.

Like everyone else, the pond and the monster were anything but where they wanted to be near. However, that teenage boy didn't seem to fear the monster as he sauntered toward the giant snake.

"Master Wu, do you think Master Chen can handle the snake?" A'Xiu asked concernedly. Despite Chen Fan's god-like abilities, the sight of the snake evoked great fear inside of A'Xiu.

"... Perhaps." Master Wu hazarded.

Although he agreed that Chen Fan was both a powerful spell user and a competent Martial artist, the power of the ancient snake had exceeded his imagination. Take Mr. Shi for example; he was a powerful Transcendent Master; however, he was defenseless before the giant snake.

By then, Mr. Shi was already forced into a corner.

He had used his coup de grace four times in a row, and by then, the blood had already run dry in his mouth. All the bodyguards were either slaughtered or had deserted, leaving the old man to his own devices.

The giant snake revealed its enormous body as it slowly emerged from the water. It slithered forward and wrapped Mr. Shi around with its body.

The snake had lived over a hundred years, and its cultivation had taught it the pleasure of killing. With its prey in its grip, the snake looked down at Mr. Shi as if it was looking at its plaything.

Mr. Shi grunted and bemoaned his impending doom.

“I should have listened to Hunter Zhu!”

The caution of the old hunter drifted into his mind and filled Mr. Shi with regret. He was blind sighted by the urge of obtaining a Spirit Herb.

He had gone through the sect record, and none of them had mentioned the snake monster. Mr. Shi wagered that the snake must have been placed here by someone else and it was likely Master Wu and his sect members.

The Yin Ghost Sect had been settling around the Dong Du City for over a hundred years, and therefore they knew very well what was going on in the pond. The fact that they had kept such a danger secret was a reflection of their ulterior motives.

So thinking, he turned around and shouted to Zheng Anqi:

“Miss Zheng, Get out of here, now!”

“Be wary of the Yin Ghost Sect.”

Before he could let out his last word, the snake monster puffed out a grey mist at him. This mist contained so much Yin Qi that they condensed into dew that would suck the last warm breath out of a human body.

By then, Mr. Shi had used up all of his energy, and therefore he could not evade the attack.

Suddenly, he felt his body was dumped into the deep arctic sea and coldness nibbled at his flesh and bones. He gathered whatever Qi that was left in him and channeled them into protecting his internal organs.

Everyone watched as Mr. Shi was surrounded by a grey mist, and a green light flickered inside of his body, protecting the vital parts of his body. However, even the green glow was waning by the second.

“Mr. Shi!”

Zheng Anqi shouted.

Seeing their last protector, Mr. Shi was about to be frozen to death, the young teens around Miss Zheng turned their heels and ran toward the exist.

Sir Jiang Junior tugged Zheng Anqi's elbow, willing her to leave with them, but to no avail.

He gritted his teeth and let go of the girl. This was a life and death situation; there was no time to be a hero.

As soon as Mr. Shi had fallen victim to the monster, these spoiled teens quickly revealed their true colors.

It had been less than five minutes since the Yin Snake emerged, yet it had already killed Li Yu, subdued Mr. Shi and not to mention the half dozen bodyguards who laid lifelessly on the ground.

Inside the valley, only five people had remained, they were Master Wu, A'Xiu, Zheng Anqi, Zheng Anqi's personal guard and a half dead Mr. Shi.

Wait...

There was another person.

Even as Mr. Shi fought for his life, he caught a glimpse of a person from the corner of his eyes.

"Who is that? Why is he still here?"

The battle prevented Mr. Shi from turning his head and investigate, but he could tell that it was a young man.

Through his mind's eye, Mr. Shi matched the vague image of the young man beside him to the boy that accompanied Mr. Wu. He had and still thought that the boy was one of Master Wu's disciples. He marveled at the young boy's bravery, a stark contrast with his teacher.

"However, bravery was useless if it was not back by prowess."

"The demonic spirit had fully grown inside of this snake unless he used a modern weapon, the boy would not be able to subdue it."

The severity of the situation made Mr. Shi more anxious than before. He didn't want another life to be wasted.

By then, Chen Fan was already standing right beside the pond, looking up at the snake at close range.

The snake was over thirty meters in length, and half of its erected body made it as tall as a building in the city.

“The Yin Snake had cultivated over a hundred years, and therefore his flesh was nearly indestructible.

“Its body was covered with scales harder than steel. Unless I use high caliber ballistic weapons, I wouldn’t be able to harm it.

“In addition, its body contained Yin Qi that it had harnessed over a few hundred years. Such a high concentration of Yin Qi would be able to freeze a human body into a popsicle. It was no longer an ordinary monster; it was Ethereal Enlightened.

“What a shame that you have to face me today.”

Chen Fan shook his head as he lamented the fate of the rare monster.

He closed in on the monster and unhitched the Jade Talisman from his belt.

Suddenly, countless symbols and signs floated out from the talisman, and they emerged in the Void Dimension into a long blade.

The blade was about three meters long and was covered with ancient glyphs. It hung upside down in the air, projecting otherworldly energy that suggested its god-slaying abilities.

“What was that?”

While being dragged toward the exit by her personal guard, Zheng Anqi turned around and caught the disbelieving sight. Impressed and stunned, she gaped at Chen Fan incredulously.

She watched as Chen Fan started to ascend into the air as he walked on invisible spiral stairs. In a few confident strides, he was standing face to face before the monster.

“Who is that?”

Mr. Shi was still restrained by the snake’s body right below Chen Fan, and he could finally get a clear view of the boy.

What he saw had stunned him: the young boy stood confidently before the monster’s face, and a golden blade floated a few inches in front of the boy’s chest.

“Start!”

Chen Fan reached out and grabbed the handle of the blade.

Suddenly, the long blade let out a cascade of light as it grew in size. Inside the Void Dimension, things were even more impressive as the blade's blade aura was at full display.

"Sth... Sth..."

The Yin Snake had finally registered danger, and as it looked toward the blade, the blade had grown so big that its reflection had filled the enormous eye of the monster.

The monster was startled, and it raised its scales as a dog would its hackles. It channeled a large amount of energy and spat them out at Chen Fan.

"Get out of the way!"

Everyone shouted at Chen Fan. Zheng Anqi had covered her eyes to avert the sight of another slaughter.

Chen Fan calmly swept the blade in the air and uttered three words lightly:

"Cut! Mountains! Rivers!"

The Blade aura suddenly surged, and no words were able to describe its power.

A golden line appeared where Chen Fan's blade had sliced through the air. The line was so bright that it was as if Chen Fan had sliced open the very fabric of space.

The golden line sheared off the snakehead as if a hot blade through butter. Its iron scales and robust mussels simply melted upon contact with the golden thread.

"Sth...."

The Yin Snake let out painful shrieks as its head glided off of its neck smoothly. A violent gush of blood sprouted out from its headless body.

"Boom!"

The snakehead fell a few dozen meters from the sky and thudded heavily at the shore of the pond, splashing water a few meters high.

The powerful monster was so deadly that it had killed over a dozen humans. Yet it was killed by Chen Fan with a single sweep of the blade.

He could trample the heaven in nine steps and kill a dragon with one strike—such was the power of the Celestial Lord.

"Is he... a human?"

The people outside of the valley watched everything with their own eyes. Old Bone Mu winced in disbelief.

“He is not a human; he is an immortal!”

A smile finally broke over Mr. Shi’s face, and the smile quickly turned into a laughter.

He hadn’t laughed like this for a long time.

“Such power!”

Master Wu marveled.

“It. It..”

Sir Jiang Junior and his companions could only stare at Chen Fan. The meek and quiet boy beside Master Wu had killed the terrible monster with one strike!

Zheng Anqi felt she was on a rollercoaster ride. A second ago she thought she was doomed, but a second later, the crisis was averted.

Inside of her heard, many strong yet contradicting emotions roiled and mixed with each other.

Contempt, doubt, surprise, despair, fear, delight and remorse.

Embattled by these emotions, she stood quietly and studied the boy carefully.

Finally, all the other emotions subsided, leaving only one: Anger.

“Why didn’t you act earlier!”

On November 3, 2007, Yin Snake was killed by Chen Fan at the Yin Dragon Pond.

R.I.P Yin Snake.