

“Alright! Since this is the first time you’d let me stay by your side, of course I’d come!” Yun Qing smiled coyly.

Meanwhile, Chen Hao merely smiled and nodded in reply, deciding that he wouldn’t mention a single word to her about his plan to save the lady in white at midnight; if he didn’t compromise at all, then he’d be in trouble if she messed up his efforts to recall the lady in white’s soul.

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“Shuisheng, where’s the Snake Cave? Do you remember where it is or not?” One hour later, everyone had set off with the gang consisting of Shuisheng, a curious Su Ruoxi and Yun Qing, who was tagging alongside Chen Hao. They soon arrived at the mountain.

“Of course I do, it’s just a little secluded. Let me think.” Shuisheng scratched his head, then stood on a dirt mound. “I found it! Over here!” He leaped forward in an agile manner, then parted a thick patch of grass to reveal a cave entrance with a height that was as tall as a man.

When Shuisheng was little, he’d discovered

this cave while playing with his friends in the mountains, then made a bet that he was brave enough to go inside. When he did, he discovered a gigantic snake's skin. Also, he was bestowed with special powers after eating a fruit he found inside. As such, he called this cave the Snake Cave.

At first, everyone had to crouch down as they entered. But after walking for some time, the passage opened up to reveal a large stone chamber with the huge snake's skin in the middle of that chamber. It wasn't a stretch to say that this large snake was as large as the one they saw in the Palace in the Sands.

"This is it!" Shuisheng looked as if he knew the place as well as his own home, rounding the pitch-black cave with a smile before turning on a lamp to illuminate the dim stone chamber.

With the light, Chen Hao could finally see the strange drawings painted all over the cave walls. An eye-catching plant grew from one of the wall's cracks, except that this plant did not bear any fruit. "This is the plant I took that fruit from, except it doesn't seem to have any now. In fact, I

don't think it's bore any fruit since the one I took when I was little!" Shuisheng recalled.

"That's weird. This is called the Saint's Fruit, and it's an ancient spiritual item that only bears one fruit at a time. You were lucky to have eaten it! Though I suppose its effect would be diminished since it grew on Earth, where there's not much spiritual energy to go around," Yun Qing said, clearly recognizing the plant and smiling as she explained.

"Hmm, so that's how Shuisheng got his powers," Chen Hao said. However, the cave paintings had already drawn his attention, since it was apparent that these paintings were old. Honestly, 'old' wasn't even the right word to describe it; 'ancient' was probably the right one.

After scanning the paintings, Chen Hao thought it was quite weird because there were many strange humans depicted in the paintings. For example, there was a human-shaped figure with a pair of wings, and the most uncanny one was a human with three eyes.

Besides that, there were many animals depicted there, except they were

enormous in such a way that Chen Hao couldn't tell if their size was deliberately exaggerated. There was also a huge bat-like creature in the paintings that made Chen Hao think. When he went to take the Water Elusive Stone with Gu Yuxiao, there was a huge bat with a human head in that cave, and it looked very similar to the one in this painting.

At the time, he'd thought it was a bat demon that had meditated for some time, but could it have been a surviving creature from the ancient times? There were too many strange aspects about the situation.

"Do you know what world is being shown here? Is this Earth?" Chen Hao asked.

Yun Qing seemed to be engrossed in studying the paintings as well and she only spoke when Chen Hao asked her that question. "Yes. This looks like Earth, but it seems to depict Earth of tens of millions of years ago. Legend says that Earth used to have a period of civilization, and I've read some stuff about it in the Border Realm. This should be a painting of a prehistoric civilization or more accurately, the short-lived but immeasurably glorious Cultivation Civilization of Earth!" she

exclaimed.

Su Ruoxi stared at her as if she'd heard nothing but gibberish. If it weren't for the things that Chen Hao had experienced, he'd probably have the same expression. He'd heard that Earth was home to many prehistoric civilizations, with a special one predating even the dinosaurs and happened to be in the same era when dragons still lived. However, that era appeared to be short-lived.

"Could it be that the cave paintings from that era survived to the present day?" Chen Hao asked curiously.

"If that had been a regular cave painting, then of course it wouldn't have been preserved to this day. Let's see what will happen if you use your Celestial Vital Energy on the paintings." Yun Qing fixed her gaze on the wall.

Chen Hao didn't know any better than her, so he had no choice but to obey and brushed the walls with his Celestial energy.

"Oh, it's changing, it's really changing! Look, Chen Hao! There are so many people

and messages showing up on the paintings!" Su Ruoxi exclaimed. Chen Hao could see that the paintings seemed to be completely revealed.

"I think the painters of that era used psychokinesis to preserve the paintings this way. Naturally, you can't compare them to normal, present-day painters because they had unimaginable powers. This method of preservation was used by some sects in the Border Realm and as long as there's vital energy, the messages will appear. I think this big snake was no ordinary animal either. It must have used its own vital energy to reveal part of the paintings!" Yun Qing explained.

"I see. so the rumors aren't completely unfounded, and such a civilization really did exist." Chen Hao nodded. "Hmm, the people and animals in this cave painting seem like they're performing some sort of ritual. I've never seen humans and beasts get along so well, and it looks like they've come from all over the world to pay their respects to this big stone statue," said Chen Hao as he tried to interpret the paintings.

"I think I get it, this depicts only a small

part of their lives. In their prehistoric era, I think only that person could have inspired such devotion in them,” Yun Qing said grimly.

“That person?”

Apparently, they’d made the right choice in bringing Yun Qing along because she was quite knowledgeable.

“This is another one of the Border Realm’s legends, because it’s the closest civilization that resembles the Cultivation Civilization. Of course, it’s similar but far from the same. In other words, any one from that civilization could easily take over the Border Realm, let alone present-day Earth! And according to legend, which I read from an ancient book from the Border Realm, that person was the first person in his entire civilization to attain the state of the Invulnerable Body, making him the invincible existence of the Cultivation Civilization that was impervious to any bodily harm! I think only he could be powerful enough to make every being of the Five Elements be so devoted to him.”

“Invulnerable Body?”

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“Hmm.” Yun Qing nodded. “That’s right. The Invulnerable Body is a mythical state but once you achieve it, you’d be functionally immortal and nothing can meaningfully harm you! During that civilization’s era, he was the only one who could reach this mythical state but of course, that was just a myth.”

“So according to you, this powerful man could theoretically still be alive, but he’d died with his civilization?” Chen Hao asked curiously.

“Yeah, he should have died by now. I don’t think he actually achieved the state of the Invulnerable Body. He was probably just an insanely strong person to have earned the respect of so many people,” Yun Qing explained.

“What about the League of the Sun? What do you know about this organization, since it’s probably from the Border Realm?” Chen Hao asked what was on his mind.

“The League of the Sun? Come to think of it, the League of the Sun doesn’t belong to the Border Realm or any realm in particular. It’s just a very mysterious, but powerful organization that allegedly has

one of their bases in the Border Realm. All I know is that they're very powerful, so much so that they're practically overlords, and that they were likely to have originated from the civilization that ended thousands of millenia ago!"

"But I looked at some of the historical cave wall paintings, and they describe your bodies being discovered on the God Tree. The God Tree, that descended from the sky with plenty of bodies on it, including the Celestial War God's!"

"I see you know a lot. Yes, we perished during a catastrophe that came from the Border Realm, and we suspect that it had something to do with the League of the Sun. Of course, not even you would dare to investigate it back during your peak, and you'd died during your escape from the Border Realm to Earth. What you didn't expect was that I'd been following you the whole time." Yun Qing smiled.

"Then does that mean that no one, including you, knows what the Border Realm looks like now, or what the League of the Sun actually is?" Chen Hao felt a little disappointed.

“Mm hmm, that’s an organization you’d better not mess with. I suggest you perish the thought of investigating them, because you’d never survive even if you have recovered to your previous peak condition!” Yun Qing reminded him. She didn’t ask why he wanted to investigate them, and offered only a well-meaning reminder.

“And another thing. Back when you all were buried in the Sea Palace, do you remember the old man, who was the leader responsible for transporting your body? You tried to escape and kill someone halfway there, and this elder was the one who subdued you!” Chen Hao said, thinking of the clues he’d discovered.

“I didn’t expect you to know this much. The elder you’re talking about must be the Faceless Daoist. Of course I remember him, for he was the reason I was sealed away for ten thousand years!” A dark look flashed across Yun Qing’s face.

“The Faceless Daoist? If I’m not wrong, he seems to have quite a long lifespan, or were his descendants the ones responsible for what happened after that? He was just so powerful that he seemed

like he knew of all the past and present, and his most accurate prediction of present-day events were made 800 years ago!" Chen Hao said.

Yun Qing nodded without hesitation. "Indeed, the Faceless Daoist is the strongest person I've ever met to date, and he seems to be related to the League of the Sun. I dare say he's even one of them, because he knows so many mysterious yet powerful techniques. However, I doubt he has any descendants. If anything, he should still be alive, but I'm just not sure where he is!"

"I think this is why you and the King of Nine Doors have always kept things on a low profile, because neither of you are sure if he's dead or alive!"

"You can say that!"

On this day, Yun Qing had explained so many things to him that he'd never heard about. However, the veil of mystery surrounding the League of the Sun remains unlifted.

But one thing was clear now—he was the key to certain secrets that people would

kill for. That was why everyone, from the King of Nine Doors to the Gu family to Yun Qing, were trying to approach him with ulterior motives.

It felt like all Yun Qing knew were matters about the Border Realm, but his own master Uncle Qin seemed to know more. However, he hadn't seen Uncle Qin since their last goodbye. Where could he have gone?

Apart from that, who was the mysterious man who tipped him off about the longevity coffin in the desert? The plot seemed to have thickened, but Chen Hao could see things clearer than ever; he had the feeling that these people were all approaching him for the same reason.

After staying in the Snake Cave for a long time, with Su Ruoxi taking photos curiously, everyone finally emerged from the cave after an hour and Yun Qing asked Chen Hao, "Are you coming back with me?"

To her, Chen Hao's proposal for an alliance was a silent approval of their marriage, so her gaze was now slightly gentler when it was directed at him.

"I still have some things that I want to investigate, but I'll come to you when I'm done," Chen Hao said.

"Alright. Then I'll be waiting for you." Yun Qing smiled, then disappeared with a twist of her body.

"Chen Hao, is she a human or a ghost?" Su Ruoxi asked, shocked.

Chen Hao looked in the direction she disappeared, then sighed. "A bit of both."

After that, Chen Hao brought her back to the shanty town to meet up with Li Ba and the others, thinking that Uncle would have returned by now. But when Mu Mu said that he still hadn't returned, Chen Hao thought it was a bit strange. *Where on earth did he go, and why was he taking so long?*

Meanwhile, Yun Qing had returned to the compound of her manor that was fenced and guarded by members of her Three Saints' Sect.

"Master!" Yun Qing's subordinates were confused to see her so happy—since when did she start to smile so happily like that?

“Hmm. No one caused any trouble in the two days I was gone, right?” Yun Qing asked calmly.

“No, Master!”

“And Miss Fang?” Yun Qing asked.

“Well, Master, Miss Fang has stayed in her room the whole time and I’ve instructed the servants to take good care of her!” a subordinate replied.

“Very well, get her out. I have something to tell her!” With that, Yun Qing entered the compound, intending to tell Fang Jiannan that Chen Hao had agreed to get together with her. The woman had claimed that Chen Hao would love only her and no one else, so Yun Qing was tempted to ask her, ‘How about now?’

She didn’t know why—perhaps it was the dozens of millenia spent in loneliness—but Yun Qing had grown to see Fang Jiannan as her sole confidant. It was a peculiar type of sisterly friendship, but at least she finally had someone she could talk to about her true thoughts, didn’t she?

“Oh no, Master! Oh no!” Just then, a

servant rushed into the foyer.

“What is it?” Yun Qing frowned.

“It’s Miss Fang. S-She...” the servant stuttered, then fell silent in fear.

“What about her?” another subordinate barked.

“She was still in her room this morning when I delivered her breakfast, but now she’s gone! Xiao Hong, her live-in servant, was also knocked out cold!” the servant cried out, then fell to her knees with a thud to beg for Yun Qing’s forgiveness.



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