

Chapter 391 - Emerging from Secluded Cultivation

In the depths of the bamboo forest, Xiao An sat on the step, leaning on her cheek as she waited.

The sky was covered by an array of stars. He still did not return tonight.

Because Liu Chuanfeng was in secluded cultivation, and Li Qingshan was regularly out, the two little disciples were with Sun Fubai. Cloudwisp island was truly empty now. All she could hear was the wind rustling through the bamboo forest. Fallen leaves covered the path once more.

Just as she felt rather depressed, she suddenly heard the sound of steps, trudging through the fallen leaves.

Xiao An raised her head and saw Li Qingshan's smiling face as he strode over.

"Xiao An, why are you... Oh what did I do? I actually forgot to tell you! You've waited for quite some time now, haven't you?" Li Qingshan smacked his head and blamed himself.

Xiao An shook her head. "Not too long."

Li Qingshan picked her up and placed her on his knee. "How have you been going with forging prayer beads lately? Has One Thought been troubling you? Oh right, I came across something good recently." Before Xiao An could answer him, he took off on a ramble.

Originally, Xiao An wanted to persuade him to reconsider something, but seeing this, she gave up on it. As long as he was happy.

At this moment, Han Qiongzhi had returned to the school of Legalism, asking for Wang Pushi to punish her.

Wang Pushi saw how she was brimming with joy, giving off a sense of femininity. He was unable to blame her. He just said, "That kid has had it easy. Don't forget to visit the office tomorrow."

"Yes, commander!"

Han Qiongzhi returned to her residence on the island, but she saw a figure pacing around outside. She exclaimed in surprise, "Tieyi!" She immediately grew stern. "Did father tell you to come?"

"Yes." Han Tieyi said nothing more, handing a pile of spiritual stones and pills to her.

"Why's there so much?"

"Because you've reached the tenth layer." Han Tieyi was expressionless, but when he saw the happiness and joy in the corner of her eyes, he felt happy for her. In order to open the twelve ordinary meridians, her demand for pills would obviously increase.

"Father, he doesn't... blame me?" Han Qiongzhi widened her eyes in some disbelief.

Then Han Tieyi repeated Han Anjun's words to her.

“What kind of reason is that? Just because of this random reason, he’s preventing his daughter from getting married? That’s far too irresponsible of him! He even has the nerve to call himself what holds me back? That old man is completely overestimating himself! It’s not like I’m you!”

Han Qiongzhi said loudly, but she was rather touched inside. No matter what, everything that man had done was for her sake. It also brought her relief and indescribable happiness. No matter how unhappy she said she was with him, her father still bore a hefty weight in her heart.

The two of them spoke a little more. Han Tieyi had quite a fatherly bearing. He remained silent most of the time and did not say much before bidding her farewell.

Right before he left, Han Tieyi stopped and looked back. He added, “You’re still a person of the Han family. I hope you can place your focus on your cultivation in the future!”

“I don’t need you to lecture your elder sister. You better just keep an eye on yourself first. You should go!” Han Qiongzhi was eager to share this good news with Li Qingshan.

Han Tieyi could tell from a single glance that she was not listening, so he shook his head slightly. Once love became involved, people seemed to become stupid, just like that friend of his. Normally, he was so clever, but he was obsessed with an unattainable woman, wasting away his time and future.

After Han Tieyi left, Han Qiongzhi rushed straight to Cloudwisp island. Following a short parting, they immediately saw each other again. Xiao An took her leave on her own accord, and another night of entanglement followed.

The next day, Wang Pushi’s face was sunken. He had waited in the Hawkwolf Guard for quite a while, but Han Qiongzhi still did not come. He was absolutely furious. He decided to place this debt under Li Qingshan’s name. He completely deserved it.

In the end, he let out a long sigh. “Women are just unreliable. Little Hua, hurry up and emerge!”

Time passed quickly. In the blink of an eye, spring was gone and autumn was already here. The endless autumn rain began.

There was a rumble of thunder in the seclusion dwellings below Contention island. Lightning criss-crossed and flashed, passing through the stone walls and formation that were originally impenetrable, like ghosts of another world.

Quite a while longer, the door that had remained shut for a very long time opened once more. Hua Chengzan emerged, and there was an additional hint of exceptional confidence on his handsome face. A figure appeared in his brain. At least I have the right to serve as your chess piece now, right?

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“Did I really trouble miss Hua into delivering this in person?”

Li Qingshan accepted an invitation from Hua Chenglu and studied the woman in front of him. Women really did change quickly in physical appearance. When he first saw her, she was just an unrepresentable little girl, but she had become a great beauty now.

“Both of you are good friends of my elder brother. I really must apologise over the fact that my elder brother couldn’t invite you in person,” Hua Chenglu replied courteously, giving off the air of a young miss of an influential family.

“Chenglu, why do I feel like you don’t speak as freely as before?” Han Qiongzhi grabbed her hands with a smile and pulled her in, pinching her tender cheeks.

Han Qiongzhi had always treated Hua Chenglu as her younger sister. The two of them had played together since young. They were on extremely good terms.

“Stop messing around, elder sister. I’m afraid if I act with too much familiarity, I’ll make you jealous,” Hua Chenglu blushed slightly. She glanced at Li Qingshan and giggled.

Now, everyone in the academy knew about their relationship, but the development in the end took everyone by surprise. They did not end up seeing the elopement from the Han family that they had wanted to see.

Han Qiongzhi still returned home when she was supposed to. Li Qingshan even continued to visit Great War island for training. He did not seem to have any disagreements with Han Anjun either, this pseudo-father-in-law of his.

As a result, the rumors and gossip vanished. For cultivators, settling down for life and becoming partners of cultivation had always been commonplace. There was not as much etiquette and courtesy to follow like regular people.

“You’re nowhere close to being your elder sister’s opponent.”

Li Qingshan stowed the invitation away. “Alright, I’ll definitely go when the time comes. He’s finally succeeded with Foundation Establishment!”

“My elder brother will definitely become an exceptional cultivator.” Hua Chenglu said proudly.

“Tell me, you were ogling Chenglu earlier, weren’t you?” After Hua Chenglu left, Han Qiongzhi wrapped her arm around Li Qingshan’s neck and climbed on top of him, curling her lips and asking loudly.

“Everyone has an appreciation for beauty. You might be my only woman, but you can’t take my right to admire other women away from me. Heh, weren’t you pretty confident earlier?” Li Qingshan shifted his gaze.

“That’s your problem!” Han Qiongzhi’s face grew closer.

“My wife, don’t worry. The little girl has none of your perks. You better deal with my problem first!” Li Qingshan picked up Han Qiongzhi with a chuckle and made his way into the house.

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The estate of the Hua family that stood like a city was decorated with lanterns and streamers. A jubilant atmosphere filled the whole place.

It did not seem like a banquet and was more like a grand ceremony instead.

To cultivators, nothing was more important or worth celebrating than breaking through, even when compared to marriage, having children, or the four joys of life.

As a result, the Hua family invited guests from everywhere. It was the time for guests to arrive. Flying avians and soaring ships arrived one after another with cultivators. There were plenty of Foundation Establishment cultivators too.

Among all of that, a cloud passed through the rain and landed at the entrance.

The main entrance was open with people flowing in and out. Li Qingshan stepped into the city, and the rain stopped.

The formation above the city was activated. The rain landed on the invisible, spherical barrier and slid down. Under the illumination of the entire city's lanterns, it was beautiful.

Han Qiongzhi pushed aside the servant who had come to lead the way. The servant clearly recognised Han Qiongzhi, so he backed away without even asking to see the invitation.

With great familiarity, Han Qiongzhi moved through the meandering corridors and arrived before a huge building that stood like a tower in the centre of the city. It was like a glorious, burning tree that reached towards the sky.

Under the tree of fire, the siblings, Hua Chengzan and Hua Chenglu, personally received guests at the entrance. They were dressed splendidly. Standing under the lustrous lantern light, they seemed like a match made in heaven. All of the guests saw them and gasped in admiration.

In particular, Hua Chengzan was already quite a rare, handsome man in the world. After establishing a foundation, he only seemed more romantic. The gazes of the female cultivators passing by were almost sucked over to him.

"Qingshan, Qiongzhi, you've come." Hua Chengzan spotted the pair and went up to receive them with a smile. He did not grow arrogant with his increase in cultivation. He was just as gentle and refined as before, which made him seem as pleasant as the spring breeze. His smile had even grown more sincere than before.

Although it had been quite some time since they had seen him, they did not find him to be foreign at all. Instead, they found him more familiar than ever.

"That's right. You were in there for so long that I even thought you had died in there!" Li Qingshan patted his shoulder with a smile, but Han Qiongzhi smacked him instead. "You better stop with the unlucky words on such a joyous occasion."

Hua Chengzan's smiling gaze moved between the two of them. "You really have... When I first heard about it, I leapt in fright. Who was the one who told me there was no point in having a man?"

"I just found him pitiful, that's all," Han Qiongzhi reddened and tried rebuking him.

"And who was the one who told me he didn't know what being deeply in love was?"

Li Qingshan coughed dryly. "I was just playing along back then."

“So you were always playing along with me?” “You’ve misheard. I said I was just ignorant because of my age, ignorant because of my age.”

Hua Chengzan laughed aloud and patted Li Qingshan’s shoulder. “Then do you understand me a little now?”

Li Qingshan raised an eyebrow. “You still haven’t forgotten.”

Hua Chengzan asked, “Have you forgotten?”

“Forgotten what?” Hua Chenglu and Han Qiongzhi butted in at the same time. With their sharp instincts as women, they could sense that something was amiss.

“Difficult to say,” Li Qingshan chuckled and exchanged glances with Hua Chengzan. They understood each other. Who would have thought that their friendship originally blossomed because they fancied the same woman?

“You should go in first. I’ll come and find you later.”

At this moment, more guests arrived, so Hua Chengzan said that before going off to receive them.

“You better explain yourself. What is it?”

As the two of them entered the building, Han Qiongzhi pestered him. All Li Qingshan could do was change the topic constantly. When he became tired of her questioning, he said, “This is a secret among men. Why’re you trying to get involved as a woman?”

Li Qingshan stopped and looked back. Hua Chengzan’s face shone with happiness as he received and saw off guests. His picturesque appearance was dashing, even enough for the hearts of men to skip a beat. The heavens had endowed him with the beautiful appearance of a matchless romantic, but they just happened to make him fall in love with an unattainable woman at the same time. Were the heavens toying with him?

Forget? He obviously could not forget. After all, the memory from back then had left such a deep impression, but there was no need for it to linger on his mind constantly. Cherishing the person in front of him was most important, right?

He smiled as he tried to coax the unhappy Han Qiongzhi. He simply could not understand the thoughts of someone infatuated!

At this moment, a familiar figure appeared at the entrance. His face was bleak as his green clothes drifted about.

Fu Qingjin!

Chapter 392 - Conflict Arises

Fu Qingjin arrived alone in his old, shabby green clothes. He seemed like a depressed swordsman, but he attracted everyone’s gazes. Even tonight’s main star, Hua Chengzan, was unable to steal his glory.

Compared to the Sword Collection palace, the Hua family was more like a local landlord. Although they were known as the greatest clan in the Clear River prefecture, there were a total of eighty-one prefectures in the Green province, but only a single Sword Collection palace.

“That’s Fu Qingjin of the Sword Collection palace. The sword he wields is one of the Ten Renowned Swords of the Sword Collection palace, the Green Ruins sword. He’s a very powerful figure!” Han Qiongzhi introduced softly.

“Really? He just seems like an early Foundation Establishment cultivator to me, just like little Hua.”

“Don’t underestimate him. His Green Ruins sword is an extremely powerful arcane treasure. It’s said to possess the wills of past masters of the Sword Collection palace. Not only does he possess startling power, but his cultivation advances with amazing speed too. He’ll definitely become a prominent figure who can move freely through the Green province.” Han Qiongzhi introduced him seriously to Li Qingshan so that he would be on guard without looking down on him.

However, all she saw was a confident smile unfurling on Li Qingshan’s face. “Don’t worry, your man definitely won’t be any worse than him in the future.”

“How shameless.”

“I think you’re just ignorant. He’s the liaison of the Daemon Suppression alliance. Several dozen sects of various sizes in the Green province have already joined the Daemon Suppression alliance, all following his arrangements. With your cultivation, you don’t even have the right to carry his shoes for him!”

Suddenly, they heard a familiar voice. Li Qingshan and Han Qiongzhi turned around in surprise and saw Wang Pushi standing there.

“Commander, aren’t you going a little too far by saying something like that? Hey, you’re dressed pretty sharply today!” Li Qingshan saw Wang Pushi in a set of brand new clothes, having cleaned himself up meticulously. He was flashy.

“I’ve said you’ll have quite the accomplishment before.” Fu Qingjin studied Hua Chengzan.

“Then thank you for your auspicious words.” Hua Chengzan was polite but distant. Both of them might have been Foundation Establishment cultivators, but a huge difference still existed between both their strength and future accomplishments.

“Fellow Fu, you’ve come in person! It really is an honour for my humble abode!”

Hua Chengzan could no longer get a word in now. Hua Chengzan’s father, the patriarch of the Hua family, had personally come to receive him. He smiled from ear to ear. Behind him were a group of Foundation Establishment cultivators, both female and male, both young and old, who had come down from upstairs. They came from various sects in the Clear River prefecture, all important figures like elders or sect masters. They all greeted Fu Qingjin like they were verifying Wang Pushi’s previous words.

Even though they were not members of the Daemon Suppression alliance, they still had to greet him. In this region, Fu Qingjin had already become a person of great influence. He could determine the fate of a sect with a flick of his hand.

“Ah, isn’t that sect master Xiao of the Vermillion Clothes sect?” “And the Rose Cloud elders of Rose Cloud valley.”

The Qi Practitioners all cried out with the sudden appearance of so many Foundation Establishment cultivators and began discussing among themselves. Fu Qingjin seemed to be surrounded by a dazzling halo, while Hua Chengzan had instead become someone less important.

Li Qingshan smiled. “Commander, if he’s so powerful, why aren’t you welcoming him?”

“Welcome your head. The Daemon Suppression alliance is the Daemon Suppression alliance. The Hawkwolf Guard is the Hawkwolf Guard!” Wang Pushi shot a furious glance at him before turning around and storming off. He stood out very much among the group of onlookers. They all parted to form a path for him.

“What’s wrong with old Wang today? Why’s he so irritable?” Li Qingshan asked in confusion.

“You never pay any attention to matters of the Hawkwolf Guard, which is why you don’t know. There’s been a case recently that has to do with the Vermillion Clothes sect.”

The first time the disciples of the Vermillion Clothes sect left their sect, they would have to complete a trial mission known as “Dyeing their Clothes Vermillion with Blood”. They had to kill a hundred people with their own hands.

It sounded like a bloody mission, but there was nothing wrong with it, as it was about upholding justice. Across the fifteen hundred kilometers of the Clear River prefecture, there were countless bandits and thugs. They would basically never be in the wrong if they found any random sect of the jianghu and slaughtered the whole place.

But recently, there was a disciple of the Vermillion Clothes sect who had once served as a horsekeeper in a wealthy family during his childhood and suffered much abuse. As a result, he used this mission to return and slaughter the entire clan, but even when he included the women, the children, and the servants, they only amounted to seventy-one. Carried away by his killing, he slaughtered another thirty or so neighbours in the region, filling his quota of a hundred people.

He alarmed the Hawkwolf Guard in the city, which sent Black Wolf guards to arrest him. However, never did they expect the disciple to possess an extremely powerful cultivation. He killed another two Black Wolf guards before fleeing back to the sect.

He had basically committed the greatest taboo possible to the Hawkwolf Guard. Wang Pushi personally visited the Vermillion Clothes sect to ask them to hand him over. In the past, there was not a single sect bold enough to oppose the Hawkwolf Guard. As a result, handing over the suspect had always been their only option.

However, the Vermillion Clothes sect had joined the Daemon Suppression alliance. They had several dozen sects watching their backs. Coupled with support from the Sword Collection sect from behind, they no longer took a Scarlet Hawk commander like Wang Pushi seriously. The sect master denied he was a member of the Vermillion Clothes sect and told Wang Pushi to look elsewhere.

From Fu Qingjin’s side, the master of the Vermillion Clothes sect stared at Wang Pushi’s figure in the distance, and his lips curled into a sneer. The Hawkwolf Guard thought they were still riding around on a

high horse like before, but they had misunderstood the situation. The other sect masters and elders were all complacent too.

Cultivators would always want to follow their hearts and do whatever they wanted, but they were constantly shackled down by the Hawkwolf Guard. It had been far too dissatisfying. Now, they could finally hold their heads high.

Everyone returned upstairs while remaining clustered around Fu Qingjin. Han Qiongzhi said, "It's not just that. All the cases have been rather difficult lately. As long as they have to do with sects, none of them have come to a definite end. You really can't blame the commander for being so irritable." She looked around before communicating to Li Qingshan secretly, "Now that little Hua has emerged from secluded cultivation, there might be a large operation soon."

Li Qingshan shivered inside. The war between daemons and humans had yet to erupt, but the battle on the surface had already begun. The surface probably would not be peaceful anymore.

The water surface that had remained still for thousands of years began to ripple. The conflict between humans and daemons was just the largest vortex among them, but it had produced countless more vortices as a byproduct, all with hidden undercurrents. Any single vortex could swallow up many lives.

"Don't be afraid. I'll protect you as your elder sister." Han Qiongzhi could sense Li Qingshan grow nervous, so she rubbed his head with a smile.

The two of them teased each other, but Han Qiongzhi was wrong about one thing. Li Qingshan was not nervous because he was afraid, but because he was excited.

He did not dislike a life of peace, but he would much rather treat the world as a wonderland of adventures.

"Have all the guests arrived?" Hua Chengzan asked his sister.

"There are still a few missing, but they're probably not coming. It's about time too, so let's go in!" Hua Chenglu checked the guest list.

Hua Chengzan raised his head and saw a huge ship cut through the clouds, descending from the sky. When he made out the symbol on the ship, his eyes lit up, and he ordered in a hurry, "Activate the formations!"

"Qiongzhi, look who's come." Hua Chengzan brought over a short, unattractive young man. He was dressed like a scholar, but he gave off no sense of grace at all. As he stood beside Hua Chengzan, he immediately made Li Qingshan think about Wu Dalang and Ximen Qing.

Margin. She's the treacherous wife of Wu Dalang, and she commits adultery against him with Ximen Qing. Wu Dalang is known for his short stature and unimpressive appearance, while Ximen Qing is a merchant with a pretty face. You should be able to see the comparison here.

However, no one dared to look down on this "Wu Dalang", as he had already reached Foundation Establishment.

"Shancheng, you've come back from the Pine Sough academy." Han Qiongzhi beamed; she was also surprised.

Chapter 393 - Before the Storm

Jiang Shancheng chuckled, but he was unable to hide his haughtiness. Among his friends, his background had been the worst. His talent had not been spectacular either, but he happened to make it into the Pine Sough academy and reach Foundation Establishment first. He had specially borrowed this Soaring Dragon ship from his master for his return this time. Now that he saw his old friends again, it was time for him to show off.

Just Hua Chenglu's stunned expression at the entrance had brought him great joy. This little girl had actually become so beautiful since he saw her a few years ago. When he saw Han Qiongzhi again, his eyes even lit up. No different from before, she stood gracefully and confidently, except her slight masculinity of the past had been replaced by the charm of a mature woman.

"Little Hua has established a foundation, so of course I have to come back and take a look. Where's Teyi?" Jiang Shancheng's thoughts returned to the past. Back then, he would often be looked down upon when he played around with his friends. Only the three of them never despised him. She had even shown him great encouragement.

Hua Chengzan said, "You know, Teyi hates something like this the most."

"Who's this?" Jiang Shancheng shifted his gaze and saw Li Qingshan standing together with Han Qiongzhi. He seemed very close with her, so he frowned.

"This is Li Qingshan, the primary disciple of the school of Novels and Qiongzhi's man." Hua Chengzan introduced him with a smile.

"What?" Jiang Shancheng saw Han Qiongzhi redden slightly, but she did not object. His heart sank. "Qiongzhi, y- you're already married? Why didn't you let me know?"

Hua Chengzan said, "It's not just you. She didn't let any of us know."

"What's this all about?"

"Big brother Mountain Boar, you don't know, but..." Hua Chenglu giggled as she told him the whole story. Where's your haughtiness now, you big mountain boar? You're just a Foundation Establishment cultivator, that's all. You're nowhere close to stealing big sister Han's heart.

"Mountain Boar" was Jiang Shancheng's nickname in the past. Hua Chenglu had always despised Jiang Shancheng in the past. She found him to be jittery and constantly sunken-faced, and now, he acted haughtily like this. Hua Chengzan might have been able to ignore it, but she was unable to accept it. If it weren't for you filling the spot in my brother's place, would you still have been able to join the Pine Sough academy?

"Y- you've already!"

Even with Jiang Shancheng's cultivation that had reached a point where he could control his vitality, his face still became flushed in an instant. It was like he had been struck by a bolt from the blue, feeling complete disbelief. Originally, he wanted to return home with his successes and fulfill his dream of strutting around proudly, but his past dream lover had already become someone else's woman.

“You log, why aren’t you speaking? This is my friend, Jiang Shancheng!” Han Qiongzhi’s face reddened slightly, making her seem even more charming as she bumped Li Qingshan.

Li Qingshan remained silent with a smile. He could tell with a single glance what Jiang Shancheng was thinking. Kid, you’re too late. I might not be a Ximen Qing, but with my stature, I’m a Wu Erlang at the very least. I’m way better than you. He clasped his hands.

TL: Wu Dalang’s younger brother is Wu Erlang, or more commonly known as Wu Song. He’s known for killing a tiger with his bare hands, so in other words, he is known for his strength. You should be able to see the comparison to Li Qingshan here.

“Greetings to fellow Jiang. I’ll definitely have uncle Han approve of this marriage and hold a grand wedding with Qiongzhi. I’ll definitely let everyone know by then. I do hope you can attend when it happens.”

“Qiongzhi, isn’t your judgement lacking a little? This guy’s cultivation is so low. It’s no surprise that uncle Han wouldn’t approve of the marriage. What school is he the primary disciple of again? The school of Novels? I’ve never heard of it! It sounds like any random person could join them and become their primary disciple!”

Jiang Shancheng’s expression became even uglier. He was just a measly eighth layer Qi Practitioner, and he was speaking to him in such a manner. Do you really think you’re on equal footing with me just because you’re on good terms with Qiongzhi? In particular, Jiang Shancheng found his aura like he had defeated him or something to be even more irritable. I could kill ten people like you with a flick of my hand.

“Jiang Shancheng, what’re you blabbering about?” Before Li Qingshan could say anything, Han Qiongzhi’s face changed, and she barked, “I don’t need you commenting about who I like! Qingshan, let’s go!” She pulled Li Qingshan with her and travelled away, but Li Qingshan refused to budge. She became worried. He was not a man who would let others make fun of him.

Li Qingshan snickered as he said, “Any random person could, just not a mountain boar. You better go back and check yourself in the mirror. You’ve destroyed my appetite just by standing there!”

Jiang Shancheng was furious. Li Qingshan’s face merged with the countless mocking faces in his head. He was about to attack him, but Hua Chengzan stopped him and pulled him upstairs.

“Chengzan, let go of me!” “Today is my celebration, so just do it for my sake. If you hurt him, Qiongzhi really will resent you.”

Jiang Shancheng shot Li Qingshan a vicious glance as his killing intent bubbled. If he had the chance, he would definitely make this kid suffer a horrible death. Li Qingshan seemed to recover his silent smile too. There’s no need for me to stoop to the level of a person with one foot in the grave.

Han Qiongzhi was irritated. “Will you die if you held that in?”

“I will.”

“Can you be a little more mature?”

"I can't." Li Qingshan raised an eyebrow. I'm an eighteen year old boy. I'm in the prime of my youth and immaturity.

"Were you jealous?" Han Qiongzhi rebutted and studied his expression in interest.

"Hah, just from that mountain boar?" Li Qingshan said disdainfully.

"He's still my friend. Can't you be a little more polite to him? He hates it when others call him that."

"It's not like I called him that first. Nobody would want to be friends with him!"

"So you're calling me a nobody? You really are jealous. Whatever, I can understand, you stingy man."

"If I found another woman to call you ugly and to label you as unworthy of me, you wouldn't be happy either!"

"Can you find one?" Han Qiongzhi said disdainfully.

"Chenglu, it'll all be up to you now."

Hua Chenglu had been following the two of them. She happened to be amused by their bickering when she was caught off-guard by Li Qingshan turning around and giving her a glance that seemed to say, "I'll leave this heavy responsibility to you".

"I would never." Hua Chenglu stuck out her tongue. She was simply adorable.

"I watched you grow up for heaven's sake, and you can't even help me out with this. I think you still owe me something."

"Huh? Who did you watch grow up? You clearly owe me!"

"Sigh, look at how confused I've become with how your big sister Han has angered me. So what do you want, little sister? Just mention it to your elder brother!"

"What elder brother? Don't you feel any shame at all? Oh right, were you serious with what you said earlier?"

"What?"

"The wedding."

Happiness flowed through Han Qiongzhi's eyes. As it turned out, he had been constantly thinking about this.

"I've become confused from anger. I can't remember it anymore."

"Don't you dare!" Han Qiongzhi shot a glance at him.

Li Qingshan chuckled. "I've remembered it again, thanks to your reminder. A true man is a man of his word!"

As he said that, the banquet began. Delicacies and delicious food flowed out like water as songs and performances began. There were too many things for him to admire.

A cultivators' banquet was actually less restrictive compared to those of regular people. It was more like a gathering than a banquet. The people acquainted with one another huddled together, talking and laughing with each other.

Han Qiongzhi happened to be talking with a group of disciples from the school of Legalism, and Li Qingshan was bored. Suddenly, he noticed a lot of people gathered in a corner, but they were silent, so he went over to take a look. Chu Danqing was painting portraits of people. Just when he finished a painting, he felt someone pat him on the shoulder, so he turned around. "It's you!"

"Come. Let's go drink!"

Chu Danqing actually accepted his offer. He apologised to everyone around him before arriving beside Li Qingshan. Only then did he let out a sigh. "Thanks."

He was accidentally recognised by someone, so they asked him to paint a portrait of them. As a result, portrait after portrait followed in an unceasing fashion. With those female cultivators in particular, he had no idea how to turn down their soft-voiced pleadings.

"There's no need to thank me. Let's drink!" Li Qingshan shoved a cup of alcohol into his hands.

"Spare me!" Chu Danqing was pained. If he acted up out of drunkenness in front of so many people and embarrassed himself, he would even consider suicide.

"Don't worry. If you act up, I'll knock you out." Li Qingshan laughed aloud.

"Count me in too." Juechenzi walked over with a smile. Beside him was a beautiful woman with quite the bearing, also at the tenth layer. She was the primary disciple of the school of Music, Qin Yin. She smiled. "Junior sister Xiao An is not here?"

Afterwards, the primary disciples of the schools of Mohism and Agriculture made their way over. Before long, all the primary disciples were present apart from the ones not attending the banquet. They got along as they toasted to one another constantly. No matter how distant they were with one another usually, they still referred to each other as juniors or seniors right now, which made them seem very close with each other.

Juechenzi proposed a toast. "A toast to everyone! We, the hundred schools, are of the same breath and branch! We really should spend more time together!"

Li Qingshan smiled. As it seemed, everyone could sense it already. They had begun to move.

If the Academy of the Hundred Schools was treated as a sect, then it would be the largest, most influential sect with the most resources in the entire Clear River prefecture, while they, the primary disciples, would be the elite disciples of the sect.

With the various sects banding together, the Hawkwolf Guard was not the only one being provoked. The Academy of the Hundred School's dominant status was being provoked too, as well as everyone's interests. Before they knew it, the scattered people of the academy had begun to rally together.

"How lively. What're you talking about?" Han Qiongzhi arrived behind Li Qingshan and placed her hand on his shoulder with a smile.

Now that Hua Chengzan had reached Foundation Establishment, she would be the next primary disciple of the school of Legalism if nothing went wrong, so she obviously had the right to stand among them. The other disciples of legalism knew they had no right to approach this group.

Wu Gen gazed at Li Qingshan from afar. His feelings were very mixed. No one had ever imagined that this unlucky disciple of the school of Novels would be able to sit there peacefully. He possessed the lowest cultivation among them, only at the eighth layer, but he had proven his talent and strength countless times already. No one dared to look down on him.

Hua Chenglu secretly made up her mind that even if she did not possess her elder brother's talent, she would definitely be able to stand among them as long as she worked hard on cultivation.

Qian Rongzhi puckered her lips. Opportunities seemed to be multiplying!

Similar to that, the first senior brothers and sister of a few sects gathered together before they even knew it in another corner of the hall. They all talked and laughed together while glancing over coldly.

People seemed to move around in a disorderly manner in the hall, but there was a distinct separation between disciples of the academy and disciples of sects.

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It was much more quiet upstairs. Foundation Establishment cultivators conversed among themselves softly. After their gestures of courtesy at the very beginning, they too had split into three factions unknowingly. One belonged to the various sects, while another belonged to the various school leaders.

The last faction was composed of sects that had yet to join the Daemon Suppression alliance and clans currently waiting and observing. The Hua family happened to stand out among them. Although Hua Chengzan was a member of the Hawkwolf Guard, the Hua family had numerous connections with various sects. However, the patriarch of the Hua family did not simply stand around. Instead, he moved his way through the groups, remaining on friendly terms with both sides.

"Sect master Qiu." Hua Chengzan continued to greet people until a person arrived before him and lowered her head slightly.

Standing before him was the master of the Sect of Clouds and Rain, Qiu Haitang. Tonight, she wore a faint, pink palace dress with a golden tulle on top, outlining her exaggeratingly enchanting figure. She had styled up most of her hair in a simple manner with the rest draping down her neck. There was a tiny ruby near her forehead, which complemented her perfectly.

There was a golden phoenix hairpin on her head. As she walked over gently, it jingled softly, which added to her charm. It made her seem as natural, graceful, and poised as a peony that had just bloomed.

Ever since Hua Chengzan had come upstairs, Qiu Haitang had not shifted her gaze from him, not even once. This situation now was exactly what she had been waiting for all this time, but how he referred to her displeased her.

"Big sister Qiu."

Qiu Haitang beamed, but she saw a short, young man huddle over. His eyes contained undisguised lust and greed, which was all too common to her. She was slightly taken aback, and then she said indifferently, "Oh, isn't this Shancheng?"

"It's me. I've just returned from the Pine Sough academy," Jiang Shancheng said in a hurry. Han Qiongzhi did treat him well, but the person who interested him the most was still the mature and charming Qiu Haitang.

"There's something I want to talk to little Hua about." Qiu Haitang withdrew her gaze and stared at Hua Chengzan fixedly.

Jiang Shancheng felt like he had just been snubbed. He came up with another idea and returned downstairs, arriving before Han Qiongzhi. "Qiongzhi, there's something I want to talk to you about."

Everyone stopped talking and looked at Han Qiongzhi. Han Qiongzhi glanced at Li Qingshan helplessly, who nodded with a smile.

"If you want to speak ill of him, then save it. If you want to keep going, you can forget that we're friends," Han Qiongzhi cut right to the chase.

"How many years have we been friends? You're treating me like this just because of an outsider? If this continues, you'll suffer. I can propose marriage to uncle Han. He'll definitely approve of it."

"You better just stick with being a friend!" Only now did Han Qiongzhi understand what he wanted. She shook her head with a smile and patted his shoulder before returning to Li Qingshan's side.

"Qiongzhi!"

Jiang Chengshan felt extremely vexed. He felt like he had completely failed to achieve his purpose after returning. He utterly resented Li Qingshan. He was a mighty Foundation Establishment cultivator, yet he had actually been humiliated like this by a Qi Practitioner. He swore on his humanity to get revenge.

Returning upstairs, he ran into Qiu Haitang. She was gloomy, and the rims of her eyes were red.

"Shancheng, I want to go back. Accompany me!"

"Ahh- okay!" Jiang Shancheng was overjoyed. As a Foundation Establishment cultivator, why would she need anyone to accompany her? This was clearly some kind of signal.

Hua Chengzan extended his hand, but his lips faltered. He did not say anything in the end.

Qiu Haitang waited for a while before smiling miserably and taking off first.

Jiang Shancheng wriggled his eyebrows at Hua Chengzan. Chengzan, if you don't want her, then don't blame me for swooping in.

Li Qingshan gazed outside through a window and saw the Soaring Dragon ship rising up into the air. The cup of alcohol in his hand shuddered.

As the water rippled, something seemed to surge within the dark waters of the boundless Lake of Snakes and Dragons. A figure burst out of the water, passing through the rain and unfurling a pair of wings of wind. Then, it took off into the sky.

In the blink of an eye, it pierced the clouds. The many stars twinkled before him, while the moon was curved like a sickle. After flying for a while, he spotted a huge, dragon-like ship several hundred meters long sailing through the sea of clouds. It was just like the dragons and whales of legends that drifted through the ocean.

Li Qingshan pulled back his wings and erupted with a wave of air. He shot off right towards the Soaring Dragon ship. He landed on the large, empty deck and pushed open the cabin door.

You mountain boar, you wanna try to take my woman? I'll send you off on your way right now!

Chapter 394 - Reduced to a Pulp

Li Qingshan stood on the soft carpet and raised an eyebrow. All he heard were the sounds of turning gears behind the walls on the two sides of the corridor.

Delicate patterns on the luxurious carpet lit up and climbed out from the floor like vines, wrapping around Li Qingshan.

The walls to his side flipped open. Countless specks of cold light twinkled behind them as densely-packed spears stabbed out suddenly.

With a series of clicks, mechanical crossbows dropped down from above. Volleys of crossbow bolts engulfed him like a lotus swarm.

The quiet corridor immediately became filled with deadly traps, enough to kill anyone who set foot in there.

"Looks like the assassination has failed." Li Qingshan let out a long sigh. He knew the ship would not be so simple.

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"Haitang, have some alcohol and calm down. Chengzan just knows no better."

Jiang Shancheng passed a cup of alcohol to Qiu Haitang. They were in an extremely extravagant cabin. He had studied her charming body countless times already from the corner of his eye, and he stared straight at Qiu Haitang's face that was as beautiful as a flower.

Qiu Haitang found his fake pity and undisguised desires absolutely disgusting, but she still accepted the alcohol and drank it all.

Jiang Shancheng was overjoyed. He passed alcohol to her cup after cup, and Qiu Haitang drank it all, without the slightest hesitation. For the entire time, only he was talking. Qiu Haitang remained silent.

Before long, Qiu Haitang was completely flushed. Her eyes were as limpid as water as her gaze drifted about. She was breathtakingly gorgeous. There might have been sorrow in her eyes, but with the arts of charm she had cultivated arduously over all these years, every single smile or action from her was filled with unparalleled charm. Jiang Shancheng almost became dazed as a result.

Qiu Haitang's smile blossomed like a flower, and a voice emerged from the centre of the petals, "Am I pretty?"

“Y- you are! You’re extremely pretty!”

Qiu Haitang smiled wildly.

“Haiting, you’re drunk. I’ll take you to go rest.” Jiang Shancheng was unable to help himself anymore. He grabbed Qiu Haitang’s fair hand, and she did not reject him. He was enchanted. “Sigh, there are plenty of good men in the world, so why must you become so hung up over a single man, Haitang? Actually, I...”

When he reached there, Jiang Shancheng’s expression changed, and he fished out an item, a delicate ship’s wheel the size of a hand. It was flashing with light.

“Someone has broken in. I’d like to see just who has the audacity. I’ll definitely make him suffer.”

Having been interrupted, Jiang Shancheng was furious. This was his only opportunity. Qiu Haitang was depressed right now, or why would she ever take him seriously?

Is it him? An intense hope rose up in Qiu Haitang’s heart, and her face lit up slightly.

Jiang Shancheng became even more uneasy. He too was afraid Hua Chengzan had come in pursuit. Oh Chengzan, we’re friends, so why must you get in my way?

Strands of light emerged from the ship’s wheel, knitting into a screen in the air. He could see the situation in every compartment of the cabin.

In the end, his gaze locked onto the entrance of the cabin, on the scarlet-red figure.

Qiu Haitang was very disappointed, while Jiang Shancheng eased up. Everyone could be dealt with easily as long as it was not Hua Chengzan.

The Soaring Dragon ship did possess defensive formations, but flying through the air already consumed tremendous amounts of energy, so activating the formations would only waste even more. There were two Foundation Establishment cultivators present, so just who were they supposed to be afraid of? The enemy would probably piss their pants at the sight of their Pine Sough academy’s insignia!

Jiang Shancheng activated the defensive mechanism in the cabin and did not worry too much about the intruder. As he watched the scarlet figure being enveloped by crossbow bolts, he smiled proudly. The mechanical traps inside the Soaring Dragon ship were all the handiwork of mohist masters. They possessed startling power. Even if the intruder was made of steel, he would still become peppered with holes.

Within the deathly silence, sounds of distortion like creaks and cracks rang out.

Boom!

The spears snapped, and the bolts were sent flying. Li Qingshan was completely unscathed. With the Spirit Turtle’s Profound Shell around him, he tried to advance, but he discovered the patterns on the carpet still trapped him. He frowned, and the carpet was ripped to pieces.

His hands landed on the side of his legs, and he discovered that they were bare. He was naked. As a result, he plucked off a strand of red hair and transformed it into a pair of pants, shoving his hands into the pockets in satisfaction as he ventured deeper into the cabin.

“W- what’s going on?” Jiang Shancheng’s expression changed drastically. A terrifying sense of danger filled his mind. The figure was somewhat familiar.

“You still haven’t recognised him?” Qiu Haitang let out a drunken sneer. Following her disappointment, her heart became even colder.

Jiang Shancheng suddenly recalled a huge matter from a while ago that had caused a disturbance so large that it still lingered about. He had once seen a painting, which depicted the terrifying daemon who killed the Lone Grave Elder and the Golden Pheasant Elder while frightening the Green Vine Elder to the point where he was afraid of leaving his sect.

He shifted his gaze to the screens projected from the ship’s wheel. It was him! Jiang Shancheng paled in fright as the wheel in his hand shone brightly. He gave an order to the Soaring Dragon ship,

“Activate all mechanisms and send out all puppets!”

The Soaring Dragon ship shuddered slightly, and the noise from the activation of countless mechanisms merged together like thunder. It was like a roar of dragons.

Li Qingshan arrived in a larger compartment. An army of puppets waited there as specks of light shone in their eyes. They turned around and looked at Li Qingshan.

Crossbow bolts erupted like a barrage of black rain. Li Qingshan flapped his wings of wind and scattered the storm.

He wrinkled his nose, and the corner of his mouth curled up. Mountain boar, I’ve found you!

The Soaring Dragon ship was made of some unknown timber. Not only was it extremely tough, but it limited the sensing of aura very much. However, his sense of smell was unaffected. He had already grasped the trail of the scent.

It was an exotic fragrance that lingered about. Li Qingshan took off with a flash, charging along the scent.

“This mountain boar Jiang sure is a deviant. He even uses perfume!”

Thump! Thump! Thump! Thump! The doors in the cabin slammed shut before him. Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Li Qingshan smashed through all of them.

Behind him, groups of puppets tailed him relentlessly. Ahead, various traps erupted constantly.

Sometimes, the flooring would suddenly cave in and spit fire; sometimes, the walls would suddenly close together and spray acid like the writhing guts of a monster. It was all a desperate attempt to kill this intruder.

However, Li Qingshan happened to be a foreign entity it could not digest.

“What do we do?! Sister Qiu, what do we do?!”

The ship's wheel depicted everything. Jiang Shancheng saw Li Qingshan rush over with lightning speed, and he began to sweat bullets. Surprisingly, he still knew a bit about his own weaknesses. He was only an early Foundation Establishment cultivator. He had already gotten lucky to be able to establish a foundation at all, yet his opponent was a great, renowned daemon who had killed two mid Foundation Establishment cultivators and almost taken the late Foundation Establishment Green Vine Elder's life in a one-against-three battle.

"I don't know." Qiu Haitang knew she was probably done for tonight, but she remained calm instead. If I die here, I'll have that fickle man regret for the rest of his life.

"Oh right, use your arts of charm! They might be effective!" Jiang Shancheng pulled out a stack of talismans in a hurry and stuck them on the door.

"I'm supposed to use my arts of charm to draw his attention so that you can use the opening and escape, right?"

Qiu Haitang spoke his mind in a single comment, which made Jiang Shancheng feel rather awkward. He was just about to try and convince her otherwise.

Boom! The heavy cabin door suddenly caved in, and wooden shrapnel sprayed everywhere. The inscriptions on the door twisted, yielding before the terrifying strength.

"Is anyone home?" Li Qingshan asked before throwing another punch. The cabin door became riddled with cracks.

"If someone is home, can you open up please?"

Boom! The door was closed to shattering and giving in.

The voice from behind the door was ghastly and demented, which made Jiang Shancheng's heart turn cold. Without the slightest hesitation, he left Qiu Haitang behind and fled using the secret tunnel in the corner of the room.

Boom! The door shattered, and fragments of it sailed across the room.

An insolent daemon with scarlet hair up to his waist appeared at the door. When Qiu Haitang saw him, her pupils constricted from the powerful pressure despite already accepting death.

Why's Qiu Haitang on this ship? Li Qingshan finally understood the origin of the exotic fragrance, but he moved without the slightest hesitation. With a flash, he arrived before Qiu Haitang and grabbed her slender, pale neck.

"Is it just you?"

Qiu Haitang stared at his face silently.

"Aren't you afraid that I'll kill you?" Li Qingshan was rather curious over the fact that Qiu Haitang put up no resistance at all. She did not even use the arts of charm she was best at.

Qiu Haitang sneered miserably.

Her expression gave Li Qingshan the unfortunate feeling that she was not just depressed. Instead, she had already lost the will to live, so he immediately guessed the reason for it. As long as Hua Chengzan remained infatuated, it would remain completely one-sided. Even Qiu Haitang's greatest efforts would be rebuffed heartlessly.

Li Qingshan tossed her aside, and she collided against the wall heavily. He wrinkled his nose again and kicked open a trapdoor, jumping into it in pursuit.

The trapdoor closed behind him. Seeing how Qiu Haitang had no intentions of pursuing him, Jiang Shancheng let out a sigh of relief. As long as she kept him busy for long enough, he would be able to make it out of the cabin. He glanced at the tiny ship's wheel in his hand. Perhaps, there was even the chance for him to turn the situation around.

The Soaring Dragon ship sailed ahead over the sea of clouds under the moon.

To a corner on the ship's stern, a tiny door was suddenly flung open. Jiang Shancheng extended his head out from there and saw the sea of clouds recede around him. With a clang, a supreme grade spiritual sword flew out. He stepped on it and took off.

Glancing at the ship's wheel in his hand, he hesitated. There was a chance for him to turn the situation around, but it was simply too dangerous. So be it. The consequences of losing a Soaring Dragon ship were severe, but as long as he remained alive, there would be plenty of opportunities for him to redeem himself. If he could survive this, his future prospects would remain as bright as ever. There was no need for him to risk his life over a wretched daemon. He was just about to take off.

Jiang Shancheng sensed something and suddenly looked back. Two bloody specks of light lit up in the gloomy door. That was bad news!

"A Strike of Righteousness!"

Li Qingshan lunged over, and Jiang Shancheng formed a seal with his hand. The supreme grade spiritual sword turned into a streak of snow-white light.

Human cultivators did not possess bodies as tough as those of daemons, but they could control swords from afar to kill their opponents; these swords were startlingly fast and deadly. In a real battle, not even regular Daemon Generals could necessarily triumph over him.

But was Li Qingshan a regular Daemon General?

With a flap of his wings, he suddenly turned, and the edge of the streak of light brushed past the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell, erupting with light and illuminating Li Qingshan's smile. Avoiding the sword qi, he shot over without slowing down at all, extending his right hand towards Jiang Shancheng.

Jiang Shancheng retreated in a hurry and took out a scarlet talisman. This was the life-saving talisman the Pine Sough academy would give to their Foundation Establishment disciples, and it possessed alarming power. However, before he could use it, darkness enveloped him and shrouded the moon and stars.

Li Qingshan's right hand turned into a huge, pitch-black claw, grabbing Jiang Shancheng. He quickly closed his hand and heard the joyful sounds of cracking bones, which made him snicker. After learning

his lesson with the Green Vine Elder, he knew it was very important for him to reduce his enemies to pulp.

And, this guy was human scum in the first place. He would not even spare his good friend's woman, even abandoning the woman and taking off first. I'll make you live up to your name a little better.

Chapter 395 - Sailing Through the Wind to Destroy Green Vine (One)

The sky loomed overhead, and the sea of clouds surged. Both of them extended as far as the eye could see. All was silent. Even the Soaring Dragon ship had stopped, as if it was quietly spectating the outcome of their battle.

There was a flash of fire, followed by a great rumble.

Li Qingshan felt scorching heat in the centre of his hand. Fire erupted between his fingers.

Jiang Shancheng knew he would die, so he actually activated the scarlet talisman regardless of the consequences.

The peaceful air was blown apart viciously, whistling and surging violently. The sea of clouds were pushed apart, creating a large hole.

Li Qingshan collided against the Soaring Dragon ship as he felt intense pain. His right hand had already become charred, while the huge Soaring Dragon ship shook.

Jiang Shancheng turned into white light and took off into the distance.

Li Qingshan shook his right hand, shaking off the ash and exposing his skin. With his recovery ability, a wound like this was nothing, but it did deplete a lot of daemon qi.

He thought, I really can't underestimate any Foundation Establishment cultivator. If I'm too careless, I might end up screwing up such a simple task. If that scarlet talisman had been a little closer, he probably would lose his clone from exhausting too much daemon qi even with the Spirit Turtle's Profound Shell.

Li Qingshan flapped his wings in pursuit. In just a few seconds, he arrived behind Jiang Shancheng.

Jiang Shancheng was charred. Although he was the one who had activated the talisman, it was not his own power, so he too was heavily injured due to the close proximity. He was unable to put up any resistance anymore, but he roared viciously, "You wretched daemon, I'll drag you down with me!"

"Just by you?" Li Qingshan sneered, but he suddenly detected a hint of danger. He looked back.

Tiny doors opened on the side of the Soaring Dragon ship and countless black cannons protruded out. Specks of light began to gather towards them as their mouths shone brighter and brighter.

On this dark night, a drunken man walked on a small path running through a village. Suddenly, he heard a clap of thunder. The path was slippery from the night rain, so he leapt in fright and fell over.

"Fucking hell. Why's it so slippery when it's autumn..."

He raised his head, and his mouth dropped, forgetting to close it. All he saw was a hole in the sky. The stars twinkled in the hole as a silver streak of moonlight seemed to connect the ground with the sky.

He gulped, having been dumbfounded by this sight. Before he had even returned to his senses, several dozen streaks of light pierced the layer of clouds, weaving together. From afar, they initially seemed as thin as threads before turning into pillars of light in the blink of an eye. One of them landed near him, immediately creating a bottomless hole.

“Dear heavens, spare me, spare me! I’ll never drink or beat my wife again!” He had completely sobered up. He knelt on the ground in fright and banged his head against the ground.

“Die!” Jiang Shancheng was very surprised by the power of the Soaring Dragon ship. He ravished with joy as he wielded the ship’s wheel, firing it again and again.

The Soaring Dragon ship had never been for transporting cargo, nor was it for showing off. Instead, it was the crystallisation of mohist craftsmanship, an unrivalled machine of war.

Li Qingshan flapped his wings and did his best to fly between the light, suddenly flying straight ahead, suddenly turning, and suddenly dropping by a few dozen meters, submerging deeply into the sea of clouds. The streaks of light pursued him relentlessly, completely unaffected by the clouds and giving him no opportunity to catch his breath.

Jiang Shancheng gazed at the clouds vigilantly. He flew towards the Soaring Dragon ship on his sword. As long as he returned to the ship and activated the defensive formations, there was nothing this daemon could do to him.

Li Qingshan’s figure turned violently like a hurricane. He was afraid to rest for even a second, but his eyes were fixed on Jiang Shancheng. He fished out something from his hundred treasures pouch, weighed it in his hand, and then threw it as hard as he could.

Just when Jiang Shancheng was about to return to the ship, he felt like his body was being ripped apart, like it could collapse at any time. He was overcome by both joy and urgency. He urged his sword to fly faster, but his body halted. Lowering his head in disbelief, a bloody ‘spear’ had pierced his chest.

Behind him, a great flag drifted in the wind. As it turned out, Li Qingshan had thrown a huge flag at a critical moment. What pierced Jiang Shancheng was the flagpole.

His life rapidly bled away. Jiang Shancheng’s eyes were wide open. I’m someone even more powerful than those handsome geniuses with fantastic backgrounds like Hua Chengzan and Han Tieyi. I’m actually going to die here, at the hands of a wretched daemon. I refuse to accept this!

Li Qingshan rose up in the sea of clouds, moving horizontally. A streak of light shot past him in a slight curve and vanished into the sea of clouds.

This was also the Soaring Dragon ship’s last attack.

Under the stars, Li Qingshan leapt on board and squatted slightly. His red hair danced in the wind, holding a ship’s wheel in one hand and a great flag in the other. Jiang Shancheng was skewered on the flagpole.

With a swing of the flag, Jiang Shancheng landed on the deck. He was on his last breath. He said with a feeble voice, “Please, I beg you, d- don’t kill me. Pine Sough academy will never spare you. The Daemon Suppression alliance will never spare you!”

“I’ll let you die knowing. I’m Li Qingshan,” Li Qingshan whispered quietly into Jiang Shancheng’s ears. His eyes widened, as if he wanted to say something.

Li Qingshan grabbed him by the head and twisted it three times before tossing him into his hundred treasures pouch to take back as a snack for Xiao An.

“Is this the control device?” Li Qingshan fiddled around with the ship’s wheel in his hand. The power of the Soaring Dragon ship tempted him very much, but in the end, he discovered he was actually unable to use it. The wheel did not respond to daemon qi at all, and he was unable to mobilise his true qi in his current state.

If I can’t use it, then I won’t use it! Li Qingshan stowed the wheel away and made his way into the cabin with the flag on his shoulder.

In this time, that woman should have fled already!

Li Qingshan held back his murderousness. Although he had once sworn he would make the Sect of Clouds and Rain bleed, that was a few years ago. He had already achieved the revenge he deserved, and he had no direct grievances with Qiu Haitang. He had to be lenient whenever possible, right? She was technically Hua Chengzan’s childhood friend after all. If he killed her, how was he supposed to face him in the future?

However, if he wanted to spare her, he could not make it too obvious, or it would rouse suspicion, which was why Li Qingshan had purposefully thrown her against the wall, making her suffer a little before he pursued Jiang Shancheng. He could pass it off as negligence.

Don’t tell me!

Just as Li Qingshan was touched by his own generosity, gentleness, and respect for friendship, he returned to the cabin only to find Qiu Haitang still there.

Qiu Haitang seemed to be completely oblivious to his departure and return. She just drank alone, not even asking about Jiang Shancheng’s fate, as if nothing in the world had anything to do with her.

“You didn’t escape?” Li Qingshan said in disbelief.

“Could I escape?” Qiu Haitang answered him with a question. Actually, she had considered escaping after Li Qingshan had left, but she immediately dismissed that thought. Even if she could escape, just how far could she go? With his speed, he would probably catch up to her in an instant.

“Obvious not!” Li Qingshan was taken aback. If he hunted her down, it was indeed very difficult for Qiu Haitang to escape. He had no idea how to react. So much for my wonderful plan to spare you; you’re not even going to cherish it.

“Then why would I escape? If you want to kill me, then kill me!”

“Don’t you find it to be very disrespectful if I kill you because you want me to kill you!” Li Qingshan roared. He snatched over the flask of alcohol and drank it all. His eyes shone, as if he was undressing Qiu Haitang’s body. He grabbed her by the chin and smiled obscenely. “You better have some fun with me first!”

This was Li Qingshan's second wonderful plan. She was still a woman at the end of the day. She could overcome death, but she would still be afraid of something like that. She would definitely say something along the lines of, "If you take another step closer, I'll kill myself." With that, he would be able to go with the flow and spare her temporarily. Afterwards, he could purposefully give her an opportunity, and she would definitely flee for her life.

Li Qingshan could not help but feel proud of himself for coming up with another fantastic plan in such a short amount of time.

"At least you're much more straightforward than the one before and much more pleasant to the eye." Sorrow flashed through Qiu Haitang's eyes. She still refused to budge.

Li Qingshan almost burst out cursing. Isn't it just a man? Do you have to be like this? The mighty sect master of the Sect of Clouds and Rain, a Foundation Establishment cultivator, actually suffers from infatuation too! Though, she sure matches that romantic blinded by love.

Originally, I wanted to undertake this discreetly and finish off Jiang Shancheng silently, but it's all because of a woman like you that my plan is ruined. Once you get back and mention it, they'll probably all suspect Li Qingshan. One is no different from two. Since you don't want to live, then I'll give you what you want. I'll go all the way then and silence you for good!

Li Qingshan furrowed his brows, and his murderousness surged. He revealed his long, protruding teeth. An urge to bite through her pale neck blossomed inside him.

Qiu Haitang simply closed her eyes, ready to receive the incoming humiliation. Suddenly, she thought of Hua Chengzan again and felt pained. I've already been misfortunate enough, so why must I cause him unnecessary pain? I'll just go with my purity!

A clear tear slid down from the corner of her eye. She was about to mobilise her spiritual qi and end it all for herself.

Li Qingshan's heart shuddered. What's wrong with me? Why is my killing intent so heavy? The power of the spirit turtle has completely surpassed the ox demon and tiger demon, so I shouldn't be like this. It feels like some kind of restraint deep within me has vanished.

He looked around and suddenly understood what he was missing—Xiao An!

Xiao An was not around him, so there was no need for him to be a model example. Like a horse free from its reins, he had almost broken out of his final shackle of 'humanity', becoming a daemon through and through, doing whatever he liked without any second thought!

He was even tempted to strip Qiu Haitang naked and humiliate her recklessly. So-called morality was so feeble before absolute strength. With no one else around him, it only nourished the growth of dark desires.

"This is boring!"

Qiu Haitang was taken aback. She opened her eyes and discovered that Li Qingshan had already retreated to the other side of the table, drinking by himself right from the jar.

“A woman who doesn’t put up any resistance is even more boring than an opponent who doesn’t put up any resistance!” Li Qingshan said.

If I become like this, what right do I have to guide Xiao An? What freedom does a person controlled by their desires have? Do I even pale in comparison to that mad woman Qian Rongzhi?

“Come with me!” Li Qingshan made his way out of the compartment.

Qiu Haitang followed behind him with no other choice. Just what was this daemon trying to do?

“Take it!”

Arriving on the deck, Li Qingshan tossed an item over, and Qiu Haitang caught it. She studied it. It was a tiny ship’s wheel.

Li Qingshan crossed his arms. “If you assist me, then I’ll spare you. I won’t touch a single hair on you.”

“Where do you want to go?” With her hopes of many years fallen through, Qiu Haitang had become very disoriented and irrational. However, she was still someone who had cultivated for many years, so she possessed some willpower. In particular, ever since what happened earlier, having escaped death despite wanting to die, her desire for survival had surged. She recovered some of her usual composure.

Li Qingshan smiled. “Green Vine mountain.”

Chapter 396 - Sailing Through the Wind to Destroy Green Vine (Two)

Li Qingshan gazed over the stretch of clouds in the direction of the Green Vine mountain.

I’ve made a mess already, so let’s make a larger one to cover it all up. Fu Qingjin, let’s see whether I have the right to carry your shoes or not.

“You want to kill the Green Vine Elder!” Qiu Haitang was stunned. He had already killed the disciple of Pine Sough academy, Jiang Shancheng, and he still was not satisfied. No, perhaps this was his original intention, to steal the Soaring Dragon ship to destroy the protective formations of the Green Vine mountain.

“That’s right.” Li Qingshan had originally decided this on a whim, but the more he thought about it, the more he liked the idea. He had heard that the Daemon Suppression alliance had cast down a Duality Formation of Disintegration or whatever it was called around the Green Vine mountain. He could use this Soaring Dragon ship to destroy the formation.

Fu Qingjin, since you’re bold enough to attend the banquet, I’ll kill the Green Vine Elder for you to see!

“If I assist you, wouldn’t I become an accomplice?”

“That’s still better than dying!”

“I don’t even know whether you’re going to uphold your word.” Qiu Haitang studied him.

“Doesn’t seem like you have much of a choice.” Li Qingshan grinned, revealing his teeth.

“Fine!” Qiu Haitang no longer hesitated. Just like what he said, she had no choice at all. The other important reason was because her gut told her he had no ill intentions towards her. This feeling was

completely groundless. Was it because of his exceptionally handsome appearance, even on par with Hua Chengzan's? She shook her head. It was not like she was an actual infatuated romantic!

Under Qiu Haitang's control, the Soaring Dragon ship slowly turned around and dispersed the clouds, flying in the direction of the Green Vine mountain.

Li Qingshan sat on the top of the dragon figurehead at the front. The breeze ruffled his scarlet hair, as well as Qiu Haitang's dress close behind him. She gazed at his back and found her encounter tonight to be unimaginably strange.

Never did she think Hua Chengzan would turn her down, and never did she think she would almost be disgraced by a despicable man. And now, she was actually assisting a daemon in attacking the Green Vine mountain.

"Qingshan, Qingshan, what're you smiling for?"

Li Qingshan returned to his senses. In the lantern-lit hall, Han Qiongzhi sat beside him and asked in confusion.

Han Qiongzhi asked, "What are you thinking about? You were in a daze the entire time."

Juechenzi and the others gazed over curiously as well.

"Don't tell me you were thinking of another woman?" Qin Yin joked. As the primary disciple of the school of Music, her voice seemed to possess some kind of strange tone, which made it indescribably pleasant.

"With a beauty like senior sister Qin here, how can I think of another woman?" Li Qingshan chuckled.

At this moment, two different scenes played before Li Qingshan's eyes. One was located above the sea of clouds, under the moon and stars, while the other was the banquet of the Hua family, surrounded by guests and friends. It was difficult to explain just how interesting of a sight it was.

"You're too kind, junior brother." Qin Yin smiled slightly. With her charming appearance and twinkling eyes, she seemed both indifferent and tender.

She had originally been an extremely withdrawn and aloof person, focusing purely on music with a dislike for contact with other people. But at a time like this, she was forced to make use of her advantage as a female cultivator and befriend some of the more powerful figures in the academy.

Once chaos truly erupted, the school of Music would definitely become involved as one of the hundred schools. Even if she could forsake herself, she still had to consider for her junior sisters in the school of Music.

Li Qingshan even wanted to joke a little more, but Han Qiongzhi grabbed him by the ear and smiled. "If I weren't here, do you plan on pursuing senior sister Qin too?"

"Hmm? How did you k- If you keep twisting, it's really going to fall off."

Everyone erupted with a roar of laughter, but the sounds of dispute appeared in another corner of the hall.

“Beauty, come drink with us! Just one cup and we’ll let you go.”

Hua Chenglu was greeting and receiving the guests in Hua Chengzan’s place. When she arrived on the table of the disciples of the Vermillion Clothes sect, a man with a full beard grabbed her wrist. He was completely drunk, while the others on the table were all tipsy too. They began to kick up a fuss.

“Please behave yourself. My elder brother is Hua Chengzan.” Hua Chenglu tried to break free, but she failed. She was only at the fifth layer, while the man had already reached the ninth layer.

“Second senior brother, let’s just forget about it. This is the Hua family after all.” Some sober disciples tried to convince him otherwise.

“What Hua Chengzan? Isn’t he just a piece of trash from the Hawkwolf Guard? Is he bold enough to offend our Daemon Suppression alliance?” The man was taken aback and sobered up slightly. He muttered a few insults under his breath and released her awkwardly.

Every single person in the hall had sharp eyes and ears. The legalist disciples all became furious, but Han Qiongzhi frowned and did nothing. Ever since Hua Chengzan entered secluded cultivation, it had always been her who handled the affairs of the Hawkwolf Guard. She had basically become the primary disciple of the school of Legalism already, and before she knew it, she had developed much better self-control. In particular, they were about to carry out a large operation, so acting rashly and alerting the enemy would not be a good idea.

“Damned crook, eat my palm strike!” Bang!

Five-coloured light appeared, and Chu Tian burst out from somewhere, unleashing the Palm of the Five Elements and slamming the ‘second senior brother’ with it. The second senior brother was also at the ninth layer, but he was no match for Chu Tian, who cultivated all five elements. With a clatter, he shot over the table and collided heavily against a wall, spitting out a mouthful of blood.

“Junior sister, are you fine?” Chu Tian spun around and grabbed Hua Chenglu’s hand, looking at her in complete concern.

The noisy hall fell silent immediately, while Hua Chenglu was stunned. Why the hell would I need you playing the hero? If it were not for the bigger picture, the fact that this was Hua Chengzan’s celebratory banquet, was she supposed to worry about a lack of powerful people in the Hua family at her beck and call?

If this second senior brother continued, even those first senior brothers would not sit aside and watch as he offended the Hua family.

“You pieces of trash! Why don’t you check where you are?!” Chu Tian cursed loudly.

Looks like this idiot’s behaviour isn’t all just directed towards me! Li Qingshan lit up inside and felt slightly better. This guy’s ability for taunting really isn’t a joke!

The disciples of the sects all changed in expression and stood up. The atmosphere immediately became tense. The tiny incident instantly developed into a major matter.

The second senior brother shook his head and sobered up completely. He was utterly furious. His face became bright red as he drew his blade and swung it at Chu Tian.

Chu Tian sneered. Trash will always be trash. It was a perfect opportunity for him to show off. Five-coloured light appeared, and he did not forget to smile at Hua Chenglu. "Don't worry, junior sister. Your senior brother is here for you!"

"Lu Dun, back away!"

"Stop, Chu Tian!"

Two voices rang out; two figures, one red and one white, almost arrived at the same time as the voices. One grabbed the spine of Lu Dun's blade, while the other grabbed Chu Tian's shoulder.

Lu Dun and Chu Tian were both haughty people, but when they saw these two people, they could only stop and call them senior brother.

The two senior brothers glanced at one another and stated their origins. "Jin Feipeng of the Vermillion Clothes sect."

"Wei Yangsheng of the school of Confucianism."

"Why did a confucian disciple injure a member of my sect?"

"It's all a misunderstanding. It seems like the disciple of your esteemed sect possesses quite a powerful cultivation, so he's fine. Let's just end it here!"

"A misunderstanding? Then you better let us return that palm strike so that we can clear up this misunderstanding. What do you think?"

"Of course not. I said it was a misunderstanding, but I was just trying to respect your esteemed sect. Actually, you can call that a lesson."

Both of them were reluctant to make a mess, but as they clashed verbally, neither of them wanted to back down either.

Li Qingshan watched on in interest from a corner of the hall. Suddenly, he heard a voice, "The Pine Sough academy must have received a distress signal already. They'll definitely arrive very soon. Their head scholar is a Golden Core cultivator. Aren't you afraid of being killed if you still go to the Green Vine mountain?"

Li Qingshan turned around. Under the bright moon, Qiu Haitang stood with her arms in her sleeves on the deck as her clothes drifted about in the wind.

"They aren't enough to kill me."

"This is your clone?" Qiu Haitang never planned on convincing him to leave either. She simply wanted to break the silence. This Daemon General enveloped in danger and mystery made her curious, and his almost-human behaviour made her rather surprised. She spontaneously recalled a piece of information she had heard, so she tried probing him with it.

"How did you know?"

With that, Qiu Haitang completely gave up on the thought of fighting back. Even if she managed to kill this clone out of pure luck, she would still become a target for vicious revenge. His clone was already so powerful, so how strong was his main body supposed to be?

“That’s not exactly a secret. I’m very curious about where your original body is.” Qiu Haitang immediately grasped the crux of the matter.

“I think it’s your turn to fulfill my curiosity now. Why were you so emotional?” Li Qingshan avoided the question.

“You’re welcome to guess.” Qiu Haitang stopped asking. She simply crossed her legs and sat down.

“I’m guessing you were dumped by a man.”

“How did you know?” Qiu Haitang was surprised at first, but then she laughed in a self-deprecating manner. “Has my behaviour become so obvious that even a daemon can tell?”

“Let’s hear it. What kind of man is he?” Li Qingshan admitted he was rather intrigued by gossip. However, investigating the private matters of people he knew under an unknown identity was extremely interesting.

“I don’t want to talk about this.”

“You better be careful, as I just might kill you.”

“I’m still not going to talk about this.”

“Then forget about it.”

After a while of silence, Qiu Haitang frowned. Now that the person she had purposefully tried to forget was mentioned, he began to haunt her mind. She was unable to stop thinking about him anymore.

Finally, she said, “He’s called Hua Chengzan...”

With that, she was like a collapsed dam. Words flowed out of her mouth endlessly, going from how her heart skipped a beat when they initially met expectedly to her later infatuation. Her gaze passed by Li Qingshan to an extremely distant and obscure place. Perhaps she no longer cared about who was standing in front of her right now, and she just wanted to tell someone about it.

“Daemons can’t understand something like that. I’ve actually said so much to you.”

Qiu Haitang smiled in a self-deprecating manner. Jiang Shancheng only wanted to take advantage of her vulnerable state. In the end, it was actually a daemon who had almost killed her who listened to her. Fate sure was unpredictable. Of course, if he were a human instead, if it were actually her friends who wanted to listen to her, she would not be able to bring herself to say so much.

“Even if you’re venting to a treehole, you’ll feel better.” Li Qingshan smiled. Originally, he looked down on her behaviour, but towards the end, he could not help but sigh slightly.

Qiu Haitang was taken aback. As expected, she felt much more liberated, but to her surprise, a daemon actually cared about how she felt?

“And, why can’t daemons understand something like that?” Han Qiongzhi’s figure appeared in Li Qingshan’s head, and he smiled.

“Qingshan, go!” Han Qiongzhi pushed Li Qingshan.

“What? Me? Oh, I understand.” Li Qingshan was in a daze, and he returned to his senses. Although he had been focusing on Qiu Haitang’s story, he still paid some attention to this side.

As Jin Feipeng and Wei Yangsheng bickered, they gradually became angered. Neither of them relented.

At this moment, Hua Chengzan and the master of the Vermillion Clothes sect had come down from upstairs to mediate the dispute. They decided to set several aspects for them to compete in, as not only would that maintain harmony, it could liven up the banquet too. The losing side would only have to apologise.

On the Soaring Dragon ship, Qiu Haitang stared silently at Li Qingshan as he smiled and recalled the past. She was very taken aback. Do even daemons possess emotions that they’ll never forget? The heavens have been far too unfair with me.

“Oi, we’ve arrived at the Green Vine mountain!”

Chapter 397 - Sailing Through the Wind to Destroy Green Vine (Three)

The group of people parted to two sides, and Li Qingshan arrived in the centre. He asked, “What are we competing over?”

“Physical strength. You can’t use any attacks. All you can do is wrestle. The person who leaves the ring loses. Don’t tell me you’re the person competing?” Jin Feipeng extended a finger and drew with it, and a ring the size of a table appeared on the ground. Afterwards, he raised an eyebrow as he looked at Li Qingshan, rather interested.

The sect disciples could all see that Li Qingshan was just at the eighth layer, so they all scorned him. With physical strength, strength was only a part of it. Qi was the critical component. A huge difference existed between every single layer among Qi Practitioners, and it determined the level of body tempering. Without the nourishment of qi, forcefully tempering the body would only be detrimental. This was common knowledge in the world of cultivation.

“And I had thought the Academy of the Hundred Schools was supposed to be rather impressive. Looks like this is all they are. They couldn’t find a proper Body Practitioner, so they sent in this guy instead for the humiliation.”

“Exactly. Let’s just watch the show. After all, we have this senior brother on our side.”

The disciples of the academy had all witnessed Li Qingshan’s strength, so they rebuked loudly. Some of them even chanted, “Senior brother Li will be victorious!”

For a moment, it became extremely rowdy. Suddenly, a huge figure loomed over everyone as he straightened himself out. He was actually a huge man who stood nine feet tall. He had remained seated the entire time, so he seemed no taller than the other people beside him.

The huge man made his way through the crowd, arriving before Li Qingshan and casting a huge shadow over him. His cultivation had reached an impressive tenth layer, making him someone akin to a first senior brother. His eyes were the size of bells, and he had a long, thin nose like a lion's and a huge gaping mouth like a tiger's. He was covered in muscle and was absolutely enormous. He gave off a bearing of pure force and weight. In particular, there was a bulge on his forehead, which made him seem even more hideous. As he loomed over Li Qingshan, he smiled condescendingly.

"I heard you're the one who's supposed to compete with me in terms of physical strength?"

The ruckus stopped. All the sect disciples erupted with laughter. Li Qingshan was not a small man, but he seemed so thin and frail when standing before him. The disciples of the academy all quietened down. They glanced at one another, no longer possessing the same confidence as before.

Jin Feipeng smiled. He was the one who had proposed this aspect. Victory was basically guaranteed for him. The Horned Rhinoceros mountain's Horned Rhinoceros' Arts of Mountain Splitting was said to possess the power to split mountains once it was cultivated to the limit. Although it was rather sluggish in battle, defeat was not a concept he had to consider in a competition like this.

Li Qingshan saw Hua Chengzan in the crowd. He grinned at him. Brother, I've learnt quite a lot about you.

Hua Chengzan was completely left in the dark about his smile. All he did was nod to tell him to be careful, but he was clearly distracted. He was thinking about Qiu Haitang.

"I'm speaking to you!" The huge man glared at Li Qingshan with his enormous eyes.

"This one is the primary disciple of the school of Novels, Li Qingshan. Let's begin!" Li Qingshan looked back and clasped his hands casually. Although he called himself this one, he did not even ask for his opponent's name or sect. He was even more distracted than Hua Chengzan.

He could not help it. Doing two things at the same time was very difficult. After he said that, he caused another roar of laughter from the opposing side. "What? The school of Novels? What school's that?" "Is that basically forfeiting?"

Li Qingshan was just about to hit him with a few words even more scalding than what Chu Tian had said when Qiu Haitang's voice clearly rang out in his ears. As a result, he simply closed his eyes and entered the ring carelessly.

"Come at me!" With that, he closed his eyes. He truly turned a blind eye to everyone, acting as haughty as ever.

The huge man was furious. Originally, he wanted to use this match to improve Horned Rhinoceros mountain's reputation within the Daemon Suppression alliances and earn even more benefits, but his opponent did not give him this opportunity at all.

His huge hands, the size of fans, grabbed Li Qingshan's shoulders. He was in no hurry to push Li Qingshan out of the ring. The huge man had already made up his mind as he smiled. He wanted to break a few dozen bones in Li Qingshan's body first.

“Qingshan!” Han Qiongzhi became alarmed. Although she was completely confident in Li Qingshan, he was completely biting off more than he could chew.

The huge man channeled his strength that was enough to crush steel into Li Qingshan’s body, but his vicious smile gradually vanished. No matter how he tried, it was completely ineffective. “This kid’s body is actually a hundred times tougher than metal. He really does have some skill, seeing how he’s bold enough to face me.”

“Stop wasting time. Just end it!” The master of the Vermillion Clothes sect was rather impatient.

“I’ll throw him out while he’s careless and make him take a massive tumble. That’ll appease my anger a little.” The huge man stopped looking down on Li Qingshan. With a great roar, the ground seemed to shake. The muscles on his arms twisted and coiled as he pushed as hard as he could.

Nothing happened!

Li Qingshan simply smiled with his eyes shut. He was so peaceful that he seemed like he was sleeping.

However, the huge man’s expression changed drastically. He used everything in him to push, pull, and slam Li Qingshan, but it was completely useless. Cold sweat covered his forehead.

Just by standing there, Li Qingshan seemed like he had been nailed into the ground. This was obviously not due to his strength alone. After reaching the third layer of the ox daemon and undergoing the heavenly tribulation, he had developed a profound connection with the earth. In particular, as he stood on the ground, he felt like he had merged with it.

This was where his innate talent, Strength of the Earth, came from. No matter how powerful the man was, how was he supposed to shake up the boundless earth?

As a result, Li Qingshan did not try, nor did he have to try, for this match. His mind had already returned to the Soaring Dragon ship.

“Do you feel love too?” Qiu Haitang’s eyes twinkled like stars.

“What did you say before? We’ve arrived at the Green Vine mountain?” Li Qingshan gazed down, but all he saw was a sea of clouds. The thick clouds had covered everything.

Qiu Haitang raised the ship’s wheel in her hand and beams of light shot out from the centre, constructing a three-dimensional map. There was a speck of light that represented the Soaring Dragon ship, while the mountain below was the Green Vine mountain.

“Descend immediately.” Li Qingshan beamed instead. He leapt to his feet and swung his hand in an exaggerated manner.

However, the Soaring Dragon ship did not descend. He looked back with a frown. “I said descend!”

“I was asking you, do you feel love too?” Qiu Haitang was extremely curious. If she had not witnessed it herself, she struggled to believe an expression like that could appear on a daemon’s face, so she became extremely curious about the details. Compared to it, attacking the Green Vine mountain did not even seem important anymore.

“Of course. Descend now!” Li Qingshan stamped his foot.

“Then tell me, do you love her? Does she love you? Are you together?” Qiu Haitang was relentless.

“Yes, yes, yes. We even plan on spending the rest of our lives together. Have you had enough? You better make this thing descend now!”

“How lucky. You’re luckier than me.” Qiu Haitang let out a gentle sigh. The ship’s wheel spun, and the Soaring Dragon ship descended slowly.

“Hmph, that’s because I’m not all hung up over a single person like you.” Li Qingshan was already prepared to admire the Green Vine Elder’s stunned expression.

“What do you mean? Isn’t she the one you love the most?”

Li Qingshan’s body swayed, and the Soaring Dragon ship came to a halt. Qiu Haitang’s gaze was rather earnest and rather lost at the same time. All she wanted was an answer.

“What are you doing? I want to attack the Green Vine mountain!”

Chapter 398 - Sailing Through the Wind to Destroy Green Vine (Four)

“Tell me, am I wrong?” Qiu Haitang completely ignored Li Qingshan’s reasonable request and grabbed him by the arm.

“If you’re not going to listen to me, I’ll choke you to death!” Li Qingshan wrapped his hand around her neck, but he failed to see any fear on her face at all.

Alas, just women in love would lose all reason, let alone those who had their hearts broken. All Li Qingshan could do was let go of her and be patient with her. “Please, you’re a cultivator. It’s not like you’ll die if you don’t have a man.”

“The assimilation of yin and yang is a natural principle of the world, while love between a man and a woman is human nature. If there is no love, what’s the point of living in this world?” Qiu Haitang said firmly.

“A three-legged toad is difficult to find, but two-legged men are everywhere. Can’t you just open your mind a little?” Li Qingshan pressed his arms down on Qiu Haitang’s shoulders. I couldn’t tell, but you’re still a little girl caught up in your ideals. You better just stick with your job of a procuress with fantastic future prospects!

“There might be a lot of men in the world, but I only love him!”

“That’s because you won’t give others an opportunity. Let me tell you, I was originally in love with someone too...”

With no other choice, Li Qingshan crouched down on the front of the ship and did his best to recall the various books on love he had read in his past life so that he could play the role of a close advisor. He rambled on about how love was blind and how love was up to choice...

Qiu Haitang crouched down too, listening carefully and even nodding from time to time. In a different world, the various newspapers, magazines, and materials available on the internet had already

mentioned these topics to a point where they had lost their meaning, but it was all extremely novel to her. She listened with great interest.

Most importantly, these random topics had no practical use at all, but they sounded very reasonable, enlightening Qiu Haitang again and again. She was filled with deep respect. A daemon actually knows so much! She no longer looked at him in the same way either, feeling much closer to him now. Li Qingshan's current image in her heart had already gained the title of "a friend of women"!

"Do you understand now?" Li Qingshan said all of that in a single breath. He had been forced to watch his heroic journey of revenge be encumbered to such a point. He really felt sorrow well up from the bottom of his heart.

"I think I do a little, but also not that much," Qiu Haitang said in thought. She immediately felt the daemon before her erupt with murderousness, so she smiled gently and drifted backwards, activating the ship's wheel. The Soaring Dragon ship finally began to descend once more.

Li Qingshan let out a sigh of relief and leapt onto the dragon figurehead. The sea of clouds was everywhere, preventing him from seeing anything at all. The daemon qi in his body surged, refining the flag. With a swing, it expanded to ten times its size and rippled violently, kicking up a violent gust of wind and blowing away the thick cloud layer.

"Thank you." Qiu Haitang gazed at his upright figure from behind.

"What?"

"We're here." Qiu Haitang pointed below.

The last layer of clouds ripped apart, and the mountains rose and fell like waves. Green Vine mountain was right beneath them.

"Fire the cannons!" Li Qingshan laughed aloud.

"Yes!" Qiu Haitang said. It was clearly so dangerous, yet he treated it like a child's game. Her heart loosened up with his behaviour for some reason, no longer shackled down by her mental burden. Instead, she felt slightly eager. According to his words, she had to vent her emotions after her heart was broken.

Her slender finger landed on the ship's wheel gently and countless black cannons protruded out from the ship.

I've been coerced by a daemon! You can't blame me!

.....

"Qingshan! Qingshan!" Han Qiongzhi's voice rang out from an extremely distant location.

Li Qingshan opened his eyes in the hall of the Hua family, but everything was dark.

"It's so dark! What's happened? And why's it so stinky?"

The nine-foot-tall, tenth layer first senior brother of Horned Rhinoceros mountain was currently engaged with Li Qingshan in a death struggle. He grabbed Li Qingshan firmly. His face had become

bright-red, riddled with veins as he sweat profusely. His feet were embedded in the ground as he used up everything he had in him to push Li Qingshan. His enormous muscles were almost strangling Li Qingshan.

Everyone could tell who was winning. The disciples of the Daemon Suppression alliance were stunned as the disciples of the academy gradually began to laugh.

Jin Feipeng's face was overcome with disbelief. The master of the Vermillion Clothes sect frowned. "Is this really the primary disciple of the school of Novels?"

"He's a member of my Hawkwolf Guard too. I'll be surprised if he lost." Hua Chengzan smiled.

Han Qiongzhi stopped worrying. She called out, "Qingshan, stop playing around."

Li Qingshan returned to his senses and began to move. He wrapped his arms around the huge man's waist, and it immediately became thinner. He lifted him up like pulling a carrot out of the ground and leaned backwards, throwing him against the ground heavily through a German suplex.

The huge man had been using a hundred ten percent of his power, so he was in no shape to respond. In the blink of an eye, all he saw was the ground flying rapidly into his face. He heard a rumble and darkness descended.

Boom! All the tables trembled. The top half of the huge man had already become buried in the ground, while his large, thick, pillar-like legs still hung in the air.

"Victory to the Academy of the Hundred Schools." Hua Chengzan smiled.

"Divine be senior brother Li's strength!" "Mighty be senior brother Li!" The disciples of the academy erupted with cheers.

"First senior brother!" A group of disciples from the Horned Rhinoceros mountain rushed over and pulled the huge man out of the ground. His face was covered in dust as he looked at Li Qingshan viciously.

"Who else?" Li Qingshan curled his hand at the sect disciples leisurely. He did not even take a second glance at the huge man.

"The first senior sister of the Rose Cloud sect, Man Rou, seeks guidance. I wish to compete over true qi with you." Immediately, a petite, delicate girl walked over. She was also at the tenth layer.

"Hold on, we want to change our person. Junior brother, you can go up," Wei Yangsheng said in a hurry. The most important aspect in competing over true qi was the level of cultivation unless it came to someone like Chu Tian, who practised five kinds of true qi simultaneously. According to his knowledge, Li Qingshan only practised the regular Gui Water Method of Condensing Qi.

He had heard that the aspect that the Rose Clouds manual of the Rose Cloud sect focused on was true qi. In the very beginning, the true qi would be faintly discernible; it was as soft as clouds but extremely tough. Towards the end, it would be enough to flood entire regions in an unstoppable fashion. Even he was not confident about emerging victorious. It was just a pity that junior sister Xiao An was not present, so he was forced to go with junior brother Chu Tian for the greatest chances at victory.

Li Qingshan was just about to leave the ring when Man Rou said, "What's wrong? Weren't you asking who else earlier? Don't tell me the primary disciple of the school of Novels doesn't even hold as much authority as the primary disciple of your school of Confucianism?"

Man Rou seemed delicate, but she spoke with power as if she was unstoppable. She wanted to use Li Qingshan's words against him. She wanted to force him, an eighth layer Qi Practitioner, into a contest of true qi with her, a tenth layer Qi Practitioner, which would guarantee their victory and avenge the huge man.

Wei Yangsheng knew it was a provocation, but he was unable to say anything more. The primary disciples all technically stood on equal footing, so all of them had the authority to decide. And, he really did not have the confidence he could defeat this unfathomable junior brother Li of his when it came to actual combat.

"True qi? Then come!" Li Qingshan said casually.

"Qingshan." Han Qiongzi became worried. Rarely did Qi Practitioners ever compete with true qi alone, but it was even more dangerous than regular battles. Once foreign true qi invaded the body, just the lighter consequences would be destroying their meridians and losing their cultivation. The more severe consequences involved exploding dantians and dying on the spot.

Man Rou beamed inside. You're asking for it. Men all like to suffer just to uphold their pride. She raised her dainty hands and said, "Please!"

Li Qingshan raised his hands too.

"Let go of my hands!" Man Rou turned bright red.

"Isn't this it?" As it turned out, Li Qingshan had directly seized Man Rou by her tiny, tender hands with his huge hands. Man Rou tried to tug them out, but she clearly failed. She was vexed and embarrassed. This was no true qi competition. This was intimate contact between lovers.

Han Qiongzi ground her teeth. This guy actually agreed to it just to take advantage of her! So much for worrying about him. You better just die instead!

"It's the palms!" Man Rou said furiously and with embarrassment. The Rose Clouds sect was a sect of female cultivators. A man had never touched her like this in her life, let alone in the eyes of the public.

"Is there a difference?" Li Qingshan curled his lip. I've already had enough with beauty Qiu, who gets whatever she wants. Why would I tease you?

After adjusting his grip, the competition finally began.

How dare you grope me! I'll show you what's what! Man Rou glared at Li Qingshan. Rose Clouds true qi flowed out endlessly. Before she had even unleashed her true strength, Li Qingshan's Gui Water true qi had already begun to collapse.

Unfortunately, the Gui Water Method of Condensing Qi focused on the ease of cultivation, making it suitable for all, so it was not particularly powerful.

Rose Cloud true qi rushed into Li Qingshan's body in an unstoppable manner.

And then... there was no and then.

Man Rou's tiny mouth dropped slightly. She could sense she had completely lost connection with her true qi the moment it entered Li Qingshan's body. Raising her head, she only saw that he had closed his eyes again.

The daemon core shaped like a turtle's shell bobbed up and down in the sea of qi in Li Qingshan's body. The multicoloured Rose Clouds true qi immediately yielded the moment it entered its domain, becoming as docile as possible. It just happened to be of the water element as well, so it was absorbed into the daemon core.

This time, Li Qingshan did not focus either. The spirit turtle's daemon core could easily suppress the true qi of a measly Qi Practitioner like it was playing around. You have absolutely no idea challenging me to a competition of true qi. Let alone her, even if the Rose Cloud elders were present, they would suffer in the same way.

Man Rou was too afraid to withdraw her hand, as that would allow Li Qingshan's true qi to invade her body, which would be horrible. She completely refused to accept this, desperately mobilising her Rose Clouds true qi.

.....

On the Green Vine mountain, a hubbub suddenly appeared. The Green Vine Elder roused from his cultivation and arrived outside. He saw many disciples staring at the sky and pointing, discussing among themselves.

"What's that?" "Is that a ship?"

The Green Vine Elder gazed over. Hmm? Isn't that the Soaring Dragon ship of Pine Sough academy? What's it doing here?

"May I ask who it is on the ship? Is it senior Wen?" The Green Vine Elder said loudly. His voice reached the sky with his spiritual qi. The head scholar of Pine Sough academy, Wen Zhengming, was a powerful cultivator who had been through two heavenly tribulations. He was afraid of disrespecting him in the slightest.

"Old man Green Vine, time to die!" Li Qingshan called out. With a wave of his flag, it stitched six words in the sky, also "Old man Green Vine, time to die!"

"Oh no!" The Green Vine Elder spotted the scarlet figure and leapt in fright. He saw hundreds of stars light up at the same time, growing brighter and brighter.

In that instant, they turned into hundreds of beams of light, flying towards the Green Vine mountain.

Chapter 399 - Sailing Through the Wind to Destroy Green Vine (Five)

The flash of light and power made all the disciples of the Green Vine mountain close their eyes subconsciously. They groaned painfully inside. Just how many more times until he was satisfied? The first two times, he came alone, but this time, he directly brought a battleship with him.

This can't continue. I can't continue as a disciple of the Green Vine mountain anymore, but do I still have a chance?

Li Qingshan was extremely satisfied with the Soaring Dragon ship's power. He gave Qiu Haitang a thumbs up. "Good girl!"

Qiu Haitang turned away without making eye contact with him. She fiddled around with the ship's wheel a little more, and even more beams of light shot out.

At this moment, a screen of light, half black and half white, rose up from the Green Vine. It was hazy like mist. The two colours constantly merged together and fluctuated, producing countless profound diagrams.

As the beams of light struck the barrier, they distorted and disintegrated into particles as fine as dust, drifting around the Green Vine mountain like a blizzard, yet also like the dazzling starry night.

The Duality Formation of Disintegration had been specially brought over by Fu Qingjin from the Sword Collection palace. Anyone who tried to force their way through the powerful formation around the Green Vine mountain would be reduced to dust. It was cast down specially for Li Qingshan.

"Do you see? Wretched daemon, you can't get in here!" The Green Vine Elder spread his arms and laughed at the sky. His facial hair danced around, which made him seem a little crazy.

Yu Shukuang closed his eyes, in no mood to appreciate the beautiful, rare scenery before him. The other disciples of the Green Vine mountain were no different. They all fled to the bottom of the mountain again—wait, why again?

The peak of the mountain and the prow of the ship were both distant and close to one another. Li Qingshan's scarlet eyes clashed with the Green Vine Elder's green eyes.

"Keep blasting! I'd like to see how long he can last for!" Li Qingshan rested the large flag on his right shoulder as he pointed out with his left hand.

Without waiting for his orders, the Soaring Dragon ship blasted away at full power. Light flashed constantly in a dazzling array.

The moon shone through the hole in the clouds, projecting a huge beam of moonlight that added a hint of silver to the Soaring Dragon ship. In the darkness of night, it seemed like an unbelievably large stagelight. The Soaring Dragon ship was the main show of the night, roaring to its heart's content on the stage.

At the centre of the ship, the central furnace hummed and flashed, delivering whatever spiritual qi it had to the cannons. It was like a huge heart thumping rapidly and delivering blood throughout its body. All of it turned into roaring dragons of light, flying through the night sky.

The Duality Formation of Disintegration was completely unaffected, allowing the blasts that were enough to wipe the Green Vine mountain off the surface of the earth to rain down on it constantly. It all disintegrated in the haze, like fireworks.

“It’s useless. All your attacks will only become a part of the Duality Formation of Disintegration’s power! It’s impossible for you to get through it!” The Green Vine Elder silently contacted Fu Qingjin as he mocked Li Qingshan loudly.

“Not necessarily!” Li Qingshan had also noticed that. Even until now, the Duality Formation of Disintegration had shown no signs of weakness. The hazy mist only grew denser. He knew the Green Vine Elder was right.

However, the rate at which the formation disintegrated the beams of light had slowed down as well. In the beginning, the beams of light would be reduced to mist the moment it landed on the formation, but now, it dispersed as specks in a fireworks-like fashion. He believed no matter what formation it was, it still had a limit!

One was a powerful defensive formation from a supreme sect of the Green province, the Sword Collection palace, while the other was a crystallisation of mohist wisdom and efforts, an ultimate machine of war. When a “spear” that could pierce and destroy everything met a “shield” that could block all attacks, no one knew who the final victor would be.

The two people involved, Li Qingshan and the Green Vine Elder, could only wait and watch with eager and hope as onlookers, admiring the grand fireworks.

“Bring me alcohol!” Li Qingshan crossed his legs and sat down, yelling out loudly.

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In the estate of the Hua family, Li Qingshan’s second match became extremely dreary and uninteresting, unsurprisingly.

None of the spectators said anything. They just exchanged glances silently. They could not even tell who had the upper hand right now.

Man Rou’s expression became more and more warped. No matter how limitless her Rose Clouds true qi was, there was still a limit. Before her, Li Qingshan seemed like a bottomless pit. No matter how much true qi she channeled into him, she was unable to fill him.

And, as long as her true qi weakened, Li Qingshan’s Gui Water true qi would flood over immediately, so she was unable to stop either. The dangers of a clash of true qi gradually presented themselves, baring its fangs at her.

She refused to forfeit. Both the quality and quantity of Li Qingshan’s true qi was clearly beneath hers. He had just used some kind of method to control the foreign true qi that entered his body. She believed that as long as she lasted a little longer, Li Qingshan would give in.

Only when she was completely depleted did she finally feel regret, but she was already unable to speak and forfeit now. Once she lost the tension, Li Qingshan’s true qi would invade her body and destroy her.

In the blink of an eye, ebbs of Gui Water true qi gushed into her body through her palm as a cold wave, reaching the dantian in her lower abdomen. As long as Li Qingshan wanted to, he could easily rip apart her frail meridians even if Gui Water true qi was not particularly renowned for its destructive power.

The master of the Vermillion Clothes sect could tell that something was amiss. He wanted to interfere, but he was stopped by Hua Chengzan, who said sternly, "Before you can even expel the true qi from her body, the true qi that has lost control will explode in her body." He communicated to Li Qingshan, "Qingshan, that's enough."

That pulled Li Qingshan's mind all the way back here. He opened his eyes and noticed that Man Rou was completely pale, without a shred of blood in her lips. She even seemed to be pleading him from the depths of her eyes, making her seem especially pitiful.

Li Qingshan smiled and slowly withdrew his true qi.

"I've lost." Man Rou's body loosened, and she took a step back, biting her lips as she softly conceded. She was seeing stars, and she no longer gave off any sense of power anymore. Her voice was very feeble too. As she gazed at Li Qingshan, her eyes were filled with fury and resentment, as well as a shred of sadness.

Cheers erupted loudly from behind Li Qingshan. The disciples of the academy all looked at him enviously and with admiration. He extended his hand, and with a gesture, he drank an entire jar of alcohol. At the same time, Qiu Haitang brought him a few jars of alcohol on the Soaring Dragon ship.

The feeling of alcohol reaching his two different stomachs was extremely strange and particularly satisfying. He was pleased with himself. Nothing was better than drinking fine alcohol and fighting powerful opponents. Multiplying this feeling by two only made it even more satisfying.

"Who else?"

Upstairs, the school leaders all conversed and smiled happily, while the sect masters were all stern. They too had been spectating the matches downstairs. The power of stronger Qi Practitioners could demonstrate the prospects and future of a school or sect. A competition like this was definitely not a mere game.

Wang Pushi drank heartily. Although the kid's mouth was particularly good at pissing people off, he still knew how to win over glory when he handled matters.

Fu Qingjin drank alone, away from everyone else. His face was gloomy, as if nothing could faze him. The atmosphere around him clearly did not suit him at all.

He frowned, and a jade ornament fell into his hand. The Green Vine Elder's flustered voice rang out.

"Sir, the wretched daemon has come! He's attacking the Green Vine mountain right now!"

"What are you panicking for? It's not like he can get through the Duality Formation of Disintegration," Fu Qingjin said slowly. He had probably sent his clone again to probe the formation. There was no need for him to interfere.

"H- he's brought a Soaring Dragon ship!"

Chapter 400 - Sailing Through the Wind to Destroy Green Vine (Six)

Fu Qingjin's expression changed. He was unable to drink anymore.

The other Foundation Establishment cultivators took note of this and immediately connected the dots. Is the Soaring Dragon ship the one that Jiang Shancheng brought with him? Qiu Haitang left with him earlier! Why are they going to Green Vine mountain? Don't tell me the daemon has already got to them?

The Green Ruins sword exited its scabbard, and Fu Qingjin merged with it, turning into a streak of green light and vanishing into the horizon. The other members of the Daemon Suppression alliance became restless too, all taking off right behind him.

The news from upstairs reached downstairs very quickly, leading to an uproar.

"Haitang!" Hua Chengzan exclaimed, no longer as graceful and composed as before. He immediately took off. If this woman who he had let down died to the hands of a daemon because of him, how was he supposed to forgive himself?

"Are we continuing?" Li Qingshan looked around. The disciples of the Daemon Suppression alliance were filled with indignation, as well as a hint of fear. The strength and arrogance of daemons had deeply shocked them. As for the disciples of the academy, they felt sympathy aside from the joy from their victories. After all, they were all humans.

"It ends here as a tie. We'll obviously clash again in the future." Jin Feipeng glanced at Li Qingshan deeply.

Li Qingshan did not mind. He returned to his original seat, and the various primary disciples all congratulated him for his victory, but they were rather distracted. After all, the competition during the banquet was only a side dish that went with the alcohol compared to something so significant that it determined the fate of a few Foundation Establishment cultivators and the war between humans and daemons.

Li Qingshan was helpless. He felt like he had completely stolen his own thunder. However, in his eyes, the matches here had always been a boring game that kept him distracted. Now, he could finally focus on the Soaring Dragon ship.

Wind whistled past his ears.

The Duality Formation of Disintegration shone with dazzling light after absorbing and decomposing countless attacks, and the Green Vine mountain even became blurry inside it. The light illuminated a radius of fifty kilometers, making the area as bright as day.

"How much longer do you think until the formation is destroyed?"

Li Qingshan held the flag as he stood on the prow, staring at the light and asking without looking back.

Although he had only managed to catch a glimpse of Fu Qingjin, his speed had completely exceeded his expectations. According to his estimates, even the wings of wind would have been nowhere close to matching him. Was this the power of an arcane artifact? In other words, he would arrive here before long, and by then, the outcome would be determined. His plan to kill the Green Vine Elder would fail once more.

"I don't know, but there isn't a lot of spiritual energy left." Qiu Haitang touched the ship's wheel, and an indicator for the supply of spiritual energy appeared. Only twenty percent remained.

The spear was already running out of power before it could pierce the shield.

"How's that, wretched daemon? There's nothing you can do!" The Green Vine Elder stood on the top of the mountain and called out loudly.

"But, we still have a final move!" Qiu Haitang said suddenly.

"What move?" Li Qingshan turned around suddenly.

"It's below your feet."

"Isn't this just decoration?" Li Qingshan lowered his head and studied the dragon figurehead.

"Of course not. This is the Soaring Dragon ship's largest main cannon, the Dragon's Roar! A single attack from it takes up a tremendous amount of spiritual energy, and it requires a long time for preparation too. It's basically designed for destroying structure and formations."

"Why didn't you tell me sooner?"

"We're too close. The ship can't withstand the recoil."

"Then why are you telling me now?"

"Because I want to." Qiu Haitang smiled, recovering some of her natural grace as the master of the Sect of Clouds and Rain.

"Then let's see the Dragon's Roar's power!"

All of the attacks stopped, but the roaring still lingered in his head. Having fled to the bottom of the mountain but blocked in by the formation, Yu Shukuang gazed at the sky in surprise. He saw the Soaring Dragon ship slowly rise, disappearing into the clouds before long.

"Did we make it?"

Before he had even finished asking that question, a beam of light descended from the sky, piercing the clouds and directly landing on the Duality Formation of Disintegration. The beam was so large that it even made them think of the legendary pillars that held up the sky.

It dispersed the clouds, exposing the Soaring Dragon ship above the cloud layer. The dragon figurehead's mouth was wide open, letting out a furious roar!

The beam of light did not vanish with a flash this time. Instead, it persisted, channeling all of its power into the formation. The Duality Formation of Disintegration began to tremble, unable to completely nullify this power. It had reached a state of saturation such that rings of light spread outwards like ripples.

On the other end of the beam of light, the Soaring Dragon ship shook and creaked.

The spear pressed against the shield. Either the shield broke or the spear snapped.

“Can we get through?” Li Qingshan asked loudly.

“Difficult to say.” Qiu Haitang furrowed her brows and watched as the spiritual energy was rapidly drained away.

Glancing around, her eyes narrowed. A speck of green light appeared in the sea of clouds.

At the same time, Fu Qingjin spotted a dazzling streak of white light. He frowned and urged the Green Ruins sword to move faster.

“I need to trouble you with one last matter.” Li Qingshan’s voice rang out in Qiu Haitang’s ears clearly.

“Are you planning to run? The ship can’t move very quickly!”

“Please help me collect all the puppets and cannons. I want to take them with me!” Li Qingshan had already learnt that the Soaring Dragon ship could not change in size, and it could not be stored in hundred treasures pouches either. However, the tremendous number of puppets and powerful cannons on the ship would still serve as quite a nice spoil.

Qiu Haitang had no idea on how to react. Was this guy still a daemon? She controlled the puppets to take apart the cannons before gathering on the deck and storing them into a hundred treasures pouch.

“Let’s go down.” Cold light flashed through Li Qingshan’s eyes.

“What did you say?”

“I said let’s fly down!”

“Are you crazy? Do you know how much this ship is worth?” Qiu Haitang finally understood what he was saying. She was taken aback.

“I don’t care how much it’s worth! It’s not like it’s my ship!” Li Qingshan smiled brilliantly.

“Fine then!” Qiu Haitang was helpless. What could she do about the fact that her life was in his hands right now? However, she became excited for some reason. Before long, all the levitation formations on the Soaring Dragon ship vanished. The ship fell back into the hands of gravity. All of its movements changed in direction, falling towards the ground as quickly as it could.

The Soaring Dragon ship fell faster and faster. Li Qingshan stood on the nose of the ship in the whistling wind, waving his flag. The wind became even more violent, making the Soaring Dragon ship fall even faster.

Under the recoil of the Dragon’s Roar cannon, the indestructible Soaring Dragon ship began to fall apart. The central furnace groaned painfully.

“Oh no!” All Fu Qingjin could do was watch as this unfolded. He paled in fright.

The Green Vine Elder squinted, trying his best to see through the scorching light. He gazed at the sky, but the surging spiritual energy and light made his soul sense useless while greatly limiting his vision. He could only see a black speck constantly grow larger.

Fu Qingjin’s voice rang out from the jade tablet in his hand. “Run!”

At that instant, the Soaring Dragon ship several hundred meters in length collided with the Duality Formation of Disintegration like a small mountain.

Time seemed to slow down. The Soaring Dragon ship that was close to falling apart began to collapse and disintegrate upon making contact with the barrier of light. Soon, it reached the centre of the ship, and the central furnace exploded. The residual energy was completely released, but the Duality Formation of Disintegration swallowed it all before it could even demonstrate its power.

The Duality Formation of Disintegration dimmed, twisting and shrinking towards the mountain like a ball of light. Then, it swelled slightly again before releasing a flash in the very end, turning the surroundings white.

It was like a stomach that had been pushed beyond its limits, violently contracting before exploding suddenly. The undigested energy turned into thousands of streaks of light, erupting completely and rising up from the ground like a hundred suns.

The Green Vine Elder's terrified face was dyed snow-white. Like a mortal, he raised his hands instinctively, as if that would be enough to block out the danger. He was swallowed by the swollen ball of light.

Boom!

Only after a very long time did the explosion occur, blasting away the clouds and revealing the resplendent sea of stars.

Fu Qingjin halted momentarily, staring at the sight before him dazedly. Everything had vanished, the Soaring Dragon ship, the Green Vine Elder, and... Green Vine mountain.

The Green Vine mountain had vanished, replaced by a huge, spherical crater. Only the foot of the mountain remained as residual evidence of its existence.

The other Foundation Establishment cultivators arrived behind him. They were all dumbfounded by this, and the same emotions appeared on the faces of them and their disciples—indignation and fear!

“Shancheng! Haitang! Haitang!” Hua Chengzan brushed past Fu Qingjin and called out in a panic.

In the area that was originally the foot of the Green Vine mountain, the earth shifted slightly.

“Haitang, is it you?” Hua Chengzan rushed over, but a green light had already brushed past him. Fu Qingjin stood with his sword in hand.

The earth erupted, and Yu Shukuang stuck his head out. Seeing the tip of the sword right before his eyes, he leapt in fright.

Afterwards, the disciples of the Green Vine mountain climbed out of the ground one after another. They were unable to leave the mountain, so they dug out a hole together, hiding underground. They thought even if the daemon got through the formation, he would not be able to see them and probably would not bother digging them out. In the end, they were buried underground, but they managed to survive.

“Hmm? Where’s Green Vine mountain?” Yu Shukuang looked around. He spotted the crater and entered a daze before realising what had happened. He was dumbfounded, still shaken up. If the crater had been a little larger, it would have reached where they were hiding.

Fu Qingjin sheathed his sword, while Hua Chengzan was greatly disappointed.

“Chengzan, I’m here.” Qiu Haitang made her way out from behind a mountain.

“Haitang, that’s fantastic. I thought you already... Are you fine?” Hua Chengzan flew over, completely overjoyed.

Qiu Haitang’s heart warmed slightly. They had spent all these years together, so she still meant something to him. It was just a pity that fate was against them.

“Where’s Shancheng?”

Their eyes met. Hua Chengzan sighed. It was not that he actually felt nothing towards her. He would simply never change his mind. Accepting her feelings when he was in love with someone else was disrespecting her. She would only end up with an even greater heartbreak.

“Where’s the daemon?” Fu Qingjin interrupted them.

“Shancheng died to protect me.” Qiu Haitang’s gaze became desolate once more as she began to speak tirelessly.

In her story, the daemon used her to threaten Jiang Shancheng, forcing him to control the Soaring Dragon ship to attack the Green Vine mountain. In the end, when the daemon wanted to silence them both, Jiang Shancheng stood forward and kept the daemon busy, allowing her to live.

Women were natural actors, while Qiu Haitang was the best among the best. She wove this lie intricately, completely distancing herself from any blame.

The Daemon General called Northmoon had vanished, but he did leave behind a few things in her hands.